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## Sandspur, Vol 119, No 13, February 21, 2013

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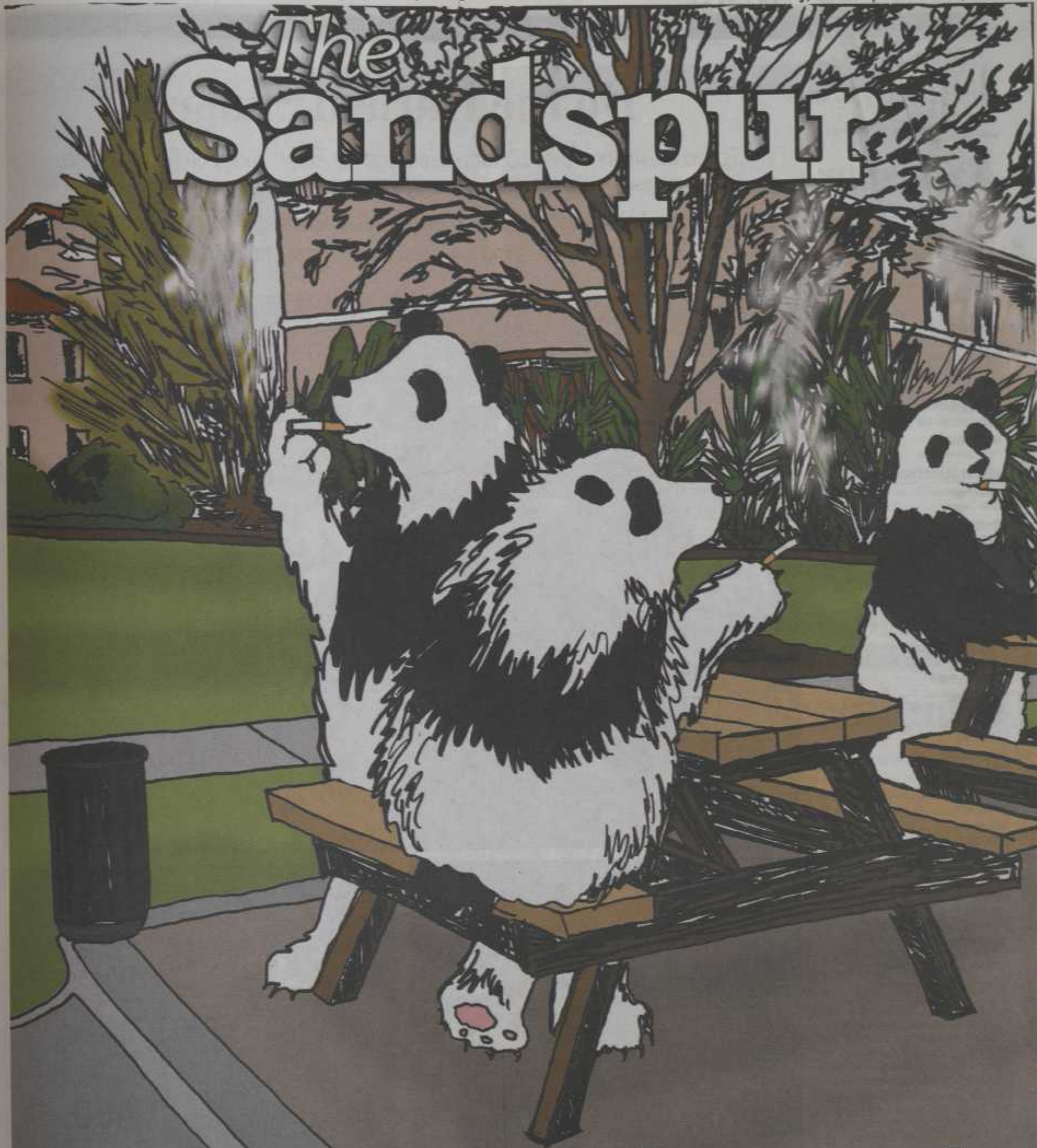
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# The Sandspur



Please don't feed the animals.

by Ryan Lambert, page 3





# The Sandspur

Florida's Oldest  
College Newspaper

Established in 1894  
with the following editorial:

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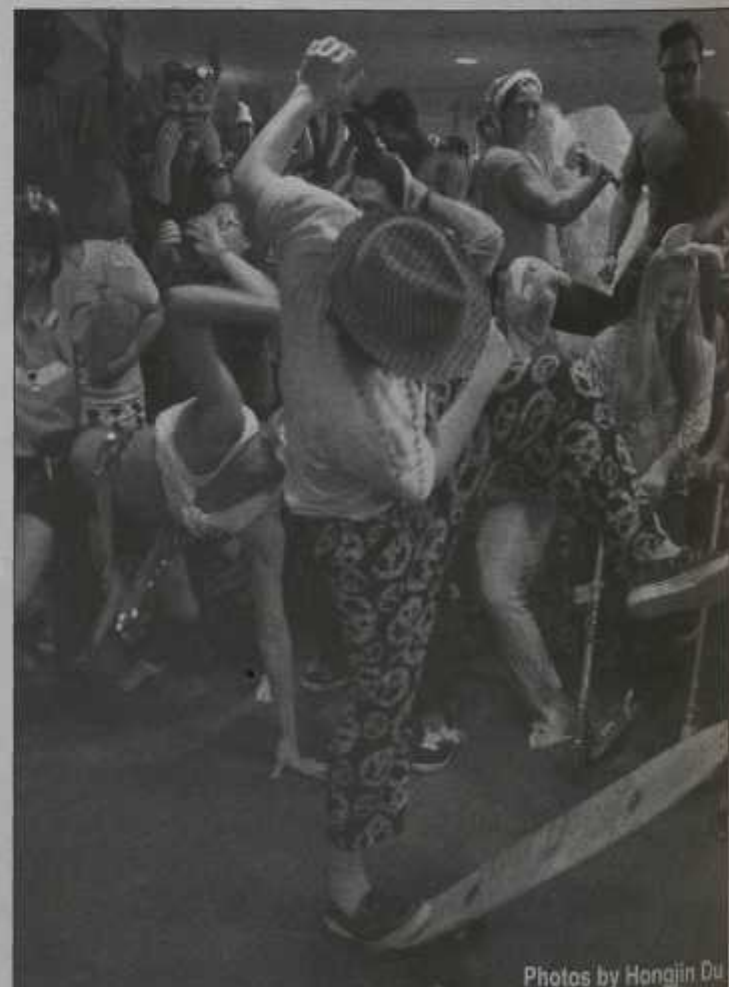
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# NEWS

DANCE CRAZE HITS OLIN

## Do the Harlem Shake!

Follow the rhythm: Over 50 Tars rallied together in Olin library on Feb. 18 to star in a student film production. Staffers included cinematographer Dustin Englehardt '14 and performer Andrew Johnson '14. Directed by Liz Guardado '16, the video showcased participants performing the latest dance craze, the Harlem Shake.



