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**STARS**

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## Sandspur, Vol 120, No 03, September 19, 2013

Rollins College

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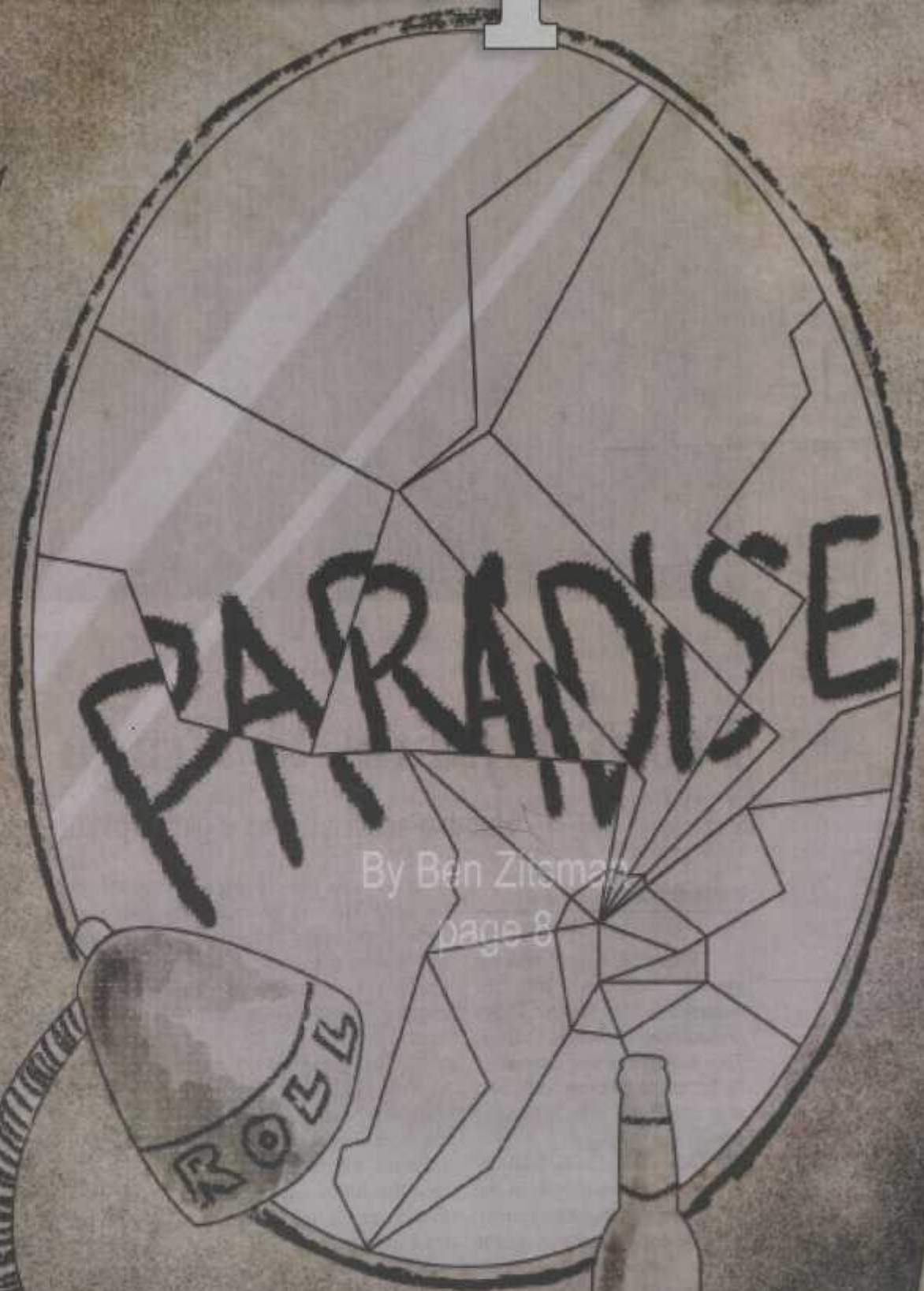
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# The Sandspur



By Ben Zilman  
page 8





Florida's Oldest College Newspaper  
Established in 1894 with the following editorial:  
"Unassuming yet mighty 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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## NEWS



Human rights activist, Stuart Milk champions his uncle's dream of equality highlighting the feats and successes of LGBT rights around the world on Tuesday, September 10 at Winter Park Plaza.

# From Tijuana to Praga with the LGBT

Humble activist paints a global picture for LGBT equality

Marcie Oliveira

Section Editor

"We are all equal," was the message that stuck with the audience after Stuart Milk's presentation at Rollins College. This motto was first promoted by his uncle, Harvey Milk, and now continues to be applied to present-day issues.

The Harvey Milk Foundation is well known both in the U.S. and internationally. Harvey Milk is a legacy and an example for us all, especially for the minorities that still suffer from severe forms of oppression. He was the first openly homosexual individual to be elected to a public office. He was not afraid of his identity, and he fought for his goals until his life tragically ended.

It was evident from the start of the lecture that Stuart and Harvey Milk had a strong connection. He talked about his uncle's ability to dream - something that may seem frivolous to many, but that can actually be counted as a great quality. Even though the deceased ac-

tivist is not here to see many of his goals achieved, he dreamed about them being reached. For that reason, according to Milk, his uncle was able to take the loathing bullets that lead to his death.

Milk presented himself humbly, as someone who is simply inheriting an astonishing work already initiated. Nevertheless, for the public, it was clear that his triumphs are more than a simple mirrored image from the past.

Milk took us on a journey through a myriad of countries and places within the restricted space of the Winter Park Plaza. From Tijuana to Praga, we traveled around the world to discover which advances have been made in the LGBT field and which obstacles are still present. Stuart talked about his organization's work, and how their emphasis is not limited to big events and pride parades. The activist talked about his work in rural communities, where acceptance is still rare, and in places where he is only able to meet people behind

closed doors because of the risks of exposure.

Living in a country like the U.S., where LGBT rights are stronger and the population is more tolerant of differences, people may have difficulties visualizing the greater picture. For that reason, Milk expressed his concern about the current situation in distant places on Earth. The spotlight of the night were his depictions of his time in Hungary, where violence against protesters is especially ruthless.

During a particular LGBT movement, no Hungarian was willing to talk to the press. It seemed like a lost cause, until one man agreed to speak up and advocate for his rights. When that same citizen returned home that evening, he found his father had hung himself because of the "shame" he felt for his son's exposure. The interesting and gloomy fact about this story is that the father and son actually had a good relationship; the father knew about his son's preferences, but wanted them to be kept private. A pub-

lic display of the younger man's "dirty" secret ended up being too much for the father. One day after burying his father, the proud young activist was on an 8-hour bus ride to another pride march.

Milk also spoke about other hindrances that are keeping the world from reaching equality. Many minorities have conflicts among themselves and cannot work together to find a space for their causes. Milk greatly emphasized our need to work together. He also commented on the arguments against homosexuality derived from nationalism and patriotism that depict the LGBT community (as well as other minorities) as a threat to the "family" and the nation. He urged us to be wary of these anti-equality voices, as many of them do not come from irrational people, but from intellectuals and even Nobel Prize winners.

