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12-5-2013

## Sandspur, Vol 120, No 12, December 05, 2013

Rollins College

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### STARS Citation

Rollins College, "Sandspur, Vol 120, No 12, December 05, 2013" (2013). *The Rollins Sandspur*. 1984.  
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# *The* **Sandspur**

EVERYTHING REAL. EVERYTHING ROLLINS.

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**'Tis the Season  
to Shop**  
page 6





Established in 1894 with the following editorial:  
"Unassuming yet slightly sharp, and pointed,  
well rounded yet many sided, amiable yet ter-  
racious, victorious in single combat, and therefore  
without a peer, wonderfully attractive and exten-  
sive in circulation; all these will be found upon  
investigation to be among the extraordinary qual-  
ities of The Sandspur."

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## NEWS

# WHERE in the WORLD

Compiled by Hannah Blitzer



**Glasgow, United Kingdom** — A helicopter crashed into a crowded pub on Friday evening, injuring 32 people and killing at least 3. Only one death has been officially confirmed, but Scotland's First Minister, Alex Salmond, stated, "People must prepare for fatalities." There were approximately 120 people inside the Clutha bar at the time of the crash, and although there was no fire or explosion, the roof of the building collapsed. As of Saturday morning, there were still a significant number of people trapped inside. The helicopter was a Eurocopter EC135 T2, a model primarily used by police and ambulance services. There were three people on board: two police officers and a civilian pilot. The accident may have been caused by a catastrophic

failure of an aircraft system, but the cause of the crash has not been officially confirmed.

**Kiev, Ukraine** — Riot police brutally dispersed protesters in the Ukrainian capital on Nov. 30. Rallies were held to protest President Viktor Yanukovich's refusal to sign an EU association agreement. The riot ended when the police dispersed the protesters, using tear gas and beating some with truncheons. Witnesses and unconfirmed reports said that a number of people have been injured. There were about 10,000 people conducting a peaceful protest in Independence Square when the police moved in and attacked. Most of the protesters involved in the rally were students. Several hundred people have gathered in St. Michael's church to contemplate

the events and plan their next move.

**Beijing, China** — North Korea has accused an elderly American veteran of war crimes during the Korean War while he was a tourist there last month. Merrill Newman, 85, has been held since Oct. 26 and there has been no indication from North Korea as to what the next steps will be. The state-run Korean Central News Agency released a video on Saturday of Mr. Newman confessing to "hostile acts" as well as a full text of the apology, which was written in disjointed English. It is unclear as to whether the country will be sending Mr. Newman home, and the situation is being handled through the representative power in Pyongyang, Sweden since the United States has no diplomatic relations with North

Korea.

**Kabul, Afghanistan** — Two disagreements over drone strikes in Pakistan and Afghanistan have further complicated already fragile relations between the United States and the two countries. The situation has highlighted the "political complications from America's persistent reliance on the lethal remote-controlled weapons." Drones have been the subject of controversy and the cause of conflict in the Middle East region. The strike in Afghanistan resulted in civilian casualties and has given President Hamid Karzai additional reason to refuse to sign a long-term security agreement with the United States. In Pakistan, the drone strike killed a Pakistani militant and it is believed that the strike was conducted by the C.I.A.

## Don't play with discrimination

Ali Burdick

Writer

"Catch An Illegal Immigrant!" University of Texas (UT) students in the Young Conservatives of Texas (YCT) organization used this line to entice fellow students to join in on the racist and discriminatory game, along with the promise of \$25 gift cards to any person who catches an "immigrant." Lorenzo Garcia, a student at UT and chairman of the YCT organization, set up the game as well as a Facebook event page to invite his student body. This shocked everyone, including Texas Congressman Joaquin Castro, UT's President Bill Powers, and even the official Twitter account for the Democratic Party. The idea of the game was this: participants try to "catch" students wearing labels identifying them

as illegal immigrants, and once caught, students who found the "immigrants" will receive gift cards. The game itself is meant to be nonviolent, but many students who are opposed to it may not have been so peaceful. University officials were not only worried about the game sending the wrong message, but also that it would cause many safety concerns. Congressman Joaquin Castro commented, "Texas Republicans are becoming more and more radical... These anti-immigrant 'games' are out of step with Texas' values and have been for generations."

The event caused an uproar of both student protest on Twitter and a counter-event on Facebook to be created using the slogan, "I am undocumented." The counter-event was aimed to pull together students at UT

to say, "NO to Campus HATE!" It gained a lot of followers within just a couple days. The end result: a sum of over 4,300 members, who vowed to wear white shirts around campus that read "Undocumented." They also planned an event on campus for the 400 undocumented students studying at UT on the Texas Dream Act. The Texas Dream Act permits certain immigrant students to apply for temporary legal status and eventually become eligible for U.S. citizenship if they go to college or serve in the U.S. military).

