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The Sanspur wishes you Happy Holidays!

The Sandspur

The Oldest College Newspaper in Florida, Est. 1894

Rollins College

Friday | December 4, 2009

www.thesandspur.org

Volume 116 | Issue 11

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this day in history

December 4, 1992—President George H. W. Bush orders over 25,000 American troops into Somalia. These forces would later be involved in the famous Mogadishu ambush that the movie *Black Hawk Down* is based on.



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TARnival brings fun and games



DODIE O'KEEFE
the sandspur



DODIE O'KEEFE / the sandspur

FUN: Rollins students spent a day participating in the fair-style event.

From games and prizes to delicious food, TARnival had it all! On Sunday, Nov. 22, Crummer Graduate School of Business, Hamilton Holt School and the College of Arts and Sciences held TARnival from 2 to 4 p.m. Rollins had a great day planned for its students and community in the Warren Parking Lot. A delicious barbeque included hotdogs and hamburgers with lemonade and cookies for dessert. For those who have a super sweet tooth, there was a cotton candy machine and a popcorn popper was present as well. Inflatable games were another popular attraction on Sunday. These games included a moon bounce, an inflatable obstacle course, jousting, and inflatable races. In these races, two opponents were strapped to the back of a wall and had to try to fight their way to the other side before their opponent beat them to it. In addition to those activities, there was also a caricature artist, face painting, bungee jumping on trampolines, rock climbing and tons of games. The games ranged from a beanbag toss to attempting to knock over pins with a ball to tossing balls into

the correct slots. Lots of prizes were distributed to excited winners, including one of the favorites: beanie babies. Another great attraction at TARnival was the fortuneteller.

"The line to see the fortune teller was very long so clearly it was popular, but it was well worth it. She used tarot cards and was very accurate! It was sort of creepy!" replied TJ Fisher (Class of 2013).

I also attended the ever-popular fortuneteller to see if the rumors of her accuracy were true. And they were! Somehow she was able to estimate some very accurate things with what appeared to just be simple cards. I will have to wait and see if her predictions come true, though.

In addition to students, many families and children attended. Various of Rollins faculty members had the opportunity to spend some quality time

with their families at this popular event as well. Despite young attendees, you did not have to be under the age of 12 to enjoy the fun and games.

Megan Curry (Class of 2013) enjoyed the face painting and sported a painted orchid on her wrist while waiting in line for bungee jumping. In addition to Curry's orchid, others chose to have a scarier design. Entire faces were painted depicting scary creatures of every sort. Perhaps they received some good ideas for next Halloween.

Everyone seemed to be really enjoying themselves on the bungee jumping trampolines. They were performing all kinds of flips in the air and some extremely high jumps. The joust-ers were also having a great time in their protective costumes, while simultaneously knocking each other over with the inflat-

able rods. Hopefully no one got too hurt! The rock-climbing wall seemed to be the biggest attraction at the carnival—literally. Children and adults were doing a great job of reaching the top of what seemed to be a very tall climbing wall. They had to skillfully choose the path that would lead them to the top without running out of rocks to grab onto.

Overall, TARnival was a huge success. We owe our gratitude to organizers Crummer Graduate School of Business, Hamilton Holt School and the College of Arts and Sciences for their dedication and hard to work to make this day fun and exciting for anyone who attended. So, if you see a representative from one of those schools, make sure you let them know what a great time you had and hopefully we can expect to see another TARnival next year!

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quotable

"This situation did not afford President Obama much leverage, and, as a whole, resulted in a weak stance by Obama..."

News PAGE 2



thesandspur.org POLL

Did you see Caberet?

- Yes, and I loved it
- Yes, and I was disappointed
- No
- I'm saving myself for spring shows
- No, I've been too busy

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Newspaper in Florida
Founded in 1894

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Where do you fit into the Sandspur?

At the Sandspur, we are constantly looking for more voices, be they involved in editing, writing, or photography. 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.

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, and respective editors can be reached at their Rollins e-mail addresses (first initial, last name@rollins.edu).

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Obama Takes a Unique Approach in the Orient

LUCAS HERNANDEZ
the sandspur



COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

CHINA: President Hu Jintao

President Obama left Washington on Nov. 12 to embark on a nine-day tour of Asia.

Although his stops to Japan, Singapore and South Korea held great implications for various foreign policy initiatives, no stop was more important than his visit to China, where the two most significant issues discussed were the economy and human rights.

China is not only one of the most rapidly growing economic centers of the world, but it also has a great amount of money invested in the U.S.

Earlier in the year, top Chinese officials had very critical things to say regarding the United States' handling of the

financial crisis, and this criticism continued during Obama's visit.

The "blunt talk" regarding the U.S. economy by Chinese officials was the key talking point for Obama and his team, as the U.S. pays \$56 billion in interest to China on its \$860 billion debt, and China has been and still is the number one lender to the U.S.

Many people in Washington were pushing for China to allow its currency to rise against the dollar.

This would greatly affect the worth of U.S. goods in China; the price of these goods would be cheaper, making the goods more accessible and profitable.

This would, in turn, greatly benefit the economy and the U.S. market in China.

This situation did not afford President Obama much leverage, and, as a whole, resulted in a weak stance by Obama and his team. This passivity was not President Obama's fault, but rather a tribute to China's strength.

One of the most controversial issues within U.S.-China relations is human rights in China.

President Obama did not shy away from the issue of human rights, as he discussed the issue with Chinese students and government officials during his visit.

In a town hall meeting with nearly 400 students from eight Chinese universities in attendance, President Obama called himself

"a big supporter of non-censorship." He then went into great detail about his support for the Internet as a tool for freedom of speech and empowerment for citizens. A noticeable omission from his discussion was the Chinese conflict with Tibet.

The issue of Tibet has been the main talking point for many presidents before Obama. Leaving out the issue has been marked as both a smart and a mindless move.

One thing, however, is certain; President Obama is crafting his own unique strategy to approaching China. Whether or not this strategy will change U.S.-China relations, or human rights in China remains to be seen.

