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The **Sandspur**



Are You Afraid of the Lake?

page 6



The Sandspur

Florida's Oldest
College Newspaper

Established in 1894
with the following editorial:

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

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The Sandspur is always looking for new paid employees. To inquire about open positions, please email chief@thesandspur.org.

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

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

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OPINION

PRO

Amir M. Sadeh

Writer

Roughly two weeks ago, Secretary of State John Kerry announced that there was preliminary evidence indicating that the Syrian government, headed by President Bashar al-Assad, had used chemical weapons to kill more than 1,400 Syrians. Many of these victims were innocent men, women, and children. Kerry recommended that military action be taken against Syria to punish the Assad regime for using Sarin gas on its own people, an act in direct violation of the 1925 Geneva Protocol, which prohibits the use of chemical weapons in war. While Assad may dispute the definition of "war" in this circumstance, precedents established in Operation Desert Storm in Kuwait and Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq dictate that it is our prerogative to stop countries from using chemical weapons on innocent civilians. Unfortunately, due to faulty intelligence and lack of such weapons in Iraq, many are skeptical about attacking Syria, especially if it means falling into another lengthy war.

An important question people are asking is, "Why now? Why, after two years, has it been okay for the Syrian government to shoot their own people with bullets, but when chemical weapons are involved, we go into Commando Mode?" Six words: The red line has been crossed. Last year, President Obama made the following comment in regards to how the U.S. would respond if chemical weapons were used in Syria: "We have been very clear to the Assad regime but also to other players on the ground that a red line for us is, we start seeing a whole bunch of weapons moving around or being utilized." Many have seen this quote as what has backed the President into a corner. He must now take action against Syria to avoid the perception that the US is not serious in its threats.

Why hasn't Obama done anything to stop the violence in Syria before the findings of chemical weapons? Because the civil war in Syria is a benefit to the United States. At the moment, there is a battle going on against our most hated enemies. The unfortunate truth is that, in the interest of our foreign policy in the Middle East, it is best for us to allow this perpetual civil war to continue. It makes Bashar al-Assad too preoccupied with his country to cause trouble in the rest of the region, and gives the rebels a chance to embrace democracy and silence the extremist elements in their camp. Democracy is not a good that can be exported; it must be organically grown in the nation for it to be a success, and Syria is no exception.

So...why do I believe we should use missile strikes against Syria? 1. To punish Assad for thinking he can get away with the use of chemical weapons, causing him to immediately stop using them. 2. To support the good rebels (in a limited capacity) to continue fighting, and allow them more time to create the appropriate hegemony for democratic rule post-Assad. 3. Most importantly, to prevent the continued massacre of innocent civilians in Syria. In the end, if we can maintain and build upon the precedent that the use of chemical weapons is never acceptable, then we have done a great deed.

With Syrian ally Russia on the United Nations Security Council blocking the U.N. from intervening, and British Parliament voting against involvement in any attack on Syria, it's up to the U.S. to do what we need to do, not what we want to do. As I write this on September 6th, a week seems a lifetime in the world of international politics. By the time you see this, God only knows what will have happened.

RETRACTION:

We, The Sandspur staff, apologize for the following printed error in the Sept. 5 edition: the mislabeling of the September 11th article under the section "Arts and Entertainment." The photographs on page 12 were also taken by the photographer Ivan Moreno, '15.

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

Syria shakes the globe

For more than two years, perpetual civil war in Syria has grown in intensity and scope. Last month, the use of chemical weapons by the Assad regime has sparked international concern, and the possibility of U.S. military intervention has become the subject of national debate.

Parliament, who vetoed intervention on Britain's part. The attack is intended to diminish the capacity for possible future chemical weapon attacks on the Syrian people. On September 4, the Senate Committee passed the plan, surmounting the first hurdle on the road to action. But is this really our best option?

In the last few years, the United States military and its resources have been stretched so thin due to budget cuts that it's struggling to take proper care of its troops. The U.S. should be sending humanitarian aid to help those 2 million refugees and 4.25 million Syrians who are currently displaced within their own country, not weapons to arm the rebels. Furthermore, the United Nations, not the U.S. should be stepping in as an international power and instituting economic sanctions. Indeed, the U.N. Security Council initially kiboshed the resolution to intervene when both China and Russia rejected it, but the matter needs to be strongly reconsidered at this juncture. The U.N. must remember their obligation as a global authority to the safety and well-being of its member states.

When the black majority in South Africa was subjected to oppression and violence by the governing white minority during apartheid in the 20th century, it was not foreign military intervention that saw the end of it, but economic sanctions and social pressure from the international community. While we do have a responsibility as a nation to help those whose homeland is in conflict, it should also be noted that, contrary to popular belief, the United States is not the world's police force. This is a job for the global community, not the military of a single country.

This is a job for the global community, not the military of a single country.

59%

of adults do not support military action against Syria

- CNN/ORC International poll

21%

think that military action against Syria is not in U.S. national interest

- NBC poll

Sexperts



Emily

Off to a sexy start?

New Sexpert Emily Kelly flirts with the idea of sex on the first date

Emily Kelly

Writer

The Sexperts began as an initiative to open a dialogue about the topic of sex, relationships, and love as it pertains to our generation. We've covered a wide range of topics from homosexual stereotypes to maintaining one's virginity through college to love games and long distance relationships. All of these topics are made approachable to the reader via humor and wit, but always keeping in mind that sex is serious.

Each Sexpert comes from a diverse sexual and emotional background—offering a different perspective, and a voice that (hopefully) appeals to each individual reader. In this issue we welcome new Sexpert Emily Kelly. A sophomore who has lived at Rollins for the past two years, she has a unique point of view on what it's like to

be a heterosexual female on campus. Most importantly, Emily has a strong yet playful voice, as evidenced by her past articles in The Sandspur.

Thus I now have the pleasure of introducing our newest Sexpert and her debut column on the topic of "sex on the first date."

- David Matteson
Senior Sexpert

It was that sort of night. Cheap beer, a pack of Marl Red's, and condoms: those were the three items arranged on the checkout counter at Seven Eleven, three items that would accompany me to a near-stranger's apartment. Last names were irrelevant. It was the sort of wild college night that begins with locking lips in the back of a cab and ends with that long-anticipated sexual salvation you both

crave, sex that feels so out-of-this-world you almost want to film it. Not unlike a good porno, the night, the sex, the eighteen pack of bud heavy, comes to a climax. Unfortunately, this particular type of foray is usually followed by a morning that begins with a hangover and ends with a walk of shame.