The original game was later cancelled, and Garcia apologized. ...Or did he? Lorenzo Garcia commented on behalf of the YCT organization and said, "I acknowledge that the decision to include issuing \$25 gift cards during the event was

misguided and that the idea for the event was intentionally over the top... students on college campuses, conservative, liberal, or somewhere in between, should not be silenced when they attempt to make their voices heard about an issue that is so important to our futures." While I am sure we can all agree that we should not allow our voices to be ignored, it is also agreeable to many that this event was entirely unnecessary. Garcia's apology seemed both insincere and lackluster, focusing his remorse mainly on the issue of the gift card rewards, rather than the event itself. As Garcia and the YCT organization continue to be smothered with criticism, from both conservatives and liberals, the officials at UT and the student body are ecstatic to hear that the game has been cancelled.





**MEANINGFUL SERVICE** Volunteering with local non-profits, such as Mustard Seed, is a way for students to give back during the holidays.

OCEROLLINS

## Tis' the season to give back

Ali Burdick

Writer

As the end of the semester approaches, students are cramming for finals, working hard to get some extra cash for Christmas gifts, and getting into the holiday spirit. After a long and stressful semester, it's easy to see why giving back may be last on some students' to-do lists. But for others, it may be something to think about this holiday season.

With the economy remaining in poor condition, many families continue to be left out in the cold, and it's important for students, especially here at Rollins where we are blessed with so many opportunities, to take a step back and reach deep within ourselves to find the resources to give. Whether it be an inspiration to give back through volunteer work, or feeling compelled to give a couple bucks to your favorite charity, everything this season, and really every day, counts.

As Rollins students, we are exposed to a lifestyle some people can only dream of—the school is even nicknamed “Rollins Country Club.” We go to a school that has the luxury of a valuable education as well as endless amenities, yet some-

how we so easily forget to give back. Sure, we have SPARC Day, Immersion trips, or the many Greek organizations who volunteer with their specific philanthropies. But do we really give back? More importantly, are our motives for giving back sound? This is something that I have been struggling with as a student here, and I find it common amongst my peers that many people have such a negative mentality when it comes to volunteering. We do the work that is required, only what scrapes us by, and we often dread doing it. Even I have often felt apprehension towards volunteer work on some occasions, for the sake of it being inconvenient to me or undesirable work, yet I sit here and reprimand my peers for feeling the same way. Sure, there are the occasional few who have maintained a strong passion for giving back, but I think it is safe to say that many do not feel this way. With the holiday season almost in full swing, I think it is important as a student body to get together and really give back to our community.

For those of us who wish to participate in volunteering on a regular basis but do not have time to join a sorority or fraternity or attend the required

meetings for some clubs that participate in regular volunteer work, it's difficult to find an outlet. If we can do this work with many of our peers, the work becomes even more enjoyable and beneficial for the community. After all, we have so many other opportunities on campus, why not add one as beneficial as giving back to our community to the list, especially during the holiday season, where families and communities struggle even more to stay afloat.

As sad as it is to know that the holiday season is one of the few inspirations for us to give back, it is important to remember that no matter the source of inspiration, we should always embrace it, share that inspiration with our peers, and hopefully, continue to feed off of that inspiration throughout the year and make an even larger impact on our communities.

So as we all part ways for winter break and enjoy the holidays with our friends and families, we should keep those who are not as fortunate as us in mind, and find some ways to give back. If you're interested in giving back this season, or any season, check out the following Central Florida organizations, or find some in your own area on GreatNonprofits.org

## Obamacare off to a shaky start

Micah Bradley

Writer

The Affordable Health Care Act, also known as Obamacare, has had many problems since it was launched, including a faulty website.

Now, as early statistics and numbers come in, Obamacare is shown to have about one-fifth of the enrollment expected. Though the problems with the website have caused low enrollment numbers, government officials claim that this does not prove anything about the future success of the program, and that many people might be waiting to sign up at the last minute.

Although the quantity of people enrolled is important to the program's success, it is just as important to look at the various demographics of the people who enroll. The more college-age people that sign up for the program, the more financially stable Obamacare will be. Young people generally have to seek less medical help, have less doctor's visits, and have fewer prescriptions

than elderly people, who often have more severe health complications. For the program to function, they need the healthiness of the young people to offset the many medical needs of the elderly.

A problem occurring with Obamacare is that the sick people are most likely to sign up for Obamacare quickly. This skews the statistics, due to the fact that many people that have already signed up have pre-existing conditions. These sick people are more willing to work through the application process and deal with a faulty website to receive the benefits of the program.

