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Rollins College

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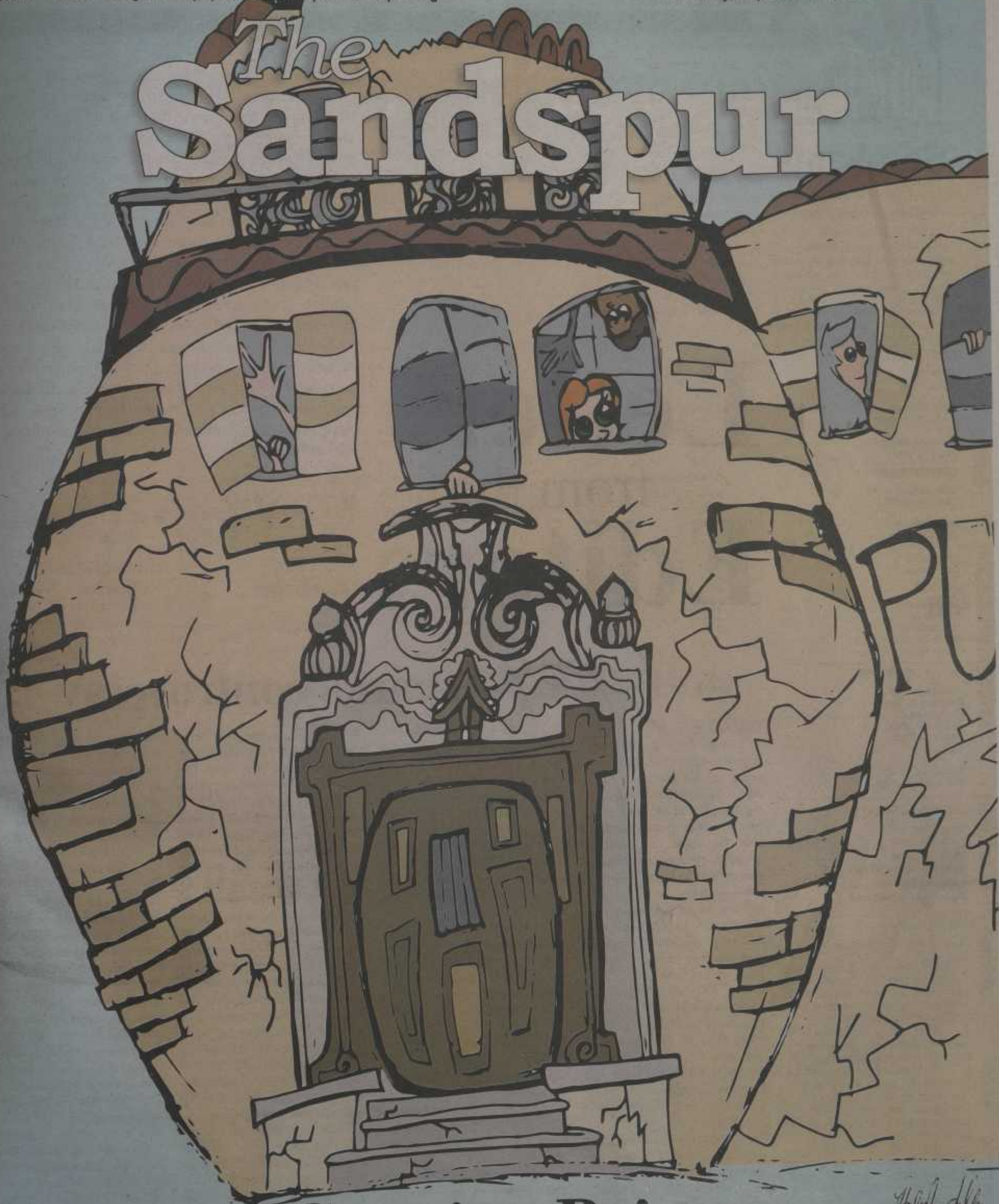
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# The Sandspur



## Growing Pains

Campus growth affects student housing

page 6

*Handwritten signature*



# The Sandspur

Florida's Oldest  
College Newspaper

Established in 1894  
with the following editorial:

"Unassuming yet almighty sharp, and pointed, well rounded yet many sided, assiduously tenacious, victorious in single combat, and therefore without a peer, wonderfully attractive and extensive in circulation; all these will be found upon investigation to be among the extraordinary qualities of The Sandspur."

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Greg Golden  
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Dr. Emily Russell  
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Public Relations Coordinator

## ADVERTISING

Contact: advertising@thesandspur.org

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The Sandspur Editorial Staff extends an invitation to all readers to attend weekly article assignment meetings every Monday at 8 p.m. and sign up to submit letters and articles. In order to be considered for publication, the name of the author must be included.

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

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

The Sandspur  
1000 Holt Avenue  
Winter Park, FL 32789  
(407)646-2696  
[staff@thesandspur.org](mailto:staff@thesandspur.org)

# OPINION

## Letter from the Editors

### Sexperts sparks controversy

Dear Editor,

As the first day of school approached and the first-years moved into their new homes for the year, the new issue of *The Sandspur* was in every place imaginable. The paper was even slid under every door in McKean. I was curious to see what was in store. As I flipped through the pages, I found helpful articles, the reviews of B&B Junction, and other informative articles that can help students explore more of their campus and the greater Orlando area through the Lynx bus system. However, I came across *The Sexperts* column: "The Art of Dorm Sex". The title itself is provocative and edgy, but what I read was by no means informative or presented in a fashion that would be friendly to all.

I had many issues with this particular piece. Let's start with the beginning:

"Further, the incessant smell of vomit that plagues McKean hall is hardly the romantic aroma you are craving." Has the author of this article been to McKean Hall at all? Maybe you lived here in your first year of college, and maybe

you had a bad experience in this building where someone threw up. That doesn't mean that the building itself is covered with vomit, or that its walls are forever emanating the smell. The Office of Residential Life is and has worked tirelessly to improve upon the halls, and their efforts are going unrecognized by this type of commentary.

This article also had some slut-shaming: "There are proper ways to sextile, along with horror stories of roommates being woken and thrown out at four in the morning. Don't be that guy, no one likes that guy except for slutty girls." What do slutty girls like other than those kinds of guys? What exactly constitutes a slutty girl? How many guys/girls must one have slept with in order to be one? Is there a handbook that I need to acquire?

But my BIGGEST issue in this article was this: "To prevent loud moaning try to keep your partner quiet. Some of my girl friends have reported that guys have pressed their hands to their mouths or even slapped them to keep from being heard through the paper-thin walls.

