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10-23-2009

## Sandspur, Vol 116, No 06, October 23, 2009

Rollins College

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# The Sandspur

The Oldest College Newspaper in Florida, Est. 1894

Rollins College

Friday | October 23, 2009

www.thesandspur.org

Volume 116 | Issue 6

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@TheSandspurFormer President  
of Peru talks to  
Rollins studentsCOURTESY OF  
ROLLINS.EDUFormer Peruvian President  
Toledo spent a day at Rollins.  
PAGE 9

## this day in history

October 23, 2001: Apple invented the iPod. This device has since become incredibly popular with the American public. Currently, there is an iPod, iPod Shuffle and iPhone.

## Couture and cocktails for charity



TIERNEY LEDDY/the sandspur

GREEKS: Kappa Kappa Gamma and Phi Delta Theta organized events to raise money for charities.

JC BEESE  
the sandspur

The Florida Beta chapter of Phi Delta Theta hosted their first annual Charity Cocktail Fundraiser to raise money for the Wounded Warrior Project, a registered 501(c)(3) charity that helps severely wounded war veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, at the Cornell Fine Arts Museum on Thursday, Oct. 8.

The brothers of Phi Delta Theta partnered with DLE Sports Management Group of Washington D.C. to host the event at Rollins College. DLE Sports President Doug Eldridge is running 10 marathons in 12 months to raise \$100,000 for the Wounded Warrior Project, whose mission is to honor and empower soldiers. Money raised at the event will go toward this yearlong campaign, aptly titled the 10-12-100 Campaign.

Rollins students, alumni and members of the Board of

Trustees came out to help Eldridge stride toward the finish line and reach his goal to help wounded American soldiers.

"I was pleased to see the turnout and the resulting generosity for the Wounded Warrior Project," said Trustee Bobby Ourisman (Class of 1978), who attended the event with fellow alumnus Cary Kresge (Class of 1966, 1967MBA) and his wife Sue.

Ourisman, whose son Robert is a sophomore in the fraternity, added that he thought the Phi Delta Theta fraternity showed maturity and a good social conscience in promoting this fundraiser.

"Well done Phi Deltas," Ourisman exclaimed.

The last two races in the 10-12-100 Campaign will be Washington DC's Marine Corps Marathon in October and the Las Vegas Rock 'n' Roll Marathon in December. To learn more about 10-12-100 and the Wounded Warrior Project, visit <http://www.dlesports.com>.

"The brothers of Phi Delta Theta partnered with DLE Sports Management..."

TIERNEY LEDDY  
the sandspur

Kappa Kappa Gamma's (KKG) 42 sorority sisters gathered October 15 to raise awareness and funds for the organization Autism Speaks through "Kappa Kouture." This philanthropic event consisted of both a silent auction, with more than 25 donated items, and a trunk show featuring couture merchandise from shops like Sultre, Downeast, Tuni and more. One of the hottest items of the evening was the "Upperclassman Parking Space", donated by Campus Security; this item was already going for \$425 by 7 p.m.!

The event had something for everyone, from fleur-de-lis shaped cookies courtesy of Sodexo, to gift certificates to Gurtzberry, Bangz, Champs, Stella Luca, Starbucks, Earth Inspired Living, Orchid, The Bistro, and more. Also, three Cole Haan bags and racks of in-season couture were up for grabs; the Kappa girls made sure to cover everything.

It was due to Philanthropy

Chair Anne Hilb, (Class of 2011) that the Kappas decided to hold a benefit for Autism Speaks instead of their usual organization, Reading Is Fundamental. Over the summer, Hilb worked at a school for children with various autism spectrum disorders. This event was important to her and her Kappa sisters due to the increase in people affected with autism.

Hilb said that Autism Speaks is a great cause because "people can relate and [they] know what needs to be done."

KKG plans on continuing their support for their national philanthropic organization, Reading Is Fundamental, in the spring of 2010. Last spring, the girls hosted a reading day in which they traveled to Grand Avenue Elementary School to read, create crafts, and eat lunch with the second graders. The sorority hopes to continue this tradition next semester.

The sisters of KKG would like to give an extra "thank you" to all of the organizations that donated items for the silent auction and to all of the vendors for giving 10 percent of profits to Autism Speaks.

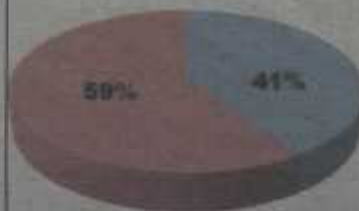
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quotable

"You will lie in bed and feel like you are five again, convinced there is something in your closet"

A&amp;E PAGE 10



## thesandspur.org POLL

What is your response to the recent hate crimes?

- All should be free to express themselves.
- We need to find those responsible.



## The Sandspur

The Oldest College  
Newspaper in Florida  
Founded in 1894

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

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### Where do you fit into the Sandspur?

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

### What do you get for contributing to the Sandspur?

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

### How will I get my written articles into the Sandspur?

Articles for the Sandspur are typically 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 [Editor@thesandspur.org](mailto:Editor@thesandspur.org).

### Where is the Sandspur?

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

### How can I get involved with the Sandspur?

Sandspur meetings are held on Wednesday of every week at 6pm in the Sandspur office on the 3rd floor of the Mills Building. Any questions can be e-mailed to [editor@thesandspur.org](mailto: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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# A tour of Rollins honors societies

**TJ FISHER**  
*the sandspur*

Have you ever received an envelope from an unknown honor society and found yourself throwing it away? Well, next time don't; there are a lot of great reasons to join one. If you are interested in becoming a member of one of Rollins' honor societies, check out the "tour" below.

Each different society has different benefits and different requirements, so it is important to consider those before joining one. The various societies all have something unique to offer and all offers should be considered.

There exist a number of different societies, with focuses ranging from major studies to simply achievements or leadership, so the next time you receive a strange envelope from an honor society, check out this information to see if it is right for you!

For more information, brochures are available in the Olin Library or Office of Student Involvement.

### The National Society of Collegiate Scholars

[www.nscs.org](http://www.nscs.org)

- "Honoring and inspiring academic excellence and engaged citizenship"
- Recognizes high achieving college freshmen and sophomores
- Freshmen and sophomores must achieve an overall GPA of 3.4 and be within the top 20 percent of the class to apply
- Offers more scholarships than any other honor society nationally

### Omicron Delta Kappa

The National Leadership Honors Society  
[www.odk.org](http://www.odk.org)

- "Recognizes and encourages superior scholarship, leadership and exemplary character"
- Promotes a variety of student leadership roles
- Nominated juniors and seniors in the top 35 percent of class eligible to join

### Other on Campus Honorary Societies

- Lambda Pi Eta National Honor Society  
Honor society for Communication Studies
- Omicron Delta Epsilon Honor Society for Economics
- Psi Chi National Honor Society  
National Honor Society in Psychology
- Sigma Tau Delta International Honors Society  
International English Honors Society
- Communiqué  
Rollins student chapter of the Florida Public Relations Association
- Phi Beta Lambda Honors Society for Future Business leaders of America

### Order of Omega

Honoring Greek Leaders  
[www.orderofomega.org](http://www.orderofomega.org)

- Distinguishes campus fraternities and sororities
- Recognizes outstanding leadership
- Recognize fraternity men and women who attain high standards of leadership
- Bring together "outstanding fraternity men and women to create an organization which will help to mold the sentiment of the institution on questions of local and intercollegiate fraternity affairs"

### Phi Eta Sigma

Knowledge is Power  
[www.phietasigma.org](http://www.phietasigma.org)

- Involves freshmen after first semester with overall GPA of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale
- Recognizes scholastic achievement in the freshman class
- Offers \$225,000 awarded in scholarships annually

# Letterman admits to affairs

**TJ FISHER**  
*the sandspur*

Nearly two weeks ago, late night talk show host David Letterman revealed to a shocked, live audience that he had sex with two women who worked for him, and that he was the victim of a \$2-million blackmail plot. According to People Magazine, both affairs preceded his marriage to Regina Lasko last March. When Letterman announced the affairs on-air in

their relationship.

After finding this evidence, Halderman left a letter in Letterman's car, threatening to make the information public unless a deal could be made, and demanding that Letterman call him by 8 a.m. the next morning to settle the arrangement. Letterman never met with Halderman, but instead sent his attorney, who was working in conjunction with the Manhattan District Attorney's office to catch Halderman. It was not until Halderman tried to deposit a bogus

"David Letterman revealed to a shocked, live audience that he had sex with two women who worked for him, and that he was the victim of a \$2-million blackmail plot..."

early October, he focused mostly on his role as the victim of an extortionist who demanded \$2 million to keep the truth of his affairs from going public. Then, a few days after his public confession, Letterman proceeded to apologize to both his wife and his staff publicly, once again, on-air.

CBS newsman Robert Joel Halderman was charged as the would-be extortionist. Reports say Halderman discovered evidence of a long-term relationship between Letterman and his former assistant Stephanie Birkitt. According to voter registration records, Birkitt was living in Halderman's home last fall, where, TMZ.com reported, Halderman found diary entries as well as letters between Letterman and Birkitt that confirmed

check that he was arrested.

The investigation is ongoing, but it seems that Letterman's reputation has been anything but hurt by his confessions. By publicly acknowledging the affairs, as well as apologizing during his Late Show, Letterman has successfully avoided a publicity firestorm, and has kept the situation from being blown out of proportion. The media is now concentrating on Halderman and on portraying him as the wrongdoer in the situation. Halderman's attorney claims that Letterman's apology was just a ploy to make Letterman look like the victim, despite his admitted affairs. The scandal has also boosted ratings for the show, which were up 22 percent from last year's average following Letterman's confession.

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# Remedy for Racism

BEN ZITSMAN  
the sandspur

"What is your response to the recent hate crimes? 56% believe all should be free to express themselves. 44% believe we must find those responsible."  
-The Sandspur, 10/9/09

Well, that settles that. Rollins students are, by an 11 percent margin, totally down with swastikas, Hitler mustaches, and the apt (though not especially imaginative) combination thereof. They are, at least, totally down with not punishing those who are totally down.

