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The Rollins Sandspur

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## Sandspur, Vol 118, No 11, February 23, 2012

Rollins College

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THURSDAY  
FEBRUARY 23, 2012  
VOLUME 118, ISSUE 11

# The Sandspur

THESANDSPUR.WORDPRESS.COM

FLORIDA'S OLDEST COLLEGE NEWSPAPER, EST. 1894

## 84th Annual OSCAR PREDICTIONS

Who will take home the coveted golden statue for best picture?  
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT, 8

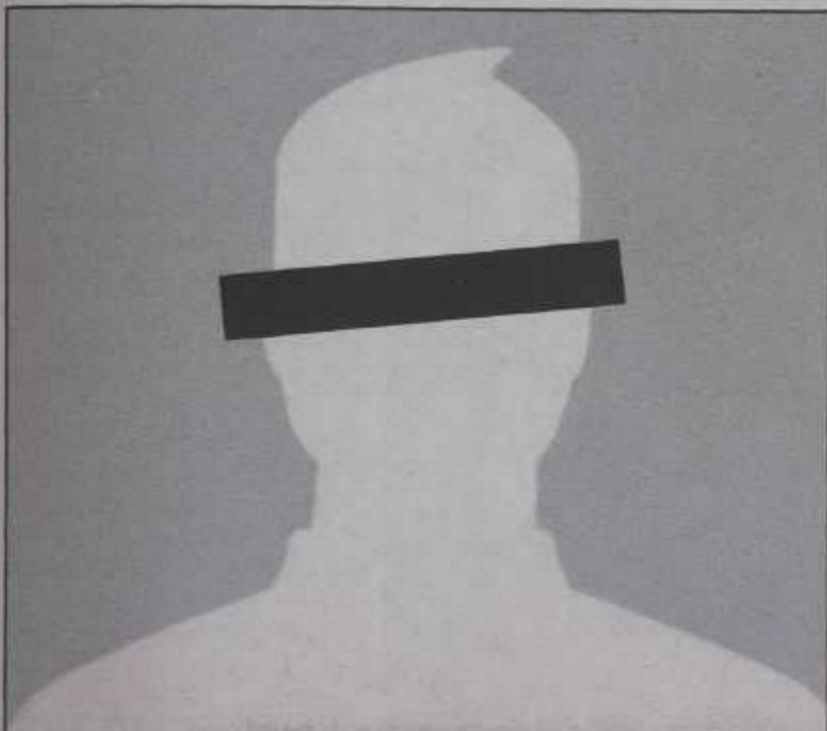


## CAMPUS MOVIEFEST MAKES STUDENTS STARS

FEATURES, 4-5

## the profitable social network

How Facebook Turns You Into Money



Camilo Garzon  
The Sandspur

Facebook, one of the most important social networking companies of all time, and estimated to be worth more than \$50 billion, will now become

public, which means that shares and stock options will be available for purchase by anyone, anywhere.

But what does this mean for its users? Will their information be traded like any other product sold by any other company that

sells goods and services?

What will happen with any company owning a majority of stocks invested in the servers of Facebook?

Will companies worldwide be able to get every bit of our information, such as pictures, relationship statuses, wall posts, likes and messages?

What will happen with our virtual lives and secrets now that the business world and powerful individuals can get our vital pieces of information to use for who knows what? On Feb. 1, Facebook announced its first IPO (Initial Public Offering), which will be around \$75 to \$100 billion. But this is not the spark that started it all.

In September 2009, Facebook became cash-flow positive, and it was only until 2010 that Eduardo Saverin, Facebook's co-founder and former roommate of Mark Zuckerberg, sold some of his shares (at the time he held 5 percent of the stock) to Digital Sky, a Russian-based firm, whose stock has since decreased by 2.8 percent.

Now, a great part of the remaining percentage of Facebook shares will be available.

As Rollins College students, we may ask ourselves about what kind of information or servers will be available to the individuals who will buy Facebook shares and what they can and cannot access.

We may ask ourselves if this will be tantamount to a violation of the privacy of Facebook's users.

Has the Internet activist group Anonymous said anything about this? Will concepts such as the literary Big Brother become less fictional and more real? According to Anonymous, its page "Operation Payback" was deleted after its Twitter account was deactivated on Dec. 9, 2010.

Some videos that appeared on YouTube threatened to take down Facebook on Nov. 5, 2011. This is a special day for the organization because Anonymous uses a mask of the face of Guy Fawkes, who was captured on that day in 1605. The same mask

was used in the 2005 movie *V For Vendetta*.

According to Anonymous, because of Facebook's alleged repeated violations of user privacy and illegal sale of user information.

The threat, however, was never acted upon. Is "Anonymous" likely to attack now that Facebook is going public? No one knows.

However, what we do know is that Facebook needs to enter a new era in which its privacy settings will be changed radically and new features will be created to help ensure that user information will still be protected.

Facebook knows too much about its users; and those users are concerned about improper use of their information by Facebook.

Therefore, we should be prepared for what is coming and hope that our rights are respected while entering this new era of profitable shares from one of the biggest social networking sites in the history of the Internet.

## A Spring Break Away from the Ordinary



CECIL MACK

A CHANGE OF PACE: Andi Perez '10 interacts with a local child during a 2010 ASB trip to Guatemala focused on fair-trade coffee farmers and their way of life.

Ed Leffler  
The Sandspur

Lounging on beaches or catching up on zzz's back home are just two of the ways students typically spend the nine glorious days of spring break.

But for some Rollins students, spring break 2012 presents the opportunity to spend some time actively engaged in global citizenship as well as the chance to bridge the gap between academics and altruism, textbooks and travel.

This year, the Office of Community Engagement has been able to plan three Alternative Spring Break trips (ASBs) — Florida Panhandle: Water Conservation, Miami: Change Agents and Community Empowerment, and Travel to Texas: A Focus on Criminal Justice.

These immersion programs offer students the amazing experiences of education, reflection and action.

Through direct community engagement, leadership development, multicultural education, discussion and reflection activities, students will be immersed in the challenges and questions that

various communities face in the 21st century.

Every day, the groups will work on various service projects that focus on different issues.

In addition to service, each ASB has fun and relaxation time.

