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Newspapers and Weeklies of Central Florida

1-31-2013

Sandspur, Vol 119, No 10, January 31, 2013

Rollins College

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STARS Citation

Rollins College, "Sandspur, Vol 119, No 10, January 31, 2013" (2013). *The Rollins Sandspur*. 1962.
<https://stars.library.ucf.edu/cfm-sandspur/1962>

The **Sandspur**



SURVIVING RUSH

By Emily Kelly, page 6



The Sandspur

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The Sandspur is published weekly on Thursdays and maintains a circulation of 1,200 print copies. The views expressed in The Sandspur in no way reflect those of Rollins College or its Board of Trustees.

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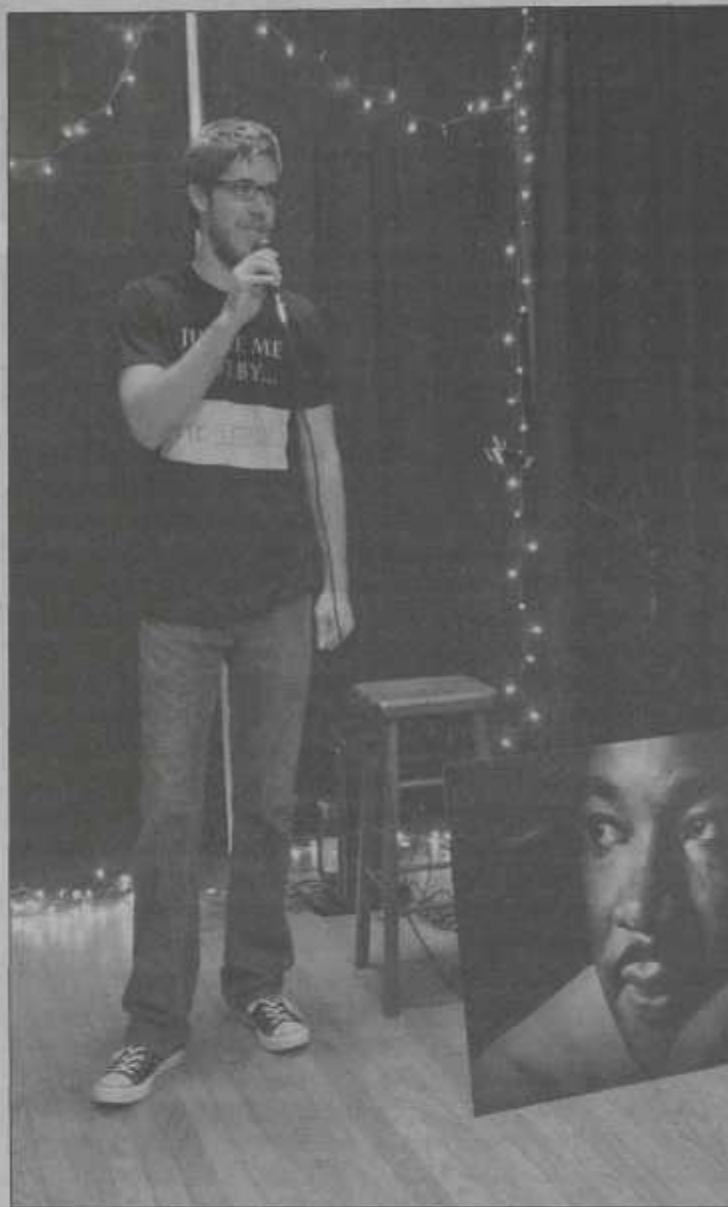
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NEWS

A WEEK OF REMEMBRANCE



Celebrating MLK

SPEAK (top): Justin Marshall '13 and MyTien Doan '15 perform at the spoken word event in the Faculty Club. The life of Dr. King and his work were celebrated that night through poetry and song.

TO GLORY (middle right): Rollins alumna Maria O. Bryant sings during the Jan. 21 vigil. Held in Knowles Memorial Chapel, the event began at 6:01 p.m. to recognize the time Dr. King was assassinated.

IN REMEMBRANCE (bottom left): Students and community members come together to light candles during the vigil for Dr. King. The theme for this year's celebration was "Judge Me Not," a phrase taken from the late civil rights activist's "I Have a Dream" speech.

LOOKING BACK (bottom right): D'Vonte Chapman '14 explores the Florida Modern-Day Slavery museum. This exhibit offered students and campus members the chance to learn about today's civil rights battles during the MLK celebrations.



Photos by Ivan Morris

Are gun rights out of control?

As recent shootings have prompted a call for gun control, writers Matthew Hendry and Scott Novak take sides.

Scott Novak, Assistant Editor

Unnecessary



Illustrations
by Carolina Casal

Personally, I don't know what I'd do without my AR-15. It's gotten me out of a variety of tricky situations, like that one time when I caught a group of fifteen burglars from the CIA trying to steal my sofa. Or that other time when I shot at a deer, and it shot back at me.

Oh wait, that's insane.

People don't need such high-powered weapons in order to protect themselves. Anyone who tells you otherwise has a corporate agenda, has been brainwashed in the NRA's secret holding chambers off the coast of Alaska or has a weird fetish for shooting off an AR-15 into the American sunset.

Although the NRA is correct in saying that the majority of guns are used safely, it's also true that guns are more likely to cause harm than prevent it. A 2010 study in the *Southern Medical Journal* found that a gun is 12 times more likely to result in the death of a family member or guest instead of an intruder. Furthermore, Harvard public health specialist David Hemenway said that having a gun in the house increases the risk of suicide in that house by two to four times.

President Obama initiated 23 executive orders last week designed to help lower rates of gun violence. But some of these orders sound vague, such as launching a national dialogue on mental health or improving incentives for states to share information with the background check system. As Obama has said, Congress must act if real change is to be made.