Considering the tricky position he was in, President Obama did a good job in creating a framework for cooperation between the two superpowers.

This is vital, as bilateral ties between the two nations have never been more important for the peace and prosperity of the world community.

Throughout his visit,

President Obama made a point to say that the U.S. has no intention of slowing down or curtailing the growth of China.



COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

UNITED STATES: President Barack Obama

This was important to China officials to hear, because there are many hard liners both within and outside the Chinese government who insist that the U.S. is trying to undermine China and impede its progress.

President Obama greatly departed from the stances of previous presidents who looked at China as a "tacit ally" against the Soviet Union, and as a "strategic competitor," as at the beginning of President George W. Bush's administration. He instead pushed a very moderate and cooperative stance with China.

It is clear that Obama understands the enormous presence China has in all U.S. affairs, both domestically and abroad.

Rollins Around the World

TJ FISHER
the sandspur

The week of Nov. 16-20, Rollins hosted its very own International Education Week on campus.

The weeklong celebration consisted of many events pertaining to creating and upholding an international feel here at Rollins. International Education Week was created by the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education. It is a nation-wide celebration that is hosted by many colleges and even high schools around the country.

On the official Web Site for the event there are various suggested activities, information about holding an International Education Week at your school, and even requesting a speaker to come to your events.

At Rollins, there were many events held throughout the

week all around campus. Everyday there was a special lunch and dinner held in the Skillman Dining Room that featured dishes from around the world.

Monday, the lunch featured a dish from Finland, while dinner was a dish from Canada. Tuesday the event continued with a lunch from Lebanon and a dinner dish from Australia. Wednesday featured dishes from Trinidad and Tobago and Nigeria, while Thursday there was a dinner with a dish from South Africa.

The weeklong lunches and dinners ended on Friday with a lunch from Malaysia and a dinner specialty from Croatia. Other events included the 4th Annual International Photo Contest, which was on Nov. 16 from 4-6 pm. In the Darden Lounge, located in the campus center, there were various photos from foreign countries posted on the walls.

Submissions were taken from not only students studying abroad, but also professors

such as Scott Rubarth and Hoyt Edge who had taken photos during their travels to various countries. During the contest there were refreshments served that are native to Portugal. On Nov. 17th from 4-5 p.m., the Tapestry of Diversity was opened in the entryway to the Cornell Campus Center.

The exhibit is meant to display diversity and educate students about diversity at Rollins. The event was hosted by the Honors RCC, which is called Out of the Melting Pot and Into the Fire: Immigrants' Experiences in the U.S. Also on Nov. 17 there was a Skype session held with Omar Rachid (Class of 2011), who is studying abroad in France.

On Nov. 18 there was a webinar held in the Career Services office that was meant to "guide students through common international experience alternatives available, describe the globalism skill set students need to be successful and show soon to be

graduates how to identify and apply for employment abroad as stated on the Rollins Web Site.

The same night the Rollins World Cup Soccer Tournament was held on Mills Lawn where teams selected a different country to represent, and the teams went head to head in a World Cup-style tournament.

Nov. 19 held the big event which was called the International Culture Fest '09, and was held in the Cornell Campus Center from 11:30 am to 2 p.m.

The event featured the Annual Flag Celebration, an international Chef cooking competition, Sodexo chefs, a steel drum band, a Capoeira performance, Egyptian bellydance, Chinese acrobats, Hawaiian hula dancing, and an International Marketplace that was modeled after the street markets of Latin America. The day ended with another Skype session, this time with Fatema Kermalli (Class of 2011), who is studying in Jordan.

OPINIONS

Fight for Your Right to Party Religiously

MEGHAN THOMAS
the sandspur

It's that time of the year again, when everyone is gearing up for the holiday season

and ready to get out of classes. But not every student celebrates holidays during this time of year, and these students rarely get out of class for their important religious or ethnic holidays. At Rollins,

there are no allowances in the attendance policy for religious or ethnic holidays. The attendance policy, as stated in the College Catalogue, leaves it up to the faculty to decide if a student is allowed out of class for

a religious reason. This can cause problems on campus if a faculty member is unaware of a holiday that requires an absence or is not inclined to let a student out of class.

For instance, Daniel Berlinger (Class of 2013) was not allowed out of his once a week Monday class for Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the year in the Jewish faith, and working is strictly prohibited. In striving to promote diversity and equality of religion on campus, the Office of Multicultural Affairs, Dean Powers and Dean Hater hope to work with students, faculty and staff in order to create an inclusive campus for members of all religions in the Rollins community. In order to do so, several steps are being taken.

First, a calendar comprised of religious and ethnic observances and descriptions of each, as well as a cover letter appealing for equality, was sent out to all faculty members. This will allow faculty to know ahead of time when

a religion has a holiday that might require a student to miss class. Second, Cristina Figueroa (Class of 2012) is drafting a proposal for SGA that, if it passes, will begin the process that may eventually lead to professors being required to allow students out of class for a holiday.

Some faculty members support this movement. Dr. Yudit Greenberg, religion professor and the Director of the Jewish Studies program, stated, "As a professor who teaches about the diversity of the world's religions, I believe that it is imperative that we consider the significance of religious calendars for their adherents and strive towards reasonable accommodation of student's spiritual practices. In this way we can ensure a more inclusive campus environment."

So, as the end of the semester approaches, and some religious holiday seasons begin, OMA, Dean Powers, and Dean Hater would like to wish ALL of the Rollins community, no matter your faith, happy holidays!



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HAPPY HOLIDAYS: Rollins is seeking to spread holiday cheer and tolerance this year.

Womanizing Bella

BRENDAN MONROE
the sandspur

Unless you've been living in a cave over the last year, you have no doubt witnessed the hoopla over what the entertainment industry has so subtly dubbed "The Twilight Phenomenon." This "phenomenon" has culminated due to the collective screams of teenaged girls worldwide at the release of the second film in the series, "New Moon."