So for this spring break, some students will not be sitting in front of the television but will be out taking action.

They will venture to the panhandle area to examine issues of environmental degradation and water conservation, journey to south Florida to explore issues of community empowerment and how they can begin to change their communities, and travel to Texas for a close examination of the criminal justice system.

This experience will be filled with direct service projects, cultural experiences, dynamic discussions, group bonding, a chance to meet a wonderful group of new friends and a lot of fun.

The Office of Community Engagement and Citizens Take Action are proud of the history of ASBs at Rollins and are excited and glad to continue the legacy of them again this year with trips to three fabulous locations.

## SEXPRT TEACHES HOW TO PRACTICE SAFE 'SEXT'

OPINION, 3

February 23, 1896

### THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Leo Hirschfeld opened a candy shop in NYC, producing the first individually wrapped penny candy: Tootsie Rolls.



WINDY OSKAY

“With open dialogue, there comes a mutual understanding and respect that can hopefully remove the hindrances that we often have when it comes to relating to people.

—“INTERFAITH,” 2

### WORRIED ABOUT YOUR SAFETY?

Rollins Self Defense Club teaches students how to stay safe

SPORTS, 7

# Rollins Goes German for Karneval

Jamie Pizzi  
The Sandspur

Karneval is celebrated in German-speaking parts of Europe as a Mardi Gras-style festival hallmarked by costumes, parades and lots of partying. It is considered by most who celebrate it to be an actual season, which starts on Nov. 11 at 11:11 p.m. and continues until Ash Wednesday. Many Germans call this important time of year the "fifth season."

The theme of Karneval varies depending on region. There are two best-known versions of the event. The Cologne Karneval, in honor of an 1824 women's revolt, encompasses a tradition of modern-day women storming city halls and cutting the neck-ties of any man they choose. In more southern parts of Germany, Karneval represents the elimination of dark winter spirits and the welcoming of warmer, spring-like weather.

Our very own German language department hosted a Rollins version of Karneval on Thursday, Feb. 16 in Strong Hall. Authentic German currywurst was grilled outside as students dressed in various Karneval-worthy costumes and socialized in both the Eng-

lish and German languages. A variety of other themed foods and beverages were served, but the crowd favorite seemed to be the German chocolates that came in an assortment of flavors.

"It was nice to come together outside of the classroom in a fun setting like Karneval," German language student Taylor Cole said. "It is not every day that we get to learn more about the German culture by dressing up in fun costumes and eating delicious food. The salad was great and so was the happy atmosphere. It was a terrific event."

Students were not the only ones who enjoyed Karneval: German language professors partook in the festivities as well. Lecturer Anna Lohaus was thrilled with the excellent turnout at the event. "There were about 30 participants — most in costume — in Strong to celebrate Weiberfastnacht," she said. "Participants included German language students, former residents of Strong Hall, honor students studying the Weimar Republic, and students from the German field study this past December. Jeff Guyan volunteered again as 'Grillmeister' and grilled the Bratwurst to perfection. Students reminisced about living in Strong, about traveling to Germany and about hours of Kaffeeklatsch and puppet theater."



**CELEBRATION:** The German studies program took part in Karneval, a festival similar to Mardi Gras, with food and fun. Students celebrated in costumes ranging from soccer players to cats and Disney princesses to pirates.



JAMIE PIZZI

## Keeping the Faiths: A Look at the Interfaith LLC

Adrienne Barton  
The Sandspur

There is much to be said for those who actively seek out different ideologies and make it their goal to discover, discuss and comprehend those beliefs. It is this goal that the members of the Interfaith Living Learning Community (LLC) attempt to incorporate into their lives.

At the interest session held on Wednesday, Feb. 9, Interfaith members Diego Villaseñor '13, Michael Barrett '12, and Alan Schmalstig '12, along with Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) Graduate Assistant Althea Miller, gathered to explain what drew them to the LLC: its history and importance on campus and the mission to define "Interfaith."

Founded in Fall 2010, Interfaith is a student-run LLC located in a four-person suite in Sutton. A collaborative effort between The Office of Residential Life and OMA, the organization works toward "fostering a mutual understanding and compassion for each other" while stressing the importance of global citizenship and growth through the insight and knowledge that comes with encountering different spiritual traditions.

There is no specific religion that is represented by the LLC, as evidenced by Villaseñor who was raised Catholic but is now Buddhist, and Barrett (Interfaith LLC co-founder), also raised Catholic, but who now lives according to his own religion. With distinct beliefs, living together provides the opportunity to engage in meaningful conversations about individual practices and philosophies. These opportunities are aided by the required visits to religious sites with LLC members, such as the group's recent visit to the nearby Guang Ming Buddhist Temple.

Like all of OMA's culturally-based organizations, no one is expected to be well-versed in any particular religion, or to even identify with one. All that is expected is an open mind allowing for mutually beneficial discussion. Even the interest session sparked discussion because several religious symbols were displayed,

such as those from Islam, Unitarianism, Scientology, Atheism, The Bahá'í Faith and indigenous spiritual practices. Attendees delved into stories about Catholic school upbringing, terrifying nuns and convents, and finally the Four Noble Truths of Buddhism. These types of conversations are valuable, especially on a campus such as ours and in a world that is so diverse. With open dialogue, there comes a mutual understanding and respect that can hopefully remove the hindrances that we often have when it comes to relating to people.

The LLC members also make it a point to provide leadership opportunities by recruiting potential new members, implementing outreach programs, planning weekly meetings, and attending workshops and conferences.

Favorable circumstances are created that allow for personal growth on campus in establishing a role in the Rollins community, finding your niche, and living out the experience of continued learning away from textbooks and scantrons.

Co-president Schmalstig says that the Interfaith LLC "has helped me to make new friends, learn about religion and given me a place to belong. I am much more involved on campus. I enjoy traveling to places of worship with the Interfaith group that I might not have visited by myself. I finally feel like I belong at Rollins in the Interfaith Living Learning Community. Because of Interfaith I have been introduced to many new religions and beliefs through social interaction instead of just learning about them in the classroom."

In defining his religion, Barrett says, "we are all interdependent beings." The Interfaith LLC (as well as the Interfaith Club) plays an important part in understanding not only others but also ourselves as we relate to other people.

