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The Sandspur

R.I.P.
ROLLINS
PLAN

New!
GEN-ED
PROGRAM

DAWN OF THE DEAD GEN-ED.

How the new general education program is a resurrection of the Rollins Plan

By Ben Zitsman
Page 6

Ben



The Sandspur

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College Newspaper

Established in 1894
with the following editorial:

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NEWS

GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM RESTRUCTURED

Welcome to the "neighborhood"

A new general education program will be introduced in Fall 2013, replacing the current "alphabet soup" model.

Emily Kelly

News Editor

Always striving to be a pioneer of innovation, Rollins has designed a new general education curriculum geared towards creating not just graduates, but global citizens. The program will be implemented in Fall 2013, but the process to institute it began seven years ago.

A new general education program was first proposed by the Academic Affairs Committee. According to Mark Anderson, Professor of Mathematics and chair of the committee at the time, a consensus was made that "the faculty was ready to start thinking about a new curriculum."

Surveys were administrated proposing a change and revealed two-thirds of all faculty supported the committee. "It was faculty driven. Administration just facilitated things," Anderson said. Following this, research was conducted on several liberal arts schools focusing on one central question: What should general education look like? Based on the findings of the research, the Rollins Plan was conceived.

Instituted in 2009, the Rollins Plan was a pilot program used to test the findings of the research. Ninety students volunteered for the program and were asked to choose one of two thematic ideas: Revolution or Global Challenges.

The thematic ideas have been referred to as global neighborhoods, stemming from Rollins' mission to build global citizenship and academic communities. Seven interdisciplinary general education courses branched from each of the thematic ideas. The courses covered four basic disciplines: the arts, humanities, natural sciences and social sciences. In addition to the general education courses, students enrolled in the Rollins Plan took both elective courses and courses in their declared major.

Of the 90 students initially enrolled, more than half dropped the pilot program, reverting back to the current general education curriculum. Some students even transferred

from Rollins completely, according to Anderson, who indicated two key weaknesses in the program: scheduling and the limited options for courses.

Due to the Rollins Plan being a pilot program, students were not offered enough choices for classes and class times did not allow much flexibility. This made it difficult for students to fit all of their classes into their schedules. Another issue was that "students coming into the program had already completed some of their [general education requirements]," Anderson said.

"They found it easier to continue the current program than to start up the new one," Anderson admits that "in some sense, the program didn't go that well," but ensures that the new general education curriculum, which is based on the Rollins Plan, has been "tweaked" to fix its initial weaknesses.

As part of the plan for the new curriculum, the number of required general education courses will be reduced from twelve to eight. Included in the eight courses, three will be competency courses, one for each basic discipline: writing, math and foreign language. Students will complete the three competencies during fall semester of freshman year along with their RCC course.

In the spring semester, students will choose from a selection of thematic ideas from which their remaining five general education courses will stem. Choosing a theme, however, differs from choosing a major: the themes are quite broad and students will be able to transfer themes. "An option is even available to take one course in a theme outside of your own, just to explore," Anderson said. "This way, you're not committing yourself too much."

The courses in each theme will be interdisciplinary: social sciences, arts, science, math and humanities will be covered. A final Capstone course will mark the completion of the general education requirements and tie all disciplines together.

Gloria Cook, Associate Professor of Piano and part of the Academic Affairs Committee that initially proposed the

curriculum change, claims that "the new interdisciplinary curriculum will be the flagship of education at Rollins; we will be known for this somewhere."

According to Anderson, the aim of the new curriculum is to "teach students how to integrate knowledge across disciplines and build academic communities." The last time any change was made to the curriculum was in the 1980s when the "alphabet soup" system was implemented. At the time, "the program was cutting edge," said Cook; but as Anderson stated, "Rollins' mission statement has changed since the 1980s. Our curriculum has to change as well."

Currently enrolled students will continue to pursue the "alphabet soup" curriculum, completing the 12 general education requirements along with the 140 credit hours needed to graduate. All general education courses part of the current curriculum will continue to be offered, but will slowly taper off as the new curriculum is implemented in increments.

Current students will take courses separate from incoming students enrolled in the new curriculum. There will, however, be an option for current students to take courses from the new curriculum and count them as electives. However, "incoming students actually enrolled in the new curriculum will have first priority" explained Anderson.

Cook expressed her concerns about scheduling for current students: because professors and classroom spaces have to be allotted to accommodate both curriculums for the next three years, "there may eventually be fewer classes for current students to choose from," creating some scheduling issues.

Cook explains that "this is a logistic that [Rollins] will have to work out." According to Debra Wellman, Dean of Arts and Sciences, "Nobody is not going to graduate" because of scheduling issues. Students in the current curriculum who have general education requirements to complete will be monitored to ensure the courses they have left to take will not be tapered off before they complete them.

Grants to fund the transition into the new curriculum are in the process of being sought out. According to Anderson, money will be needed to "send faculty to retraining programs so they can learn how to teach interdisciplinary courses." Anderson ensures, though, that "the transition is not a huge expense. It will only cost a few hundred thousand dollars."

Despite the number of required credit hours being reduced from 140 to 128, the cost of tuition will not decrease. Steve Booker, Director of Financial Aid, justified this by explaining that "students don't have a limitation on the number of courses that they can take."

Some institutions charge students a fee for courses beyond the required amount. Rollins does not. However, this fee-less system has already been in place with the current curriculum requiring 140 credit hours. Reducing the number of required credit hours will, according to a document labeled Institutional Planning: Consolidated Planning Priorities, "utilize cost savings."

This document was distributed to faculty during their most recent meeting; Wellman agrees this reduction will be "budget relieving."

BY THE NUMBERS

30 years ago was the last time changes to the gen. ed. requirement were made

128 credit hours will be amount required to graduate

84 percent retention rate, which increased from 81%

3 years ago Rollins did not meet its enrollment quota, causing fiscal strain and education cutbacks

Numbers compiled from interviews conducted on Sept. 22, 2012.

Romney remark reflects his own entitlement

Scott Novak

Staff Writer

According to Mitt Romney, roughly half of the American population does not matter.

In a private \$50,000 per person fundraiser this past May, Romney asserted that "there are 47 percent of the people

who will vote for the president no matter what. All right, there are 47 percent who are with him, who are dependent upon government, who believe that they are victims, who believe the government has a responsibility

to care for them, who believe that they are entitled to health care, to food, to housing, to you-name-it...these are people who pay no income tax."

Romney then continued to say, "My job is not to worry about those people. I'll never convince them they should take personal responsibility and care for their lives."

Romney's remarks expose a goldmine of problems about this presidential candidate, but at least he has got some of his

facts straight. Data from the Tax Policy Center shows that in 2011, 46.4 percent of American households paid no federal income tax.