Female sexuality, according to Stephenie Meyer, the author of the "Twilight" saga is a dark and treacherous road that can only get you into trouble; we need not look long through the saga to prove this. In "Twilight" and "New Moon", Bella wants desperately to bed her hot hunk of a guy, vampire Edward. It does not appear that the two are in fact in love so much as desperately in lust at the thought of blissful vampiric copulation and, sadly, since Bella is doomed to live life with the non-blood suckers, the desperate duo must abstain from the sacred act, lest dear Edward fall prey to the overwhelming desire to bite her.

Bella decides in the first installment (after making some pouty faces) that she does not care if sex with Edward will kill her because, well, he is just so damn gorgeous! She reiterates this multiple times by repeatedly letting on that she would die for him. "Twilight" is then, essentially, a film about a young man's fight to practice abstinence amidst temptation and request, except that... oh yes, Edward is not a young man at all but a 100-year old vampire not hiding in the guise of one. That is comforting. So what the "Twilight" saga is essentially about is an old man's desire to have sex with a teenaged girl who so desperately wants him. One wonders what the reaction may have been if gorgeous Ed-

ward had not been played by hunky Robert Pattinson, but perhaps by Woody Allen or the universally dashing Peter O'Toole - except that come to think of it, both men have played this role - Allen in real life and Peter O'Toole in the 2006 film "Venus," both situations widely derided. Of course neither of these men had the good fortune of being a 100 year-old vampire lusting over a 17 year-old. That somehow, is okay. It must have something to do with the blood sucking. Or perhaps it has more to do with author Stephenie Meyer's adherence to the notoriously patriarchal Mormon faith. This would explain the creepy age difference between the characters, echoing what is in some circles still standing Mormon tradition. It would also go a long way in describing Bella's all-consuming desire for a man to validate her.

The only thing new about "New Moon," other than Meyer and Director Chris Weitz finding another way to objectify women as weak, pathetic slaves to male masters, is that now Bella has two guys to lust after. Edward has gone off and dumped her, fearing Bella's sexual advances will eventually prove him unable to resist for much longer. This results in lots of whining from Bella who wishes only to die so that she can be with Edward. The entrance of Jacob helps her to realize that she does not have to fear independence because if "Plan Edward" fails, she can just go to "Plan Jacob." Fans know this better as "Team Edward" and "Team Jacob." Notably absent from the list is "Team Bella," which is left to watch from the sidelines. The truth is, there can be no "Team Bella" simply because Bella does not exist without one of her men. She is essentially a parasite, the real vampire in the saga who can not function without her man.

Much has been made about the box office draw of women who drove "New Moon" to a \$140 million-plus opening

weekend and accounted for over 80 percent of ticket sales. The remaining percentage were doubtlessly men who were dragged by their girlfriends to watch helplessly for two hours while their "Bella's" drooled at the male eye candy on screen. Thus therein lies the danger in this "phenomenon"; a phenomenon of which the target audience is young women, some as young as nine and 10, who have become obsessed with the anti-heroine and wish to emulate her blissfully miserable state of co-dependency. The argument that supporters of the series have been making against its critics is that male driven movies at the box office such as "Bad Boys II" and "Transformers" objectify women to a further degree. This is where I vehemently disagree, seeing Megan Fox dancing provocatively in a low cut top and short shorts for a man is an objectification, sure, but it is nothing compared to the full out emotional objectification the "Twilight" saga has perpetuated on the behalf of female audiences. Meyer has laughably declared that she finds Bella a feminist character, since feminism is about getting to choose. What Meyer absurdly overlooks is the fact that her Latter Day Saint affiliation has caused her to turn Bella into essentially a Stepford Wife.

The English definition for phenomenon is a "state or process known through the senses rather than by intuition or reasoning." Maybe in this way, "Twilight" and its subsequent sexist sequels are a phenomenon because the passion with which their fans subscribe certainly does lack in both reason and intuition. But rather than diagnose the obsession as a "phenomenon," it appears more apt to label it a pandemic, one that is threatening to sweep the younger generation of women away from the fading realities of equality and the possibility of independence into a habitual wasteland of unworthiness and co-dependency.

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Rollins College Skates the Night Away

BRITTANY FORNOF
the sandspur

On Nov. 20, All Campus Events (ACE) hosted its final "Rollins After Dark" (RAD) program of the semester for Rollins students, staff and faculty to enjoy. The event, which was entitled, "Ice Skating the Night Away," was held in the Warren Administration Parking Lot.

"Since it was the last RAD event of the semester, ACE really wanted to bring something new that hadn't been done on campus before," said RAD Chairperson Katie Jones (Class of 2011). "We picked ice

skating because we figured it would kick-start the holidays."

Featuring an ice skating rink, an abundant crepe bar, and a hot breakfast buffet, the event provided the perfect opportunity to celebrate the coming winter season. Over 200 students gathered together to enjoy a night of free ice skating and music.

"I really miss winter back home in Minnesota," said Alli Crocker (Class of 2011). "So it was fun to see an ice skating rink in Florida."

The event was sponsored by All Campus Events (ACE), Resident Hall Association (RHA), and the Alumni Association.



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF ZAC CHENAILE/ the sandspur
Rollins students enjoy engaging in activities uncommon to Floridians on the outdoor, on campus ice-skating rink provided by ACE.



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Giving Back During the Holiday Season

BARRETT
FREIBERT
the sandspur

Losing a loved one is one of life's greatest and most challenging hardships, and recovery is an infinite journey. Imagine what it would be like to begin that journey as a four year old incapable of truly understanding death. There are many children in such situations in the Orlando Metropolitan area that need help.

New Hope for Kids is the largest independent grief support center in Florida. They concentrate on helping children ages three to 18 and families cope with life-threatening illnesses and the death of loved ones. Since 1996, New Hope for Kids has been helping children and families throughout Central Florida. Their purpose is "to bring hope, healing,

and happiness to children and families suffering from grief, loss, or life-threatening illnesses." Since their funding is solely through charitable donations by individuals, corporations, foundations, and community service organizations, they are always in need of donations—and even more so, volunteers.