Interested in Interfaith club? For more information on the Interfaith Living Learning Community at Sutton or the Interfaith Club (you do not have to live on campus to join the Interfaith Club), visit [rollins.edu/multiculturalaffairs](http://rollins.edu/multiculturalaffairs) or email Althea Miller at [amiller@rollins.edu](mailto:amiller@rollins.edu).

## La Ville de l'Amour

Eliza Smithwick  
The Sandspur

*Tick tock, tick tock...*

This sound encapsulated my thoughts, my brain, my dreams around this time last year. The process of studying abroad is one that certainly absorbs time and energy as well as creating nerves. As I look around and see other friends and students completing the seemingly endless forms, I feel their pain. The pain of not knowing where to go, how to apply, who to talk to... the endless questions that pile up more quickly than expected.

As I see their stressed and anxious faces, I want to tell them to stick with it, to not give up. I promise that the memories and stories that I have now gained after my semester in Paris, France, were worth every second of stress and confusion that I experienced while finding the place and program that was right for me.

As the deadline approached, I knew I had to buckle down and make a game time decision. I had to dedicate myself to one specific program. I remember feeling as if the walls were closing in on me. It felt like I was not making this decision based on my aspirations or my dreams but for other people that I felt the need to please. My mom, who also went on the Rollins Program that Rollins uses, wanted nothing more than for me to follow in her footsteps, but that was not my dream; it was hers.

I knew that I wanted to go independently of Rollins, but I was unsure which program would be right for me. With the pressure from my parents to apply somewhere with extensive language courses, and my advisor telling me that I needed to take courses that could work for my CMC major, I felt that no matter what choice I made it would be wrong to someone.

I remember taking a step back and thinking to myself that I needed to do this for me. As much as I wanted to please my parents and professors, I needed to be selfish at this point and think about what I wanted. I craved to explore not only Paris, but also myself, in a place away from the comfort of my home, friends and family.

I came to discover that there would be no other time in my life to embrace an opportunity such as this. This was the only time where I would not be committed to a 9-5 job, pursuing a career, paying rent, finding a life partner, or raising a family. This was my time, with no strings attached, and I needed to take full advantage of it.

This was the moment when I clicked "submit" on my CMC Paris application for the fall of 2011. It was not until about a month later that I received my acceptance letter and realized that this was real. It hit me after a short hot summer, I would be packing up for four months to live in a foreign country away from everything that was familiar. Before I knew it, I was on my flight to Paris, "La Ville de l'Amour."



Steven Penaranda  
Jamie Pizzi  
David Matteson  
Columnists

## the Sexperts

Porn stars, Preggos, and Prudes, one of the more risqué courses offered at Rollins, served as the founding inspiration for this column. Biweekly, we will tackle scandalous issues, deliver relationship advice, and spice up the 'Spur.

From threesomes to long-distance relationships, the Sexperts will gather information from across the campus and within our own lives. Each issue, one of us will offer advice and opinions on a different topic. Of course, we each have our own biases concerning sex and relationships, and these partialities will surely surface within our writing. This week, Steven explains the ins and outs of a popular raunchy texting trend. Enjoy, and keep reading.

### To Sext or Not to Sext?

Steven Penaranda  
The Sandspur

For my debut article as a Sexpert, I figured I would delve into the realm of sexting: the act of sending text messages containing pictures of one's naked body. I guess it's cheaper and more personal than just googling "Jake Gyllenhaal Naked," but let's be real: It's kind of a bad idea. Actually, it's a horrible idea.

First of all, sexting dispels any mystique that you may have had before you decided to release your nude body into the expansive plane of cyberspace. As soon as your nudes get out, you just are not very exciting anymore. People won't say, "Oh, I wonder what Bob looks like under that polo." Instead, it'll be more like, "Yeah, I've seen Bob with his shirt off. And I've seen his penis. It was whatever." The day Bob sent those nudes, his sexiness died.

That brings me now to discuss the ease with which one's nudes can be distributed. It takes about three seconds to send a sext message, and it takes just a couple more seconds for the recipient to send it to all his or her hormonal friends. Now instead of being intimate, your boobs have been incorporated into dozens of boys' nudie cell phone libraries. Not cute.

I would also like to call your attention to the ever-increasing number of websites whose sole purpose is to humiliate people by posting embarrassing nudes from anonymous donors. So all those hot texts you sent to your ex-girlfriend could very well be on isanyoneup.com as a source of laughter for millions.

Despite my abundance of warnings, I am sure there are plenty of you reading this who

will continue with the habit of sexting. So, as a Sexpert, it is my duty to share with you Steven's Safe Sexting Strategies. The SSSSs aren't flawless, but they are undoubtedly helpful. Remember: abstinence is 100 percent effective.

The first and most important precaution is to hide your face. It's not that hard. Besides, what kind of face are you supposed to make when you're naked, anyway? By cropping out your countenance, you get one step closer to anonymity. So if anyone tries to pin you with those nudes, you can reply with a cool, "Prove it."

Often, however, hiding your face is not enough. The next step is to conceal any unique tattoos, piercings, or birthmarks. And I'm not telling you to cake foundation onto that weird mole on your hip, just take a quarter turn to make sure it isn't obvious. Remaining mysterious is key. It also keeps your recipient wanting more, which really is the goal, isn't it? What's the point of sexting if you don't plan on sexing? Unless, of course, you happen to be an exhibitionist.

Steven's final strategy is to simply make your picture look good. If you insist on sexting, sext your best. If you make sure your nudes are hot, then at least you won't have to worry about people laughing at them. So tuck in those rolls, contort your body, and make sure you show the world your best side. If anything, maybe you'll become the next Kim Kardashian!

In summation, sexting is silly, but if you must, do it with the advice of this Sexpert in mind.

► "Like" The Sandspur Sexperts on Facebook for more spicy tidbits

## Has the NBA Forgotten the Fan?

Nick Tucciarelli  
The Sandspur

I'm an Indiana native. I grew up shooting baskets on barn sides in gravel driveways alongside mellow gold cornfields. I learned to love the Boilermakers and to hate the Hoosiers. I played Nerf basketball in my bedroom and my brother and I had dunk contests in our living room. I could pull off the nastiest tomahawk jam of any 5-year-old. I was a basketball junkie. When I moved to Orlando, the Magic became my team.