He finalized his passionate speech by emphasizing that "It is not enough for us to tolerate differences - we need to celebrate them daily."

FoxCityJournal.com



# Memoirs of a past Rollins

With sparkling new buildings and renovations underway, an insightful historian expresses admiration for the historical features of our lakeside campus.

Dear Editor,

As College Historian, I feel an obligation to remind the Rollins community of the college's rich history and particularly its historic landscape. By that I mean not only its natural but also its built landscape. Three recent developments have raised concern that we are not fully aware of the disappearance of some of the history.

Last year, I watched as the brick road between the Annie Russell Theatre and Crummer/Cornell was demolished and replaced by a new walkway. No one doubts the tastefulness of the new walkway, but no one seemed to realize that the old brick road was the last evidence of the original Fairbanks Avenue which was rerouted when the college built Bush. Just an old brick road, you might argue. No! A visual part of Rollins history just disappeared without a sense of what we had lost.

Later, driving up French, to my disbelief Strong Hall lay in rubble. This historic building, constructed in 1939, and designed by Richard Kiehnel, one of the nation's most fa-

mous architects, was a gift from Mrs. Henry Alva Strong, the wife of the former president of Eastman Kodak Company. She also sponsored the education of numerous students. For almost twenty years, between 1950 and 1968, the building's courtyard and balcony was the site of an annual Shakespeare celebration. Directed by Professor Nina Dean, students and faculty performed scenes from Shakespeare's plays before a Rollins audience. The event was always one of the highlights of the school year. Strong Hall was also one of several of our WPA buildings, so called because they were partially funded by the New Deal Great Depression Agency. No one doubts the tastefulness of the new construction but another historic place has disappeared never to be seen again. Inevitably our memories of its history will fade as well.

On the other hand, we should all be pleased with the changes and additions made to Bush Science building. The more attractive parts of old Bush (and there were a few)

have been retained and the additions are spectacular. Still, we should be concerned that the building's scale appears out of proportion to that section of the campus. The building dwarfs the chapel and the theatre, our signature structures. In the future, let us be conscious of size. In Architecture 101, proportion trumps style and utility.

Those of us who have been here a while had been anxiously awaiting the day when the unsightly car spaces were removed from Interlachen Way and replaced with a walkway and beautiful landscaping. No other renovations have been so transforming of the college's campus center.

Over the years, I have tried to help the college community appreciate the rich historic legacy we have all inherited. The next generation must make certain that the built history of that legacy does not vanish and with it our identity with the visual past.

Dr. Jack C. Lane  
College Historian

# Letter to the Editor

## Party Politics of America

Lauren Waymire

Writer

21. It's a fantastic number for people who like blackjack, Adele's second album, and the century we live in. It is not, however, a suitable minimum drinking age. It's no secret that a significant part of the college experience in the United States has nothing to do with what goes on in a classroom, but what happens on the weekends (and in some cases, weeknights). It seems that once someone steps foot on collegiate grounds for the first time, and are no longer under the watchful eyes of their parents, all hell breaks loose.

"But my perfect overachieving angel would never do that!" Wrong. Many parents who vehemently deny that their child would ever drink underaged are living in woeful ignorance. Studies show that 1 in 6 teens binge drink, while only 1 in 100 parents think their child binge drinks.

When my parents lived in Europe for the past year and a half, I would spend my summers there. I did, in fact, have alcohol on more than one occasion. However, the drinking culture in other countries is considerably different. Yes, alcohol is present at parties over there, but not for the sole purpose of

getting everyone in the vicinity plastered (unless you're British and have just received your A-level scores - then there's no telling what will happen). In the UK, I was actually asked at a party with people my age if I could "explain the stupidity of the American drinking laws" by someone who was casually sipping a drink. Oh, the irony.

If the minimum drinking age was lowered so that drinking could begin while teens were still under their parents' roofs, it would take away the taboo and the thrill on which so much of the college drinking culture is based. I also believe it would drastically reduce the

number of teen car crashes, the leading killer of teens, a quarter of which are caused by intoxication. Many of these deaths happen when teens are at parties they shouldn't go to, drinking things they're not supposed to be consuming, and driving home to avoid getting in trouble. I'm sure the parents in these situations would have preferred a phone call from their child saying, "I can't drive home right now" to one saying, "Please come identify this body."

Consider this: when a person turns 16 and can operate a vehicle, they are responsible for pedestrians and other people on the road. On a person's 17th

birthday, they can join the military with parental consent and die for their country.

Upon turning 18, we are supposedly legal adults and are responsible for our actions as such. Why is it, then, that we can't make the choice to consume alcohol? This suggests that we aren't fully adults until reaching the age of 21, if it's not until then that we have complete control over what happens to our bodies. I know the Shakespeare quote goes something like "Love and reason keep little company nowadays" but I'd like to tweak that just a bit: "Logic and politics keep little company. Ever."





R-Net

## Ward can't hang, but McKean can't sleep

Paige Timmermann

Writer

Ward Hall or McKean? Which one is better? Well, that depends on who you ask. I, myself, am in Ward Hall. As much as I love the hardwood floors and the perfect window glass, sometimes I just want to turn the volume on my Jambox to maximum and rock out like the true college student I am. Is this possible in Ward? Yeah, sure, if I want to "disturb quiet hours" and receive sketchy looks from my neighbors. Now, don't get me wrong, I love quiet hours. They are great when you are actually trying to sleep. But, when it is 11:00 pm on a Saturday night what is the harm in leaving your door open and your speakers up so all I can hear are the glamorous chords of my favorite Kanye/Jay-Z song "No Church in the Wild?"

Although I do not live in McKean, most of the time I honestly wish I did. I am not a hardcore partier, but can't a fun-loving girl—such as myself—find a happy medium? They say the grass is always greener on the other side, but differing personalities definitely show some "dorm patriotism." Ac-

cording to Andrew Hauser, a diehard McKean fan and resident, thinks that, "McKean has more people, so you're always meeting new people that you haven't met yet." On the other hand, Ward resident Deanna Loew is Team Ward Hall all the way. She claims, "At Ward, you get the best of both worlds. You can go to McKean to hang out and be loud, but when you want to sleep, Ward is the place."

**“While Ward Hall may have features comparable to those of a Disney Resort, McKean has spirit and individuality that will forever be unmatched.”**

Like I said, I am a resident of Ward Hall and as much as I love the loud bass in McKean, when I have to get up at 5:30

am for swim practice I guess I do savor quiet hours. Ward has amazing bathrooms, too; I don't have to stare at a giant urinal every time I go to take a shower. (Yeah, that could get old quickly!) So I can honestly say that Ward is a pretty nice place to be.

However, in a perfect world, I would live in Ward on the weekdays and move into McKean on the weekends. Quiet hours are great, but who likes getting yelled at for carrying a speaker around like it's a gun? Nope, not me. Dallas Brock, another McKean resident, sums it up like this: "While Ward Hall may have features comparable to those of a Disney Resort, McKean has spirit and individuality that will forever be unmatched."

