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the Sandspur

Rollins College

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Florida's Oldest College Newspaper, Est. 1894



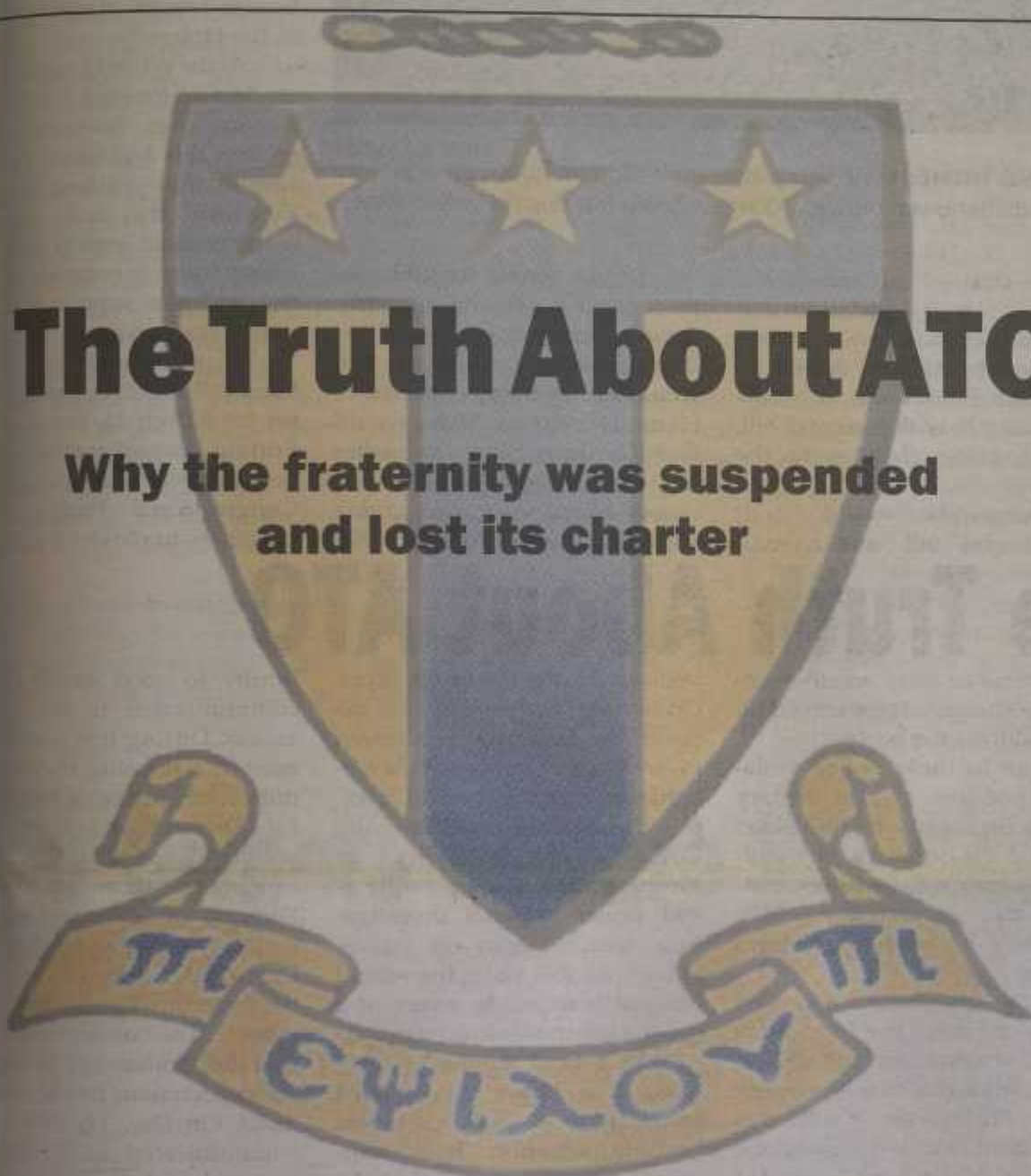
INSIDE:

Spring break did not stop Rollins athletes from achieving success.

PAGE 12

The Truth About ATO

Why the fraternity was suspended and lost its charter



ALEXIS NEU
the sandspur

AS MANY STUDENTS are aware, there have been countless rumors flying around campus regarding the current status of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity. The following account has been pieced together after countless conversations with members of Rollins' faculty, staff and student body.

Every good story must begin somewhere. In this case that somewhere is with Alpha Tau Omega's infamous Graffiti party. As many of the students who were in attendance on the night of Saturday, Jan. 16 recall, the party was broken up just after 12:00 a.m. Following the party, ATO was charged with three violations of the Code of Community Standards as defined by the Rollins College Student Hand-

book and one violation of Alpha Tau Omega's national policy. The alleged violations included violation of the school's alcohol policy, violation of the school's event guidelines, falsification, and violation of ATO national risk-management policy.

On Monday, Jan. 25, ATO was placed on summary suspension while investigation into the alleged violations took place. Summary suspension of a Greek organization revokes the privileges of the organization to hold campus events. The organization cannot even hold chapter meetings without special permission by the college. An administrative panel of three volunteers was called by the Office of Community Standards and Responsibility to hold a hearing with the fraternity, review the case, and submit a sanction recommendation to Dean of Student Affairs Karen Hater. The panel was comprised

of one student, one faculty member, and one staff member. Although most cases involving Greek organizations charged with policy violation are heard by the Fraternity and Sorority Hearing Council (FSHC), Diane Willingham, the Director of the Office of Community Standards and Responsibility, decided, due to the situation's extremity, that an administrative panel would be best for this particular case.

The panel not only reviewed the fraternity's current alleged violations, but it also reviewed the recent history of the organization. According to administrative records, ATO had been placed on social probation four times in the last six years. Furthermore, the fraternity was placed on housing probation and removed from housing twice in the past six years.

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NCM Divided

ALEXIS NEU
the sandspur

The roots of current NCM controversy date back to almost a year ago. On April 23, 2009 the members of Rollins College's Panhellenic Association, the student-led governing body for all Rollins sororities, voted unanimously to ratify the motion to establish an extension exploratory committee that would consider the possible affiliation of Non Compis Mentis (NCM) with a National Panhellenic Conference Organization not currently on campus. Panhellenic's decision was a result of NCM's request to achieve national status. However, the Panhellenic Area Advisor claimed that the language decided upon during the April 23 meeting was ambiguous, so on Oct. 15, 2009, a vote took place which would determine whether the wording of the motion should state "Panhellenic will establish an extension committee that supports and recommends the affiliation of Non Compis Mentis with a National Panhellenic Conference Organization not currently on our campus."

Again, this motion was unanimously agreed upon.

The expansion committee was headed by the then-Panhellenic Executive Board president Becca Arnold, and con-

sisted of one member of every Panhellenic organization, including Sigma Gamma Rho, as well as three members of NCM. The committee sifted through many different organizations before it narrowed its decision down to three: Gamma Phi Beta, Alpha Delta Pi, and Delta Zeta.

These three organizations were invited to the Rollins campus to present information on their respective organizations. Alpha Delta Pi presented on Feb. 2, Gamma Phi Beta on Feb. 4, and Delta Zeta on Feb. 9. All of these presentations were open to the entire campus.

In general, when an expansion of Greek organizations takes place, the school often favors organizations that have had a presence on campus in the past. Interestingly enough, Gamma Phi Beta had existed as a member of Rollins' Panhellenic Association many years ago.

However Panhellenic took into consideration the strong interest NCM showed in Delta Zeta. In the meantime, however, the members of NCM began to have second thoughts about the expansion.

At a private meeting held by the chapter on Feb. 9, the members of NCM discussed the pros and cons of going national. A vote was held and less than 75 percent of NCM's members voted to go ahead with the expansion.

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FROM NCM FACEBOOK PAGE

SORORITY SPLIT: NCM's impending colonization by Delta Zeta has sisters picking sides on which path the sorority should take.

QUOTABLE

The minute I saw the giant moose I realized I had not cooked anything for the kids' dinner.

A&E PAGE 11



this day in history

March 19, 1979: C-SPAN begins broadcasting the U.S. House of Representatives' daily business on cable television.

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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@rollins.edu and AObnauer@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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DODIE O'KEEFE
the sandspur

On March 12, the Senate Democratic leaders reached an agreement on President Obama's health care bill. Essentially, this bill is designed to give health care to tens of millions of people who currently go without it. Additionally, it intends to ban insurance companies from denying medical coverage on the basis of pre-existing medical conditions. Obama also has in mind the goal of lowering overall medical costs nationwide. Consequently, most people would be required to gain insurance by law, and Americans receiving low to middle incomes (including families of four earning up to \$88,000), would receive subsidies.

This bill was seemingly close to passage in early January, until the Senate Republicans won a Senate seat in Massachusetts, granting them the necessary action to sustain a filibuster and prevent the final vote. Subsequently, White House Democrats have attempted a two-part

CONTINUED

The college's and ATO's social event guidelines require every campus social event involving alcohol to have a guest list. The panel found ATO responsible for violating the social event guidelines because the fraternity was not able to produce a guest list for their Graffiti party. Furthermore, ATO was found responsible for charges of falsification because when first questioned the organization claimed that it had a guest list, but when members were pressured to produce the list, it was found that there was, in fact, no list. The fraternity was also found responsible for violation of Alpha Tau Omega's national risk-management policy. However, ATO was not found responsible for violation of the school's alcohol policy because there was no evidence

CONTINUED

On Feb. 10, representatives from NCM brought the outcome of the internal vote to the expansion committee, hoping that it would reconsider. The expansion committee, however, remained true to the motion that had been unanimously ratified on Oct. 15 and decided to go ahead with the expansion.