I've been a Magic fan since the days of Anthony Bowie, Terry Catledge and Greg Kite. Those were not very good days to be a Magic fan. But then Orlando won the lottery, brought Shaq to town, and everything changed. There was a buzz around the "Orena" and soon we had a team of Anfernee Hardaway, Nick Anderson, Dennis Scott, Horace Grant and The Diesel. We had one of the best and most exciting teams in the NBA. Going to games became an event and watching them was a ritual. As a kid, I loved the NBA and my Orlando Magic.

Times have changed since those boyhood days. The NBA is still here, bigger and louder than ever. It seems like every year another arena is being built. If a player isn't happy he can demand a trade and his wish will probably be granted. When trades are agreed on, the commissioner has shown he will pull a veto when he sees fit. Players tweet rappers and play for Russian presidential candidates. LeBron James goes on ESPN to let the world know of his decision to leave

and humiliate his hometown Cleveland Cavaliers. Players like Dwight Howard of our own Magic complain about not being in a big enough market and publicly demand to be traded. He's the leading vote-getter in this year's All-Star game with 1,600,390 votes. That's more than Kobe Bryant (Los Angeles), Derrick Rose (Chicago) and LeBron James (Miami).

The NBA does not make much sense anymore and neither does Howard. He'll probably leave town, just like Shaq did, and us fans will be back to cheering for a terrible team. But before he goes, we have an All-Star game to watch. It's in Orlando this year and Magic fans are excited about it. But we can't go. Not because we have to work or study. Nope. It's because the ticket prices are for the rich and famous and we ain't rich and famous. At least not many of us.

The NBA hates the everyday fan. I'm convinced of this. Upper bowl tickets start at \$500 a pop. If you want to get a closer look, prepare to drop close to seven bills for a lower bowl seat. If you're a season ticket holder, you only get the opportunity to buy a ticket if your name gets pulled in their lottery system. Most of the allotment of tickets are going to celebrities instead of the fans.

You know what? Fuck you, NBA. You can take your astronomical ticket prices and your unappreciative players and stick it where the colonoscopy pipe goes. Then you will feel like all of us fans.

The NBA was something I loved as a kid. Something I couldn't get enough of. Now, I'm not sure what it is. The NBA: something that I used to know.

## SATIRE

### No School Spirit, No School

M. Olivia Matthews  
The Sandspur

In a recent decision made by Rollins College administration, students caught wearing merchandise from other schools will be booted off campus. This was decided after a group of students attended a men's soccer game wearing University of Florida, Florida State, and University of Miami attire.

"I'm fed up! I don't get it," ranted President Lewis Duncan. "Why not wear a Rollins shirt? If you can pay 20 bucks for a Gators shirt at the mall, you can definitely walk over to the bookstore and buy a similar Rollins shirt for \$40."

In contrast, students do not see the issue in wearing another school's colors. Gordon Tate '12, one of 200 students expelled last week, said, "Why is it such a big deal? Rollins practices individuality and diversity. I'm so proud that I go to such an amazing institution. That's why I was comfortable wearing my FSU hoodie to class every

morning."

To enforce the new policy, Campus Safety has set up booths in front of the Campus Center to examine every student not donning royal blue and gold. If students are caught in another university's clothing, they will be sent away to their vacation home in Boca Raton or the Hamptons. The administration says if the matter worsens, Rollins will begin a uniform policy effective as soon as late spring semester 2012. It will include sailor outfits similar to that of Tommy Tar.

As a sign of protest against the policy, undergrads are planning to dress up as Seminoles, gators, and ibises at an undisclosed time next week. "We're putting our First Amendment rights to use. I'm allowed to wear whatever shirt I want. They should be glad I don't show up naked every day," said Renee Green '14.

When asked if anyone would dress as a knight, Green responded, "Now that's just disrespectful."



The Sandspur

Florida's Oldest College Newspaper

Established in 1894 with the following editorial:

"Unassuming yet almighty sharp, and pointed, well rounded yet many sided, assiduously tenacious, victorious in single combat, and therefore without a peer, wonderfully attractive and extensive in circulation; all these will be found upon investigation to be among the extraordinary qualities of The Sandspur."

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The Sandspur Editorial Staff extends an invitation to all readers to attend weekly article assignment meetings every Monday at 5:30 p.m. and sign up to submit letters and articles. In order for a letter to be considered for publication, it must include the name of the author and be 400 to 700 words in length.

In considering a submission for publication, The Sandspur reserves the right to edit letters and articles.

Please send all submissions to submit@thesandspur.org. All submissions must be received no later than 5 p.m. on the Friday prior to publication.

The Sandspur  
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# 2012 WINNERS

## BEST PICTURE



### "LOSING OUR HEADS"

FEATURING: CHASE JENNINGS, BEN ZITSMAN, CLARK SPRINKEL, BRANDON SOLLINS, & LORA LEVISON

## BEST DRAMA



### "THE NECKLACE"

DIRECTOR: CLEMENTINE LEGER  
FILMED BY: BILLY YATES

## BEST COMEDY



### "WHAT MY GRANDFATHER LEFT US"

FEATURING: RYAN LAMBERT, BRIAN HATCH, CHELSEA SWEARINGEN & CHRISTIAN KEBBEL

## BEST ACTOR



### JOHN SMITH in "STAGE 4"

## BEST ACTRESS



### ALEXIS RILEY in "THE FRESHMAN 50"

Missed this year's MovieFest?  
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FILM SCREEN SHOTS COURTESY OF CAMPUSMOVIEFEST.COM

# 44 TEAMS



1.

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3.

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SILVER SCREEN STARS: 1. Brandon Sollins, Chase Jennings '12 and Lora Levison '14 take home the award for Best Picture. 2. Christian Kebbel '12 accepts the award on behalf of Ryan Lambert '13 for Best Comedy. 3. Billy Yates '12 and Alexis Riley '12 accept the award for Best Actress. They are wearing new t-shirts professing their award-winning film.