Obama wants Congress to do three things: require background checks for anyone who buys a gun, reinstate the ban on military-style assault weapons and lim-

it ammunition magazines to 10 rounds and place Todd Jones as the director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Congress has not elected an ATF director in six years, and Obama thinks that doing so would allow the organization to be more effective in helping law enforcement combat gun violence. Note that there is no mention of taking away all guns from American citizens, as some conservatives would like to have you believe.

Unfortunately, there still exists a large amount of opposition to these plans. The majority of Republicans, as well as a minority of Democrats, have traditionally voted against new gun legislation, not to mention the suffocating influence of NRA lobbyists. Somehow, finding ways to decrease gun deaths just doesn't seem to be worth the effort in the minds of some people, even after the Newtown tragedy.

According to Slate.com, at least 1,305 gun deaths have occurred in America since Newtown. Slate's article, "How Many People Have Been Killed By Guns Since Newtown?" gives the name, location, gender and age of the reported gun victims. Such gun deaths could happen anywhere, even on college campuses like Rollins. Just over a week ago, right after I wrote the first draft of this article, a shooting occurred at a Texas community college, leaving three wounded.

Obama's proposals on gun violence will by no means solve America's shooting problem overnight, but they are steps on the right path to decreasing gun violence rates, and they're a whole lot better than doing nothing. Even if gun deaths were reduced by only a quarter, approximately 7,500 lives would be saved each year. And that, indeed, seems to be worth it.

It's a right

Matthew Hendry, Writer



law-abiding Americans should have the right to defend themselves using firearms. The federal government has no business trying to restrict this freedom. That is the reason the United States has a Bill of Rights.

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

Rushing to judge

M. Olivia Matthews

Opinion Editor

As many of us know, Women's Recruitment was last week. It was almost impossible to miss the army of girls trotting along in their five-inch heels. And as these potential sorority girls marched to gloom or glory, some poked fun at them. You rolled your eyes. You snickered. You pressed upon them old stereotypes that most of them probably don't even fit into. Similarly, some of you rushing may have criticized those who chose to sit this week out. And then there are girls like me who are in the middle, who neither gag nor become giddy at the idea of rushing.

I don't hate sororities

Some of my best friends are sorority girls. I understand this phrasing sounds a bit trite, but it's true. My best friends here and at other colleges are in sororities, and it has been one of the best things to ever happen to them. At first, I feared they'd change on me, becoming glitter chucking, Greek letter spewing zombies with highlighted hair, but, fortunately, this was not the case. I was wrong for thinking so. Within their respective sororities, they've learned to make stronger connections with people who aren't exactly like them (contrary to popular belief, not all sorority girls are the same). Because of this, I've become closer with them. They are willing to accept me and my choices, and in turn, I can do the same for them. Plus, they can make cute, crafty things.

I don't love sororities.

Or rather, I'm not a fan of the process to be in one. It's honestly not my thing. From

what I can tell, it's almost like being under a microscope (bejeweled depending on the sorority) and examined to see if you fit within their group. While some young women thrive in that situation, I'd flake. I don't know if I could handle the potential scrutiny and rejection, and I'd forever wonder what was wrong with me. On the other hand, if I were accepted into my desired sorority, I'd wonder what I did

"I feared they'd change on me, becoming glitter chucking, Greek letter spewing zombies with highlighted hair, but, fortunately, this was not the case."

right, especially compared to a girl who wasn't so lucky. Also, I'm not crafty. Crafting is a skill set I realized I lacked while in kindergarten, and like the ability to fold your tongue, I'm pretty sure it's genetic.

A goal of sororities is to promote sisterhood among its members. While the process to getting there may lead to an off putting exclusivity, I think sisterhood is a good concept we could use more of on campus. Leave the cattiness for the high school girls. Instead of judging those who choose to rush or those who try something else, why can't all of the women of this campus find the attributes and long term aspirations we have in common and bond accordingly?

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Experts

David



Open relationships: a flawed model

While we're used to the imperfections of monogamy, some couples find solace agreeing to open relationships. David Matteson gives his take on why they don't work out.

David Matteson

Designer

Growing up, I learned the end goal for everyone is to find someone to have a committed, long-term relationship with. My parents have been married for 25 years, and maintaining that sort of lengthy affair is ultimately the goal for every American. That being said, I never paid any mind to the idea of open relationships.

But as the U.S. divorce rate increases and I watch friends burn through boyfriends and girlfriends, fiancés, or even husbands and wives, I have to wonder: is there any merit behind this polygamous model? After all, sex within a long-term relationship does become boring. Isn't monogamy consistently confused for monotony?

My questions originated rather recently when I was out for drinks with my own significant other, Tyler, and our mutual friend, Richard. Coming out of a five-year relationship last fall had greatly affected him, and this was the first time Tyler or I had seen Rich for months. Of course, it was the standard post break-up conversation, circling around the general question as to why it happened with-

out actually asking for specific details. Finally, Rich explained that Mark had wanted to end their open sexual agreement, and commit wholeheartedly. Rich disagreed and this brought their end. Following these details, Rich explained his reasoning behind an open relationship. It's a model that eliminates the concept of cheating, because ultimately that is what destroys nearly every relationship. Allowing for full disclosure between partners protects anyone from being hurt. Finally, all of the long term, successful relationships that Rich knows of are open. After all of that was said, Tyler and I looked at each other, both of us with an abundance of new thoughts.

Of course, open relationships are not just a gay thing. I know two straight couples who also utilize these agreements within their relationships. Both couples have full disclosure and practice safe sex, but they are also committed to one another emotionally. And yet I continue to question the validity of these types of relationships.

About a week after seeing Richard, I had dinner with a former coworker and long-time friend, Lindsey. She was married over a year ago, and after a

turn of wretched events she and her husband recently separated and are now going through the divorce process. When she told me about the divorce, I was stunned. Prior to these details, I had always held her as proof that marriage and love continue to exist—that monogamy isn't dead after all. Lindsey and her husband were both 21 when they married, and they will surely find someone else to fall in love with. Though after talking to her, I was questioning my own relationship and whether exclusivity would work for us.