On Feb. 11, the expansion committee recommended to Panhellenic that NCM affiliate with Delta Zeta, and on Feb. 18 Panhellenic voted on this suggestion and unanimously approved it.

Following this vote, there was an overwhelming outcry from NCM, asking Panhellenic to discuss with the chapter its options for remaining a local sorority. Panhellenic noted that at the present time Rollins was not looking to add any new local fraternities or sororities to its campus. It was also mentioned

Health Care Battle Wages On



HITTING HOME: Matt Masterson from Virginia holds up a picture of his diabetic son during a Congressional hearing on health care.

rescue strategy. It entails the House to pass legislation that cleared the Senate in December, despite objections. Additionally, both houses are to follow immediately with a second bill, having made changes to the first.

Democrats would draft the second bill under rules

that forbid Senate Republicans to require a 60-vote majority. Obama focused on requested changes several weeks ago that would satisfy many concerns of House Democrats. These would include increasing subsidies for lower income families who cannot afford insurance, giving additional money to states that

provide higher-than-average benefit under Medicaid, and eventually decreasing a coverage gap in the Medicare prescription drug program that is used by millions of senior citizens.

This agreement was enhanced by the new breakthrough of billions given in student aid. Speaker Nancy Pelosi asserted that neither "generals' disappointment over the lack of a government health care option or a usual mistrust of the Senate would prevent passage in the House.

At the White House, officials worked to increase Obama's influence over lawmakers who control this legislation that has caused this yearlong struggle. Evidently, this delay provides congressional leaders with necessary room to complete legislation and gain support from wavering lawmakers.

A procedural vote in the House Budget Committee was set for March 15, but as of late Friday, lawmakers had yet to get the final analysis from the Congressional Budget Office necessary to move forward.

The Truth About ATO

to confirm or deny whether underage students were served alcohol during the party.

Due to these policy violations and the stained history of the organization, the panel doubted the organization's ability to improve their future conduct, and suggested that the fraternity be suspended from campus.

After one last case review by Dean Hater, the final sanction of organization suspension was communicated to the fraternity on Friday, Feb. 19. ATO was given until Feb. 24 to appeal the sanction. Alpha Tau Omega did indeed submit an appeal, which was reviewed by an appellate board, which was comprised of a different group of one student, one faculty member and one staff member. The appellate board later denied the appeal.

ATO will remain on sus-

pension for the next four years. Once their suspension has expired, the fraternity is allowed to, once again, apply to be a recognized organization on campus through the Interfraternity Council expansion policy. In the meantime, the fraternity is still under national investigation, which began on Friday, Feb. 19. At this time, the school has not been made aware of a conclusion to this investigation.

As a final matter of business, it is important to shed some light on ATO's current housing situation. It is commonly misunderstood that the fraternity lost its on-campus housing privileges as a result of its current suspension; however, this is far from the case. ATO was originally placed on housing probation in April 2009. At this time, the minimal expectations required to restore the fra-

ternity to good standing were communicated to the organization. During this past fall semester, a housing review committee, consisting of Resident Life Director Leon Hayner, associate Director of Resident Life Ingrid McLennan, Assistant Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life Andy Hughes, and Dean Hater, met and reviewed the fraternity's presentation and report. The committee decided that they fraternity had not met the expectations previously outlined. On Dec. 14, 2009 it was communicated to the chapter that it had lost its on-campus housing privileges for the 2010-2011 school year. Although ATO will continue to live in the house for the remainder of 2009-2010 academic year, Strong Hall will be made available to other organizations beginning next semester.

NCM Divided

that current Formal Recruitment numbers were unable to support an additional sorority. Desperate to remain nationally unaffiliated, NCM invoked the aid of its alumni. Upwards of 30 NCM Alumni demonstrated their support of NCM's current member's plea to remain local through e-mail and Facebook. On March 4, Rollins Provost Roger Casey paid a special visit to NCM and communicated to the members that Rollins administration hoped that NCM would remain a local sorority and Delta Zeta would be invited to join Rollins branch of Panhellenic Association. The Panhellenic area advisor claimed that the National Panhellenic Conference had never come across a situation of this nature before, and therefore there was nothing in the bylaws that said NCM could not remain a part of Panhellenic. In response, NCM con-

tinues to be an associate member of Panhellenic.

The major difference between associate member status and regular member status of Panhellenic is that associate members cannot vote on matters that relate directly to the National Panhellenic Conference itself. These matters include, but are not limited to: expansion processes, change in recruitment style, and change in campus total. Associate members can, however, vote on matters such as budget use and making campus events mandatory for members of Panhellenic organizations. Members of associate member organizations can even hold any Panhellenic Executive Board positions, apart from president. Along with NCM, Sigma Gamma Rho is also an associate member of Panhellenic.

Although at the time this

article was written, the exact number of current NCM members looking to become new members of Delta Zeta was still unknown, it is estimated that about 20 members or more would become part of the campus' newest Greek organization. New members are expected to be pinned on March 21, signaling the beginning of Delta Zeta's new member training that will take place the rest of this spring semester. There is currently a national representative of Delta Zeta, Alicia Farrell, living in the Winter Park area who has been assigned the task of orientating the new members to the values and purpose of the sorority. Delta Zeta will most likely hold open recruitment during the upcoming fall semester to increase numbers, and by December of this year Delta Zeta is expected to become a fully installed chapter on Rollins' campus.

Kids Clear for Take-Off

KAITLYN
SCHIRARD
the sandspur

As planes waited to take off from Kennedy Airport, the tarmac-packed radio chatter between controllers and pilots was interrupted by a young boy's voice: "JetBlue 171, cleared for takeoff."

An air traffic controller who brought his son to work let the youngster read a few routine messages to pilots—and then brought in another child the next day—in an incident that amused pilots but not the Federal Aviation Administration.

Authorities suspended the controller and a supervisor Wednesday March 3 after a recording of the radio calls was posted on the Internet, then reported by a Boston television station.

"This lapse in judgment not only violated FAA's own policies, but common-sense standards for professional conduct. These kinds of distractions are totally unacceptable," FAA Ad-

ministrator Randy Babbitt said in a statement. "This kind of behavior does not reflect the true caliber of our work force."

During his visit, the boy got to squeak out a few more instructions to pilots before signing off, including telling the crew aboard a departing Aero Mexico flight, "Adios, amigos."

On the recording, which lasts about a minute, the elementary-school-aged boy appears to repeat instructions fed to him by his father. At no time does the child tell aircraft how to maneuver in flight. At the time, pilots appeared delighted. Nevertheless, the FAA said it has also barred unofficial visits by friends or relatives to FAA air traffic operational areas while it reviews its policies. The boy made five transmissions to pilots preparing for departure, according to the recording.

"It is not indicative of the highest professional standards that controllers set for themselves and exceed each and every day in the advancement of aviation safety," the National Air Traffic Controllers Association said in a statement.

Sizing Up the Sororities

TJ FISHER
the sandspur

The connection between body image and sororities has been a hot topic for several years and the heat is not dying down. The number of schools doing away with their Greek communities on campus is rising due to the belief that Greek life does not aid an academic environment and is instead more of a hindrance than a help to the school's population. Is this true, or this a situation in which the potential pitfalls of a Greek community overshadow the benefits that fraternities and sororities bring to a campus?

One potential pitfall is that a sorority could cause its girls to feel insecure about their appearance. Although this is an issue, it is not an issue everywhere. While certain organizations, which have usually been individually branded as the "pretty sorority," put more pressure on their girls to look a certain way, others do not judge girls by their looks, but focus instead on their characters. I commend the latter of the two because they exemplify the intended purpose of participation in a sorority:

the association of oneself with a group of girls chosen for their personalities and the alignment of their values with those of the organization, not how often they party or what size jeans they wear.

The spotlight is beginning to fall on campuses around the country, including Rollins, and it is shining on the sororities with the prettiest girls. Student bodies are rating which houses are the best, based on what the sisters' size and clothing. This trend is killing the above definition of what it means to be in a sisterhood. Participation in a sorority should guarantee relationships with girls that are similar in character and personality and build leadership and strength. Sororities also strengthen the campus Greek community. Stressing beauty over character detracts from the benefits of the Greek Community, for when sororities choose to evaluate girls by physical appearance, they only encourage their own removal from campuses around the country.

For those who have experienced Greek life, the idea of universities and colleges taking away that aspect of campus seems wrong, but the Greek

community is pushing college administrations to take these extreme measures. The community must show that it is worthy of its inclusion as part of a college campus and that it benefits the whole community. I do not mean that it should do away with social events or take away the fun of being in a fraternity or sorority, but that it should step up in other areas and take extra care in earning its place on campus. It must show that joining Greek life is not just about partying and ranking each other based on who has the prettiest girls and the hottest guys. They need to express their individual values to the rest of the campus.

Anyone at Rollins can tell you that our Greek Community seems to be faltering. Many changes have taken place this semester, including ATO's four-year suspension, the arrival of Delta Zeta to campus, and NCM's fight to stay unabsorbed by the national sorority. As a whole, the Greek community must come together and unify. It cannot continue to focus on the best-looking guys and girls, but on enriching our community. If it does not take these steps to better itself, it may pave the way to a Rollins without Greek life.