And I agree with the majority, with the 56 percent; censorship of self-expression, in any form, unequivocally bad. It is indicative of a repressive society: frightened, unhealthy, and decaying. So, down with censorship, I say! All should be free to express themselves, right?

Well, yes. But (It is worth noting that you just read the most important word in this article), we are not dealing with self-expression. What happened a few weeks ago was an inflammatory act. There is a difference between the two, a chasm so wide that a person standing on one side of it could not hear his friend whistle "Horst-Wessel-Lied" from the other. They are polar opposites. They are antithetical to one another and, as such, must be treated differently.

An explanation: In my hypothetical scenario, the hypothetical you dislikes President Obama. You dislike him a lot, so much, in fact, that you disagree with every decision he has made. You oppose every piece of legislation he has supported. You are quite sure he is foreign-born, and are more certain still he is a secret Muslim, something with which you are really not okay; You consider America a Christian nation, to be led by a Christian President. Speaking of which, you suspect our current Commander-in-Chief may be the anti-Christ. You feel so passionately about President Obama that you want to share your opinions with others. You want to express your discontent with the current Administration. Which of the following would you do?

A) Write an eloquent letter to the editor of your local newspaper, outlining your reasons for disliking President Obama, and, if your hatred is particularly vehement that day, citing sources.

B) Give your liberal friends Glenn Beck's latest book for Christmas and, after drinking too much eggnog, yell at them a little.

C) Tell anyone who will listen that President Obama wants to send their children and parents to gulags and the afterlife, respectively.

D) Draw Hitler mustaches, swastikas, and the '666' on

posters of President Obama.

Option A is self-expression. Options B and C edge further from it. Option D is an inflammatory act. While the first seeks to appeal to the intellect, provoking thought and sparking debate, the last seeks merely to provoke. In using two of the most potent symbols available—one the Mark of the Beast and one the Mark of a Beast—the vandals achieved their goal cheaply, callously, and effectively; they associated Barack Obama with pure, unadulterated evil, presumably because they just do not like the guy. The problem is they did so at great cost to the Rollins community.

Rollins prides itself on being a pluralistic school, seeking "...to foster and to model a campus environment that is welcoming, safe, and inclusive to all of our administrators, faculty, staff, and students," a school that "[views] differences in nationality, race, gender, age, sexual orientation, socioeconomic class, and able-bodiedness not as obstacles to be overcome but as rich opportunities for understanding, learning, and growth." These quotes come from the school's website, and I say this is just fantastic: Way to go Rollins! You fight that racism! You are failing, though! They are, anyway, if they fail to punish those who defaced the poster of President Obama. Use of Nazi imagery gravely disrespects all persecuted by Hitler's regime: Jews, Roma, Catholics, homosexuals, the disabled, and others. A community where this behavior goes unpunished is not welcoming, safe, or inclusive. Rollins must address the problem if it seeks to uphold its own standards.

The anti-Semitic slurs written in dorms, the pennies glued to the floor, they are worse. They are not base, crass attempts to criticize the government; they are base, crass attempts to say, "We don't like Jews!" As a Jew, this makes me feel neither welcome nor safe. It makes me feel there are a few Rollins students who feel great antipathy towards Judaism and, therefore, towards me. At any public school or university in the country, this racially-motivated bullying would result in hasty disciplinary action, maybe expulsion. The same should hold true at Rollins.

Even so, punishing the students responsible would serve only as a palliative measure. Rollins must go further; a problem has been identified, and the school must now determine its cause. Serious collegiate soul-searching is in order: How has Rollins become a school where racist vandalism is a problem? Moreover, how has Rollins become a school where the majority of its students believe racist vandalism should go unpunished?

Start looking for answers, Rollins. Then, start looking for a remedy.

## OPINIONS



COURTESY OF DESTINATION.COM

**Viva Rio:** Brazil beats out Chicago for host of the 2012 Olympic games

# Republicans rejoice over Rio

BRENDAN MONROE  
the sandspur

Weeks after the Windy City's first round exit in the race for the 2016 Olympic Games, the dust has yet to settle. Brazilians celebrated their country's win with wild applause and salsa dancing on Rio's world-class beaches while the GOP celebrated their country's loss with more than conservative applause, a lip full of dip, and gunshots decorating the sky with constellations resembling Ronald Reagan.

Rio De Janeiro is world renowned for Gisele Bundchen, tropical beaches and booming nightlife. Chicago is world renowned for Al Capone, the

mafia, and wind. This was demonstrated in the wake of Chicago's "shocking" first round exit by the numerous gusts of hot air that were sent swirling in the White House's direction.

The irony of seeing Republicans, who often laud themselves as being more patriotic than their Democratic counterparts, rejoicing like Roman Polanski at a middle school girls' slumber party is a bit unsettling, and Quaaludes would certainly help explain the odd behavior. Their opposition didn't stem from the belief that Rio was simply the better choice but that it wasn't Obama's choice, so in keeping with their agenda for the current administration, they opposed the President. The Drudge Report led the post decision jubilee, blaring the headline: "The Ego Has Landed-

World Rejects Obama: Chicago Out In First Round."

Rush Limbaugh called it "the worst day of his presidency" and followed it up by saying of the loss; "I don't deny it. I'm happy." All this partisanship is truly ridiculous when considering that Obama did what many presidents do in campaigning for their country to get the Olympics, just ask Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. The Brazilian President was also in Copenhagen and led his team's bid for Rio.

"I thought we had lost because Obama came," President Silva said. "I want to say that I am not the one who knocked down Obama. It wasn't Lula

Those shocked by the Chicago loss to Rio are undoubtedly the same crowd that gasped in collective disbelief upon learning Sunday that the Balloon Boy had pulled a fast one on them. No wonder we have a show that asks whether Americans are smarter than fifth graders.

Count Rio native Maira Paulino in as one of many who are thrilled by the IOC's decision. "I'm really pleased. Rio has always had such great potential and is such a great city yet we haven't had many opportunities to show that. We just had the Pan-American games there and they were very successful, everybody was very happy. I think the Olympics will

"Those shocked by the Chicago loss to Rio are undoubtedly the same crowd that gasped in collective disbelief upon learning that Balloon Boy had pulled a fast one on them."

be great for the economy and we also have the World Cup coming up as well so its really going to open the world's eyes to Brazil." I ask the Rollins student if she intends to celebrate the arrival of the games in South America and she does not miss a beat - "I'd love to go, especially because it's my city, it's my homeland."

Even those of us not from South America can appreciate the significance of the continent receiving the games for the first time. Rollins student Megan Gunderson sums that appreciation up perfectly. "I would absolutely love to go," she says, dreamy visions of the Copacabana coming into her eyes. "I've never been to Rio. I think it'd be exciting."

Indeed. The Olympics have dawned on South America, leaving Chicago as frigid and windy as ever. Better luck next time, Al Capone.

that won and Obama that lost, it was Rio that won." Though the Republicans would hate to admit it, this really did have everything to do with Rio. In all reality, Chicago never stood a chance. After all, this is the country that invented Brazilian waxing and the Samba! What did Chicago have to offer? Deep dish pizza and Oprah? Don't get me wrong, I love that thick crust but against Carnival? How could the International Olympic Committee (IOC) voters have justified that decision?

The only mistake Obama made was in taking a trip that could have only ended in defeat. That neither he nor his advisors foresaw what was an altogether predictable early exit doesn't bode particularly well for Afghanistan, but better to take lessons from the IOC than from the Taliban.



# Campus Contradictions

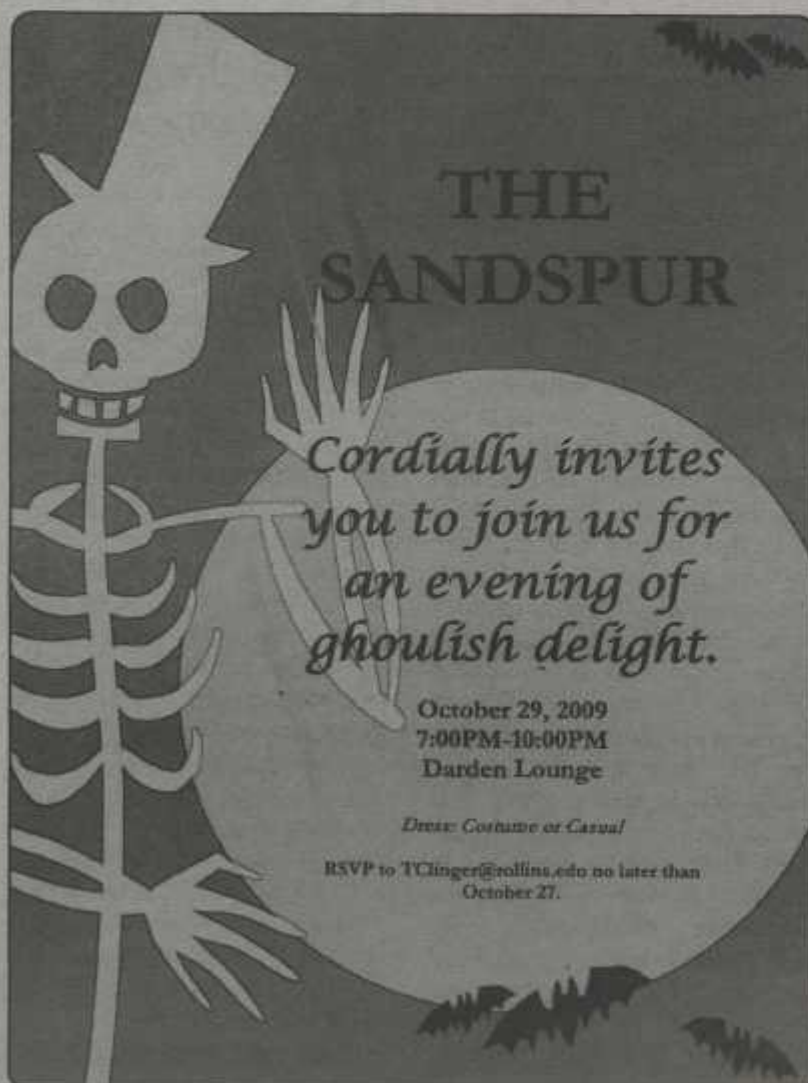
AKPEDJE MESSAN  
the sandspur

In an article entitled "To bomb or not to bomb" printed in the Sandspur issue on Oct. 9, the author states that diplomacy is unlikely to resolve the situation in Iran. In his opinion, the only solution to Iran's intention to develop a nuclear program is for the US to bomb Iran's existing nuclear facilities. Furthermore, the Sandspur poll about the US possibly using "tactical nuclear weapons" against Iran showed 71% of students would agree with this new preemptive strike. These stories in our campus newspaper are mind-boggling to me. On the front page of the same issue of the Sandspur, the lead article dealt with campus reaction to recent hate speech on campus after someone defaced a poster of President Barack Obama, portraying him as Hitler and the anti-Christ. Students, faculty, and administrators spoke eloquently about the dangers of religious and racial hatred on our campus, yet we find that 71% of students find it acceptable to nuke Iran.