Dear Readers,

By definition a sandspur is, "any of a genus (*Cenchrus*) of grasses producing spikelets enclosed in ovoid spiny involucre that form burs," Merriam-Webster dictionary. Basically, sandspurs are those annoying little prickly burs that end up all over your pants when you go on hikes. They may be a nuisance but they really do stick with you, which is exactly what we aim to do this year at The Sandspur student newspaper. Our purpose is to be a culmination of student voices, some that happen to be more on the prickly side than others. These voices tell the story of what it is really like to be a Rollins student, through a lens that isn't tinted by a public relations department or hampered by a hidden agenda. We encourage campus participation in our publication and strive to encompass as many voices as possible through our open admission policy. We at The Sandspur hope to inspire, educate, and really stick with you during this year at Rollins.

*Jamie Pizzi*

Jamie Pizzi,  
Editor-in-chief

*David Matteson*

David Matteson,  
Production Manager

While some people may enjoy this, most are not into kinky gag-and-bound sex, so it becomes important to simply remind your partner verbally to keep quiet." I wish there would have been some trigger warnings beforehand, as there were some individuals on campus that were triggered by this section. I ask that *The Sandspur* be more considerate of their audience, of whom they know nothing about, and of the experiences they have had (particularly when it comes to sex and sexual assault). No differentiation was made, until the end, between a fetish/kink and assault, when the author spoke of slapping and covering the girl's mouth. I recognize that the author clarified his point at the end, but it was still not okay. Please emphasize communication between partners more – that part was sprinkled around in this article. Communication is key.

I would like to reiterate that this is not a personal attack on the author; it was a critique on his take on the matter. I appreciate that he has opened up a dialogue about sex with the campus, something which is not often done and is much needed.

However, it must be done in such a way that is considerate of its audience, and aware of how to convey the message of being sex-positive, given the image and perception of sexual intercourse within the patriarchy.

-Luz Cabrera  
Class of 2015

Dear Luz-

Answering this in my official capacity as Production Manager, I am greatly appreciative of your comments and opinions regarding this column. *The Sexperts* is intended to open a frank discussion about sexuality and campus life, and your response indicates that this purpose is being fulfilled. In regards to the issue of sensitivity, I agree that it is important to respect the reader's background but, as you noted, this issue was made clear at the end of the paragraph. Finally, the *Sexperts* column does emphasize communication between partners, as seen throughout past columns in volume 119 of *The Sandspur*.

-David Matteson  
Production Manager

# Major problems for French majors

My name is Meredith Connelly. I am a student in the Honors Degree Program in my junior year, double majoring in French and English. As you can imagine, I have set myself up for a packed schedule which leaves little to no room for unplanned changes. I have met with student success on multiple occasions to coordinate my four-year plan, a plan which allows me to complete these three separate commitments. But how can I possibly be expected to expand my horizons and rise to my full potential in the knowledge of the French language if courses I need for my major are continuously canceled at the last possible minute? That is where my issue with an institution that has otherwise afforded me every opportunity begins. In an effort to reach a greater readership and open a conversation within a larger forum, I am submitting this letter to the editor, which I have adapted from an original letter I addressed to President Duncan.

Dear Editor,

I regret that an occasion exists to write this letter, but I feel that I as a student have tolerated more departmental discrimination than I would have believed possible, especially coming from an institution which claims to value the ideals of a multi-faceted liberal arts education.

This is the third time I have purchased all of my outrageously expensive textbooks, completed all required reading, and been completely prepared for a class when, low and behold, I am told the day before the class begins, or even worse, a full week into the class, that it has been canceled due to lack of enrollment. My first question is, why is this even an issue? Rollins advertises up and down the value of a student focused education; the professor to student ratio and average class sizes are plastered all over our website and announced at matriculation ceremonies. My picture is featured on the homepage of the

Rollins website above a shameless plug for the size of the average Rollins class, where students receive a "personalized education."

So why, then, am I being forced to pay out of pocket for a class required of my major and receive what I consider to be an inferior instruction at a community college? I have been enrolled in classes where three or four students attend on a regular basis, so why, now, are these classes I need being canceled?

I have questioned myself time and time again and have—sadly enough—come to the conclusion that if such enrollment rates were seen in a class where a biology or international business major was in attendance, the institution would find a way to offer that class so as not to inconvenience the students. We spent untold amounts of funds building a sparkly new science center, but you cannot find the money from my ridiculous tuition to pay for a single teacher to instruct a class that is re-

quired of my major? Why don't we start putting our tuition towards the education of students rather than towards the endless chocolate fountains, ice cream kiddie pools, and seemingly interminable free t-shirts offered to us at every turn?

Attempting to complain about this issue was more frustrating than the problem itself. I was constantly redirected and assured by various people that my situation was nothing to worry about. I will be studying abroad next semester, thankfully, but will now have to take at least five classes, if not six, to make up for the complete and utter impedance of my French major that this institution has caused. It should be fairly embarrassing for this institution that half the reason a student decides to study abroad is to feasibly complete all the classes required of a major and subsequently avoid the massive Hindenburg that Rollins has made of its French program. I do not intend this letter as a senseless

rant at the faceless establishment, but rather as a wake-up call to the college. You are discriminating against me as a French major—whether knowingly or unknowingly, it does not matter. I hope this serves as incentive for Rollins to change its policies and attitudes towards language majors and minors such as myself, as well as other humanities students. I am, in a word, disappointed.

Meredith Connelly  
Class of 2015

Meredith, I am sorry to hear about the stressful beginning to your school year. This is not the first time I have heard horror stories concerning registration week, but this by far the most disconcerting. The small size of Rollins does make for an amazing educational experience, but can also make for tough hinderances such as yours.

-Jamie Pizzi, Editor-in-chief

For more letters to the editor, visit our website [www.thesandspur.org](http://www.thesandspur.org).

## Freshmen disorientation

Alex Mariano

Writer

New surroundings can often be intimidating, as is the case when a freshman steps foot on their college campus for the first time. The architecture is beautiful, but which buildings are what? Why are all of the people in yellow shirts so cheerful? Mills lawn is a familiar landmark, but where to go from there? Starting life out in a completely new home for the next four years can be a bit confusing, and that is why Freshmen Orientation exists. Five days that are dedicated to getting to know the ins and outs of Rollins College.

Rollins starts new students off easy on their first day. There were signs everywhere pointing them to where the different residence halls are, as well as the campus center to check in. Upperclassmen cheered and welcomed new students as they walked onto campus.

Wednesday afternoon was very chill, with nothing scheduled until dinner. This gave students some leeway with their time, letting them settle in a bit. Then, there was the President's Welcome. Personally, I was sur-

prised that the speakers prayed over the entering student body, but I appreciated the sentiment and felt welcomed and cared about. Following that came the mess of finding your correct RCC peer mentor who was holding up a sign. Students and parents were everywhere, and the peer mentors were scattered inside and outside the Alford Sports Center, with no clear organization, and I probably completed a full loop before I spotted one of my peer mentors.