Car Owners Beware

ALEXIS NEU
the sandspur

Do you own a car and park it on campus? If you do, you might want to read this. On Monday, March 15 Campus Security sent out a campus-wide email alerting students to the threat of motor vehicle theft. According to the report, a female faculty member had her car stolen while parked on campus during the early hours of the morning of March 15. The car was parked in the parking lot of the Alford Sports Center. Campus Security was able to determine that the theft occurred sometime between the hours of 1:25 a.m. and 5:02 a.m.

According to the Winter Park Police Department, there have been 72 reported property crimes in Winter Park in the past 30 days. Although there is always some risk associated with parking in public areas, there are methods to help ensure that your vehicle is not targeted. Campus Security suggests that you always double check that you have locked your vehicle door and that valuables have been stowed out of sight. It is best to always park in well-lit areas and it may be smart to consider investing in security and theft deterrent systems for your vehicle. Again, although these methods will not eliminate your risk, they have been proven to greatly reduce the chance of damage to or theft of

your vehicle.

In an interview with Ken Miller, Director of Campus Security, Miller disclosed information that was not provided in the timely notification bulletin. "The vehicle was a 1994 Civic, and it did belong to a faculty member," Miller said. He went on to say the faculty owner said they came into work and arrived at around 1:25 a.m. and locked all doors. The car was missing from the Alford parking lot but there was no glass on the ground so there was no sign of forced entry.

"The lock was either picked or somebody put a Slim Jim into the door. A Slim Jim is a 3 foot long section of metal, narrow, probably about an inch thick. You slide it in between the window and down through the rubber of the door to pull the lock open."

Miller also remarked that the idea of using CCTs (Close Circuit Televisions) has come under consideration. Miller said: "Long term it was an institutional decision not to have cameras [on campus]. Over the past couple years I think administratively people have realized there is some value to having cameras and there are some discussions happening right now about possible areas where we could use them." Whether it will be decided to use cameras in the future or not is still under consideration; no decision at this time has been made.

To sum up his statement, he said, "The vast majority of the



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time someone leaves something on the seat or in plain view like a laptop computer on the passenger seat. I think that may have contributed somewhat to this. I would strongly encourage folks if they have personal effects of value not to store them in plain sight. I think that may reduce theft quite a bit."

Finally, Campus Security is in the process of redoing their website. There will be several new aspects that allow students to check vandalism and other crimes on campus online and provide information to share with the Rollins community. It is meant to link students and faculty in solving on campus

crimes. That feature will be available shortly.

If you have any information about this crime or others on campus, Rollins encourages you to please contact Campus Security. Campus Security can be reached by phone at (407) 646-2999 or via email at security@lists.rollins.edu.

The Words of Weitzner

Melanie's ramblings about local and campus happenings.



MELANIE WEITZNER
columnist

No Jokes, No Gimmicks, Just Laughter

I had a stressful week.

Between two midterms, three papers, and countless pages to read, the thought of even cracking a smile was far from my mind.

But the hectic week before Spring Break was over and I found myself walking towards a group of people sitting Indian-style on Mills lawn. It was Thursday afternoon and the Laughing Club was about to start.

When I first heard about the Laughing Club, I had the same reaction most Rollins students have when they read the E-mails its founder, Christian Kebbel, sends out about upcoming meetings: Why would anyone want to just sit around and laugh for 15 minutes?

Believe it or not, people have been doing it for centuries. Common to several parts of India, laughing bars date back to ancient China. The idea is simple. A person stands in front of a group and begins to laugh. The laughter becomes contagious and soon everyone begins to laugh along with them.

Research has shown that laughter has a profound effect on our health. From relieving stress, boosting the immune system, and even burning off some calories, a few chuckles can really go a long way.

So there I was, sitting Indian style on Mills lawn in a small circle made up of three other people. We began by sitting upright and, to the count of Christian's snapping fingers, did breathing exercises that consisted of quick and sharp exhalations of breaths to warm up for our laughing session. After

our lungs were ready and our minds were clear, we all stood up. The laughing was about to begin.

I have to admit, I felt nervous. What if I just couldn't laugh? What if I ended up just standing there silent while everyone else around me was cracking up? All of these thoughts began to spin around my already worn out mind. And then it began.

Christian started it. He gave out a loud laugh, hands on his stomach, body bending far back and face pointing to the sky. Immediately, the two other people there followed suite, giving their own renditions of the laugh that started it all. Before I could even realize I was doing it, laughter was pouring out of me. It just came naturally.

Christian pointed at the person across from him, indicating that it was his turn to lead the laughter. He did just that. Giving out a loud belly laugh, he set off another chain reaction amongst us. Contagious was an understatement.

And then suddenly I was pointed at; it was my turn to step up and set the tone for the round of laughter. From somewhere deep within me erupted laughter. Inhibitions gone, my body shook as the laughter took over. It contaminated everyone around me until we were left breathless.

It was over, and I was left feeling light-headed and a bit sore, like I had just worked out. I looked around me and saw the same giddy expressions on everyone's faces. We spent the next couple of minutes laying on the grass and absorbing the sun's warm rays. Christian mentioned how he had needed a good laugh that week because of the stress from finals and I suddenly realized that I too had had a long week. But at that moment, a calm feeling flooded me and all I could think about was the week vacation ahead of me.

Laughter is good for your health

Physical Health Benefits:

- Boosts immunity
- Lowers stress hormones
- Decreases pain
- Relaxes your muscles
- Prevents heart disease

Mental Health Benefits:

- Adds joy and zest to life
- Eases anxiety and fear
- Relieves stress
- Improves mood
- Enhances resilience

Social Benefits:

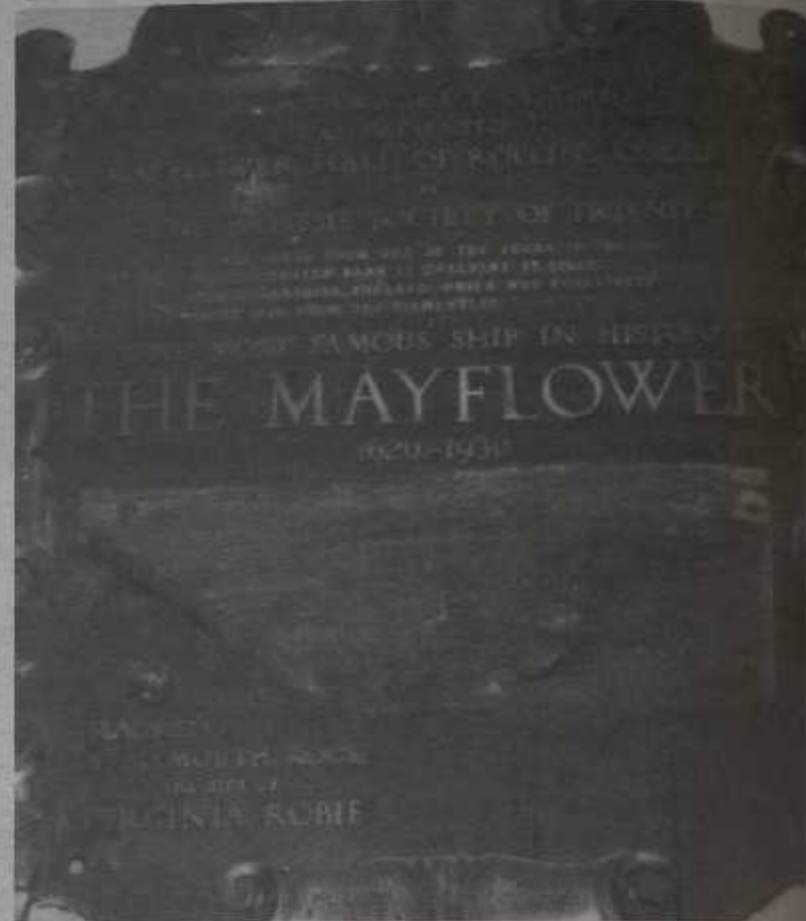
- Strengthens relationships
- Attracts others to us
- Enhances teamwork
- Helps defuse conflict
- Promotes group bonding

HELPGUIDE.ORG

No More NCM? Not Quite Yet...

TJ FISHER
the sandspur

In the spring semester of 2009, Non Compis Mentis (NCM), the only local sorority on campus, decided to undergo the process of researching a possible merge with a national sorority. The organization voted as a whole that they would look into the researching process, being told that at the end of the process they would have a choice: either to associate with one of three chosen national sororities, or stay local. After NCM made their choice, their vote would be taken to an expansion committee, which would consist of three girls from NCM, and one representative from each other sorority on campus, making a total of eight votes. In February of this year, NCM voted as a whole to stay local. When the sorority took their decision to the expansion committee, there was a two-hour meeting discussing the pros and cons of going national, and in the end, NCM was outvoted. The expansion committee gave their recommendation at the next Panhellenic Meeting, where the chapter delegates were instructed to take the situation back to their chapters in order to make a formal vote by the next meeting. At the aforementioned meeting, where the recommendation was given, the majority of the NCM chapter showed up and gave their testimonies, asking that the board reconsider the expansion committee's decision, and remember that going national was not the decision that NCM made as a sisterhood. Ultimately, Panhellenic voted against NCM and for their colonization by a national organization, the so-



JESSICA MOSES

HISTORIC VALUE: The NCM house, Mayflower Hall, actually contains a piece of wood from the original Mayflower ship.

alumni from the Orlando area and even places such as Massachusetts were in attendance, offering full support in the fight for keeping NCM on campus. In the week that followed, hundreds of letters from parents, alumni, and students flooded the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership, as well as the Administrative office, all in support of NCM. Panhellenic held another meeting on March 4, where the decision was announced that Delta Zeta would still be coming on campus, but NCM would still exist as an associate member of Panhellenic. Provost Casey, who was in attendance to answer any questions about the decision, simply stated that the decision was made by the Administration on

the two groups are going to become rivals has been expressed by plenty of people outside the organization, but from the perspective of someone inside the sorority, I do not feel that that is going to be the case at all. Although we will not be official sisters anymore, there are still countless relationships between the girls that are staying NCM and those that are making the transition to a national sorority. I do not have any hard feelings for anyone going Delta Zeta. I feel that everyone should be able to be a part of the type of sorority that will make them happiest and that they identify with most. Those girls who want to experience a national sorority should be able to go with Delta Zeta, but on the same note, the opportunity to be in a local sorority should not be taken away from others.