My girlfriends and I were chatting on one of these mornings: the hot topic was my most recent sexual escapade. As I worked a comb through my tangled bedroom hair and scrubbed the crusty mascara from my eyes, my friends reminded me of one of the laws of love I had not observed since high school: the three date rule.

Essentially, the rule dictates that a person should not have sex with their partner until after the third date. The consensus was that having sex prior to

the third date, or, God forbid, on the first date, is trappy and disqualifies you from ever being considered "girlfriend material."

The taboo surrounding sex on the first date is, perhaps, the most ludicrous notion I have seen so many, particularly, women, endorse. No, ladies, you don't owe your new partner a blow job because he bought you one lousy campus center meal; you owe yourself a good time. Whether that means slipping out of your lace panties or a simple good night kiss, the extent of your erotic exploits are decided only by you and your partner.

Having sex on the first date has its perks: it allows partners the opportunity to take notice of any strange fetishes the other may have. If you find your partner is aroused by threesomes or

bondage, seize the opportunity to set the limits on sex early on in the relationship.

First date sex can also decrease the awkward sexual tension that seems to boil up in sexless relationships: when a couple avoids the sex talk for a prolonged period of time, anxiety can breed confusion. Speaking openly about sex with your partner is essential.

If you choose to have sex, whether it is on the first date or the thirty-first date, or if you choose to refrain from sex, do so because you want to, not because some outdated rule book told you to.

I have broken the three date rule twice, and each time it has lead to a long term relationship unhampered by awkward sexual anxiety, not a walk of shame. Remember, rules were made to be broken.

EDM mecca may fall

Festival cut short after tragedy strikes two young audience members.

Lauren Silvestri

Writer

Electric Zoo might be considered the Mecca of the EDM scene. Since 2009, Made Event, a promotion and production company for electronic music concerts and festivals, has organized Electric Zoo in the exciting atmosphere of New York City's Randall's Island Park. Every year, Electric Zoo hosts some of the best names in the EDM scene, such as Flux Pavilion, Skrillex, and Deadmau5. The 2013 Electric Zoo festival last weekend was no different, except for a devastating tragedy resulting in two deaths.

On Friday night, a 23-year-old male was rushed to the hospital after what appeared to be a drug overdose, and died. On Saturday, a similar situation happened to a 20-year-old female. Four other Electric Zoo attendees were hospitalized in intensive care, according to the New York Police Department.

The tragedies resulted in Electric Zoo management canceling the last day of the festival, Sunday September 1st. "The founders of Electric Zoo send our deepest condolences to the families of the two people who passed away this weekend. Because there is nothing more important to us than our patrons, we have decided in consultation with the New York City Parks Department that there will be no show today," the management posted on Electric Zoo's Facebook page.

The cancellation caused very mixed reactions from the festival attendees. "Why do the bad choices of two people have to ruin everyone else's weekend?" commented multiple attendees on Facebook. "Electric Zoo made the right decision to cancel today to possibly have the opportunity to bring you a show next year," another attendee said, responding to the negative attitudes of the commenters.

Unfortunately, the tragedy at Electric Zoo provides the opportunity for ignorant media outlets to create unnecessary paranoia, and for people in power to restrict the appearances of future electronic music festivals. ABC News, The Huffington Post, and the New York Daily News all reported that the two victims "possibly" or "allegedly" overdosed on the drug MDMA, however no official toxicology or cause of death report has been released. Nonetheless, articles abound on the Internet about the dangers of electronic music festivals and raves that are supposed hotspots for drug users. Geoffrey Croft, President of NYC Park Advocates, told the New York Daily News, "These events are out of control, and they shouldn't be happening on park property." Electric Adventure, an annual electronic music festival at Six Flags New England in September, has already been cancelled due to the events at Electric Zoo.

I anticipate there will be more negativity towards the EDM scene, and therefore want to emphasize that the EDM scene is based on a philosophy called PLUR: Peace, Love, Unity, and Respect. While drug use may occur among some, just like in any youth culture, drugs have nothing to do with EDM's values. This summer, I attended Camp Bisco, a three-day electronic music festival outside of Albany. I met some of the most kind, generous, open-minded people in my life, and it was an amazing experience.

At Camp Bisco, just like any other music festival, my friends and I were dependent upon each other and no one else; it was our individual responsibility to make sure we were well fed and hydrated. As long as Bisco provided me with ways to obtain food and free water, I could not ask for anything else. At Electric Zoo, there was access to free water and a medical center, along with hundreds of staff.

I find it extremely devastating that two people died and that fact will never be justified, but every guest to a festival enters at his/her own caution. To condemn an entire group of people, such as the EDM scene, would be completely unfair. It is essential for promotion and production companies like Made Event to require waivers for guests in order for these festivals to continue without liability.

While we still do not know what exactly caused the death of those two people, let this awful tragedy serve as a reminder to consider all the risks before we make certain choices. Most importantly, we can never make assumptions about a group due to a few isolated incidents. I believe one Facebook commenter on the Electric Zoo page sums it up perfectly: "I hope the families [of the victims] understand that it was not the party that killed them. It's the lack of knowledge in their experimentation that did."

Campus safety, our top concern

Karina Andujar

Writer

Rollins does a fantastic job with keeping the school informed especially in regards to occurrences on campus that might put the student body at risk. There was one particular instance where Rollins Campus Safety recently sent out a Timely Notification Bulletin that had a significant amount of the school's population nervous and thinking. This is in reference to the sexual harassment that happened on the second week of school in front of Ward Hall.

The notification that was sent out painted a simple picture of about six rowdy college boys that were most likely out around campus looking for some fun, however that fun escalated to something that should not have happened. According to the alert one of the six males "latched his hands behind a female student's back and pressed his face to her chest. After holding her in this position for a few seconds, she pushed him away, cursed at him and he let go. The rest of the male students began laughing,

not understanding the seriousness of the situation."

Of course the main issue in this situation is the actual act of sexual harassment that occurred, but another disturbing problem is that the boys saw nothing wrong with what had occurred. This seems to be a common mind set on college campuses in recent years, and that should no longer be the case.

According to a study done by AAUW titled "Drawing the Line: Sexual Harassment on Campus," most sexual harassment is done at private colleges as opposed to public ones. From 2010 to 2012 Campus Safety has reported that 18 counts

equal amount of men have reported to being sexually harassed by their classmates or school faculty members. Even though men are harassed almost as often as women, men still do most of harassing.

Sadly, one of the main reasons why sexual harassment happens so frequently is because many do not understand how serious of an issue it is. When questioned by authority figures most students who have sexually harassed someone say they did it because they thought it was funny or that the person being harassed was okay with it.