"I feel like they gave me back my daughter," confides Stephanie, who is, along with her 12-year-old daughter, a beneficiary of New Hope for Kids. "Before the suicide [of my brother] she was so happy, but after, her grades went down and she became extremely dependent on me, and was always at my side because she was afraid that she would lose me. But now, with New Hope, she knows that she can be away and know that I'm not going anywhere."

Cory Johns, the

volunteer coordinator at New Hope for Kids, said it would be wonderful to have more Rollins students as Grief Facilitators, because children who have experienced loss need positive role models to look up to. Grief Facilitators commit for one night every two weeks for a year, during which time they become involved in helping children cope with the death of a loved one through a play/activity-based model.

During the holiday season, many Americans forget that this time of year is about giving back to your community and those in need. Before rushing home after exams, check out the New Hope for Kids annual Holiday Toy Drive. Look for flyers posted throughout school with children's holiday wish lists. Not only will you be helping others by donating toys, but you will also be helping yourself.

100 Years of Hostels

BRENDAN MONROE
the sandspur

Roth film "Hostel." I bring this all up to call attention to 2009's most significantly underreported anniversary. As you no doubt learned when you peered down at the title under final-weary eyes, 2009 marks the 100th Anniversary of Germany's greatest export. And it all started because of some rain.

It was Aug. 26, 1909 and German schoolteacher Richard Schirrmann was leading an eight-day hiking trip in the German countryside with a group of students

always, even more so according to recent studies. While hotels can average over \$100 per room per night, hostels charge anywhere from \$3 to \$30 dollars for a bed per evening which, when taken into account that hostel rooms can contain as many as 20 beds, makes for the successful business model of an increasingly profitable industry.

But staying in a hostel isn't just about having a cheap place to stay – it's also about companionship. When I hear my more "fortunate" friends scoff at the idea of hostelling, preferring instead to spend holidays in Europe or elsewhere in luxury hotels, I often try to convince them. What they don't understand is that hostelling is about the social element. I have met some of my closest friends during scattered stays in hostels across the globe, and why not? In a foreign country, in my case, all alone, hostels provide a great opportunity to meet some of your fellow global students. Plus,

who would pass up the opportunity to bunk at a place called The Naughty Squirrel? Curious names aside, I can honestly tell you that this social element alone has changed my life...for the better! Nearly all hostels contain a meeting room or gathering place where students can link up and share travel stories. Some absolutely serendipitous connections can be made here and, whether it's a first time acquaintance you spend the evening walking through the Piazza San Marco with or a friend you're reflecting with in one of the numerous cafes that litter Prague's historic Wenceslas Square, without hostels it simply wouldn't be so easy.

The "hostel on a hill" in Germany has survived Nazi and Communist occupations, the erection and fall of the wall, and has served for a century to stand as one of Germany's greatest contributions to the world. To this day, the hostel in Altena that started it all continues to offer accommodations to weary backpackers. The door is always open, and for that we celebrate. A land that was once bitterly divided has, for 100 years, had a hand in uniting us all.

when the rain began to fall. Schirrmann and his students generally stayed in farm buildings they came across but on this particular night they had to resort to an empty classroom the local schoolmaster allowed them refuge in. The experience implanted in Schirrmann's mind an idea that started a revolution.

"Villages could have a friendly youth hostel, situated a day's walk from each other, to welcome young hikers," he wrote in a 1910 magazine article. "Two classrooms will suffice, one for boys and one for girls. Some desks can be stacked away, thus freeing space to put down 15 beds. Each bed will consist of a tightly stuffed straw sack and pillow, two sheets and a blanket... each child will be required to keep his own sleeping place clean and tidy." Later that year, Schirrmann started the world's first Jugendherberge in his own school in Altena, a town in West Germany.

One hundred years later, the hostel industry is alive and thriving. Over 4,500 youth hostels exist today attracting tens of millions of visitors from around the globe. Most impressively, unlike the recent dip in hotel occupancy, hostels have stayed as profitable as



COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS / the sandspur
CHEAP LODGING: Hostels provide an exciting and affordable place to stay while traveling abroad.

Like any country, Germany is famous for things both good and bad. Beer, depending on which category you'd put it in, is free flowing in the Deutschland, where some of the world's best are featured. Sauerkraut and Bratwurst are two culinary exports from the country as is Weiner schnitzel and curry worst. It's a country that has produced men as loved as Wolfgang von Goethe and Johann Sebastian Bach, as revered as Ludwig van Beethoven and Albert Einstein and as controversial as Friedrich Nietzsche and Karl Marx. It's a land that has seen the good times – the fall of the Berlin Wall, prosperity and prominence in the creation of a European Union and currency – but which has also suffered through the bad: the rise of the Nazi party and two World Wars that left the country economically and politically devastated.

But Germany is responsible for something else, something that has greatly impacted the world, and particularly youth culture. Because aside from being the country that designed your dad's flashy BMW, Germany is also responsible for giving millions of backpackers and student travelers refuge each year in the form of their most famous, yet least credited export: youth hostels.

The Youth Inn (or hostel), Jugendherberge as it is translated in German, has impacted our world more than all the German beer, cars and politics could have hoped to. Just think about it. The word itself is synonymous with travel, and a stay in one is vital for any "student abroad" cliché. Hostelling has entered the public lexicon, too, and has inspired both rose tinted portrayals of the wandering American seeking refuge in a foreign land – the excellent documentary "A Map For Saturday" – and blood tinted portrayals of the wandering American seeking refuge in a foreign land – the not-so-excellent, but nevertheless engrossing, Eli

Turkey Day Traditions

VERNON MEIGS
the sandspur

Another Thanksgiving Day has come and gone, although this year Rollins has seen perhaps its most enthusiastic Thanksgiving yet. Rollins students were eager to take a break from schoolwork and studying to return to their homes and families, and were very expressive about it over a week before the holiday. Rollins' professors and staff were no doubt also eager to spend time with their families.