Nuking Iran would not resolve the problems in the Middle East nor would it bring peace to the region. It would only worsen the U.S. image and put at risk the already troubled position America holds in the Middle East. The lives of countless Iranian civilians would be lost in the bombing, whether tactical or otherwise. Moreover, the Muslim world would find further reasons to retaliate against the U.S. Iran could also just rebuild the facilities from scratch, and the U.S. would find itself in the same, if not worse, position. We should learn the lessons of America's mistaken preemptive war on Iraq, and not rush into more hate-producing violence. President Obama's policy of exercising diplomacy is the favorable route to solve this delicate matter. Lessons should be taken from history, such as the way President Kennedy handled the Cuban missile crisis in 1962. I recently learned in one of my classes that it is crucial to understand your enemy's history and empathize with him in order to reach favorable ends. Military actions alone do not guarantee success.

## Classifieds

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**THE SANDSPUR**

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October 29, 2009  
7:00PM-10:00PM  
Darden Lounge

Dress: Costume or Casual

RSVP to TClingner@rollins.edu no later than October 27.

## OPINIONS

# Peace prize well-deserved

BRENDAN MONROE  
the sandspur

Why does Barack Obama deserve the Nobel Peace Prize? It is an interesting question, one that has been posed in endless cycles on cable television and headlining print media. Well, for one thing the man looks damn good in a suit. Both sides have got to admit that. Whenever you see him step out into the Rose Garden, about to give an important speech on the economy or foreign policy, he seems to channel James Bond, stepping into the spotlight at the beginning of the film, doing his trademark gun draw. Instead, however, he opts for soaring oratory and a cool, easygoing demeanor. Surely that deserves some kind of prize. What? Not good enough you say? Well perhaps I should give fellow Rollins Student Aren Bane a shot then.

"It intrigues me," Bane responds to my question, "why I must defend the prestigious award my President has been given. If I may, I'd like to pose that President Barack Obama is America's Copernicus." I nod, not quite sure at the moment where he is going with this. He continues, "For too long, America has clenched its fist and shaken its collective finger at various nations. Finally, though it's out of form, our hands are extended to help and to receive help."

Few can deny that the Obama administration has certainly done this. After eight years of the iron fist of the Bush administration, the world is clearly hearing a different, more conciliatory tone from the Obama administration. The most recent example being Obama's decision to recant a Bush Administration proposal for a missile defense shield in eastern Europe, a move that, while not without its detractors, seems to have greatly relaxed tensions with Russia.

"The world has seen the efforts of diplomacy in Israel, Iran, North Korea, Palestine and Russia," Bane stabs his index finger in the air at each name. "They have noted our oath to rid the world of nuclear weapons; they have noticed our sincere ambitions towards the Muslim World."

This is true, but why now, before any real solutions have been realized? The majority of opinions in the media arena would tag this prize as, at best, premature. Bane nods.

"Some have a difficult time with it being awarded absent of 'real solutions.' I say: real solutions begin with ideas and unfortunately these ideas have, in the past, been annulled due to complacency."

One really can't point to a lack of effort on Obama's part. The President has, by any standards, gotten an A for effort in regard to his attempt

to broker an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal and made overtures to Castro and Ahmadinejad for dialogues, both of which were scuttled by the two hard line leaders of Cuba and Iran. Aren Bane returns to the astronomer.

"Copernicus forced humility on the world when he declared we weren't the center of it all, just like Obama declaring to the world that America isn't the center of it all. Rather, America will play its role in the composition of peace."

I could not agree more, despite the increasingly negative political rhetoric in this country. The Peace Prize has been doled to not entirely deserving individuals before, Al Gore and Yasser Arafat come to mind, but I would not place Obama in that category. To his credit, the President delivered a humble and self-aware speech in acceptance of the prize, saying that he does not "view it as a recognition of my own accomplishments but rather an affirmation of American leadership on behalf of aspirations held by people in all nations."

Who can argue with that? Yes, America. Barack Obama deserves the Nobel Peace Prize. Not for looking good in a suit but, in the words of the Nobel Committee: "for his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples."

That is the change we believed in.

# Premature ejaculation in Oslo

BENNETT GARFINKLE  
the sandspur

An orgasm, and I think most people would agree with this, is a pretty wonderful thing. Yet, when it takes place too soon, it is unfortunate for all parties involved. This is akin to awarding Barack Obama with a Nobel Peace Prize this early in his presidency. Obama winning such an honor could have been a wonderful thing; it just happened much, much too fast.

Let me get this out there: I am an ardent of his campaign promises before deserving such an honor." I am liberal and

mostly support Obama, and this is a critique of the peace prize committee rather than of the President. I disagree passionately with utilizing a prestigious international award for blatantly (and, in fact, extremely poorly executed) political purposes. It has so far proved a liability for the president, providing fodder for conservative pundits.

First off, Nobel Prizes are not—and should not—be given out on the basis of ideas or agendas without the requisite meticulous implementation (or, in many cases, the attempt of implementation). The peace prize selection process is fairly complicated, but imagine if scientists were awarded a Nobel Prize on the basis of a radical hypothesis or authors for a really cool book idea. Man, I

would have three by this point.

Nobel himself stated in his will (which set up the framework for what was to become the annual Nobel Prize), "during the preceding year...shall have done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses."

Note the words "done" and "work." The American Heritage Dictionary defines the word

"do" as, "to perform an action, to solve, and to work out."

Obama took office just eleven days before the submission deadline for peace prize nominations. As diligent, intelligent, and cunning of a linguist (okay, I had to) as I believe this president is, I assume he and his staff were still moving in and getting a feel for the West Wing during that time.

I think the peace prize committee awarded Obama with the prize due to his campaign and the promises set forth, and they awarded him the prize this early in his presidency to attempt to give him more international clout. I am sorry, but I still feel like Obama needs to work on fulfilling many of his campaign promises before deserving such

an honor. America is still embroiled in two wars, both quagmires of poor military strategy fighting an ingrained, fanatical, and elusive enemy. Obama supports the war in Afghanistan, yet many analysts are calling it "the next Vietnam." The U.S. Commander in Afghanistan, General McChrystal, posited that we need 40,000 more American troops to just sustain the current level of security. Really, what are we doing there? Has America made any progress against the Taliban in the last

few years of their violent exile?

I do commend the president on his humility and personal view of the prize. Yes, I am aware his speech was politically calculated like everything said in Washington, but I still feel he is going in the right (or left!) direction.

"Throughout history, the Nobel Peace Prize has not just been used to honor specific achievement; it's also been used as a means to give momentum to a set of causes," Obama said. "And that is why I will accept this award as a call to action — a call for all nations to confront the common challenges of the 21st century."

Obama, you had better follow through, because, well, I want your presidency to effect change, to mean something, and be similar to long, passionate, and fulfilling intercourse. Ew.



# Orlando offers vegetarian dining options

JARED SYLVIA  
the sandspur

Though Rollins does a lovely job of providing vegetarian options for its students by way of Boca Burgers downstairs in the C-Store, and meatless pasta options upstairs in the Cafeteria, sometimes the modern vegetarian wants something a little more "realized" in their veggie culinary experience. But, where can you go for this type of food in Winter Park and the surrounding area? Of course, there are the local natural/organic grocery stores, Whole Foods and Chamberlins, but still, sometimes you want more than a boxed lunch from the grocery store café. Here are a few helpful suggestions.

Ethos Vegan Kitchen, 1235 N Orange Ave., #101, Orlando, FL 32804. (407) 228-3898.

Ethos, tucked near the border of the College Park neighborhood and downtown Orlando across from Lake Ivanhoe, is a fairly popular vegan restaurant offering "home cooking" inspired dishes that are pleasing to vegans and carnivores alike. They offer lunch specials, have a decent array of sandwiches available, make a killer vegan pizza, and offer phenomenal dinner options like their very popular Pecan Crusted Eggplant, and delicious and alliteratively named Pumpkin Seed & Pesto Penne Pasta. Especially great is their outdoor seating. On evenings with nice weather, it is difficult to find a nicer spot in Orlando.

The Loving Hut, 2101 E Colonial Dr., Orlando, FL 32803-4834. (407) 894-5673.

The Loving Hut is a strange, strange place. It is an international chain of vegan restaurants that serve universally tasty food with a heavy Asian influence (though there are some American favorites on the menu too, like the club sandwich and spaghetti with red sauce). Not terribly far from the main body of the "Little Saigon" area of Orlando (the corner of Mills and Colonial), expect to find an ample number of rice-based dishes, Vietnamese-style Phở, and some delicious desserts (including a coconut based Cheesecake). The strange part of the Loving Hut comes from the televisions inside the restaurant, which are tuned into the quirky "Supreme Master Television" channel. This station, used as the outlet for Vegetarian lifestyle news and information for the so-called Supreme Master Ching Hai, broadcasts primarily benign suggestions regarding vegetarian lifestyle and positive change in the world. It is, on first viewing, simultaneously cultish and hilarious (with puppet animals delivering the weather report at times). Still, if you can handle (or shut out) the continuous

suggestion that Veganism equates responsible world-citizenship, the food makes the trip worthwhile. Try the Golden Rice, the Golden Barbecue, and the Coconut Delight, a few of my personal favorites. Café 118°, 153 E. Morse Blvd., Winter Park, FL 32789. (407) 389-2233.