# CAMPUS MOVIEFEST

THE WORLD'S LARGEST STUDENT FILM FESTIVAL

CMFO

## 6, 7 DAYS, 1 WINNER

RAGHABENDRA KC



**Camilo Garzon & Michelle Preston**  
The Sandspur

Magic exists in both life and in movies, and that is what the 11th annual Campus MovieFest (CMF) was all about. This year's event marked its seventh consecutive year at Rollins. The festival, which was created by four Emory University students, has been established as the world's largest student film festival and as a cornerstone for the new prospects of our generation in the filmmaking industry.

CMF was a free opportunity in which anyone, including staff, students and faculty, could produce a short film with the free equipment kit, which included a MacBook Pro (with Final Cut and iMovie) or an iPad 2, and a Panasonic HD camcorder. Shotgun microphones were also available for use if needed. The only rules were that each short film had to be five minutes or less, the team captain and all the crew members needed to be affiliated with Rollins (although actors could have been outside collaborators), and they had to be credited appropriately in the movie workbook.

The technicalities were simple: sign up through the CMF website and collect the movie kit to start the week-long filmmaking journey from Tuesday, Feb. 7 to Monday, Feb. 13. Rep Tar and the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership promoted the event, while some Rollins students helped to promote, table, market, take pictures, and set up logistics, including the inauguration in Dave's Down Under. Other students, including CMC majors and film studies minors, made films.

Holt Student Alex Martinez attended the event. "I wanted to support my friends and to see what it was all about," she said. One friend, Michael Gallace '13, directed "Daisies" and "The Freshman Fifty," both of which made it into the Top 16 Films that were shown at CMF. The films showcased a diverse mix of social commentary, comedy, drama and activism. Movies on stereotypes, women in politics, and hunger in the local area were all finalists.

On Feb. 16, the movies were judged at the CMF finale in the Alford Sports Center, where students, faculty and staff rated them according to criteria such as creativity and originality.

"The Necklace," a film about a small child and her mother, won Best Drama while "What my Grandfather Left Us" won Best Comedy. The winner of the Best Picture award, "Losing Our Heads," utilized clever costuming, lights and, most interestingly, a green screen. When participants went up to accept their award, one of the actors laughed, saying, "I did this the night before it was due."

CMF is an opportunity students should look out for and take advantage of every year because, as organizer Diane Payes said, "Who knows? Maybe you're seeing the next Steven Spielberg!"

“My favorite part was sitting in sand, whining and then getting adulation for it. If this is how the movie business works, I'm going to be a star. —Ben Zitsman '13

I loved the script and the idea. My favorite aspect of the story was peeling that orange all in one peel. That was really unique and memorable. —Christian Kebbel '12

The designated movie-making week sets time aside in our busy lives to do something fun and creative that most people wouldn't normally do. —Michael Gallace '13

## Evolution of The Shins



MIKE MANTIN

A KICK IN THE SHINS: The New Mexican band has had an eclectic style for 15 years.

**Ben Zitsman**  
The Sandspur

Natalie Portman was wrong. In Garden State, when she lowered a pair of headphones on to Zach Braff's head and told him, "This song will change your life,"—she was wrong. The song was "New Slang," by Portland, Oregon based band The Shins, and The Shins were not in the business of changing lives.

This was 2004. The Shins had spent the past three years writing concise, melancholic pop songs and also happened to be completely relentless: their stuff all but demanded to be sung alone, in the car—it was that catchy. On the band's debut single, 2001's "Caring is Creepy," singer/songwriter James Mercer instructed listeners thusly: "Hold your glass eye. Hold it in." No one who heard the song knew what the hell he meant by this. Everyone who heard it sang along anyway.

People compared The Shins to The Byrds because both groups love using reverb, and to The Doors because both groups employed an organist. Most times, they sounded like neither: the band had created a unique sound for itself—shimmering and ethereal, bright and sad. By the time Garden State was released, The Shins had released two albums of unassuming, idiosyncratic pop. Both were very strong. Neither was life changing. Then Natalie screwed everything up.

Thanks to the movie, The Shins got popular. Listeners flocked to the band, their expectations understandably high. The band retreated to the studio, and got to work writing an album expansive enough to fulfill those expectations. In 2007, that album was released: it was called Wincing the Night Away. It was an arena rock album.

A prescient move, if you think about it: Wincing debuted at #2 on the Billboard Top 200, and sold 118,000 copies in its first week—The Shins had written songs big enough to fill arenas because, suddenly, they were big enough to fill arenas. They sounded life changing, or at least weighty enough to be up to the task. The only problem is that they weren't very good. They sounded bloated, and almost somnambulistic—a haze of fuzzed-out bass and epicene crooning. Nobody liked the album. That included The Shins.

The band's new LP—Port

of Morrow, out March 20th on Aural Apothecary/Columbia Records—is intended as a disavowal of their arena rock flirtation: a back-to-basics album that is simple, unadorned, and raw. How simple? Its lead single is called "Simple Song." And it is, indeed, a simple song.

The rhythm section is the first thing you notice: they seem to be playing The Ronettes' "Be My Baby"—that is, playing one of the most elemental beats in all rock 'n' roll. The drums are crashing and insipid; they sound almost militaristic: one kind of suspects that, when the group fired drummer Jesse Gonzalez in 2009, they accidentally hired a drum major to replace him. I felt compelled to write Mercer and explain the difference between the two.

Speaking of Mercer: His voice is stronger on "Simple Song"—on all of Morrow, really—than it has ever been before. Gone is the whispery falsetto of past Shins' albums; now, his voice is a piercing, assertive tenor. Too bad he is using it to sing platitudes. Lyrically, Morrow marks a low point for Mercer's songwriting. "This is just a simple song," he sings, "to say what you done." Oh, OK—I appreciate your letting me know, man. This is uninspired, unsophisticated music, though it sounds cheerful enough: the overall effect is that of being bludgeoned by an overstuffed pillow.

Take album opener, "The Rifle's Spiral": the band is tighter than it has been on any previous Shins song—the rhythm section plays with a confidence it has never before attained, the guitars chime like church bells, and Mercer's voice leaps into a high register he has only ever toyed with, but never embraced. They are in their prime. The song itself, though, is utterly forgettable. I have heard it fifteen times already, and I still have trouble remembering the chorus. It, like all of Port of Morrow, is very simple.