Since 1863, Thanksgiving has been a national tradition in which thanks was given to God. Originally, Thanksgiving was a time when the Pilgrims would pray to God for safety during

the brutal winter weather, and would later feast for three days in order to show their gratitude. In 1941, however, it was federally recognized as a secular holiday and traditions since then have not all been based on religion. Trademarks of the Thanksgiving holiday include stuffing, pie, and turkey. Of all the fowl the Pilgrims had available to them, they had an abundance of turkey to eat; therefore this particular bird became the staple meal of the ongoing tradition.

The Thanksgiving holiday for the students and professors of Rollins involved spending a great deal of time with their families; whether it was traveling to celebrate with their relatives or vice versa.

Some students, however, may have had other responsibilities that did not allow for celebrating Thanksgiving, at least on Thanksgiving Day. There were RAs that were on duty on Thanksgiving Day and therefore, their normal day of celebration was compromised. Holt Hall RA Jill Lindsey, who was on duty during the break, stated that she had to be back at 9:00 every night and was unable to spend much time with her family, even though she lives 20 minutes away.

All in all, there was no doubt every student had a lot to be thankful for, such as spending time with their families and eating their hearty meals, and especially the short break from school work.



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Party at Club Olin

TJ FISHER
the sandspur

It is that time of year again: finals. It is also the time of year when the library is open 24-7, creating what many students have fondly nicknamed "Club Olin," with students crowding every corner of the library at all hours, trying to learn everything they need to before the looming finals take place the next week.

Yet, how effective is studying in the library? It seems to be a popular hang-out spot. The second floor gets pretty noisy as students walk in and out discussing everything from what they did Friday night to the big physics test coming up. How noisy is too noisy?

Official library rules say that while the first and second floors are for group work and discussion, the third and fourth floors are for individual, quiet study (although there are two group study rooms located on the third floor). Students rarely follow these rules, however, and there is nothing more frustrating than a noisy group of students setting up camp right next to your formerly quiet workstation.

Many people come to

the library so that they can take advantage of the quiet, which they often cannot find in their resident halls, and for those people the quiet rules ought to be enforced.

Another library debate on campus: does anyone get any work done in the pillow room? Should students be allowed to take naps on the beanbags located there? One camp says the room should have priority for those that enjoy having a comfortable place to read and do work for class. The other camp says that students should be free to use the pillow room for anything they need, including catching up on some shut-eye. While it may be annoying to walk into the pillow room, find no empty spots and see three students snuggled up sleeping, a room full of comfortable cushions is asking for occupants who believe in naptime.

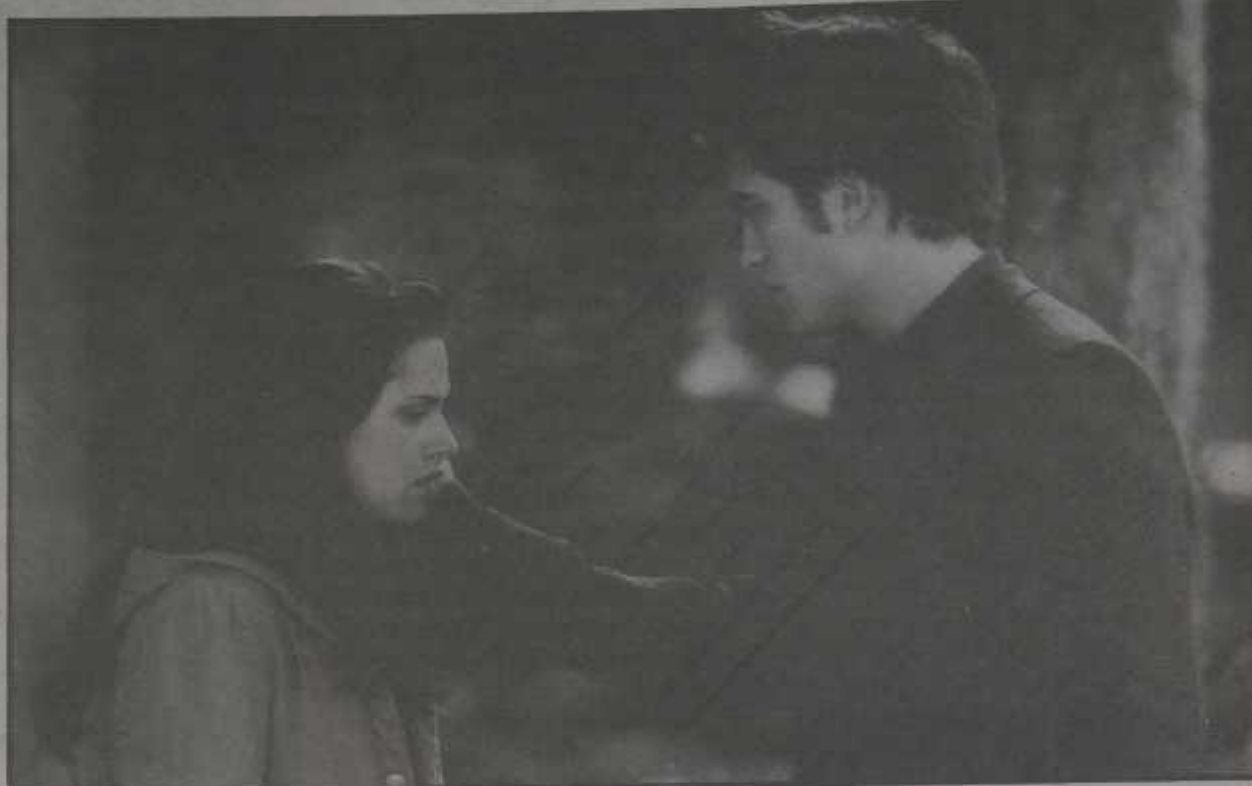
As the time comes for spending hours upon hours in the library, the most important thing to remember is to be considerate and respectful of those around you. Do not make noise or hold group discussions where there are quiet study signs, and try not to take up all the high demand real estate in the library for catching a couple Zs between study sessions.