But just because some people do not pay income tax does not mean they are exempt from paying any taxes at all. The data from the Tax Policy Center also states that almost two-thirds of households that paid no income tax did pay payroll taxes, and that most people also pay state, local, sales, gas and property taxes.

- Mitt Romney

The most obvious falsity in Romney's statement is that this 47 percent of Americans will vote for Obama. One of the demographic groups less likely to pay income taxes but more likely to vote Republican are people over the age of 65. In 2008, voters age 65 and over voted for Republican nominee John McCain over President Obama 53 percent to 45 percent. A CBS News/New York Times poll also shows that Romney has obtained the national support of these voters. Fifty-three percent of voters



Photo Courtesy of Wikipedia

65 and older support Romney, while only 38 percent support Obama.

Romney is calling his elderly fans a bunch of moochers. You would think that after paying into Social Security and Medicare for decades, you would indeed be entitled to them.

Perhaps I'm being a bit unfair. Hopefully Romney wasn't thinking about the elderly when he made his remarks. He also, hopefully, wasn't thinking about American soldiers, who do not pay federal income tax while in combat zones and rely on numerous government benefits when they come home.

Instead, Romney was probably thinking what most Republicans are thinking when they talk about people getting free handouts: the poor. At their most basic level, Romney's comments illustrate the ever-popular conservative idea of the laziness of the impoverished. Benefiting from loopholes in the tax code becomes a mortal sin—a sin of which Romney himself is guilty.

In 2010, Romney had an adjusted gross income of \$21.6 million. Without the loopholes in the tax code concerning the preferential treatment of investors, Romney would have paid

\$7.56 million in taxes. Instead, he only paid \$3 million, thereby enjoying a lower income tax rate than the entire working class. Actually, at an income tax rate of roughly 13 percent, Romney has a tax rate that is lower than the poorest fifth of American households. These households paid a 16 percent of their total incomes in combined federal, state and local taxes, and the second poorest fifth paid 21 percent.

Yet somehow, Romney and his fellow millionaires cast themselves to be victims of the tax code, even while embracing the government benefits they so decry.

High Fives of the Week

1. Place to grab lunch

Powerhouse

All you need is a cigarette and a smoothie to suppress your hunger all day. Or if eating is necessary, try the Powerhouse Fuel - the best PB&J in Winter Park.



David Matteson

2. Our most played

DJ VIVIDO SUGGESTS:

With a bold undertaking involving featured artists by the names of Gerard Way, Imogen Heap, Cypress Hill and Wolfgang Gartner, EDM rockstar, Deadmau5, has released his brand new album entitled, >album title goes here<. (Really. That's what it's called.) Never allowing the industry to conform his sound, Deadmau5 has concocted an album consisting of heavy, grinding electro instilled in "Professional Grieffers" to more progressive, melodically influenced sounds in his collaboration with Chris James, "The Veldt". While one of the more original artists of the electronic scene, Deadmau5 has proven his fundamental place as one of the better EDM artists in today's globally commercializing electronic music movement.



Melanie Weitzner

4. Starbucks drink we're craving

"Awake" tea from Tazo

As midterms quickly approach, "Awake" will help you stay focused and get the grade you want without the jitters of coffee.

3. Happy Hour choice

Gin & Tonic

The perfect drink is complemented with every type of cigarette: kill your lungs and your liver at the same time.

5. What we're looking forward to

Cooler Weather

Monday's cooler weather was such a tease. Oh, how we wish it was really "fall."

A reflection on faith and fasting

As we get older, our priorities and beliefs change, sometimes causing religious practices to fall to the wayside. Despite her views, Weitzner explains why she's decided to fast on Yom Kippur this year.

Melanie Weitzner

Production Manager

Rule number one about having a Jewish mother: never, ever, say "no." At least to her face.

I made that mistake around this time last year when she asked me if I would be fasting for Yom Kippur. My "no" threw her into a whirlwind of emotions: What kind of daughter had she raised? Did tradition mean nothing to me? Had I forgotten my eight years of Jewish day school education? The worst part was having to just sit and listen to the entire breakdown on the phone. This year, she asked me the same question. I answered yes, but not to avoid Nagging Jewish Mother: Episode II.

I'll be real: I'm not fasting to fulfill the tradition reasons behind it. In Judaism, the Day of Atonement is the holiest day of the year, filled with a lot of praying and a whole lot more

fasting. A full twenty-four hours to be exact. Yom Kippur is supposed to be the day that Jews pray and hope for God to decide whether or not to inscribe their names in the Book of Life. Believe it or not, Catholics aren't the only ones who reflect on and confess their sins. Above all else, Yom Kippur is all about the three R's: repenting, resolving, and reciting.

First, we repent all of our sins, then we resolve how we won't ever permit ourselves to commit them again and finally, we recite Vidui—repentance prayers—an innumerable amount of times throughout the day's five prayer services. If you're a Jew on Yom Kippur and you mean serious business, you'll go all out with the traditions: no eating or drinking, no wearing leather shoes, no bathing or cleansing of any sort, no perfume or lotions and no marital relations. Harsh. The symbolic refraining from these activities is supposed to parallel

the Biblical expulsion from the Garden of Eden and return our souls to a pristine state.

These activities are supposed to make you and your body uncomfortable. They certainly won't kill you for a day, but they still suck. Judaic teachings say that the physical discomfort makes one's soul uncomfortable, allowing for self-reflection and focus.

That's why I told my mother I'd be fasting this year. Not for the uncomfortable part, but for the self-reflection part. I'm

not religious in the sense that I believe God will be watching me all day and determine if I deserve to be in the Book of Life based upon whether or not I have a Buffalo Chicken Salad for lunch.

I do, however, respect the tradition of remembrance that comes with fasting. Fasting makes me remember my connection to thousands of years of culture and history. Fasting allows me to remember my grandmother's story of survival during the Holocaust and the

hunger both she and her family suffered on a daily basis. Fasting reminds me that I'm a lot stronger than I think I am and that will power is something I can cultivate when I set my mind to it.

I'm going to use Yom Kippur as a day of stepping back from my daily routine and reflecting on how fragile the body is, how dependent we are on food and water and to understand the precious resources and abundances we take for granted every day.

More than a statistic: why we're number one

Our eight-year reign holds a deeper meaning for most students. A well rounded education and a faculty of caring professors is what truly makes Rollins number one in the south.

Olivia Matthews

Opinion Editor

For the eighth year in a row, U.S. News and World Report named Rollins College the number one school in the south. In our bracket we received high marks in student-teacher ratio, retention rate and graduation rate. While it is amazing that we have achieved this title yet again, it is a logistical recognition, not a personal one. It reduces us to a number. As students who live and breathe this campus for four years, what makes Rollins number one for us? What makes Rollins special to us?