Since there seems to be much confusion as to what sex-

ual harassment is, many legal and educational officials have created a universal definition that can make sexual harassment more easily understood. The U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights (OCR) is responsible for interpreting and enforcing Title IX.3 OCR's guidance on sexual harassment (1997) recognizes two types of sexual harassment in educational institutions: quid pro quo harassment and hostile environment harassment. Quid pro quo harassment involves requests for sexual favors, generally by a school employee to a student, in exchange for some type of educational participation or benefit. Hostile environment harassment entails harassing sexual conduct that is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it limits a student's ability to participate in or benefit from educational activities (AAUW Educational Foundation).

As helpful as this definition is it still leaves behind some ambiguity in regards to the forms that sexual harassment may take. 25% of harassed students have reported being touched, grabbed or pinched in a sexual manner. However, it does not have to be a slap on the behind and lewd comment to be considered harassment. A significant amount of sexual harassment happens online or through texting inappropriate messages and sending unwanted pictures. Rollins recognizes that sexual harassment is one of the unfortunate occurrences that happen on college campuses, but the school has taken it upon itself to help try and limit these actions. For example, during orientation there is a large amount of focus on the rules and protocols the school has in case something like this was to happen. Rollins even has an improv group come and perform a sketch show that aims to inform students about the different ways that sexual offenses can play out. The school also has different departments where students can report sexual misconduct in a safe and anonymous environment that seeks to help the victims.

Realistically sexual harassment will most likely be an occurrence on college campuses, but hopefully by being aware of how frequently it takes place and knowing how to identify it the statistics will significantly decrease. Additionally, the stigma behind being a victim of sexual harassment should completely vanish. No one should feel ashamed of something that they had no control over, and it is up to a united school and faculty body to make sure that this does not happen.

... it is not just a majority of women that are harassed; an almost equal amount of men have reported to being sexually harassed by their classmates or school faculty members.

of forcible sex offenses have occurred on Rollins' campus. Approximately two-thirds of college students in the United States have been sexually harassed in some way. Also, it is not just a majority of women that are harassed; an almost

equal amount of men have reported to being sexually harassed by their classmates or school faculty members.

The U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights (OCR) is responsible for inter-

Last book standing

Micah Bradley

Writer

Every year, the entire incoming freshman class is required to read the same book. Books of recent years include *Half the Sky*, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, *No Impact Man*, and *G-dog and the Homeboys*. They deal with topics such as women's rights, stem cell research, eco-friendly living, and gangs. This year, the required reading book was *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* by Mohsin Hamid. It is the story of a young Pakistani man's life before and after the events of September 11th. The one distinct difference between this year's book and the books Rollins has chosen in the last decade is that it is a work of fiction. So, how was this book chosen?

A small committee composed of faculty from different departments as well as current Rollins students began the process of choosing the required reading book in the winter of 2012. They started with a list of around ten books, including *Behind the Beautiful Forevers* and *The Brief and Wondrous*

Life of Oscar Wao. This list of books was chosen because of recommendations from the committee members and research on the books that other colleges with similar reading programs have required recently. *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* was originally recommended by Dr. Aggarwal, who has taught the book for almost three years.

The massive amount of reading was divided: the committee members were allowed to sign up for which books they wanted to read. After reading the proposed books, the committee reconvened. Some books were eliminated and others supported, and the committee narrowed down the list to what they considered to be the three best candidates. These three books had several things in common. They all contained a young, approximately college-aged protagonist to whom incoming first-years could easily relate. Each book dealt with topical issues and would spark debate and conversation. The committee also chose books that would appeal to many different RCC's. While most RCC's do not focus their curriculum

on the summer reading book, it was important to the committee that the books be accessible enough to tie into any RCC that wanted to use it.

The three finalists were then given to the members of the RCC faculty, over thirty people, in the spring of 2013. They read the books and then voted on which one they thought would be the best for the incoming freshman to read. By majority, the professors choose *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*. This book was particularly appealing because it promotes discussion. Certain scenes in the book, such as the protagonist's controversial reaction to the September 11th attacks and the ambiguous ending generally produce strong emotions in students. The book was officially chosen in April, and the students received their assignments over the summer.

What seems like a simple decision to most, is actually a complicated process, that includes two committees who collaborate and commit a great deal of time and effort to ensure that the book chosen is interesting and engaging for students.

Ageless education

Sharifa Ford

Writer

Maybe you know someone who dropped out of high school because of wrong choices she made at a young age. Maybe your friend started college years ago and stopped attending due to unexpected circumstances. Maybe she's in her thirties and lacks the confidence she once had. Well, it shouldn't matter if she was born in the 1970s where the hit song "Last Dance" by Donna Summer was played in nightclubs or whether she was born in the 1950s where cell phones didn't exist. Age is just a number and learning at any age is still achievable.

I am here to tell her that it's never too late and she is never too old to learn. After seven years from being out of school, I decided the time was now to go back to acquire my bachelor's. I won't reveal my age, but let's just say I remember watching the three-repeat championship

starring Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls. I am wiser than I was and know that education and knowledge are the key to success.

I hope that everyone has heard the saying that "knowledge is power." Moreover, knowledge and education help people grow as individuals. Students begin to see the unachievable as achievable. We begin to change the way we think and our changing mindsets alter our actions. This learning process helps develop critical thinking skills which aid us in making logical and wiser decisions to create the life we want. Yes, the ultimate goal is to obtain more Benjamin's in one's wallet, but walking down the aisle accepting a long overdue diploma may be more self-gratifying.

Let your friend or family member know that although she will encounter burdens along the way, she must believe that all things are possible and act on her beliefs. I am not say-

ing her journey is going to be easy. But the question is: how many times is she going to keep putting off her personal goals?

There are churches and vocational schools which offer GED preparations. Use Google or a local library to see what places offer such programs. For those who want to return to college, let them know that Rollins offers a vast amount of information and numerous educational tracks. Our professors challenge students to be great in their academic endeavors.

Invite them to an open house; we don't bite! Spread the word about attending the art/science day classes or attend the evening classes as a Hamilton Holt student. Let them know we are a community.

So, today I grant her my blessings of taking charge of her educational endeavors. And for the students who are in school, stick with it and be sure to learn from your mistakes instead of calling it quits.

From baked goods to burritos



TARS NEED CAFFEINE Students welcome the new Bush Café that brews Starbucks' coffee alongside an assortment of bottled drinks, sandwiches and snacks.