I was excited about meeting the other students in my RCC class; I'd be hanging out with them the next four days and, if all went well, the rest of the year. I instantly belonged to a group that I would soon become familiar with.

Convocation was a lovely ordeal that, prior to starting college, I didn't know existed. It was an additional step that made me feel wanted and welcomed in my new home. Coming from a pretty large high school, I was surprised that the entire entering class fit snugly in the gym.

The remainder of Orientation was extremely busy, providing information and reviewing standards with the

new student body, as well as mandatory socialization, which included a hypnotist, an a cappella group, and a small student talent show.

An event that I found off putting, however, was the Sex Signals performance. Yes, it drew upon stereotypes and sent a message of being careful and respectful, all the while succeeding in making the freshmen laugh. However, the subject of rape is a very sensitive one, and when talking about the dangers of sex, many freshmen were riled up over the way that the improv performers presented it. Differing opinions were not respected when the floor was opened to discussion: one point was raised about the view of sex in different cultures, but it was taken completely out of context and somehow progressed to the subject of "blue balls." Although uncomfortable subjects like rape are necessary to talk about, I think it could have been handled better. Everyone, it seemed, walked back to their dorms at least a little upset.

Straying away from that unpleasant note, SPARC day was successful as well. Multiple RCCs were working on each project, so the opportunity to



Rollins

During Freshmen Orientation, move-in day was a success as residential assistants and the class of 2017 collaborated to set up dorm rooms.

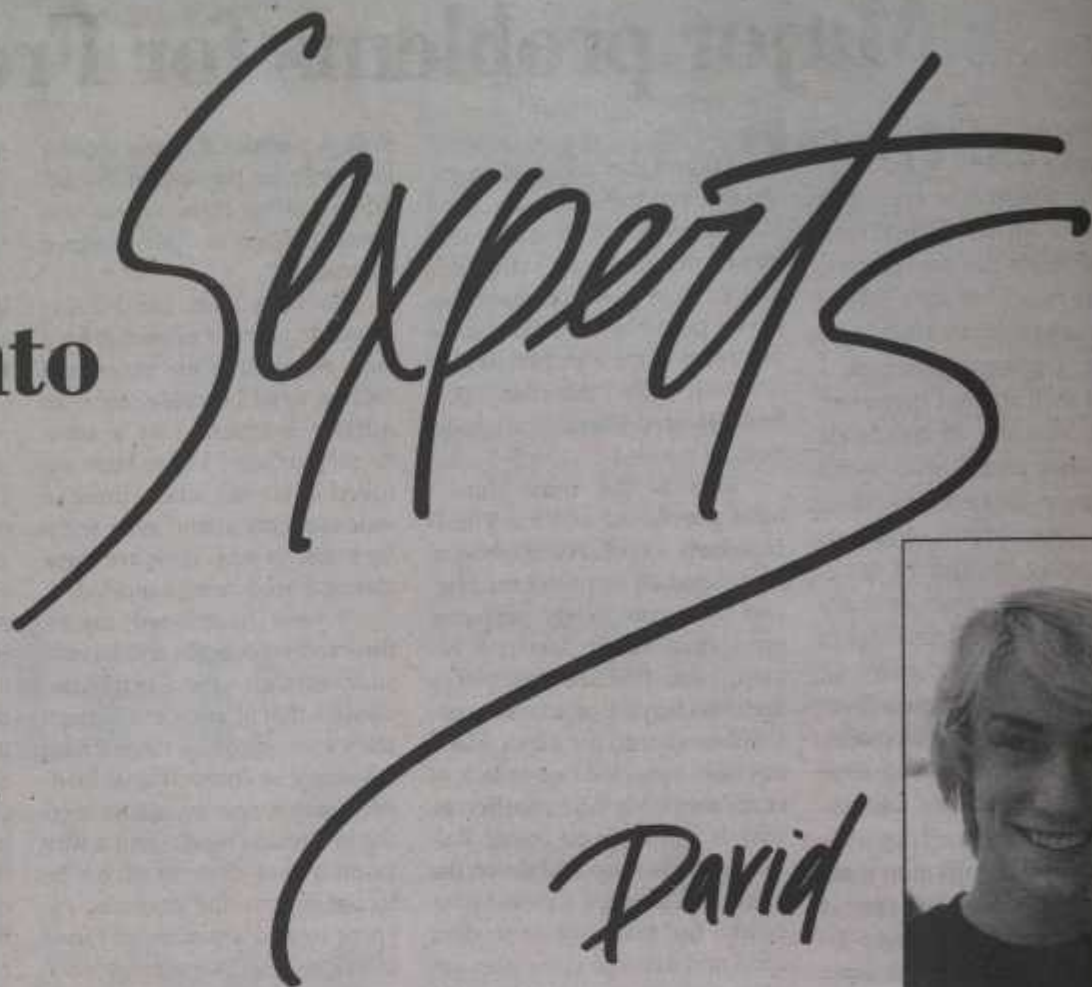
meet other incoming students was there, as well as working on the skills of teamwork and communication. I think it's wonderful that Rollins heavily promotes community involvement

and helping others.

Overall, as extensive as Fall Orientation was, it definitely drove home the point that Rollins is an amiable community where anyone can belong.

# Turn your summer fling into the real thing

Extend your Summer romance into a relationship that lasts through the Fall semester. Sexpert David breaks the stereotypes of summer lovin'.



David Matteson

Production Manager

Hot bodies. Heated temperatures. Passion. Sex. Young love. Tan skin. All of these are ideas come to mind when I think of the words "Summer Love."

We've moved past the innocence of Grease, and developed our generation's own interpretation of 'summer lovin'. But one thing seems to remain the same: as the summer fades into fall semester, we tend to lose sight of our lovers. In order to prevent this stereotypical pattern from occurring, check out my list of tips for preventing your heated fling from cooling off post-Labor Day.

Take the Type-A approach: It all boils down to scheduling. Countless relationships get lost in the shuffle of work and school schedules come fall, and my hypothesis is that this occurs because of a lack of scheduling efficiency amongst the individuals. Sure, it's great to be able to work 40 hours a week and be enrolled in five courses at school, but you also have to work in time for a good roll-in the hay every now and then. By having an open conversation with your partner about both of your schedules, you can prevent your relationship from getting lost in a slew of appointments, classes and homework.

Each of you should begin by writing out your school and

work schedules in order to allow for an honest comparison. Be sure to budget in time for commuting to and from work or school (rush-hour traffic in this city means it takes an hour to get anywhere). From this initial comparison, you should recognize mutual times when you have the opportunity to spend time together. You will also have a better understanding of when you can schedule time with your friends while your partner is in class or at work.