All of this research eventually culminated itself into Tyler's and my decision to open our one-year relationship in the most basic manner: by experimenting with a threesome. It was a mutual friend, and the sex was anything but exciting. But after all was said and done, I examined myself in the mirror—full of regret and a newfound understanding as to why open relationships never work.

While one partner may be happy about his or her opportunity to screw around, the other will remain suspicious and jealous. Thus, monogamy continues to prevail in my mind as the ultimate vessel for love and happiness.

Dance hall drug

As the recreational use of prescription drugs rises in popularity across college campuses, Suarez investigates the root of the addictive, and often lethal, trend.

Ana Suarez

Writer

We are all aware of the dangers of marijuana, alcohol and tobacco products that lurk among every college campus. However, there is an even darker, and more lethal epidemic carousing its way across campuses: prescription drugs—and they're legal.

Drugs such as painkillers, anti-anxiety pills, adderall, and anti-depressants, are having an adverse affect on the students who need them. In 2009 alone more students died from overdosing than car accidents, and the numbers keep growing.

Why is this pandemic occurring across the country, particularly with students? I sat down with Sam Carver, a substance abuse counselor at Rollins College Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), who provided insightful commentary into the ever-increasing drug problem that has arisen across America and its college campuses.

Q: Why do you believe that prescription drug related deaths are booming across America today?

A: Drugs are obviously being abused: they are being handed out way too easily. In 2009 there were more pain management clinics than there were McDonald's in Florida, which is a really scary thing if you think about it because all those clinics are giving out massive amounts of pain medications. It's really easy to get them, but once people start doing them they are very addictive. It's like anything else, that over time you end up building a tolerance. Then people start mixing them with other drugs or alcohol, which can make medication even more deadly.

Q: People often refer to these types of medications as "downers." What does that mean exactly?

A: "Downers" slow down your basic nervous system, which, when paired with alco-

hol—which is also a downer—does the same thing. When people overdose, their central nervous slows down to a point where your brain, heart and breathing just stops. It's very easy to happen when you're mixing medications with other things.

Q: Why do you think doctors are writing more prescriptions than they did in the 90's?

A: I think part of it's the popularity of it, knowing what to say to doctors such as "Oh, I have a really bad pain in my back." People know what to say because they're doctor shopping, trying to find someone to write them prescriptions, and if that person won't, they'll find someone else that will. This has become so easy because there are so many doctors who are writing these prescriptions. The doctors know that these prescriptions work but they never tell people about the precautions of how addictive they are and what can happen. There's just not enough education there.

Q: Why do you think there is a growing rate of students on campuses who need prescriptions for things like anxiety and depression?

A: I think people are now more comfortable saying that they have these problems. A lot of these students legitimately need them and these prescriptions are helpful for them. Anti-depressants don't have those "feeling high effects," so those aren't something people usually become addicted to, although they can become dependent on them and need them to sustain the effects of feeling better. Anti-anxiety medications can be addictive because those produce feelings of euphoria and they calm people down. Again, there are people who need these prescriptions, and there are others who know what to say to get them.

Q: Are there any aspects of campus life that might be encouraging the need for these medications?

A: I think the transition

from high school to college and all the different stressors: trying to manage working and school, or even just going to school itself is very stressful. These students are encountering more stress than they ever have before. There are a lot of different reasons.

Q: What do you think should be done to curb the rate of student addiction to prescriptions?

A: I think it should be harder to get them. I think doctors should spend more time with their patients because a lot of the time with these doctors, you go in, spend ten minutes with them and they're prepared to write you a prescription. Since these doctors are the ones who are prescribing these medications, the change really needs to start with them. These doctors could have their patients see a counselor so they can become educated about what medications can do and why they're feeling this way. I do think these medications should be a last resort/option. Doctors need to be more stringent and ask more questions.

Q: What other options do you suggest?

A: Other options could be counseling and lifestyle changes if we were talking about dealing with anxiety and depression. If you're talking about pain medication, obviously going to counseling may not cure your physical pain, but trying over the counter drugs first or starting patients out on really small dosages could be better alternatives. Acupuncture, the chiropractor and seeing a masseuse can help with pain as well.

As Samantha Carver says, there are people who do need these prescriptions to help cope with everyday problems that seem unmanageable. However, when it comes to handing out medication like it is candy, there comes a point where we need to ask ourselves: How much will it be before we're pushed to the edge of dependency, addiction, and possibly, even death?

New sidewalk saves shoes

Scott Novak and Mary Catherine Pflug

Assistant Editor and Designer

We'd like to take a moment to express our sincerest gratitude to Rollins for replacing the dirt path with a new sidewalk by the Bush Science Center. You all know this patch of dirt we're talking about: the diagonal strip that you cut through walking from the parking garage to campus. There was a sidewalk there already, of course. But it was in a perpendicular arrangement, and since we never traverse on sidewalks that are perpendicularly arranged, we always had to walk diagonally across

“Discovering it felt like Christmas all over again.”

the dirt to the other sidewalk. This act soiled six pairs of our matching white Armani shoes, which naturally made us a bit strapped for cash, which we can assure you is something that we're not used to dealing with.

Over break, this splendid diagonal sidewalk was built. Coming back to Rollins and discovering it felt like Christmas all over again. It was a late night when we discovered it, walking to the parking garage to hop in our Range Rover and make a quick trip to Publix for

the lemon tonic water mixer and caviar we had unfortunately run out of. I am not going to go so far as to say the experience was a spiritual one, but the moment we saw that glorious slab of concrete could have sent us to our knees in an expression of devout intervention of the gods of decadence, complete with the descent of the Holy Spirit of Cash Money.

No one can say Rollins isn't tuned in to the needs of its students. The administration clearly registers the need of students for an adaptive and comfortable environment along with relevant academics. Is it wrong to want both? We don't think so. And we appreciate Rollins for agreeing with us. With all of the students in the same mindset as us, the area proved too constantly trampled to manicure and landscape. Eventually they would have been forced to put in the sidewalk, since that area is on the edge

campus and obviously vital to the community's impression of our institution. Now the area can be beautified and used to its full potential.