It has been expressed by some that these two organizations should not be permitted to coexist, but why not? The girls who want to stay NCM should not have their organization taken away from them. I am a new sister, and I should not have my NCM experience taken away from me just as I am getting started. In the same token, the girls who want to join Delta Zeta should also be able to have what will make them happy. Although there will be some heartbreak as the girls split, I feel that allowing both sororities to exist is what is best for this campus. It is a unique thing to have a local sorority on a college campus, and taking NCM away after 40 years would be a blow to the community. Rollins celebrates its rich history with its 125th anniversary, and honoring a long-lasting history should not be accompanied with the abolishment of an organization that has been a part of the college for 40 years.



JESSICA MOSES

A HOUSE DIVIDED: Mayflower Hall has housed NCM for decades.

rority Delta Zeta.

After the decision was made, those women that wanted to stay with NCM got together and had to figure out what would become of the sorority: whether an organization with roots at Rollins over 40 years old would no longer exist, or if it could exist as a residential organization, or even staying a sorority and coexisting with Delta Zeta. At NCM's chapter meeting, following the Panhellenic decision, 20 or so

the reasoning that letting NCM stay seemed like the right thing to do.

As a member of NCM, I can say that I am very happy with the decision for NCM to stay on campus. The biggest issue now lies with the fact that the sorority is essentially being split in half. One part of the sisterhood is going Delta Zeta, while the other half is staying NCM. It is a high price to pay, and the next few years are going to be hard. The concern that

The Beagle's Nose

Yoni's take on the political environment of the nation and the world.



YONI BINSTOCK
columnist

The News About Fox News

In the past two months, Fox News has had some serious PR problems. In the first case they doctored a digital video of the Tea Party demonstrations showing many more people than were actually there. They have also received a lot of flak for allowing vice presidential candidate and governor Sarah Palin to be news commentators.

The last source of criticism against the network comes around their eccentric commentator Glenn Beck. Yet while many people know of these incidents, Fox News' history is filled with questionable actions.

According to interviews with employees of Fox News, Fox News receives a daily message either from Robert Murdoch or someone else at the top relating the main issue of the day and the slant the news should take. Those reporters who decided to tell the facts were quickly fired.

Before and after every show, Fox News likes to repeat over and over that it is "fair and balanced." The phrase has become the mantra for the news network and is their validation that they are in fact a real news network.

When questioned as to a right-wing bias, they air all the left-wing interviews they have. While they do host Democrats and liberals on the

network, this is only done in a ratio of 5:1 Republican to Democratic interviewees.

On the O'Reilly Factor, Bill O'Reilly has a tendency to yell "Shut Up" at those he disagrees with, and often tells his video crew to cut the show if they continue to talk. This behavior is not only extremely rude, but absolutely unprofessional.

Not only is Fox News completely biased, but their way of relating the news is completely unethical. While telling a story the reporters and anchors frequently use the phrase "some people say" to create sources out of thin air. With no actual basis for their news, the entire show becomes an opinion-based show.

When showing the war in Iraq, Fox frequently aired the positive aspects of the American invasion: demonstrating new schools being built, democracy taking place, and the booming economy. They quickly forgot about the WMD's and the costs in American lives and dollars.

The type of news Fox delivers was clearly illustrated in a poll organized by the Program on International Policy Attitudes, showing that 33% of Fox viewers believed we had found WMD's in Iraq in 2003 compared to 11% of NPR and PBS viewers. As well, the poll showed that 67% of Fox viewers believed there was a connection between Al Qaeda and the Taliban compared to 16% of NPR and PBS viewers.

Unfortunately, the destructive way Rupert Murdoch runs Fox News extends beyond telling the news. The head of the election analysis division of Fox in 2000 was John Ellis, who happened to be the first cousin of then-governor George W. Bush. John Ellis was the first person to announce that Bush had won Florida and the other anchors soon followed his lead. Fox News had more sway in the final outcome of the 2000 election than any Supreme Court decision.

During the Bush years they worked closely with the White House and were in full support of the administration's policies. Their collusion with the White House completely reversed when Obama took office and they have been on the attack ever since.



MCT CAMPUS

RIGHT-WING BIAS: Glenn Beck making a point during an interview at the Fox News Studios in New York City.

Shooting at UF

VERNON MEIGS
the sandspur

On March 2, 35-year-old Ghanaese University of Florida student Kofi Adu-Brempong was shot in the face by a campus police officer in his apartment. Adu-Brempong had been showing signs of delusion, and around the time of the shooting, his condition had worsened.

The officers who responded were trained in keeping the mentally ill out of jail and harm, but one of the officers ended up shooting Adu-Brempong. Only weeks later did the president of UF, Bernie Machen, issue a statement expressing concern for the victim, his family, and his neighbors, which raised questions as to why no statement was issued immediately after the event.

Abu-Brempong's condition seems to be improving. Sandspur reporter Peter Travis' article on the subject last issue mentioned as well that it was

the "first time a student has been shot by campus police in 25 years."

If the officers were indeed trained in handling a person with possible mental illness, was the situation indeed so uncontrollable that a law-abiding man like Abu-Brempong had to be very nearly killed? The police are meant to protect citizens from harm and violations of their rights. A campus police

"The officers who responded were trained in keeping the mentally ill out of jail and harm, but one of the officers ended up shooting Adu-Brempong"

officer should not have a different outlook on the prevention of harm among the students within their particular college or university.

Understandably, this can

lead to the conviction held by many that Abu-Brempong was a victim of police brutality. It has also been argued that the Baker Act was abused as a form of leeway for punishment rather than a level-headed maneuver.

The Baker Act, also known as the Florida Mental Health Act, was enacted in 1971 and allows for non-voluntary examination by judges, law enforcement, and psychiatric professionals of the person in question as to whether or not they are indeed mentally ill or a danger to themselves or others.

Perhaps the issue of the president of UF being late in addressing the unfortunate events can be attributed to the very fact that it has been 25 years since a student was shot by a school's campus police.

They would indeed hesitate in light of breaking that record as a university, not to mention that the reasons for the shooting were, needless to say, embarrassing. I am curious as to how Mr. Abu-Brempong will respond after he fully recovers.

Sizing Up the Sororities

TJ FISHER
the sandspur

The number of schools doing away with their Greek communities on campus is rising due to the belief that Greek life does not aid an academic environment and is instead more of a hindrance than a help to the school's population. Is this true, or this a situation in which the potential pitfalls of a Greek community overshadow the benefits that fraternities and sororities bring to a campus?

One potential pitfall is that a sorority could cause its girls to feel insecure about their appearance. The connection between body image and sororities has

"Student bodies are rating which houses are the best, based on the sisters' size and clothing"

been a hot topic for several years, and the heat is not dying down. Although this is an issue, it is not an issue everywhere. While certain organizations, which have usually been individually branded as the "pretty sorority," put more pressure on their girls to look a certain way, others do not judge girls by their looks, but focus instead

on their characters. I commend the latter of the two because they exemplify the intended purpose of participation in a sorority: the association of oneself with a group of girls chosen for their personalities and the alignment of their values with those of the organization, not how often they party or what size jeans they wear.

The spotlight is beginning to fall on campuses around the country, including Rollins, and it is shining on the sororities with the prettiest girls. Student bodies are rating which houses are the best, based on the sisters' size and clothing. This trend is killing the above definition of what it means to be in a sisterhood. Participation in a sorority should guarantee relationships with girls that are similar in character and personality and build leadership and strength. Sororities also strengthen the campus Greek community. Stressing beauty over character detracts from the benefits of the Greek Community, for when sororities choose to evaluate girls by physical appearance, they only encourage their own removal from campuses around the country.

For those who have experienced Greek life, the idea of universities and colleges taking away that aspect of campus seems wrong, but the Greek community is pushing college administrations to take these extreme measures. The commu-

nity must show that it is worthy of its inclusion as part of a college campus and that it benefits the whole community. I do not

"Anyone at Rollins can tell you that our Greek Community seems to be faltering"

mean that it should do away with social events or take away the fun of being in a fraternity or sorority, but that it should step up in other areas and take extra care in earning its place on campus. It must show that joining Greek life is not just about partying and ranking each other based on who has the prettiest girls and the hottest guys. They need to express their individual values to the rest of the campus.

Anyone at Rollins can tell you that our Greek Community seems to be faltering. Many changes have taken place this semester, including ATO's four-year suspension, the arrival of Delta Zeta to campus, and NCM's fight to stay unabsorbed by the national sorority. As a whole, the Greek community must come together and unify. It cannot continue to focus on the best-looking guys and girls, but on enriching our community. If it does not take these steps to better itself, it may be paving the way to a Rollins without Greek life.

