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# *The* **Sandspur**



**EVER FEEL LIKE  
YOU'RE BEING  
WATCHED?**

Someone is watching, whether you're on campus,  
off campus, or on the other side of the world.

By Ben Zitsman and Jonny B Good, Page 6





# 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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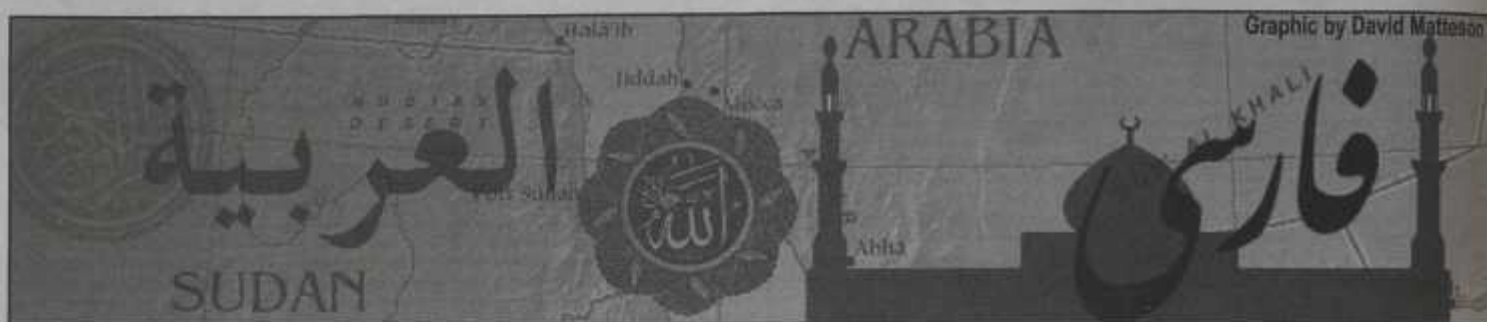
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# NEWS

## STUDENT TOWN HALL & NEW COURSE OF STUDY



# New Minor explores the Middle East

Scott Novak

Staff Writer

Rollins College will now offer a Middle Eastern/North African Studies minor. Dr. Rachel Newcomb, the Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Anthropology, serves as the director of the new minor.

"I think people are going to be interested in it just because the Middle East is a hot topic," Dr. Newcomb said. "It would be strategic for students to minor in this because it's a crucial part of the world and having this minor would look good for future career plans. Over the years, I've talked to a lot of students who have taken Middle East classes and they've said,

'Oh, I want to learn more about this, this is fascinating, I knew nothing about this region even though it seems we're always at war over there,' so I think offering this minor is important."

Dr. Newcomb had been thinking about offering the minor for a while, but Rollins did not have enough professors to

teach all the classes that the minor would need.

Dr. Newcomb said, "Now there is a critical mass of professors whose expertise

is in the Middle East, so just in the last year I felt comfortable trying to put this together."

To minor in Middle Eastern/North African Studies, students will need to successfully complete a set of six courses. The

courses will focus on three key areas: culture, politics and religion.

Dr. Eren Tatari, an Assistant Professor of Political Science, will offer courses related to the political aspects of the region; Dr. Yudit Greenberg, a Professor of Religious Studies, will offer courses on religion; and Dr. Newcomb will offer courses on the region's culture.

"We have other professors from other departments who teach courses related to the Middle East, too," Dr. Newcomb said. "There's Middle East archaeology and courses in modern languages, such as Arabic and Hebrew."

According to Dr. Newcomb, the process of creating the minor was pretty smooth. "We have a good system," she said. The proposal to create a new minor first has to be passed by the Academic Affairs commit-

tee, after which it is passed by the Executive Committee and by vote at a faculty meeting.

The reasons to minor in Middle Eastern/North African Studies seem to be growing stronger every day. Dr. Newcomb said, "The United States is still in Afghanistan; we're still critically involved in that region. We give Egypt and Israel billions in aid per year. We're so invested in what goes on over there, but people know so little about it. I think that it would be good for students to use their time at Rollins to learn more about this part of the world, and then they can inform other people. The minor could also be useful for people who [plan] to enter diplomatic careers, foreign service or international relations-type careers. Anyone who is interested in anything international should have more knowledge about this part of the planet."

**I think people are going to be interested in [the minor] because the Middle East is a hot topic.**

- Dr. Rachel Newcomb

# Meeting provides student voice outlet

Emily Kelly

News Editor

On the evening of Oct. 10, Student Government Association hosted a town hall meeting for students. The discussion centered on the Institutional Planning and changes to the general education curriculum to be implemented in the fall of 2013.

Ben Varnum '13, President of SGA, welcomed students before introducing the speaker for the evening, Toni Holbrook, Assistant Provost. Students were briefed on the details of the Institutional Planning by Holbrook, who indicates the change "lines up with the reaffirmation of colleges for 2013; this will get us through affirmation."

Focusing on the primary changes Rollins will undergo, Holbrook gave students an overview of the "thematic clusters" that the general education

curriculum will center around, and the reduced number of credit hours for graduation; the changes will "streamline pathways to success," said Holbrook.

Following Holbrook's presentation, the meeting opened up for questions: one of the main concerns raised was the decision to reduce the number of credit hours required for graduation.

"Our courses are more vigorous," Holbrook explained, "and we're only losing three or four courses from the reduction."

Another concern that was expressed was regarding transfer students: "we will have to find a way to include classes [the transfer] has taken from the previous institution into the new general education curriculum," Holbrook explained "the transfer situation is very complicated."

Pervasive career planning,

part of the changes for fall of 2013, drew concern from the crowd, as it appeared to contradict the mission statement of liberal arts education.

Pervasive career planning is "starting from the day you get here, planning a vision and objectives to fit your career goal."

The idea disputes the aim of liberal arts education: exploring a variety of fields to achieve a well-rounded education. Holbrook, however, reminded students that "plans are written in pencil," meaning, each student's vision and academic objectives are developmental and will evolve throughout their academic careers.

During the question-answer segment of the meeting, Holbrook sent a ripple of whispers through the crowd when she revealed that students currently enrolled at Rollins will not be part of the new general education curriculum or be affected

by the reduced number or required credit hours.

The Student Government Association ensures that the "student voice is represented in all governance decisions of the college," said Varnum.

With a decision as pivotal as completely transforming the general education curriculum, SGA felt "giving a chance for students to openly voice their opinion is essential," according to Varnum.

"We represent not only the students here now, but students in the future," commented Alex Daubert '15, Vice President of SGA. This notion initiated the planning of the town hall meeting for students.

Varnum ensures "each item discussed and question posed was noted and will be incorporated into the discussion of the Institutional Plan with the Board of Trustees and the administration of the college."



# Beating a dead horse

Co-author of *Half the Sky*, Sheryl WuDunn, delivers an untimely lecture to students amidst the chaos of midterm season.