If someone else was writing this article, they might say that Ward is the place to be on campus, but a music lover and high-energy girl like me would have to disagree. Both have pros and cons. I would take spirit over hardwood floors any day, but I do enjoy my sleep (especially on nights before swim practice). If you ever want to get some sleep, quiet hours are very strict over here in Ward, so you won't have to worry about the noise. Ever.



R-Net

## Dr. Kaku, the science salesman

Joshua Robinson

Writer

First, let me say one thing about The Winter Park Institute: they have done a great job of bringing in excellent guest speakers, whom I have enjoyed greatly. Dr. Donald C. Johanson and Dr. Jane Goodall have been two of my favorites so far. I was bummed about the cancellations of Elie Wiesel and especially Neil deGrasse Tyson. Tyson who once said, "If you removed all the arteries, veins, and capillaries from a person's body, and tied them end-to-end...the person will die." I have never had the chance to see Dr. Tyson give a lecture and was inspired to see him. However, The Winter Park Institute did an awesome job inviting someone of equal greatness to take Tyson's place: Michio Kaku.

Dr. Kaku is my absolute favorite scientist (who is alive)—Carl Sagan being my all time favorite. Yes, I am guilty of liking rock star scientists who can market themselves well. I have read almost all of Dr. Kaku's books; *Hyperspace*, *Parallel Worlds*, and *Visions*. I even have a picture of us on my desk from when I met him for the first time last year.

Despite all of this, last night—that is, Sept. 12th—I was slightly bored. Yes, bored.... and not because of the guest being Michio Kaku, but because of Michio Kaku. Dr. Kaku would have been my unquestioningly favorite guest, but repetition burst that bubble. I saw Dr. Kaku last year in May at Valencia State College East. Surprisingly, he gave the same lecture with the same PowerPoint, all the way down to each joke and even the "enter your school name here" line. The only thing different about the presentation

was the short video about the future of hospitals that did not even work! What's up with that Dr. Kaku?! I guess I will wait until he releases a new book to see him again.

For those of you who have seen him before, you obviously didn't miss anything. But for the rest of you, here's a short recap. In last night's address to Rollins, Dr. Kaku discussed the future of the next twenty years—a topic he covers in his most recent book, *Physics of the Future*. Dr. Kaku explained the scientific concepts to the non-scientific community in a way that was vivid and kept the audience engaged. He helped develop the String Theory (which later evolved into the M-Theory) that attempts to combine all the forces in the laws of physics—Einstein's unfinished work. Einstein could not accept the micro-analysis of randomness. Consequently, the String Theory is still trying to iron out the wrinkles of the micro to macro dilemma while attempting to combine the final forces of quantum mechanics with general relativity into a one-dimensional vibrating string existing in thirteen dimensions of twelve spatial and one of time. Doesn't sound too hard.

Sometimes I wonder if these rock star scientists become so involved with marketing themselves that they stop participating in the science beyond its promotion. Did Dr. Kaku hit a wall—much like Einstein did in his final days—and now promotes what he accomplished before? Either way, Dr. Kaku has done a great service to all of humanity, pushing the boundaries of knowledge, and for that I thank him...even if he pulled a fast one on Rollins.



# Sexpert



David

## Get your 'F' in dirty talk

Dirty talk can get weird fast, but one sexpert investigates the right time for those oh so wrong words.

David Matteson

Production Manager

While reading for a class on the topic of ethnomusicology, I recently learned of the importance of maintaining a cohesive relationship between vocals and instrumentals. Together, this creates a work that is appealing to the ear.

It may seem unrelated, but this led me to a separate mental tangent on the topic of talking while having sex. That is, if the words, moans, and other expletive noises do not properly correlate with the rhythm created by two bodies (for the polyamorous replace this number with that which you desire), then the entire sexual encounter may be a complete bust.

In fact, I brought the topic of dirty talk up with a coworker at my part-time job, and he offered a solid analysis of this

practice, "I'm okay with a girl moaning in my ear or whispering a few words like (fill in adult related sexual instructions here), but I hate when it doesn't flow." I get that. I also hate when I start having sex and my partner immediately jumps to words like, "Faster, Harder, Deeper, etc." Take your time; you should warm up your vocal chords prior to moving on to such expletives.

Once I started to expand my ideas surrounding dirty talk, I realized that the words we say in bed might have stronger meaning than we think. Aren't the most meaningful, relationship defining moments those that occur post-coital? Is pillow talk not just a cleaner, more loving form of the sexy language we utilize in the moment? It was a theory I was keen on examining.

I started asking friends about their post-orgasm conversations and they

seemed to directly correlate with the type of relationship they are in. For those in committed long-term romances (myself included), pillow talk can go on for hours. Often times this might be when a couple shares anecdotes about their day, such as a story about how your friend decided to chow down on three entire trays of sushi in the campus center. This might coincide with the request that your partner, "go ahead and pull out." This type of talk is indicative of a relationship that is not only sexual, but based in companionship.

Then I talked to my more promiscuous friends—those who have had a series of partners within the past few weeks. One was afraid that if he let a girl talk to him for a lengthy amount of time, she might grow too "attached." Another found pillow talk a complete waste of her time when all she really wanted was

her partner to hit the road.

The idea of fearing what one might say in bed made me think of dirty talk as a form of experimental language. Do we test the waters with the words we say during sex?

I know I'm guilty of this. The first time I said, "I love you" to my current partner occurred mid-orgasm. I even tried to recover the statement by adding the weak explanation "...for sex."

My coworker agreed with me that embarrassing things are often said in the moment, and that he thinks of sex as a form of truth serum. Which is why he says that staying silent throughout the act is definitely the way to go.

For me, I'll continue to whisper and yell dirty ditties throughout my love-making—after all according to my music textbook that's what makes an appealing experience.

## Text, tweet, like, repeat

Karina Andujar

Staff Writer

Within a five-minute period of taking a simple stroll around campus I was able to point out eight people who were glued to their phones. They looked as though the only way someone could possibly distract them from it was if a flare gun was shot in their general direction; even then, there is still a chance that they might not have noticed. Upon thinking about this further I was pretty grossed out and I started to run through questions: what has society done to deserve this mind numbing addiction and am I a part of it?

To find somewhat of an answer I decided to put down my phone for a week and get back to the basics. I made up my mind that I would only use my cellular device as originally intended, a simple

phone used to make calls and nothing more. I thought last Friday would be as good a day as any, but as the day progressed I kept procrastinating and I still continuously checked my emails, Twitter, and Instagram. Eventually I thought Monday would work because really I would only need five days to prove my strength and self-control. However, I kept using it. I decided to compromise with myself and only put it down for homework time, and even at that I failed miserably.

As I recognized my weakness my thoughts began to reel. Am I not better than the cellular dependents? Why am I so stuck on this tiny, inconsequential device that seems to have the ability to control my life?

Well, as it would happen I am no better off than the average phone user. I too am counted among most of the

population who looks at their phone an average of at least 150 times per day, or rather once every 6.5 minutes per every hour someone is awake.

"I still continuously checked my emails, twitter, and instagram."