Thank goodness for this new diagonal sidewalk. Although the sidewalk might be viewed by some as a completely unnecessary expenditure, it is actually integral to our Rollins experience. We are sure our butlers are also quite thrilled, as they won't have to fly out to Italy to custom order any more pairs of our Armani shoes.

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January 31, 2013

SURVIVIN RUS



ORIENTATION

We were first herded into a room full of women. "Just be yourself!" a bubbly voice chimed from the podium, a voice whose advice rippled through the crowd of eager women, most fitted in signature Lilly Pulitzer prints and Jack Rogers sandals, the expected attire. "Be an individual," said another voice, again addressing the near-identical faces, each whose eyebrows had just been painstakingly plucked and eyelashes meticulously coated in mascara in preparation of the long-awaited night. But behind the flawlessly applied makeup and outfits that had been hand-selected days prior, an utter desperation surfaced in the eyes of the crowd. A desperation that in three days' time would take the shape of either pure ecstasy or absolute anguish.

This was the first night of sorority recruitment.

After an elating Panhellenic video advocating for individuality during the recruitment process, representatives took the stage to brief us on their respective sororities. I jotted down the names of the sororities, most of which I had only heard in passing. As I made my notes, each representative proceeded to deliver a similar spiel about leadership, academics, and sisterhood: three surefire reasons to join a sorority. The meeting concluded with a brief outline of the schedule for the next few days of recruitment, along with the do's and don'ts of the attire for each night. Each evening of rush is designed to be more informative and intimate than the last to help girls find their ideal fit. But by the end of the night, I overheard that some of the girls in my group had already determined where they best fit.

PHILANTHROPY NIGHT

Parading across campus in our identical T-shirts, we endured the inappropriate—yet socially acceptable—hollering from male students, who had lined the campus center in anticipation of the event.

The second night of recruitment had begun.

Tonight would be spent shuffling through campus to allow each sorority to showcase their respective philanthropies to potential new members, or PNMs. Having limited knowledge of sororities prior to recruitment, I entered each house wholly unbiased and fully assumed the role of a PNM.

The night did not offer much of a preview into the notorious party culture of sororities that I was used to seeing in movies and T.V.: there was no free booze offered or even recreational pill swapping; that face of the assumed sorority lifestyle remained clandestine. Instead, we were greeted at each house by a grand entrance: with a choir of caroling sorority girls as a backdrop, our names were announced one by one upon entering, while predetermined sorority girls escorted us individually by the crook of our arms into their respective houses. The rest of the evening consisted of swanky small talk and conversation centered on philanthropy fundraising. Sororities having been so foreign to me, I was delighted to discover that concrete values exist in their popular social construct. I previously wasn't aware "sororities" and "philanthropy" could be found in the same sentence.

At the close of the night, I caught myself mentally ranking the houses I favored.

SKIT NIGHT

Bursting into my dorm, I kicked off my sandals that my Rho Gamma deemed "too casual" for the suggested "snappy casual" attire and quickly assumed an animal-like crouch on the floor of my closet. As I turned my wardrobe inside out, hurling hangers across the room in a frenzied hunt for the perfect footwear, I was reminded of her criticism: "I wouldn't want you to feel uncomfortable around the other girls."

I settled on a pair of nude wedges and quickly crammed my feet into them as my eyes darted back to the ticking clock. Seven minutes until the official commencement of Skit Night. I raced to the mirror and, allowing doubt to rise, I scrutinized my reflection and hastily reapplied my newly purchased lipstick. Mid-stroke, I paused, and noticed my

state of panic. I regained composure. As I watched the corners of my puckered lips curl into a contemptuous smirk, I realized: I was losing my sense of identity, falling prey to recruitment.

SKIT NIGHT

Between the hours of 5:15 and 10:30 p.m., my soul was sold to recruitment. Having been jostled around campus for the past five hours with no time allotted for dinner, I returned to my dorm later that evening with blistered feet and an empty stomach: all I had consumed during those hours was Kappa Kappa Gamma's signature Kappachinos. Skit night was a night of entertainment: Alpha Omicron Pi charmed rushees with a Saturday Night Live mock skit, while Chi Omega's Grease-inspired skit was well received by PNMs. Kappa Kappa Gamma showcased its lyrical genius with the original chorus line "we're living in a sorority world and I'm a Kappa Gamma girl," appropriately to the tune of Madonna's "Material Girl."

PREFERENCE NIGHT

Consumed with stress from having fallen behind in my schoolwork, I elected to withdraw myself from formal recruitment. The withdrawal process, however, was nearly as difficult as the recruitment process.

I first approached a Rho Gamma who, after ten or so minutes of pleading my case, gave me the official paperwork to withdraw. Before I could finish the papers, a Panhellenic member intercepted the transaction; seemingly offended by my pending withdrawal, she took me into a room where I again, made my case. This time, I was prodded with an endless list of questions devised to change the mind of any soul audacious enough, or perhaps, foolish enough, to attempt early withdrawal. After explaining a list of rational reasons I had prepared that justified my wish to withdraw, the anxiety, annoyance, and unmatched anger that had been bubbling inside of me for the past few nights finally boiled over. My eyes flooded with tears that burned down my powdered cheeks as my pleading evolved into screaming.

The dam burst. I had been broken.

Crossing and uncrossing her legs, she looked right through me and still tried to persuade me. As I wiped the mascara-soiled tears from my face, I handed her the paperwork and withdrew myself from the room. I was free.

High heels kicked off, makeup smudged, I sat crouched on the front steps of my dorm building cupping my chin in my hands, pondering the idea of bumming a cigarette off a passing student. As I mused on the convention I had not personally explored, I watched as an unfortunate few PNMs, who had only been invited back to one house rather than the preferred two, made the walk of shame back to their respective dorms, their heads hung low. The evening had come to an early conclusion for those who were unable to spark a lifelong friendship during the brief time allotted for conversation the night prior.