The closest purely vegetarian restaurant to Rollins is Winter Park's own Café 118°. Serving "living food," or food that has been cooked at 118° or below in order to preserve its living nutrients, the restaurant crafts dishes that do not mask the flavors of the vegetables, but rather use them in concert to please the palate. Of particular note is the Spinach and Beet Ravioli with Cashew Ricotta, and Pear Wine Sauce. The flavor of the dish is complex considering the relative simplicity of the components. Given the general expense of this restaurant (it can be a little pricey, being in the Park Ave. area), if you prefer not to eat a full dinner there, at least pop in for dessert. Their "living ice cream" flavors are delectable, and their dessert creations, including their own version of "S'mores" are inventions worth experiencing.

Dandelion Communita, 618 N Thornton Ave., Orlando, FL 32803. (407) 362-1864.

If you are looking for the sort of place that might theoretically have monthly drum circles in addition to Vegetarian fare, Dandelion is the right place. Over by Colonial Photo and Hobby, and near the "Little Saigon" area of Orlando, the restaurant occupies a repurposed house in a plaza that shared with a number of organic lifestyle shops. A childhood enrichment center, school of Holistic living, Yoga studio, and a homegrown co-op set the stage for a place that truly does emphasize "communita." In keeping with their name, Dandelion Communita does serve a startling array of teas, along with coffees and unique beer available for those interested in such things. They also have some tasty food, including dishes based around their amazing Chili (the "Machos Libre" Nachos and "The Giddyup" wrap are two of my favorites). The use of an old house for the restaurant leads to an interesting layout. I have found myself eating while playing board games in one room, working on homework in another, or listening to someone play a badly tuned piano in the back room while looking at the current art on display. This is a place that emphasizes local arts and crafts, frequently featuring new artists work, and hosts a yearly festival that local crafts persons and restaurants attend to increase awareness about their products. Dandelion is definitely worth a visit.

## LIFE & TIMES

# Studying abroad in France: baguettes, Brie and the Eiffel Tower

KATIE A. JONES  
the sandspur

Rollins student Christopher McCauley, a French major from Massapequa Park, NY, is spending his junior year studying abroad in France. He is participating in a Rollins affiliate program through the Office of International Programs where students take courses exclusively in French at Hollins University in Paris. Christopher has shared some of the highlights of his international experience with us.

**The Sandspur:** What was the first thing you did when you arrived in France?

**Christopher McCauley:** The first thing I did, even before I left the airport, was buy a croissant at a boulangerie. What else can I say? I was finally in France.

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

**CM:** The strangest thing to me is the fact that stores close so early, and they don't even open on Sundays. The first Sunday I spent in Paris, all I wanted to do was go shopping (I mean seriously, I'm in Paris...), and I couldn't because all of the stores were closed!

**TS:** What is your favorite food that you have tried while abroad?

**CM:** Let's just talk about cheese for a minute. The French know how to eat, and I think the thing they eat best is cheese. I have not had a cheese while

I'm here that I haven't loved. Comté, Roquefort, Chèvre, Camembert, Brie, Emmental, Boursin, and that's just naming a few! They also know how to eat it with bread—baguettes and croissants and brioches. Just writing about it makes me hungry. In fact, I just got back from the local market, where my friends and I bought a baguette, assorted kinds of cheese, and a few bottles of Orangina and had a regular feast while sitting under a tree in the Jardin du Luxembourg.

**TS:** What is your living situation while in Paris?

**CM:** I am living with a host family, which has been an absolutely amazing experience. It is so cool to wake up in the morning and speak French in my house and to have dinner each night over real conversations about relevant issues, all in French. My host family lives in the 14<sup>th</sup> arrondissement of Paris, which is in the very south part of the city. Just down the street is a lovely park, called the Parc Montsouris. I go there fairly often to read for class or to write poetry.

**TS:** What classes are

you currently taking? Have you gone on any interesting fieldtrips with the class or had special hands-on activities?

**CM:** Not only am I taking French classes while I am here, but I am also taking Art History, Film Studies, and Parisian Architecture. We actually do take really cool excursions around the city. For my architecture class, we go once a week to a different part of the city to observe the history and the evolution of Parisian architecture throughout history. Each week for my Impressionism class we go to a different museum to study the paintings of Delacroix, Ingres, Monet, and so many other famous French painters of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**TS:** Are your classes

here, I have noticed some huge American stereotypes. The other day, I was riding the metro, and there was a group of American tourists sitting near me. They were loud, had food with them, and were trying to speak English to the Native French people. I was, to say the least, slightly embarrassed. Perhaps this is not the most positive response to this question. There are, however, several students studying abroad here in Paris, and all of the ones I have met have a general interest and liking for studying a foreign language, which has been a very refreshing feeling. To me, foreign language study is the most important part of our education, and I feel that we as Americans rarely embrace the fact that we live in a world

where not everybody speaks our language. Learning a foreign language is the best way to expand your mind and learn about other cultures and foreign mindsets and opinions. Being around other American students who feel the same way is such a positive experience, and I am glad to see that this stereotype is being broken.

**TS:** Do you have any examples of a stereotype you had before you departed about the French that you now find to be untrue?

**CM:** As far as stereotypes of French people go, I feel it is necessary to tell you the truth. They do in fact shower everyday,

and yes, the women do shave under their arms. French people are all so put-together and beautiful. Everyday they are wearing the most fashionable clothes, and nothing is ever out of place. I have not once seen a pair of sweatpants in France. Men and women carry around Longchamp bags and briefcases (another weird culture shock). I, myself, am saving up to buy a Longchamp briefcase for my computer and plan on bringing this trend back to the states.

**TS:** Is there anything else you want to share?

**CM:** Advice: Do not hesitate to study abroad. Do it. It will be the best experience of your life, there will never be a better time to do it, and you will never regret it. Also, go somewhere that doesn't speak English. There is no better way to learn another language than to live in the country in which it is spoken, and I really feel like you will not get as rich a cultural experience in a place where English is spoken.

Follow Christopher's blog at christopherinparis.blogspot.com. It is updated at least once a week.



KATIE A. JONES / the sandspur

**McCauley:** Jumping in front of the Eiffel Tower at night is just one of the many splendors of studying abroad in France.

taught in English or French? If in French, is it hard to adjust?

**CM:** My classes are taught completely in French, and it has absolutely been the best educational experience for me, as far as my language skills are concerned. I haven't had too much of a problem adjusting to the language in classes, but it certainly is a bit of a challenge. I am, to say the least, on my way to fluency in the French language, and I definitely attribute that to the amount of French I am using and speaking in class.

**TS:** Have you traveled to any other countries or cities while studying abroad?

**CM:** I have yet to travel to other countries, however, next weekend I am going to Brussels for a few days, and I am planning on spending fall break in England and either Portugal or Switzerland. I have a trip planned to Berlin as well for the end of November, and I'm sure there will be several more trips next semester.

**TS:** Are there any examples of stereotypes that you think the French have about Americans that you feel are untrue?

**CM:** Since I have arrived



# WHILE THE SUN IS DEMONS W



GREG GOLDEN  
TRAVIS CLINGER  
*the sandspur*

## UNIVERSAL STUDIOS

Throughout the Central Florida area, theme parks devote October nights to the transformation of their parks to celebrate Halloween. Of the major parks,

dare to enter, while Disney converts the Magic Kingdom into a fun, jovial Halloween party complete with parades, candy, and celebratory fireworks. All parks contain unique, distinct aspects, and each presents a very well done, enjoyable event for their intended audiences.

Universal's Halloween Horror Nights is the longest-running event of the three, and this year is the 19<sup>th</sup> in its existence. There are essentially three aspects to the spectacle: scare zones, haunted houses, and the Bill and Ted Show. The streets are separated into six unique scare zones, each with its own horrifying theme. Containment is this year's most memorable scare zone. As you enter, you are warned by military personnel that a strange gas had been released, transforming them into something unknown. They tell you not to look into their eyes, but upon seeing them, you cannot help but stare into the dark eyes that surrounded by rotten and acid-eaten flesh. It is a truly sickening sight. The other scare zones are also excellent, such as Apocalypse, which featured German and American soldiers, battling with various weapons, including a flamethrower. You as a guest are caught in the middle of the rampage. The scare zones, however, are just the beginning of your terrifying evening.

The haunted houses remain the primary attraction of the event, and they live up to their billing as spine-tingling attractions. Their themes all center around motion pictures in the spirit of the show's subtitle, "Ripped From the Silver Screen." The films span Universal's history as a monster-movie machine and include Dracula, Frankenstein, and Wolfman (a featured attraction that previews the upcoming remake of the film). All three of these are set in Victorian-style houses, lending a certain similarity that may contribute to their short wait times and general unpopularity. These houses are not without their surprising elements though. For example, the Wolfman house contains the feature character on a bungee cord that allows him to run directly toward the scared

guests without harming them. The Spawning, an original creation from Fangoria show filmmakers, is a house unique in comparison to the others. They monsters come from all directions; they even hang upside-down to surprise and frighten you. Universal's vast production value is evident in these extraordinarily detailed works of horror.

Universal also presents the Bill and Ted Show, an oft-enjoyable show parodying the past year's mainstream pop culture events. This year's show, however, is not nearly as good as past years' have been; it disappoints audiences with its predictable humor and lack of a clever or coherent storyline. Universal's other major letdown is its lack of rides, with only four in operation. A live musical production based on The Rocky Horror Picture Show does amuse, however. Overall, Universal's Halloween Horror Nights is an event that you will never forget, because it will remain in your nightmares for years to come.

Busch Gardens hosts Howl-O-Scream, which is exactly what it sounds like, a screamingly delightful time. Like Universal, Howl-O-Scream features scare zones and Haunted Houses, though they attempt to differentiate from Universal by creating a more terrifying atmosphere.