Photos by Hongjin Du





Photos by Monique Henry

## Hard to swallow

The seventh annual Hunger Banquet, hosted by students and staff of Community Engagement, Residential Life, Student Involvement and Leadership, Multicultural Affairs, X-Club, Sigma Gamma Rho, and JUMP, educated students on the worldwide issue of homelessness and poverty on Feb 19.

OPINION

### NEW SMOKING POLICY LONG OVERDUE

## Please don't feed the animals

Ryan Lambert

Writer

I love animals. For the most part, they're all adorable, furry little things that are without a doubt less intelligent than I am (notice I said for the most part - damn dolphins). I must say, it feels pretty great to be smarter than 99.99% of life. Plus, they make for some fantastic YouTube videos. I can't tell you how many countless hours I have spent watching pandas sneeze or kittens waking up from pleasant naps. Furry or scaly, horned or tailed, landlubber or ocean dweller, animals make for some fine entertainment. I mean, have you seen *Planet Earth*? And don't get me started on *Blue Planet*. Epic to the Nth degree.

There is a dark side to the animal kingdom, however. I mean, anyone who's ever watched the Discovery Channel knows that it is always the baby who's first to be ravenously and mercilessly devoured. Mates are cuckolded, babies are cannibalized, and the runt is always the first to be neglected by his or her mother. It was Alfred Lord Tennyson who said that "Nature is red in tooth and claw." If that dude was at Hogwarts he would have earned, like, 20 house points for that hot tamale of a zinger. But I'm getting off topic.

Like me, Rollins recently has exhibited its own form of animal appreciation through the creation of the five smoking zones on campus. Now, before you get upset, I'm not calling smokers ani-

mals. I'm just calling them subhuman creatures that exhibit a behavior so stolid and detrimental to their health it is as if they were animals and therefore they ought to be ostracized from us regular folk. See? Not that bad. Now, smokers are required to be in one of these five zones before lighting up and obtaining their nicotine induced high. The zones are suitably small and isolated from any footpath or building, thereby guaranteeing that none of us regular folk endure a single smoky second. Plus, it gives our campus a jolly zoo-like quality. "Look mommy, a smoker!" "Don't look at it honey; it'll be going extinct soon anyway."

I am only flummoxed by one thing: why did it take this long? I mean, smokers used to be roaming our streets, stinking up areas that were 30 feet away from buildings. Sure, I used to just simply hold my breath whenever one of these creatures passed me, but the time for tolerating minor inconveniences is over! I say that these zones - if anything - are too generous. We ought to give them just one concrete slab and one bench and then let them all fight it out Darwin-style. As they say, we have to let nature run its course. Regardless, I'd buy tickets to watch that; maybe Animal Planet will want to go in halvesies with us - the tagline "Survival of the Unfittest" already has such an awesome ironic ring to it. You get it? Because of their damaged lungs?

Anyway, I digress again.

Some of my readers may be all agog because of my seemingly harsh parlance, but to that I have this to say: "If smokers really were human beings, don't you think they'd be treated like one?" Give me 20 points, Headmaster.





# Good riddance

Scott Novak

Assistant Section Editor

Pope Benedict XVI announced on Feb. 11 his plans to resign at the end of the month on Feb. 28. The last time a pope resigned was in 1415 during the Western Schism in the Catholic Church when two men both claimed to be the pope. Benedict cited his declining health as his reason for leaving the office.

One has to admire Benedict for having the courage to admit that he is no longer capable of handling papal responsibilities. For such a conservative pope, stepping down from the office is quite an unorthodox move. With that said, that is about all for which one should admire this pope. The invisible armor of religion that surrounded Benedict, with very few exceptions, offered protection from any true criticism that he deserved during his time as pope.

Benedict has made many pronouncements against the LGBT community during his eight-year tenure, with the most recent occurring on Christmas Eve when he proclaimed that same-sex marriage is "a crisis that threatens [the family] to its very foundations." Earlier that week, he said same-sex marriage and abortions were threats to world peace. Apparently, they don't teach international politics in the seminaries.

But Benedict has committed moral errors more severe than just disparaging an entire group of human beings or saying that condoms "aggravate" the AIDS crisis in Africa. Most notably, the Church's handling of the child abuse scandals has been outrageous.

Before Benedict became pope, he was the Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of the Doctrine of Faith, the office in charge of sorting through all the abuse cases.

If there was anyone who could have helped put a stop to pedophilic priests being moved around from church to church, it was Benedict, or as he was then called, Joseph Ratzinger.

But instead of bringing these abuses to light, most scandals were quietly handled within the Church instead of through the legal system - as the Vatican document *Crimen sollicitationis* encourages. Norbert Denef, like many from Germany, was abused for six years by his local priest when he was a boy. Denef took the case to the bishop of Magdeburg. Denef was offered €25,000 (then £17,000) in return for a pledge of silence about the abuse. When Denef reported this to the Vatican, he received a letter from Pope John Paul II, saying that the pope would pray that he'd be able to forgive his molester.

As an ex-Catholic, I'm hoping for a more liberal pope, but I know such an idea is unlikely to manifest itself into reality. Right now, it is the most conservative, fundamentalist clergy members that are getting the most attention. But it would be nice to see a pope from Venezuela or Ghana instead of from the usual western European states.

And given how out of date the Church's teachings are on same-sex marriage, it'd be wonderful if the new pope changed that, too, and allowed women to serve as priests. And it'd be awesome if the next

**"It'd be awesome if the next Pope was a young man of thirty who knew how to work Facebook and use hashtags on Twitter..."**

pope was a young man of thirty who knew how to work Facebook and how to use hashtags on Twitter correctly and flew around the world in an invisible Pope-Mo-Bile building schools in impoverished countries with all the money the Vatican made from selling the trillions of dollars of art that it used to own.

This has now turned into a pope fan fiction. My apologies.

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

# Beer: it'll cure what ales you

Emily Kelly

Section Editor

Home to the rare breed of iron pumping, Muscle Milk chugging superjocks, Alford Sports Center is typically teeming with Smart Waters and a rainbow of energy drinks. It comes to no surprise that these sugary beverages are a front runner among athletes: chock full of replenishing electrolytes, popular brands such as Gatorade seem to be the go-to refreshment of exercise enthusiasts.

The ever-popular sports drinks, however, may find themselves competing for consumer favoritism as new research opens the door for an alternative post-workout quencher: beer.