A back-to-basics album: Port of Morrow is supposed to be one, but it is actually a departure. Its songs are brutal, ham-fisted, and artless—things The Shins never were before. This is as far from early tracks like "Caring is Creepy" as the band has ever been before. The Shins have stopped trying to change lives, but I wish they would start again. Too much ambition is always better than too little.

## New Sound for Returning Alcest

**Vernon Meigs**  
The Sandspur

If you take ethereal shoegazing music such as that of the Cocteau Twins and My Bloody Valentine and combine that with the aural magnitude of black metal and extreme metal such as Dimmu Borgir and Emperor, you will get the band Alcest from Bagnols-sur-Cèze, France.

Originally starting out as a black metal outfit of the raw and aggressive variety, Alcest mastermind Neige took the band in a new direction that was atmospheric and uplifting. The clean sound became a key feature to Alcest's sound, alongside the distorted guitars and drums, together coalescing into a form of heavy ambience. Although Alcest's songs and instrumentals are geared towards a lighter, contemplative mood commonly found in the shoegaze and post-rock genres, one can deduce that their black metal roots still show, as screeches and blast beats are incorporated in segments of their music.

Alcest released their third album, *Les Voyages de l'Âme*,

on Jan. 6 of this year. This album is certainly a continuation of the sound that made them distinctive, however the songs and instrumentation seem to be the most structured and the most confident that Alcest have ever sounded.

In *Les Voyages de l'Âme* however, every song projects the feeling of a complete entity, and better songs were being written and performed after they have established their sound in the past two albums. It is as if Alcest knew that they had nothing more to prove in terms of what their sound is about, and began engaging in more elaborate songs using their musical textures. The songs flow very nicely and although the tempos usually don't vary (the drum beats, however, can vary in speed in a surprisingly organic fashion) the listener is drawn to the experience and is never bored.

An interesting aspect of this album in contrast to their earlier work is that some of the influences from their black metal past shine through more as well. Songs like "Là où Naissent les Couleurs Nouvelles" and "Faiseurs de

Mondes" incorporate harsh screams instead of the clean, hazy vocals normally used by Neige. The instrumental "Beings of Light" uses fast blast beats and fast guitars one could find in a typical black metal song and yet is done in a way that contemplates the harmonious melody prevalent in the song. It is commendable that Alcest's use of repetition serves to their advantage instead of disinteresting the listener.

There are no shortages of ambience, clean melodies, atmosphere, or heavy rock in this recording. It is impossible to point out any flaws as artistically everything on this album is meticulously constructed and it is senseless to desire changes to the final product. A fan of shoegaze and atmospheric music would relish in this band and a fan of hard rock or metal could certainly appreciate the rhythms, melodies, and instrumentation. *Les Voyages de l'Âme* is recommended for any lover of clean shoegaze, or experimental post-rock, any lover of rock and metal, or anyone curious of the heavier, ethereal side of the French music underground.

## WPRK Comes Alive! at Hard Rock

**Lauren Silvestri**  
The Sandspur

On Saturday, Feb. 11, 91.5 WPRK, Rollins College's FM radio station, hosted another one of its WPRK Comes Alive! events, this time held at the Hard Rock Live. WPRK tries to organize a Comes Alive! event a few times per semester to present the Rollins and outer Orlando community with the latest and greatest in local music. With most tickets costing fewer than ten dollars at some of the best venues in Orlando such as the Hard Rock Live and House of Blues, Comes Alive! events are an offer that is difficult to pass up.

Promotions Director and Holt student Rob Soviero played a huge part in organizing the entire night. "A promotional event like this is important for WPRK because it gives WPRK a chance to leave the basement and broadcast live from a world renown[ed] venue such as Hard Rock Live," he says. This was the first time WPRK broadcasted live from one of their Comes Alive! events. He continues, "It's equally as important for us being Rollins students, because it gives us a chance to sharpen our event planning and organizational skills, and we learn so much."

WPRK DJ Whitney Costner introduced all the bands

along with some of the WPRK staff members, and The Bash Brothers Rock Block opened the night. The Bash Brothers consist of actual brothers Jonathon '12 and Peter Fasano '14, along with David Incorvaia and Spencer Bloor. The Bash Brothers host a weekly show on WPRK dedicated to hard rock, and they certainly brought that sound to their set on Saturday. Not only did they play some fun WPRK jingles that they created, but they also played some original material and covers of Paul Simon, Creedence Clearwater Revival, and The Toadies.

Peter Fasano expressed his enthusiasm to me after the concert. "Playing at the Hard Rock was awesome, and we are so thankful that WPRK gave us the opportunity to play," he said. "The sound you get on that stage is huge, the monitors are blaring, the music on stage, bliss. Spencer, Jon, and David all shredded and melted some faces. It was a great experience and we thank you all who came out."

The Dropa Stone came on next and played a more chill rock sound. Their minutes-long instrumental breakouts reminded me of a so-called "jam band." They broke out of that rhythm, however, to play a striking cover of the Led Zeppelin classic "Kashmir." Mad Sexual Genius followed

which brought out a good crowd. Their rap and soul infused funk sound was something new to my ears, and the entire band radiated great energy from the audience and had a solid stage presence.

Ratham Stone ended the night and put on an impressive production. They have an eclectic sound that they call a "combination of indie, punk, and rock with some blues." The highlight of their performance for me was their rendition of Foster the People's "Pumped Up Kicks."