According to a poll done by Time magazine, 84% of Americans say they could not possibly go a day without their beloved cell phones. To me, this seems like a societal addiction. An article written by the Huffington Post claimed

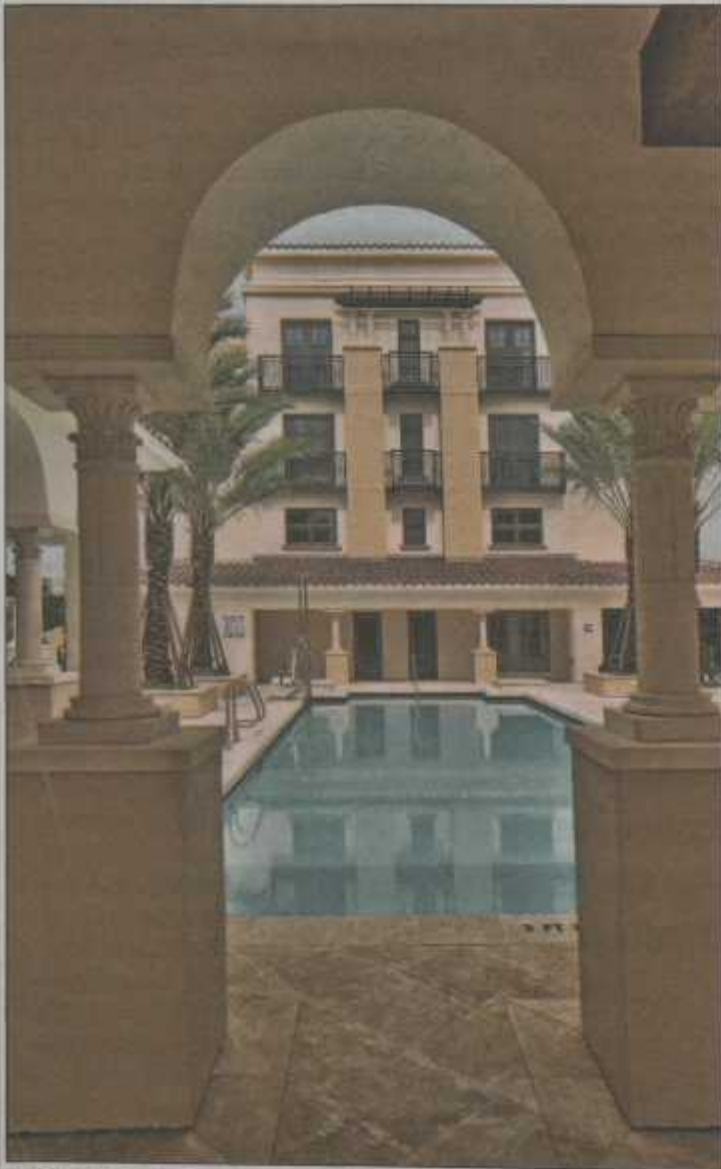
that a cell phone addiction is most likely caused by the same issues that lead to shopping addictions such as materialism and impulsiveness, and everyone knows that Americans have a huge problem with both of those.

Portlandia, a sketch comedy show written by and starring Fred Armisen and Carrie Brownstein, makes fun of this dependency. In one scene Fred is in a technology loop where he can't stop checking his phone and computer and even with the help of his friend Carrie it is all still too much for him and his brain has a serious malfunction. Even though this is an exaggerated scenario, it still depicts a larger issue at hand. As time goes on and Apple releases another version of the iPhone, society will become more and more attached to their smart phones and will leave little room to enjoy anything that is not on their phone screen.





**DOME APPEAL** The Inn's conservatory sheds light on the opulence of the main lobby while vacationers check in for their luxurious stay.



**RAISE THE ROOF** Guests can take a dip in the rooftop pool which provides fantastic sun(light) and a wonderful view of the surrounding Winter Park area.

# Rollins real estate goes Ritz

With a rooftop pool and a fitness center, the Alfond Inn is a luxurious addition to the Winter Park community.



**OUTER BEAUTY** The exterior of the Alfond Inn incorporates subtle modern architecture that seamlessly fits the area.



**CLASSY BUSINESS** For business meetings and conferences the simple executive boardroom can be rented and utilized by guest and companies.





**SUITE LIFE** The signature suites offer expansive living rooms and include spacious balconies with enjoyable views. The overall interior design of the suites was understated and gave visitors a sense of familiarity.

## David Matteson

*Production Manager*

Opening its doors on August 18th, the Alford Inn has quickly become a hot new destination for visitors and Rollins students alike.

Boasting 112 guest rooms, a fine dining restaurant, Hamilton's Kitchen, and amenities such as a rooftop pool and fitness center, the Inn caters to the lavish needs of guests and local residents. The property is owned by Rollins, and was constructed with a \$12.5 million grant from the Harold Alford Foundation. The hotel's profits will be directed to the maintenance of the Alford Scholars program, the premier scholarship offered to Rollins students.

Arguably the most impressive part of the hotel is the chic first floor and lobby, which highlights contemporary art and design in a seamless manner. The Inn's conservatory filters in natural light through an expansive glass dome ceiling adding warmth and glittering personality that charms guests upon entry.

However, the collection of art featured throughout the lobby and first floor is the true gem of the hotel. The contemporary artworks are exclusive to the hotel, and the Cornell Fine Arts museum is the permanent recipient of this fine donation of art. The 57 artists who are featured within the collection utilized a variety of mediums. This facet of the hotel is truly the most remarkable, as it asserts a captivation with contemporary art unparalleled throughout the

greater Orlando area.

Despite this contribution to the Orlando creative culture, the Inn has done little to highlight the respectable collection. Within the early weeks of opening, the hotel had yet to place information placards beside each piece, leaving viewers wondering who created each work and what mediums it was created with. This disservice to the featured artists was made worse by the inability of Inn employees (including members of the Director staff) to answer basic questions regarding individual pieces. For a hotel boasting their collection, training of employees in regards to the artwork should have been a higher priority.

Beyond the artwork, the first floor also offers a beautiful bar that is both warm and open while maintaining the modern feel of the entire hotel. Hamilton's Kitchen is also on this floor, and the restaurant features Floridian-inspired, contemporary cuisine. With a menu that combines flavorful options, such as black grouper and herb quinoa, this restaurant intends to compete with Winter Park classics such as Luma and Hannibal's On The Square.

Despite the brilliance of the hotel's first floor, the guest rooms and suites are lackluster in comparison. The peacock feather carpeting in the hallway leading to the rooms feels gaudy and overwhelming. This leads to the standard rooms where guests will surely be disappointed by their bare interiors that do not capture the artistic brilliance found throughout

the ground floor. Rather than feature contemporary photography, the rooms showcase a variety of photos of the Rollins campus, which feels disconnected to the hotel's interior design.

The rooms feel standard in their small, compartmentalized construction. Floor plans feel cramped and uninviting, these rooms are certainly not recommended for long-term stay. The worst part of the rooms is the sliding mirrored door that separates the bathroom from the living space—these horrendous doors appear to be a cost-efficiency option that feels dated in design.

The signature suite is a slight improvement over the disappointing standard guest rooms. A large living room opens onto a lengthy balcony that offers picturesque views of the Winter Park area. This room is separated from the bedroom offering intimacy and privacy to guests on their honeymoon. However, when comparing this suite to other honeymoon or signature suites in Orlando hotels such as the Grand Bohemian, the Inn's room is uninspired. Once again the room feels bare in decoration and the small kitchenette feels like a waste of space in the otherwise open living area.