"New Moon" will suck you in

DODIE O'KEEFE
the sandspur

"New Moon", the sequel to Stephenie Meyer's first book, "Twilight", was released in theaters on Nov. 20, 2009. With theaters sold out across the country for the midnight release, New Moon raised more money in ticket sales in its first weekend than did previous record-holder "The Dark Knight." Both teenagers and adults alike were ecstatic for the release of this ever-popular series. With a new director, Chris Weitz, fans have been raving that the acting and special effects have greatly improved since "Twilight."

In "New Moon," Bella Swan (played by Kristen Stewart) is heartbroken after her soul mate Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson) leaves her. To many fans' delight, the young and beautiful Jacob Black (Taylor Lautner) comes to the rescue to drag Bella out of her depression. Little does Bella know, though, that she is yet to escape the magical world of monsters and magic, for Jacob Black turns into his true character in this film: a werewolf. When all hope of Edward's return is gone, and



HEARTBROKEN: Bella's vampire love interest, Edward, leaves her because he feels she does not belong in his world. She resorts to becoming an adrenaline junky in order to see visions of Edward.

Bella and Jacob's relationship is becoming closer, an unexpected visitor appears. Alice Cullen (Ashley Greene) comes to see if Bella is alive after having seen her jump off of a cliff in a vision. To Alice's surprise, Bella is now an adrenaline junky and was cliff diving for recreation, not committing suicide.

Unfortunately, it is too late and Rosalie Hale (Nikki Reed) has already told Edward of Alice's vision and he has decided to visit the Volturi so that they may take his life, just as he believes Bella has taken hers. Alice and Bella quickly decided to go to Italy to save Edward. After begging her to stay, Jacob

is heart-broken by Bella's choice of Edward over himself.

In a thrilling action scene, Bella and Alice rush to Volterra and luckily, Bella reaches Edward before he steps into the sunlight to reveal his true identity. Yet, they are unable to completely escape. They must first have an uncomfortable

encounter with the Volturi. With a menacing performance by Dakota Fanning who is acting as Jane, Edward and Bella's only escape is to promise Bella's transformation to immortality. With a near-death experience on all of their parts, Alice, Edward and Bella finally escape the terrifying Volturi. When Bella discovers that Edward will never leave her again and that it was all a mistake, she is overwhelmed with joy. Little does she realize though, how much she is hurting Jacob Black. The film commences with a cliffhanger where Edward Cullen promises Bella he will give her immortality by him, as long as she marries him first.

From speaking to students and adults, the film seems to have been a major hit. Though, there have been a lot of team changes. Many Team Edward admirers have now changed alliances and have decided to side with Team Jacob. Well, we will have to wait and see whose team everyone decides to be on when the third film, "Eclipse," is released. As of now, its release date is estimated for June 2010. So, "Twilight" fans keep your eyes open for Eclipse and if you have not seen "New Moon" yet, it is definitely worth seeing.

A truly fantastic "Fox"

BRENDAN MONROE
the sandspur

Never before has a film been so appropriately labeled as "Fantastic Mr. Fox," whose title so aptly sums up the genius and spirit of not only the titular fox, but of the director and inspired crew as well. Two years after the release of his most perplexing film yet, "The Darjeeling Limited," Wes Anderson has finally delivered a film that allows to me to join in, on the conversation about his remarkable talent.

"Fantastic Mr. Fox" is not even so much a film as it is an excursion into a world of foxes and badgers that, like it or not, bares more similarity to our own world than one might initially think. The fox in question is not so much voiced as it is brought to life through the elegance and charm of George Clooney. That he manages to do so in an animated film is a credit to both the actor and to the fantastic screenplay devised by the dynamic writing team of Anderson and co-writer Noah Baumbach ("The Squid and the Whale").

"How can a fox ever be happy without, if you'll excuse the expression, a chicken in its teeth?" Mr. Fox asks his wife, voiced by the always-fantastic Meryl Streep. Clooney and Streep headline a stellar cast



FOXY MR. FOX: Mr. Fox is brought to life through the elegance and charm of George Clooney who cements his reputation as the second coming of Cary Grant in this film.

that also includes Anderson regulars Bill Murray, Owen Wilson and Jason Schwartzman. All do fantastic jobs here, but the real praise must be reserved for Anderson and his amazing team of animators, who have managed to craft a beautifully unreal world that could not look more different than the computer-animated ones generated by Pixar and DreamWorks. The former's "Up" appeared last month and gained a lock on this year's Best Animated Film Oscar, but now it faces some serious competition from "Fantastic Mr. Fox," which, appropriately enough, is being distributed by 20th Century Fox.

The film's plot, aside from some minute details, remains relatively unchanged from the classic Roald Dahl children's book of the same name. For those who never had the

pleasure of reading the Dahl book, the story centers around family man Mr. Fox's war of sorts with nasty commercial farmers Boggis, Bunce, and Bean.

"Fantastic Mr. Fox" is most enjoyable for the small, seemingly insignificant way in which its characters go about their day-to-day lives. Case in point: when Mr. Fox's foxy wife serves him a stack of pancakes, he devours them with all his wild animal sensibilities attached. Or, when a character passes or is knocked out, their beady little eyes turn into x's or whirlpools. These tiny details are the ones that elicit laughs from older viewers, and smiles of understanding from younger ones. Wes Anderson has taken a beloved children's book and made it into a film to be cherished by all. Nothing could be more fantastic.

Christmas Arrives at Magic Kingdom

TRAVIS CLINGER
the sandspur

too can the parade starting on the Dec. 19.

On various nights during November and December, Walt Disney World hosts Mickey's Very Merry Christmas Party at the Magic Kingdom Park. The Party is a separate ticketed event that starts at 7:00 p.m. and lasts until midnight.