Mary Catherine Pflug

Designer

I can't believe I am sitting here and writing this. And if you are reading this right now you sure have dedication, and I admire that, because this school has been hearing about *Half the Sky* for far too long now. The latest iteration of the summer reading experience happened on Oct. 10, a brisk (for Florida) Wednesday evening. It wasn't a documentary this time, but the female counterpart, Sheryl WuDunn, to our previous speaker, Nicholas D. Kristof.

She's relatively famous. It's relatively exciting. It was probably expensive. I get it. But the timing was horribly wrong. For one, it is mid-Oct., midterm season here at Rollins. Also, it was that magical time when freshmen campus-wide found themselves bonding with other stressed and flustered students

that just stumbled upon the realization that the catastrophic amount of work they had to do wouldn't be getting any smaller and the time commitment to sports and clubs wouldn't be dissipating any time soon. In the middle of all of this, halfway through the semester, summer reading kept popping up like the reoccurring nightmare that was orientation. It is time to move on.

Don't get me wrong. I teared up at the movie trailer. I felt guilty when she quoted Bill Gates in her closing remarks. I liked the colorful pictures on the big screen. But I have midterms to study. And emails from lonely old piano teachers to answer. And papers I need to research. And my life to figure out. Had her talk happened earlier in the semester, my opinion on the matter would be drastically different. But it was simply bad timing on Rollins' part. It was

too little too late.

Another qualm for me was the content of her presentation. It was as if she was talking to a group of students who had no previous knowledge on the subject. An understandable position to take, but in reality she was talking to a group of well educated, easily bored students who had read and internalized (whether voluntarily or by force) the book. And to this ideal audience she simply retold almost every personal, moving story in the book. Her goal to reach us through pathos backfired, and at the end of the night, the ghastly stories of strife and redemption got one step closer to being as ordinary and everyday as the mints in the cafeteria.

I felt the collective inhale of the stadium when she uttered the line, "You won't hear anything differently from me tonight than from my husband."



Kevin Griffin

**INTERACTING** Co-author of *Half the Sky*, Sheryl WuDunn (left), autographs students' books following her presentation. WuDunn co-wrote the novel with her husband, two-time Pulitzer Prize-winner Nicholas Kristof.

We knew we were in for a long night. I can't hate on Sheryl. She was genuine about the topic and looked so fabulous in the bright blue dress that I couldn't quite tell if it was vintage thrift-shop that she picked up on her travels, or vintage-inspired Vera from the new Spring 2013 Collection.

Regardless, as I sat in the chilly gym, my mind wandering from the wilting plant on the stage in front of me to the shimmering lights reflecting off her necklace and perfectly coordi-

nating shoes, I realized it didn't hurt me to just sit there and listen. Although in the short-term, the presentation was a horribly scheduled pain in the ass.

It was a moment in time that most of us spent surrounded by people that, by now, we are realizing we care about tremendously. And as the herd of students passed out the doors before the Question and Answer session into the Florida breeze, everything didn't seem so bad. Thanks for reading. Now get back to work.

# Biden reigns victorious over Ryan in debate

Kate Barnekow

Rollins Democrats President

Vice President Joe Biden won a decisive victory on Thursday night's Vice Presidential debate. Whereas Paul Ryan brought empty promises and a total disregard for facts and details to Danville, KY, the Vice President brought authenticity and forthright facts and details.

The debate exposed the extreme risk that Romney/Ryan economics pose for the middle class, showed their weakness on foreign policy issues and revealed the disdain they have for the rights of American women.

When asked about the vital issue of the economy, Ryan couldn't explain how the Romney/Ryan tax plan wouldn't hurt the middle class—because it would. It is mathematically impossible to pay for their \$5 trillion tax plan favoring the wealthiest without raising taxes on middle-class families.

He also couldn't explain how their double-down on trickle-down economics would create jobs—because it wouldn't. Independent economists say

their plans could actually slow America's economic recovery and eliminate existing jobs.

Further, Ryan claimed, falsely, that Romney wouldn't increase defense funding by \$2 trillion. Independent fact-checkers, however, say that he would.

Ryan tried to criticize the President's policy toward Iran, but couldn't explain what the Romney/Ryan ticket would do differently. The President has already put unprecedented pressure on the Iranian regime by means of crippling sanctions—ones that even Romney admits are working.

All that Ryan offered was bluster about recklessly taking us to war; Vice President Biden was right to condemn such "loose talk." When asked about their plans for our troops in Afghanistan, Ryan could not give a comprehensible answer. Romney has been all over the map on this subject, whereas the President has a clear and decisive plan to end the war in Afghanistan and bring our troops back home.

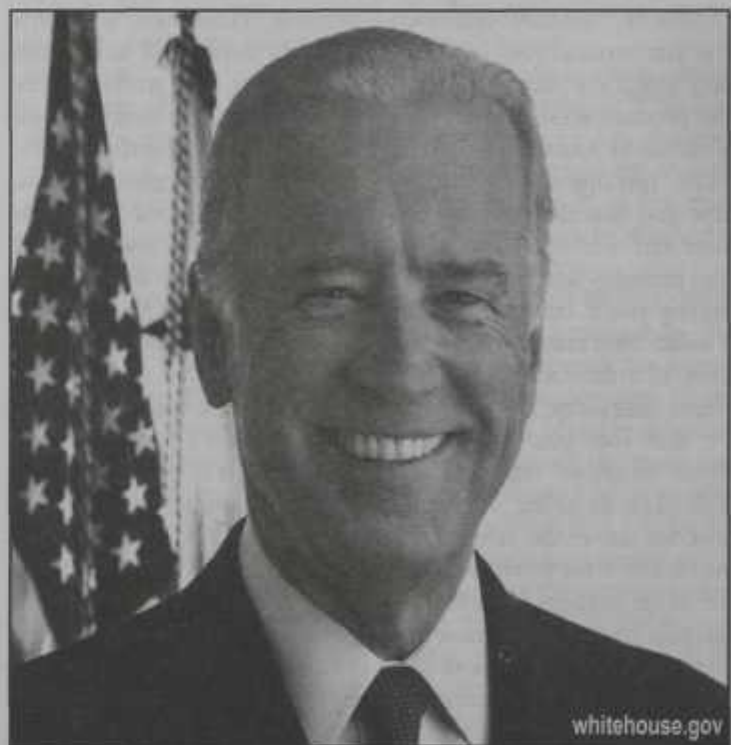
When the topic of women's health was brought up, Ryan

refused to ensure women their right to choose what's right for their own bodies.

Romney has said he would defund Planned Parenthood and appoint Supreme Court Justices to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. Ryan worked in the house with Todd Akin to try to narrow the definition of rape and to outlaw abortion, even in cases of rape and incest.

Both candidates' debate styles were illustrative of what really matters in this campaign: their grasp of the facts, plan for the next four years and commitment to the American people. Vice President Biden's conviction and grasp of the facts and details was reflected in his confidence and relaxed speaking style.