Howl-O-Scream's scare zones utilize the dark, narrow, winding roads inherent to the park to create an experience that differs from the wide roads of Universal. Further, Howl-O-Scream has far more scareactors in the scare zones than Universal. For example, in the Werewolves zone, you travel through a long scare zone filled with flying werewolves and hidden creatures of the night. Some guests around you become so terrified that they literally run for their lives. There are no bad scare zones to be had at Busch Gardens. Some are not confined at all but instead consist of actors that roam the park and hunt down their prey: you, the unsuspecting guest.

The haunted houses at Howl-O-Scream are certainly a fright. On par with Universal's elaborate houses, they provide scares in nearly every corner. However, the amount



Busch Gardens and Universal Studios focus on scaring their patrons, while Walt Disney World emphasizes a more family-friendly atmosphere, being, as the title of its Halloween event dictates, "Not So Scary." Busch Gardens and Universal turn their parks into nightmarish realms for those who

IMAGE COURTESY  
OF MCTCAMPUS



BUSCH G

PHOTOS COURTESY OF



# AWAY, PLAY

SHANNON LYNCH the sandspur

ing present in the houses is far less than Universal. Instead, Howl-O-Scream tries to compensate, though they can't distract from actors providing low-level scares. They also make up for this with the use of lifelike dolls, which are used in conjunction with the show to play upon the distinction of what is real and what is not. The two most popular houses are DED, a gruesome depiction of the Nightshade Toy Factory, and the Run Rampant. Both are popular at Universal's houses. They are also popular as well, though in many cases the lines clog up inside the houses, making the scares and making Universal's houses appear better. Nonetheless, Howl-O-Scream presents seven utterly terrorizing scenes in addition to their world-famous scares, the lines for which exceed any other.

Howl-O-Scream presents a much different version of Halloween than Universal and Busch Gardens. Whereas the other two attempt to scare you awake in the nights following Halloween, Disney prides itself on being a "not so scary" event. This way means that Disney does not rely on the costumes or effects of Universal. Indeed, some of the Disney scares are far more frightening than those at Universal and Busch Gardens. The festive mood keeps the event from being terrifying. Disney presents a Halloween in the evening, which is fun for everyone, even for those who have grown up. Disney provides a variety of treat stations around the park where one can gather enough candy to last the week on end. All rides are fully operational during the Party and the lines are shorter. The line for Splash Mountain goes almost entirely forward without having to wait with the day line in line. One may wait for over an hour. Disney ends the evening with a fireworks show, which is a few buried show tunes, and a special for this occasion. It is a beautiful show, one of the finest that Disney

presents, with fireworks exploding in a full circle around the guests. This show competes with their holiday and Fourth of July fireworks shows, which are to die for. Although not particularly scary, Disney puts on an event that is memorable and fun for all, including college students. It is quite possible that Disney has the best Halloween event, but then again what do you expect from the Happiest Place on Earth? Crowds were light at Busch Gardens and Disney, while at Universal some lines exceed 90 minutes to experience a house. Perhaps it is better to go to the one of the less crowded parks in order to get more fright for your dollar. The prices for the three events range from around \$20 to \$65; Howl-O-Scream goes for as low as twenty on Twisted Thursdays, whereas Universal goes down to \$39 on Thursdays, and Disney can be had for as low as \$52 a night. Both Busch Gardens and Universal feature add-ons that enable you to skip the lines for a fee, though Universal's is rather large. Their fees range from \$40 to \$75 dollars a person—depending on the night—while Busch Gardens' fee is \$35, but unnecessary, thanks to the lessened crowds. Be sure to research the pricing for the event, so that you can plan the most opportune night to attend.

All three events this year each presented their own unique thrills, and if possible, one should try to attend each. If one can only attend one or two, the factors of price and overall experience would make Howl-O-



Mickey's  
Not-So-Scary  
Halloween Party

Mickey's Not-So-Scary Halloween Party the two to aim for. Whichever you choose, you will have a frightfully good time!

IMAGE COURTESY OF MCTCAMPUS





# Building a Multi-Cultural World

**BRENDAN MONROE**  
*the sandspur*

When it comes to listing his accomplishments, Dr. Alejandro Toledo would prefer if you just Google him. It is just one of the reasons the 63-year old former President of Peru is no ordinary politician, even telling an audience during his October 15 visit to Rollins College that "The world needs more leaders and less politicians." Dr. Toledo is most certainly the former, a self-described "rebel" who ran for President because he "didn't want to have a boss." The down-to-earth Stanford Alum had an important message to convey to Rollins students, and the world.

"In order to build a multicultural world there's only one crucial element...education." Dr. Toledo wants you to know that once you achieve that education, "Latin America will be waiting for you."

Earlier that day, Rollins held a luncheon for Dr. Toledo in the Cornell Campus Center. There, five working class men and women formerly from Peru joined him, chatting and laughing with him over the course of the meal. It was a touching moment to witness the former president with the people whose working class plight he knew all too well, having been raised in an impoverished family in Peru as one of 17 children. Growing up, Dr. Toledo did everything from sell newspapers to shine

shoes, and in reflection views his path out of poverty as "the result of a statistical error." Nevertheless, Dr. Toledo has spent his life "taking advantage of that error," gaining two masters degrees and a doctorate from Stanford University before returning to his home country. In 2001 he became "the first President of Andean descent to be elected democratically in over 500 years." It's something, he says, that weighs as "a heavy load on your shoulders."

Economics major Andrea Perez (Class of 2010) attended the luncheon in honor of Dr. Toledo with her twin sister Norah and was delighted to share with

that we had the opportunity here at Rollins to hear from him, many opportunities in fact."

Dr. Toledo's first hand experience with poverty is rarely ever seen among politicians, many of whom are bred their entire lives for a career in public office. Dr. Toledo credits the unusual exception to the norm back to one thing.

"What has given me the privilege to come to Rollins, or to go to Harvard and to Stanford? Education," the self-described "fanatic for education" said, the passion in his voice resonating in the hearts and minds of the students in attendance. In each of his

multiple talks on campus last Thursday, Dr. Toledo stressed the importance of servitude, telling Rollins students "there is two-thirds of the world population that is waiting for you to do something for them."

It's a message that resonated strongly with Economics major Norah Perez (Class of 2010).

"The most important thing I took from it all was the call to action that he gave. Saying that we have been given these opportunities and now we need to share this with people who don't have the same opportunities. And that definitely means a lot coming from somebody who was given an opportunity at a young age to get an education which ultimately changed the course of his life."

Dr. Toledo described the string of events that led to his presidency as a "continuous succession of accidents," but one cannot help but wonder whether such "accidents" were truly meant to be.

"In order to walk the path of the future, we need to know where we come from." Dr. Alejandro Toledo is living proof of why we should never forget.



COURTESY OF ROLLINS.EDU

**MR. PRESIDENT:** Dr. Alejandro Toledo, the former President of Peru, visited the Rollins College campus on October 15.

me her thoughts on his visit.

"It was an incredible opportunity to hear from someone who has been in the works of everything, has negotiated free trade agreements and who has had so much first-hand experience with poverty and economic development. He is just a real wealth of knowledge and I'm very excited

# Fantastic Fall Breaks

**DODIE O'KEEFE**  
*the sandspur*

Fall break is the perfect time for students to take a break from schoolwork and go home, see friends, or even stay at school to relax. It is a time when teachers try to lighten the homework load to give their students a complete break. Through talking to fellow students, I noticed that, while many people were going home, others had decided to stay at

laxed, and spent some quality time with her family.

"I got to see my older sister and my nephew, which definitely the best part of my break. My nephew is so cute and fun, and I don't get to see him very often when I'm at school. I'm really glad that I went home for break," TJ said.

Over fall break, I got to visit my friend in Connecticut, and I spent a lot of time around New England. I even got to see a Red Sox playoff game, which didn't end well, but was definitely

**"Whether students went home, visited friends, or stayed at Rollins, they all seemed to have had a good time."**

school to catch up on their sleep.

"I had to stay at Rollins for the long weekend, but it ended up working out really well. I caught up on lots of sleep because the campus was so deserted and quiet, and I got to watch a lot of baseball, which was awesome," said first-year student Jordan Morey.

Justin Wright (Class of 2013) said that he went home to Westchester, New York and saw some old friends from high school. He also got some extra sleep, and went shopping with his parents.

TJ Fisher (Class of 2013), who lives in Florida, made a shorter journey home for fall break, re-

worth seeing. The two extra days off helped me catch up on some sleep, and I feel much more rested now.

Fall break allowed most students to get some much-needed sleep. Whether students went home, visited friends, or stayed at Rollins, they all seemed to have a good time, and enjoyed the extra days off. Fall break came at the perfect time—when stress from schoolwork was just beginning to overwhelm. Hopefully students are now refreshed and ready to get back to their studies with clear minds. Soon it will be Thanksgiving break, which will give students another opportunity to relax before finals.

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# Relaxing RCC

**HANNAH GRANTZ**  
*the sandspur*

Most students' initial impression of Rollins College comes while fully engaged in their RCC class.

Aspen Fox, a student coordinator with Rollins Explorations, said that "RCC stands for Rollins College Conference. It is a program designed to offer first-year students a variety of interesting topic courses to take during their first semester at Rollins."

Professor of English Lezlie Laws, founder of the Yoga, Writing, and Meditation RCC, said that her class goal is to give her students not just "comfort with their academic experience, but more of a handle on their whole lives."

Dr. Laws is currently working on a study to prove that practicing yoga helps first-year students to lower the high amount of anxiety and stress that comes with everyone's first year of college. For 50 minutes, three times a week, they are able to relax and be at peace with themselves,

without thinking about homework, projects, deadlines, friends, sports, or work. All of the yoga students feel that practicing yoga helps them to regroup and gain more control over their lives.

After a yoga class with Dr. Laws and College Park Yoga instructor, Theresa Curameng, they feel more relaxed and focused as the day progresses.

By practicing yoga, students are given the ability to see that, just by slowing down and taking time for themselves, they can have more control than they ever thought possible.