The professors on campus are a large part of our success. They are not here to make us feel inferior because they have a bunch of titles and degrees. They are not trying to beat us into submission with papers and exams. Our professors do not even want us to agree with them all the time. They want us to excel above and beyond our potential and to come up with our own beliefs. And unlike some overgrown universities, they are able to work with us

one-on-one. "They really care about each individual student as a person instead of a number," says Halston Snell '15.

Our school's being considered the best in the south does not mean the infamous T-word has not crept through some of our minds. The idea of transferring can be daunting and we try to avoid it as much as possible, but upon arriving many are overwhelmed with classes, work and clubs. Others struggle to find their niche or realize what worked in high school does not work well in a college setting. Some bounce between friend groups because they have no clue who they fit in with.

Snell admits, "There was a time where I wasn't bonding with the school. With some students here I felt like an outcast, but recently, as I've gotten more involved, I don't think about transferring." Crysta Vickers '15 also thought about leaving. "At first I thought about leaving because I lived off campus. It was a long commute and I felt as if I wasn't fitting in because I wasn't able to socialize with anyone. No one knew who I was. After my second month at Rollins,

that notion went out the window."

The liberal arts education we have at Rollins is beyond useful. While some parents and politicians would argue it is worthless and a waste of time, I have found that I can apply my well-rounded education to anything I do, and especially in what I plan to do after college. "Everything has been better. I'm getting a narrowed education in what I want to do while having the general education with it. Liberal arts helps develop you as a person," says Vickers.

Ultimately, Rollins is number one because it changes lives for the better. And while no institution is perfect, by taking advantage of all the resources provided to me, I have little to complain about. I get to wake up on a beautiful and sunny campus that basks in summertime almost all school year (those few but always unexpected days of forty degrees can be killer). I attend class with professors who care and truly want what is best for me. I have made friends with people I cannot imagine out of my life. If Rollins is not number one, who is?



POST-FAST FOOD Weitzner contemplates the importance of fasting on Yom Kippur, beyond its religious significance. Her favorite way to break the fast is to indulge in a bagel with lox and cream cheese.

Courtesy of northwestern.edu

Sexpert



David 50 shades of gay

The media bombards us with depictions of gays and lesbians every day, making it hard to separate the real from the ridiculous.

David Matteson
Designer and Columnist

From pansies to lipsticks to queens to jocks, there are a million stereotypes that overwhelmingly shape the relationships between gay and lesbian partners. And if you are reading that first sentence and thinking that because you're straight, this article won't affect you, you are dead wrong. Keep reading, heteros.

We often enter relationships with certain partners based on a society based need. For example, some people have the rule of never dating two levels above or below in terms of looks. That is, if you're a 7, you will only date as high as a 9 and as low as a 5. This has nothing to do with the personality or chemistry one may experience with a date, but has everything to do with how the relationship is perceived through society's eyes.

For gay and lesbian partners, societal expectations as well as stereotypes—especially those generated as homophobic slurs—are ever present. Thus this Sexpert asks, "How does this combination of rules and labels affect gay relationships?" With an arsenal of both gay and straight friends, I set out to find

an answer to this question. Who's the "man" in your relationship? I think every gay cringes when a straight person asks this question. Besides the fact that it is always asked by a seriously ignorant individual, it is entirely disrespectful to the person it is asked of.

However, this is a perfect example of how societal expectations warp gay relationships. Perhaps in a way to "normalize" homosexuality, assigning gender roles makes straight people feel more comfortable. However, it is how these gender roles are assigned that is of interest.

The "who's the man" question was recently posed to me while I was at work by a straight female coworker, Nancy, while standing near a gay coworker, Stuart. To Nancy, the qualities defined by "the man" are based on sexual position, which is the dominating role in sex for "the male" and the receiving role for "the female." However, Stuart told her that he practices both roles, a concept Nancy didn't seem to understand. If sexual position is not declarative, then how does one classify gender roles?

Interestingly, the concept of

assigning gender roles in gay relationships is not restricted to heterosexuals. Gays do it too. Sean, a friend and Rollins student, is always on the hunt for the perfect "man." He defines this role as someone who meets a masculine gender role by wearing a suit to work each day and collecting a large paycheck to support himself and his boyfriend. According to Sean, the perfect man is 6'2", built and has well-defined facial features. Of course, Sean sees himself as being the perfect "girl" for his "strong man."

Sean's adherence to traditional masculine characteristics when looking for a partner is another way to define gender roles. However, this is just as silly as qualifying it by sexual position. The truth is there is no need to assign gender roles, because this is a ridiculous fulfillment of a social stigma. Perhaps when we begin to look at gay and lesbian relationships as simply two men or two women who are in love, society will become more comfortable with them.

Oh, he's such a (fill in stereotype here). Step into a gay bar on any given night and you

will be able to find every stereotype that exists for gay people. From twinks (skinny, feminine, younger men) to bears (burly, hairy, older guys) to jocks

“Perhaps when we begin to look at gay and lesbian relationships as simply two men or two women who are in love, society will become more comfortable with them.”

(toned and masculine; usually arrogant) to queens (older, flamboyant gay men) to guys on the DL (look straight, claim straight, sleep with guys) to bitter lesbos (usually have short hair and a gay friend sidekick) to lipsticks (a lesbian who wears make-up; shocker) to party girls (they will sleep with any gender), they are all present and accounted for. The saddest part of these stereotypes is not their existence, but the lengths people go to in order to fulfill a stereotype.

For example, my friend Richard was skinny all throughout high school. Of course, most

