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The **Sandspur**

Effective next semester, a new policy will designate five places on campus as smoking areas, while the rest of Rollins will be

NO

SMOKING

By Hana Saker, page 8



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

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

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NEWS

GENERAL EDUCATION THEMES REVEALED

The resurrection: four "neighborhoods" unveiled

Stemming from the "Rollins Plan," the new general education curriculum finalizes its arrangements and reveals the four official themes on which the curriculum will center.

Emily Kelly

News Editor

For over 30 years, Rollins has been consumed by the current "alphabet soup" system. The program centers on completing a check list of "Q's," "V's," "D's," and so on; each letter is associated with a course to fulfill the general education requirements. In the fall of 2013, however, the "alphabet soup"

system will be replaced with a new program: next year's freshmen will be greeted by the "neighborhood" curriculum.

The details of the "neighborhood" program have rippled throughout campus during the past few weeks: a rebirth of Rollins Plan, the fundamental idea of the curriculum is that students will choose one of four themes, or "neighborhoods." Each student's general education courses will center on their chosen "neighborhood," relieving the current "alphabet soup" program. On Oct. 25, the Arts and Sciences faculty officially elected the four themes: "When Cultures Collide," "Mysteries: Into the Unknown," "Innovation and Creativity," and "Self and Community in a Diverse World."

"The most popular 'neighborhood' among faculty, 'When Cultures Collide,' 'invites students to examine the

biological, artistic, political, cultural and socioeconomic effects of globalization," according to its description. Each discipline will explore the question: "if it really is 'a small world, after all,' how do peoples, cultures and environments change as a result of different worlds encountering one another?"

As its ambiguous title suggests, "Mysteries: Into the Unknown" will delve into the enigmas of the world such as: "Mona Lisa's smile. Antimatter. The sound of Turin. An ideal democracy. The Bermuda triangle. Breaking the speed of light. Sherlock Holmes." The neighborhood considers how mysteries are "fertile ground for producing new knowledge and new truths across disciplines."

"Innovation and Creativity" invites students to examine the by-product of our technologically advancing world: "The Internet. Microloans. Stem Cell research. The pill." Paralleling Rollins' "Ashoka U Change-maker" designation, students in this neighborhood will study the global market through a creative lens while fostering their "skills to [becoming] change-makers themselves."

During a time in our lives in which we are still developing our individual identities, "Self and Community in a Diverse World" will "prepare students to understand themselves chemically, biologically, culturally, socially and personally." Contending to the idea that "our identities—from our DNA to our religion to our fingerprints—shape ways that we think

about, feel and engage with the world," this neighborhood welcomes students who are searching for their true selves.

The four "neighborhoods" were chosen by faculty among nine themes. A ballot-like form was administered to every faculty member, by which they each were to elect their three favorite themes. Of the 165 active members of the Arts and Sciences faculty, 68 responded to the vote.

Because of the number of respondents, votes were needed to elect a theme as one of the four official "neighborhoods." A measly eighteen votes placed "When Cultures Collide" in the number one slot, and only eight votes were necessary to implement "Self and Community in a Diverse World."

Despite the tepid response of voters, the entire Arts and Sciences faculty approved the four themes at the faculty meeting on the 25th, confirming the curriculum change for fall of 2013. As next year's freshmen will be welcomed by the "neighborhood" program, current students will continue to pursue the "alphabet soup" curriculum.

Each students' general education courses will center on their chosen 'neighborhood,' relieving the current 'alphabet soup' program.

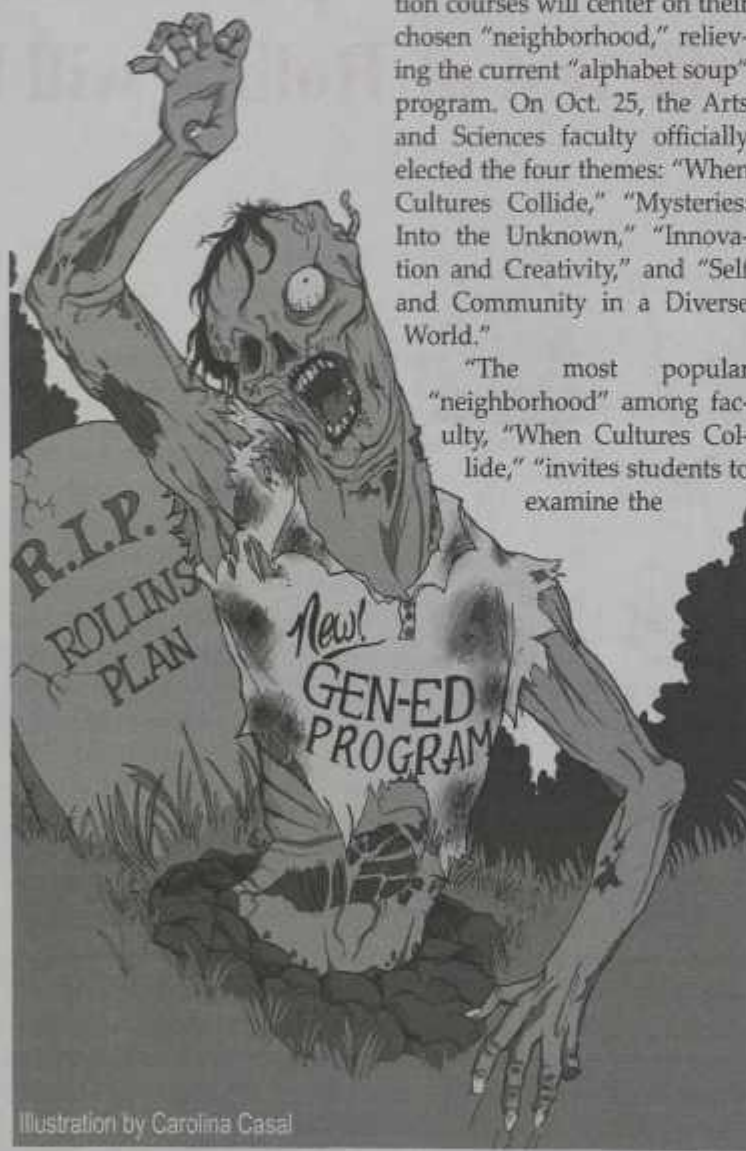


Illustration by Carolina Casal

Welcome families!

Enjoy your time visiting Rollins during Family Weekend 2012.

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Jamie Pizzi

CAMPAIGN GOES LOCAL Anne Romney addresses Winter Park residents during her Florida "Victory Tour." In spite of it being the peak of a cutthroat election season, protesters were absent from Anne Romney's deliverance of a charming note on the election.

Prospective First Lady visits nearby Park Avenue

Jamie Pizzi

Head Designer

A crowd of proud Republicans, young and old, gathered in Central Park on Wednesday, Oct. 24 in support of Ann Romney's Florida "Victory Tour." Fans listened as Ann exclaimed her admiration for both her husband and those who have helped him get this far in the

campaign. She told sweet anecdotes about Mitt's charitable acts as mayor of Massachusetts as the crowd smiled, clapped and cheered in agreement. Ann reiterated how important she felt this election was, and promised that if her husband is elected, the economy would gain back its strength, drastically improving the currently bleak financial outlook for main-stream

Americans. CNN, along with local Fox news were also in attendance, but no rowdy protesters or outspoken neigh-sayers were anywhere to be found. This subdued event could best be described as charming, and nothing more. It was refreshing to see that a political event during the heat of this cutthroat election year could remain so elegantly calm.

Games & ghouls, without the gore

Spencer Smith

Writer

The ominous weather predictions weren't able to stop this year's Halloween Howl. Although the grey overcast fended off some, there couldn't have been a better turnout last Saturday on Mills Lawn. From the families in our community and even some as far as Tampa, it seemed as if nobody wanted to miss out on this special Rollins tradition.