Although believed to dehydrate consumers, beer consists of 93% water; the source of its quenching qualities, however, is not in the unexpectedly high water content, but in the bubbles. The carbonation in beer arises from its high carbon diox-

ide content; a study at Granada University in Spain claimed the carbonation increases the retention rate of fluids within the body. When compared to consuming a bottle of water, the study claims beer can hydrate

prolonged workouts cause the body to burn through enough carbohydrates to reduce blood glucose levels. The drop hinders athletic performance by reducing energy levels and potentially triggering nausea and dizziness.

To assure your body is properly replenished while upholding your coveted gym-rat reputation, grab a barbell and a brew; the alcohol will even take the edge off those nagging muscle pains. Beneficial to athletes and academics alike, beer is essentially the college equivalent of gummy vitamins: a 12-ounce dark lager provides more vitamins and minerals than wine or hard liquor.

One of its main ingredients, yeast is vitamin B rich, while hops, the flavoring and stability agent in beer, provide a natural source of protein with zero fat and cholesterol. It all comes down, however, to a matter of moderation and selection: a few IPAs keeps you hydrated at the gym, finishing off a 12 pack of Pabst makes you fat.

**"To assure your body is properly replenished while upholding your coveted gym-rat reputation, grab a barbell and a brew."**

the body more efficiently than water.

For those engaging in Jillian Michaels-status training, the carbohydrates in beer replace those lost during exercise:

# Political tap dance

Ed Leffler

Staff Writer

Recently Marco Rubio (Florida United States Senator) has been making headlines as the new young and charismatic leader of the Republican Party. Time magazine has even gone as far as to make him the cover topic, calling him "the savior" of the Republican Party.

Perhaps in light of this national spotlight Rubio was selected to deliver the official Republican response to the State of the Union Address by President Barack Obama. It's here where we witness the media's ridiculous breakdown due to Rubio's awkward sip of water during the nationally televised response. It's at the State of the Union that we begin to sense something significant beginning to shift at the base of the Republican Party.

Rand Paul was additionally selected to give a "Tea-Party" response to the same speech... Rubio was only a few months ago the favored son of the Tea

Party: Why isn't he giving the Tea Party response? Is he perhaps making attempts to move more towards the center of the GOP? Is this in fact a deliberate attempt to distance himself from the apparently waning Tea Party?

In light of Mitt Romney's loss during the 2012 presidential election the GOP faces a lack of leadership and a lack of obvious front runners for the next election. Rubio can come into this mix in a particularly unique light.

Usually what a candidate for the presidency has to do is court the base during the primary and then after winning the nomination a candidate must do what is known in political science as the "rush to the center."

In order to win an election a candidate must win the large amount of support from the large group of Independents in American politics. Trends show that American have become more polarized and extreme on the ideological ends of the spectrum, where the moderate mid-

dle is now considered "fringe." At the same time more and more Americans are registering as Independent or No Party Affiliation.

Bringing it back to Rubio, it seems like the political tap dance has already begun - Rubio's rise to fame is likely a result of his Tea Party origins (ideological base covered). Now he's serving as the "Main Street" Republican spokesperson and responding to the President's address.

He appears primed and ready to assume the top role in the next battle for control of America's highest office. Earlier than ever speculation about 2016 political candidates for the presidency have been floating around the blogosphere. Lists upon lists of candidates for both sides have surfaced. Rubio is usually at the top of many of these speculative lists, but what most don't yet realize is that Rubio presents a unique challenge because of his preemptive political line dancing. Watch out Dems, Rubio has his guns primed and ready.



# Sexpert

## bringing FASHION into the bedroom



David

David Matteson

Designer

A wise and witty man once said, "Sex is my favorite sport—it's free and doesn't require any special shoes." While this mantra is truly charming, the idea of sex calling for no special attire is hardly the case. Of course I am perfectly aware that the sexual act is performed in the buff, excusing certain endeavors of course. But deciding on the proper underwear or lingerie for the varying stage of your relationship can be a serious mindfuck.

The idea of writing about the fashion of sex came to me while shopping with my friend Lindsey the other week. She and her newest boy toy were planning a weekend trip to the beach (got to love Florida, the beach in February), and as we shopped the questions of what to wear became truly overwhelming.

While perusing the intimates section of Victoria's Secret she frequently stopped, held up a pair of dainty panties and asked, "Do you think this is too slutty?" Meanwhile, I was undergoing a similar predicament. My birthday was quickly approaching, and Tyler and I had a weekend getaway planned for Savannah to celebrate. So following the mall, Lizzie and I stopped at the Adult Store to peruse male lingerie and decide on my own selection of intimates.

This time the question was, "Wait, is this slutty enough?" The difference in the maturity of our relationships was responsible for this paradigm shift regarding slutty-ness. And thus, the idea of creating this how-to guide emerged. Find the phase of your relationship and read my buying tips for shopping the lingerie department. Emerging

Couples: Let the self-consciousness begin. The early days of any relationship are filled with butterflies and qualms of inadequacy. These first few times of sexual activity really do set the foundation for the entire relationship, and making sure you wear the right apparel is truly important.

Ladies, this is not the time to bust out your lacy bustiers and see-through panties. Slow your roll. You want to entice your lover into a sexual relationship that can stand the test of time—or at least until next Valentine's Day. Do you really want your new partner to classify you as a super slut? (The question is rhetorical, but the answer should be an affirmative NO.) At the same time, you should not wear crappy sports bras in the beginning stages either. Nothing says turn-off more than your sweaty Lululemon sportswear.

Instead, try pieces that are within a neutral color palate and flatter your figure. Have those sweet girls at Vickie's reaffirm that you are wearing the right size (those poor sales associates have seen way too many pairs of tits). Plus always bring a friend to help make sure you're not buying something that is too

much for this early dating stage.

Gents, I know that no heterosexual male has ever paid much mind to the boxers he's wearing that day. But at least try to wear a clean pair. There is nothing more nauseating than unwrapping a guy who's wearing a grungy pair of American Eagle boxers. Further, even though mom hasn't bought you any new packs of boxers from Target since eighth grade, try to wear some that include simple, mature patterns. Avoid cartoon characters and switch to plaids.

Established Couples: At this stage in the dating game, the only question that plagues a couple is, "Was that boring sex?" To keep it interesting it is time to shop for new costume choices. This is everyone's chance to play with what they wear in the bedroom. Roll out all of the slutty mesh and fishnet and go wild. Every woman should have at least a few pairs of La Perla intimates for special occasions, and at least one set from Frederick's for those super skanky sessions. Men should go beyond their day-to-day duds and invest in a few pairs of sporty Calvin Klein's—think fitted trunks. It is easy to get comfortable and boring within

a long-term relationship, and that's why accessories are always important. Choose from a variety of handcuffs, ticklers and whips to enhance any outfit. Your partner might laugh at first, but he or she will certainly grow to love it. Toys are one secret to avoiding ho-hum sexual encounters.