Of course the major concern occurs when you both have opposing schedules. I recently ran into this issue when I started dating a Holt student over the summer. Sure our summer was bountiful of leisurely free time where we could laze around in the hot afternoon, but come August our courses and work schedules were going to be opposing one another. Alas, the day student verses night student conundrum was certainly going to be a problem for our relationship. That's when the modifications started. I switched around my school schedule to allow for a four-day weekend, and limited my work schedule at my part-time job to weekdays only, leaving my weekends free for my summer love.

In my case, scheduling changes were easily solved by a little effort and several trips to student records. However, scheduling is usually an issue

tackled by concessions from both individuals—if the relationship matters, you'll make the change.

Don't stop having sex. While one benefit of sex is stress relief, I know very few people who enjoy having sex when they are up against stressful homework deadlines. Hopefully you've followed the advice in the former subsection and carved out time to spend with one another, but this is often replaced with homework dates at Olin Library as the semester progresses. Thus it becomes important for each partner to be accountable for maintaining a healthy sexual relationship, or else the flame quickly fizzles and you each find yourself pathetically and shamefully masturbating at separate times throughout the week.

Remember, sex is often considered a gauge on the health of a relationship. Thus not having sex means the love between one another is beginning to fade, and you'll quickly find yourself single around fall break.

Keep the flame lit by trying new sexual practices that are both time effective and passionate. For example, try shower sex out if you haven't already added that to your daily routines. Everyone showers throughout the day, so why not do it together? There are so many benefits to shower sex: you both end up clean and ready to start

your day; you save water and the environment; you are each capitalizing on time efficiency; and you each get to cum outside of a masturbatory context. It's a winner all around.

Of course shower sex doesn't always work out, especially if you're living in an on-campus dormitory. In these situations it's best to have sleepovers. Ending your day with one another and going to bed means (a) you're capitalizing on a practice that makes up 1/3 of your life (b) sex is most likely going to happen (c) CUD-DLING (need I say more?). If you do live in a dorm with a roommate you must have a conversation ahead of time regarding your partner sleeping over. Under no circumstance should you jeopardize the comfort of your roommate for sexual benefit. For tips on sexing a roommate properly, check out my Dorm Sex column on [www.thesandspur.org](http://www.thesandspur.org).

Plan a vacation together. I am the biggest believer in weekend getaways. In fact I have a slew of Michael Kors luggage prepped and ready for weekend escapes with my partner at a moments notice. Of course, we cannot all afford to head off to different cities with our boyfriend or girlfriend every weekend. Which makes planning a vacation an exciting affair for all involved.

Escaping the stress of Win-

ter Park and heading off to a new destination is clearly one of the many benefits of a vacation; as is the chance to spend an exclusive amount of time with one another. But the heart of the excitement lies in the planning stages of the vacation. What will you do together? Where will you go? How will you travel? Making those decisions helps create an escape that each of you is able to look forward to.

If you're unable to drive or fly to a new location, try escaping locally by booking a stay at the new gem of Winter Park: The Alford Inn. You can capitalize on the Rollins discount that they offer, and your stay will help benefit future Rollins students because their profits are used to support scholarships. If you do go with this local option, try turning off your cell phones and eating at Park Avenue restaurants that you do not frequent. Both of these tips will surely assist in adding the escape mystique factor to your local vacation.

Summer relationships are characterized by their short-term lifespan. Turn this stereotype around by making your passion develop into the real deal. There is nothing more fulfilling and challenging than a long-term committed relationship, and by following this column's advice you'll be burrowing up with your summer lover for the winter in no time.

# What happens at Rollins stays on the confession page

Lauren Silvestri

Writer

As students started to settle into the new semester at Rollins, talk buzzed among upperclassmen and new students alike with the mysterious new creation of the Facebook page "Rollins Confessions". On this page, an anonymous administrator sifts through student-submitted comments on anything and everything Rollins-related, and then posts these comments on a public "Rollins Confessions" page for the students' entertainment. The comments range from topics such as: "Why are there hardly any house parties?" "Where are the stoners?" "Ward has the hottest guy RAs," and "Damn, I love Rollins sandwiches."

The administrator of the page shares why he/she created the page: "I actually found out about this whole confessions craze by stumbling upon the college-confessions.com website after doing some Google searches. There are a ton of schools that had confessions pages and we didn't... And it has been fun reading all of these confessions that range from the sweet and heartfelt to the freakishly bizarre." At last count, the page had 905 likes and the administrator hopes to reach 1000 likes soon.

Not everyone in the Rollins community has been supportive. Rollins administration was displeased, to say the least, with the use of the Rollins logo on the page's profile picture and cover photo. The Rollins administration's representative lawyer contacted the administrator in a letter demanding that he/

she stop using all copyrighted trademarks of Rollins College. In response, the administrator created a generic logo, and on its new cover photo states, "If it was not already COMPLETELY obvious, this page is NOT affiliated with Rollins College in any way whatsoever." The page no longer is in any legal trouble.

President Duncan issued this statement regarding the matter: "Use of the College's logo and institutional photos, which are protected by copyright, suggested that the Rollins Confessions Facebook page was officially endorsed by the College. We asked the creators of the page to remove them, which they did. Rollins has a worldwide reputation for excellence, and we are vigilant about protecting it for our students and alumni."

**"It has been fun reading all of these confessions that range from the sweet and heartfelt to the freakishly bizarre."**

Still, many people on campus disagree with the page's use of anonymity. Panhellenic President Jesyca Ramirez '14 says, "I'm all for free speech, but people can do some serious harm on these types of pages and it tends to be more negative than positive. Because it's anonymous, there is no accountability." Comments have been posted on the page about various fraternities and sororities, other campus organizations, and individuals using their initials.

"Rollins Confessions" ad-

ministrator maintains that that there is a censorship policy in place. "I think we have been pretty good about not letting the truly mean confessions through, or at least editing them to make them generic enough that they don't single out a person in a negative way. If we accidentally let something through that is derogatory towards an individual, we welcome messages to let us know and we are quick to take those confessions down," he/she says. A commenter posted on the Confessions page: "I am so sick of people saying this page 'doesn't represent our school' and 'it's like high school.' It's a silly page with things that happen at our school. If you don't want to be connected to it or associated with it, don't like the page and stop posting on it... it's that simple."

Another anonymous administrator created a "Rollins Compliments" Facebook page in reaction to the controversy of "Rollins Confessions". The page had 643 likes at last count, and features positive statements about Rollins College and its students, such as: "Thank you so much to the guy behind me at the C-Store today who gave me a dollar when I forgot my money. Chivalry is not dead."

Students continue to comment on the "Rollins Confessions" page and the administrator has no plans to stop. "I think if the college was smart they would back off and let their students get these things off their chest," he/she says. "Heck, they might even learn a thing or two about what their students are really thinking/feeling. Or maybe even learn who Lindsay Lohan is perhaps?"



Rollins Confessions

53 minutes ago

I threw up on myself at Roxy.