Lauren Silvestri

Writer

As returning students check out the Cornell Courtyard Café located in the Cornell Social Sciences building, they will notice a huge change in the menu. Once a café that offered snacks, baked goods, small sandwiches, personal pizzas, croissants, and other items, the Cornell Café has transformed into a Mexican grill not unlike the Chipotle restaurants.

The new menu features freshly prepared subs and wraps, gourmet chips, and bottled beverages. You can choose from options such as a wrap-less bowl or salad as well as a regular sub or wrap. Meat choices for these items include grilled chicken and steak, turkey, ham, and bacon, and vegetarian options, and filling choices consist of rice, salsa, a variety of cheeses, guacamole, and more. There is also a daily deli special and a daily soup of the day. Prices range from around \$3.00-\$7.00.

"The decision for the new

concept at Cornell was made by last year's Food Service Committee, which was comprised of A&S students, Crummer and Holt representatives, as well as faculty and staff," said Jayme Bartlett of Rollins College Dining Services in an e-mail to the Rollins community. The newly renovated Bush Science Center contains a café inside, and "because of the close proximity of the Bush and Cornell Café, the committee decided that we needed to offer varying menus for added value, and felt that a new fresh concept at Cornell would be more in line with what all students are looking for," Bartlett added.

The new Bush Café carries items similar to Dianne's, like fresh fruit smoothies, Starbucks Fair Trade coffee, Simply To Go sandwiches, and assorted beverages. The Bush Café appears to be doing very well, with long lines after every class. Tables fill the sitting area adjacent to the café, providing students a great space to study and snack or just to rest between classes.

Hours of Operation

Bush Café
7:45 AM-8:30 PM
Monday to Thursday
7:45 AM-2:00 PM
Friday

Cornell Café
10:30 AM-7:00 PM
Monday to Thursday
10:30 AM-2:00 PM
Friday

Closed Saturday and Sunday

Attack of Lake Virginia

Rollins is situated at the banks of beautiful Lake Virginia, but most students have little knowledge of what truly lurks beneath this glimmering landmark

Kyle McCoy

Were you to issue a survey to all campus asking students what first drew them to apply and then enroll at Rollins College, it would return a variety of answers. Some might say it's because campus is close to home. Others would report the numerous academic scholarships and opportunities they were awarded following exceptional accomplishments in high school. Still others might say they come from long lines of family legacies that have graduated from Rollins for generations. But one thing on which all can agree as a secondary (if not primary) cause of enrollment would be the resort aesthetics of our beautiful lakeside campus.

Rollins College definitely takes advantage of its prime location on Lake Virginia's front property. Virginia is one of the largest lakes throughout Winter Park that are connected by navigable channels. While outsiders might assume those attending Rollins College would be constantly taking advantage of the privileged lakeside location, students live in fear of what lingers beneath the dark, abysmal water's surface — of their safety should they submerge. The consensus seems to be split between those willing to dive in headfirst without hesitation (such as members of the waterskiing team, wakeboard club, swimmers, and hobby paddleboarders)

and those too petrified to dip a toe.

We at *The Sandspur* did some digging to uncover the truth about what's cohabitating with us on Lake Virginia, and if there is a legitimate reason to be afraid. What turned up in interviews with students and faculty alike were several confirmed sightings of alligators wading through the water. While many of these gators would be considered rather puny, senior men's swim team member and leisurely fisherman, Andrew Johnson, tells a tale of one particular nighttime fishing expedition during which he witnessed a "large mass of water, like a wave" turn out to be an alligator approximately eight or nine feet in length. The student fisherman additionally reports seeing alligator gar (a carnivorous species of fish whose name stems from its long, slender snout lined with two rows of sharp teeth) on other fishing outings.

That being said, Johnson still doesn't hesitate when given the chance to swim in the lake — once having swam the distance between a peacock-infested area known as the Genius Preserve and our campus shoreline. Those unaware of this preserve, held in trust by the Morse Foundation, should take note that the typical means of transportation to and from by water is in a canoe or other aquatic vessel.

But what else exists apart from gators and gar that poses a potential threat? Associate Professor and Chair to the Department of Biology, Kathryn Sutherland,

says she would consider the water snakes to be the most dangerous inhabitants of the lake. When working with students in the shallow depths just offshore, Professor Sutherland shows her budding biologists how to take caution with their approach, in order to avoid stepping on or near a snake that may not be immediately visible. However, the biology professor does not believe anyone should be afraid of Lake Virginia, after a long history of working with students to collect samples from the lake without a single alarming incident to report.

Lastly, but potentially most lethally, we have the brain-eating amoebas. Although that may sound terrifying in itself, everyone should be aware of how rare and uncommon it truly is to fall victim to these deadly amoebas. Amoebas only appear when lake water reaches extremely high temperatures while remaining considerably still or undisturbed.

These conditions only occur during the late summer months. Secondly, even if you were to go in the water while amoebas are present, it is highly unlikely that they will enter through your nasal passages to munch on brain matter. There is a specifically improbable way in which your head must be submerged in the water for that to occur.

Though it may come across that Lake Virginia is somewhat of a formidable deathtrap, students like wakeboarder Alex