For those of you who were not able to attend, basically Halloween Howl is an annual festival thrown for our local community. Clubs and organizations jump on this opportunity to engage with the parents and children that come for this daytime celebration. Children can dress up in their costumes, play games and receive anything from candy to biodegradable potting plants (courtesy of Eco-Rollins). It was a great chance to steer Winter Park away from that stereotypical image of the average college partier.

The non-stop flow of people in and out of the festival gave me the perfect opportunity to ask some of the families about their thoughts of the event. I had better luck interviewing the adults because most of the children didn't want to be deprived a second from their early trick-or-treating operations. The only way I could possibly interview some of the ninjas, vampires, princesses, Marios and Luigis was by offering some sort of sugary snack. A ghost by the name of Steven White was able to tell me, "I love Halloween Howl because of the candy!" for the price of one peanut butter cup. I was also able to meet

up with Gabriella Johnson, an eight-year-old from Orlando, who said "I can't wait to go to college!" Gabriella's mother, Andrea, was also able to provide her input about the field day "I think that this is a great opportunity to take advantage of. We have been coming here for three years now and it has gotten better every time. Being a mother of two I am always worried about my children on Halloween night, so I greatly appreciate the safety and ease of mind that come with Halloween Howl. The beautiful campus and generous students are really what makes this event so special. I give everyone that volunteered for this event a huge thanks." The enlightening words from some of our fellow community members are what made this festival so worthwhile.

Overall the day was an enormous success and everyone involved deserved a pat on the back for making it all possible. The spooky haunted houses and clever costumes made this year's Halloween Howl one to remember. Even though we provided the children with their sugar highs, I think that Rollins' students got the biggest treat by being able to benefit the community. It can only make you think, what's in store for next year?

From the families in our community and even some as far as Tampa, it seemed as if nobody wanted to miss out on this special Rollins tradition.

High fives of the week

This weeks high fives come courtesy of Designer Mary Cathering Pflug.

1. Place to grab lunch

Your room. Just whip out that contraband grilled cheese maker, invite your roommate and some friends and you've got a perfect reason to not have to go outside in the cold just to grab food from the campus center.

2. Most played

Coexist by The XX.
The only album I have ever described as "perfect." The XX's latest release is ideal for any occasion, from burrowing in your bed under all of the covers to escape the cold, to a night drive from late movie, to a pre-essay-writing pump-up session. It is a rare gem that is nostalgic, chill and pump-up all wrapped up in one.

3. Happy hour choice

Rum and coke, with a dash of lime.
You can at least pretend that it's still summer and that your tan won't be fading soon.

4. Looking forward to...

Parents weekend.
Whether you're actually excited to see your parents, or more stoked for the prospect of winter clothes, a free off-campus meal, and maybe even some home-made cookies, parents weekend is sure to be an event that will, if anything else, cause the Campus Center weekend food to actually be good.

5. Starbucks drink

Espresso.
Personally, I see shots of espresso like little samples you get at supermarkets: you can get a ton and still have room for lunch. It is possible that I live in ignorant bliss, but I am happy with my lifestyle choice that allows me to theoretically never sleep.

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

Romney: a bully beyond the playground

When it comes to social issues, Governor Romney is one of the biggest opponents of LGBT rights. Scott Novak highlights the candidate's bigotry and why Obama is better for the LGBT community.

Scott Novak

Staff Writer

I beg Mitt Romney to do something that opponents of same-sex marriage often request: please, think of the children.

The news is just surfacing in popular media that Romney refused to offer accurate birth certificates to children of same-sex couples when he served as Governor of Massachusetts. For lesbian women, only after receiving approval from Romney's lawyers, could hospital officials and town clerks be permitted to ink out the word "father" on birth certificates and write "second parent." Gay men seeking parental rights had to obtain a court order. By law, birth certificates must be issued within ten days of birth, and in some cases, this deadline was not met.

The Deputy General of the Department of Public Health warned Mark Nielsen, Romney's General Counsel, that children with altered birth certificates could "encounter [difficulties] later in life . . . as they try to register for school, or apply for a passport or a driver's license, or enlist in the military, or register to vote."

But Romney, like a honey badger, don't care. In a 2005 speech to voters in South Carolina, he said, "Some gays are actually having children born to them. It's not right on paper. It's not right in fact. Every child has a right to a mother and father."

These actions show that Romney's bigotry towards the LGBT community is so vicious that he has no qualms about hurting their children. Based on the way Romney and many other social conservatives speak about gays, I am forced to conclude that they think gay people are born into the world as adults instead of babies. For whenever they talk about protecting the children, they act as if gay children don't exist.

Imagine you're a ten-year-old gay kid watching the evening news with your parents and you hear Romney talk about people like you. He talks about you as if you are some sort of criminal, just like your classmates do. And people wonder why the teen suicide rate is so high? Why kids are bullied? Open your eyes. Children have to learn how to discriminate, and it is people like Mitt Romney that teach them to do so.

Obama, on the other hand, has done more for the LGBT community than any other president before him. He repealed "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," a law that prohibited openly gay people from serving in the military. The President also stopped defending the Defense of Marriage Act in court, which outlawed discrimination in federal workplaces based on gender identity, ensured hospital visitation

rights of LGBT patients, ended the ban that prohibited people carrying HIV/AIDS from entering America and signed the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which gave LGBT Americans federal protection against hate crimes.

When it comes to LGBT rights, words and actions are just as essential as actual bills. Obama has recorded an "It Gets Better" video to support LGBT youth who are bullied, was awarded the Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor, to Billie Jean King and Harvey Milk and endorses the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. And of course, he is the first president ever to support marriage equality for same-sex couples.

Romney is the polar opposite of Obama on issues concerning the LGBT community. He is against civil unions as well as same-sex marriage. He wants a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage, with his website declaring that he will "champion a Federal Marriage Amendment to the Constitution defining marriage as between one man and one woman." There is a whole lot more at stake here than marriage, though. Romney was against the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," doesn't support the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and said that hospital visitation rights should be left for each state to decide.

The next president will have an enormous power to determine the future of LGBT citizens. The LGBT community will attain

equality legislatively and through the Supreme Court. In the next four years, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who is almost 80, will likely retire. If Romney wins, he will certainly appoint a justice that will set gay rights in reverse. As there are several important LGBT cases making their way to the Supreme Court, gays cannot afford to have Romney as president.

Single issue voting is not something I regularly encourage, but when it comes to human rights, I think it's okay. The human rights of any group - whether it is gays, blacks, Jews, Hispanics, Muslims, Christians or atheists - are not worth sacrificing for anything, not even the shady promise of a better economy.