Like • Comment

5 people like this.



Rollins Confessions

August 27

I once set a squirrel lose in the pillow room.

Like • Comment

21 people like this.



Rollins Confessions

August 11

One very drunk night after Chi Psi formal my friend and I wrote in marker all over the doors of every room in both Ward and Elizabeth and they never caught us. You're welcome.

Like • Comment

8 people like this.



Rollins Confessions

August 5

I only made friends with the freshmen so I can still come back and visit when I'm 25.

Like • Comment

14 people like this.

## Red carpet on The Green

Yasmin Mesbah

Writer

Each year, Rollins gives the first week of the Fall semester the title "Be a Part from the Start". This week is filled with different activities that help students engage with the community. Last Tuesday night, Rollins organized a movie on the lawn, for which they showed

the movie *Mooz-Lum*. The movie was about a Muslim boy going through school and college, and the struggles he faced within the community as well as within himself. Students were supposed to come to the movie with their RCC classes. Most of the students liked the movie and the idea of the event. Students also liked the story and the theme of the movie itself. One of

the main ideas of the movie was that people should not judge a whole religion based on the actions or attitudes of one person who follows it. The movie particularly focused on the true meaning of the religion of Islam. Students thought that the movie was very emotional and appreciated its objective of urging people to stop looking at things from a narrow perspective.

They understood the themes of the movie and were, in fact, discussing them amongst each other as it was playing. Many of them said that the movie taught them new things about the faith of Islam that they did not know before, and that that was one of the things they most liked about it. Overall, the students thought it was a great night and they all enjoyed it.

**"The movie particularly focused on the true meaning of the religion of Islam."**



# Get a Room

If you can  
find one...



Last semester, TKE was evicted from Pugsley Hall, the dormitory that has been home to the fraternity for several decades. McCoy follows up on the status of Pugsley and the growing student body.

Kyle McCoy

Writer

A question often asked of students who attend small liberal arts colleges is does everyone just know everyone? It can feel that way at times – flying under the radar becomes a challenge once you've established a reputation for yourself amongst the community. Whether you excel in your field of expertise, captained a sports team to its championship, lead a nightlife of promiscuity (which indeed leaves you reputable in certain circles), or you're simply that lesbian on the tiny skateboard, it isn't hard to stand out within a notoriously less than eclectic student body.

But then there are those moments, prominent at the start of fall term, when you walk into a classroom greeted by unanimously unfamiliar faces. You think to yourself, "Who are these people?" and "They go to Rollins?". Walking through campus between the rush hours of mid-morning into lunchtime yields a similar effect. While it's true that Res Life reports 487 members of this year's freshman class (an interview with the dean of admissions reported 480), any of those unfamiliar faces could just as easily be one of the rumored 83 transfer students (admissions reports 74) new to campus this fall. As a whole, we are noticeably increasing in undergraduate population as smaller classes graduate to be replaced by record highs for the classes of 2015 and 2016 in the mid 500's. Approximately a decade ago, at what admissions states to be "around 2002," the undergraduate total was holding fairly steadily at an estimated 1720. Today they report an approximate 1900, though Res Life states there are 1176 students living on campus with 824 living off – adding up to an even 2000. Forty percent of that 1176 are the freshman class occupying five buildings: McKean, Ward, Rex Beach, and two full buildings of Strong Hall.

So where are the three other grades living this year? Per usual many have been placed in both Sutton and Elizabeth. But members of these older grades surely recall the not-so distantly previous tenants of what is now Pugsley Hall: the fraternity boys of TKE. This year's occupants of Pugsley hall are now the much broader category that is veterans to on-campus living. Similarly, what was the KKG house is now Rollins Hall, a dorm filled with student leaders. Though it was a national decision that revoked Kappa Kappa Gamma's charter for the next four years, TKE remains hopeful that they will regain their on-campus living privilege come spring, having had their charter revoked by the authority of Rollins itself.

Sitting down and speaking with Vice President of TKE, Aaron Tanyhill, to discuss the matter, he says it was a series of about five relative incidents violating our school's policy on underage alcohol consumption that consequently

led to their eviction from the house. Tanyhill feels strongly that the brothers were all generally shocked by the severity of the sanction, particularly given that any violation of school policy they had been cited for occurred off-campus and not in or around the actual TKE house or campus. He says the brothers are "very literally heartbroken" and feel that ache every time they walk past their former headquarters and home.

When asked what type of changes the boys are putting forth in order to restore their tainted reputation and return to the house, Tanyhill appeared passionate about their efforts. TKE is currently undergoing reorganization of their executive board while revisiting/restructuring the constitutional values/bylaws of their organization. Additionally, they will be requiring more on-campus involvement by each individual brother along with active membership review processes. Though Aaron is a member of this year's senior class, he says his hopes are still high that the brothers will get their house back so the future generations can enjoy the same opportunity and level of bonding he feels privileged to have been apart of during his years here.

Fortunately for the boys, Abby Prokop speaking on behalf of Res Life says she does hope to see the boys make their way back into their house, given they meet certain expectations of them and noticeably implement some positive changes to their organization. Furthering that notion, if you were to enter Pugsley Hall and take a peek behind a new piece of artwork adorning the fireplace in the common area, you would see that the official TKE crest has been very purposefully left in place as opposed to having been painted over.

But with a confirmed report of on-campus living being at 94% capacity, that then begs the question where will the current residents of Pugsley Hall be placed if and when TKE is reinstated into their house? The answer to which is rather simple: Res Life reports imminent expansions to on-campus living facilities such as phase 3 of Strong Hall currently underway to add 55 open beds. A representative at admissions stated that they would never want to overload or create an unaccommodating, crowded campus atmosphere by enrolling a freshman class that would exceed our campus' maximum capacity. Though with the undergraduate degree being today what the high school diploma was approximately a decade ago, it's safe to assume colleges all across our nation are growing in population as the pressure to acquire degrees in higher learning grows increasingly necessary to keep up in such a competitive job market.

A positive recommendation that could be made is to get used to new and unfamiliar students passing you by and seated beside you in class. If one thing is for sure, it's that Rollins is not getting any smaller any time soon.

# Twelve years later

As the anniversary of nine eleven approaches, a New York native recalls the terrorist attacks and calls on fellow Americans to never forget that fateful day

Sharifa Ford

Writer

As I sat at my computer to complete assignments, I heard fellow employees chatter about what seemed to be some juicy news. Unclear as to what was being said, I assumed it was the usual office gossip and continued to work.

However, this was more than your typical office gossip—this was devastating news that tore my heart into pieces. On Tuesday September 11, 2001, terrorism consumed America and planes crashed into the twin towers at the World Trade Center.