Ryan's false assertions, scare tactics and glib lines were a desperate attempt to mislead the American people—but it didn't work. A CBS News Instant Poll showed that 50% of undecided voters called the victory for Biden, while only 31% favored Ryan. John Heilemann of New York magazine called Biden a "human Politifact."



So what's the takeaway from Thursday night's debate? While Romney and Ryan are trying to trick the American people with empty promises, a lack of concrete policies and plans and false information, President Obama and Vice President Biden have made tremendous strides over the last four years and have a

solid plan to continue moving our country forward over the next four. The choice we have to make on Nov. 6 is clear.

*Editor's note: Both student political groups were contacted for a review of the debate. At the time of publication, the Rollins Republicans did not submit their opinion.*

The opinions on this page do not necessarily reflect those of The Sandspur, its staff or Rollins College.





Airam Date-on

## Ripping it out by the root

After an Immersion trip to Immokalee, Alkass exposes the truth behind the struggles local farm workers have endured for decades.

Kaitlyn Alkass

Writer

It's a Saturday afternoon and you're out at your local grocery store. As you head down the produce aisle, you pick up a carton of tomatoes priced at \$2.39. You figure that's reasonable and toss the produce into your cart. For you those tomatoes probably don't mean much, maybe you'll cut them up for a salad. You may not even use them all in time and throw some rotten ones away.

But did you know that those tomatoes represent the difference of eating or paying rent for an entire family? Do you know if the provider of the tomatoes engages in ethical labor practices? Do you know that companies pay millions of dollars to agricultural scientists to develop produce with specific genetic traits?

If you're like me, you probably didn't give it a second thought. My entire perspective changed this weekend when I participated in the immersion trip to Immokalee. Driving three hours south of Rollins and noticing the changing scenery from urban buildings to cow pastures and fields, I realized

that the situation in Immokalee is a modern day Grapes of Wrath. Up until four years ago, working conditions for farm laborers were equal to modern day slavery. The workers were subject to wage theft as well as physical and verbal abuse. Those in the agricultural industry have not received a pay raise in 30 years! They are still paid by the piece. The average rate today is 50 cents for every 32 pounds of tomatoes. This means that in order for a worker to earn minimum wage, they have to pick almost 2½ tons of tomatoes within a 10 hour period!

In addition, workers are further exploited when looking for housing. A two room trailer often houses 10-14 people and costs \$300/week. Still not convinced that this exploitation of power and poverty culminates into modern day slavery? Since 1997, Federal Civil Rights officials have prosecuted seven slavery operations involving 1,200 workers in Florida fields. One of the slavery cases happened as recently as July 2010, when Department of Justice officials accused three individuals of holding over 50 workers from Haiti in the bean fields of Alachua County, FL. The employers

took the workers' passports and forced them to work the fields. Unfortunately the charges were dropped in January 2012.

Despite all of this abuse, there is a new day fast approaching in the fields. The Coalition of Immokalee Workers is the primary advocacy group our immersion team worked with over Fall Break. The CIW is located on the main street in town. It's simple and has a few old computers in their offices and a semi-circle of rocking chairs in the front room. As benign as the CIW may seem, they've made an impact across the nation and brought awareness to both school campuses and communities of faith.

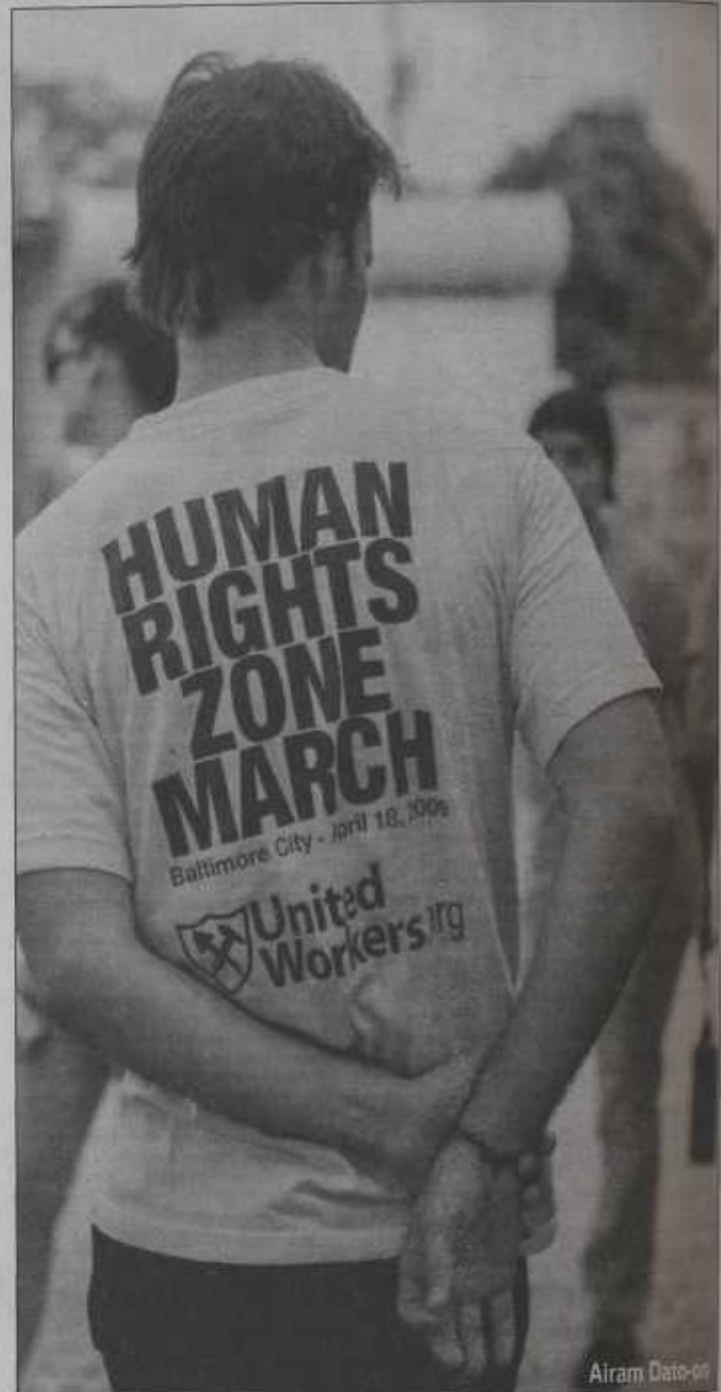
The Coalition of Immokalee Workers' most notable achievement is perhaps the agreement called the Fair Food Program. This program ensures that the Florida farm workers are granted human rights and fair wages. The program has implemented a code of conduct as well as a guarantee that workers will receive minimum wage regardless of how many pounds of tomatoes they pick. In addition to this minimum wage, farmers have signed agreements with their retailers to pay an extra

penny per pound or 32 cents, in addition to the 50 cents per bucket. This means that the companies that have signed this agreement are paying 82 cents per bucket and this money is given back to the workers. The incentive for farms to keep up with this code of conduct is that if grievances are reported back to the CIW, they will lose business with major companies. Major nationwide companies have already signed this agreement; Chipotle even signed the Fair Food Program the day before our group left on the trip! Other food service enterprises endorsing the CIW include Wendy's, Subway, McDonalds', Aramark and Sodexo.