Screw Relationships, I want to sleep around: Yes, this too is a dating phase that our generation is particularly fond of. And this avoidance of coupling also has particular fashion mandates. You shouldn't be busting out the accessories or lacy undergarments at this point, but at the same time making sex memorable ensures a positive review from your sexual partners. Choose pieces that are flattering and fitted, but also try to wear colors that stand out. After all, it's easier to remember the girl in the hot pink bra versus the hundreds he or she has slept with who wear plain black.

Overall, shopping for sexual attire breaks the stigma that sex is a free sport. There are so many decisions and this guide is meant to help make the right ones. Finally, don't forget the best (or worst) accessory of them all: a condom.



# Glitter Ball: a smashing affair

Hosted by Spectrum, the annual Glitter Ball provides LGBT students with a comfortable night of splendor without fear of external prejudices.

By Albert Cantu

There's a profound sense of sexual freedom that is an inherent part of the coming out process. As LGBT community members can attest, the point at which one accepts their own sexuality is an incredibly liberating moment, both internally and externally. It is in this spirit of camaraderie and collective enfranchisement that the 2013 Glitter Ball was held.

Marked by a perplexingly conspicuous absence of glitter (probably a gesture of mercy towards the cleaning crew) the Glitter Ball is held annually in Winter Park Plaza by the Rollins College Spectrum club, the on-campus LGBT advocacy group. Sabrina Kent '15, co-chair of Spectrum, stated that the objective of the event is to provide a safe space where the LGBT community can fraternize and enjoy themselves without fear of external prejudices. Accordingly, and in an effort to foster closer connections, students from Stetson, UFC, Embry Riddle, and SSC were also invited to share in the festivities.

Apart from the considerable mixing abilities of Spectrum's DJ, event patrons also enjoyed the participation of the lovely and talented Roxxy Andrews, internationally renowned Drag Queen and RuPaul's Drag Race star. No stranger to show business, Andrews fed off the energy of the crowd and infused the Ball with the hilarity and excitement only a gifted Drag Queen can provide. As the night progressed, Andrews even proposed an impromptu striptease contest in which the finest, and I do mean finest, talents of the students of Rollins College were on full display.

Typical of the LGBT community, students and friends exhibited their impeccable taste and dressed to kill for the event. Indeed, if one is ever curious as to what particular styles are in fashion at the moment, one need look no farther than a Spectrum party. Over the course of the night, bonds strengthened, associations were made, and miscellaneous rabble rousing was abundant as passions stirred and a small piece of the Orlando LGBT scene enjoyed a night of high-spirited fun.

The evening was unique in that it was a time when people who identified as straight, gay, bi, and a whole mess of other sexual orientations could come together and simply hang out without worrying about non-existent sexual tension or perceived resentments. In many ways, it's nights like those that give me hope for the future and remind me that everyone over 40 will eventually die, signifying the dying out of archaic prejudices. In that respect, then, I believe that the 2013 Glitter Ball was an overwhelming success.



Over the course of the night, bonds strengthened, associations were made, and miscellaneous rabble rousing was abundant.





Photos by Carina Schubert

**EMBRACE INDIVIDUALITY.** The ball was complemented by honorary guest, Roxxxy Andrews—a world renowned drag queen and star of RuPaul's Drag Race. Held Feb. 15, the event attracted neighboring collegiate communities like Embry Riddle, UFC, and Stetson.



# An ode to eloquence



Top left by Monique Henry & all others Courtesy of R-Net

**RAISE YOUR VOICE.** Jessye Norman speaks to an audience of music majors and professors to stress the importance of individual expression and the continuation of musical education. World-renowned opera singer, Norman spoke passionately of her music career and love for the arts at Tiedtke Hall.

Ariana Simpson

Writer

It's Wednesday afternoon, and my easily hushed Music Theory class is antsy in their seats. Music majors and professors are scurrying around, shrieking, and adjusting bow ties. Never has such a pulsing sentiment leaked from within Keene Hall all year. Lines are bustling with both eighty- and eighteen-year old fan girls and boys flowing from Tiedtke Hall all the way outside. Jessye Norman, a renowned opera singer whose voice has graced all ears and stages, is here.

Seats fill quickly and question cards fly around the room as eager prospective opera singers and performers of Rollins' own argue over what to ask the idol that will shortly sit before

them.

And finally, the moment arrives; the audience hushes itself and Dr. Foster engages in welcoming 'THE Jessye Norman'. She walks into the room from beyond the door and a distinguished uproar breaks from the audience as a queen graces the stage amongst fans giving her a standing ovation. No one has ever looked so elegantly beautiful.

Norman, humbled by the applause, requests opening up with a little speech, which is unquestionably granted. "I am of the opinion that life belongs to the community," Norman stated. She expressed that all arts are essential to life and the creativity, along with individual expression, are each a consciousness that we should practice sharing with each other

and indulge in personally. She believes that, "creativity equals self-knowledge which leads to wisdom, which leads to understanding others, which leads to tolerance." Her stress on oneness within the community and on one another through art is reflective in the operation of her school; the Jessye Norman School of the Arts, which is reaching its tenth academic year. "Arts are falling out of the public schools and studies have proven that students with participation in arts have reflected improvement in all areas of studies," Norman's school is not fixated on creating Vivaldi's and Beethoven's though; rather it is an advocate of showing children that if they have something to say, they have the right to voice it.

The beautiful spirituality

and eloquence in which Norman spoke of the arts and individual

expression was also conveyed in the discussion of her career within music. Norman said she doesn't restrict herself to classifications such as Soprano or Contra-alto, but takes on challenges and recognizes that there are no limits and no labels. "Pigeon holes are for pigeons," she once said. Norman expressed that, "You are responsible for bringing the audience to tears... convey[ing] the message. We are more than just singers, but actors." She realizes that the performer must evoke the sensitivities of the work.

Some of Rollins College's music students and professors were able to take part in a selective lunch with Norman. Junior D'Vonte Chapman caroled that,

"...her knowledge and her wisdom really inspired me. She has an anointing on her life and she is very blessed with a voice such as hers ... it's magnificent. What I took most from what she said was when she told us to learn the languages, beyond school but colloquial. She made it clear that you can't truly sing a song unless you really know the parts of speech and what exactly it is that you're singing about."