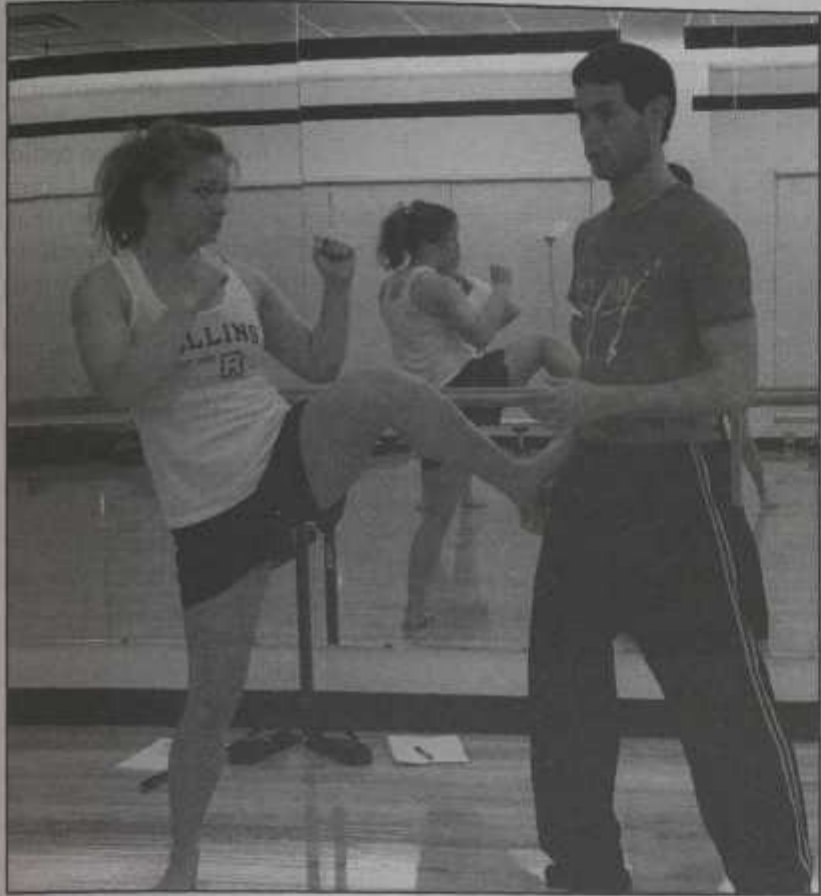
Overall, the Comes Alive! event was another success for WPRK. The variety of bands that played left everyone in the audience satisfied. Saabira Mohamed '14, Concert Coordinator for WPRK, really helped out at the event and also enjoyed herself. "Our Hard Rock Live event was an amazing opportunity to connect the community with WPRK. We showcased amazing local talent at a huge Orlando venue. Comes Alive! was truly an event to behold and an impressive feat for a student organization to pull off. There will be plenty more Comes Alive! shows in the future and they will be bigger and better each time..." she said. Stay tuned for upcoming events from WPRK, including our HUGE 60th anniversary party later this semester!



STOCK.XCH/RS

- 1 Sigur Ros
- 2 Phantogram
- 3 Black Keys
- 4 Casiokids
- 5 Charles Bradley
- 6 Gorillaz
- 7 Guided By Voices
- 8 Oneohtrix Point Never
- 9 Rockets
- 10 St. Vincent

# Rollins Learns How to Defend Itself



PATRICK SMITH

**RIGHT HOOK:** (above) Patrick Smith '15 illustrates the proper way to defend your body during a recent self defense club meeting.

**A LOOK AT DESTINY:** (top) Britt Edlund '15 helps instructor Smith in demonstrating the proper technique to repel an assailant with her legs.

**Robert Salmeron**  
The Sandspur

The fear of going down a dark alley and finding someone unknown waiting for you at the end of it may be inevitable. However, Rollins College is debuting a new organization that potentially wipes this fear away. Patrick Smith '15 is the instructor for this new group. Smith is a third-degree black belt with 14 years of tae kwon do experience and five years of teaching experience.

"As one of the smallest kids in my school, I had to face bullying quite a bit," said Smith. "In order to combat that, my parents put me in tae kwon do to learn how to protect myself."

According to U.S. News & World Report, Orlando currently ranks as the third most dangerous city in the U.S. It has implemented a system of surveillance around the city

to combat this. Nonetheless, the risk of sexual assault is increasingly high on college campuses. According to the New York State Coalition Against Sexual Abuse, one in four college women will be the victims of a sexual assault during their academic careers.

"I started this club in order to try and help others," said Smith. "I know too many people who have been hurt. I want to try and prevent it."

The classes are a mix of fitness and martial arts self-defense. They involve learning how to defend yourself in particular situations, such as being put against a wall, or threatened on a club dance floor.

The classes take place in the dance studio in the Alford Sports Center every Sunday at 3 p.m. If you are interested in joining the club, contact Patrick Smith at [pjsmith1@rollins.edu](mailto:pjsmith1@rollins.edu).

## From Classroom to Court



ROLLINS5SPORTS.COM

**EYE ON THE BALL:** Sarah Blackburn '14 passes the ball to a fellow teammate in a recent women's basketball game. While her heart lies in basketball, Blackburn's accomplishments do not end when she steps off the court.

**Kayla Shoener**  
The Sandspur

At 20 years old and standing 5'10", Sarah Blackburn '14 has already accomplished two outstanding seasons in her career on the Rollins women's basketball team.

Starting with a break-out first year, Blackburn played in all 29 games last season while averaging 8.2 points per game. This not only put her on the Sunshine State Conference All-Freshman Team, but also earned her a spot on both the Rollins Athletic Director and Sunshine State Conference Honor Rolls. She maintains the trend this season as she continues to play as a guard, and she has set a personal best record, scoring 16 points in a game. But this outstanding leadership is not new for Blackburn.

She was a four-year letter winner and All-State honoree at Bishop Moore High School in Orlando, where she led the Hornets to the State Final Four all four years. She finished her

senior year at the top, when she was named All-State, District Player of the Year and team MVP, and she ranked second in the *Orlando Sentinel's* "Top Senior Girls' Basketball Players of 2010." These accomplishments led to her full athletic scholarship to play at Rollins today.

Blackburn's love for basketball started at a young age. She began playing in kindergarten and was encouraged by her two older brothers, Kyle and Brian, who also play basketball. The Blackburn family, which enthusiastically supports the Orlando Magic and holds season tickets to the Magic games, even has an in-home practice basketball court in the garage.

Clearly, her family is a major support system for her basketball career. Her father was her first basketball coach and her mother continues to attend every one of Blackburn's games, including away games. Blackburn said that the support

of family and friends is what keeps her most motivated and playing her best.

Being on the women's basketball team has changed her Rollins experience. She has learned how to manage her busy schedule as an elementary education major with two-hour practices six days a week. It has also helped her meet a great group of friends.