Students Head to the Capital



SERVICE IN WASHINGTON D.C.: 16 Rollins students traveled to Washington, DC to help out the impoverished. While there, they also got to see some great sights and experience the vibrant life of the nation's capital.

LUCAS HERNANDEZ
the sandspur

Spring Break is something every college kid cherishes. It typically follows a gruesome week of all-nighters spent studying for tests and piecing together essays that hopefully will result in high marks.

Spring Break is also not a typical vacation for college students. It is one that is very special and more often than not, the only vacation all school year that is set-aside for hanging out with friends in a location that is at the very least remotely close to a beach. However, there is an increasingly popular trend that is taking colleges across the country by storm. This trend goes by the title of Alternative Spring Break.

Here at Rollins our Alternative Spring Break took 16 Rollins students and two staff members of the Office of Community Engagement (OCE) on a trip of service and social justice to our nation's capital Washington D.C. The trip was led and facilitated by Adrienne Benso (OCE), J.U.M.P. Coordinator Lindsay Clark (Class of 2010), and Gabe Anderson (OCE).

The trip began on Saturday March 6 and ended on Friday March 12. Each day was filled from the morning until evening with service projects and cultural enrichment. The first service

activity was with an organization called KEEN Kids Sports. The organization provides volunteers with the opportunity to work with children with disabilities on various sports activities.

The main mission of the organization is to provide the children with much needed

"After going through the thorough security process the group was ushered to a room to first meet with Senator Bill Nelson."

opportunities for social development and exercise. The Rollins group had the opportunity to work with many different kids through the program and group members were immediately reminded of why they signed up for the trip: to change lives.

Another service project was with an organization called A Wider Circle. This organization helps individuals and families who are transitioning from homelessness into independent living.

They provide moving assistance, purchase of furniture, and countless other related services. It is located in Maryland and operates out of a large warehouse. The volunteers helped organize donations, pick up furniture, and assist in various

tasks of upkeep. The students came away from the event amazed at the breadth and functionality of the organization.

The day continued with a performance at the National Theatre. The performance was called The Life, Rhythm and Move Project (LRMP). The movement is dedicated to affecting positive social change through the performing arts, specifically through dance. The dance troupe infused urban dance with spoken word in order to speak towards the power and possibility of social change.

The movement's founder, Aysha Upchurch has invigorated the local community and is even branching out to as far away as South Africa to push the fusion of passion and artistry with education. With front row seats the Rollins students were able to see first-hand the power and influence of individual desire for social change.

The community service continued with a visit to a Habitat for Humanity building site in Maryland. During this project the group worked on various projects including: constructing handicap-access ramps, installing countertops, cutting through sewage pipes, and spackling dry wall. Every individual worked on many tasks and almost everyone ended up with a dirty set of clothes.

The final service project was with Prevention Works, which

is an organization that looks to address the AIDS epidemic through various prevention techniques. The Rollins group aided the organization by putting together wound kits for people with an extensive and dangerous drug-use history and also safe sex kits to be handed out to the community at large. The Rollins group put together close to a thousand kits and provided a week's worth of supplies for the organization.

One of the most intriguing aspects of the trip was the scheduled meetings with the Florida Senators Bill Nelson and George LeMieux. After going through the thorough security process the group was ushered to a room to first meet with

"Although the government does many things for social justice in this country, there is so much more that needs to be done."

Senator Bill Nelson. The meeting began with individual photo-ops with the Senator and then he proceeded to speak to the group about his role in the Senate and his own personal experiences. The senator did not field any questions from the group and left an overall negative impression.

The second scheduled meeting with senator LiMieux

ended up with a cancelled and an underwhelming substitution by one of Senator's aids. The group, however, did not end on a sour note. The group was to tour the Supreme Court building and the Library of Congress, and take a tour of the Senate chamber and the capital building.

If one common theme had to be deduced from the capital visit it is that change is an upward battle. Although the government does many things for justice in this country there is so much more that needs to be done.

Spring Break to college kids has always been a time of parties, yet to an increasing number of students it is becoming more of an opportunity to do good.

In order to change the world there has to be active effort and a desire to do so. Alternative Spring Break provides for an opportunity to do so.

Many students on the trip to D.C. knew they were sacrificing the crazy party of Spring Break, but most of them seemed unaware of the feeling of happiness and self-fulfillment would be at higher levels than any for a whole week on the trip ever could.

Life Lessons in a Cup of Coffee

DAN MONROE
the sandspur

On March 5 I knew almost nothing about Guatemala. I had been on a trip for Rollins' Alternative Spring Break trip for primarily environmental reasons. I wanted to do something exciting over Spring Break and I had never before been to Central America and thought now would be a good time as any. The trip was titled "Make Coffee, Change Lives" and sounded compelling. It would provide me with a learning environment: a community made of combatants left standing after the country's long and bloody civil war. Today some men and women are armed in their arms and ready for shovels and a chance to raise and educate children.

On March 5 I now realize almost nothing about the outside my own. I have learned enough to travel extensively over

the last few years, taking trips throughout Europe and Russia as well as through my own country and Canada. On none of these trips however did I meet people who live as modestly as the people I encountered in Guatemala. In the community of Santa Anita where our group of 12 students and three faculty advisors stayed, residents have limited access to clean water and the availability of food depends mainly on what you raise and grow yourself. Upon arriving, students were broken up into groups of two, each pair then taken into the home of an individual family who were kind enough to share their meals with us over the course of a week. I was paired up with Economics major and fluent Spanish speaker Andi Perez (Class of 2010) which, considering my Spanish can be described as woeful at best, was definitely a good thing. Otherwise, I would not have been able to hear the sad account our host mom—a wonderful, weathered woman named Wilma who also fought in Guatemala's long civil war—gave us about her personal struggle during

the conflict, though the deeply entrenched lines in her leathery skin serve as a testament to it.

While 6 months pregnant with her daughter, Wilma lost her husband in the fighting. Now 17, her daughter Maria sits and eats with us quietly, enraptured in our depiction of life back home. Her brother Luis likes the bands "Guns and Roses" and "Coldplay," and he stares in mock astonishment when I admire his old, beaten up Samsung phone. "You like my phone?" He says in Spanish, the surprise universally clear. Such is the way here, and luxuries are not. During our stay we participate daily in one of four activities.

Some students choose to teach the community children in their tiny, concrete structure with a leaky roof that functions as the schoolhouse. Others work in the computer center, attempting to gain Internet access only after repairing the community's old, molded computers. Others pull weeds out from among lines of vegetables in the field. The most physically rigorous of these jobs involved helping to dig a trench

several feet deep in order to lay a pipeline that will deliver water back to the community from several kilometers away. The project is vital to the community's survival. I talked with Biochemistry major Billy Kennedy (Class of 2012) who was one of the students that participated on this project.

"One of the main things that stands out to me is how the people in this community maximize what little resources they have. They live what they consider to be a good life with what we would never consider to be enough to live on."

It is a contrast made that much sharper as I stare up at the menu board here in a popular café on Park Avenue where overly processed coffee drinks sell for upwards of \$4. The coffee beans harvested in the Guatemalan community of Santa Anita on the other hand are delicious and sold much more reasonably priced, providing the community its sole source of income. But back here in Orlando it is more than just the great coffee I find myself missing.

Cecil Mack (Class of 2011)

summed it up best: "I went to Guatemala expecting a week in the woods with strangers. Instead it became this experience of making new friends from Rollins and meeting an amazing, welcoming family. The people of Guatemala made us feel right at home. I only hope that we can pass on this experience to others to encourage them to leave their safe zones and go out and grow as individuals and to become global citizens as our school's mission statement suggests. It is a part of a well-rounded education to be able to go and experience different cultures and communicate even if you do not know the language."

Amanda Mosley (Class of 2010) was even more direct: "I went to Guatemala to get lost and ended up finding myself."

Before March 5 I expected to go to Guatemala and perhaps find a good cup of coffee. While I most certainly did that, I also discovered that behind the coffee beans of Santa Anita, the roots of community run deep and life tastes just a little bit sweeter—even without all that artificial stuff.

Spring Break in the Big Apple

LYN SCHIRARD
the sandspur

was lucky enough to pass my blessed days of break in New York City. I filled my time with museums, Broadway plays, strolls through the park and Central Avenue, and a fun mix of activities that any foodie would

On Tuesday, after an evening of relaxation, I spent with a walk through Central Park and through the city square. It's true when they say the city never sleeps. In the lively evening and the waking hours of the morning, New York is the only one on the planet. Seeing the neon lights of the city is quite the sight. Dinner at a restaurant offered a delicious meal and glance about the city that makes the city famous.