Overall, despite disappointing guest rooms and suites, the Alford Inn is an inviting cultural destination worth visiting. With a prime location near both campus and Park Avenue, the Inn will surely live up to its marketing as "a new place to stay, to celebrate, and to savor the Winter Park experience."



**HAMILTON'S KITCHEN** Hamilton's Kitchen gives other Park Ave restaurant staples a run for their money with its Floridian inspired cuisine and earthy



**GATEWAY TO PARADISE** The lobby has a contemporary look, however it still incorporates details that add warmth and hominess.

*Photos Courtesy of The Alford Inn*



# PARADISE

Ben Zitsman

Writer

1. This, you sometimes have to remind yourself—this is paradise. Rollins is. The live oaks, older than you'll ever know and knowing more than you'll ever live to see. The hanging moss draped languidly from their branches. The lake—wide, warm, still. Its water: tobacco-spit brown, opaque and inscrutable. The tile-roofed buildings nestling its banks, seemingly in affection rather than by design. And the manicured lawns so green they startle, and the kids playing Frisbee on them, and the way their hoarse laughter cuts through the syruped air like a bracing tonic. And the pizzeria on a side street just off campus: go there, and watch a javelin-thin blonde girl—imperiously sunglassed, dressed to inspire panicked trips to bathroom mirrors at which you scornfully prod at your face, bat the wrinkles from your shirt—go, and watch this girl eat three slices of extra-meat pizza. In one sitting. Marvel at the avian efficiency of her movements when she goes to dab the grease from the corners of her downturned mouth. And remind yourself: this is paradise. Because sometimes—oftentimes—you'll have to. Long enough here will make you feel misshapen and ill-equipped. Ill-equipped for what you'll never know; all you'll know is the unshakable suspicion that you're vaguely deficient has been dogging you for weeks, now. This is the price you pay for living in perfection: your own imperfections, cast in sharp, pitiless relief. It's a price easier paid by some than others. I've seen unflappably healthy-minded kids enter Rollins and graduate four years later, just as they came: unflappably healthy-minded. I, though—I just couldn't afford it. There was a medical leave my sophomore year, (depression,) then a suspension my senior year; then I was gone. Paradise was killing me. But that didn't keep me from coming back. And, since my return, I've learned something: the price of returning to paradise isn't the same as the price of staying there. Not for me. No—it's costlier.

...I'm writing this from an

IHOP close enough to Orange County Jail for a person to see tight coils of concertina wire, looking like some ghastly orthodontic fever-dream, from the window of this booth. As I do right now. I posted bail half an hour ago.

2. I know: I expected these dispatches from suspension to get progressively less dire, too. But as I've written here before, the best addiction stories traffic in hope, and this story—the third of my dispatches and the final one, also my final piece for The Sandspur—does just that. Just wait.

3. I read once that a man in freefall has no sense of his own weight—so, then, no sense he's falling at all. In fact, were all context of his fall removed, the man would have no idea what was happening. No idea just how fast he was plummeting toward

stage whisper. "She's the boss' daughter." "You're interviewing there," she said. "Yes, ma'am." Behind my flippancy there was a mental impediment, the shape of which I couldn't quite discern, that had been preventing me from seeking employment since my return from rehab months earlier. A nebulous reticence, the source of which I hadn't given much thought. All the same, I decided it would be easier to head to my local Wendy's franchise and sit down with a shift manager than it would be to endure Mom's hectoring about my failure to do so. The shift manager's name was Andy—red-headed, with a face both freckled and acne-scarred. A good three years younger than I was, too. Before he could glance over my application, I pointed to a sign behind him. "YOU," it read, "DESERVE REAL FOOD."

doesn't Wendy's feel deserves real food?"

"Well," Andy said. "Huh." I was right. And I was clearly unhirable.

...The stasis I experienced during those few months after rehab was maddening. Every day, I told my mother I felt stuck, felt my life was on hold, felt no progress was being made. And yet I'd just sabotaged an opportunity for real progress, tangible and honest. I'd denied myself a small victory just when I needed one most. I felt I was floating. And I decided the remedy—the thing to set my life back in motion—was a trip down to Florida to visit my friends. I left Columbus for Winter Park on August 20th.

4. There's little for an addict to write about relapse. It's simply the resumption of a behavior which, to him, feels the most

I wasn't hurt in the least, and that no one else was. I've been told police then arrived on the scene shortly thereafter. And then they arrested me for driving under the influence.

...Jail I can recall more clearly—the whole place a world of poured concrete and sallow skin, Klieg-lit 24 hours a day. There were no windows. There were no clocks. That's all incarceration is: a sense of abject disorientation, of dislocation, that never, ever abates. Clearest to me is the cell in which I was placed: a nine-by-eight foot room with an army cot and a lidless toilet, the upper half of which doubled as a sink and drinking fountain. No windows there, either, but a rudimentary mirror of scrubbed, stainless steel. The crude, sweet smell of someone else's vomit lingered in the air.

It's the mirror I'm thinking of now, though. It's looking into that mirror and saying aloud, to no one in particular, I don't want to do this anymore. I don't want to be this. And then it's the memory of another late August day, fifteen years earlier, clear, with autumn's promise in the air but its presence not quite felt. It's the memory of another smell—not vomit, but the sharp, cedary scent of sharp, cedary pencils. It's the first day of school and I am young and I know this year, this year will be different. I will be a better student. I will get only good grades, will ingratiate myself to my teachers just enough to earn their favor, but not enough to earn my peers' derision. It's the memory of the pure, clear hope I felt that day—the hope felt in anticipation of multiple and sundry improvements, all sure soon to come. Of progress. And then the slow realization that this day, in this cell, is no different. I am able to start over any day I choose. I am able to be better, kinder, more present—am able, at any time, regardless of circumstance. It's deep gratitude for this freedom. It's pure, clear hope again. It's knowing, as long as I have this freedom, as long as I can choose to be better than before, as long as I live, I can plant my feet anywhere and breathe in the air and say to myself, This—is this paradise.

**The crude, sweet smell of someone else's vomit lingered in the air. It's the mirror I'm thinking of now, though. It's looking into that mirror and saying aloud, I don't want to do this anymore.**

earth, no idea just how hard the impact would be when he finally got there. He might even think himself weightless, in strange, suspended animation. He might think he was floating.

...It was my mother's idea I apply for a job at Wendy's. It seemed to her the kind of mindless work I needed to restore structure to my life. It also seemed to her a 22 year-old should be able to hold down a job for more than two weeks at a time, something I'd failed, time and time again, to accomplish. There was an ill-fated stint as a busboy, as a butcher, and as an employee of Columbus, Ohio's premier pet resort and spa. The only thing my various odd jobs had in common is how they ended: with my termination. Wendy's would be different, though: "Honestly, Ben," my mother said. "How could you screw up flipping burgers? It's perfect." "I could forget to flip the burgers and let them burn until I'm faced with a griddle of charcoal briquettes." "Be serious." "I could seduce Wendy and leave her scorned. She could get me fired." I lowered my voice to a

"That slogan," I said. "Is it new?"