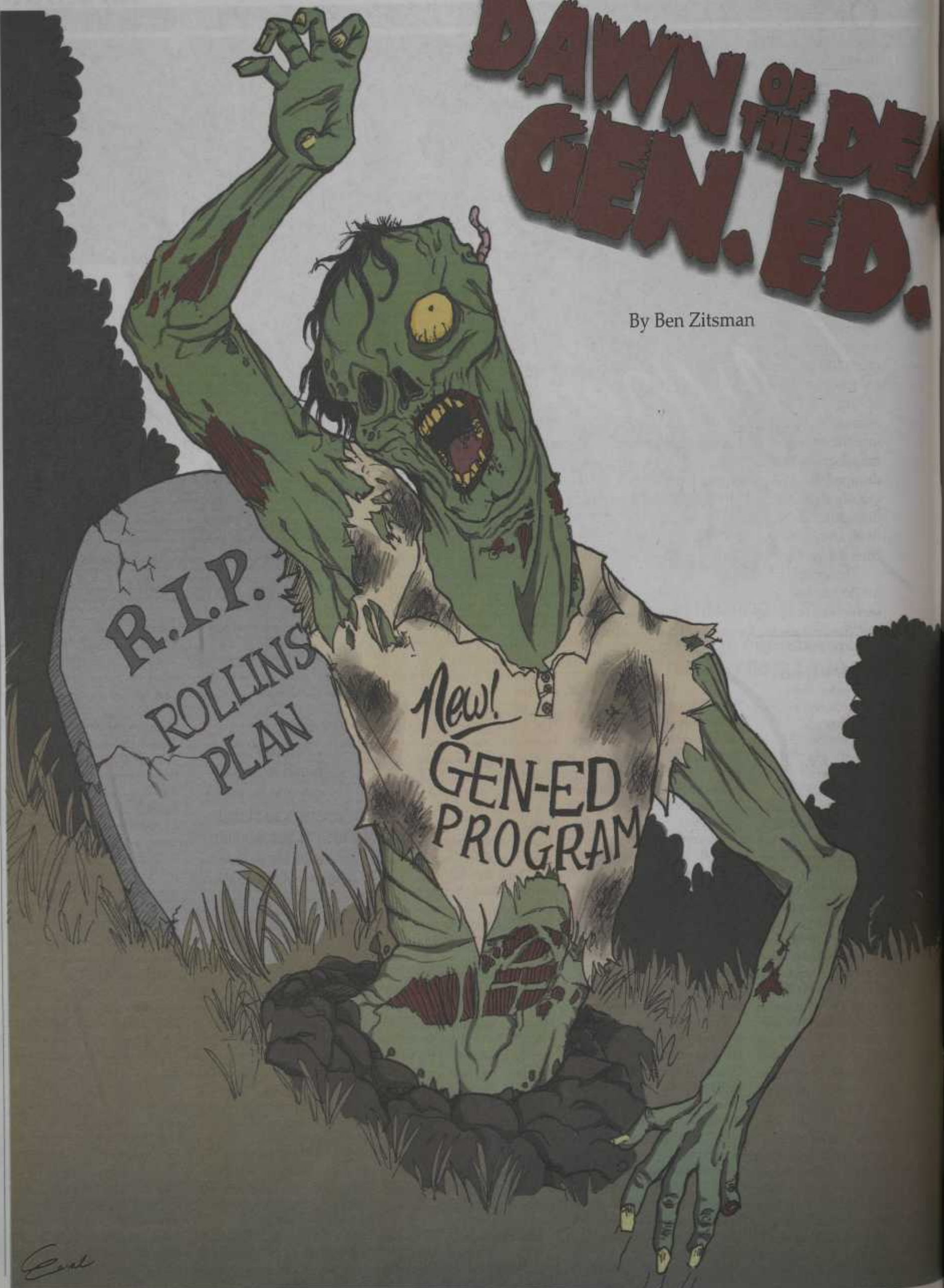
people would have classified him as a "twink," but Richard would never accept this. In an effort to change his stereotype, Rich started working out five times a week and bulked up so he would be looked at as a "jock." He solidified this transformation by wearing clothes from sport-affiliated labels and throwing out all of his Abercrombie and Fitch or other name-brand clothes. Rich was finally a "jock."

Of course, stereotypes affect relationships as well. For example, Sean usually searches for "jocks" with serious jobs. Margaret, a lesbian I have known for years, is always interested in "lipsticks." Gays seek out their ideal mate based on a social classification. Surely other factors go into finding a lover, but first and foremost are settling on one's preferred stereotype.

Stereotypes and social stigmas qualify and classify gay relationships. Whether it is for the comfort of heterosexual society, or a system gays and lesbians have simply bought into, the manipulation is occurring. Thus, as young adults we must set a precedent away from stereotyping and using gender role classifications to simply understand the driving force behind all relationships, gay or straight: love.

DAWN OF THE DENIED. GEN-ED.

By Ben Zitsman



Of the 10 tentative neighborhoods that will, starting next August, comprise Rollins' new general education curriculum, a personal favorite is "Mysteries: Into the Unknown." In the neighborhoods' official description, however, many examples of mysteries are listed — among them, "Mona Lisa's smile, antimatter, the Shroud of Turin, an ideal democracy [and]...Sherlock Holmes," — including the conspicuously absent fate of the Rollins Plan.

Introduced in Fall 2009, the R-Plan was a thematic approach to general education that was markedly different from the more conventional "alphabet soup" model in effect at the time, intended to offer students a more cohesive, interdisciplinary liberal arts experience. Freshmen were aggressively recruited to adopt the program and by the end of the semester, more than 90 had. This made it especially strange when, in a year's time, the R-Plan had seemingly been forgotten by the Rollins' administration figures, faculty members and students alike.

By late 2010, what had once been one of the school's most visible, well-promoted academic programs was scarcely mentioned by anyone, in any context. The R-Plan had vanished without a trace — much like an aircraft over the Bermuda Triangle (which, for the record, is another example of a mystery cited in the official description of "Into the Unknown.") Although the parallel kind of ends there because, unlike a Triangle-related disappearance, a cursory glance into the Case of the Missing R-Plan reveals just what happened to the program: Within its first year, well over half of its 90 participants dropped the R-Plan in favor of the gen. ed. model they had previously abandoned. An official school document mentions student dissatisfaction with the program's courses — both in their comparatively small number and in the manner of their instruction — as a chief reason for its eventual demise.

This official school document, by the way, is the formal proposal for Rollins' new general education curriculum, for which the R-Plan served as pilot program. Which means, despite its resounding failure, the R-Plan will be resurrected come 2013. And on a far larger scale, too: By the time this year's freshmen graduate, no other plan for general education will exist at Rollins.

Sherlock Holmes isn't really a mystery, come to think of it — he's more someone who solves them. Zombies, though: Zombies are definitely a mystery.

As the primary architect of Rollins' new general education curriculum, Dr. Mark Anderson recognizes its pilot program wasn't a rousing success. "In some sense," he concedes, "the program didn't go that well. But we have tweaked it." Cardinal among these tweaks seems to be the program's radical expansion—from a two-neighborhood program as was the R-Plan, to a ten-neighborhood program starting next year. And, while this change may address some of the scheduling weaknesses that made the program so unpopular among students, a greater reason appears to exist for the expansion: It was going to happen anyway.

The new program is over six years in the making, and from its inception, the plan had always been to introduce a small pilot program which would then be followed by a wider implementation. This tweak — made because, according to Anderson, "The key weakness in the [pilot] program was scheduling: There were not many options for courses," — is a tweak of extreme convenience: An improvement not made because of the R-Plan's weaknesses, but because it's a necessity. The expectation seems to be that a failure's fivefold multiplication will also be its reversal. For a curriculum to which the better part of a decade has been dedicated, this kind of thinking is distressingly callow.

Or, it's the opposite: The better part of a decade has, after all, already been dedicated to this thing. It's a failure with some serious momentum. To admit a serious miscalculation has been made would, on Rollins' part, constitute a public relations nightmare. It would also constitute a tremendous waste of money. According to Anderson, the transition to the new curriculum "will only cost a couple hundred thousand dollars." If forced to spend another couple hundred thousand dollars retooling and re-implementing Rollins' approach to general education, I have a feeling he'd have a lot more trouble describing the sum as "only" anything. So what's the next best thing to do?