The people who work for the CIW are warm and hard-working. They talked about the travesties they've endured, but they also empowered us to make a difference. One of the women, Silvia, discussed that she is a third generation farm worker. However, her daughter has managed to attain a full scholarship to any college of her

choice. You could see the excitement on Silvia's face that her daughter was going to escape the agricultural industry and receive an education. In addition to learning about the causes CIW fights for and the hard work that goes into producing a crop, our group also spent time mulching the grounds for Immokalee Housing Services, which provides affordable housing, daycare and preschool for the low-income workers.

As we were weeding, I couldn't help but think what one of the leaders of the CIW had told us. If we want to end modern-day slavery, we have to rip it out by the root. Quick fixes will never eradicate the problem. And that's what I felt we were doing as I knelt in the scorching sun, methodically gathering the weeds. That our small group was slowly but surely spreading awareness and making difference. After all we tend to forget the little screaming fact: repression works only to strengthen and knit the repressed.



Airam Date-on



Sexpert



Jamie

## Is Cosmo really the go-to sex bible?

Ever think the sex tips in *Cosmopolitan* are a tad ridiculous? Sexpert Jamie Pizzi explains why women shouldn't rush to grab the next issue.

Jamie Pizzi

Head Designer

My roommates and I like to play this little game where we count the number of times *Cosmopolitan* Magazine displays something sex-related on the front cover (extra points for the word "sex" or "sexy"). Not surprisingly, the Oct. 2012 issue has a whopping four out of eight headlines dedicated to some factor of intercourse. Whether or not you need to know the "real tricks that guarantee an orgasm" or "78 sex facts that will make your panties drop," let's face it: more than likely (depending on your gender) you have probably picked up an issue of *Cosmo* and taken at least some aspect of its salacious prose to heart.

Never being enrolled in a school where sex education was taught, and never quite being able to bare hearing the birds and the bees talk from my mother, I learned everything I thought I needed to know about sex from the pages of *Cosmo Girl* and *YM Magazine* (neither of which are in business today). Although these magazines were directed toward the 16 plus set, my mother had purchased me subscriptions at around age nine, since at that point *Nickelodeon Magazine* wasn't exactly doing it for me anymore. I learned extensively about boobs, boys, periods and sex. Yes, sex (nothing too graphic

though, it was *Cosmo GIRL*).

I still remember getting that exciting, sort of badass feeling that I was reading something I shouldn't be whenever the words "vagina" or "intercourse" appeared on one of those treasured pages. To this day, whenever I am skimming a sexy *Cosmo* article I get the exact same feeling. The constant desire to acquire more information about sex is not something that I myself only fall victim to, obviously at least four out of every eight women share that same predisposition if *Cosmo's* headlines are any indicator.

Whatever a woman's reasons for picking up an issue may be, how much should she really buy into the hype that is *Cosmopolitan Magazine*? Obviously, looking back at my years using teen magazines as a Sex Ed guide, I am sure the information I was getting was not entirely accurate, but it was a good starting point. So should a woman take the sex advice in *Cosmo* seriously, then? From my almost-decade of being a light *Cosmo* connoisseur, I have come to the conclusion that in most cases the answer is no.

While reading *Cosmo* does evoke a certain unmatched feeling of female power, most of the information eventually just ends up sounding like common sense or repetitive bullshit. Unless one were to actually memorize and then somehow conjure up one of those "real tricks that

guarantee an orgasm" during sex, they become essentially useless. Most women aren't spending their time trying to remember how exactly that three paragraph trick on page 54 was supposed to work during the heat of the moment. And what about those "78 sex facts that will make your panties drop"? I am confident that knowing one tablespoon of semen contains five calories is not exactly going to change your life, or really ever matter at all.

What I find most unrealistic about *Cosmo's* ideas about sex is how unrelated they are to what most guys probably want. When it comes down to it, I am willing to bet that men are not dying to see you wrap a strand of pearls around their member, or see you do a strip tease to a Lady Gaga song while wearing one of their ties. Most of *Cosmo's* ideas seem good in theory, but off the page I have still yet to meet a single woman who has based their entire sexual experience on tips they learned from the magazine.

*Cosmopolitan Magazine* will forever live on as one of the top guilty pleasures of American women. Not as their guiding beacon of sexual knowledge, but as a bonding mechanism between girlfriends and a reason to get that "I shouldn't be reading this" feeling all over again. But please ladies, do not take most of those tips literally if you ever want to have sex again.

## The power of Super PACs

As super PACs have become more visible, Novak illustrates how this monetary free speech simply isn't worth it.

Scott Novak

Staff Writer

In 2010, the Supreme Court in *Citizens United vs. Federal Election Committee* ruled that corporations could donate to political candidates. It also decided in *Speechnow.org vs. Federal Election Committee* that the government couldn't impose a limit on how much individuals donate to corporations. And so the Super PAC was born!

However, despite their name, Super PACs aren't all that super. Super PACs, or Political Action Committees, are organizations that have no direct connections to any political candidate but still indirectly support them by, for example, financing negative TV ads about the opposing candidate. They can receive and spend an unlimited amount of money from individuals and corporations, and they can also accept anonymous donations.

Super PACs make free speech a product. The more money you have, the more speech you can buy, which gives any party that caters to the rich a permanent advantage.

This advantage is already blatantly obvious in the current presidential election. In a recent article in *The New Yorker*, Jane Mayer writes about how trying to appease billionaire Super PAC donors is becoming a major dilemma for the Obama campaign. Even though the campaign has held a record number of fund-raisers, most of the donations go directly to the federal candidate's campaign. Currently, the limit on such donations is \$5,000 per candidate and \$38,000 to a national political party.

Obama has beaten Romney in the amount of direct donations, although soon that may no longer be true. However, Romney has indirectly received millions of dollars more than Obama has due to influence of Super PACs. As of Sept. 30, 2012, the biggest Super PAC that sup-

ports Romney, Restore Our Future, has received \$86,631,323 in the 2012 election cycle. The biggest Obama-supporting Super PAC, Priorities USA Action, has only received \$33,426,837.

By this past Aug., at least 33 American billionaires have given a quarter of a million dollars, or more, to groups aimed at defeating Obama. Most of that money is being funneled into attack ads in swing states like Virginia and Colorado.

The harm that Super PACs cause reverberates far outside of the realm of political finances. As Mayer observes, large donors distract candidates from their platform, or pressure candidates to change their platform to fit the donors' own desires. David Axelrod, the senior strategist of Obama's 2012 campaign, has remarked, "In many ways, we're back in the Gilded Age. We have robber barons buying the government."