# The lost art of the complaint letter

**BRENDAN MONROE**  
the sandspur

As has been recently noted, we live in a capitalist nation. While the disadvantages of such a situation have been well documented by both the current economic crisis and a certain provocative new film, the advantages of such a system have been all but lost to our generation. For one thing, we get to go to a private school. For another we get to choose where we eat, shop, watch films and buy textbooks. Despite it being the root of all evil, money is also still the most powerful motivator on earth and purchasing power is everything. Most of us though, do not realize just how much power our plastic cards and greenbackswield. In America at least, our dollars are still mighty, and companies will do anything to get consumers to swipe their high interest rate American Express cards in the corporations' well-rested machines.

Since the economic crisis, the demand for our wallets has only increased; stores and restaurants have been driven to deface their buildings with towering "sale" signs and congregate dancing bananas and statues of liberties to busy street corners—all in the hopes of luring us all-powerful consumers into their doors. This has its benefits. Like any good capitalist system, a dollar is like a vote.

If you spend \$7 on a green tea or raspberry yogurt at Gurtzberry on Morse Ave., you are encouraging the kindly Russian owners to buy more organic green tea and raspberry yogurt. Or, if you decide that you prefer the calories, you can choose the Häagen-Dazs two blocks over on New England Ave. and bring your purchasing power to the well-regarded Polish founded company. This is what America is all about—having the option to purchase any type of frozen yogurt you want from any country you want. You can then sit back, smacking adoringly on your favorite multi-flavored low or high calorie snack and realize with a twinkle in your eye that you have helped one another accomplish the Ameri-

"Since the economic crisis, the demand for our wallets has only increased; stores and restaurants have been driven to deface their buildings with towering 'sale' signs, and congregate dancing bananas and statues of liberties to busy street corners—all in the hopes of luring us all-powerful consumers into their doors."

can Dream.

As you smile at the thought of this, you decide that you are a bit hungry and want a more sustainable snack. You drive or, if you are in excellent physical shape by having often chose the lower calorie yogurt, run to the nearest Chipotle—your restaurant of choice. When you arrive at the counter, out of breath from the run, you realize in a moment of crushing defeat that Chipotle is out of Carnitas... and sour cream. You pause, searching your being for a suit-

able alternative to this travesty. You could switch it up and get a chicken burrito... without sour cream? No. You like sour cream and are unwilling to make this exception. What do you do? After deliberating you decide to embrace an age-old capitalist tradition—the complaint letter. You write the letter, in e-mail form, at the first computer you find. "I like sour cream" is the subject line, the absence of your subject thoroughly explained in the message's body. Two days later you get a reply from the company's marketing consultant, Patrick Kelly, offering both his condolences and a free burrito card for your trouble. It is capitalism at its finest and it is an underused practice. Taking the time to write a complaint

letter benefits not only the company, but you as well. I searched high and low for someone who understood this practice as well as I did and I found her... at UCF. Maria Keese (Class of 2010) is a finance

and marketing major so it goes without saying that she understands the importance of this tradition.

Keese noted that "if you get bad service or bad food at a restaurant you ought to complain. It makes sense."

Keese had practiced this art only recently, after a frustrating experience at a local Olive Garden restaurant.

"The breadsticks were cold and took far too long to come out, my party and I were not provided with silverware, and worst of all, the chocolate cake with oozing chocolate in the middle arrived at the table... with the chocolate not oozing but frozen."

Keese then took the appropriate steps. "I wrote the restaurant a complaint letter." Any response? "Yes," she said, while a smile spread across her face. "The managers apologized and sent a \$50 gift card for my trouble." How deliciously delightful! "I will return." She says assuredly, something the hard hit chain restaurant will most certainly be happy about.

It is people like the admirable Maria Keese that keep our economy churning in these hard times. After all, a complaint letter is something from which every company benefits. It helps them to fix a problem so that the next customer that walks through the door does not also have to deal with it. A complaint letter is not about rütpicking or trying to get a free meal, but rather it is about creating a more perfect union. You should give it a try sometime.

# Who's who: Jesse Hugo

**JEN ATWELL**  
the sandspur

Q. Please tell me a little bit about yourself? Besides being a runner, a previous golf cart driver, an R-Journalist and an Economics major. What does the world not know about you, Mr. Hugo?

A. You pretty much hit it all Miss Atwell, though you did leave out a center of pride for me: my impeccable fashion sense. My wardrobe may not get updated too often, but I purposefully strive to have my socks match my shirt, even when I am wearing long pants. I have also written several articles for The Sandspur that I have been too embarrassed to submit.

Q. At what point did you decide that being involved in

legalizing it. Just tell me when, or if, it is done.

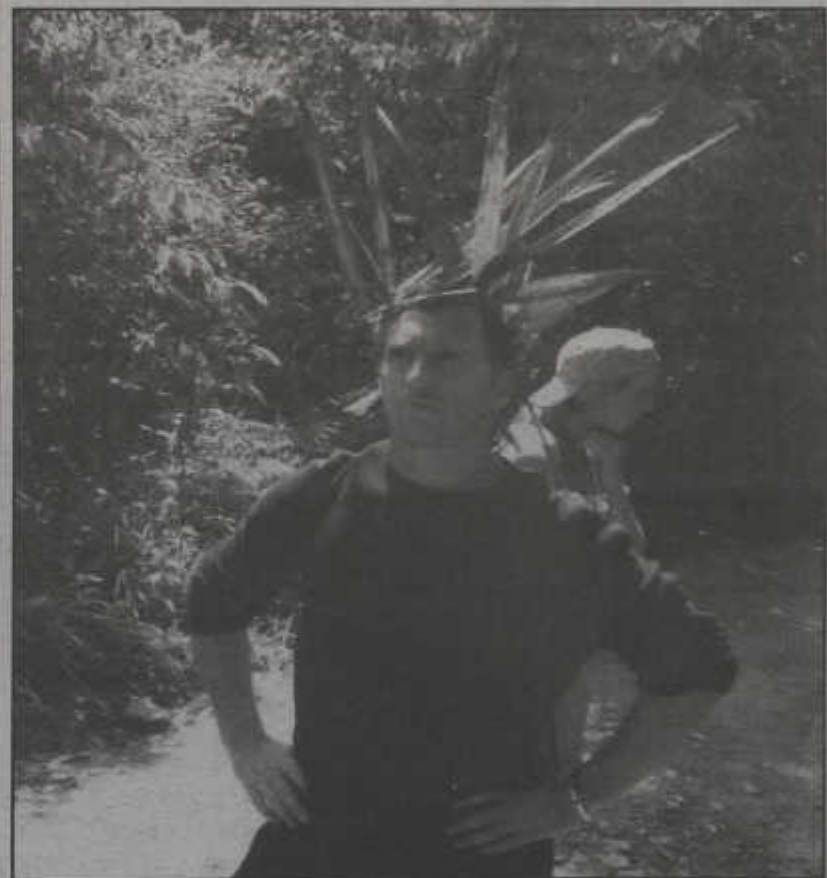
Q. And what is an issue (local or national) that you think needs to be covered?

A. That the price for postage keeps going up. 44 cents? Wtf Atwell? Use your mailroom powers and fix this.

Q. Since you are a "famous" runner, what can you recommend to your non-runners (cough cough, me)?

A. 1) Even if you are not the most athletically endowed, this is the sport for you! I am not a very gifted athlete, yet I just got called a "famous" athlete in The Sandspur!

2) Go outside. There is no quicker way to hate running than using a treadmill. It does not translate to real running. Treadmill use should be restricted to hurricane conditions or if



JESSE HUGO/ the sandspur

**EVERYWHERE I GO, HUGO:** Jesse Hugo is a runner, a previous golf cart driver, an R-Journalist, and an Economics major. Not only that, but he is also funny.

Rollins was the "chosen path" for you?

A. I do not really think there was a defining moment, it has just sort of happened. Many aspects of college have helped me realize that personal beliefs without action are nothing. In the same way that I hate missing when someone tells a sweet joke at lunch, I hate missing any opportunity that is presented to me. It could be that, or the fact that I really have a tough time saying no. That is how I ended up playing flag football one year.

Q. What has been a national news topic that you believe has ran its course? For me? Michael Jackson, The Anthony Fiasco... oh right, this is your response...

A. I would say marijuana legalization. I am likely to gauge an eye out if I have to hear another baked dude coming up from Lake Virginia talking about how close they are to

there is a known runner-stalking kidnapper around.

3) You do not have to start off running crazy mileage. A mile or two a day can really make your day, and give it some structure.

4) Lose the iPod.

5) Try running when you are having a bad day. Sweating it out on the road has many of the same effects as complaining to a friend, but is less annoying to all parties involved.

6) Avoid reading "Runners World magazine."

Q. And lastly, what is your favorite song? I plan on making a playlist and blasting it from your mailbox... hmmm...

A. Just because I think you will actually do that, I will go with the Thong Song. It is one of my favorite shower sing-along songs.

Hi, Mom! Happy Family Weekend!

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# Who's scared of Paranormal Activity?

**BENNETT  
GARFINKEL**  
*the sandspur*

This movie has received remarkably positive reviews, hailed by actual, legitimate, intelligent critics as a great movie. Seriously? The movie was not scary; it was spoiled by relentlessly predictable events. The only thing consistent with the actors was an erratic performance and ridiculous characters, and the movie spoiled itself with caricatures of social stereotypes. Perhaps more accurately, *Paranormal Activity* soiled itself.

But hell, with a \$16,000 budget and \$33.7 million in revenue so far, it is a brilliantly marketed gimmick, and hey, I guess people like it. I did not, perhaps because I am just a "negative Nancy" or a "whiny Walter," but here is why.

This is a mockumentary in its purest form; the bulk of the film consisted of two amateur actors and a single video camera. The ludicrous, predictable, ridiculous, absurd, stereotypical, and fundamentally cockamamie plot revolved around Micah (Micah Sloat) and Katie (Katie Featherston), involved in a long-term, intimate relationship. Katie begins experiencing some symptoms of schizophrenia (at least in my unprofessional opinion), and is convinced a demon is haunting her. Micah decides to film the ensuing ac-

tivity. I mean, there is definitely palpable suspense here, because I just have this feeling nothing's going to happen.

Here are just a few of the problems with the movie. I think I will make a list because this movie was literally one of the worst things I have seen in a theater since "From Justin to Kelly," which was infinitely more terrifying, as the American Idol people were somehow made into a movie.