Play the failure as a wild success, maybe.

Upon its introduction three years ago, the R-Plan was heralded as innovative — as a modern approach to the liberal arts for a modern liberal arts school, a means to prepare Rollins students to be members of a nascent, global citizenry. These are words that sound really nice, and look even better — especially when lavishly printed in glossy brochures, as they surely will be in the weeks and months to come. Better, these are words that are just vague enough to resist qualitative proof or disproof: If Rollins says these things are true of its new curriculum, there's not much to do but take the school at its word. There's no way to know for sure. It's a mystery.

Vegan destination offers variety for all eating preferences



Taylor Thomas & Sarah Walker

VEG OUT Ethos offers a wide array of all-natural foods, from Garlic Knots to Cowboy Cookies. The chic vegan restaurant recently relocated and is now within walking distance of campus.

Taylor Thomas & Sarah Walker

Writers

Attention to both lovers and hates of meat alike: if you're looking for an alternative to the Campus Center for lunch or dinner, Ethos Vegan Kitchen is right around the corner. Ethos makes all of their food items without meat or dairy products, and is therefore a vegan restaurant.

However, you will be very surprised at what their chef is able to whip up without the typical ingredients used at non-vegan restaurants. With their delicious meat and cheese substitutions made out of all-natural ingredients, you will hardly know the difference or leave craving something more to eat.

To start off your meal, you can order one of their many sodas: we both had their Natural Brew Draft Root Beer, which was delicious. If you like them, they sell these sodas as well. Another starter that's a must is one of their "Light Bites" appetizers. One of the customer favorites for appetizers is the Sausage Roll; another tasty option is the Garlic Knots, which we consumed quickly.

Some of their most popular main dishes include: "Yo' Mama's Lasagna," pizza, "Chickun" marsala, "Bay Cakes," and the "Samson Burger." The "Yo' Mama's

Lasagna" substitutes traditional meat lasagna for vegetable lasagna, which makes for different flavors but can definitely still be filling. Their pizza is a highly ordered dish, and you most likely would never guess that it isn't made with real cheese. The highly recommended "Chickun" Marsala is made with, well, "Chickun" — which tastes and looks like real chicken — and fresh mushrooms. "Bay Cakes" are the new Ethos vegan rendition of crab cakes and are quickly gaining approval from customers. The "Samson Burger" is a black bean burger served on a Kaiser roll, and can give you the same satisfaction as a regular hamburger, without the regret.

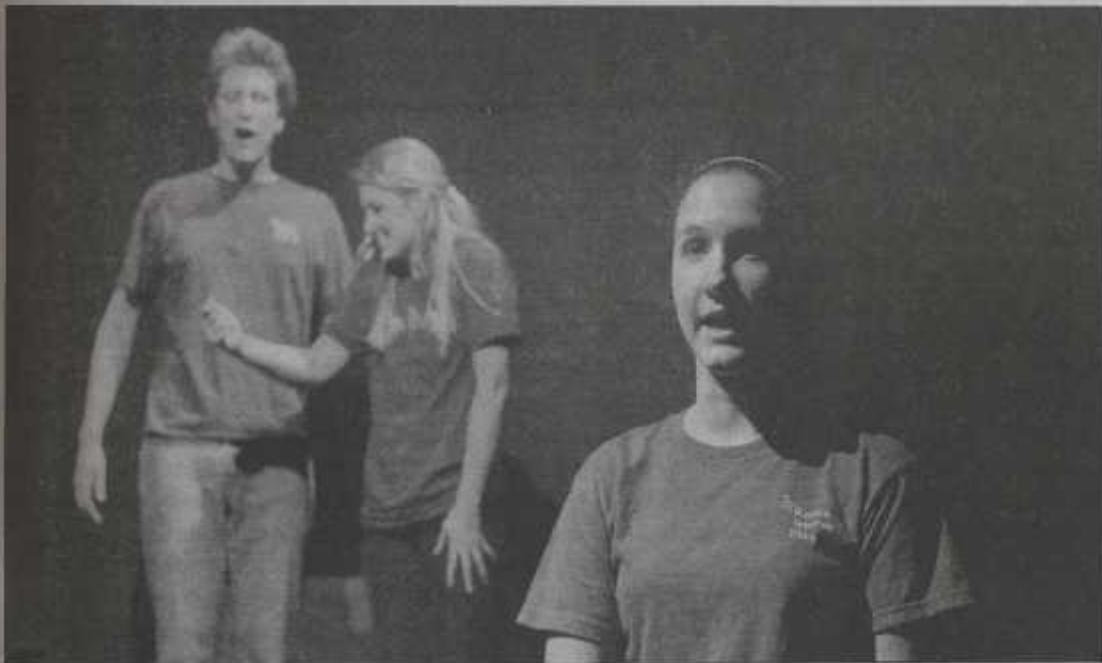
For us, the best part about Ethos is their dessert. They have recently added ice cream sundaes to their menu; their ice cream tastes exactly like regular dairy ice cream. Ethos' ice cream is not the only thing that is scrumptious, but their cookies are to die for as well. We got an assortment of chocolate chip, double chocolate chip, snickerdoodle, and cowboy cookies, each made with all-natural ingredients; you will not be disappointed!

Ethos has recently moved from the Lake Ivanhoe neighborhood to the intersection of Fairbanks and New York Avenue. The manager misses the old location's

charm, but likes the new space and the easier parking that comes along with it. She often comes across people who expect Ethos to be a salad bar and nothing more because it is vegan. However, their talented chef has come up with a menu that is straight comfort food. She also said even she has difficulty deciding what to order.

So, don't judge Ethos until you try it; you will never know how good vegan food can be until you do. We definitely recommend Ethos from experience, and we hope that you will stop by and give Ethos a try.

“She often comes across people who expect Ethos to be a salad bar and nothing more because it is vegan. However, their talented chef has come up with a menu that is straight comfort food. She also said even she has difficulty deciding what to order.”



Genetics and expression take center stage

David Matteson

Designer

Restless in their seats, students waited for the show to begin. The theater was dark, set for the actors to enter, with a spotlight glowing on a whiteboard that was clear apart from a single word: Genetics.

The Rollins Improv Players held a special "Variations on a Theme" performance on Sunday, Sept. 23. The show dealt with "Weird Science," with attention to the concept of genetics. As always, actors asked the audience for suggestions, which ranged from Batman to Biopiracy.

The event was held by the Sigma Xi Honor Research Society, whose goals include opening lines of communication between scientists and lay people. For Dr. Susan Walsh, the RIP event was the perfect forum for these themes to be discussed.

"Anyway that we can promote a discussion to seek the truth about these topics is essential to educating the public and making better global citizens," Walsh said.

While science and theater may seem mutually exclusive, Walsh feels similarities do exist.