"Not exactly; no. We've been using it in select test markets for six months now."

I nodded pensively. Then: "I don't understand. Why do I deserve real food? What is it, exactly, I've done?"

"Well, that's not exactly how it's meant to—"

"Come to think of it, doesn't everyone deserve real food?"

"That's more the direction they were going with that, I think." Andy looked down at the papers in front of him and took a deep breath, preparing to launch into the interview. But there was no stopping me. I was on a roll.

"OK, yes, but the word 'deserve' denotes merit. That I've done something to earn real food my peers haven't done. So then if everyone deserves something, doesn't that mean nobody deserves it?"

"Uh."

"It doesn't make any sense, Andy," I said. "And I don't like its ramifications. At all. Either it's sloppy usage or, if you'd so kindly tell me, just whom exactly

natural in the world. My return to drug use was no different. I hadn't been in Florida three hours before I was using again. Though, to be sure, it was a conscious decision, it didn't feel like one. It felt seamless. A non-event. Like putting on a sweater you haven't worn all summer on that first brisk fall day. I was back on drugs. And then, some days later, I was on drugs and driving a friend's car, going to pick up some coffee at Dunkin' Donuts; and I didn't make it there.

5. I don't remember the accident. All I know about it has been told to me. I've been told I was going 45 mph down a side street when I crashed into a cream pink, 1955 Cadillac Coupe Deville, parked along the curb. I've been told the Cadillac was for sale; and when its owner heard the crash and came outside to investigate, he said, "Well, looks like we've got a buyer." I've been told both cars—his, and my friend's Jeep, which I was borrowing—were totaled. I've been told, had I hit the Cadillac at a slightly more oblique angle, I'd be dead. I've been told to consider it a miracle



# Don't delete!

As most students are quick to click "delete" on anything Immersion in their email inbox, Perry highlights her awesome experiences on the life-changing trip.

Alexandra Perry

Writer

If you are a Rollins student you have more than likely found a message with this subject in your email at one point or another. These emails are filled with offers, each asking students to apply for experiences known as Immersions. After two years of scrolling past these emails I finally began to get curious and ended up applying for an experience called "Crisis in a Community," an Immersion that would take twelve participants all the way to the state of Colorado to discover how recent wildfires have impacted the community.

To my surprise, I received an email a week after submitting my application notifying me that I had been chosen as a participant. I began to prepare for the trip, attending a pre-trip meeting that allowed me to meet my fellow participants, and soon enough backs were thrown into the JUMP bus and we were off to the Orlando Airport. While on the Immersion we interacted with the community on a personal level, meeting with panels and doing days of service work. We moved through three hotels, planted

two hundred trees, met with panels, and talked with grieving fire victims who had lost their homes. By the time our plane touched back down in Orlando I had forged strong relationships with my fellow participants and developed a better understanding of what it meant to be part of a community. Are you ready to go on an Immersion yet?

The process starts in the Office of Community Engagement, which houses a wonderful staff of both students and faculty all in charge of creating these experiences. The Immersion program was introduced to Rollins in 2007 and has boomed in popularity. The program has increased the amount of experiences in addition to the number of students who participate each year. No two Immersions are the same and students are offered a wide variety of experiences that will help them grow as global citizens and motivate them to take on leadership roles within their own community. Last year alone groups of students were sent to Tennessee, Virginia, Colorado, and various parts of Florida to perform service and learn about communities and problem issues. Rollins now sponsors a record twenty-five trips per semester.



When it comes to the Immersion application, the process is incredibly simple. Three members of the Immersion Planning Team, Raul Carril, Courtney Banker, and Michaela O'Driscoll, spoke to me about how best to approach the application in order to show that you are truly invested in the experience. The selection process is blind, wiping the name of the applicants from their applications when they are being decided upon. This means that applicants will be chosen on their answers alone. Avoid jot-

ting down a few sentences or sending in messy applications ten seconds before they are due. Put time into your answers to show that you are genuinely interested and you are more likely to be chosen.

For those of you who did not jump on the bandwagon yet, don't worry. Three more Immersions depart this semester, two are open to the general student body while one is reserved for first years. "Hot and Sweaty in the Swamp" is a first year experience where new students journey to the Everglades

for a week of service and education. Immersions that are open to the general student body include "Drop It Like It's Hot: Art Education and Action" which will be during Fall Break and a November Immersion focusing on veterans and homelessness.

So next time you are cruising through your Rollins email during class and spot the word Immersion do yourself a favor; take the time and apply. Immersions have been an incredible and unique part of my experience at Rollins and applying is just your first step.

## Living with the frenemy

Eric Rench

Writer

It was my sophomore year at Salem State University in Massachusetts when I found myself living on campus for the first time with people that I didn't know.

Upon arriving at the college, the RA informed me that I would be staying in the newly built dorm for upperclassmen, which excited me. That excitement was quickly replaced with trepidation as I entered my dorm room. Five different faces, each representing a different nationality, warmly greeted me. Mark was a local from Bridgewater who was a fan of sports and alcohol. Keon was from Georgetown, Guyana. He also liked his alcohol and got very emotional when he drank

Jeff was from French Guyana and loved women and dancing. Marvin, my roommate, was from Kenya and loved to party. And Chris, my brother and my friend, was from Jamaica and enjoyed everything about life including parties and women.

All of us instantly bonded and later became family. That night, when it was customary for most humans to go to bed, our living room transformed into an island with lots of people, loud music, dancing, screaming, and laughing. For hours I tossed and turned, unable to sleep. I looked at the clock. 3:30 a.m. I had Macroeconomics at 8:00 a.m.

Instinctually, I wanted to get up, open the door and slam it as hard as possible in order to make a point. Instead, I did something that even surprised myself: I went out and began to

dance.

Learning how to adapt in a new environment with people with different cultures, religions, work ethics and experiences can be extremely challenging. Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland offers tips to its residence life in an effort to create amicable relationships between roommates:

**Speak up.** Get to know your roommate. Even if you're not great friends, you'll be able to get along better if you understand each other. Discuss what you expect from each other. Don't be afraid to tell your roommate if his/her actions bother you. Let each other know when important events (tests, papers, competitions, etc.) are coming up.

**Silence is Golden.** Yeah, we just told you that you shouldn't

be afraid to discuss things with your roommate, but you'll probably be better off if you don't tell your roommate about all of her little annoying habits.

**Think long term.** You're going to have to live with your roommate for an entire school year, so don't nit-pick or judge her on how she acts the first week of school. It takes people time to adjust to college life and living with a stranger, so give your roommate the benefit of the doubt before criticizing his/her actions.

**Plan Ahead.** Decide how you're going to handle financial obligations (e.g. food) ahead of time so there won't be any misunderstandings when it's time to pay. You should also discuss whether borrowing or using each other's property (e.g. stereo, clothes, toiletries,

etc.) is appropriate. Establishing boundaries is fine as long as both roommates are aware of them.

**Give a Little.** You don't have to subvert your personality to get along with another person, but be prepared to compromise. If you're naturally a slob, you should learn to be neat to the extent that you don't encroach on your roommate's space. If you're a neat freak, remember that your roommate may not be as offended by mess as you are.