After hearing that news, I left my job for the morning because all I could think about was my family who still lived in New York while my sister and I lived in Orlando. The first thing I wanted to do was rush to catch a plane to head to New York, but no aircrafts were allowed to fly and no mass transportation was working. Everything came to a standstill. I called my parents and other relatives about 30 times, but I couldn't get a

hold of anybody. When I dialed their numbers, all I could hear was, "Your call cannot be completed as dialed". All phone service to New York City was disrupted.

Tears rolled down my cheeks as the worst case scenarios entered my mind. Where was my family, and were they alive? The news media replayed coverage over and over throughout the day that showed people leaping out of windows, papers flying through the air, and debris landing on bystanders. I stared into space, fearing what the repercussions of this tragedy would be. I cried for hours! I said to myself that this had to be an accident.

However, when I saw the replays of the two airplanes crashing into the buildings one after the other, I knew this was an act of terror. I thought to myself, "Who could do this to us? We are the country that always helps other countries."

I was overjoyed when I finally heard from my parents. My dad had an appointment at the World Trade Center that morning, but he canceled

and walked over the Brooklyn Bridge to get away from the smoke. My mom had left work and walked from 92nd street in Manhattan toward Lennox Avenue in Harlem just to get home. As happy as I was to know they were alive, I was still saddened by the tremendous loss of life that occurred that day. I could not get over the fact that the Twin Towers no longer stood.

As the smoke filled the air and people stumbled all over each other, I saw neighbors become helpers, family rivalries cease, and strangers become friends. The humanity came out in the American people.

Now, twelve years later, the American people can't forget the burning fires and the havoc this tragedy wrought on our nation. So many wallets with pictures of fathers, mothers, aunts, uncles, grandmothers, and daughters smiling. We can't forget the sweaters on the ground once worn on the shoulders of someone who was cold in the office. We can't forget the boots that belonged to fathers of newborn babies, or the high-heeled shoes of the work-



**UNITED WE STAND** The 9/11 Memorial is a national tribute honoring the thousands of men, women, and children killed in the terror attacks in 2001.

ing mothers lost in the rubble. We can't forget the thousands of children left without parents, or those who perished in Washington D.C. and Pennsylvania. God bless the firefighters who didn't stop working until the flames went out. And let us not forget the six people who lost their lives even when the first attack on the Towers happened in 1993.

Although the American people will never feel the same

when they travel by aircraft they cannot live in fear and be paralyzed; they must live their lives to the fullest. The Twin Towers may no longer be standing, but we, the American people, stand as a whole. So be proud to be American, and be proud to be a Rollins student with a campus full of different nationalities. Despite our differences, continue to spread the love this day and every day by displaying global citizenship.

## White collars and full sleeve tattoos

Karina Andujar

Writer

Nowadays approximately 1 out of 5, or about 14% of Americans can boast that they have a tattoo on their body—this is a dramatic increase compared to only about a decade ago. The rise of the body ink culture is making many young adults question whether or not having tattoos will affect their job search, and the answer to that quandary is: it depends.

"Even in this tight job market, most companies aren't going to view tattoos too harshly. Companies have a vested interest in hiring the most qualified candidate," says John Challenger, a CEO of a consulting firm. His statement is a reflection of the typical hiring manager's mentality about body ink. As times are changing and generational shifts occur, a significant

amount of employers could not care less if someone has tattoos or not; it usually comes down solely to his or her job performance. In fact, many companies will allow tattoos because they believe that their lax policy will bring in young applicants fresh out of college.

Recently I conducted an interview with an old coworker of mine (who happens to have many tattoos) named Casey Cook. At one point Casey worked for a high level corporate job here in Orlando, and I wanted to know what his experience was like when he was interviewing for a job.

**Karina:** How many tattoos do you currently have?

**Casey:** Depends on how you count, but technically 2 full sleeves (arms covered), plus neck, and like 15 more or so scattered about probably.

**Karina:** Did they at any

point affect you while you were searching for a job in a corporate environment?

**Casey:** For my first interview I wore a suit so everything was covered aside from the very top of my neck tattoo. If I wasn't covered in them I probably wouldn't have felt the need to wear a tie, but having the collar of my shirt buttoned hides more of the neck tattoo so having them affected my wardrobe choice for sure. Luckily they hired me!

**Karina:** Did you have to tell your employer that you had tattoos during your interview?

**Casey:** Aside from the visible parts of my neck tattoo I didn't feel required to tell them anything more. I think both parties in the interview usually have things they'd prefer not to disclose to the other—a few weeks after I was hired I asked my manager if I was "required"

to wear long sleeves and he said I didn't need to.

In general, society is taking a more relaxed position on tattoos and other body modifications, but there are still some employers who see view tattoos as a distraction in the workplace. Research done by CareerBuilder found that 31% of employers were deterred from hiring applicants with tattoos. Nonetheless, many of the employers who hold strict views on tattoos may still allow them, but with stipulations.

More and more companies are enforcing very precise and strict dress codes that may allow tattoos, but will not allow them to be seen. Justine Lissner, senior attorney advisor at the EEOC said, "Employers are permitted to impose reasonable dress codes, which could include banning visible tattoos, within certain constraints."

These rules are in place to give a strict appearance of professionalism in the work environment. For example, if an employee has a sleeve of tattoos they may only be allowed to wear long sleeve shirts while in the office. If they were to violate the dress code the employer has a right to address the issue and do something about it.

As of right now there are still primarily mixed reviews on tattoos in the workplace, but as society is changing there might soon be a definite agreement on the acceptability of body art. For now however, if a college student is debating on whether or not to get a tattoo sleeve he or she might want to wait a little while to see where they end up career wise in a few years. Until then the student should simply get a few small sweet tats that can easily be covered up by clothing or hair.

# Changez for the worse

Mattie Scull

Writer

It is no surprise that the incoming freshman class would be assigned a book that is as culturally diverse as the school of which they chose to attend. *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* by Mohsin Hamid draws the audience into the conversational dialogue of a Pakistani man in a café while the readers (in this case the class of 2017) take on the persona of an unnamed American man. Reminiscent of the opening scene of *Aladdin*, a Middle Eastern background unfolds and a sketchy man asks if he can talk to you. He seems pushy at first, but for the next twenty pages you can not turn away.

The sketchy man named Changez (a name that no one has figured out how to pronounce, although I am told it sounds like Shawn-Jay) describes his normal experience in America. You know, the one where you go to Princeton and get an internship at one of the biggest New York valuation firms straight out of undergrad. Changez (Insert C-Money or the somewhat obvious Changes if you prefer) has certainly achieved the American dream and beyond. However, living in New York City in the wake of the September eleventh terrorist attacks, Changez changes.