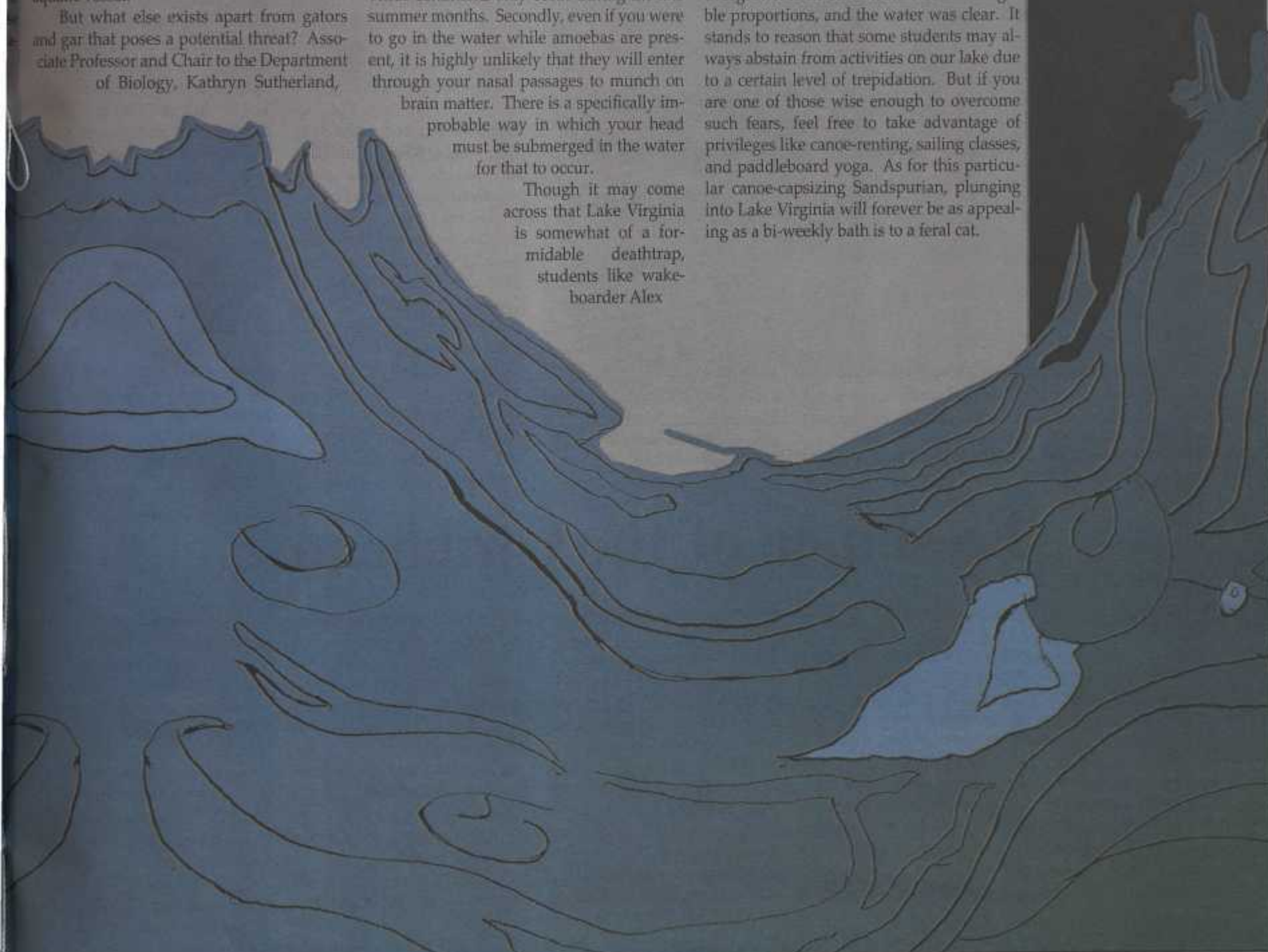
Wright feel strongly about the misconception out there concerning the dangers of the deep. He and the wakeboard club have not run into any problems with their daily activities on the water. This misconception could be due largely in part to changes occurring in the lake over the last half-century. Representatives of the environmental studies and biology departments can recall a time when the lake was so clear you could see straight down to the bottom.

Today, Rollins is situated on the coast of a very different Lake Virginia. Run-off from

the city of Winter Park has given Lake Virginia's water an excess of nutrients (particularly nitrogen and phosphorous), which cause that ominous dark tint — clouding visibility beneath its surface. There was a time when Rollins offered a scuba-diving class that took place in the lake. This was back when an aquatic weed known as hydrilla had not yet

overgrown to its current state of un-navigable proportions, and the water was clear. It stands to reason that some students may always abstain from activities on our lake due to a certain level of trepidation. But if you are one of those wise enough to overcome such fears, feel free to take advantage of privileges like canoe-renting, sailing classes, and paddleboard yoga. As for this particular canoe-capsizing Sandspurian, plunging into Lake Virginia will forever be as appealing as a bi-weekly bath is to a feral cat.

As for this canoe-capsizing Sandspurian, plunging into Lake Virginia will forever be as appealing as a bi-weekly bath is to a feral cat.



Immigration nation

As freshmen kick off their first semester, one RCC explores the perspectives of US immigration policies and citizenship

Gina Sanders

Writer

"Out of the Melting Pot and Into the Fire" isn't the tagline for the latest thriller movie, but the name of the Immigration in the U.S. Rollins Conference Course. This RCC is one of two offered to first-year honors students.

The class focuses on the history of migration in the United States and the overall experience of each immigrant group. Students analyze the roles that politics, economics, race, ethnicity, and gender play in the experiences and reception of immigrants.

The course is team-taught by Dr. Claire Strom of the history department and Dr. Dan Chong of the political science department to encourage students to examine immigration through both a historical and political science lens. Four international students in the class—from India, Nepal, Colombia, and Venezuela—offer a global perspective on immigration.

During fall orientation, the two professors, three peer mentors, and thirteen students went to the Hope Community Center in Apopka to sit in on a citizenship class with immigrants studying for the U.S. Citizenship Test. The RCC viewed the questions on the test and learned how difficult it is for immigrants to gain citizenship due to language barriers and strict rules. After the citizenship

class, the RCC sat in a circle with four immigrant teenagers and listened to their personal immigration stories. The teenagers described the obstacles they faced while trying to cross the border and the daily struggles they go through as young immigrants in the United States.

The students are currently compiling their personal family immigration histories by searching on www.ancestry.com and interviewing family members. They'll be organizing their findings into essays and placing their personal immigration histories in context with the general immigration experiences of that time.

Throughout the semester, the class will work on a tapestry project that will be on display in the Campus Center featuring different immigration stories of people in the community. They'll also work in groups to research U.S. immigration policies and present their findings to their classmates.

Learning about immigration stories of their own families and of their community members allows students to gather information on the subject from sources other than the media and textbooks.

This approach to learning about immigration will give the first-years a glimpse of the hands-on and slightly non-conventional education they'll receive in the next four years at Rollins.



artwork/Meredith Connolly

STUDIO WORK Peer Mentor Meredith Connolly created this line-cut as door tags for her RCC, *Out of the Melting Pot and Into the Fire*.

Freshmen of the Caribbean

Samantha Hirsch

Writer

To kick off the school year, freshmen began their Rollins journey by entering their Rollins College Conference (RCC) Course. Ranging from *The Science of Looking Good to Cowboys, Aliens, and Vampires*, to *Cultures of the Caribbean*, there really are no limits to the range of topics covered by RCCs. On top of providing the opportunity to meet some new faces right off the bat, RCCs allow students to meet their academic advisors,

who will not only educate them on a new topic of interest, but will also help them throughout the college process.

On the very first weekend of orientation, every RCC participated in SPARC day. The *Cultures of the Caribbean* class went to the Winter Park Towers, a local retirement home, to aid the residents. From hauling compost to uprooting trees the students were a big help.

One student, Jacob Pope commented, "It was a really good experience because we got to work hands-on with the resi-

dents there and see a smile on their faces as they thanked us for all of our hard work."