In many ways, the Very Merry Christmas Party is similar to the Not So Scary Halloween Party. Both events feature unique parades and firework shows. At the Very Merry Christmas Party, Disney presents Holiday Wishes, a special twist of their very popular fireworks show, Wishes. Holiday Wishes features approximately 15 minutes of non-stop fireworks. The fireworks are not confined to just above the castle either. Instead, they spread to encompass 180 degrees of the viewing area. Holiday Wishes will commence during regular park hours on Dec. 19, and will continue through the Holiday season.

The Christmas Party also features Mickey's Once Upon a Christmastime Parade. This amazing parade travels throughout the park. The parade features a variety of special Christmas characters as well as the classic Disney characters. The most awe-inspiring part is that of the toy soldiers that march in the parade. Just as the fireworks show can be seen during regular park hours, so

The Christmas Party does have a few features that cannot be experienced at any time during regular park operation. One of the most popular of these features is no doubt the cookies and cocoa stations. These refreshments are complimentary. Further, at each station characters are present for photography opportunities with children. Also, throughout the park unique shows are performed. The park also hosts a variety of games and activities on the streets.

All of the major rides, including Space Mountain, which Disney had recently closed for renovations, are open during the Christmas party. Crowds are much smaller during the Christmas Party, so there are virtually no lines at even the most popular attractions. If you hate waiting in line for a ride, then the Christmas Party is a great opportunity.

Prices for the Christmas Party start at \$52 if purchased in advance. This price does not include admission during the daytime. However, generally speaking, Disney permits entrance starting at 4:00 p.m. for Party attendees.

This is a great event and provides some unique opportunities. Perhaps the best benefit of the party is the fact that there are short lines and small crowds. In addition, it is always amazing to see the Magic Kingdom at night when it is decorated for Christmas.



Palin Goes Rogue

BRENDAN MONROE
the sandspur

One would be hard pressed to find anyone who has yet to form an opinion about Sarah Palin. The release of her long awaited and much debated memoir "Going Rogue" caps an incredible year for the self-described "hockey mom." A lot has happened in that time; the war in Afghanistan has escalated, the unemployment rate has risen, and President Obama won the Nobel Peace Prize. These are all things that one could claim have only served to bolster Palin's appeal to wandering conservatives. Even if the country has had a bad year, Palin has had a good one. Other than resigning the governorship of Alaska, Palin has been busy giving speeches and spearheading, along with Fox News commentator Glenn Beck, nationwide "tea parties" which have "rallied the troops," in Mrs. Palin's words.

Exactly what the conservative cause is, no one seems to know, including Palin herself. Shuddering through her hastily written memoir, I note multiple references to Ronald Reagan and lower taxes. The two ideas seem to have mated together and given birth. Between rehashing the bad and the good, Palin has graciously left some

space for some stargazing—the celebrity kind. She ogles over actor Jon Voight and brags about her experience with the "SNL" cast during a late campaign visit. Palin covers these events with such wide-eyed bewilderment that makes me wonder if "TMZ" might have suited her interests better than the political world. But, lest we think she is all fluff, Palin attempts from time to time to delve into that heady policy stuff, and, as usual, runs into some trouble. Recalling the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling on the 1989 Exxon-Valdez disaster, Palin writes:

"It took years for Alaska to achieve victory. As governor, I directed our attorney general to write an amicus brief in the case, and, thanks to Alaska's able attorneys arguing in front of the highest court in the land, in 2008 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of the people."

In reality, Palin and environmentalists bemoaned the ruling at the time as a "disappointment." The ruling slashed punitive damages for the victims from \$2.5 billion to \$500 million. Some victory that is. Palin, has graciously shared a two-plus page excerpt in her memoir for a letter she wrote from God. Yes, that is right. Palin wrote a letter from God. The letter, which she wrote about

her son Trig, was signed, "Your Heavenly Father." The ego is on display again later when, rushing to tidy up loose ends, Palin puts the blame for the failed 2008 campaign on McCain staffers for not letting her speak freely and for limiting her media appearances. After all, those Charlie Gibson and Katie Couric interviews went so well!

Palin also contradicts herself, having written an email at the end of last year's campaign to the same staffers thanking them for their help and putting the blame on herself. Amazing what a book deal will do for your memory. The list of previous comments Palin retracts and new positions she takes goes on and on. In the end, "Going Rogue" will please exactly the kind of people that go gaga over Sarah Palin already and will certainly not help in persuading those weary of her to come join her side. If Sarah Palin is truly the face of conservatism heading into a new decade, then conservatives have a lot to be worried about.

"Yet even now, few Americans know who this remarkable woman really is," the print on the book jacket reads.

Reading this fantastical tale made me laugh away the Rogue and simply wish she would be Going.

A Carol You'll Never Forget

BRENDAN MONROE
the sandspur

All of us no doubt have a favorite Christmas tale. Growing up as a child I remember the days leading up to Christmas as a magical time. Hiding under a thick blanket with a steaming mug of cocoa between my hands, I would listen to my mother or father read the classic Christmas stories until I fell into a sugar induced sleep at the foot of the family Christmas tree. One of the more enjoyable stories read every year is Charles Dickens' classic "A Christmas Carol." It is a story that is as important and significant today as when it was written. An ultimately uplifting tale of a miserly old man's coming of Christmas spirit, "A Christmas Carol" has been adapted into countless films. One of the best known adaptations is "The Muppet Christmas Carol." I remember watching this classic film over and over in the run-up to Christmas Day and it still manages to put a smile on my face every year.