Long after the official end of Preference Night, the tears of PNMs plagued campus. Some girls' despair was brought on by being torn between two houses, while others had not been invited back to their favored houses at all. Campus had erupted into a hormonal frenzy.

BID DAY

A highly anticipated ritual of formal recruitment, Bid Day is most comparable to an auction: after having marketed oneself to each sorority, PNMs are offered bids. "Bid" is the official term for extending an invitation to a PNM to join a sorority. By the nature of its construct, Bid Day manifests as an opportunity for women to objectify other women, a practice that only vindicates instances of men objectifying women. This is supported by the hordes of men who had gathered to watch the parade of new pledges.

By the end of recruitment, I did not find lifelong sisterhood, I did not feel empowered as a woman, and I did not find my home away from home. By the end of recruitment, I was left with blistered feet and a free T-shirt.

By Emily Kelly

The final countdown: seniors reflect

Carina Schubert

Writer

Less than four months until our seniors will leave Rollins, and with them they will take their experiences of how to handle life on campus. That's why five seniors are going to tell you how they grew at Rollins, how they overcame challenges and what they would do differently if they could. "I got used to hearing my own voice and to be listened to and respected enough to speak out loud," Lisa Loft 13' says. She became more self-confident due to the discussion-based classrooms at Rollins. Delfi Cuglievan 13' says, she became more responsible at Rollins because she had to divide her time wisely between sports and academics to succeed in both of them.

For Drew Doty 13' going abroad was definitely the experience that affected him the most. Hien Nguyen 13' and Elin Saga 13' both developed the most through meeting different people from foreign countries with different experiences and perspectives at Rollins. "It opens your eyes and you learn about different cultures and how people do things differently than you would normally do at home," Saga says. "Before, I took many things for granted."

To Nguyen, the international environment was also an inspiration to travel the world because he got curious and wished to visit many new places. "Now I have a lot of friends in a lot of places to visit, so I'm busy for the next couple of years," he says and laughs.

But in the very beginning of their Rollins life, those five seniors faced a couple of challenges. Time management seemed to be the most difficult challenge for them. "There are a lot of distractions around you and you have to focus on whatever you are doing because you have to fulfill your priorities," Cuglievan says. For Doty, besides studying and skiing, good grades for a scholarship had to be considered in his time management as well.

"Managing social life and not letting social life take over academics is most difficult," Loft says. "What I recommend

is, make sure to set priorities and make sure that you understand what you are here for," Nguyen says. "And the most important lesson I learned is: There will always be another party. Don't feel as if tonight's party is the last party."

International students face the additional challenge of suddenly not being able to live their life as they used to do in their home countries. "It was hard to be always stationary and stuck on campus," Saga says. She didn't have a car here and misses her life in Sweden where she can go to any places she wants to. "Twenty-one being the drinking age limit was strange and different and living with another person in freshman year was hard for finding time for myself and being independent," Saga adds.

But those seniors learned how to overcome their challenges. "Getting really good at getting things done right away helped me a lot," Loft says. "Doing it 100% that you don't have to go back and change it and think about it again." Cuglievan notes, "Hanging out with people who have the same motivations." She especially associated herself with international students who were involved in sports. "Prioritize things when they are due and keep working chronologically," Doty recommends. "And keep breathing."

Saga asked her professors for help, went to the writing center, and adapted to the social life on campus. "I got used to it and learned to appreciate my friends around me and I found small ways to find some personal time such as to work-out or go for a run." Students around Rollins became her family and she got influenced a lot by them.

Although they had a great time at Rollins, those seniors would do a couple of things differently if they could. "Do more," Nguyen says. "Just try to do more and definitely say yes to everything, socially and academically. Don't be unfocused and don't take classes just because they are easy. Get the most of it and don't be intimidated by harder classes and hard professors because those are the classes you will learn the most." Doty would have definitely

tried to go one year abroad instead of just a semester. If Saga could do something differently, she would get more involved in campus early on. "I didn't even realize how important it is to get involved for résumés but now that I'm thinking of applying for jobs and interviews I realized," she says. "I feel I missed out on a lot of things that I could have participated in my freshman and my sophomore year because I wasn't involved."

Cuglievan and Loft, both environmental studies majors, realized how important business is and would take it as a minor or double major. "Just to make sure to get environmental studies spread in the whole world," Cuglievan says. "Now they are very philosophical and not practical enough." "To get more used to doing powerpoints and presenting in front of people and to work in a team," Loft explains the reasons behind why business would have been crucial to backing her major.

In starting a new period of life, the seniors will miss their friends the most out of all aspects of Rollins life. Nguyen will miss the people at Rollins and the fact that everyone is a whole community and lives together. "I feel like when I came here I started a new life with a second family and it's really hard to think that everyone will go to different places around the world," Saga says. "And here it is easier to get to know people than it is in the rest of your life."

Doty and Cuglievan, both on the water skiing team, will miss the location of Rollins. "I will miss the fact that the lake is in front of the campus and I can ski whenever I want," Cuglievan says. Doty won't get to ski after leaving Rollins and will miss that a lot too and to be pushed to learn. "Rollins gave me a goal every day and I knew that I have to do really well in classes and really good in tennis so I had a focus," Loft says. "So I think when I graduate I have to refine my focus and refine that routine."

While they are still around, ask senior friends for advice and strategies of how to balance social and academic life! It won't be long before you too are a senior.

PangeaSeed back in action



Courtesy of PangeaSeed

KEEP SWIMMING. Piles of Blue Sharks Kesennuma Japan, victims of shark finning. The goal of the PangeaSeed is to raise awareness and stop the practice.

Danae Zimmer

Writer

PangeaSeed Rollins has renewed its fight on shark finning and is eager to start putting an end to this horrific practice. PangeaSeed was started in Japan in 2009 with the ultimate goal of ending shark finning all over the world. Shark finning is the removal and retention of shark fins and often times the shark is still alive before being tossed back into the water. Without its fin the shark is unable to swim and sinks to the bottom where it will be eaten alive by other fish.