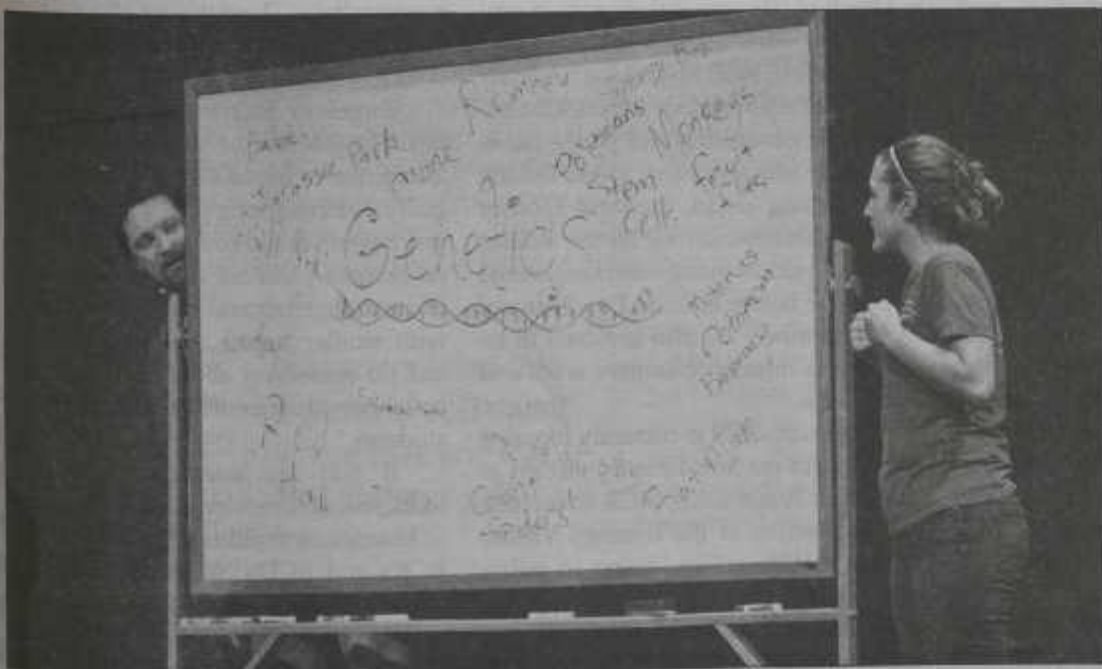
"I think that theater is an expression of humanity and science is driven by the human need to understand; there is no reason that these should be separate," Walsh said.

Like all RIP shows, the actors delivered a performance that developed a variety of emotional responses. From the hilarious Siamese twin speed dating scenario, to the touching scene where a pregnant mother was forced to choose which of her eight children to deliver, the improv actors showed true skill. RIP performer Melanie Leon '14, was proud of her fellow troupe members.

"We were able to bring relationships to genetic topics, embrace them on the spot, and stimulate an incredible discussion among students and professors. I am very honored to have been a part of this," Leon said.

Walsh and Leon both hope that RIP will have more cross curricular events in the future.

"We would love other sponsors that seem to fit this 'unconnected' ideal to challenge us and for us to challenge them in return, so we can see the wonderful things that come from it," Walsh said.



Kevin Griffin

DNA OF LAUGHTER RIPsters combining improvisation and science to an explosive crowd. Sigma Xi sponsor Dr. Susan Walsh hopes the troupe will continue reaching across the aisle to different curriculums.

Learning from experience

Carolina Woodruff

Writer

Dr. Maurice O'Sullivan, the Kenneth Curry Professor of Literature, has been a staple of the Rollins College English Department since 1975. He is known for being the 2006 President of the College English Association, a board member of the Florida College English Association and a board member of the Florida Historical Society. He has been published with works ranging in topics from Florida to pop culture, Shakespeare, religion, education and current events. His life wasn't always about writing; while he was earning his undergraduate degree he worked as a Teamster and jail guard.

Once he joined the Rollins faculty, Dr. O'Sullivan fully immersed himself into the academic community, serving in numerous committees and even serving as the President of the Faculty and Chair of Academic Affairs. He has held the chair of the English Department four different times and the chair of the Humanities Division in 1986 for twenty years.

As a Jersey City native, he seems to

show just as much interest in Florida as his home state—dare I say even more interest. Dr. O'Sullivan and Jack Lane, from the Rollins History Department, collaborated together with their love of and interest in Florida to publish *The Florida Reader* in 1991. This sparked further involvement from O'Sullivan in the publishing world, and he co-edited numerous books including *Florida in Poetry* (Pineapple Press, 1995), *Crime Fiction and Film in the Sunshine State: Florida Noir* (Popular Culture Press, 1997), *Orange Pulp* (University of Florida, 2000), *Bad Boys and Bad Girls in the Badlands* (Popular Press, 2002), *Shakespeare Plays the Classroom* (Pineapple Press, 2003), and he has edited Elizabeth Smith's *Book of Job* (Scholar's Facsimiles, 1996) and *Shakespeare's Other Lives* (McFarland, 1997).

This year O'Sullivan has furthered his interest in the state of Florida by teaching a full semester course on Florida Literature, celebrating the state's last 500 years of constant change and growth through history in literature. By using his published work, *The Florida Reader*, to guide the course, O'Sullivan aims to

teach students the evolution of Florida while understanding such a unique part of American literature. He is also using the course to help students better their own writing, develop a wider range of knowledge of literature and to help them explore their own tastes in literature.

As a student currently enrolled in O'Sullivan's course on Florida Literature, I have been exposed to a different type of read that has widened my range of writing. I have been inspired as my interest has grown more towards publishing and a love of writing. I asked O'Sullivan what his favorite part of writing was as he replied, "The best part of writing is seeing the work in print. Most writers I know write because that's part of their personality. They don't really have much choice." With an aim of writing being the final published work for him, I questioned him to give me his best advice for those who want to become published writers. He told me, "The key to publishing is developing a thick skin and taking rejection in stride. If a writer has never been rejected, she's never aimed high enough."



Courtesy of O'Sullivan Blog

Knowing that even Maurice O'Sullivan was rejected at times and seeing all that he has accomplished proves to all of his students—and more—to never give up. At the bottom of the fall 2012 Florida Literature syllabus, he chose to quote Samuel Beckett, "Try. Fail. No matter. Try Again. Fail Again. Fail Better." Given such motivation as an English major undergrad, I now know that failure is not a final destination—but instead a pit-stop in bettering my own writing.

As election heats up, political organization rallies

Scott Novak

Staff Writer

When Dr. Jay Shivamoggi, Director of the Office of External and Competitive Scholarships, first came to America in 1988, she was shocked. "The participation [in politics] was so low. There was no excitement. And even anything that you see here is dwarfed by what you would see in a country like India...a low turnout election [in India] is 70 percent. A high turnout election is 90 percent-plus. So to me, this whole '39 percent of people turnout for election' was a very weird thing to see because I felt like [America] was the home of democracy."