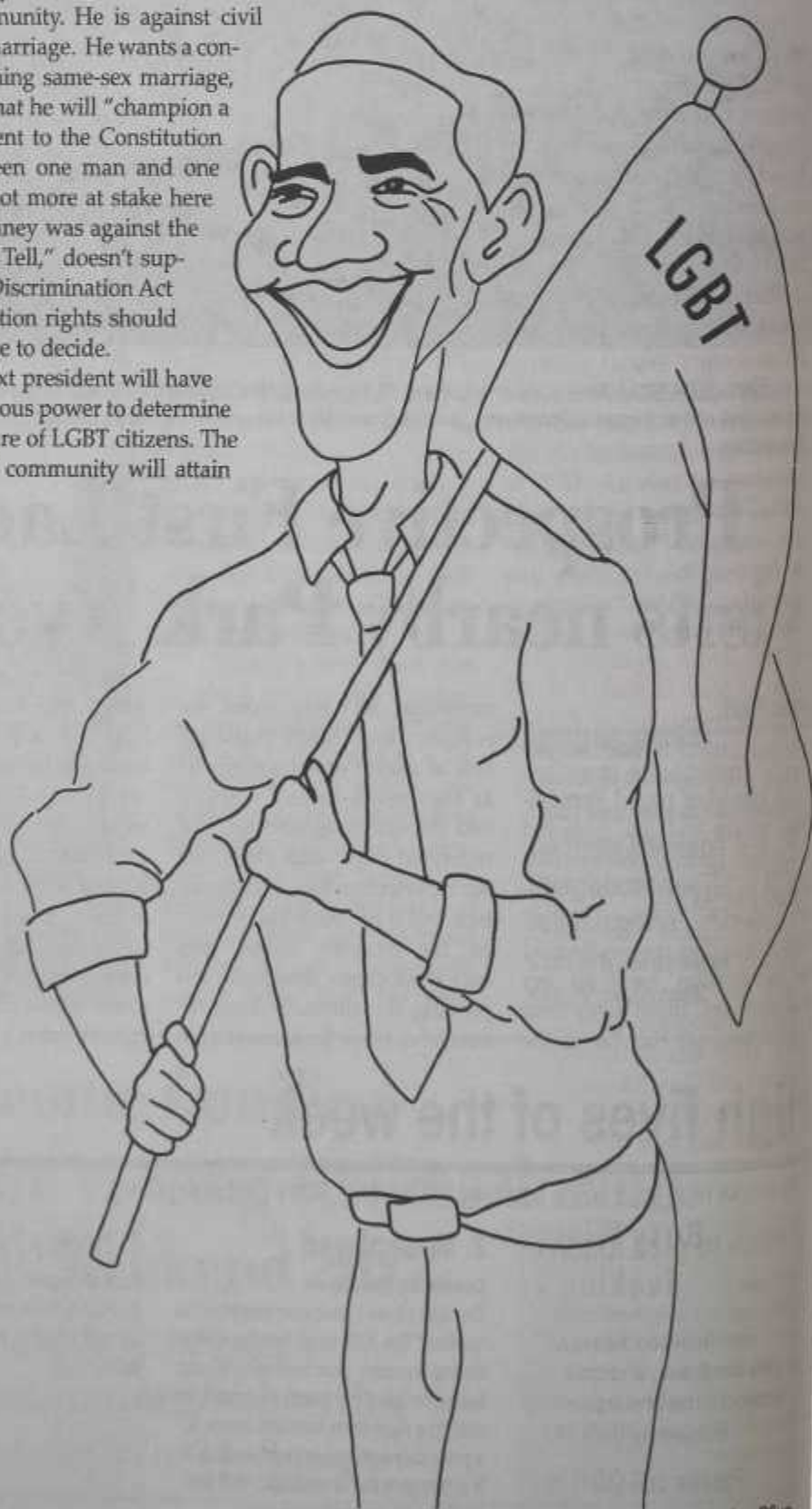




Illustration by Mary Catherine Pflug

Debating democracy

Lauren Silvestri

Writer

You may think that the presidential debates are over, and I assume that you did not even watch one of the most important presidential debates of this election: the Free and Equal Third Party debate that occurred on Tuesday, Oct. 23. This debate was held at the Hilton Chicago hotel and gave third party presidential candidates the chance to speak openly about their platforms to the public.

The Chicago-based non-profit Free and Equal Elections Foundation sponsored the debate and, according to Founder and Chairwoman Christina Tobin, serves to "bring power back to the people." The foundation strongly criticizes the Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD), which requires a candidate to have at least a 15 percent representation in the polls to participate in their elections. This, Free and Equal argues, creates a two-party "duopoly" and limits the options that Americans should receive for their candidates.

The top six third party candidates were invited to speak, with Jill Stein (Green Party), Rocky Anderson (Justice Party), Virgil Goode (Constitution Party) and Gary Johnson (Libertarian Party) attending. Barack Obama and Mitt Romney de-

clined to attend. Larry King moderated the debate.

The audience was often reminded of the debate's "grass-roots" background- King initially forgot to allow each candidate an opening statement, and the entire night felt more like an informal discussion. All questions were collected from the public via social media. The candidates were fair and friendly to each other, and while this was probably due to their low prospects of winning the election, it still was a refreshing alternative from the cutthroat Democrat and Republican bickering.

The debate covered topics that were avoided in the mainstream debates, like the "War on Drugs." Except for Goode, all the candidates supported the legalization of marijuana. Citing from her previous experience in clinical practice, Stein announced, "Marijuana is not illegal because it is dangerous, it is dangerous because it is illegal."

When asked about the ongoing drone controversy, all candidates strongly disapproved of Obama's and Romney's foreign policies. "We are the policemen of the world," Goode said, while Johnson added that we should focus on "defense, not offense."

The state of young people and higher education also sparked concern in the candidates. Stein called college students "indentured servants,"

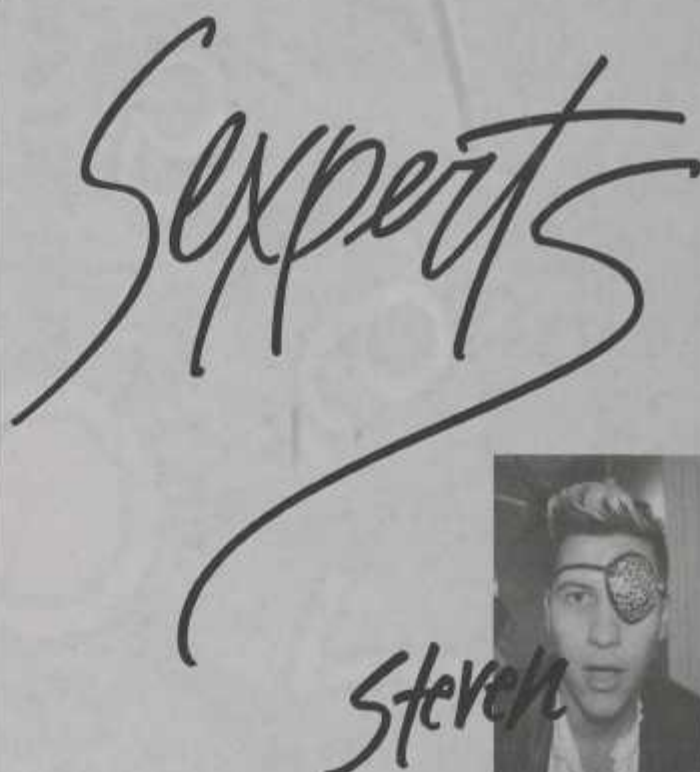
and she and Anderson maintain that higher education should be free. Johnson wants all college graduates to be pardoned for their loans. "We should be bailing out our students, not Wall-street," he said.

This debate left me with mixed feelings. At first, I was extremely frustrated. These candidates are seen as "radicals," yet the discussions that occurred reminded me of common conversation among my peers. Knowing that these candidates were barred from mainstream media and will not win the election makes inspires within me cynicism towards our whole political system, which seems to be full of paradoxes and funded by corporate machines.

However, this debate was a step, no matter how small, in the right direction. The mass prevalence of the Internet and social media in our everyday lives allows more dissent to be heard regarding our current politics. While this debate was not broadcast on any major cable network, it was streamed live via Youtube, OraTV and the Free and Equal Elections Foundation's website, freeandequal.org, and can still be watched on those sites.

As more and more Americans, particularly the younger generations, become disillusioned with the existing two party system, I believe that third parties will continue to gain support. We should not be satisfied with voting for the "lesser of two evils." Instead, like Johnson proclaimed, "Wasting your vote is voting for someone you don't believe in."