With so many shark enthusiasts at Rollins, PangeaSeed is an organization that is of great interest to students. This year the club is being given new life by sophomore Wynona Barbera. "Our main goal with the Rollins group is to end shark finning in Florida. Obviously ending it all over the world would be nice, but we have to start small," Barbera said.

When the club was first started at Rollins two years ago, it was the only PangeaSeed chapter in the United States.

"All of us at PangeaSeed are ecstatic to collaborate with the students at Rollins College and we encourage more students to support current campus efforts. PangeaSeed is growing and it's only natural that we expand our message through avenues that align with our values," said PangeaSeed Founder and Managing Director, Tre' Packard. "Given Florida's relationship with the ocean and marine life, this collaboration seems like a

logical step forward regarding PangeaSeed student alliances."

PangeaSeed sells artwork to support its cause and raise awareness about the devastation that shark finning does not only to the sharks themselves, but the whole ecosystem that gets disrupted because of it. The Rollins group is hoping that it too can incorporate artwork in spreading their message throughout the school and community. "We have been talking to art majors about teaming up with us and we're excited to maybe have art displayed and for sale on the Green at some point," said Barbera.

PangeaSeed Rollins has a lot of activities in the works for this coming school year, ranging from a shark themed movie night, to, and most excitingly, getting a group together to go down to Miami to tag sharks with professors from Rollins and the University of Miami.

PangeaSeed Rollins is still in the process of gaining a presence on campus and it is always looking for new members. Keep an eye out for forthcoming information from them or check out the facebook page: PangeaSeed Rollins. Shark finning is something that is going to have a great and negative impact on the ocean if something isn't done to put an end to it.

"You can support and join initiatives like PangeaSeed Rollins because it all boils down to education and awareness," Packard said. "Educate yourself and spread the word - tell your friends and family because it all begins with you."

Book deal puts Maddow on map

Stephanie Garcia

Staff Writer

The culmination of drafts, edits, and manuscripts has led to this defining moment; the hard work and patience has paid off. The dream has now become a reality, and the young author cannot contain her excitement. She has been waiting for this day for five years, her first publishing deal.

After much anticipation, Rollins alum, Michelle Maddow has signed a book deal with Harlequin Teen for her young adult fiction series—*Secret Diamond Sisters*.

This publishing deal will make Maddow's books accessible to a worldwide audience and visible at major retailers like Barnes & Noble. Working with a major publisher will also provide Maddow with cover designers, a marketing team, and a publicist.

"When my agent [Molly Ker Hawn] called me to tell me that Harlequin Teen wanted to buy the book, I couldn't believe it. This was a goal I've been working for since 2008, and when I learned the trilogy would be published, I felt like I was living in a parallel universe, a dream world," Maddow said.

Maddow gained inspiration for *Secret Diamond Sisters* after a trip to Las Vegas. Set in Sin City, the trilogy centers around



Courtesy of Michelle Maddow

TOURING THE NATION. Maddow visits a high school in Texas while on her book tour. "Speaking to students made me feel a lot more connected with readers. It's great communicating with readers via Twitter and Facebook, but talking in person is the best way to feel truly connected," said Maddow.

three sisters who become secret heirs to a wealthy casino owner. While this partnership with Harlequin Teen is a milestone in Maddow's literary career, the accomplished writer is already a published author.

Beginning in July 2011, Maddow independently published her first novel *Remembrance* and eventually two other books to complete a trilogy—*The Transcend Time Saga*. For Maddow, independent publishing was an exciting yet time consuming experience as re-

sponsibility rested on her for every business decision—from cover design, to price points, and marketing plans.

Compared to her glamorous and cotemporary series, *Secret Diamond Sisters*, Maddow's first trilogy was a fantasy and period piece about reincarnation and forbidden love. While promoting a new series and transitioning to a new form of publishing, Maddow is eager to gain new readers with the assistance of a professional team.

"Traditional publishing

will be a learning process for me. I will be working with one of the best editors for my genre in the country, Natashya Wilson, and she will help me make *Secret Diamond Sisters* the best it can be. "I cannot wait to learn from her," Maddow said.

Maddow decided to pursue writing professionally during her junior year at Rollins. Little did she know that a homework assignment for an Intro to Creative Writing class would become her first novel, *Remembrance*. When submitting the

first chapter in class, Maddow was taken aback by the positive feedback she received from her professor and colleagues.

"I've always loved writing, but never considered it as a real possibility, because I figured it was like trying to be a movie star or a rock star. Because of that, I never shared my writing with people I knew," Maddow said.

Inspired by the response to her work, Maddow vowed to write 1000 words every week-day; by the end of her junior year, she finished the draft of her first novel, and during her senior year, she signed with her first literary agent. Furthermore, before graduating, Maddow was accepted for an independent study with writing professors Doctors Papay and Deaver, and under their guidance, developed another novel senior year.

Maddow credits Rollins for steering her towards the right career path and advises students interested in the profession to talk with their writing professors. She also urges aspiring writers to remain patient during the publishing process and to begin developing their stories as early as possible.

"It is never too early to take writing seriously. Don't tell yourself that you'll wait until after graduating to write a book. If you know you want to write a book, start now," Maddow said.

Gangster Squad fulfills boyish fantasies

Albert Cantu

Writer

Welcome to the post-New Year's cinematic dearth, when many people are looking for a convenient way to relieve stress, no doubt after having been subjected to way too much 'family time.' It is in this social climate that the therapeutic powers of Ruben Fleischer's *Gangster Squad* may be welcomed with open arms. Featuring the talents of Josh Brolin, Ryan Gosling, Emma Stone, and Sean Penn, *Gangster Squad* was already sure of its success before filming ever began. I'm almost certain that more attention was deliberately given to action sequences than to character development. And indeed, there is something undeniably cathartic about watching Josh Brolin

(as Sgt. John O'Mara) beat the ever-loving stupid out of various flavors of thug with his bear hands. Likewise, the sight of Ryan Gosling in a three piece suit holding a shotgun might make many people, including myself, weak at the knees, but I simultaneously can't help but feel that there's a kind of underlying hollowness to it all.