One possible way to combat the effect these Super PACs have on elections is to vote. Research each candidate in depth to make sure your vote is an informed one. Money may be power, but knowledge is, too.

But let's not be naïve. With the political propaganda that Super PACs spread, the knowledge that the common citizen has access to becomes drastically altered, since the main purpose of a Super PAC is to affect the knowledge that a voter has about a particular candidate.

Because the solution of limiting the power of these Super PACs doesn't seem to be in the near future, I won't end with false optimism, but rather, with an ironic note. Many Americans say that we have to cut more government programs, that we can't afford to invest in education, science and the environment.

Yet for some reason, when election time comes around, these same Americans are suddenly able to dole out billions of dollars to whichever candidate they fancy the most.







# EVER FEEL LIKE YOU'RE BEING WATCHED?

As a student of Rollins College, you are being watched. At an off campus party or home for Winter Break, the terms of the Code of Community Standards follow you. The college policy has sparked confusion amongst students and brings to question the endless opportunities for broad interpretations.

By Jonny B Good and Ben Zitsman

Campus Safety is not sorry for partying.

Sure, they sometimes show up at house parties broken up by the Winter Park Police Department. Sure, they sometimes write students up once they're there. Sure, it may seem unfair to get cited for infraction of a college's rules when not actually on that college's campus. Sure, but Campus Safety isn't sorry: according to Director of Campus Safety Ken Miller, they mean well.

Miller points to the differing spans of time needed to process a case through Winter Park police compared to Campus Safety; through the first, the long and time consuming judicial police process can carry on for months while Campus Safety works a quicker pace to meet college deadlines. Also, he finds the college manner of acting upon charges as more fair.

"In the case of the college," he says, "typically, our actions are much more educational than punitive." They're also better than the alternative: "If you get arrested by the Winter Park Police, they don't care if you're in counseling," Miller explains. "They don't care if you're in rehab. That's not their process."

He continues: "We can be much more educational with our sanctions, and can be much quicker than the City of Winter Park criminal justice system. We think we're fair. We think we're consistent."

But kids are confused.

Kids like Mike Horan '14. Recently, Horan visited a friend's house off campus to attend a party. Then, the cops crashed it. After Mike and the other students were separated into groups

Off campus is a very, very big place. BurgerFi is off campus. So's Bhutan.

according to age, the Winter Park police called Campus Safety. "Security came and took down everyone's R-card number who was under 21," he says. Horan is under 21, so his presence at the party warranted a write-up.

"It boggles my mind [that] the college would want to take the time and resources to reprimand me for being at my friends house party," says Horan. "It just seems like [Campus Safety] could allocate their time more efficiently."

While this may be true, Campus Safety could also allocate their time far less effectively: they could travel the world. According to the 2012-2013 Code of Community Standards, no matter where Rollins students go, they can be punished for violation of Rollins policy.

From page two of the CCS: "Although the college is not responsible or liable for student off-campus events or behavior," the Handbook reads, "it does reserve the right, in the interest of protecting students from harm, to take action in response to behavior off campus that violates college expectations or policies." This passage, meant to authorize Campus Safety officers to mete out citations at house parties, may give

them a little more responsibility than they'd like.

Off campus is a very, very big place. BurgerFi is off campus. So's Bhutan.

Due to the vague wording of this passage, Campus Safety is hypothetically authorized to go anywhere in the world to write-up students in violation of the CCS. That Rollins isn't otherwise responsible for its students while they're off campus is immaterial. It's the violations of college expectations or policies that count here. Even if you're not enrolled.

On medical leave? Suspended? Simply taking the semester off? Doesn't matter. The rules still apply. According to the CCS, "Persons who are not officially enrolled for a particular term but who have a continuing student relationship with, or an educational interest in Rollins College are considered students." This definition—from the Code's first page—means a student who's already been suspended can, if he's in violation of any college policies, theoretically be double-suspended. Or something.

The student can also write an anonymous letter to *The Sandspur*: There are over 30 sanctions listed in the CCS, and "a reflective letter to be submitted for approval to the Office of Community Standard and Responsibility which then may be anonymously submitted to *The Sandspur*," ranks among them. This newspaper is officially a punishment.

Then again, in the CCS, Rollins fails to differentiate between Holt Avenue and North Korea. It's entirely conceivable this is a similar oversight. We'd like to think so.



# Getting personal with Joe Saunders

Scott Novak

Staff Writer

Joe Saunders spoke at Rollins College at a joint meeting with the Rollins College Democrats and Spectrum on Oct. 16 at 6:00 p.m. in the Faculty Club. Saunders is a Democrat running for Florida House District 49 who, if elected, will join David Richardson of Miami Beach as the first openly gay state legislators in the history of Florida.

In an interview at his office, Saunders explained that he first got involved in politics on his college campus at UCF, where he majored in political science and women's studies. He was a member of the Gay Lesbian Bisexual Student Union on campus, the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance and America Coming Together, a Democratic group encouraging people to vote. He was also a campus organizer for the League of Conservation Voters and co-chaired the UCF Progressive Council.

Despite all this involvement, there were two particular moments in Saunders' life that made him certain that politics was his passion. "My sophomore year in college I went to a party with some friends and two of my friends were attacked off-campus for being gay," Saunders said. "That was my first activist moment, because I started organizing people to react to that." After the attack, which one of the victims still has scars from, Saunders helped rally students to get UCF to up-

date the school's nondiscrimination policy. At the time, UCF did not have an all-inclusive nondiscrimination policy for faculty or students.

"Then, in 2004, I was a junior on campus, and I remember that the 2004 election was a really politicizing moment for me," Saunders explained. "That was when I realized that I was going to work in politics, that it wasn't just going to be a hobby of mine. I got very involved in educating the campus community about gay and lesbian families and why the federal marriage amendment, which was being pushed by the president at the time, was important."

Ending discrimination, especially the current discrimination against the Hispanic, black and gay communities, remains a central focus of Saunders' campaign. Saunders also supports a woman's right to make her own healthcare decisions without the interference of the government. Saunders recognizes that there is much work to be done on these issues: last year alone, there were 18 pieces of anti-choice legislation that were filed in the state of Florida, and almost every single year since he has been working for Equality Florida, a piece of anti-gay legislation has been filed.

Besides taking an active stance on equality issues and women's healthcare, the Saunders campaign focuses on ways that Florida can grow jobs, improve the economy and restore funding to the public educa-



Melanie Weitzner

**THE MOVEMENT** Joe Saunders (right) speaking to a group of Rollins students about his campaign. He began his career as a political activist while attending UCF.

tion system. Saunders is the co-chair of the Osceola Arts for Complete Education Coalition, which advocates art education in Osceola County. "The arts are very important to me," Saunders said. "I want to make sure that kids have access to a quality arts education."