Watch the second third party presidential debate between Jill Stein and Gary Johnson on Nov. 5, at 9 p.m. E.T. via freeandequal.org/live and RT America's YouTube channel.



Sexploration

Steven Penaranda

Columnist

For centuries, sex has been culturally tied to the bedroom. I guess I get it. It's comfortable, it's private, your Taylor Lautner poster is there to stare at if you get bored. But when has comfortable ever meant sexy? I'll tell you right now: the answer is never.

I don't care how many candles you light, how much champagne you buy, or how many roses you massacre and scatter all over your 400 thread count Egyptian cotton sheets. It's just not thrilling. There's no edge. You're never going to say, "Hey, remember that time we had sex in the bed?"

Being the Sexpert that I am, I would like to suggest instead some sexier spots to enjoy your partner's company. If you want to experience something really steamy but still want to stay in the house, why not take things to the shower? Chances are there's one right around the corner from your bedroom.

Just take your favorite sex buddy by the hand, lead them to the bathroom, and turn that faucet right into the red zone. While you're waiting for the water to heat up, start getting things hot with your partner. Once everything has reached the right temperature, step into the ceramic sex chamber and enjoy the sight of your partner soaking wet.

There's no quicker way to look ten times sexier than to

get completely drenched, as evidenced by *Baywatch* and wet t-shirt contests. And don't be afraid to get dirty. It'll give you an excuse to scrub each other down with that Sensual Amber crap your aunt got you from Bath & Body Works last Christmas.

Another couple notches up the naughty scale lies the car. Cars are about as easy to find as showers. In fact, many people have one right in their driveway. But cars have something that showers don't: portability. With a car, you can take your sex anywhere.

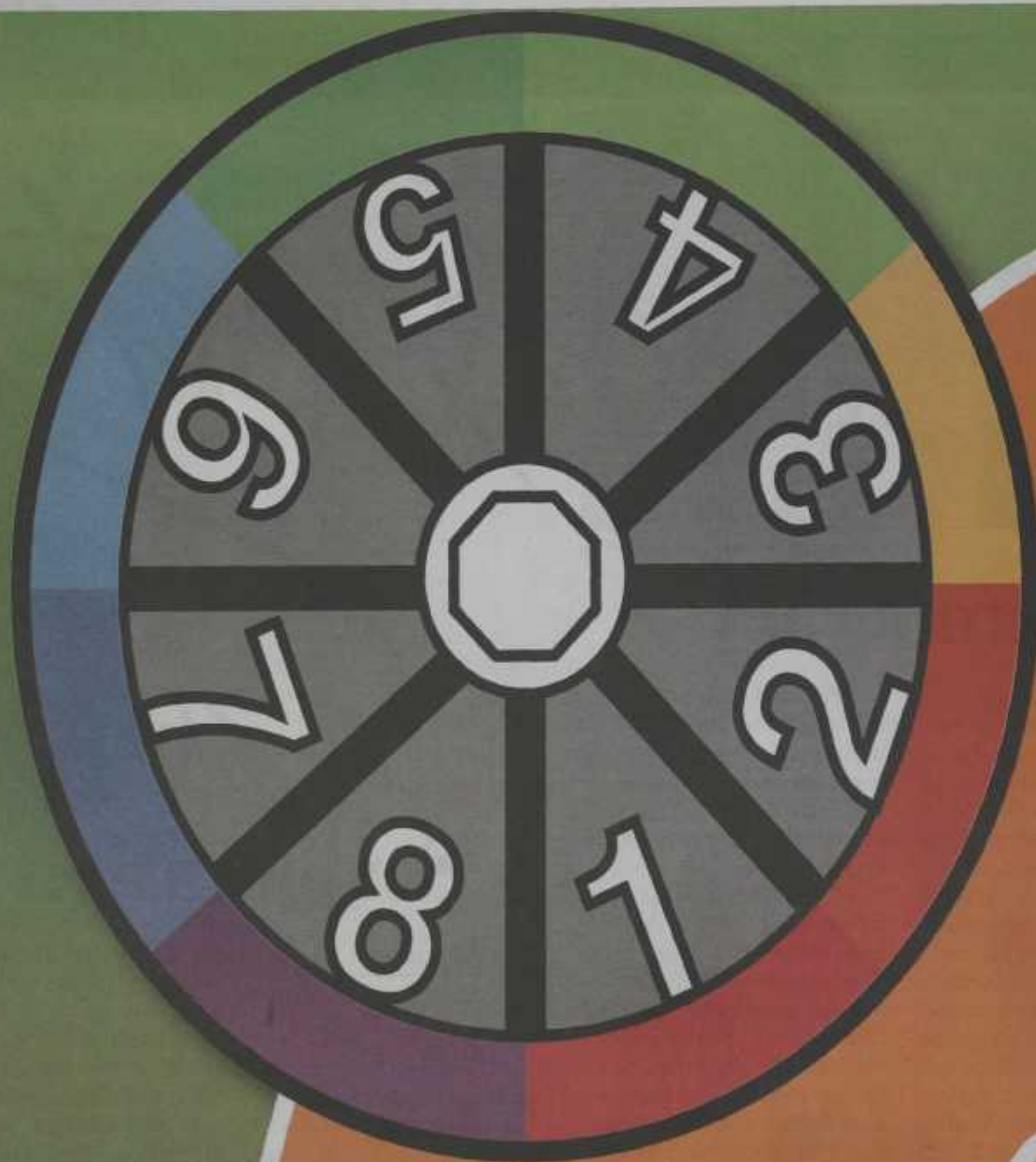
Feeling romantic? Cruise on down to the park while it's raining, hop out and pretend you're Ryan Gosling and Rachel McAdams, and then pop back in for some Nicholas Sparks style passion. Feeling like an exhibitionist? Park it at the mall. The fear of getting caught will have your heart beating and adrenaline pumping through your veins. You'll be tired, hungry, and hot afterwards, but with any luck, there will be a Panda Express just inside.

Go to a playground after dark. Throw a blanket down on an empty beach. Have a hoe-down in the hayloft. Use your imagination and chase that spark. Revel in spontaneity because that's what makes memories. Keep sex fun and special. The bedroom is nice, but there's a whole sexy world out there to sexploration. You won't regret it... unless you get arrested for indecent exposure.

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Start Career

Heading to college after high school is an all-American tradition, a rite of passage. No other culture puts quite so much emphasis on following this four-year path. As teens, we long for the collegiate experience, post primary school, revering the life on campus. The tantalizing carrot that is a college education entices our desire for an adult life and all that comes with it: stability, comfort, acceptance, prosperity. For those of us who have chased after this carrot and gobbled down the college experience, only to find our hunger unsatiated—I give you this list. A guide, an inventory, a reminder: call it what you will, but I assure you it will settle all of those grumbings of doubt, pangs of regret and twinges of disappointment about the true value of your higher education. Read on to suppress the faint realization that you, and so many others like you, spent four of your most verdant years of life in pursuit of the textbook American dream. I urge you, fellow students, to extinguish any unorthodox musings and alternative visions of travelling down anything other than the well-worn path to the diploma. Remember—college really is, and was, all it's chalked up to be.

Start College

1. Don't worry, you'll get a job.

That college degree is your Wonka ticket, a real one-in-a-million. Well actually, it's one in about three million other bachelor's degrees awarded in the last five years.[#] But relax, that English degree of yours is unique and will take you far beyond the confines of the local coffee shop counter. And don't start regretting that minor in Classical Studies. You're bound to find a job using that knowledge on the daily basis—even if it's communicating with your boss at the late-night falafel joint.