A little patience, understanding, cooperation and planning can go a long way when living on campus. With a little effort, it can cultivate life-long friendships that otherwise might have gone unfounded. For me, it was one of the best experiences of my life.



# Two number ones?

Rollins College is ranked #1 in the South again, but this time, Rollins shares the spotlight with Elon University.

Lauren Silvestri

Public Relations Coordinator

Rollins is Number One in the South again! Well sort of...

If you have come across R-Net, Rollins 360, *The Sandspur* Facebook page, or anything else Rollins-related, you probably have heard that for the ninth consecutive year, Rollins achieved first place in the Regional University South category in the *US News and World Report's* annual college ranking edition. However, for the first time in its nine-year streak, Rollins ties in first place with another institution, Elon University.

Elon is another private, relatively small (5,357 undergraduate students) liberal arts college with many similarities to Rollins; it has a selective admissions process, it was founded only four years after Rollins, it emphasizes study abroad experiences, and even has a news and public relations online page called "e-net."

Both Rollins and Elon representatives have advertised their respective school as Number One in the South, but is that

really fair? Dan Anderson, Vice President for Communications at Elon, believes it is.

"US News states that the schools that are awarded that ranking have the legitimate claim to that number. It is a tie; there is no inconsistencies in saying that each school is number 1... Both Rollins and Elon are doing what every other school does—improving programs and learning experiences

that are right for them. Some people might focus on the numerical ranking and might see a big ranking between number 1 and number 2 and number 3. But the fact is that all the schools that make rankings in US News are quality institutions."

Rollins representatives are extremely happy with the ranking, regardless of a tie.

"We continue to be a top-ranked institution because of

Holly Pohlig, Director of Admissions, adds, "We are very happy to be ranked #1 in the South again. We understand that every year the ranking criteria change, and we are thrilled to come out on top again."

Pohlig is correct to say that US News changes their ranking methodology almost annually. This year, graduation and retention rates comprise 22.5 percent of total ranking, up from 20 per-

cent). and faculty resources (20 percent).

The *US News* rankings certainly are not without their critics. Both *CBS Marketwatch* and *The Washington Post* have published articles criticizing the accuracy of the rankings.

In *The Washington Post* article, titled "Why *US News* college rankings shouldn't matter to anyone," Valerie Strauss mentions that one of the factors in the rankings is "undergraduate academic reputation" with a 22.5 percent weighting, and that this particular ranking is purely subjective. Others argue that every student has an individual "best fit," and that a ranking in a magazine cannot provide a student with significant information for the college decision process.

Despite the criticisms, *US News and World Report's* college rankings still cause much discussion and attention every year that it is released, and Rollins College is proud to continue the tradition of its top rank in the magazine (although I'm sure Rollins wants to kick Elon's ass again next year).

...college rankings still cause much discussion and attention every year that it is released, and Rollins College is proud to continue the tradition of its top rank in the magazine...

for students," Anderson said.

He goes on to express his disappointment in others that are emphasizing the tie. "I find it unfortunate that people would focus on numerical rankings. It fails to show the point of US News Rankings—for families and students to find the schools

our commitment to academic excellence, and we are pleased the voters have once again recognized Rollins as one of the nation's best institutions of higher education," says Lauren Bradley, Director of Public Affairs, Marketing, and Communication.

cent last year, while "student selectivity" (competitiveness of freshman applicants) comprises 12.5 percent, down from 15 percent last year. This is due to US News' increased emphasis on the "output" of colleges. Other factors in the ranking included financial resources (10 percent)

# The speakers that don't show up

Rollins faces schedule problems that interfere with bringing the big-shot speakers to Winter Park.

Ariana M. Simpson

Writer

Ah! It's another Thursday night and there is a renowned speaker meandering to Tiedtke Hall or The Alford Sports Center. Whether you know them or not they will be there. It's another event put on by the Winter Park Institute—free and open to the public of Winter Park. But who exactly are these speakers that a majority of the campus won't know the majority of the time? How is it that Neil DeGrasse Tyson, Ellen, and Phil Collins were unable to come but other speakers, who seem to have no connection with the young audience of Rollins College, can? Is our tuition funding these "free" events? These are questions that aren't naturally dwelled upon aside from: "Who is this guy?"

I was lucky enough to find the answers to these questions when I sat down and spoke with Dr. Sinclair, the Executive Director at the Winter Park Institute. And to quickly rebuff any fears or suspicions, our tuition in fact does not fund the Winter Park Institute. Funding has primarily come from the Cornell endowment, and as of this year the Winter Park Institute has begun looking for other sponsors for events or people who want to contribute.

The speakers are nominated by the faculty nomination call every fall and the collection of names are suggested. Reviewing the suggestions submitted, the faculty advisory committee votes on which one interests the majority. The nominations are prioritized by popularity. Students do in fact have the power to make suggestions as to who

they would like to see. o. When mentioning the rumor of Ellen not being allowed to speak a few years ago, reasoning for this as stated by Sinclair was that Ellen was not, 'denied for not being academically appropriate' as it had been rumored amongst students. Scheduling was actually the issue. As it was with Phil Collins, J.K. Rowling, and recent city wide anticipated guest and astrophysicist Neil DeGrasse Tyson, who is currently filming. Both Neil DeGrasse Tyson and the Winter Park Institute extend their sincerest apologies. Another reason behind large and popular speakers' failure to grace the stage is that with names that big and demanding, it becomes difficult to pay for them to visit as well as find a date when they are not already booked. All things considered, the Winter Park Institute strives to bring

scholars and profound speakers from all backgrounds, especially speakers who are relevant to the times we live in. Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl Wundun, for example, were brought in last year in correlation to the RCC's summer reading, *Half the Sky* a novel that focuses on the sex trafficking of women and their battle for equality. Every event also has a student component or catered event varying with the scholar. They have the option to come into classrooms or

have open forums exclusively for students. To quote Sinclair, "We do try to be rather widespread in the areas we bring in so that eventually we hit all disciplines... [we] also do not want to be pigeon-holed." As the Winter Park Institute continues to keep up the tradition and strive to appeal to all fields, We hope that as the years go by, more and more academic figures and celebrities alike will continue to come speak at Rollins College.

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# Preview of *The Laramie Project Ten Years Later*

Karina Andujar

Staff Writer

*The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later* is a poignant play that is the sequel to the original *Laramie Project* that was first performed in 2000.

From September 27th until October 5th the Rollins theater department is performing this piece. The play is directed by Thomas Ouellette and will be shown in the Annie Russell Theatre at various times during its seven day performance schedule.

The prequel to the *Laramie Project: Ten Years Later* is a play that was created from the actual events of a tragedy that occurred in Laramie, Wyoming in 1998 where a young man named Matthew Shepard was tortured and murdered, and it was largely reported that this happened

because of homophobia.

Several weeks after the death occurred, the Tectonic Theater Project traveled to Laramie where for over a year they gathered over 200 interviews from people living in Laramie in the aftermath of the tragic event. The play takes aspects from these interviews and published news reports and compiles them into this moving production.