But contrary to popular stereotypes about apathetic college students, the political scene on campus has begun to thrive. When asked to assess the political situation on campus, Shivamoggi said, "It's very student driven. When I came to Rollins ten years ago, there was a group that was very active. But then the students graduated, and those groups went into hiatus. This year, I feel like both the Rollins College Democrats and Republicans are doing well."

Currently, student involvement with politics seems to be on the rise. The Rollins College Democrats (RCD) regrouped last year, and now the Rollins College Republicans (RCR) has restarted this semester by RCR President Dan Berlinger '13.

Katherine Barnekow '15, RCD President, was deeply involved in politics

since before she arrived at Rollins College a year ago. "I worked on the campaign of Bill White and I was the president of our chapter of Young Liberals at my high school," she said.

"When I got here, I was told that there were political organizations, but I tried really hard to find them and I had a little bit of difficulty with it. So after eventually finding other people who were interested and who had the drive that I did, we revamped the club, rewrote the constitution and elected a new executive board. We got in touch with the Florida College Democrats Federation, as well as the College Democrats of America, to really see what we could do on campus and get people involved and ready to go for the election in Nov."

Since then, RCD has only been growing. Barnekow said, "At our first meeting, we had between five and ten people. Now, at our weekly meetings, we have an average attendance of 15 to 20 people, and on our roster we have 60-plus people. And those are people most of whom can't attend meetings due to classes or other involvements, but are actively doing voter registration, canvassing and helping reelect the president in Nov." Since starting this semester, RCR has grown at a fast pace as well. "We currently have 30+ members and are still growing," said RCR Vice President Andrew Braun '15.

Besides enjoying an expanding membership base, one of these political organizations has already received a na-

tional award in recognition of its achievements. On Sept. 2, the RCD received the Rising Star Award for the previous year at the College Democrats of America's annual convention. The award is given to a college Democrat organization that is new and has shown admirable dedication to Democratic causes. The convention was held in Charlotte, NC.

This isn't the first award that this group, which has been around for almost a year, has won. The Florida College Democrats Federation previously recognized RCD as a Rising Star Chapter in March of this year at their annual convention.

Currently, RCD is working tirelessly to help reelect President Barack Obama. They have canvassing and phone-banking events planned every week. During the upcoming weeks, they will sponsor voter registration drives on the Rollins campus to get as many voters registered as possible before Election Day. Many of RCD's members are also involved in local politics through volunteer work and internships.

Naturally, RCR is currently focusing on trying to get Mitt Romney elected as president. Braun said, "RCR is currently volunteering at the Romney Victory Office in Winter Park, going to public events in the area which [feature] politicians and we are also going to be tabling on campus on Oct. 2 in order to spread the word of our organization more."

However, Braun realizes that it is sometimes a challenge to get people to

care about politics. "Sadly, not many people on campus or around the country that are in our age group show much interest in politics," he said. "Students today are not as active in politics as they should be. It is important that we all get out there and voice our opinion, because we ultimately run this country, and every person's opinion counts." Of course, there are many other political groups at Rollins that are not centered on the political party system, but on social issues. Spectrum, Voices for Women, and Eco-Rollins are just a few of these types of organizations. These groups also demonstrate how political activism on campus is increasing.

Barnekow makes a similar observation. "In the year or so that we've been active, we've found that a lot of people really do have strong political beliefs, but just haven't really found an outlet for it on campus. Once we gave them a forum to come together and meet other people with similar beliefs, and get involved and do something about it, there's been a real growth of excitement among these students."

If you are interested in joining RCD, email President Kate Barnekow at kbarnekow@rollins.edu. You can like RCR's and RCD's Facebook pages and follow them on Twitter to learn more about the organizations' upcoming events. Both groups meet on Tuesdays with RCD in Orlando Hall Room 213 at 6:00 p.m. and RCR at 8:00 p.m. in Room 234 in the Olin Library.

"Stories" illustrates why we should care

Jamie Pizzi

Head Designer

Since most Americans can remember, the Middle East has been an area torn in unrest. For this reason, when CNN began reporting on the protests in Egypt, most Americans remained skeptical and unconcerned with what was actually going on.

Despite the fact that Egypt is actually located in Africa, and not the Middle East, I will admit that I myself attributed these protests to "just another un-resolvable issue" and looked the other way. *Stories From Tahrir* highlights exactly why Americans should be concerned with these protests; as the world continues to become a smaller place due to globalization, technology is leveling the playing field for Egypt and others like it to make the changes their citizens really want to see. Our support will surely become increasingly necessary for our own national interest as this once oppressed nation continues to make strides into a brighter future.

When I conjure up an image of a protestor in my head, caricatures of uneducated hippies with a sign in one hand and a joint in the other still seem to float to the top of my mind. This documentary, however, was focused on interviews with protestors who are professionals such as lawyers, engineers and even a heart surgeon. This legitimized them as credible citizens who could provide factual information about the protests and would have little to no ulterior motive for giving the answers they did. One of

my first thoughts was, how did all these individually successful people find out about this protest and how did they become so darn organized?

The answer was technology, which is yet another thing that we as Americans take for granted. In reality, without technologically powered resources like the Internet, it would have been virtually impossible to gather and organize that many people (never mind accredited professionals) in one place. Such an incredible amount of educated people with such a solemn and driving passion is a recipe for success all on its own. Our support (economically and militarily) towards these capable, democracy-focused professionals should be top priority, seeing as we share common ideals. When it comes to developing our own national interest by extending the olive branch, it is important "to promote economic growth and political openness by extending free trade and a stable international monetary system to all committed to these principles [of democracy]," as stated by Condoleezza Rice.

Being that Egypt is becoming comparatively more and more connected with these technological resources, it makes sense that now more than ever these protests are gaining attention and speed. Not to mention the plethora of ideas about democracy, the Arab Spring and various other protest success stories being uncovered daily by inquiring Egyptians on the World Wide Web. The film also made many comparisons to the Occupy Wall Street movement. Many of the people interviewed stated that the



Photo Courtesy of Flickr
OCCUPY Soldiers overlook protests in Tahrir, as the angered populous call for action. The protestors in the area could change the face of the Middle East, and should warrant America's attention.

strides made by the American movement were a primary source of inspiration for their own protests thousands of miles away in Tahrir Square.

Most remarkably, the majority of the protestors on Wall Street had no idea that their actions would indirectly contribute to an even larger movement on the other side of the world. This direct example of globalization truly encompasses how interconnected the world has become via technology. Using this interconnectedness to our advantage, and heeding Rice's words about the regimes "left on the side of the road [of democracy]," it is in our best interest to support the opposition and remove the regime in favor of one that would be more beneficial to our own.