The *Cultures of the Caribbean* RCC, taught by Dr. Ashley Kistler, aims to educate students in current and past events in the Caribbean. The course covers geographical information, including how the Caribbean was formed, its first settlers, food production, as well as social aspects, including family, dancing, sex trafficking, drugs, and violence. The course covers very involved material and is hands-on, allowing the students

to break into groups and engage in heated discussions covering different topics. For each class meeting, the students are responsible for different readings out of their *A Brief History of the Caribbean* book, and for discussing new facts and concepts regarding the Caribbean culture. Soon, the students will be starting presentations on different Caribbean islands.

Student Lauren Cooper comments on her experience in the RCC to date, "I was really excited to start this course because it was a topic that I

didn't know much about. We've learned a lot about the history of the Caribbean as well as some of the voodoo that is practiced on the islands. Overall, I'm really looking forward to the rest of the semester and learning more about the Caribbean". In general, it seems that the students of the RCC *Cultures of the Caribbean* class are greatly enjoying their experiences so far. Student Amy Martin summed it up perfectly by stating, "The RCC program has been an awesome way to bond with people... We're like a little family."

Dining Guide to Orlando

When you have a case of the munchies, dining at one of the mainstream restaurants on Park Ave is not the only alternative to the typical Campus Center cuisine: a local taco joint proves to be a hidden gem.

Tako Cheena

Mills 50

932 N Mills Ave
Orlando, FL 32803

Rebecca Finer

Writer

When I moved back to Orlando, I felt like I'd never have really good food again. Gone were my days in Los Angeles, with more good restaurants than I could count.

The only thing Orlando seemed to have was an abundance of Applebee's. I was forced to come to terms with the fact that I had left home a normal person and come back a complete food snob. All hope seemed lost until my brother brought my family and I to Tako Cheena for his birthday.

Admittedly, I didn't enter Tako Cheena with an open mind; let's blame it half on food snobbery and half on sibling rivalry. When I saw Tako Cheena, I thought it was just some hole in the wall and I couldn't have been less excited to try it...then our food came.

Tako Cheena fuses flavors

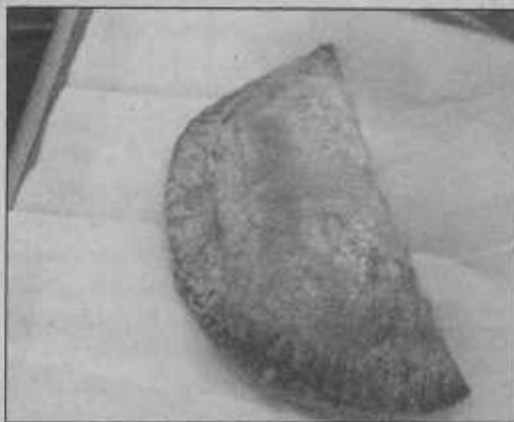
It's affordable, fun, quick, and best of all: not a chain.

from all over the world, specializing in Asian and Latin American cuisines. Their menu is small but mighty, consisting mainly of tacos and burritos with an additional unlisted menu consisting of a variety of arepas (a type of sandwich that substitutes corn cakes instead of bread) and empanadas. Tako Cheena makes everything fresh to order and even has vegan options. I'd recommend their curry

tofu taco, and I'm not even a vegetarian. Soda is available, but I'm partial to their complimentary cucumber water. If you're looking to imbibe, don't feel downtrodden just because they don't

serve alcohol; Tako Cheena is BYOB. There's a little liquor store across the street called Wally's that can set you up with some great beer to go with your tacos.

Tako Cheena is located in the middle of the Mills 50 district, arguably the most fun neighborhood in town. The area boasts various bars with live music, and is simultaneously hip and relaxed.



TAKO CHEENA Rollins students, Emily Kelly '16 and Peter Travis, Holt Student, dine on a cool blend of Latin and Asian cuisine at Tako Cheena. The restaurant was opened by Pom Moongauklang, the same owner as Pom Pom's Teahouse and Sandwicheria in Orlando.

Though my first impression was that it was somewhat of a hole in the wall, Tako Cheena is clean and adorns its walls with great local artwork. Yes, there's a definite hipster vibe here.

Tako Cheena has renewed

my faith in the restaurant scene of Orlando. It's affordable, fun, quick, and best of all: not a chain. Taco prices start at around two fifty so it's workable for poor college students. Try the delicious empanadas for

a taco alternative.

Check it out, your taste buds will thank you. Remember to pay at the register. Or go to Applebee's if you're just too lazy to microwave your own food.

Chomp Chomp Pizza

Winter Park

360 W Fairbanks Ave
Winter Park, FL 32789

Karina Andujar

Writer

About two months ago in early June, Mark Lipten opened Chomp Chomp Pizza, a pizzeria just a few blocks from campus.

Chomp Chomp Pizza is located off of West Fairbanks in the plaza next to Ethos Vegan Kitchen. The outside of the restaurant has a few tables and

chairs where patrons can enjoy their pizzas in the hot Florida sun.

The inside of the restaurant is modest and not overly decorated except for the vintage looking radio in the corner of the small eatery. However, the underwhelming interior design does not reflect the overwhelmingly deliciousness of the pizza that is served.

The menu is uncomplicated, with a few specialty pizzas such as the Chicken Florentine and the BBQ Chicken as well

as a few vegetarian options. All pizzas are served in a small individual size which is both convenient and filling. They are also reasonably priced at no higher than \$8 and 50¢ for any additional toppings.

During my visit to Chomp Chomp Pizza, I ordered the Neapolitan (also known as a regular cheese pizza with sauce) with pepperoni. I also added incredibly fresh basil that is completely free of charge!

My pizza was prepared in under five minutes thanks to

the lightning fast oven that was used and I consumed one of the tastiest little pizzas ever made. It was so simple yet delectable. The cheese worked well with the pepperoni, the basil fantastically complemented the sauce.

In addition to the great food, Chomp Chomp Pizza also has awesome service. My favorite person there was the restaurant's owner, Mark who makes each and every pizza by hand!

Mark has a lot of hopes for his pizza place like any small business owner, and I think he

has what it takes to have a successful career here in Winter Park. My only critique is that I believe he should offer larger pizzas as well the individual sized ones, because that could open a new demographic of customers for him.

Overall, Chomp Chomp Pizza is a wonderfully convenient alternative to the Campus Center, I know that Rollins' students will definitely enjoy the delicious fresh food and great service that I experienced during my visit to the restaurant.