Ten years after the untimely death of Matthew Shepard the Tectonic Theater Project wanted to follow up on Laramie to see how far it had come since the spotlight was cast on it a decade ago. *The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later* was created in a similar way as the original. Many Laramie inhabitants were interviewed and gave their perspective

on life after the tragedy. Thomas Ouellette, the director from Rollins who is putting on the performance, said, "The Tectonic was not going to go back to find unpleasant memories, but to check with the town itself and the progress or permanence that had occurred." The overall purpose of this play is to show how far a group of people is willing to move forward after a hardship such as the death of Matthew Shepard occurs.

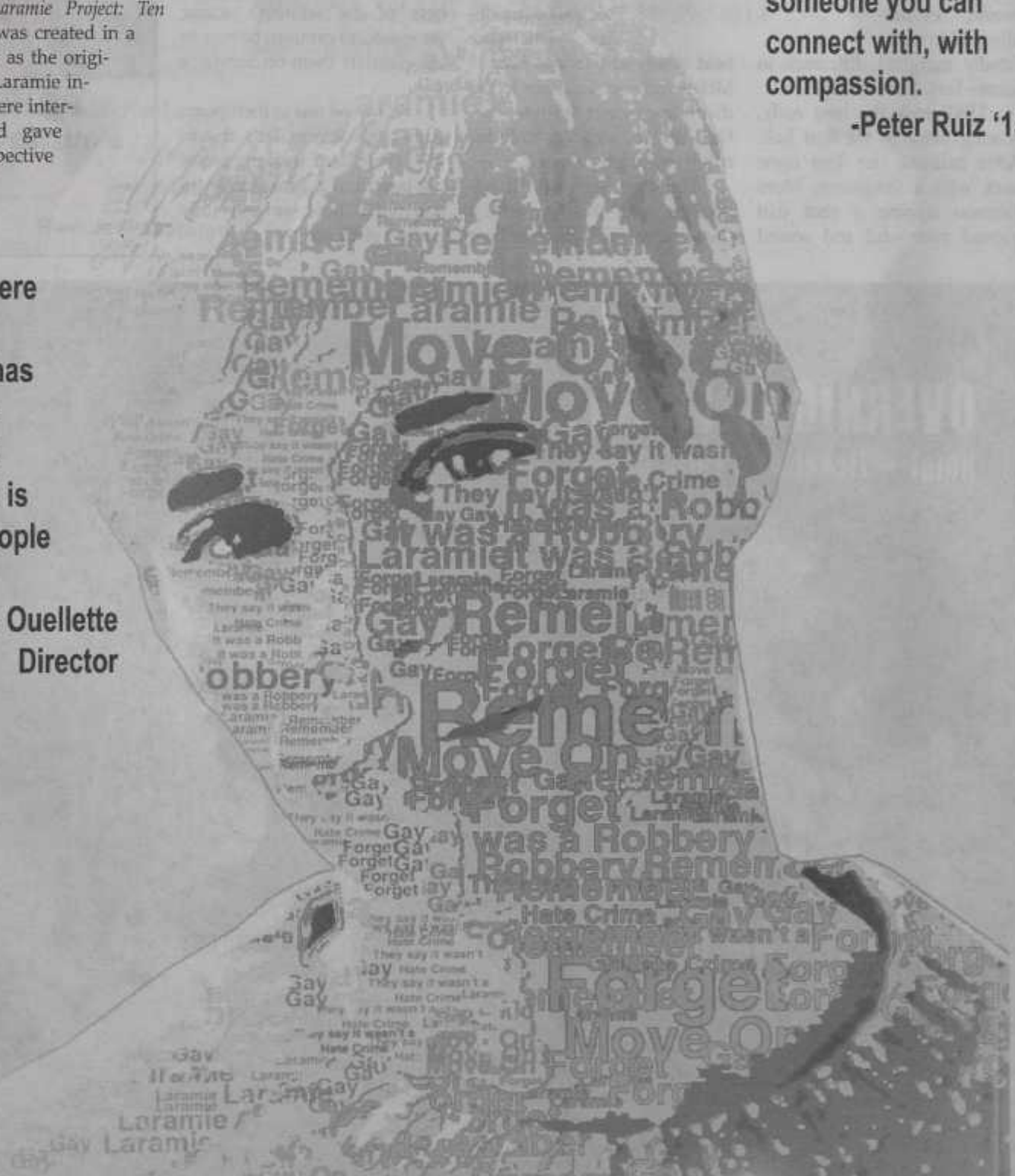
*The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later* opens on Friday September 27th at 8:00 PM and is open for anyone who is willing to see it. Tickets for the production can be ordered now and will be on sale at the box office on days of the performances. Rollins students and faculty can receive tickets for free and additional tickets can be bought for the discounted price of \$10 with the presentation of an R-card. For non-Rollins faculty and students tickets are \$20, or \$10 if a different student ID is presented.

“One of the big ideas I think of is to connect with these people on a visceral level... We should portray these characters as what they are, human beings. And as such, they are someone you can connect with, with compassion.

-Peter Ruiz '15

“I wanted to see where homophobia is now, not where it was in 1998. The second play is about how Laramie has owned what happened. The inhabitants of Laramie have rewritten their history. What is interesting is to see how people attach to the play.

-Thomas Ouellette  
Director



Quotes compiled by Camilo Garzon

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September 19, 2013



# Tars mess with Texas

Last year's national champs lucked out on Friday, but the resilient Lady Tars came back to blank the Cardinals on Sunday.

Kyle McCoy

Staff Writer

If you were around campus on Friday night, you likely heard the resounding cheers of tons of fans lining our stadium to watch the Lady Tars battle it out with reigning national soccer champs, University of West Florida.

The highly anticipated and incredibly intense game would, eventually, end in an ill-fatedly marginal difference in score—Tars, 1 and UWF, 2.

UWF took the lead early, scoring twice in the first half. After halftime our Tars came back with a vengeance, Mora Johnson ripping a shot that proved successful and scored

within the first 7 minutes of the second half. On their way to evening things up, the girls lost some luck when the game was called off for a chance of lightning while twenty-six minutes still remained on the clock.

**The girls put forth valiant and impressive efforts**

After approximately an hour of waiting, they resumed play—but the pivotal momentum they had gained following halftime was stolen away from our Tars with the long weather delay. The score

held steady at 1 to 2 as Brenna Mckee took one last shot in the dwindling moments left to play. Our Rollins athletes, unfortunately, were left defeated.

However, this was in opposition with their game less than forty-eight hours later

on Sunday morning. The Tars walked away the dominant victors over Texas team Incarnate Wood, who were recently demoted from Division I. The girls played strongly to defend their domain through the entire 90-minutes of play, yielding a final score of three to zero.

Their first goal was scored by captain Brenna Mckee. The second and third goals were scored by Junior, Emma Jones and Freshman, Paxton Sickler.

The girls put forth valiant and impressive efforts throughout their two games this past weekend. When you see members of the women's soccer team around campus, be sure to congratulate them on Sunday's win.

As for the rest of their home games this season, let's always give these hard working ladies the benefit of a consistently inspirational fan-base and fully packed stadium.

This isn't it!

Check out more content online @ [thesandspur.org](http://thesandspur.org)

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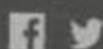
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