**Norman expressed that, "You are responsible for bringing the audience to tears..."**



# Yoga revealed

Ana Suarez

Writer

Modernized by western culture, the ancient discipline of yoga has seemingly taken over the health scene. Theresia Portoghese, current yoga instructor at Rollins, has boosted student involvement in the art of yoga with great care and authority. Students have not only remarked on the benefits of yoga for the soul and body, but also on how Portoghese is an amiable and knowing instructor. I had the opportunity to sit down with Portoghese and discuss the positive attributes of yoga that so many have raved about.

**Q:** What is it about yoga that is so beneficial for the body and mind?

**A:** Yoga offers the individual freedom to evaluate the state of their mind, body, and emotions without judgment or expectations. Being given the freedom to simply experience oneself through postures and breath work helps us connect on a deeper level. From a non-judgmental, third person perspective, we experience our body in various postures and work to bring ourselves into better alignment while sitting, standing, and balancing.

Placing emphasis on physical alignment helps our body effectively create space for our lungs to receive life-giving oxygen. In fact, good posture and proper breathing technique can increase lung capacity by as much as twenty five percent. The increased oxygen intake raises the rate at which the body heals and decreases the rate at which it ages. Good posture also promotes better blood flow, a relaxed nervous system, and toner muscles.

In every posture, we use willful determination to bring ourselves into the posture as fully as possible, but do so without concern for results, thus, always looking for ease in every posture. Being that the mind and body are linked, yogis believe ease in the body will also help create ease in the mind.

**Q:** What do you think students can gain from taking not only your class but also at off-campus facilities?

**A:** Yoga classes, regardless of style or place, offer the ability to restore the body while

becoming physically stronger, more flexible, and mentally clearer in thought and therefore more emotionally balanced. This is typically offered in a non-judgmental environment where practitioners are encouraged to do their best without worrying about perfection. The classes offered on campus are traditional physical (hatha) yoga classes that incorporate breath work with postures of various degrees of difficulty.

Off campus students may find more specialized yoga studios. For example, if a student desires a sweaty detoxifying yoga practice they may seek out a "hot yoga" class. These classes are taught in heated rooms where individuals are encouraged to "sweat it out" physically, mentally, and emotionally. Should the student desire a more restorative practice they may want to try Yin Yoga. Yin yoga focuses on staying in supported postures for a prolonged period of time to help gently open and release tension from the body. If more discipline is appealing, the regimented postures of Ashtanga not only physically challenge the body, but also require the practitioners to memorize the sequence and perform the routine independently under the supervision of a trained Ashtangi.

**Q:** Aside from the PEA credit class offered, what other options are available to students who want to become more familiar and immersed in yoga on campus?

**A:** Rollins Intramural department offers yoga in the evening. We also have an active Rollins Yoga Club: headed by Rachel Bogdan, the group also caters to students by offering restorative yoga during finals week. Pinehurst also held a yoga-based event to help raise awareness during National Eating Disorder Awareness Week. The event included yoga followed by tea in addition to a talk on how yoga can help individuals connect or possibly reconnect with their bodies in a loving way. I shared my own experience of struggling with an eating disorder and engaged in an empowering discussion on how we can take better care for ourselves and set an example for others working through eating disorders.

# A message to Gray

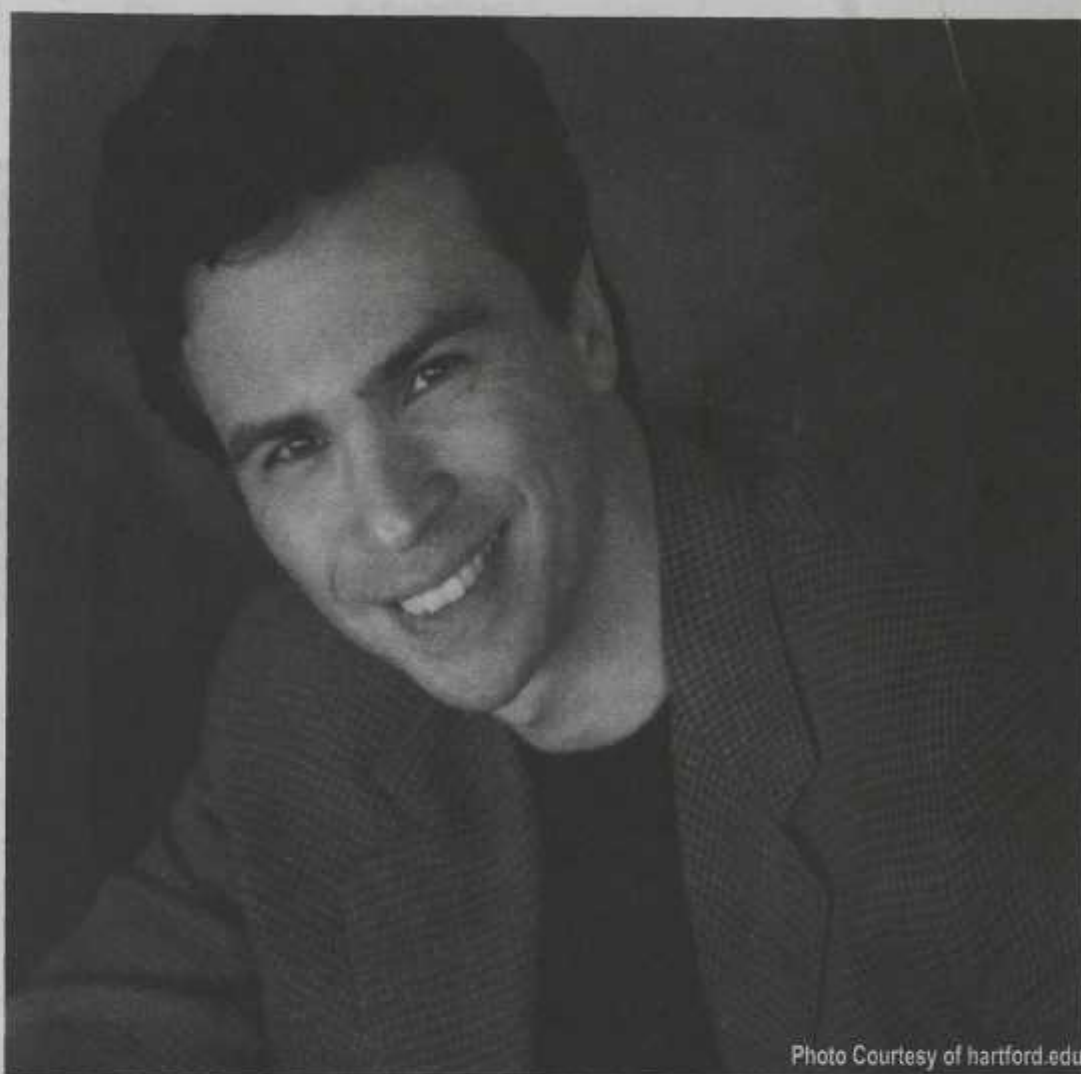


Photo Courtesy of hartford.edu

Alexis Riley

Writer

"As I go travelling down life's highway whatever course my fortune's may foretell I shall not go alone on my way for thou shall always be with me..."