2. Don't think about the cost.

So some "financial experts" are saying your education is overpriced and inflated.[#] Ignore them. Education is invaluable, and worth every penny you have in your pockets (and even the endless imaginary pennies in your bottomless imaginary pockets—this is a fun way I like to think about loans). The great thing about college is that you never have to deal with money physically changing hands, making paying for education a cinch. Yes, college is expensive, but it's not real money if you can't use it to buy a new pair of Toms.

3. Don't look up to those successful entrepreneurial dropouts.

Bill Gates, Mark Zuckerberg, Steve Jobs. These guys gave college the metaphorical middle finger to academia and explored what avenues the brain could take outside of the scholastic

sphere. Ignoring the institution, they plowed both fictional business plans and unorthodox ideas, with issues and demands. But you, you recent college degree and a "superb analysis" of Wordsworth, you come out of college progressively open-minded, can practically think outside of the box at will.

4. Take solace in the fact you're not graduating college.

Remember your senior year of high school when they were going to college on the homeroom trip? They feel just a little bit sorry for the kids headed to college? That's not even real college, is it? They don't have a school mascot or even Greek life. The campus is an industrial park, and I'm pretty sure the chairs in the lecture hall are real leather. If college is about anything other than team sports, parties and Instagram party pics on your Facebook timeline, then it's not a sunny campus quad? Lo-fi if not a sunny campus quad?

Also, let's talk about how seemingly anyone can get a college degree. A four-year degree is special because it's selected to be part of this distinctive cerebral

Success?

Does higher education pay in the game of

WEE?

by Kelsey A. Glennon

other unconven-
ing global needs,
with a liberal arts
"James Turner,"
of hope. You
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a solid educa-
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to you Amaro or
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mean, you

can't just get into school by throwing a ball around, am I right?
Two-year degree students might have some extra change in their pocket, time on their hands and experience under their belt because they scrimped on an education, but for what? —The nifty ability to rewire a home or take a high quality X-ray? They won't be the ones able to keep the conversation going when the party chatter shifts to early twentieth century satire, that's for sure.
5. Remember, you're one of the smart ones.
Don't forget about that killer entrance essay you wrote. You know, the one about how you struggled through high school to pursue your quirky interests while battling the unceasing pressure to be "like everyone else." Congratulations on overcoming all of this personal struggle and angst and breaking away from the norm. Bottle this up for your instant best-selling novella and remember that your entrance essay beat out other essays, ones with lesser primary-school struggles than you. You're tough stuff. Not everyone has been blessed with such strife.
6. Remember, there's no place like college.
Dorothy may have clicked her heels twice and longed for "home"—the only place with that special sense of comfort. But when it comes to longing for learning and

Compliment
Professor
Move to Next Space

Receive Citation
From Campus Safety
For Underage Drinking
Go Back Four Spaces

Fail Midterm
Paper
Go Back Two Spaces

knowledge, col-
lege is the only
place to find it. Colleges and
Universities have all the resources:
multi-tiered libraries, tutors the same age as
you, that microfiche machine no one knows how to use
and most importantly—professors. No one knows how to ask an
introspective question gleaned from "Zen in the Art of Motorcycle Main-
tenance" better than a good ol' elbow-patched professor. You really couldn't
have done it without the help of these scholarly resources. I mean, it's not like
there's some outlet of information where you can access infinite amounts of wisdom,
ideas, perspectives and stories from all over the world on your own. Imagine! I wonder who'll
invent that? A college grad, I bet.
7. You made the right choice.
Instead of taking a year off to backpack across the countryside and work on organic
farms for your bed and bread, you went to college. What did anyone ever learn from
schlepping around outdoors and living off their labors anyway? You really dodged
a mud pie there.
Not a lot of young Americans travel when they're young, and with good
reason. Imagine returning back to society and being behind, having to
catch up on all that content your peers absorbed right on sched-
ule. Whimsical travelling leads to what, really? Learning
how to live, communicate and identify with others
in some strange, foreign place? Some
education that is.

Please vote, and here's why

Despite the vexation of incessant donation emails and campaign ads, Kate Barnekow asserts the significance of college voters.

Kate Barnekow

Writer

I'm sick of this election season. The attack ads, the donation emails, the incessant Facebook posts from high school friends I don't even talk to and distant relatives I've never met—I'm ready for it all to end. And in less than a week, it will all be over. But in the meantime—and hear me out—we absolutely have to get involved.

For the past three months, I've been working on a project for the Fair Election Legal Network (FELN), a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization headquartered in Washington, D.C. FELN's mission is to remove barriers to registration and voting. Its Campus Vote Project (CVP) is a "campaign to help college students work with administrators and local election officials to make the process of voting easier and overcome barriers students often face to voting."

As the CVP's Statewide Coordinator for Florida, I've emailed, met with, talked to and traveled to meet people across the state and country, and I've gained a lot of extremely valuable information about college students and voting that I'd like to share with you.

First, let's agree that this is a crucial election. Tuition costs, healthcare, marriage equality, our strategy in the Middle East and a host of other issues all depend on the outcome of Nov. 6. And yet many of us will not vote. Disappointingly, our demographic has a history of not turning out at the polls. In the 2008 election, 67 percent of people 30 and over voted, while only 49 percent of us between the ages of 18 and 24 did. Why is this? A major reason is that many students are away from home. In a new location, we may not know how to register, when to vote, where to vote, or what types of identification to bring to the polls. Even know-

ing whether or not we can vote in our college community (instead of having to vote back home) can be confusing.

Moreover, and nefariously, many states have enacted laws that are designed to make it harder for students to vote. Florida is one of these states. The most prevalent of these laws require voters to show forms of identification that students typically don't have.

We can't let a lack of information, cynical politicians or anything else stop us from participating in this historic election. Voting is our right—and responsibility—as citizens of the world's leading democracy. I hear people say that they're not going to vote, for whatever reason, and I always tell them the same thing: not voting isn't rebellion, it's surrender. A low voter turnout doesn't make us look cool and intellectual (or whatever else it is you're going for), it makes us look uninformed and apathetic.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt put it this way: "Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves, and the only way they could do this is by not voting." Replace "American people" with "college students" and you'll get my point.

"We can't let a lack of information, cynical politicians or anything else stop us from participating in this historic election."

New smoking policy hashed out

The new smoking policy fails to provide adequate information as to how it will be implemented next semester on campus.

Hana Saker

Editor-in-Chief

Starting Jan. 1, 2013, students, staff, faculty and visitors will be allowed to smoke in only five places on campus. The general area of each of the five locations is labeled on a small, nondescript map included within the policy, but it fails to specify what the names of the locations actually are.

When contacted about the new policy and, more specifically, how it will be implemented and enforced, Director of Campus Safety Ken Miller declined to comment. Operations Coordinator Bayrex Rodriguez did mention, however, that Campus Safety is not "the smoking police," and that the policy is expected to be carried out through a "community effort."

The policy outlines a similar strategy, one where everyone is not only expected to simply follow the policy just because it's the policy, but to "encourage others to comply" as well, and even "courteously inform the individual offender of the policy and request their compliance." In this case, the "offender" is—somewhat unrealistically—expected to ever so kindly put out their cigarette. The ramifications for noncompliance? The possibility of "disciplinary action" or "removal from campus," both of which are vague at best.

This also brings into question how the policy will be enforced upon someone like a professor or a visitor. Will they, too, be disciplined? Escorted off campus?

In terms of who will be most affected, the school has

considered the "needs and concerns of smokers and non-smokers alike" in the creation of the new rule. The new policy does not directly impact non-smokers, other than the school's call to enforce the rule and, of course, how it will be positively influencing their health.

For smokers, the campus-wide e-mail that was sent out moves quickly from informing about the new policy to detailing the ways Rollins can (and will) help you quit smoking. Although informational, the message's judgmental tone is not particularly subtle about Rollins' disdain for your personal decision to smoke.