Saunders wants to have more funding for schools and to focus on different ways to assess student achievement and teacher performance. "I think high stakes testing is something that we must move away from," Saunders explained. "Testing is part of the equation, but it can't be the only part."

For Saunders, the most rewarding part of the campaign is the team that he's built. "It's been rewarding to see how

many people who have come out who are frustrated with Tallahassee," Saunders said. "There are people from all different worlds. There are people from my Equality Florida family and from the gay and lesbian community that have come out, but there's lots of folks who are sick and tired of the war on women that we see in Tallahassee and the Tallahassee politicians who are continuing to inject themselves into these private, personal health care decisions that women have."

Campaigning requires hours of time and energy. Saunders said, "We knock doors six days a week. Four or five days a week I'm out in the field talking to voters. That's rewarding, but it's also very grinding and a lot of work."

But the hard work seems to be paying off. On Sept. 22, it was reported that the campaign had raised \$42,400 in just four weeks, making Saunders the highest raising Democratic house candidate that quarter and the third-highest raising house candidate in Central Florida. Saunders' Republican opponent, Marco Pena, had only raised \$28,170.

When he isn't busy campaigning, Saunders is heavily involved in theatre. I do a lot of theater," Saunders said. "My partner, Donald, is a drama teacher at a high school in Kissimmee, and he's also a director. When I'm not doing politics, I'm either helping Donald with his drama program, or I'm in a show myself."

At the Rollins event, Saunders explained his background

in politics, his political platform and talked about the importance of having the LGBT community represented in Tallahassee. "There's this moment that happens when gay people are willing to be authentic," Saunders said. "It changes the classroom when somebody says something anti-gay and a student raises their hand and says, 'When you say that, you're talking about me.' That room changes."

Saunders said that in politics, this same act "absolutely changes legislative bodies." He cited the recent policy changes in many parts of Florida that have granted gay and lesbian couples more rights. Orlando City Commissioner Patty Sheehan, who is in an openly gay relationship, is what sparked the bipartisan, unanimous support of greater rights for same-sex couples in the city of Orlando and across the state.

Saunders said that Tallahassee doesn't have someone like Sheehan right now. "When somebody says that there's something so evil about gay people, that there's something so wrong with them that children should be kept from their presence, someone needs to be there and say that when you talk about that person, you're talking about me. You're talking about my family. Tallahassee is desperate for that sort of representation."

To learn more about Saunders, go to [www.votejoesaunders.com](http://www.votejoesaunders.com). If interested in volunteering for the campaign, e-mail [jess@votejoesaunders.com](mailto:jess@votejoesaunders.com).



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# Demystifying the board

A look into what the Board of Trustees actually does and its relationship with Arts & Sciences faculty.



Illustration by Grace Korley

Stephanie Garcia

Staff Writer

A college is a combination of various elements: departments, on-campus organizations, a student body and a faculty. However, one governing body oversees all the happenings of Rollins: the Board of Trustees.

Among the current 35 board members, there are a series of alumni and donors. However, the similarities go further: universally, the trustees are skilled business professionals—former CEOs, managing partners and executive vice presidents. Private Investor Diane Rice and Chairman and CEO of Eastgate Corporation Philip Tiedtke are among the list of experienced executives.

"Board members are elected by the executive committee and chosen because they have been successful in business. The board ensures the financial soundness of Rollins. Board members are expected to either make a donation or raise funds," Professor of English Maurice O'Sullivan said.

The Board of Trustees consists of sub committees, ranging from education to compensation and finance to development. They make tactical decisions, are responsible for hiring senior administration and matters of tenure and promotion require their stamp of approval.

Yet, this board does not consist of any faculty members. The closest representation of faculty present at meetings is President Duncan, who also serves as a trustee.

"During my career at Rollins, the faculty has made sug-

gestions to participate. Last [month], 75 percent of the faculty voted unanimously to be present at board meetings. The College of Arts and Sciences made this request, because Hamilton Holt and Crummer tend to be clearly business oriented, which is the mindset of the trustees," O'Sullivan said.

While faculty are prevented from attending board meetings, a representative for Rollins' parents is allowed to serve as a trustee for a one year term. The board meets three times a year: in the fall, in Feb. and May. Under the bylaws of Rollins College, the Board of Trustees delegates distinct powers and authority to the faculty, including the power to govern itself.

"In curriculum matters, the board usually sides with the faculty. However, the board delegates that authority and when you delegate, you have the power to take it away," O'Sullivan said.

While the faculty and Board of Trustees usually agree in regards to academics, there are conflicting views regarding the new College of Professional Studies. The disagreement lies with the arrangement of the established school. Last semester, when the board made their decision, they met with only a small portion of the A&S faculty. O'Sullivan, along with his colleagues, felt the decision was not an appropriate reflection of the faculty and voted for a different arrangement.

"The faculty objected to the way the new school of professional studies was created. The A&S faculty believe very strongly in the liberal arts mission of the college and in edu-

cation rather than job training. I would imagine that the Board of Trustees, as well as our esteemed colleagues in the school of Professional Studies, agree with this view of education," Jill Jones, President of the Faculty of Arts and Science, said.

Serving as faculty president since 2011, Jones has a similar view of extending the faculty's voice to the Board of Trustees. Jones feels the lack of direct communication with the board is a missed opportunity. Presently, the system of contact has a middleman: President Duncan. Grievances are submitted to him and passed on to the Board.

Along with the A&S faculty, Jones believes overlapping concerns could be better resolved through a formal line of correspondence. On Sept. 12, these issues were addressed in two instances: a letter to the Chairman of the Board, David H. Lord, and a resolution passed by the faculty asking for representation on the Board of Trustees.

The document addressed to the Board states, "...discussion between the academic and financial stakeholders of the college seems the best possible practice to encourage a better understanding of each as well as the best possible practice of decision-making."

While one council deals with financial matters and the other speaks to the intellectual mission of the college, both groups can reach a consensus on representation. A&S is proposing that a faculty member be included in the committees regarding curriculum, academic standards, tenure and promotion and the creation of new programs.

"The A&S faculty would be represented by the President of the A&S faculty or somebody he/she designates. The idea is to have the person representing the faculty chosen by the faculty," Jones said.

The resolution outlines that faculty representatives would not possess voting power, only the power to provide a broader perspective on Rollins and raise awareness to drive decision-making. Jones has asked Presi-

dent Duncan to support the resolution and hopes an official structure of consultation will come to pass.

"I always work on the assumption that we all want what is best for Rollins; my own opinion, shared unanimously by the A&S faculty represented at our last meeting, is that it would be best for Rollins if the academic and financial stakeholders had some formalized communication," Jones said.

## FREE SPEECH

Freedom of speech is an important right and is deeply integrated into our everyday lives. Imagine if censors could stifle discussion by filtering out undesirable speech, as has been done in this article, which has all sexually explicit phrases and all phrases expressing moral or religious beliefs blacked out. In some parts of the world, government censors do have this sort of power. Even in the United States, there are ongoing debates related to issues of free speech, especially as technology changes the landscape of communication.