Set in a beautifully stylized depiction of 1940's Los Angeles, *Gangster Squad* incorporates outstanding density and attention to detail to create an immersive experience. Expertly paced, action sequences are nicely varied with character building, and the soundtrack was filled with all the 1940's splendor that you could ask for.

Inconsistencies in plot can generally be overlooked, although some niggling doubts

remain. For example, why is it established early on that Jack O'Mara is supposed to be an expert in guerrilla warfare while he consistently attempts foolhardy, frontal assaults on formidably armed enemy hideouts?

Thematically unchallenging, the essential conflict revolves around the fight between good versus evil, with only vague stabs in the direction of more complex subjects, such as the ethics behind it all. An interesting rift between O'Mara and his wife is ripe for development, involving his professional duty versus his familial duty, but in the end nothing really comes of it. *Gangster Squad* uses the plot device that I will henceforth refer to as "fellowship-of-the-ring syndrome," the employment of which involves the assemblage of a team of various 'special-

ists' to help combat some otherwise unstoppable evil. This time around, that evil comes in the form of Mickey Cohen (Penn) and his rapidly expanding criminal empire. The problem often times with the use of fellowship-of-the-ring syndrome is that the introduction of so many central characters naturally means less thorough characterization for each. I got out a kick out of the inclusion of the blatantly token Latino character who quite literally is included into the 'gangster squad' because no one knows what else to do with him, as well as the only slightly less token black character, both of whom were presumably included merely to represent a nice spectrum of diversity.

My real problem, strangely enough, was with the character-

ization of Cohen. I heard another critic refer to his character as more of a Batman villain rather than an actual person, and I wholeheartedly agree. Penn no doubt did the best he could with the material he was given, but I was nevertheless disappointed because he was forced to play a caricature rather than a character, and his talent was squandered.

Overall, it works, considering what it's actually trying to accomplish and I certainly enjoyed watching beautiful people fight to save what they loved amid a beautiful backdrop. Characterization leaves something to be desired, but the action compensates, as it should. In the end, *Gangster Squad* is a fast paced, visceral celebration of boyish fantasy gangster-violence.

Box office blunders: worst films of 2012

Albert Cantu

Writer

At a certain point, I draw the line. While it is true that many films sink off quietly to die in the grey swamps of mediocrity, and every now and then a truly exceptional specimen will break the surface of stagnation like a glittering marlin, it is also true that a special recognition must be given to those films which are so bad, so gut wrenchingly beyond redemption, that they must be made an example of.



Courtesy of Universal Pictures

Snow White and the Huntsman

Director Rupert Sanders' fairy tale adaptation misses the mark of its uneven pacing, exceptionally lackluster acting, and uninspired writing. Not even a year has passed and I can't remember a single thing about it besides Kristen Stewart's scowling face mirroring my own expression of bored exasperation. My question is why this movie needed to exist at all with director Tarsem Singh's *Mirror Mirror* already saturating the market with yet another mediocre Snow White adaptation in 2012.



Courtesy of Warner Brothers

Project X

Why? Why? WHY does this movie exist? Who thought it would be a fun or interesting experience to watch a couple of teens metaphorically masturbate for an hour and a half? Crude, dull attempts at humor and an eminently uninspired plot (the climax of which could be seen coming from a mile away) not to mention an arbitrary and ultimately useless romantic subplot produce a pristine example of how not to do a found footage movie.

Today, we'll take a look at the absolute nadir of the 2012 cinematic experience. For a variety of reasons, the following films have distinguished themselves as the lowest of the low and represent the creative swill of Hollywood from which I desperately, though not necessarily successfully, search for an escape.

Note: In what is likely a futile attempt to preserve my tissue-thin veneer of pseudo-professionalism, I will only include films that I have actually seen this year.

That's My Boy

I have a historically low tolerance for bad comedies. My philosophy is if you're going to sacrifice depth, plot, and characterization for jokes, I'd better be howling with laughter by the end. Not only is this film blatantly unfunny, it seems to completely misunderstand its target audience. Case in point: Right alongside the copious masturbation jokes that would probably cater more to the sensibilities of an 8th grader is a plot critical appearance by Vanilla Ice, of all people, who had a few hits in the early 1990's (before the 'supposed' target audience was even born) before promptly and perhaps mercifully dropping off the face of the Earth. I will never be able to reclaim the two hours of my life that I wasted watching this movie.



Courtesy of Columbia Pictures

The Tall Man

I cannot, for the life of me, remember why I watched this movie to the end. With plot holes the size of moon craters, some truly, truly horrible acting and teaspoon shallow characterization, this film is an embarrassment to the horror genre, and that's saying something. Attempting, no doubt, to capitalize on the Slender-man craze of 2012, *The Tall Man* is a shamelessly thrown together piece of trash that literally left me shaking with rage by the end- and not in the good way.

Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter

If a documentary were to be made about how not to execute a book-to-movie adaptation, *Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter* is the prime subject. I believe I tore this film apart when it first came out for being one of the biggest disappointments of the year. God awful CGI, schizophrenic direction, lackluster acting and a vigorous and whole hearted omission of everything that made the book worth reading this sorry and frankly upsetting excuse for a film its rightful place on this

Cigar rolling in Cuba

Rachel Kokomoor & Michelle Moran

Writers

The cast and crew of *Anna in the Tropics* have been steeped in culture and history in preparation for the opening of this Pulitzer Prize winning show. Nilo Cruz, the playwright, was born in Cuba but fled with his parents in the sixties to America. With his cultural background, Cruz was inspired to write a play celebrating the traditions involved with cigar making, many of which continue today.