Wednesday began with an

out onto the streets of New York to find an H and H bagels shop. As recommended by a friend, after tearing one open and smearing on the cream cheese, careful not to burn my hands on the hot bread, my cinnamon raisin bagel proved to be delicious. Full on a bagel breakfast, I ventured forth into the Museum of Natural History. Even if you are not a history buff, this place is a must see if you visit! They have the largest collection of paleontological specimens in the US. I spent the rest of the day strolling through the park. Although not in full bloom, Central Park still manages to have its airy charm. As one of the few places in the city that actually has grass, it is a welcome retreat from the city.

the few places in the city that actually has grass, it is a welcome retreat from the city.

bustling sidewalks. The graveled paths and ponds are spaced beautifully with fountains and small social courts. I cannot wait to return and see what the park looks like in full swing. That night, dinner equaled a New York pizza pie! John's Pizza, a sit down place with great atmosphere right off Broadway, is some of the best pizza you can get while in New York. They offer everything from the traditional to a smaller range of specialty toppings, so you cannot possibly go wrong with this brick oven joint. To finish off the night, I was privileged enough to see one of the preview showings of a new Broadway musical: the Addams Family. A new show goes through a two to three week preview stage before actually opening; it offers the cast and crew a chance to get things in full swing and practice with an audience. With an all-star cast that includes Nathan Lane

the cast and crew a chance to get things in full swing and practice with an audience. With an all-star cast that includes Nathan Lane

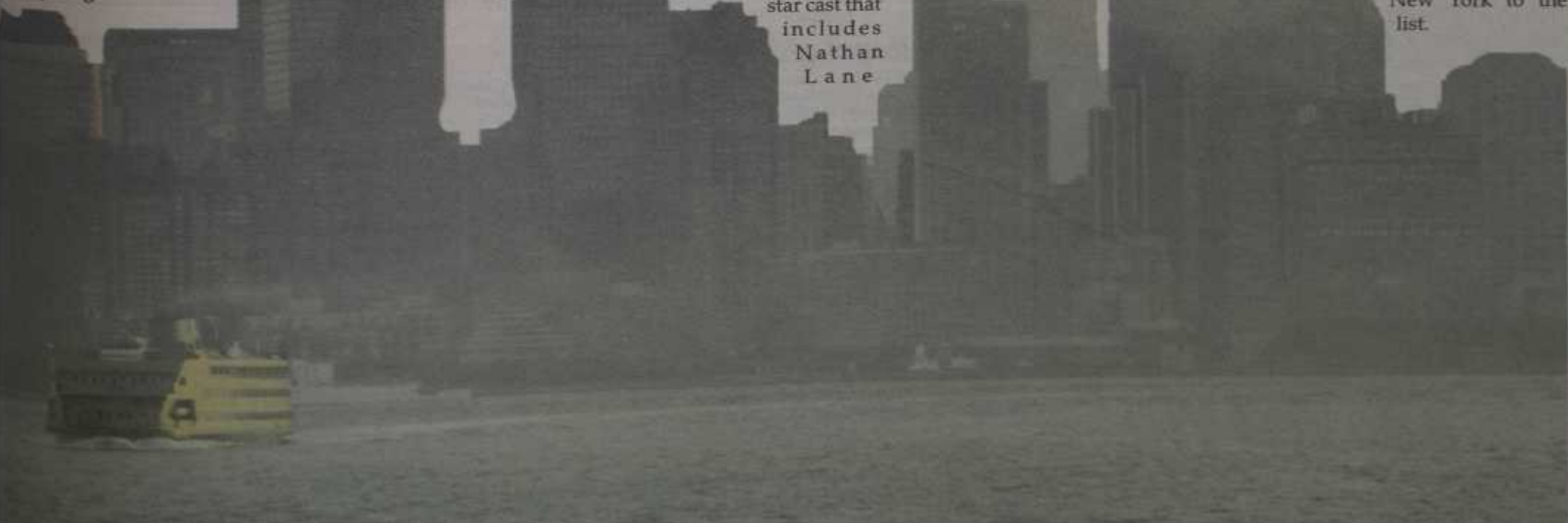
and Bebe Neuwirth, the show is fantastic. This relaxed comedy offered the perfect family evening with a very peculiar family.

The rest of the week was a blur of fantastic food, strolls on busy sidewalks, and nights full of theatre and city sounds. A trip to the Metropolitan Museum proved a great way to spend an afternoon. Looking upon the greats such as Monet, Van Gogh, and Rembrandt, and ambling through the impressionists and the realists was a great way to pass the time off of the rainy streets. If you are looking for other fun things to do in the big apple, consider the following places not just as eateries but as little city sights: Serendipity 3, Junior's Dinner, and The Boathouse.

I also had the privilege of

seeing several other shows while in New York: God of Carnage (with Jeff Daniels, Janet McTeer, Lucy Liu, and Dylan Baker) and Mr. and Mrs. Fitch (with John Lithgow and Jennifer Ehle). If for any reason you are going to New York and are wondering what to do with your evening, do yourself a favor and go see God of Carnage! A beautiful blend of comedy and drama, the play offers 90 minutes of enjoyment and it is a roaring ride right to the end. Mr. and Mrs. Fitch offers up a more intellectual comedy and fast paced jargon about the social scenes.

New York is an excellent place to spend some time. And as a city that never sleeps, there is always something to do. I hope that you enjoyed your break as much as I did, and when planning your next trip make sure to add New York to the list.



Advice from Jenn

Jenn's take on our Rollins Campus and the world we live in.



JENN STULL
columnist

Rollins' social customs: I think it is safe to say they are one of a kind. We are 1780 students living, working, learning, socializing, and growing in an environment where some flourish and others fall short.

While that may be standard of any sort of isolated environment, especially the small liberal arts college that Rollins is, I think most students here can agree that we play by our own rules. The problem is that it's nearly impossible to win if you do not know how to play the game.

Firstly, the dating scene at Rollins is nearly nonexistent. Instead of making the most of the luscious, romantic scene Rollins naturally provides with its Mediterranean style architecture situated on a lake, it has become socially acceptable to "hook-up." Meet a guy or a girl down at Roxy, dance the night away, and it is a pretty safe bet to guess what will happen when you get back to your cozy single room with your tiny twin-size bed.

I assume that everyone knows the definition of the term hook up, but in case you have been living in a cave for the past few years without access to Gossip Girl or Jersey Shore, let me break it down for you. Urban Dictionary defines hooking up as: "Purposely ambiguous. Equivocal word used to describe almost any sexual act. Usually used to exaggerate exactly what happened. A hook up can range from a make out session to fullout sex."

Don't get immediately angry and say, "Hey, I'm in a relationship at Rollins! Where does this girl get off saying we only hook up?"

Well, it seems the majority of Rollins relationships behave in the manner of old married couples who isolate themselves from the Rollins culture all together so...you tell me which is worse. Whenever they do come out it is for their early dinner or for their nightly stroll hand in hand.

If you do not think you fall into either of these categories of relationship, you are probably delusional. However, I am not a complete pessimist, so if there

is a functional couple out there on our campus then thanks for giving faith to the rest of us!

Now that I'm on a tangent, why it is that friends always seem to take the backseat when others get into a relationship? Relationships make single people feel like they have an extremely contagious disease because suddenly no one wants to hang out with them! I believe there is a balance.

Obviously time needs to be distributed amongst everyone, but there is a time to have a night out with the boys or girls and a night out with your significant other. Yes, I know that we are all getting older and anyone we date now may be a "potential spouse," but try and keep it real and not alienate yourself from those who were important to you in your single life. And to all my single ladies and lads, make the most of your independence while you still have it.

Back to my point, either hook up or you will not be on the up and up of the romance, or lack thereof, at Rollins. But then I think to myself, is hooking up necessarily a bad thing? Ask yourself this question. How did you get involved in your last romantic relationship?

Nowadays most long-term relationships start with the hook up. In the past it seems a date would be the first step, and the hook up would come later, and in some cases the hook up wouldn't come until you say "I do." However, maybe our generation has just evolved.

Perhaps we have deemed the date as obsolete. It seems as though our generation is always looking to get things done faster and more efficiently anyway. Maybe skipping ahead to see if there is a physical connection between boy and girl is first on our itinerary for a partner, and then finding the mental one.

I am no expert. I am simply observing the environment I live in. Who knows, maybe one day the hook up will become as standard as act as shaking hands to meet new people; it would become just a friendly gesture.

My main problem I see with the hookup, however, is that it has become expected. Any flirtatious encounter between the opposite sex is expected to end in a hookup in at least one, if not both people's minds.

I understand if a hook up is where the night eventually leads to, but it seems people now go out on a mission to find a hook up rather than a person, which seems a bit impersonal.

So, is hooking up a good aspect of our culture or a bad one? Are people in relationships just as guilty of social faux pas as those who avoid relationships like the plague? Or do they just avoid it all together? I guess there is only one way to find out: To wait and see. It is your world Rollins, I just write about it.

Nepal Trip is Booked!

PETER TRAVIS
the sandspur

Rollins College students have a long history of participation in charitable missions around the Winter Park community and abroad on the international level. This summer Rollins will once again expand its horizons of philanthropy by sending a group of students to Nepal.

Aditya Mahara (Class of 2012) came to Rollins last year and saw a need as well as an opportunity. He saw the need to do something about the inequalities within the education system and healthcare standards among the populations of underprivileged regions of the Asian nation and his home country, Nepal.

Luckily, and more importantly, Mahara saw the opportunity to dedicate the time, passion and resources found in the Rollins student body to Nepal where there could help be part of a solution to the severe poverty facing the nation. So Mahara decided to propose a new international program that would give students the chance to travel to his home country and give first-hand aid to those in need.

"This came about my first semester freshmen year. I did stuff like this in rural areas, so I just thought we could do this with Rollins students on a really broad international level," said Mahara.

To achieve his goal, he came up with an eight-page proposal for a joint initiative with the Sagarmatha Health Foundation, a non-profit organization established by a group of medical professionals who aim to provide good health services to the poor Nepalese living in the rural areas of Nepal. This international mission would aim to be what is being called a "Quick Win Project." This project "will aim to provide basic health care services in conjunction with educational material distribution and education for women, children and communities about HIV and AIDS," as quoted from the organizations website.