Considering my first time going to [REDACTED] took place in the costume closet of a local [REDACTED] I am not exactly an authority on balancing [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. However, personal vendettas aside, I am aware of the [REDACTED] struggle plaguing college students: keeping [REDACTED] while not becoming a prude.

And yet, as everyone can surely attest to, there continues to be a flood of young adults who manage to maintain the ethics of their [REDACTED] and the urges of their hormones. Here I present three models, based on friends and students, who have sufficiently found (or attempted to find) a middle ground in the war between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

The full, unfiltered text of this article can be accessed online at [thesandspur.org/the-sexperts-come-all-ye-faithful/](http://thesandspur.org/the-sexperts-come-all-ye-faithful/).

Learn more about contemporary freedom of speech issues with the Rollins chapter of Amnesty International on Oct. 18, from 11:30 to 2 p.m. in front of the Cornell Campus Center, as part of their Free Speech Month.





Press Site of Macklemore and Ryan Lewis

**HIPSTER RAP** The extravagant Macklemore struts his style with his producer Ryan Lewis. The hip-hop duo each showcase their talent in their most recent release *The Heist*.

## DIY rapper rules the charts

Mary Catherine Pflug

Designer

*The Heist*, a thrift-store-chic for-hipsters-by-hipsters rap record, was released on Oct. 9, 2012 by Macklemore and producer Ryan Lewis. Within the first week of its release, it landed on the coveted iTunes #1 Album spot, and slowly made its descent from the throne as the days progressed. A standout single, "Thrift Shop," culminated at No. 5 on Billboard's R&B/Hip-Hop Digital Songs chart, according to The Juice.

So what's the hype? Mackl-

emore is a white rapper from Seattle who is back after his battle with drugs and addiction. He met his producer, Ryan Lewis, on Myspace and this album is the second product of their collaboration. The most surprising thing? The album is completely independent, not backed by any major label. This duo is a perfect example of success in the DIY music industry, using a simple strategy of sold-out shows and social media domination. Whether success is measured by the album's artistic merit or by music-sales statistics is completely up to you.

Catering to the recent come-back trend in physical music (CD's, Vinyl, tapes, etc.), Macklemore and Ryan Lewis released a special edition CD, including a faux snakeskin and gold embossed CD box with individual album art corresponding to each track. Sound a little ridiculous? It is. Mine arrived in the mail a few days ago. It was probably a waste of \$20, but the pictures sure are pretty hanging on my wall.

*The Heist's* lyrics reference the struggle and strife of Childish Gambino circa *Culdesac*, minus the swearing and references

to Tina Fey. It's raw, hypnotic, a little rowdy and a little goofy. It is also probably the cleanest rap that I have ever heard that I actually like. There are clear undertones of Eminem, which is not surprising as both Macklemore and Ryan Lewis are whiter than the embroidered logo on the Rollins' Bro's Polo. It is difficult to put a label on the style of Macklemore and Ryan Lewis. Possibly this is due to the fact that 11 of the 18 songs on the album guest feature an artist from the hipster community you've probably never heard of.

The verdict? 3.5 stars out

of 5. The reason it didn't score lower is because of three songs: "Thrift Shop" (a comedic rap about the hipster thrifting trend), "Same Love" (a beautiful ballad on LGBT rights, with an accompanying music video that will make you bawl) and "Can't Hold Us" (a pump-up song that is a must-add to any workout playlist). The lack of continuity and the fact that I have been listening to it for a week and am still utterly confused about its style keep it from attaining the 4 star ranking.



## Won't Back Down lives up to its name

Taylor Thomas & Sarah Walker

Writers

*Won't Back Down*, a new movie released on Friday, Sept. 28, is an uplifting story about the reform of a public school, inspired by actual events. Maggie Gyllenhaal plays a troubled mother named Jamie Fitzpatrick, who feels that her dyslexic daughter is not getting the education she deserves. The public school that her daughter attends, Adams Elementary, was given an "F" rating for many years and was known for having children drop out and contribute to the crime rate in the

area. Most teachers at the school were unenthusiastic and unmotivated to do more than what was required of them in the classroom. One teacher, Nona Alberts, played by actress Viola Davis (the lead actress from *The Help*) took a stand with Jamie Fitzpatrick. Together the two of them set out on a daunting task to overtake the school in order to make it a better place and give the kids a better future. In order to achieve this task they had to win the support of the parents, teachers and ultimately the district school board.

Throughout the movie, Nona and Jamie highlight the

problems with today's school bureaucracy. Teacher unions are trying to get better benefits and job security for themselves, but they are not as concerned with the students. The teacher unions created a system of tenure, where teachers cannot be fired after working at a school for a certain amount of years. This sometimes results in the teachers having better job security, but less motivation to work hard knowing that they basically cannot lose their job. This is a hot-button topic and the movie is even more controversial than many may realize.

In a motivational speech

to her fellow teachers, Nona emphasizes many of the issues that teachers have. Teachers often have to buy school supplies out of their own pockets, teach to the test and worry about unfair teacher evaluations. Teacher unions were created to help these problems, but they are also creating new ones. The movie does not shy away from these issues, rather, all of these deep issues are covered throughout the plot of the movie. This movie is not only enlightening about the education system, but also offers possibilities to strengthen it.

*Won't Back Down* is somewhat of a cliché movie with its

over-dramatized obstacles, especially since the viewer knows they will succeed. What is the point of making this movie if some success does not come to them? It is a predictable ending with the last and final deciding vote being drawn out and finally ending in a "yes." This is definitely a movie that you could watch knowing what is going to happen from the opening scene. Even though the end was foreseeable, the movie was uplifting as well as inspiring, and it is a movie we would recommend to go see.





# HOW BASKETBALL CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE

A profile of the Tars hoops fanatic, Hiram Helfman, whose life outside basketball enjoys all the praise.

Austin Meehan

Writer

If you've ever walked into the Alford Sports Center to play pickup basketball or to watch the Rollins Tars' mens basketball team in action, then you've probably come across "Mr. Tar," Hiram Helfman.

He's hard to miss, usually sporting one of his favorite NBA players' jerseys. In addition, he's a gym rat: he loves being in the team's company and playing a little himself.

I first met Helfman in Feb. while leaving the gym after playing a few pickup games. He was wearing one of his many old school NBA jerseys—Andre Kirilenko of the Utah Jazz. I found this interesting considering "AK47," as he's known to fans, doesn't have a huge fan base in Florida. The sight of that jersey immediately gave us something in common: we both appreciated players who worked hard, promoted the game internationally and demonstrated good sportsmanship.

By now, Helfman had noticed my Florida Gators shirt. He wanted to know if I had met Chandler Parsons, a former Gators player who worked out at Rollins while the NBA lockout was in effect. Even though I said I hadn't, that conversation was the beginning of a friendship.