Where our generation happily embraced this adaptation of the timeless Dickens' tale, a younger generation now has their very own version to cherish with the release of the Disney produced,

Robert Zemeckis helmed telling of the classic. The film is being released nationwide in standard and 3-D formats and I highly advocate the 3-D option to fully experience the splendor of this charming and imaginative film. To those unaware, Zemeckis is nothing short of a filmmaking genius, with a catalog of classic films that would make any director envious. The visionary won the Directing Oscar for "Forrest Gump" and would go on to direct Tom Hanks again in "Cast Away." That film, released in 2000, marked the last of his standard live-actions films however as Zemeckis has of late been leading the charge in the world of groundbreaking computer animation, "A Christmas Carol" completing an animated trilogy of sorts that began with 2004's "The Polar Express" and was followed up with 2007's criminally underrated but stupendous "Beowulf" which I would gladly campaign for any day. The latter film was also released in 3-D and was generally well received though it has become better appreciated since arriving on DVD.

With his latest release though, Zemeckis is looking to become a

household name. The credit for this film belongs solely to him and his surprising star, Jim Carrey. I'll admit, when I first heard Carrey had been tapped to play the iconic role of Mr. Scrooge I was a bit uneasy. Visions of Carrey's over the



COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS
CHUCKLES: Funny man Jim Carrey takes on one of the most iconic roles of modern media, Ebenezer Scrooge.

top performances in "The Grinch," "The Mask," and, well...anything,

made me approach the ticket stand hesitantly. I was not sure if I was up for Carrey's hamming up of a part that has become immortalized on screen by Hollywood legends from George C. Scott to Michael Caine to Patrick Stewart. All of my doubts dissolved, however, when I put on my 3-D glasses at the start of the show.

The film's unique, grandiose opening whisks us through the streets of London before flying up past smoking chimneys to the skies above, revealing a lush, priceless window onto Victorian Era London like none I had ever seen or dreamt. It is a breathtaking shot, one that has to be witnessed in 3-D, and truly one of the most amazing openings for a film I have ever seen. It is not long before we settle on the cruel, hunched figure of Ebenezer Scrooge dabbling in his ledger. Amazingly, Carrey manages to tone down his omnipresent giddiness and sink into the character, making him almost unrecognizable in the part. Carrey deserves kudos not simply for this, but for managing to portray all three of the ghosts that come to visit Scrooge as well.

One thing I hadn't entirely been expecting of the Disney film was for it to contain so many

frightening moments. In this way, Zemeckis' film is less "Polar Express" and more "Beowulf," truly playing into Scrooge's terror of the spirits, and his horror when he discovers what he has become. Gary Oldman does an excellent job portraying Scrooge's thankless assistant, Bob Cratchit and also pulls triple duty, voicing Marley and Tiny Tim as well. The most delightful surprise, however, is Colin Firth's wonderful Victorian variation on Scrooge's jolly nephew Fred who lobbies his uncle every year to attend the family Christmas dinner. I wish more time could have been spent with this character, but alas, at a running time of 96 minutes, there is not much time to go around.

This newest update of the Dickens' novel is appropriately charming and moving, ultimately doing justice to the source material. We eagerly accompany Scrooge on his journey of self-recovery and though we know all along how things will wrap up, we are nevertheless merrily moved at the outcome. Whether on the page or in one of over 50 screen adaptations, "A Christmas Carol" touches us, as we witness Ebenezer's transformation from a cold hearted man of gold to a man who remembers that real value is measured in the smiles and warm embraces of those we love.

December Calendar

Friday

Saturday

4

CLASSES END!

Rent Spectrum's Rainbow
Monthly Movie
Both 120
7 pm

5

READING DAY

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

6

READING DAY

Christmas Vespers
6:15 pm

7

Final Exams

8

Bodhi Day (Buddhist)

Attitudes:
Annie Russell Theatre / 7 pm
RIP: Variations on a Theme
Fred Stone Theatre / 8 pm

9

READING DAY

Holiday FunFest
Alford Sports Center
4:30 - 7:30 pm

10

Final Exams

11

Hanukkah
begins at sunset

12

Men's Basketball vs.
Webber International
2 pm

A Classic Christmas
Bach Festival
2 pm

13

A Classic Christmas
Bach Festival
2 pm

Swimming vs.
Dartan College / 1 pm

14

15

16

17

18

Al Hija:
Muslim New Year

19

Winter Break

20

21

Wiccan Yule

22

23

24

25

Christmas

26

Kwanzaa Begins

Winter Break

27

28

29

30

Winter Break

Sandspurian of the Week >



Nick Zazulia

for his dedication,
hard work
and comic relief.

Tars defeat Tarzans, 92-57

TJ FISHER
the sandspur

On Nov. 18, the Rollins men's basketball team played

well was the Puerto Rican flag, in honor of the visiting team. The halftime show included a performance by the newly formed Rollins College Dance team, and throughout the

game against Mayaguez, holding a 40 point lead three separate times throughout the game. Guard Myk Brown (class of 2011) led in scoring with 16 points, while junior preseason

a different country. It was great sit in the arena, listening to both English and Spanish as the fans cheered on their respective teams. The feeling of international learning

and cooperation was rich in the air, and it is impressive that Rollins is injecting an international cultural feel into life here on campus including sporting events.



HOOPS: (Pictured L to R) Tars Matt Robertson, Julian Wilkison and Ryan Ferranti all contributed to the win against Puerto Rico-Mayaguez on Nov. 18.

Puerto Rico-Mayaguez at 7 p.m. in the Alford Sports Center. The Tars swept past the international team with a 92-57 win, putting the men's team at 2-0 for the season.

The start of the game was marked not only by the American National Anthem, but also by the National Anthem for Puerto Rico. Standing next to the American flag on the far

game, the girls cheered on their team from the stands.

Rollins' 92 scored points were definite highlights of the night. Once the team made 90 points, it was clear, judging by the cheers and applause, that the crowd was looking forward to the card good for one free smoothie at the local Tropical Smoothie in Winter Park.

The Tars led a decisive

All-American Nick Wolf (class of 2011) came in with 14 points to record his 45th career double-digit game. Matt Robertson (class of 2011) rounded the double-figure scorers with 11 points. The strong Rollins team forced Mayaguez to 22 turnovers, and 15 steals.

The Tars played a part in Rollins' International Education Week by playing a team from

Classified

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