Nearly two years ago, I was fortunate enough to be one of several Rollins students to sing these words on the Annie Russell stage. The show was *Grease*, directed by beloved Rollins professor and accomplished actor Kevin Gray. Kevin—who always encouraged his students to sing their feelings—brought a passion to the stage that was only matched by his passion in the classroom.

In the week following his passing, it is this continued love and the words he taught his students to sing that have brought comfort to many mourning hearts on campus. Kevin was known to many across the country as a tour de force of the American stage. Starring in some of the largest productions in the biggest Broadway houses, Kevin was known for breathing life into favorite shows such as *The Lion King*, *Misogon*, *The King and I*, and, of course, *The Phantom of the Opera*, where he met his wife and fellow performer, Dodie Pettit. Both Kevin and Dodie—as they requested to be called—are much-loved members of the Rollins family.

The work they did in their short time at Rollins has extended far beyond the perimeters of any stage, into the hearts and souls of students, faculty, and friends alike. When most people remember Kevin Gray, they will remember his resume; both impressive and important, it was the work he so fully he met with absolute devotion. But, I also hope that there are those who will look to his students; his colleagues; his friends; his family. These were his greatest achievements. Kevin is kind. Kevin is joyful. Kevin is passionate. Kevin is an incredible listener. Kevin takes amazing risks. I write "is" not to diminish the impact of his passing, but to honor the reality of his presence.

Next time you see a music student encouraging a friend, know that while you see their kindness, you also see Kevin. When you see a theatre professor sitting in the rose garden listening to a student, know that while you see their compassion,

you also see Kevin. When you see a student take a deep breath and boldly step onto stage, know that while you see their courage, then, in that moment, you also see Kevin. The impact he has made on Rollins can be seen in each and every person he came in contact with. His influence is not lost.

In his parting letter to the theatre department, Kevin wrote, "I am grateful to have had the privilege of standing beside you, and I have learned so much from all of you. I cannot thank you enough for the patience, support, humor, love and talent you've shared." Truly, it was we who are privileged. We who have learned. We who are grateful.

## Celebration Service

for Kevin Gray will be held at the Annie Russell Theatre on March 16 at 11 a.m. The non-denominational event will honor his contributions to the college during his tenure as well as his life and accomplishments.



# Simply Film

simplyfilm.org

A Weekly Review of New Movie Releases

Thinking of catching a movie this weekend?  
Albert lets you know whether or not that  
\$10 movie ticket is worth it.

Albert Cantu

Staff Writer

## Stand Up Guys

There was a time when men were men; when a man's word was inviolate and as good as gold. There was a time long before swag when panache was supreme. I am of course referring to a hypothetical golden age which never actually existed, but it's this time which *Stand Up Guys* nevertheless harkens back to. Painting the modern gangster as a romanticized urban cowboy isn't exactly breaking new ground, but imagining what life would be like after their heyday proves to be an enjoyable and uniquely engrossing experience.

Directed by the generally inexperienced Steven Fisher and featuring some truly exceptional cinematography from Michael Grady, *Stand Up Guys* is a visually enthralling film and it's the subtle things that make a huge difference. Masterful lighting, a provocative palate and even the simple use of lines and space put in on, or at least very close to, the level of *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, which I still consider to be a benchmark of excellence as far as visuals are concerned.

Starring the legendary talents Al Pacino, Christopher Walken and Alan Arkin, the amount of star power we're working with here is almost overwhelming. Walken's calm, almost effortless charisma serves as the ideal foil for Pacino's larger-than-life personage. With Arkin in the mix, even for a short time, it's a tag team

worthy of the history books. All three perform virtually without flaw as their respective clever-by-half characters spout some slightly Tarantino-esque dialogue, simultaneously providing comic relief and context into the deeply fraternal relationship between these men.

The thing that I really appreciate about *Stand Up Guys* is that it knows how to have fun without being a one trick pony, so to speak. Given the strengths of each of its cast members and direction, it could have easily crossed the line into gritty monotony and simply stayed there for the duration of the production. Instead, the trio know how to both make us laugh with witty dialogue and also make us feel some heavy emotion in the appropriate situations. Furthermore, the film is paced in such a way that the tonal transitions don't seem abrupt and inelegant, but rather seem to flow naturally and effortlessly, which undeniably helps keep things interesting.

A dyed-in-the-wool comedy this film is not, in the same way that it isn't solely a drama or action movie either. A drama would be closer to the mark, however, with some action/adventure elements added in along with tasteful and well-timed comedic relief. Genre bending films, at least in my experience, seem to enrage many critics (probably because their carefully categorized movie collections become jumbled) but I find that ambiguous themes, plot elements, and genre classification, so long as they're done correctly, can be incredibly refreshing and may nudge

an otherwise decent film into the realm of greatness. Granted, in an attempt to branch out, a film might find itself in a 'jack of all trades, master of none' kind of situation, in which case I would likely commend it for at least trying to mix things up.

This film is definitely for a certain kind of person. Yes, you can enjoy the film if you appreciate the talents of Walken, Pacino, and Arkin. Yes, you can likewise enjoy it if you want something that changes up the tried-and-true action formula. It's the fans of the larger than life and sometimes melodramatic crime movies of the 80's who will appreciate *Stand Up Guys* most of all though. In some ways, though not quite in the way one would expect, the film is a heartfelt, brilliantly acted, visually beautiful love letter, pining for days gone by.



## Identity Theft

The unspoken, modern day conception of the American Dream is to make vast amounts of money very quickly without actually expending equal effort. Deny it all you want, ye champions of rugged individualism and pull-yourself-up-by-the-bootstraps Objectivists, but that won't make it any less true. It is precisely in this context that *Identity Thief* may resonate with many viewers, as con-artist Denise (Melissa McCarthy) lives the high life on other people's dime. Factor in the larger-than-life personality of actress McCarthy and the stage was set for a genuinely funny story to un-

fold. Unfortunately, the genuinely funny story never actually happens.

Seth Gordon, responsible for several documentaries and a few feature films including *Horrible Bosses*, helms the production while determinedly ignoring the fact that documentaries are his only actual strength. Jason Bateman reprises his role as interchangeably generic white male du jour while Melissa McCarthy (*Bridesmaids*) provides most of the comedic substance as his natural foil. Now, Bateman is by no means a bad actor, but can you honestly recall a role in which he's really distinguished himself? Yeah, neither can I, which, upon reflection, is probably more a testament to his choice in roles as opposed to his ability as an actor.