In order to explore the world of the play - set in in a

cigar factory in Ybor City in 1929 - the cast and crew, led by production dramaturgs whose function in the production is to contextualize the play historically, took a trip to Ybor City to tour the town, the old cigar factory, and the casitas where workers used to live. They learned about the history of cigar making in Cuba and the U.S. and spent time learning how cigars were hand rolled be-

fore machines took over the job. As they discovered the unique world of Ybor City, inhabited by immigrant cigar makers from Cuba, Spain, Italy and Germany, they also learned about the tradition of lectores - professional readers paid to read aloud to the workers while they made cigars, in order to break up the monotony of the job. As a result of the lector's selection of literature, many of

the workers -called listeners or oidores- could quote Shakespeare, Brontë, and Cervantes, despite the inability to read.

Anna in the Tropics imagines the ramifications that occur when a new lector arrives to read to a close-knit community of cigar workers. This new lector decides to read Anna Karenina, and the play traces how the lector's presence and Tolstoy's words inspire and create conflict as each character discovers the world of Russian aristocracy, as well as the poetry and romance of the novel. With the unique mixture of cultures in this play, it is no surprise that

the cast is as diverse as the subject matter. Starting with the director, David Charles from New Zealand, the show has been cast and staffed with students from Greece to Costa Rica, Puerto Rico to Thailand, Brazil to The Caribbean. More information on the cast and crew, as well as the show, can be found as a link to the Annie Russell Webpage at www.rollins.edu/annierussell.

The show opens on Feb. 8 and runs through the 17. There will be holding a post-show discussion panel, "Snapshots of the Cuban American Experience" at 5:50 p.m. following the matinee on Sunday the 10.

With the unique mixture of cultures in this play, it is no surprise that the cast is as diverse as the subject matter.

while they made cigars, in order to break up the monotony of the job. As a result of the lector's selection of literature, many of

A once in a lifetime performance

Amir M. Sadeh

Writer

Sitting in the front row of a mildly-packed Fred Theatre, right across from the Child Development Center and Holt Hall, I listen as upbeat song after another blasts through the sound system, getting us all pumped for what is sure to be a rebel-rousing performance. The word "Expectation" is written on the dry-erase board in front of the stage. Suddenly, the lights go out and that's when I know: The show is about to begin.

Rollins Improv Players (aka RIP) is the college's premier improv troupe on campus. In charge is Dr. David Charles (aka Dr. D), Artistic Director of RIP and Chair of the Department of Theater and Dance at Rollins. With Assistant Artistic Directors Alexa Gordon '13 and Alexis Riley '13, as well as 12 other talented improvisers, Rollins Improv Players has become a main stay at the college, introducing countless numbers of students each year to the art of improvisational theater.

When most people think

of an improv show, their mind most probably darts to images of Drew Carey or Wayne Brady acting out skits on *Whose Line is it Anyway?* To be fair, that's the extent of most people's knowledge on improv...which is still quite amazing considering the show has been cancelled since 2007. If anything, people know that improv is something that's done on the spot, with the audience's suggestion, and acted out in a hilarious manner. And to some extent, they are right...but there is far much more to improvisational theater than that.

Yes, nothing is staged or planned ahead of time. The actors have no lines they have memorized, and the scenes that they are about to perform are completely unique and have never been done before. But there is a certain structure and set of rules that must be followed, for the benefit of both the actors and the improvisers. These "games," as they are more commonly referred to, turn suggestions such as "surprise," "Charles Dickens," and "Abercrombie & Fitch" into a roughly hour-long scene full of

snickers, stories, substance.

Last Friday's show was a Variation On A Theme (VOAT), with the theme being "Expectation." Dr. D began the show asking for suggestions on certain aspects of said theme: What first jumps to mind when you think of the word? What's the opposite of the word? What are people or places that make you think of said word? All the while, these suggestions would be written around the word "Expectation." Then, as the suggestions would come to a close, the improvisers waited as one in the middle would come out and thank the audience for being present, and then says "That reminds me of the time..."

"That reminds me of the time..." launches into a litany of stories told by each individual improviser stepping out of the semi-circle now formed, talking about a time that they remember relating to the theme. Stories start off innocently enough; Michael Gallace '13 begins to recount a time when he was fishing in a kayak, when all of a sudden improviser Alexandra Feliciano '15 taps him on the

shoulder, causing him to trail off and walk back in the semi-circle while she discusses the time she got called up to the principal's office. Then Katherine Waddell '15 stops her in the middle of her recounting her fright at the prospect of getting in trouble, wherein she begins to discuss an interesting experience at a "redneck zoo." This goes on for a while until each improviser begins a story, slowly beginning to rush different aspects of the stage, continuing them all at once, crescendoing into what can best be described as a cacophony of memory. All of a sudden, a clap - a lone voice: "That reminds me of the time." Together... "That reminds me of the time." Then, that lone voice speaks again: "That reminds me of the time Katherine went to the redneck zoo."

For the next 50 minutes, stories recounted moments before are acted, some with comedy, others with drama, but all based on the nexus of truth. Ryan Lambert's '13 portrayal of newly shamed Lance Armstrong teaching young child Gallace how to learn to ride a

bike is later revisited as young man Gallace turning into a future doper himself is a comedic, yet poignant reflections on our society and the ability of improv to exam great facets of our lives. Or the conflict of a brother Zach Zebrowski '15 and sister Olivia Matthews '15 being jealous of one another's abilities, wishing they could change their roles in life, while still maintaining the respect of their father.

By the end, the improvisers end the show again talking of a time that they are reminded of, only this time they speak in the perspective of their characters actions: Going to the redneck zoo, finding someone to kiss at midnight on New Year's Eve, and being okay with someone else getting the guy you wanted. They again all stop and chime at once: "That reminds me of the time." And as the lights go up and I begin to truly digest the show that I was just shown, I feel both honored and entertained, knowing that I just witnessed something no one would ever see again. That, my friends, is the beauty of improv. That is Rollins Improv Players.

SCHOOL OF LAW



Barry Law students (L-R)
Brian Kozlowski,
Leanne Palmer, John Berry

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