Seventy-two pages in, and the book shifts from a coming

of age story to just plain weird. Changez's reaction to the 9/11 attacks is to smile, but tries to play it off as if he really enjoys the symbolism of the attacks-as if that's a better excuse. Sly remarks of the American culture are subtle, but strongly intertwined into the conversation for the rest of book. It was hard to ignore and quite honestly, it left me angry. I understand the need to look through the eyes of another person or culture, especially in preparation for higher education, but Changez goes too far. He bashes America for being "self-righteous," and is wrong to band together and show support for the loss of those involved in the attacks.

If the plot is not already thick with the confused questioning of his reaction to the attacks, Changez is found in a cliché courtship of an Upper East Sider named Erica. Even more cliché is Erica's scarred past and elevated class status. After the couple's first sexual encounter goes south, Changez decides to "get some" by asking Erica to pretend he is her dead boyfriend. If that isn't messed up then I don't know what is. Changez's proposal is successful, but he sends Erica into a downward spiral involving rehab and plausible suicide. By the way, for those that still haven't figured it out yet-Erica is short for America. The un-clever metaphor adds to the cringe factor as Changez takes

from both America and Erica selfishly. Eventually Changez quits his job and returns to Pakistan.

Muddled by the coming of age anecdotes, Hamid's novel fails to fully address and explore the reason for Changez's feelings about America. The emotional aspect is stung too thin between the courtship and job. Hamid certainly went in the right direction by trying to make Americans experience the other side of the story for people like Changez. However, he failed to understand or address our side on a deep level. He only surfaces the matter at hand. Hamid leaves the story with an abrupt and unsatisfied ending, and I was shocked by the outcome I determined. Maybe Hamid produced a redeeming feature after all. The readers will certainly think about themselves at the end of the book, and maybe that's all we need.

“It was an engaging read which shed a new light on American involvement overseas.

- Itunnu Awogbade

“I didn't enjoy this book. He rambles and he didn't talk about Islam that much, which I thought was the point, and if you don't like getting all of the information, this is the book for you.

- Chris McManus



Washington Post

**ALL GROWN UP** (Left) Miley Cyrus shows how much she has "grown up" during the VMAs. With teddy bears and foam fingers as props, the singer pulls off a performance that shocked the public. (Right) Justin Timberlake and his 'NSYNC ex-comrades please spectators with an anticipated reunion. Timberlake performed songs in honor of his Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award.

## VMAs 2013: same old song and dance

Lauren Silvestri

Public Relations Coordinator

As another summer comes to an end, another MTV Video Music Awards show passes by, along with its typical controversial moments. For those not familiar with this pop culture staple, the annual Video Music Awards (VMAs) mark a rare moment when MTV pretends that it still broadcasts music videos on its channel, and therefore can make educated and justified decisions on the quality of the year's best music videos. Every year I watch it just to humor myself, while also secretly wishing some of MTV's 80's and early 90's glory will return. Unfortunately, like every year, the show only slightly humored me.

The awards ceremony started with a performance from

Lady Gaga, who after a hiatus due to an injury, has just released her new single "Applause" from her upcoming album *Artpop*. The performance showcased Gaga in all her eccentric and bizarre glory, and her intense, no lipsync-needed routine received a well-deserved round of applause. This year's impressive line-up also included Kanye West, Katy Perry, Macklemore & Ryan Lewis, and Drake, but it was Justin Timberlake who stole the show. In honor of receiving the "Michael Jackson Video Vanguard" Award, Timberlake performed an extensive medley of some of his greatest hits, including songs from his humble 'NSYNC beginnings. The other members of 'NSYNC joined Timberlake on stage in a highly rumored and anticipated reunion, although the band's

stage time was relatively short compared to the rest of Timberlake's performance.

But I can't talk about the 2013 VMAs without at least mentioning the shocking and bewildering antics of Miley Cyrus's performance with Robin Thicke for a medley of "We Can't Stop"/"Blurred Lines." I will spare you the details, as I assume you must have seen or at least heard of the freak show, and frankly I do not care to waste this article on Cyrus' bizarre behavior. What I will say, though, is that Cyrus justifies her behavior based on how she has simply "grown up." However, her use of teddy bears, foam fingers, twerking, and chronic tongue wagging contradict her claimed maturity.

Despite the raunchiness of Miley Cyrus, I felt that the

VMAs were overall very "safe," and have been for years. Its nominations featured predictable Top 40 artists such as Taylor Swift, Justin Timberlake, Selena Gomez, and One Direction. Only one category, "Best Rock Video," included indie, folk, and hard rock artists, even though hundreds of those kinds of bands released music videos this year. I find it ironic that rock music now needs its own specialized category in order to be included in the nominations, when rock music was once the main music featured on MTV. The VMAs used to invite legendary, established artists such as David Bowie, Nirvana, Duran Duran, Rage Against The Machine, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Van Halen, Michael Jackson, Paul McCartney and even The Rolling Stones. The entire

vibe of the VMAs used to be rock 'n' roll, from the attitudes to the fights to the unpredictability.

It's difficult for the VMAs to uphold credibility when MTV never airs music videos or rarely any music-related material. The commercials in between the breaks feature the new shows MTV will be airing, including a third *Teen Mom* series and *Big Tips Texas*, which follows girls who work in a bikini bar and fight and party hard in their spare time. It's sad that MTV, which was once a groundbreaking channel in terms of pop culture and music, and included such diverse programming as *Yo! MTV Raps* and *Headbanger's Ball*, has come to this: a bunch of teen mothers and Miley Cyrus excessively touching her crotch.

## Do not order the jambalaya

Martin Sanders

Writer

Tibby's New Orleans Kitchen website claims that Tibby's is "not the New Orleans you have visited; it is the New Orleans that locals call home." Being a native son of Louisiana, I was excited and somewhat skeptical over the prospect of being able to eat dishes from the homeland right here in Winter Park. So one night two friends and I decided to pay Tibby's a visit.

After being seated, I took

in the scenery that surrounded our table. The walls were chock full of artwork that attempted to give the restaurant's interior a "Big Easy" vibe. While the decorations gave the place a somewhat homely atmosphere, the sheer volume and scale of the decorations were overkill.

I turned my attention to the menu. Louisiana staples, such as boudin, po'boys, and crawfish etouffee populated it alongside various platters of fried seafood and what appeared to be "Cajun-inspired" original creations.

Feeling homesick, I stuck with the classics and ordered a cup of the seafood gumbo and a bowl of jambalaya, one of my friends had the blackened chicken pasta and the other ordered a Walters po'boy.

My order provided mixed results. The gumbo was satisfying, it had plenty of seafood and was well seasoned yet not overwhelmingly spicy. The "jambalaya," however, was disappointing. While still edible, it had a disproportionately tomato-based sauce, which gave

it an unpleasant and gummy aftertaste reminiscent of cheap canned spaghetti. My dinner companions, meanwhile, were more or less satisfied with their meals and had few complaints.

In terms of the quality of service, Tibby's seemed to have its act together. Our waitress was very consistent in keeping our beverages refilled, delivered our orders in a timely fashion with no mistakes, and treated my guests and I with respect and care.