Helfman's association with the basketball team began at a Rollins v. Barry University game in February, 2006. It was the first Rollins game that he had attended, and he was immediately enthralled by the spectacle on the court: players exhibiting proper sportsmanship while playing tough, hard-nosed defense, each giving his full effort for their respective teams.

He noticed one player in particular, Johnny Reibel, who played for the Tars from 2005-2008 and is the Tars' seventh all-

**The sight of that jersey immediately gave us something in common: we both appreciated players who worked hard, promoted the game internationally and demonstrated good sportsmanship.**

time leading scorer. Helfman noticed his tenacity on defense and his accurate shooting. He also noticed leadership qualities and incredible sportsmanship.

"Seeing that determination on his face and those competitive flames in his eyes, he was just a great sportsman," says Helfman. He's also describes Reibel as the best Rollins player he's ever seen—very high praise coming from someone who's seen several Division-1 transfers put up incredible numbers for the Tars.

After being amazed by the new phenomenon that was Rollins' hoops, the rest is history. "Mr. Tar," as he is commonly known to players, coaches and students, now attends ten or twelve home games per season. "After 2006, I started watching the practices and the coaching staff took notice. They told me I could come into the locker room before and after games to give the guys motivational talks, which was a surreal moment the first time I did it."

His relationships with the players and coaching staff have blossomed over the years: "I got to know [former Tar player] Brock Blanchard and he introduced me to Coach Klusman," Helfman says. "Coach is a good guy. He emphasizes teamwork, being competitive, sportsmanship and academics. He views academics as the number-one priority."

Helfman's outlook for this year's team? "We have two 'Gator-Tars' [University of Florida transfers Adam Allen and Kyle McClanahan] and no true freshmen on this year's squad. I've always been impressed with Jeff Dirkin '14 because of his strength," he says.

"[Dirkin] has arms of steel! He's able to tear one's arm off! He's willing to use his strength to get the ball in the hoop—every year, it seems like he's getting stronger. But he's not as strong as Tyler Hansbrough!" he says, referring to the Indiana Pacers forward.

"He does, however, remind me of Sasha Pavlovic [forward, Portland Trailblazers] in his calmness and tranquility. In addition, David Diakite is pretty impressive with his dunking abilities. He makes it an art!" Helfman likes to joke around with the guys on the team: it shows why he's such an integral part of the Rollins basketball family.

And while basketball will always remain an important part of his life, it's what Helfman does away from the sport that makes his story so interesting. While he is best-known for his association with the basketball team, Helfman's life away from the court deserves much more recognition.

After graduating from Norwich University in 2008 with a master's degree in Diplomacy, Helfman finished his schooling at Rollins College earning a bachelor's degree in International Relations from the Hamilton Holt school in 2011. Afterwards he began working at the UCF Center for Autism and Related Disabilities.

Helfman was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome (ASD) at age 20, though he hardly has any noticeable effects from the disorder. "I have to tell myself sometimes to talk softer when I hear myself getting

louder. Other than that, many people don't notice that I have a disorder," says Helfman. He works in the center's Technical Assistance department, which is charged with spreading awareness of Asperger's Syndrome to schools, police departments and churches.

"There are some people with ASD who aren't aware that one isn't allowed to leave a store without paying for an item they pick up," says Helfman. "Some individuals with ASD may display unusual behavior, and that's something police officers need to be aware of."

In addition to his work with the Center, he has also given speeches to sixth graders at Tavares Middle School about what it's like to have ASD and how they can learn to relate to those with the disorder. "By doing that, I'm enlightening the younger generation so that they'll be more accepting of those with the disorder," he says.

Despite his love for Rollins' basketball and the excellent work that he does at the UCF Center, Helfman hopes his future lies with the United Nations or an international organization that promotes peace.

"I also hope to be an International Relations professor at a college one day," he adds. "I

like sympathizing with others. I tell players on the Rollins team to view everyone as their fellow human being, even though they might have different ideas than your own. You should respect those ideas."

Basketball has left "Mr. Tar" with much admiration for the sport, and he hopes the game continues to grow around the world and promote peace. "I hope basketball can end the world's tensions," says Helfman. Sports, in general, are gateways to peace. One of the reasons why I got into sports was because they bring people together."

Whether he's cheering on the Tars during a pressure-packed game, educating youths about ADS, or working towards a position in the United Nations, Hiram Helfman will always be "Mr. Tar." He has had such a positive impact on the Rollins basketball community that his other endeavors often take a backseat. His work spreading awareness of Asperger's Syndrome outshines what he's done with the team. He is helping those with disorders somewhat routine daily life.

This deserves the attention, which is what most people should see. Hiram Helfman: "Mr. Tar," dedicated supporter, motivator, campaigner, friend.

## Communication Department Community Celebration

Department of Communication Program  
for Majors, Minors & Interested Students

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Rollins Football has their home opener v. Clemson Club on Oct. 20 at 7 p.m. at Showalter Field.

Photo Courtesy of Jeff Hablica

## Calendar of Events

**Oct. 18**  
THURSDAY

- 2:00 p.m. JUMP: Winter Park Day Nursery, Mills Lawn
- 6:00 p.m. Invisible Children Screening and Workshops, SunTrust Auditorium
- 7:00 p.m. Love Your Body Week: Literature Club Reading, Chase Hall 101

**Oct. 19**  
FRIDAY

- 1:30 p.m. Friday Prayers, Mills Memorial Hall
- 3:00 p.m. Lucy Cross Drop In Discussion: Election 2012, Chase Hall 101
- 5:30 p.m. Alcohol Awareness Event: Drunk Goggles, Pinehurst Cottage
- 5:30 p.m. N. Scott Momaday Reading and Reception, CFAM

**Oct. 20**  
SATURDAY

- 7:40 a.m. JUMP: Society of St. Andrews, Mills Lawn
- 6:00 p.m. Faculty Fall Dinner, Cornell Fine Arts Museum Patio

**Oct. 21**  
SUNDAY

- 11:00 p.m. Sunday Worship Service, Knowles Memorial Chapel
- 8:30 p.m. Catholic Mass, Knowles Memorial Chapel

**Oct. 22**  
MONDAY

- 3:00 p.m. Tel Aviv University Study Abroad Information Session, French House
- 6:00 p.m. The Sandspur General Meeting, Mills Memorial Hall 403
- 7:00 p.m. "Will the Supremes Decide Election 2012? Judicial Issues in Political Context", Galloway Room

**Oct. 23**  
TUESDAY

- 12:30 p.m. Student Life Committee Meeting, Warden Dining Room
- 3:00 p.m. Internship Workshop, Career Services Offices
- 6:00 p.m. Rollins College Democrats Meeting, Orlando Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Volleyball - Armstrong Atlantic, Alford Sports Center

**Oct. 24**  
WEDNESDAY

- 12:30 p.m. The Lucy Cross Center's Birthday Celebration, Chase Hall 101
- 1:00 p.m. Resume Writing Workshop, Career Services Offices