Total bummer, total blast

Maria Paz Gutierrez

Writer

The weekend of August 29th through the 31st was special for indie electronic music enthusiasts in Orlando. Particularly, for those who have a love for the growing local music scene in Florida. Total Bummer brought musicians like Helado Negro, XXXXXX, Levek, Saskatchewan, Javelin, Trails, and many others to the Orlando area. Different locations in the Mills area such as The Peacock Lounge, Will's Pub, Uncle Lou's, and the Orange Gallery (a repurposed warehouse) gave a space for, not only dozens of musicians to play, but also made sure to have a space to showcase the art of many growing local artists such as Boy Kong and Guillermo Casanova. Despite how young this fest seems to be, after three years, it's safe to say that Total Bummer is becoming something really special for Orlando.

Here is what one of the organizers of the TB, James Martin had to say about this fest that is growing bigger each year.

Q: Where did the idea for Total Bummer start?

A: Total Bummer started in Gainesville in 2010. The biggest reason for it happening was to show bands out of Florida that there was a positive music and art scene in Florida and to bring as many Florida bands together to meet and share with each other what they were creating. It always feels a little weird to talk about this because we do not want to come across as the voice of Florida. We are one of many groups that are trying their best to create an encouraging environment for bands in Florida. It was a simple idea that has grown every year through friendship. Another very important factor in the history of TB are the people that were so incredibly encouraging to us. So many people believed in the idea of TB and helped us along the way.

To put it simply, this is our summer camp. A time for musicians and artists to come together once a year and share with each other what they love. That is the driving force behind TB.

Q: Who organized TB?

A: TB was created by JT Bringardner. All of us who help him were in a band together called Oh Fortuna. Spirit Cat (a Florida music and art collective) was just an idea when the first few TB festivals happened. After seeing the positivity and success of TB, we got motivated to create the website and Tape Label. We wanted to capture and create the TB attitude through the blog and label. We hoped to use those two mediums to encourage and bring musicians together throughout the year.

Q: How long has TB been around for?

A: It started in 2010 in Gainesville, then moved to Tallahassee in 2011 and then Orlando in 2012 and 2013.

Q: Why Orlando?

A: Orlando has been great because of its location in the state and the amount of supporters we have there. We have always enjoyed moving it through the state but Orlando has provided us the chance to keep the Fest growing.

Q: This year I noticed that there was a prevalent electronic music motif going on.... Was this your intent?

A: It has always been an electronic heavy Fest. That is the type of music that we have always loved. Although, each year we have tried to create a diverse collection of bands to highlight all of the different scenes in Florida, we always love when different genres cross-pollinate creatively and socially. It is important for us to support all music in our scene because music is an outlet for us. You can find similarities in all types of music. By creating a diverse Fest, we hope to open up people's opinions on different types of music.

Q: Why The name "Total Bummer"?

A: The name was very important to us. We wanted it to portray our sense of humor. We work incredibly hard 9 months out of the year to make this Fest happen. The name Total Bummer is there to remind us and everybody that we are there to have a good time. We also thought it was hilarious that we could have such a blast at something called "Total Bummer".

Young love revival

Following the recent trend of recent coming of age films, *The Spectacular Now*, authentically depicts a story of young love that has captured viewers' attention.

Lauren Silvestri

Writer

I don't want to jinx it, but the coming-of-age film genre has been experiencing a sort of Renaissance period. Films such as *Juno*, *Submarine*, *The Way Way Back*, and *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* prove that there is still opportunity for an authentic and fresh take on the popular genre. *The Spectacular Now*, directed by James Ponsoldt, achieves this same authenticity.

The film takes us to an unspecified small town, where there is not much excitement for young people except drinking alcohol in the middle of the forest. It is in this town we find the two main characters, high school Seniors Sutter Keely (Miles Teller), a fast-talking, popular, and borderline alcoholic, and Aimee Finecky (Shailene Woodley), a smart, quiet, slightly awkward girl, both on the verge of graduation. Sutter and Aimee's paths cross one day, and Sutter realizes Aimee could help him pass the classes he needs to graduate. Eventually, a relationship blooms, but with the imminent future of post-high school life ahead, Aimee and Sutter struggle to find a solution to their divergent paths.

The success of the film owes itself largely to the excellent, authentic acting of the entire cast. Teller's Sutter lights up the

screen with his personality, and he and Woodley exhibit strong chemistry. The supporting actors provide a strong background to Sutter and Aimee's relationship; Brie Larson is fantastic as Sutter's ex-girlfriend Cassidy, and Jennifer Jason Leigh (of the 1982 teen coming of age film *Fast Times at Ridgemont High*) and Andre Royo, as Sutter's mother and teacher respectively, prove that adult characters in teen films can be more than mere caricatures.

The film is devoid of many special effects and includes

ship between Sutter and Aimee; when it veers into Sutter's personal issues, especially with his father, it becomes faintly melodramatic.

One other slightly problematic issue with the film is Aimee's attitude toward the relationship. I cannot say much more without giving away spoilers, but one plot twist resulting after a fight between Sutter and Aimee left me a little jarred.

Overall, the film perfectly captures the feeling of young love, and how quickly it can develop. It also asks the ques-

...the film perfectly captures the feeling of young love and how quickly it can develop.

naturalistic cinematography, which allows the audience to focus on the intimacy of the characters. I appreciate Woodley's very minimal makeup that further bolsters the authenticity of the film. The dialogue almost always feels believable, due to the writing talents of screenwriters Scott Neustadter and Michael Weber, both of who also wrote the screenplay for *(500) Days of Summer*. The film works best when focused on the relation-

tion, like so many movies about teens, of whether young love can last after expectations and demands of the "real world" arrive. The last scene leaves it open-ended, another common trait of the independent film, and the audience must conjure a conclusion for themselves.

★★★★☆



collider.com

Head banger's ballad

The Groove Orient, a band composed by Rollins students and alumni, rocked the audience on September 4th at The Social.



Ariana Simpson

Ariana Simpson

Writer

Approximately five months after their Fox Fest debut, there I was, at the Back to School Jam, anticipating the ever evolving greatness of Orlando based music group, The Groove Orient. Each member of The Groove Orient (TGO) is either a current student or alumni of Rollins College. Tommy Shugart (Keys), David Incorvaia (Guitar), David Vanegas (Percussion/Bass), Chuck Magid (Guitar/Vocals), Harry Ong (Bass/Vocals/Percussion), and Paul Terry (Drums) are the collective and exceptionally talented apparatus that is The Groove Orient.