Check back next week for student perspectives on the issue, when two writers give their opinions on why they are or aren't in favor of the new policy.

Remedying post-midterm apathy

Stephanie Garcia

Staff Writer

The wrath of midterms has passed and the first semester is slowly, but surely, coming to a close. While students were once eager to tackle the semester, they are presently drained of academic energy. Building up to fall break, an epidemic of Post-Midterm Apathy unravelled and a lack of motivation proved to be a difficult illness to fight off.

The combination of demanding classes, extracurricular activities and part-time jobs can unhinge even the most talented multi-tasker. Study time turns into a status update extravaganza. Instead of reading a chapter, a staring contest between students and textbooks emerges.

Overwhelmed Tars feel time is slipping away and a discouraging workload only encourages distraction. One may

vow to write that English paper, but watching an entire season of *Modern Family* is clearly a better alternative. And one may promise to start that lab work, but shopping online for the latest fall attire takes precedence.

Once one acknowledges this declining enthusiasm, it is only reasonable to set goals. This uninspired phase necessitates a remedy to recharge and reclaim one's productive drive. To defeat Post-Midterm Procrastination, here is some helpful advice:

Get Organized: Make a to-do list based on priorities and deadlines. Having one due date for an assignment is an invitation to procrastinate. Timelining assignments will provide space for delays and create an urgency to act.

Set Limits: Determine how long it takes to accomplish a given task. Quick tasks can be completed on a current day. For longer tasks, divide the assign-

ment into separate parts and focus on one part at a time.

Change Surroundings: Environment impacts productivity. If the library does not inspire action or if a dorm causes drowsiness, it is time for a new venue. To revamp one's motivation, find a place that is secluded or effective.

Pick a buddy: Safety in numbers is a reliable alternative. Being surrounded by individuals who share similar goals encourages accountability when steering off-track from goals.

Give Rewards: Begin working with a reward in mind; it can be as big as achieving a long-term aspiration or as small as going out with friends.

No matter what the method, overcoming Post-Midterm Apathy is a matter of doing. Complaining about assignments or refusing to complete them does not produce a result; the key is a commitment to take action.

Brightening horizons abroad

Many of us wish to immerse ourselves in a foreign country after graduation but only a few turn it into a reality. With a Fulbright scholarship, Rollins students can achieve this while spreading their knowledge to other eager students.

Kylie Nave

Writer

Play your cards right and, unlike all your friends beginning their adult lives in the workforce with a 9 to 5, you could end up with an all-expense-paid trip to the country of your choice after graduation.

It's one of the many perks of the U.S. government-funded Fulbright scholarship, an academic scholar exchange program which aims to send the brightest students and scholars from each of the participating countries to study, live and teach abroad in order to promote understanding between countries.

"It's really a goodwill offering between countries," says Rollins Associate Professor of Anthropology Rachel Newcomb, recipient of a Professional Fulbright in 2011. "We send our scholars to them; they send theirs to us. The goal is to better understand and appreciate each other."

According to Newcomb, her research on Moroccan women's changing roles in the public sphere did just that for her.

"I was surprised by how many amazing, spirited, trail-blazing women I met in Morocco who defied the stereotypes we have in the west about passive Muslim women.... Of course there were lifestyle changes that were challenging, but I embraced the culture shock and learned so much from trying to adapt to the lifestyles of the people I knew there," she said.

The Fulbright program seeks to accomplish its goals of better connected and more understanding populations through two primary types of grants: those for research and those for teaching assistantships. Research grants, though they are available to recently graduated undergrads, are primarily awarded to professors

and doctoral candidates like Newcomb who live in a country and actively pursue studies there. Graduating seniors like Rollins' own Ryan Lambert '13 normally apply for the Teaching Assistantship program. This a division of the Fulbright program which sends recent college graduates abroad to act as a teaching assistant for their native language in a foreign country to anywhere from elementary to college students. There they act as ambassadors for their own country and serve as a tangible link between their own culture and the communities where they live and teach.

Sometimes, as is the case with American students going to Germany, countries require Fulbrights to pass a proficiency test in their language. Some countries, like Korea, have no such requirements.

Wherever Fulbright students choose to go, they can expect a lot of fun, a lot of work and a lot of new experiences and people that can become valuable assets in the future.

"I hang out with friends and travel around the country.... [But] most of my time is devoted to teaching and planning and making connections with the students," said current Fulbright scholar Nic Ramos-Flores, an English teaching assistant in Korea.

Another current Fulbright scholar, Carina Schubert '12 from Austria has a similar opinion.

"It's kind of a gap year which is not lost time because I can improve my English skills, meet a lot of new people and gain a lot of new experiences," Schubert said. "I've met so many new people already, not only from Rollins but other Fulbrights, as well as those officials that oversee the program. It's given me a whole new network of connections."

Suzanne Robertshaw, an-

other member of Rollins faculty to receive the Professional Fulbright Scholarship in the past as well as a big supporter of the program at Rollins, spoke of the advantages offered by the program as well.

"[Because] it's under the auspices of the federal government, it opens up a lot of doors if you've got a Fulbright right after college.... There are many opportunities similar to this, but this one is prestigious.... You have all the resources of the federal government to help you" Robertshaw said.

And it all starts with an application. Not an easy one by any stretch of the imagination as Schubert, Ramos-Flores and Lambert agree, but certainly one they say will be worth your while.

Ramos-Flores almost missed his chance. "I knew that it was a good opportunity, but I didn't want to go through the trouble of the application. I am glad that I did.... It really changed the way I think about life and about my future."

"I had put off the foreign service...., but after being here and seeing the possibilities, I feel like it is something I truly want to do. With a degree in Spanish, I felt like I had limited options, and Fulbright has allowed me to see that there is a lot you can do around the world," said Ramos-Flores.

I knew that it was a good opportunity, but I didn't want to go through the trouble of the application. I am really glad that I did... It really changed the way I think about my life and about my future.

-Ramos-Flores

Safety concerns with new Tel Aviv program

Carina Schubert

Writer

"Experience Israel like never before," says the Rollins advertising sheet for studying at Tel Aviv University. As of this fall, Rollins College offers students the opportunity to study at Tel Aviv University for an academic year or semester. But so far no students have applied, a fact which may be explained by the Department of State's warning of the risk of travelling to Israel, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

"We don't actually have anyone going in the spring, which isn't unusual for a new program, because you have to get the word out and get the students aware of the new opportunity," says Giselda Beaudin, Director of International Programs. She doesn't think that the lack of interest has to do with Israel's current situation. Rollins' short-term trips to Israel have always been filled in the last years and there have never been problems. "We wouldn't have chosen it if we had risk concerns," Beaudin says. "If something got to a point where we felt that the State Department were saying U.S. citizens should not be travelling there, then we probably would come out of the program at this time or bring a student home if we had a student there," Beaudin says.

That International Travel Information of the Department of State in August 2012 warns that U.S. citizens should remain mindful of security factors when planning travel to Israel and the West Bank and should avoid all travel to the Gaza Strip. "Certain areas are definitely more dangerous but the media over-exaggerates how dangerous it actually is over there," says Eitan Lewin '15, an international business major at Rollins.

He is from the coast of Israel and has lived in the United States since he was six years old. "It is a normal country," he says. "There are cities, people and

jobs."

Lewin goes home every year to see his family and describes the people in Israel to be more straightforward than Americans.

"Tel Aviv is incredible," says Lewin. "It is crazy. It is a party city. Partying, clubs, gambling, beach - it's like the Miami of Israel." He definitely recommends studying abroad at Tel Aviv University.