Mapsofworld.com has information of not only all the



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POOR CONDITIONS IN NEPAL: Nepal provides insufficient services to their people, and so it is Rollins' duty to do something about it.

countries of the world but also their political, social and economic information, and they identify Nepal's healthcare system as lacking "absent of primary health care centers," having "very few good and qualified doctors [who are] not efficiently trained and qualified" as well as Nepal having a "lack of modern and technologically advanced equipments" to work with.

The site also looks at the system of education in Nepal: "[it] has only recently started to develop. Nepal education has suffered a lot during Rana Regime here when education was suppressed and after that education was given to aristocratic people of the society." Today it resembles the structure of the United States education system, but needs more improvement.

The first groups of Rollins students embarking on this new international program will be focusing their efforts in the Doti District, a very hilly region of Nepal with a population of over 237,000.

The objective of the trip is as follows: "to ensure the immediate health services to about 2000 women and children, men, and adolescents in the Doti district and to provide basic and life saving service, emergency obstetric first aid, family planning, screening, counseling and referrals for GBV and volun-

tary testing and counseling for HIV/AIDS and STIs through essential health camps."

After a long process of research and lobbying, Rollins has given the go-ahead to Mahara. And with the summer soon approaching, the eleven students and two faculty members are getting excited for their journey, which begins July 24. When asked what the most pressing issue facing Nepal is, Mahara replied, "Corruption. Lawlessness is the cause of poverty, lack of education, and everything else." Mahara hopes that this will be the first of many trips to Nepal and that interest in the program will increase each year.

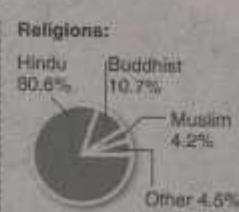
Some of who are going to Nepal:

1. Aditya Mahara
2. Raghabendra KC
3. Lucas Hernandez
4. Jackie Chan
5. Ian Wallace
6. Billy Kennedy
7. Fabia Rothenfluh
8. Emily Sessoms
9. Ashley Franklin

Nepal profile

Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev will be the last king of Nepal if current ruling parties win elections April 10; the Hindu kingdom becomes a federal democratic republic.

Size: 56,827 sq. mi. (147,181 sq. km)
Population: 29 million (2007 est.)
GDP per capita: \$1,100 (696 euros), (2007 est.)
Literacy: 48.6%
Below poverty line: 30.9%
Unemployment rate: 42%



The constituent assembly, elected April 10:

- Is elected for two years, two and a half if necessary
- Functions as legislative parliament
- Must form, implement new constitution
- Must decide on monarchy

Recent history

2001	2002	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
• Crown prince kills royal family and himself	• Gyanendra sacks prime minister, assumes executive power	• Prime Minister Deuba reappointed	• Gyanendra assumes power again	• King allows parliament to reconvene	• New interim constitution	• Police beat Tibet exiles protesting against China
• Gyanendra crowned king		• Maoist rebels enforce blockade on Kathmandu	• State of emergency	• Peace agreement with Maoists	• Interim government	• Constituent assembly elections April 10, 2008

© 2008 MCT Source: Election Commission of Nepal, CIA, Reuters Graphics: Ziba Olieri, MCT Campus

FACTS AND FIGURES OF NEPAL: Nepal has been suffering from poor services that do not match the needs of the Nepalese. The country does not have the infrastructure to improve their aid.

Peer Mentors Help First-Years Find Their Place

MEGHAN THOMAS
the sandspur

"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education."

Rollins Explorations, the department of first-year programming here at Rollins, puts this quote from Martin Luther King Jr. into practice for its incoming students. Explorations' goal is to integrate and engage first-year students and to assist them with the life-changing transition from high school to college. This includes getting first-year

students involved the rigorous liberal arts curriculum on which Rollins prides itself through curricular and co-curricular classes and activities.

Explorations is involved with many facets of the College, including Summer Orientation, Fall Orientation, the Summer Reading Book Program, the Rollins College Conference (RCC), and one of the most important curricular and co-curricular programs, the Peer Mentor Program. The Peer Mentor Program is the definition of integrative and engaged learning and coincides with the RCC program. Approximately 16 new students are allocated to a seminar class meet with their allocated faculty

member to explore a topic in the professor's area of expertise. The professors are drawn from the arts, sciences, humanities, and social sciences. These students are guided by the Peer Mentors. Being a Peer Mentor is a well recognized position at Rollins which holds a lot of status and influence. The program focuses on student leaders who will serve as both academic and social peer educators. Each RCC has two Peer Mentors who guide the first-year students and make the transition into this new environment as smooth as possible, as well as actively participate in the seminar class with the students.

Former mentor Nick Zazulia (Class of 2011) stated, "The most telling thing I can say about Explorations as an office and the Peer Mentoring program is that it is one with which I want to be involved. My own RCC as a first-year student was a great experience which did a lot to help me with the transition to Rollins, and over the years since, I have chosen to devote my time to

hopefully doing the same for other incoming students." Peer Mentors are trained for a week before orientation even begins to make sure they are well-equipped for what lies ahead. Their training consists of basic leadership skills, learning about all of the different departments at Rollins and the various opportunities to get involved on campus, and knowing what to do with different issues that may come up. Peer Mentors also get to plan events that will help their RCC students engage and integrate into the Rollins community. These events can be social, academic, or both.

Peer Mentoring breaks barriers and encourages students to possibly learn about people, places, and/or ideas they never would have otherwise. Peer Mentors take full advantage of the liberal arts experience by constantly engaging with different facets of the curriculum. These students develop their own sense of personal and social responsibility, creating the foundation for life-long

learning. Use of practical and intellectual skills are encouraged and required. It is expected these skills will be the basis for further critical and creative thinking, teamwork, and experience.

Peer Mentoring can sometimes feel like a full-time job, which will not go unrewarded as the position earns six credits. Each Peer Mentor will be enrolled in an RCC 100 class with the new students, as well as RCC 300. The latter is a required leadership course that meets for two hours every two weeks. The amount of work in RCC 100 is the decision of the faculty member. RCC 300 includes a lot of discussion and reflection on what it means to be a leader, how to help your RCC students deal with various issues, and more.

Applications are currently available on FoxLink and must be completed by Tuesday, March 23. If you have any questions, please contact the Explorations Office at 407-691-1199 or stop by the second floor of the Mills Building.

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ROLLINS EXPLORATIONS

Peer Mentors: Rollins Explorations helps students help each other through the Peer Mentor program.

Rollins Kicks Out the Drums for MLK Week

MEGHAN THOMAS
the sandspur

Friday, March 5 marked the third drum circle event at Rollins. The Office of Multicultural Affairs first teamed with Jason Isla and his company, Giving World Percussion, during the Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration week. Friday's event was the first in a new drum circle series, reflecting Isla and OMA's desire to continue working together to bring drum circles to Rollins. Giving World Percussion believes that drum circles have the ability to reach the core of human experience through the power

of music. The company strives to "help individuals harness that power and promote a more harmonious community" (www.givingworldpercussion.com). Giving World Percussion and OMA share these goals. Drum circles help build community, promote collaboration, and encourage fun. Students, faculty and staff all attended the drum circle in front of the Olin Library; they enjoyed the warm, sunny day, had some fun, and tried something new. There will be another drum circle in April, so be on the lookout! For questions, comments, or more information, visit the Office of Multicultural Affairs or www.givingworldpercussion.com.



MEGHAN THOMAS

DRUM CIRCLE: Students and faculty alike get together to jam outside the Olin Library on Friday, March 5. The event was brought to campus by the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

Bad Apples: The Worst 10 Films of 2009

BRENDAN MONROE
the sandspur

10. "Precious"

Yes, I am going a bit against type here. This film has earned numerous accolades and rave reviews since debuting last fall and, like many, I eagerly anticipated seeing what all the hype was about. Let me first preface my criticism by saying that this is not so much the tenth worst movie of the year as simply the most disappointing movie of the year—a film whose awards and positive reviews are as undeserved as the constant beatings the title character takes throughout the film. This is a film about abuse, and it is a sorry, one-note film that never breaks the confines set for it by previous films in the "abuse" genre. This would be a decent lifetime movie but a very bad Best Picture nominee.

9. "Angels and Demons"

Maybe it was because I had just finished reading the Dan Brown novel upon which it is based, or that I actually somewhat enjoyed the first

Ron Howard adaptation of the series. Whatever the reason, the movie adaptation of the Da Vinci Code prequel, in this case sequel, just proved indecipherable. Killing and saving the wrong characters, and eliminating major ones, it would have all been alright if not for a truly miserable story. It is not so much that we cannot follow along as Tom Hanks' Robert Langdon follows the clues, it is that we could not care less where they lead.

8. "Knowing"

God is the only one knowing what Nicolas Cage was thinking signing up for this one. Maybe it was the idea of fighting baddies with trench coats and bleached hair, or else the script's convoluted cliché about how aliens frown on way humans treat their planet and wish to wipe out the entire race and repopulate with select "enlightened children gifted with special telekinetic rocks" that got him to sign on the dotted line... yeah, that must have been it.

7. "Couples Retreat"

Oh, Vince Vaughn, how



MCT CAMPUS

YEAR'S WORST: While several films (like "New Moon," pictured above) released in 2009 garnered huge box office receipts, their reception with the critics was less than stellar.

far you have fallen. Remember the days when Vaughn used to actually make funny movies? No, neither do I. There have been far too many "Break Up's" along the way to cloud our memory of Vaughn's "Swingers" days. This however, is a new low. You know things are bad when the climax of a film revolves around a game of "Rock Band."