Tibby's has its shortcom-

ings, but it is an overall decent place to eat in Winter Park. Some of the dishes Tibby's serves are well prepared, while there are others that it would be best to avoid ordering, such as the jambalaya. It helps a great deal that Tibby's is also a relative bargain (with most of the entrees being below \$15) when compared to most sit down restaurants in the Winter Park area.

If you were looking for a place to eat out and did not want to spend a fortune, Tibby's is a sure contender.

# Breaking the mold



Sony Picture Classics

Albert Cantu

Writer

As a fan of Woody Allen's work, I was put in a difficult position upon the release of his last movie, *To Rome With Love*. Due to the fact that it was surprisingly pretty lame, I had to decide whether to defend Allen for old time's sake, or to expose his work for the rather lackluster piece that it was. Happily, no such problem exists this time around, as his newest film, *Blue Jasmine*, represents Woody Allen at his very best.

Written and directed by the man himself, *Blue Jasmine* incorporates all of the acerbic wit and dry, piercing humor that we've come to know and love. After such a long and prosperous career in the film industry, Woody Allen certainly knows what he's good at, and what he's good at is crafting some of the most genuinely touching stories about some of the most interesting, well-developed characters in cinema today. Not many filmmakers can create such entertaining yet earnest films, all while rejecting the pervasive cynical tone that seems to be an inherent part of today's cinematic culture. Allen embraces a more humanist, hopeful approach in terms of both tone and story.

Starring Cate Blanchett and Alec Baldwin, *Blue Jasmine* tells the story of psychologically disturbed Janet/Jasmine (Blanchett) as she copes with her anxiety and her husband's (Baldwin) infidelity, all while losing her grasp on her socialite lifestyle. Blanchett, who seemed to be Blanche DuBois incarnate, gave what could be considered the performance of her career, and I would not be surprised in the slightest if she won the Oscar for Best Actress at this year's ceremony. Blanchett was able to accomplish an incredible feat by portraying the increasingly unhinged Janet as egotistical, obnoxious, entitled, and yet amazingly endearing. Throughout the film, Janet is a character who could best be described as the scum of the earth, but her plight is also profoundly sympathetic, in a testament to both Blanchett's

acting and Allen's writing.

You may have noticed a moment ago that I compared Janet's character to that of Blanche DuBois, and indeed, I don't make such a comparison idly. One would be well within their rights to suggest that *Blue Jasmine* is this century's *A Streetcar Named Desire*, re-done with a modern spin. While *Blue Jasmine* perhaps uses the latter as a template, there are certainly more than enough fresh, new ideas to keep the audience engaged throughout. Case in point, *Blue Jasmine* is one of the very, very few films this year that made me want to keep watching, just to find out what happens next. In an industry so saturated with cliché and predictability, it's a blessing to find a film with the audacity to break the mold.

In terms of narrative structure and plot progression, *Blue Jasmine* is also refreshingly unique. The story is told by intertwining two different timelines: that of the present, in which Janet's life has gone to pot, and that of the past, in which Janet is enjoying life as a glamorous socialite on her husband's dime. The assumption could be that such a technique might make the film feel schizophrenic and unfocused, but in reality, such a maneuver serves to highlight Janet's neurotic tendencies and actually works well within the context of who she is as a character. Afflicted with severe anxiety, Janet is often triggered by a seemingly innocuous word or phrase. She becomes lost in her own tortured thoughts of the past which manifest themselves as flashbacks, virtually without transition, as they are juxtaposed with the ongoing story in the present.

Brilliantly executed and presented, the film is proof that Woody Allen keeps getting better with age, despite some occasional misses. Balanced with earnest, powerful drama and Allen's trademark wit, *Blue Jasmine* is a must-see in 2013.



# Only for the tasteless

Albert Cantu

Writer

Oh boy, a *Purge* ripoff. Well, I guess I just gave away my opinion of *You're Next* in one sentence, huh? Admittedly, stuck in between James Wan's *The Conjuring* on one side and the highly anticipated *Insidious: Part II* on the other is not a pleasant place to be, but the fact of the matter is that *You're Next* is yet another lackluster entry in the already bloated genre of home invasion horror.

Directed by Adam Wingard (*V/H/S*, *A Horrible Way to Die*) and written by Simon Barrett, *You're Next* tells the fairly predictable story of a family gathering gone horribly awry when a group of masked killers begins dispatching the guests in the most inefficient ways possible, all while the inexplicably capable femme fatale, Erin, fights back as best she can. There's a big twist that Barrett wrote into the story which is ostensibly intended to be some kind of revelation once exposed, but those clever folks who pay even the slightest bit of attention to the plot will likely be able to figure it out for themselves by the end of the first act.

Starring a bunch of people that you've probably never heard of before, it would come as no surprise that the acting is sometimes cringeworthy, especially at the beginning of the film when it's required that the characters have more lines than panting and screaming. I know that a lot of people will immediately jump down my throat for criticizing the acting in a horror movie, yet my question is "when did it become frowned upon to have high standards?" There are plenty of horror films with brilliant acting, and just because it's a genre with niche appeal doesn't mean that filmmakers can get away with that kind of thing.

A lot of critics have said that *You're Next* has reinvented the genre, which makes me wonder if we were actually watching the same movie. There are almost no ideas here that haven't been done by other films and infinitely bet-

ter. Here are just a few movies off the top of my head that *You're Next* blatantly ripped off: *Funny Games*, *The Strangers*, *The Purge*, *Assault on Precinct 13*, literally any zombie movie, that scene in *Patriot Games*- the list goes on and on. To me, this film has a bad case of "me too" syndrome, in that the creative team might have been thinking something to the effect of "Hey, since people liked *The Purge* so much, why don't we just make more of it?" which, upon reflection, probably accounts for the creation of a lot of ill conceived movies this year.

**You're Next is yet another lackluster entry in the already bloated genre of home invasion horror.**

*You're Next* has been praised for its dark comedy and "interesting" premise, both of which are barely there and unfortunately don't make up for the story dragging on mercilessly for the first hour or so. One of the most pressing issues I had with the film was that it was boring. Granted, things begin to pick up slightly towards the end, after all of the antagonists are revealed and their motivations explained- which is the single sure fire way to remove all mystery and intrigue from a movie like this- but, again, it's really too little too late.

Horror fans will likely recognize *You're Next* for the bland little experience that it is, and I expect that everyone else will probably be saving their cash for *Insidious*. Though *You're Next* certainly gives *The Purge* a run for its money as the worst horror movie of 2013, I suppose I have to reluctantly award some points for death by blender.



Lionsgate



## R-Big Event welcomes class of 2017

In perfect tradition, the campus center opened it's doors to allow numerous student organizations the oppurtunity to recruit first years.