With this type of inspiration and capability, mutual disdain for the op-

pressive Egyptian regime finally took a more tangible form than what had been accomplished before. Americans can no longer interpret every news headline about the Middle East as trivial because with our support towards the revolutionaries, "America can exercise power without arrogance and pursue its interests without hectoring and bluster. When it does so in concert with those who share its core values, the world becomes more prosperous, democratic, and peaceful. That has been America's special role in the past, and it should be again as we enter the next century," said Rice.

This is a transitional time for Egypt, and with help from America and the continued expansion of technology in the region, we can expect to see a nation that will soon be making great strides both socially and economically.

Mumford and Sons "Babel" to the top of the charts

Erik Keewan

A & E Editor

Well, they're back. Three years after their smash release *Sigh No More*, Mumford & Sons graced the music world with their sophomore album, *Babel*. Basing their album off of the biblical story about the Tower of Babel (the story of how different languages were created) the album strays into religious influences with such songs as "Babel" and "Hopeless Wanderer." The album seemed to build upon the success of their pseudo-acoustic first album that became a global success after the release of their single "Little Lion Man." To date, their first album has sold more than 2.4 million copies in the U.S. alone.

You are greeted into a world of soft music, where love and evil and dragons still exist.

When one listens to *Babel*, you are greeted into a world of softer music where love and evil and dragons still exist. Dark acoustic guitar, high banjo twangs and horns bring you back to a softer time.

Mumford & Sons' truly unique blend of folk and driven-pop meld into a symphonic melody that accents the darkly introspective lyrics that have become their staple. While the themes of their songs—personal failure, love loss, love found—are as old as civilization, Marcus

Mumford's personal spin adds humanity and character into what are often perceived as dead themes in today's musical world.

Lyrics, perhaps the most important part of a Mumford & Sons song, truly

stand out in songs such as "Babel," "Hopeless Wanderer," "Ghosts That We Knew" and "Whispers in the Dark." Lyrics such as:

"But do not ask the price I pay
I must live with my quiet rage
Tame the ghosts in my head
That run wild and wish me dead
Should you shake my ash to the wind
Lord forget all of my sins
Oh let me die where I lie
'Neath the curse of my lovers' eyes,"

from their song "Lovers' Eyes" delve into the darker heart of love, making the brighter songs about love on the album shine all the brighter. Of course, this being said, I love the Mumford & Sons brand of sometimes mellow, sometimes driven acoustically-charged music. If you do not enjoy *Sigh No More*, then you will not find yourself drawn into their latest album. *Babel* is not a departure from *Sigh*

No More, but rather an extension. It picks up where *Sigh* left off, plucking happily their strings and those of your heart.

If you go in expecting a very different album, then you will be sorely disappointed. But if you listen and expect deep lyrics, acoustic music that proves that acoustic guitar can kick as much as a metal solo, and a sweeping orchestra of ghostly horns, then you will be as happy as I was to finally listen to their latest album.



Babel
Mumford & Sons

Download:
"Babel"

Prior Albums:
Sigh No More



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September 27, 2012



Welcome back, Tars Football

Hana Saker

Editor-in-Chief

Rollins Football has been continuing to progress and gain traction since its recent reincarnation, a move that awakened a tradition long forgotten since the program's termination in 1949. In the 2011 two-game season, the team played their first football game in 62 years, with over 3,000 fans in attendance. They also managed to record their first win since the program's hiatus, a feat they accomplished with only 25 players. This year, the roster has grown to 40, partially through the successful recruiting of student athletes such as first-years Trae Vaillant and Joey Vinck, both of whom will be starters for the 2012 season.

To train for the upcoming season, the team is expected to attend mandatory practices at Hungerford Field in Eatonville three nights per week since Aug. 23, in addition to twice weekly team workouts in the weight room.

Led by a coaching staff of eight, in addition to Head Coach Ezra Simmons, the team is currently preparing for this weekend's kickoff of their second season, an away game on Sat., Sept. 29 — marking the first road game for Rollins Football in 63 years — against Kennesaw State University, a team that could prove to be a very tough competitor.

That said, returning quarterback and founding member Jeff Hoblick '14 emphasizes one of the team's many goals: "to start the season undefeated; although our schedule is a tough one, we approach each contest with the goal of winning."

Five of the seven games scheduled for this season will take place in Winter Park, with the first home game slated for Oct. 14 against Longwood University. Other games fans should be looking forward to include the Homecoming/Parents Weekend game vs. University of North Carolina Club, which is expected to draw a substantial crowd, as well as "Tar Blackout" vs. Virginia Commonwealth, which is planned to be the season's highlighted night game. Each home game will have food, a band and giveaways.

For now, the players will work "to grow as a team, continuing the tradition of our program and making traditions of our own to reunite the Rollins campus with their own tackle football team," said Hoblick.



SEASON SCHEDULE

Kennesaw State, Sept. 29
Atlanta, Ga. 1:00 p.m.

Longwood University, Oct. 14
Winter Park, Fl. 3:30 p.m.

Clemson Club, Oct. 20
Eatonville, Fl. 4:30 p.m.

South Carolina Club, Oct. 28
Columbia, SC. 1:00 p.m.

North Carolina Club, Nov. 3
Winter Park, Fl. TBA

Virginia Commonwealth, Nov. 10
Winter Park, Fl. TBA

City of Winter Park Bowl, Dec. 1
Winter Park, Fl. TBA

Calendar of Events

Sept. 27 THURSDAY	Sept. 28 FRIDAY	Sept. 29 SATURDAY	Sept. 30 SUNDAY	Oct. 1 MONDAY	Oct. 2 TUESDAY	Oct. 3 WEDNESDAY
- 6:00 p.m. Dr. Sergio Cortesini Lecture, Cornell Fine Arts Museum - 8:00 p.m. The Miss Firecracker Contest, Annie Russell Theatre	- 6:00 p.m. Winter Park Village Shuttle, Tars Plaza - 8:00 p.m. The Miss Firecracker Contest, Annie Russell Theatre	- 7:45 a.m. Leadership Community Service Day: Second Harvest Food Bank - 2 p.m. & 8 p.m. The Miss Firecracker Contest, Annie Russell Theatre	- 11:00 p.m. Sunday Worship Service, Knowles Memorial Chapel - 8:00 p.m. Rollins Improv Players: Variations on a Theme - Weird Science, Fred Stone Theatre	- 5:00 p.m. Zumba, Alford Sports Center - 6:00 p.m. Sandspur Interest Meeting, Mills 403	- 6:00 p.m. Rollins College Democrats Meeting, Orlando Hall - 9:30 p.m. Half the Sky Documentary Screening, Mary-Jean Plaza	- 3:00 p.m. CIA Information Session for Summer 2013 Internships and Full Time Jobs, Cornell Campus Center - 3:00 p.m. Resume Writing Workshop, Fairbanks Building

Want your group's event to be featured on an upcoming calendar? Contact submit@thesandspur.org.