According to Beaudin, Israel is a very common study abroad destination with excellent programs. "In the Middle East, Israel is actually really stable and it has got pretty excellent infrastructure, and the university is very well established." She explains that hot spots like the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are very clear and students are not allowed to go there during their stay abroad. She thinks that students of Jewish heritage look differently at Israel's situation because they often know people who actually live in Israel. So she supposes that in the future there will be probably more applicants of Jewish heritage.

New study abroad programs are typically based on a student's request or the faculty's interest. "Egypt still seems a little bit shaky to me," says Beaudin. "So I wouldn't start a program there. But there is an interest in Turkey." Rollins' International Department regularly monitors information from the State Department and from embassies within foreign countries.

"I tend to think that most places in the world at this point are high risk," says Beaudin. "It happens everywhere. There are not really places where you can say 'oh that would never happen here.'"

The three largest study abroad programs of Rollins have been Sydney, Shanghai and an internship program in London. Students can apply for fall semesters and academic year programs 2013/2014 until Feb. 25.

A fright you don't want to miss

Austin Meehan

Writer

Lines. That's what you have to expect when you come to Universal Studio's Halloween Horror Nights. Probably the most important rule is to get there at 6:30, when the park opens. "I got here at 6:00 so I was one of the first in the park. That's the way you got to go," said Johnny Lipham, a college sophomore from Jacksonville. None of my friends had ever been, so we were at a disadvantage even before we stepped into the park.

We showed up around 10:30 p.m., not knowing what to expect in terms of everything from crowds to "no safe zones." Let's just say we were in for a rude welcoming when we finally entered the park: 75-minute waiting lines that seemed to never end, all for a five-minute walk through a haunted house; 110-minute waits for most roller coasters and the park closed at 2:00 a.m.

So needless to say, we probably didn't get to fully experience all that Halloween Horror Nights had to offer, but it was quite an experience nonetheless.

The big news this year was the announcement that there

would be no "safe zones." This season, there are Five Legions of Horror: Warriors, Vampires, Beasts, Prisoners and Traditionals. Each Legion randomly walks around a section of the park, but periodically rotates so as to not be in the same section all night.

Talking to fans in line, some didn't approve of the change, but one thought the move has a lot of potential: "The no safe zones [rule change] always has you looking behind your shoulder to make sure no one is following you and you constantly have to look and scan the area you are walking to make sure no one is creeping around that corner you are about to walk past," said Tyler Leonard of Orlando, FL. Although I didn't see any of the Five Legions, I'm sure they were doing their jobs to the best of their abilities!

The two biggest draws were the "Silent Hill" and "The Walking Dead" haunted houses. Both houses require you to walk through smoke-filled rooms where zombies and mummies jump out at you. There are also special effects that only build your eagerness to see if you can act before a monster makes you scream like a girl, which

happened to many grown men ahead of us! "I'm making my wife swear not to tell anyone about that! If my buds hear about that, they'll never let me live it down!" said James Gonzalez of Sunrise, FL, in the next line as we waited for "The Walking Dead."

It's all good fun, however, and I suppose you don't get the full experience unless you are spooked at least a couple of times. While I'll admit that I was caught off guard a few times, the best moment by far was when one of my friends turned around to tell me how lucky we were not to get spooked, and the second she faced forward, there was a zombie waiting right in front of her! You can guess the result of that one. It was one of those moments where you wish you had filmed it. We all gave her the business afterwards, but we all took great memories from that night.

So why has Halloween Horror Nights become the go-to event in Florida from September to October? For one, they have discounted prices by paying online, almost \$30 cheaper than buying tickets at the park. Second, many hotels offer theme park passes for staying with



Photo courtesy of Universal Orlando

them, so that lures families from around the country. Third, local high schools and colleges provide students with discounts on tickets and transportation, making it easier for students to have fun in a safe environment. Rollins College charges \$55 for discounted tickets, a \$32 decrease if you were to buy them at the gate.

It's amazing that this is their 22nd year of Halloween Horror Nights, and it's gotten bigger and better every year. It really

has turned into a tourist destination and is a must for those who want to get into the spirit of the season.

As with most successful events and programs, HHN is going global, as Universal Studios, Singapore has adopted this money-making machine. The future is very bright for both Universal and Halloween Horror Nights as they look to expand and strike more fear into those who wish to challenge the Five Legions!

Clinton campaigns for Obama at UCF

Kate Barnekow

Writer

"We're all in this together" always works better than "you're on your own."

President Bill Clinton stopped by Memory Mall at University of Central Florida on Monday, Oct. 29 to campaign for President Obama based on his record on education, energy, health care and the economy to a crowd of over 7,500 people.

While the event was planned to feature both President Clinton and President Obama, President Obama decided to cancel his plans early Monday morning, choosing to fly back to Washington to lead the preparation of disaster relief plans for those affected by Hurricane Sandy over making a campaign stop. This event would have been the first time the two presidents campaigned together this election season.

Central Florida is a vital

area in this election season, and the number of Obama campaign events in the area show it. President Obama visited Rollins in August and Kissimmee in September, Vice President Joe Biden spoke in Ocala on Oct. 31, First Lady Michelle Obama spoke at UCF in July and plans to visit Daytona Beach on Nov. 1, and President Clinton had already visited Orlando once (in September) before Monday's visit.

Senator Bill Nelson and former Florida Governor Charlie Crist opened for President Clinton this week, highlighting the optimism and focus on progress and moving our country forward that has been characteristic of the Obama campaign since day one.

Sporadic yells of "We want Bill!", chants of "Bill! Bill! Bill!" and enthusiastic screams every time the music faded finally brought President Clinton out, looking healthy, dapper and excited. While he started

his speech going easy on Mitt Romney, saying "I'm not mad at anybody. I don't blame Governor Romney for wanting to be president; I did too!", the former president went anything but easy on Romney's take for education, stance on climate change, plan to repeal health care and his budget.

Clinton, connecting with the student-heavy crowd, laid out Obama's higher education platform, including student loan reform that cuts out the middleman, a doubling in the number of Pell Grants available, an increase in the amount of funding each Pell Grant provides and further funding for university-level research. Romney, Clinton reminded the crowd, would repeal this bill, cutting funding for higher education across the country.

"On this issue alone, every person within the sound of my voice should vote for Barack Obama for President of the

United States," he said.

Clinton also pressed the issue of clean energy and climate change, noting that even the "new, moderate Mitt Romney" that showed up in the first presidential debate "made fun of climate change." "America is the only major country in the world where any major political party is denying climate change instead of arguing about what to do about it," he said. "Barack Obama is doing something about it."

The Affordable Care Act, signed by President Obama in March 2010, has been a central issue of this election season. The two candidates take polar opposite stances on this issue: Obama signed it, allowing young Americans to stay on their parents' insurance longer, ensuring that patients will no longer be denied treatment because of pre-existing conditions, and providing millions of Americans with quality, afford-

able health care for themselves and for their families. Romney? Well he wants to repeal either some or all of that (he has been conflicting remarks throughout this election season.)

Clinton spoke at length on the all-important issue of the economy, reminding the crowd of the arithmetic—a central theme of his 2012 DNC speech—that is blatantly lacking from the Romney/Ryan plan, calling it a budget without any numbers. "Budgets based on arithmetic work a lot better than budgets based on illusion," he said. Clinton also maintained that the Romney/Ryan ticket's plan for the national deficit (a vital component of which includes decreasing revenue) made no sense at all. "If you had a hole to fill, would you dig it deeper before filling it?"

President Clinton urged Floridians to vote early and to "Vote for the man with the plan. Vote for Barack Obama."