6. (Tie) "Bride Wars"/

"Confessions of a Shopaholic"

I simply could not determine which of these two awful "chick flicks" was worse. John Goodman wriggling around on the ground, attempting somehow to regain some shred

of comedic dignity at the end of "Confessions" sealed that film's fate, but "Bride Wars" did the seemingly unimaginable. It took Anne Hathaway's new found potential and yanked it along with a possible 2009 Oscar victory, away from her. The tale of two battling brides had enough mental ineptitude to make John Goodman wriggling on the floor look comedic.

5. "Observe and Report"

In an exemplary "comedic" scene, Seth Rogan, unfunny as always, takes a drunk, drugged girl back to his house and date rapes her. Maybe Roman Polanski would have found it

funny.

4. "Avatar"

A pretty glittering box full of... nothing.

3. "9"

A laughable, cloying, pretentious pile of excrement that does for sock puppet what Gonzo did for nose job. Refrain from spending even nine minutes watching this tale of an apocalyptic wasteland; the waste is evident after two.

2. "New Moon"

Girl 1: Oh my Gawd!! Are you like, on Team Jacob or Team Edward?

Girl 2: I am like sooo in love with Jacob's washboard abs. I could like, iron clothes on them!

Girl 1: Bella is like, so lucky! She does not deserve like, either of them!

Females accounted for over 90 percent of New Moon's record breaking opening weekend haul. Good to see Hollywood giving women what they want—namely sexist, misogynistic tripe about suicidal young women pining after unattainable century old undead males with entitlement issues.

1. "All About Steve"

After playing a psychotic, narcissistic loon with hideous boots and major attachment problems, Sandra Bullock erased all goodwill and proved that Academy members were absolutely bonkers to award her Best Actress the same year as this garbage.

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Palin Appearance on Tonight Show



MCT CAMPUS

DODIE O'KEEFE
the sandspur

Sarah Palin, former beauty queen, Alaska governor, and vice-presidential candidate, made her appearance on Jay Leno's Tonight Show on March 2. Palin demonstrated humor on important content while on the show. Viewers were impressed with political leader, and laughs were shared. Palin even performed a mock impression of Leno's famous opening monologues by providing a stand-up routine at the end of her interview.

"Wow. Thank you. I'm so happy to be here. In Alaska it's so different from LA. Here, when people have a frozen look on their face I find out it's Botox," said Palin. Cheers and laughs rang

throughout the audience as Palin delivered her punch lines. Audience members even demonstrated some humor at Palin's pokes at President Barack Obama.

Not only did Palin dispense humor at others' expenses, but she even poked some fun at herself. Stating that she had seen the Olympic closing ceremony, she stated, "The minute I saw the giant moose I realized I had not cooked anything for the kids' dinner."

Leno avoided several of the more difficult questions by asking Palin more personal questions irrelevant to her intense media and public fascination. When asked if Palin received advice from her parents, she replied that she did not receive a lot of political advice. She did state though that her father wanted her to support the Tea Party movement, though it created controversy. Palin replied,

"The Tea Party movement is a beautiful movement. It is an uprising of the people to say: 'Hey government, we are not to be working for you, you are to be working for us.'"

Palin's appearance on the Tonight Show strengthened Leno's recently struggling late-night television show. Like Leno, Palin too is on a comeback tour subsequent to an embarrassing defeat.

Leno made no mention of Palin's political ambition, rather focusing on her as more of a media and cultural phenomenon these days. He did though, address her new job as a pundit on the conservative channel Fox News.

"I think there needs to be a fairness and balance. That's why I'm doing Fox," Palin stated regarding her new career.

Fortunately, for Leno, Palin's appearance was victory in itself for Leno's never ending battles with his CBS rival, David Letterman. Letterman had gained an interview with the former Massachusetts governor, Mitt Romney, who is believed to be a definite run for the Republican presidential nomination in 2012.



MCT CAMPUS

KAPOW!

Mega-Con Strikes Orlando

SHELBY PHILLIPS
the sandspur

Another amazing Mega-Con has come and gone. This year's show was larger than last year's with hundreds of new returning fans, all dedicated to their favorite and differing aspects of this ever changing and growing convention. From comic books to gaming to Japanese anime, Mega-Con shined brighter than ever for its returning and new guests. Packing a couple of sandwiches and some for the road, and not forgetting the comics I wanted to get signed, I hit the blue and purple aisles of the Orange County Convention Center on Saturday March 13 to visit my favorite artists and writers, meet those I had not previously had the pleasure of meeting, and of course seek out some new and exciting talent!

In my travels along Hall D I met some of my favorite creators and scored some awesome autographs from the likes of Rick Dixon, artist Mike McKelvey, writer/artist Brian Pulido, artist Mike Perkins, and DC Comics artist Amanda Connor!

This is one of the many things that visitors love about this show—that unlike many other industries or mediums of entertainment, you can meet and speak to the people who, month after glorious month, turn out some of your favorite books. Some of my other meet and greets were well-known artist

"...unlike many other industries or mediums of entertainment, you can meet and speak to the people who, month after glorious month, turn out some of your favorite books."

Tommy Castillo, writer Tony Bedar, inker David A. Rivera, writer Darwyn Cooke, and artist Jimmy Cheung. And speaking of more amazing talent, I ran into my long time friend and artist Sarah Bryant, whose first comic book, May Contain Science, is now available and doing well. Comic strip artist Graham Nolan was also at the show. Graham writes and illustrates an online comic strip called "Sunshine State Comics." Check out Nolan's fabulously

funny strip at www.sunshinestatecomics.com. Also vying for attention for her equally witty online comic strip, Jennie Breeden was supporting her self-written and illustrated work, The Devil's Panties, a strip that she advertises as "semiautobiographical." Make sure to visit Jennie at www.devilspanties.keenspot.com for more fun and excitement!

Of course there is always more to do than simply meet guests and shop for that hard-to-find-item. There are also plenty of panels and activities to be found at the show. On Saturday you could have your pick from such panels as the Marvel Comics panel, the DC Nation panel, an independent film panel, numerous Star Wars panels, all the different Anime panels, and of the annual

"Mega-Con Universal Costume Contest!" Attendees can also shop for that ever important item by visiting the hundreds of dealers, such as "Crazy Ed's Comics." Ed is probably the best comic book dealer there, with some of the best products and the most thorough knowledge of comics he's selling. I bought some hard-to-find comics that I have spent months searching for, and found them at his booth in ten seconds! So make sure next time you are at Mega-Con to go see Crazy Ed, or if you cannot wait that long, visit his website at www.crazyedscomics.com. Now everyone who missed this year's fantastic show, make sure you get yourself to Mega-Con in 2011 because it promises to be even bigger and better than before!

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Sports Teams Conquer Over Spring Break



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SPRING BREAK WIN: Attacker Austin Ricci (Class of 2012) took part in the 9-8 victory over Pfeiffer University on March 5.

DODIE O'KEEFE
the sandspur

Spring break did not stop Rollins athletes from achieving success. Over the break, the Women's Varsity Rowing team won its second-straight event. This led them to a victory at the spring break race on Lake Maitland this past Saturday. Winning athletes included Emily

Collins (Class of 2010), Molly Broome (Class of 2011), Kimberly Dirschka (Class of 2010), Michelle Sosa (Class of 2012), and Ashley Franklin (class of 2011). They completed the course with a time of 7:31.0, which put them one second behind the A boat from Nova Southeastern University, but the NSU Sharks got moved back because they incorrectly went through buoys, resulting in a shorter course. This Saturday, March 20, the Tars

will return to their rowing, and hopefully to continued success.

The Men's Rowing team has some exciting upcoming events. This Saturday, March 20, they will compete in the Rollins Invitational, and in another week, they will be at the John Hunter Regatta. Bring on the wins, Tars!

In other Rollins athletics news, the Women's Tennis team will have quite a busy week. On Saturday, March 20, the team has a match at 10 a.m. at Barry

University, followed by a match at Saint Thomas University on Sunday, also at 10 a.m. If Rollins students are interested in catching one of the Men's Tennis games, the team will be playing at Eckerd College on Saturday, March 20, at 11 a.m.

The Women's Lacrosse team is facing Pfeiffer University on Saturday at noon, with a following game on Monday, March 22, at Queens University of Charlotte at 6 p.m.

The Men's Lacrosse team had a 9-8 victory on March 5 against Pfeiffer University. It was their second-straight contest, something that has never been done before in program history. To catch more men's games, come out this Friday, March 26 where the lacrosse team will be at Catawba College at 7 p.m. The game will be recorded. The team will also play Belmont Abbey College at 1 p.m. this Sunday, March 28.

MARCH

19 friday
Rollins Dance XXIV will take place on at 7 p.m. in the Annie Russell Theatre. Rollins and Valencia dancers will come together and put on their 24th annual show.

21 sunday
Junior recital will take place at 3 p.m. in Keene Hall. The Senior recital will take place at 7:30 p.m. in Tiedtke Concert Hall.

23 tuesday
Music at Midday will take place at 12:30 p.m. in Keene Hall.


25 thursday
Senior recital starts at 7:30 p.m. in Tiedtke Concert Hall. "Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune" opens in the Fred Stone Theatre at 8 p.m.

20 saturday
At 11 a.m. there will be an MBA information session for anyone interested. Come to the session and the \$50 application fee is waived!

22 monday
Dr. Laurie Joyner, dean of the faculty, has open office hours from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and invites students to come in for a visit.

24 wednesday
Spring Pathways to College Day will take place from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Lip Sync will take place at 7:30pm in the Alford Sports Center.

26 friday
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