As far as history goes, TGO was originally set to be dubbed Chuck Magid and the Groove Orient with the poetic visionary of 'groove orient' accredited to Incorvaia; it was settled to stand alone as The Groove Orient as Magid humbly denied this title. Interestingly enough, The Groove Orient as a concept for a band wasn't conceived until last spring for the sake of Fox Fest. Last Spring, each of the members noted that performing as TGO was a great time to take a break from what they usually practice/concentrate on (as music majors) and enjoy their other under pronounced talents. Shugart, a guitarist and cellist laying down some expert keyboard playing, Vanegas step-

ping away from bass and jazz for a bit on first-rate percussion playing, and Ong's voice alone caused goose bumps on the back of my arms in the hot bar.

Aside from their commendable playing, members of the band have talents branching into composition and song writing. Shugart's recently composed rock ballad "The Golden Rule" sung by Ong was one of the few that was performed. Shugart stated that there was originally no band for it but found a great opportunity to perform it with TGO. Inspiration for the song derived from life lessons, and in my opinion, as well as that of the mesmerized audience's, was one of phenomenal character and soul.

Incorvaia's original work, "Rush", was one to remember with a solid melody and beat, Vanegas's piece comically titled "Marambuhh" set for a different instrumentation convulsed the pit into a groove, Ong's song "Yesterday" equally infused both talent and musicality, and Magid's emotionally heart jerking "Butterfly" resonated as he remarked its inspiration deriving from an old roommate's sister who passed away. A cover of Medeski, Scofield, Martin & Wood's "Little Walter Rides Again" brought the audience excitement and sparked nostalgia as they began to 'woo' at its mentioning. To quote TGO they're, "limited to no certain

genre. The Groove Orient performs a wide variety of music, from Samba, Rock Ballads, jazz, and even hair metal."

TGO absolutely murdered at Fox Fest last spring, but to see them again was nothing like I had expected- they slayed with what they left on stage at The Social. Magid's guitar solos were enchanting and charming, Terry's drum solo and playing overall was by far one of the greatest displays and execution of drumming, Shugart's expressive keyboard playing quite possibly redefined an art, Incorvaia was no different when exemplifying musical magnitude, Vanegas visualized the vastness of his varied invaluable talents for the crowd, and Ong released an ethereal and transcendent like aura in the air with his stage presence.

The crowd's bodies were like an ocean that couldn't stop moving and their involvement and connection with TGO washed over the members while they in turn washed over us their harmonies, rhythms, and energy. "One more song! One more song!" was the cry at the end of the set; no one ready to let the moment end. We were engulfed in their flood, drowning in a shared elated ecstasy, an outpour and an overflow of funky euphoria and head banging. TGO is by far a group that you need to see and experience for yourself.



TGO

GROOVY The Groove Orient Fuses the talents of musicians to produce an eclectic and creative sound. The band was formed by music majors who want to experiment with instruments were out of their educational comfort zones.



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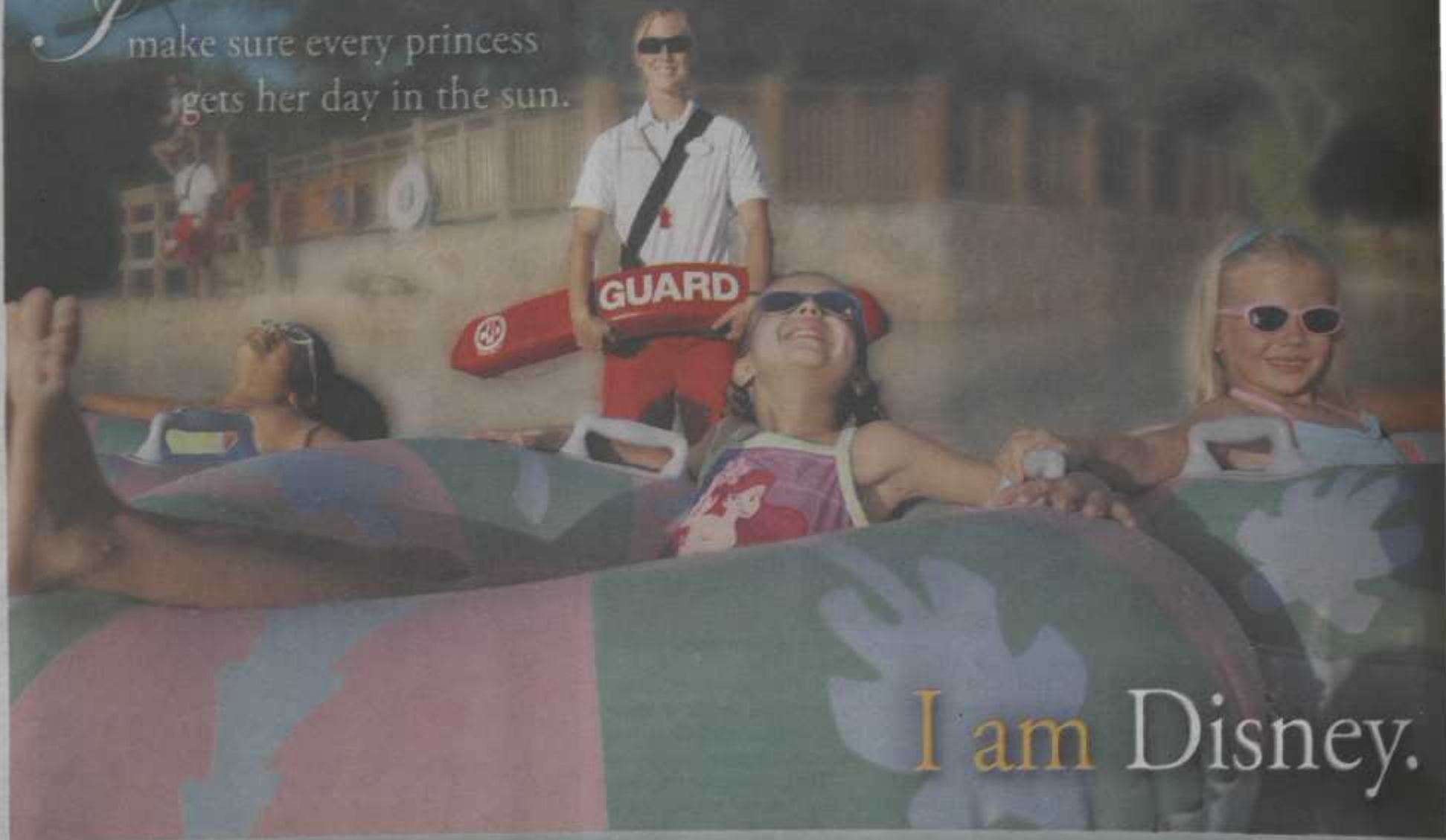
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