Whether it is going to dinner as a team or praying before a game together, she knows she can always count on them. Her favorite part of being on the team is the excitement of the game. She loves playing against Rollins rivals Florida Southern and Tampa, both of which the team has succeeded in beating.

The team's current record for this season is 18-3, and Blackburn hopes to finish the season strongly. She is looking forward to the next two seasons of her career at Rollins and hopes to gain more support from students to come cheer on our women's basketball team.

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# And the Oscar Goes to...

**David Matteson**  
The Sandspur

Hosted by Billy Crystal, the 2012 *Academy Awards* will take place Feb. 26 in the Kodak Theatre in Los Angeles.

The Oscars are the climax of the motion picture industry's awards season. Celebrating its 84th anniversary, the ceremony has a prestigious reputation to live up to.

This year's nominees represent a diversity of film and cinema. From

movies such as *The Artist*, a silent film, to *Hugo*, an animated one, the films up for awards vary greatly. This variety certainly makes the Oscars an appealing ceremony to a vast range of moviegoers.

Of course one of the appeals of the *Academy Awards* is predicting which films will take home the golden statues. Presented here is a list of the top picks per category for the 2012 awards.

Tune into ABC on Sunday at 7 p.m. to see the ceremony. Check [oscars.org](http://oscars.org) for a full list of nominees and coverage.

*The Artist*  
Best Picture

It is rare for a movie to take as many risks as *The Artist*. Not only is the entire film black and white, but the majority is also silent. An homage to cinema of the 1920s, this movie evokes emotions and captures beauty in an outstanding manner.



**George Clooney**

*The Descendants* • Best Performing Actor

Clooney plays the part of father Matt King in this film about loss and parenting. The seasoned actor shows his experience in this emotionally stirring role. Whether the viewer is a parent or not, Clooney's portrayal of King is relatable and gripping. The film and Clooney's acting are certainly noteworthy.



**Viola Davis**

*The Help* • Best Performing Actress

Following her win at the NAACP awards for her performance in *The Help*, Davis is a strong contender in the Oscar race. As a maid in 1960s Mississippi, Davis pulls on the heartstrings of viewers as her character reveals a difficult story of loss and hope. Despite competition from Glenn Close, Davis is guaranteed a win.



**Melissa McCarthy**

*Bridesmaids* • Best Supporting Actress

A comedy rarely receives a nod for an Oscar, but McCarthy's hilarious performance in last summer's *Bridesmaids* makes her a strong contender in the race. Making the viewer laugh and feel awkward, McCarthy shows her skills in this blockbuster romantic comedy.



**Max Von Sydow**

*Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* • Best Supporting Actor

In a difficult film about loss following 9/11, Sydow fulfills a non-speaking but key role in the film. Teaching his young counterpart (played by Thomas Horn) lessons of fearlessness, Sydow shows his seasoned acting skills.

**Michel**

*The Artist* • Best Director

A superior film is only as strong as its direction. This is proven through the outstanding work presented in *The Artist*. Hazanavicius executes a creative vision while directing his actors with skill and prestige. He is a sure win.



all photos (including statue on page 1) compiled from  
THE ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS AND SCIENCES

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 23 thursday

**Chimamanda Adichie: A Master Class**, 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Bush Auditorium

**Paragon School Trip**: 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., meet at Mills Lawn

**Crummer Student Organization and Club Fair**: 11:30 a.m. - 6 p.m., Crummer Hall

### 24 friday

**Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Florida**: 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., meet at Mills Lawn

**Glitter Ball**: 9:30 p.m., Cornell Campus Center

### 25 saturday

**Habitat for Humanity**: 8:45 a.m. - 1 p.m., Mills Lawn

**Men's Lacrosse vs. Florida Tech**: 1 p.m. - 3 p.m., Cahall-Sandspur Field

**Men's Baseball vs. St. Anselm**: 6 p.m. - 9 p.m., Harper Shepherd Field

**The Magnificats**: 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m., Knowles Memorial Chapel

### 26 sunday

**Women's Tennis vs. Nova Southeastern**: Noon - 3 p.m., Tennis Courts

**The Solo Works of J.S. Bach**: 4 p.m. - 6 p.m., Keene Hall (Tiedtke Concert Hall)

**Men's Baseball vs. St. Anselm**: 6 p.m. - 9 p.m., Harper Shepherd Field

### 27 monday

**Rollins College Democrats Meeting**: 3 p.m. - 4 p.m., Cornell Hall for the Social Sciences (Rm. 167)

### 28 tuesday

**Resume Writing Webinar**: 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.

**LinkedIn 101 Webinar**: 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.

**Women's Tennis vs. Brenau University**: 3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., Tennis Courts

**Green Card Stories and the Immigration Experience**: 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m., Bush Auditorium

**Lecture: Bunky Echo-Hawk**: 6 p.m. - 8 p.m., Cornell Fine Arts Museum

**African American Studies Film Showing, Mississippi Masala**: 7 p.m. - 9 p.m., SunTrust Auditorium

**RIP Presents: Cut-To the Left / Right**: 11 p.m., Fred Stone Theatre

### 29 wednesday

**Communication Studies New Major Open House and Ice Cream Social**: 3:30 p.m. - 6 p.m., Galloway Room

**Bunky Echo-Hawk Lecture/Live Art**: 6 p.m. - 8 p.m., SunTrust Auditorium

Want The Sandspur to feature your group's events on our calendar? Email them to [submit@thesandspur.org](mailto:submit@thesandspur.org)



this week's  
**WEATHER**

**THURSDAY**  
HIGH: 86  
LOW: 64  
PARTLY CLOUDY

**FRIDAY**  
HIGH: 87  
LOW: 60  
ISOLATED THUNDERSTORMS

**SATURDAY**  
HIGH: 84  
LOW: 51  
CLOUDY

**SUNDAY**  
HIGH: 73  
LOW: 60  
PARTLY CLOUDY

**MONDAY**  
HIGH: 81  
LOW: 63  
SHOWERS

**TUESDAY**  
HIGH: 81  
LOW: 60  
PARTLY CLOUDY

**WEDNESDAY**  
HIGH: 81  
LOW: 57  
PARTLY CLOUDY