*Paranormal Activity* was painfully, slowly, excruciatingly predictable. The pattern of events was so miserably predictable I instinctually let out a groan every time the clock reached 3:15. The camera was positioned in the bedroom, and it would speed up, fast forwarding through the sleep. All of a sudden the camera would slow down. Are we expecting nothing to happen? Come on. The camera slows down at the 3:15 mark, and a door creaks open, then it creaks shut. The next night, after what seemed like an endless 15 minutes of dull dialogue, the tape speeds up, slows down at 3:15, and a light turns on. Anyone see a pattern?

Next, I had a huge problem with the movie's portrayal of Micah and Katie's relationship. The plot was extremely uncreative

and relied on ridiculously simplified, outdated stereotypes. Katie is constantly scared, emo-

is his duty to protect his woman from the big bad demon. He is sweet at times, but disrespectful and such an utterly stereotypical portrayal of a Gen Y male. He is into technology and video games, lives in a progressive city, but he is still an asshole.

Further, I had a major issue with the movie's believability. A horror movie's scare factor may be psychological, emotional, or visceral—you think of yourself in the character's position, or you develop some kind of bond with the character and want him or her to pull through. *Paranormal Activity* consistently tries much too hard to "relate" to the average American viewer. The film is set in modern day San Francisco, predicated on the idea that the film is a collection of real life "home movies" from a modern couple, modeled

on these stereotypical archetypes of me or my girlfriend. I know it is a fictional movie, but they are trying very hard to sell the fact that they are in a real situation. Yet, apparently like every American couple with lots of cash, superstition based issues, and a propensity for being extremely gullible, Micah and Katie call in a ghostologist (whose acting is so ridiculous that I nearly choked on a Sour Patch Kid laughing at him in his abrupt second scene).



COURTESY OF MCTCAMPUS.COM  
**AHH!** *Paranormal Activity* is guaranteed to leave even the bravest sleepless.

The couple does not even consider outside help, yet they have apparent proof of a supernatural force. While I was extremely bored, I was thinking the characters could have made a lot of money if you sold those tapes...but instead, and oh so predictably, Micah ends up as demon food. Everything happened within this ridiculously simplified and extraordinarily unrealistic microcosm that again, decimated all elements of fear this movie may have had.

This film has an interesting concept. Comparisons to *The Blair Witch Project* are inevitable, for the similarity that they utilize relatively unknown actors, a miniscule budget, and a highly effective viral marketing techniques. But this film remains a gimmick. It would be impossible to see this film more than once. I have seen better acting and more believable home-made horror mockumentaries on YouTube. To be honest, if this film turned up on YouTube, no one would have thought twice. But, if you want to go to a terrible, mindless exercise in poorly executed suspense, go for it. At least this film is not ridiculous gore porn, but *Paranormal Activity's* reliance on unoriginal and harmful stereotypes, horrid acting, and excruciatingly miserable predictability honestly makes this movie about as terrifying as a bunch of burnt-out American Idol "stars" prancing about on the silver screen.

## Fearing the paranormal

**SPENCER MILLS**  
*the sandspur*

The horror movie has fallen into a kind of depression in recent years. In many cases, the movie depends on excessive gore to scare the viewers. Other films startle the audience and hope that viewers

mistake their surprise for fright. *Paranormal Activity*, however, which was released nationwide Oct. 16, finally bucks this trend.

The story follows a young couple, Micah (Micah Sloat) and Katie (Katie Featherston), as they prepare to start their life together in an average suburban home. Katie reveals to Micah that she has had a mysterious presence connected to her since she was eight years old. As the couple tries to settle into their new house, the entity becomes more and more aggressive, beginning to scare them. Micah feels the need to interact with the creature, which only intensifies the problem. Even as the demon starts becoming violent, Micah will not send for help, claiming that he will protect his woman and his home. As the demon's activity increases, the young couple must learn to live

with it or destroy it.

The movie was simply made. All of the filming is done with a hand-held camera and the film's maximum budget was \$15,000. It took a week of almost nonstop filming to produce; all edits and animation were done on site, as the movie was filmed. The first-time actors give a convincing portrayal that showed skill well beyond their

"All of the filming is done with a hand held camera and the film's maximum budget was \$15,000. It took a week of almost nonstop filming to produce."

experience level. Any serious flaws in their performance were covered up by the movie's first person perspective and the actors' ability to acknowledge the camera. The writing is not the movie's strongest point; however, it is effective in progressing the story, and is not horrible for first-time writer, Oren Peli.

The acting and dialogue serve their purpose in the film, which is to help the images terrify the audience. The anticipation and extended periods of silence and inactivity only heighten the tension in the movie. The audience remains riveted despite the fact, that in many cases, it is clear that a frightening scene is about to occur. The tape will slow down and the theater takes a collective gasp, waiting to see the intensity with which the demon and characters will interact. Will he simply close the

door or crawl into bed with the couple? Will this be the time he turns violent? All these questions keep movie-goers curled up in their seats, grasping the arm of the person next to them.

However, the true glory of a movie done in this style is the fact that it follows you home. Monsters did not jump out and attack the characters during the violent crescendo of some popular song. No one was forced to dismember themselves and blood did not spray all over the camera lenses in extravagant illustration of gore. These characters are not far removed from real life. This movie is frightening in theaters, but it is most terrifying when you go back to your house, or dorm room, and look around at the shadows. You will lie awake expecting the paranormal to push your door open and come after you. You will lie in bed and feel like you are five again, convinced there is something in your closet or under your bed. So, for those of us who can risk losing sleep, this movie is a must. This is the first real horror movie of our generation: not a startling movie, not a gory movie. *Paranormal Activity* is, instead, a terrifying, chilling, bloodcurdling, horror movie that will keep you curled on your bed long through the night.

## MTV's anti-drug stand

**SPENCER MILLS**  
*the sandspur*

Adam Goldstein was introduced to addiction at an early age. Better known as DJ AM, Goldstein lived a short and tremulous life. While he was still young, his abusive father died from AIDS, which he contracted doing drugs. Goldstein ballooned up to 300 pounds at one point before undergoing surgery to help him lose over 100 pounds. He was addicted to cocaine and heroine, and attempted suicide, even going as far as pulling the trigger of a gun in his mouth, but the gun jammed. He dated celebrities Nicole Richie and Mandy Moore, among others. He survived a plane crash alongside good friend Travis Barker, the drummer for Blink 182. his documentary-style television show, *Gone too Far*, he intervened in the lives of many teenagers addicted to drugs. And, sadly, during the filming of this show he was found dead in his New York apartment of an accidental overdose.

*Gone too Far* premiered on Oct. 12, amidst much controversy. Goldstein had just recently passed away due to that which he was so avidly working to prevent through the program. This

irony did not alter the decision of MTV executives, who aired the show as originally planned, hoping that, despite the host's fallibility, the message that the program preaches could still reach a wide audience.

The program offers an in-depth look into teenagers' addictions and how they affect their families, their social lives, and their own health. Goldstein uses his own life experiences to gain the trust of the young addicts. He then talks to their families to set up interventions, wherein distraught family members are able to express their concerns to the teen. Finally, with the help of professional counselors, Goldstein takes the teens to rehab, where he continues to monitor their progress and rewards them when they make significant improvements. The show is quick to point out that addiction is very dangerous and that addicts will continue to suffer with the disease for the rest of their lives.

MTV made a bold decision when they decided to go ahead with the series *Gone too Far*. The graphic, unrelenting portrayals of drug use, along with the host's almost hypocritical death, were both reasons for the show not to run. MTV decided, however, to take a stand and air the show with the hope that it could change viewers' lives for the better.



# TARS DEFEAT SPARTANS

Men's soccer team now ranked No. 1 in Sunshine State Conference

TIERNEY LEDDY  
the sandspur

Despite some light rain showers, Rollins' men's soccer team showed up to play on Oct. 16, defeating the then-second ranked team in the nation, the University of Tampa Spartans. Both teams came into this game undefeated, but the Tars came out on top with a score of 3-2.

Tampa kicked off this highly anticipated game and brought the ball down the field where Rollins' goalkeeper Aaron Rokeach (Class of 2011) made a few great saves in the first fifteen minutes of the match. After what seemed like a remarkably long time in the Rollins goal box, midfielder Stephen Wright (Class of 2011) stole the ball from the Spartans to begin the Tars' attack on net.

This game proved to be an evenly matched contest between two highly skilled teams, with no scoring in the first 39 minutes of play.

With 27 minutes remaining in the first half the Tars had only one shot on net in comparison to Tampa's three.

The spectators seemed to think that the official made two controversial decisions: the first was Bradley Welch's (Class of 2011) foul and the second was the lack of a call when Stephen Wright (Class of 2011) had a break away and "fell" with 21



TIERNEY LEDDY / the sandspur

**BATTLE OF THE UNDEFEATED:** The Rollins men's soccer team celebrates their triumph over the formerly second ranked team in the nation: the University of Tampa Spartans.

minutes left in the half. Rollins recovered the ball and Wright passed it off to Adam New (Class of 2011) for the Tars' second shot on net. Rollins' Dennis Chin (Class of 2010) was in great position to take a shot, when he was regrettably called off-sides.

Rollins continued to have

the momentum with nine minutes left in the half as a perfectly placed ball soared horizontally to the net, with no Tars positioned to strike it in. The Spartans received possession of the ball, but J.D. Gruenewald (Class of 2010) quickly recovered it, only for

the official to make another controversial call giving Tampa possession. After Tampa's Lister Warren was escorted off the field, due to an injury, play resumed in Rollins' end. The ball quickly found its way to the other side of the field, where Jacob Deloach (Class of

2010) made an unbelievable left kick from behind the goalie box, resulting in a Rollins goal. Four minutes later Gruenewald followed Deloach's goal with one of his own, with only two minutes left to play in the half. The half concluded with Rollins scoring 2 goals to Tampa's 0 and attempting 10 shots to Tampa's 7.