Concerning the comedy, Gordon, who, along with writers Jerry Eeten and Craig Mazin, have conspired to create a script lacking in both wit and coherence that never misses an opportunity to shoehorn in some bizarrely out of place pseudo-emotional scene which keeps the tone bouncing around like a yo-yo. Whatever happened to wit? What happened to the Big Lebowski's and Annie Hall's of the world? Look, we get that Melissa McCarthy is a big woman, and sure, under the proper circumstances, that can be funny. Slapstick, after all, has its place; but, when you base the vast majority of your comedic arsenal of visual gags and jabs at the admittedly unwieldy size of the leading lady, you might have a problem. What is sometimes hugely beneficial in moderation soon becomes trite and

banal when overused, as is the case here.

In addition, the inclusion of a painfully arbitrary subplot involving a bounty hunter and a couple of mob hit-men (which eventually resolves itself without any input whatsoever on the part of the protagonists) does no credit to the film's already weak plot. The aforementioned emotional scenes, likewise, only serve to confuse as Denise (McCarthy) suddenly breaks down on multiple occasions, right in the middle of generally ill-fated, nonsensical comedic pursuits, to pine for the family that she never had. I can appreciate the desire to add a more human element where none is usually found, but it's so difficult to care about Denise as a person because she's portrayed not as an actual human, but as a versatile punching bag with an uncanny sense of comedic timing.

And that's all there is to it. Not much substance thematically, comically or visually. Seth Gordon should stick to directing documentaries, and, with luck, McCarthy will stand out in the upcoming Sandra Bullock film, *The Heat*. I would, however, like to remind my readers that I have been known to verbally crucify otherwise decent comedies for failing to cater to my admittedly brilliant (i.e. pretentious) sense of humor. That said, you may enjoy *Identity Thief* if you have, in the past, been known to enjoy goofy comedies and the occasional Adam Sandler flick. Still, you could find many more enjoyable lighthearted comedies elsewhere.



Courtesy of Lakeshore Entertainment



Courtesy of Universal Pictures



# Audiences addicted to *Side Effects*

Daniel Udell

Head Copy Editor

There's a certain satisfaction and, to a degree, a sigh of disappointment, when you realize which way the plot of a movie is heading a third of the way into the film. You start looking at your watch to see how long you have to wait until you can leave the theater, resigning yourself to watching the rest of the movie play out exactly as you had predicted. Entertainment, after all, really comes down to the new and the surprising. So imagine the greater satisfaction, and to a degree, the sigh of relief, when said film goes from Plot A to wildly pivoting to Plot B in a matter of seconds without losing touch with reality or quality. That feeling,

**This is a mystery-suspense drama and there are wild turns at every corner, even places where there couldn't possibly be a turn.**

more or less, sums up the film *Side Effects*, where the film's first 20 minutes establish a clear path for the rest of the plot to follow, and then it turns it on its head three times fast and sends it hurtling into unknown and eerily transfixing territory.

You'll notice I'm being rather vague and sparse with the plot details. Due to the nature of the particular film, the less you know about *Side Effects*, the better your experience will be. This is a mystery-suspense drama and there are wild turns at every corner, even places where you thought there couldn't possibly be a corner to turn. I highly suggest you don't watch or read any reviews (except this one) and take my word that it is a fantastically dark movie that will keep you on the edge of your seat and almost demands a second viewing to fully appreciate some of the performances.

Rooney Mara and Jude Law star in *Side Effects* as patient and psychiatrist, respectively. Mara's character, Emily, has been suffering from depression since her husband, Channing

Tatum, was sent to jail for three years for insider trading.

Once her husband comes home, Emily's depression seems to worsen, so she goes to see a new psychiatrist, Jude Law, who begins prescribing a new drug, Ablixa. That is literally all I can tell you, and that's just the first 20 minutes or so. Although the film runs at just shy of two hours, it speeds by purely from adrenaline and suspense. Catherine Zeta-Jones also co-stars as another psychia-

trist pushing the same anti-depression drug. Mara and Law in particular offer spectacular performances (Mara's being deliciously layered and demanding repeat viewings to fully appreciate).

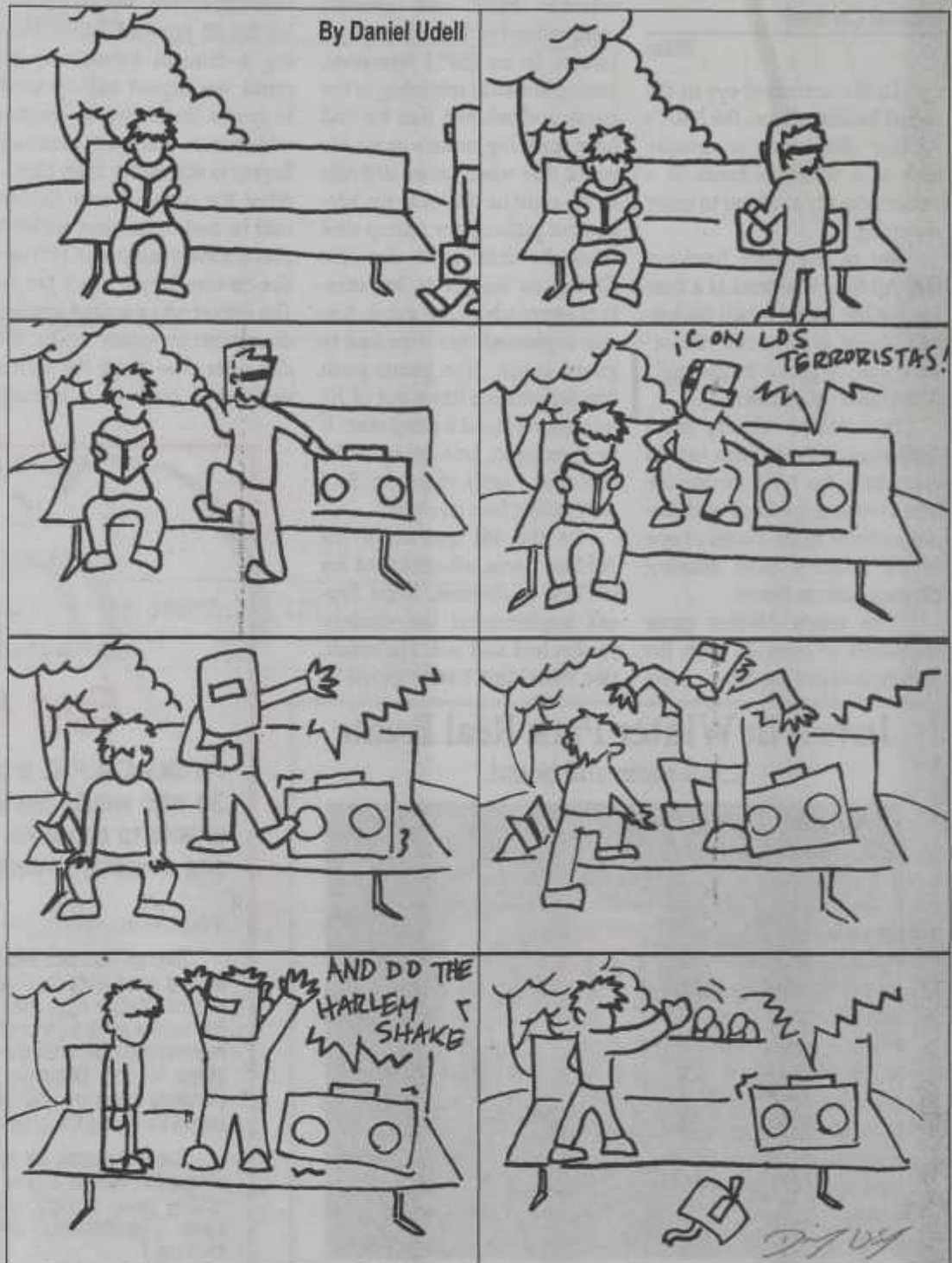
Interestingly, this is also supposedly director Steven Soderbergh's last film. Soderbergh announced that he was officially retiring as of the release of this film. It'll be interesting to see if this is a "real" retirement, or if this will be the same "retirement" that Anthony Hopkins proclaimed (despite *Thor* and several other films). The music composition by Thomas Newman particular stands out as eerie and somewhat risky in terms of disturbing the mood, but its out-of-placeness adds to the "uncomfortable" factor permeating throughout the movie - and I mean that in the best way possible. Whether you are a Soderbergh fan or have never heard of him before (I knew of him but couldn't recall a movie I'd seen by him), this is a fantastic movie that I suggest all see before you get spoiled about it, and take a friend with you so you can dissect the juicy parts afterwards.