Photo courtesy of CBS Film

Psychopaths triumphs despite lack of hype

Erik Keenan

A&E Editor

I will start this review by saying that I have an extremely odd sense of humor. In fact, you might even get away with referring to me as a psychopath (but in a more correct way, you wouldn't). So when I say that *Seven Psychopaths* is the runaway comedy of the year, you may look at me skeptically. But it's true. Writer/director Martin McDonagh lays the laughs on thick in this over the top action/comedy, but still stays true to the humanity of the piece. And that, above all, is what this movie is. Extremely human.

McDonagh started his career as a playwright in Ireland,

perhaps most well known for his tragicomedy *Pillowman*, as seen on the Fred Stone stage earlier last year. He made his transition to film with the award winning movie *In Bruges*. Farrell once again teamed up to star in this McDonagh vehicle, a movie best described as a love-child between *Pillowman* and *In Bruges*.

Now, if you've seen the trailer, I apologize...you are probably extremely confused about this film. Because, well, the trailer doesn't really tell you anything. And all the clips are from the first 45 minutes of the movie.

Farrell is a screenwriter working on a script called *Seven Psychopaths*. To help relieve his

writer's block, his best friend Billy (Sam Rockwell) brings him in on his dog kidnapping business (he steals dogs and returns them to their owner for a reward), which he runs with his partner Hans (Christopher Walken). One day they steal a Shih Tzu owned by Charlie (Woody Harrelson), a crime lord. Charlie leaves a bloody bath in his search for his dog, eventually chasing the three friends into the desert. And then they're in a desert.

So I know what you're thinking...you've seen this slap stick action comedy before. Trust me, you haven't. The characters and abstract storytelling element (stories within stories, a plot device you are

familiar with if you've read or seen *Pillowman*) make this film truly unique. You find yourself laughing as the body count begins piling higher and higher. The realistic nature of the action is a testament to McDonagh's directing and writing, fitting in perfectly into the real world (no slow dramatic death scenes... well, there are and there aren't. See the movie, you'll understand).

Not only is the writing perfect, but the acting is some of the best acting that I have ever seen in an action movie. Farrell crafts the perfect lost, alcoholic writer, a departure from roles he has become known for. Sam Rockwell plays the perfect foil for his writer friend. But most im-

portantly, Christopher Walken. I know that Walken has become something of a joke in the past few years, but this movie will change the way you see him. His acting is flawless, a lost soul seeking meaning in the world (his character is the deepest in the film, easily). Walken makes you fall in love with Hans, making every moment of conflict pop. And trust me, he sees lots of conflict.

See this movie. In theatres. It is a wild ride, a hilarious comedy and a gut wrenching drama: a character-driven voyage into the mind of a psychopath. I promise that you will not have a better time at a movie this year.

★★★★★

Taylor Swift settles for mediocrity

Mary Katherine Pflug

Designer

Taylor Swift's latest album *Red* was released on Oct. 22, 2012 through Big Machine Records. The album was exactly what I expected, which was that it would sound exactly like all of her other music. With sleepy, simple lyrics; country genre minus the accent and the subject matter (as always) boys, boys, boys; it is sure to not disappoint her target audience: 12-year-old girls.

This is great, T-sweezy. I'm happy you've found your niche in the consumer music industry. But it's weird. And it loses artistic merit for me when your "radio hits" are stylistically inconsistent with the rest of the

album. There are about three pop songs thrown in with her sleepy-sad country girl routine. Just stop, T-sweezy, and stick with what you are good at.

With that in mind, I am going to devote an entire paragraph to "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together." Because it's that bad. Her stylistic influences? Pink, for sure. Ke\$ha, definitely, but God knows why. And maybe a little Avril Lavigne, early 2000s teen-punk-angst thrown in there. BUT THE MUSIC VIDEO. I never, ever thought I would say this but Taylor Swift has become a hipster. Or she's trying really hard, at least. The guitar, ukulele and tambourine players dressed up as furry woodland creatures in the background look like they

are straight from a *Where the Wild Things Are* themed Tumblr account. She is wearing pajamas (and by pajamas I mean it in every sense of the felt, patterned, shapeless sense of the word) for 70 percent of the video, until she changes into a floral print dress (from Urban Outfitters, no doubt) so she can dance in her living room with her giant furry friends. I just can't take it. Seriously. Yahoo produced a funny parody titled "We Were Never Actually Together," although the original is funnier in my opinion.

And as a second iteration of the hipster-ness, look to her video "Begin Again." This time, T-sweezy takes inspiration from Audrey Hepburn circa *Roman Holiday* and Lana Del

Rey circa every video she's ever made. Two great sources, right? Swift doesn't fail to mess it up, as expected. I was okay when she was riding a bike through the grey streets of Paris. I was even keeping it together as she sipped espresso in a cozy little coffee shop. But the moment she started drawing the Eiffel Tower in her little notebook I lost it. NO ONE DOES THAT. And as incredulous as it may be, she utterly failed at creating a sense of angst (also a fad these days in the hipster community, surprise). No one does it like Audrey, and no one does it like Lana. Stop trying, T-sweezy, and stick to what you know. (Oops, just spent a whole paragraph on that one too, this album is worse than I thought!)

The verdict? If you liked Taylor Swift in the past, you will like this album. If you do not like Taylor Swift, this album won't change your mind about her. I give it two stars because of her hipster music videos and her hipster haircut, but if I were including my personal bias it would have negative 3.5 stars.

On a final note, I am thoroughly convinced T-sweezy has developed Synesthesia, the psychological condition where one associates colors with words. I honestly can't think of anything else to explain the song "Red" and resulting album title. Unless she just really, really likes her lipstick.

★★★★☆

Tars Football kicks off season



Dustin Englehardt

PLAY BY PLAY The Tars football team faced off against Brevard Cape Coast Sports Academy on Saturday, Oct. 20. Although the tight game did not end in their favor, the Tars still played hard in preparation for their upcoming game against the University of North Carolina Club Team on November 3 at 3 p.m.

WEEK PREVIEW

THURS.

Nov. 1, 2012



Wikipedia Commons

5:00 P.M. - **Resume Writing Workshop**, Fairbanks Building

6:00 P.M. - Master of Planning in Civic Urbanism Information Session, Bush Executive Center

FRI.

Nov. 2, 2012

Family Weekend through Sunday

2:00 P.M. - Marketing Your Brand: Senior Success Workshop, Fairbanks Building

4:00 P.M. - CFAM: First Friday at the Cornell, Cornell Fine Arts Museum

4:00 P.M. - Day of the Dead/Día de los Muertos Casa Iberia

SAT.

Nov. 3, 2012

8:00 A.M. - CREW Orlando Presents: 1st Annual UCREW University Outreach Program

1:00 P.M. - Men's Swimming v. Nova Southeastern

1:00 P.M. - Women's Swimming v. Nova

4:00 P.M. - Volleyball v. Nova

SUN.

Nov. 4, 2012

3:00 P.M. - Brooklyn Rider, Keene Hall

8:30 P.M. - **Catholic Mass**, Knowles Memorial Chapel



R. Hart

MON.

Nov. 5, 2012

11:00 A.M. - Campus Visit: Florida Interactive Entertainment Academy at UCF

5:00 P.M. - Zumba, Alford Sports Center

6:00 P.M. - The Sandspur General Meeting, Mills Memorial Hall

TUES.

Nov. 6, 2012

2:00 P.M. - Resume Writing Workshop, Fairbanks Building

6:00 P.M. - Rollins College Democrats Meeting, Orlando Hall

8:00 P.M. **Election Day Party**, Cornell Campus Center



House.gov

WED.

Nov. 7, 2012

1:00 P.M. - Internship Workshop, Fairbanks Building

3:00 P.M. - Path To Graduate School Workshop, Fairbanks Building

5:30 P.M. - Information Session: New England Center for Children, Fairbanks Building

5:30 P.M. - Rollins MBA Networking Reception