The game resumed with Rollins showing great defense, not letting the Spartans inside the goalie box. Deloach's left foot helped the Tars once again, when his cornerkick met Jack Clifford's (Class of 2011) head for Rollins' third goal of the night. The Spartans responded well, answering with a goal of their own; Dan Ingvarsson's direct kick went past the Rollins defense line and just outside Rokeach's reach, putting Tampa on the scoreboard. Rokeach did not seem rattled as he made a huge save, catching the shot deflected off of the Spartans' cornerkick.

With only four minutes left to play, Tampa's Greg O'Connor silenced the Rollins' fans with a powerful goal.

The score remained 3-2, with Rollins ahead for the rest of the match, and the Tars showed their strength against the Tampa Spartans to maintain their perfect record. Come out and show support for the Tars during their home game against Barry on Oct. 24.

## Major League Baseball predictions

SPENCER MILLS  
the sandspur

As we enter into October, we hear the culmination of the Major League Baseball season. This year like all others has been filled with surprises, controversy, exciting games and more than a few great moments. However, as we look at the four teams remaining in the hunt for the title of World Series Champion we find ourselves looking at some familiar names. The two teams still fighting in the American League are the Los Angeles Angels and the New York Yankees. The Angels have been frequent visitors to the playoffs within the last decade and the Yankees are the most decorated team in the history of professional baseball. Still vying for the National League crown are last year's champions, the Philadelphia Phillies, and the team that held the NL's best record, the Los Angeles Dodgers.

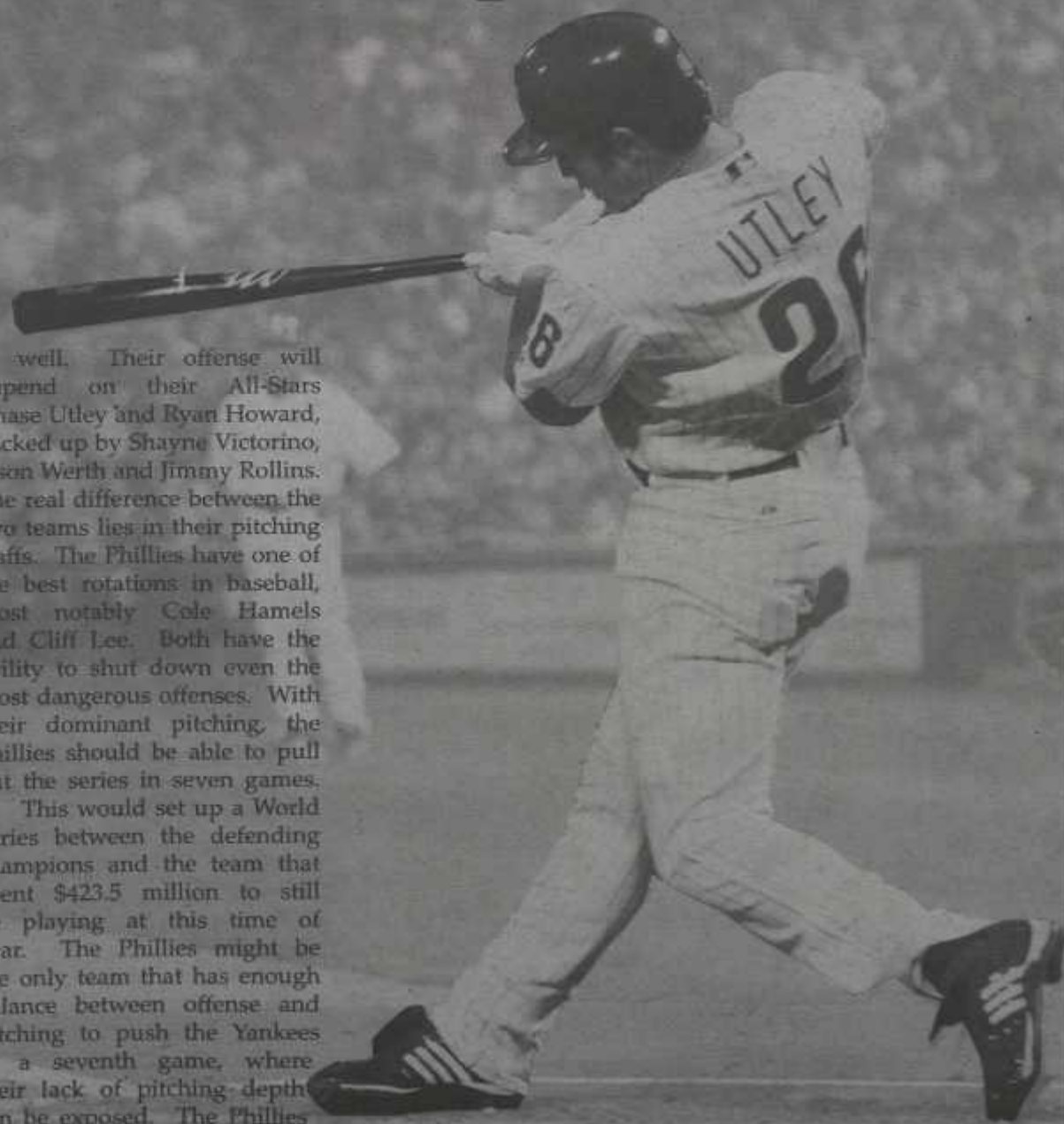
The American League Championship Series should be a good one, with both teams coming off convincing sweeps in their first round games. The Yankees beat the Minnesota Twins, who were riding a lot of momentum coming off their victory in a one game playoff. The Angels, on the other hand, finally overcame the Boston Red Sox, a team that had a reputation for beating the Angels in the

playoffs. The Yankees' pitching will make a huge difference in this series. The team expressed interest in using only three starting pitchers in the series. If the Yankees can end the series quickly, this move will most likely work in their favor, however if the Angels push it to a seventh game, the Yankees would likely have to use either a cold or a tired starting pitcher. While the Yankees have the more potent lineup, the Angels' offense is in no way stagnant. The Angels need to try to keep the New York defense on its toes with the brand of small ball and smart base running that they have employed all year. In the end the strength of the Yankees lineup is going to be too much for Los Angeles, the Angels' small ball will not be able to keep up with the Yankees long ball and the Yankees win in six games.

This year's National League Championship Series is a rematch of last year's. Last year the Phillies won four games to one; the Dodgers are hoping history does not repeat itself. The Dodgers' offense is the key to their victory. They will rely on Rafael Furcal, Andre Ethier, All-Star Orlando Hudson, and clutch performing superstar, Manny Ramirez. They hope that with timely hitting they can power their way past the defending champions. Philadelphia is coming into this series prepared

as well. Their offense will depend on their All-Stars Chase Utley and Ryan Howard, backed up by Shayne Victorino, Jason Werth and Jimmy Rollins. The real difference between the two teams lies in their pitching staffs. The Phillies have one of the best rotations in baseball, most notably Cole Hamels and Cliff Lee. Both have the ability to shut down even the most dangerous offenses. With their dominant pitching, the Phillies should be able to pull out the series in seven games.

This would set up a World Series between the defending champions and the team that spent \$423.5 million to still be playing at this time of year. The Phillies might be the only team that has enough balance between offense and pitching to push the Yankees to a seventh game, where their lack of pitching depth can be exposed. The Phillies will be going home as back to back World Series Champions after a seven game series.



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# October/November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Family Weekend	
<b>25</b> Master Dance Class with Broadway star Dodie Pettit 1-2:30 pm	<b>26</b> Weekly Rock Climbing Trip 6:30 pm	<b>27</b> Dinelli Dinner Campus Center 7:30 pm	<b>28</b> Weekly: SGA Senate 6 pm Rock Climbing Trip 6:30 pm Volleyball vs. Eckerd 7 pm	<b>29</b> Stop Kiss Fred Stone Theatre 8 pm Sandspur Halloween Party Garden Lounge 7-10:00 pm	<b>30</b> Last Day to Drop a Class without Penalty ("WF" Deadline) Stop Kiss at 8 pm & RIP Tag: Short Form Improv at 11 pm Fred Stone Theatre	<b>31 HALLOWEEN</b> Swimming vs. St. Leo / 1 pm Halloween Howl 2-5 pm Stop Kiss at 2 pm & 8 pm Fred Stone Theatre
Family Weekend						
<b>1</b> Stop Kiss Fred Stone Theatre 8 pm	<b>2</b> Volleyball vs. Flagler 7 pm Weekly Rock Climbing Trip 6:30 pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Weekly: SGA Senate 6 pm Rock Climbing Trip 6:30 pm	<b>5</b> Glenn Miller presents "The Hubble Space Telescope and What It Has Revealed About Our Universe" Bush Auditorium 7 pm	<b>6</b> RIP Tag: Short Form Improv Fred Stone Theatre 1 pm Stradivari Quartet Tiedtke Hall 8 pm	<b>7</b> Stradivari Quartet Tiedtke Hall 11 am
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Weekly Rock Climbing Trip 6:30 pm	<b>10</b> Adis Vilo presents "The Role of State Govern- ments in Attracting Foreign Direct Investments" SunTrust Auditorium 7 pm	<b>11</b> VETERAN'S DAY Weekly: SGA Senate 6 pm Rock Climbing Trip 6:30 pm	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Cabaret Annie Russell Theatre 8 pm	<b>14</b> Dance Marathon Campus Center Cabaret Annie Russell Theatre 8 pm
<b>15</b> Cabaret Annie Russell Theatre 4 pm	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> International II-Journalist Skype Session from Paris Bush 120 5 pm	<b>18</b> Wayne Wiegand on "Books and Reading in the Rural Heartland" SunTrust Auditorium 7 pm Weekly: SGA Senate 6 pm Rock Climbing Trip 6:30 pm			
				<b>J. Silvia</b> Thanks for your great submissions!		

## Sandspurian of the Week >



**J. Silvia**

Thanks for  
your great  
submissions!  
Good job on  
your  
writing award!



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Howlo-o-Scream is a separate ticketed night event. Thursday four-pack walk-up admission price \$29.95, prices per person plus tax. Savings on advance purchase. Valid for four or more admissions on same Thursdays, October 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29. Event dates and times are subject to change or cancellation without notice. Parking is not included. Costumes not permitted. Some restrictions apply. © 2009 Busch Entertainment Corporation. All rights reserved.