*Side Effects* earns FOUR Ablixa pills out of FIVE, so go see it before spoilers ruin a perfect mystery-suspense finale from Steven Soderbergh.

★★★★☆

## Harlem Shake: it's over

By Daniel Udell



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# Flaw in LeBron's game exposed in All-Star game

Michael Cardwell

Writer

To the untrained eye of the casual basketball fan, the NBA's All-Star Weekend is usually seen as a frivolous break in a season already too long to enjoy watching.

But to the more hardcore fan, All-Star Weekend is a canvas for the world's best basketball player to showcase the artistic side of game increasingly dominated by numbers.

In a season already filled with drama, those who turned away from the NBA during the break missed perhaps a defining moment in the career of one of the league's most defining players: LeBron James.

This year's All-Star game happened to coincide with the 50th birthday of the NBA's most

valuable MVP and greatest competitor: his Airness, Michael Jordan. In an ESPN interview, Jordan hinted at returning to the game and relayed that he had been studying James's game. He noted that when James dribbles to the right he drives to the basket, but pulls up for a jump shot when he dribbles to the left. Giving us insight to his cerebral approach to the game, Jordan explained that if he had to guard James, "I'm gonna push him left so nine times out of 10, he's gonna shoot a jump shot. If he goes right, he's going to the hole and I can't stop him. So I ain't letting him go right."

In the 4th quarter of the All-Star game, oft-criticized for its lack of defense, Kobe Bryant implemented the strategy Jordan had laid out. The result, two blocks and a steal for the 35

year-old Bryant, and two points for the 28 year-old James. During a timeout break, viewers could see Bryant talking trash to James. Social media erupted with tweets and posts claiming Bryant is still better than James. After the game, Kevin Durant said he had never seen an NBA player have a jump shot blocked like he saw Bryant block James. The period was a central topic of discussion in sports media the day after. The thing the sports world had come to a consen-

sus upon, just a week ago – that LeBron was better than Kobe – was now in serious question.

To be fair to James, it was just one quarter of a game that means nothing to many people.

For LeBron, it seems that he takes the All-Star break as a much needed holiday in the middle of a demanding season. Kobe's ultra-competitive spirit leads him to take the All-Star as serious as any other game. Much of the Kobe vs. LeBron debate in the media will center

around each player's personality, because journalists, and radio and television hosts can make entertaining and passionate arguments about personality all day, albeit baseless and circular.

The casual fan might get caught up in these arguments, but the hardcore fan will be watching to see if other teams are able to use Jordan's strategy to slow down a LeBron James who has been imposing his will on defenses all year long.

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## WEEK PREVIEW

### THURS.

Feb. 21, 2013

-12:00 PM, 5 Minute  
Difference, Cornell  
Campus Center

-2:00 PM, Winter With  
the Writers: Master  
Class with Ricardo  
Pau-Llosa, Woolson  
House

-8:00 PM, Love Song,  
Fred Stone Theatre

### FRI.

Feb. 22, 2013

-6:00 PM, Winter Park  
Village Shuttle Service

-7:30 PM, Concertos  
by Candlelight: Mozart,  
Knowles Memorial  
Chapel

-8:00 PM, Love Song,  
Fred Stone Theatre

### SAT.

Feb. 23, 2013

-7:30 PM, Concertos  
by Candlelight: Mozart,  
Knowles Memorial  
Chapel

-8:00 PM, Love Song,  
Fred Stone Theatre

### SUN.

Feb. 24, 2013

-11:00 AM, Sunday  
Worship Service,  
Knowles Chapel

-7:30 PM, Concertos  
by Candlelight: Mozart,  
Knowles Memorial  
Chapel

-8:00 PM, Love Song,  
Fred Stone Theatre

### MON.

Feb. 25, 2013

-5:00 PM, How to Target  
the Internship You Want,  
Fairbanks Building

-5:15 PM, Faculty/Staff  
Zumba, Alford Sports  
Center

-6:00 PM, Sandspur  
Student Newspaper  
General Meeting,  
Mills Memorial Hall

### TUES.

Feb. 26, 2013

-4:30 PM, The  
Globalization of India,  
Bush Executive Center

-6:00 PM, Spring  
Business Etiquette  
Dinner

### WED.

Feb. 27, 2013

-11:00 AM, Campus  
Visit: School for  
International Training,  
Cornell Campus Center

-7:30 PM, Republic of  
the Imagination,  
Keene Hall