The problems with the website and other complications with receiving Obamacare are dissuading young, healthy students from signing up, and this lack of healthy people in the program will cause insurance prices to rise for those who sign up. If enough of the healthy and young demographic does not sign up within the first year of Obamacare, the program will face grave financial problems.

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Experts



Jamie

## Standing up for going down

Jamie Pizzi

Editor-in-chief

You're watching a blockbuster at Regal Cinemas. This movie entails the typical male-female love-making scenario where the male tends to have a few years more experience under his belt than his female partner, but somehow she still knows exactly how to go through the motions like an absolute pro. She bats her eyelashes and bam--she is going down on him within a second's notice. This seemingly cavalier move is one in a million when it comes to Hollywood film plots, but when the roles are reversed, how common is it really? When you think about it, when was the last time you saw a guy go down on a girl in a major motion picture?

Typically, movies portraying a woman receiving sexual pleasure receive an NC-17 rating as opposed to the typical R rating most sexually adventurous films receive. There just tends to be more instances of women casually going down on men. The Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) does not attempt to hide the fact that films with more scenes depicting women receiving oral sex or experiencing orgasms are almost always delegated the NC-17 rating; it is actually stated quite frankly in their own by-laws. The same scene with the roles reversed is more likely

to be given a R-rating, which is also stated within their by-laws and is commonly seen within the walls of any local theater.

To any producer, receiving an NC-17 rating is the equivalent to a student having their research paper submitted to a department for potential national publication only to have it given recognition on the most basic local level—it just isn't the same. An NC-17 rating severely cuts national advertising funding and limits a film's potential audience significantly. Because of the vast weight MPAA ratings hold, most times producers tailor their films to fit into the arbitrary R-rating category as to not face certain box office defeat. Doing so entails the certain elimination of any scenes explicitly containing any ounce of female pleasure, thus perpetuating the cycle of lackluster sex for women on film.

While the implications of this misogynistic film industry rating system are hard to empirically measure, it got me thinking about how this sentiment translates into casual sex between college age students. It came to my attention that most women I know would never expect a man to go down on them during an average hookup, while the opposite tends to be much less taboo. In fact, many of them felt that receiving oral sex was reserved as a special treat and almost definitely was performed as a precursor to sex

or within committed relationships. Getting eaten out was not a casual occurrence, for lack of better terms.

Most likely, this sentiment derives its origins from patrilineal ideals that place a man's needs before that of any woman's. It may be polite for a man to hold the door for a lady in passing, but the bedroom is apparently an entirely different entity when it comes to courtesy. The social constructs that place a woman's sexual needs as second to that of a man's have perpetuated not only a movie industry that laments the faintest sign of cunnilingus, but a set of bedroom normalities that leave women as second class citizens when it comes to pleasure and the faintest trace of ecstasy.

Many women simply do not feel comfortable enough to take control between the sheets because of the many unladylike implications that accompany such behavior. However, while being a sexual trailblazer can be a daunting and even risky task, it has the propensity to land your female counterparts into a potentially better position in the future. If the MPAA currently refuses to recognize female sexual arousal as a natural aspect of the every day sexual experience, then it is up to us to reverse the misogynist practices of the past and create a more even playing field when it comes to who cums first.

## Letter to the Editor

### The Rollins Samaritan

Dear Editor,

It was a first-time-in-my-life experience on a recent Sunday in the student dining hall at Rollins College.

My wife Sally Luther and I usually park our car in a handicapped parking space two hours prior to the Bach Festival concerts, which we regularly attend. We used to arrive just in time for the concerts but found the parking spaces near the performance sites were already taken, except for one or two motorcycle parking spaces. However, Sally who is 95, (I'm 3 years her junior), doesn't trust me with a motorcycle and so we use an automobile.

At any rate, our early arrival at Rollins gives us time to eat lunch or supper (depending on the concert time) at the student restaurant with its tasty meal choices. On a recent Sunday, Sally had already gone through the pay line, and when my turn came to pay the nice cashier, she would not take my credit card. When I assured her that I hadn't yet paid, she pointed to a younger female student, who apparently had just gone through the line, and had paid for my lunch. I tried vainly to persuade the student to get a refund. She gently but firmly refused, and, after thanking her, I added that in my long life nothing like that had ever happened to me before. As it happens, I have met many students, as a professor of philosophy and as president of three colleges (or, what some students call a 'Chief Custodian of a Higher Mental Institution'). I put down my tray next to my wife, and went looking for my generous benefactress, but unfortunately she had already left.

Sally was amused and speculated that perhaps Rollins students' attention might be based on our antique appearance, like "refugees from a cemetery."

What I appreciated about the student's action was not

the money, but the generous gesture to a man who looked like a student's grandfather. Of course, Sally and I always enjoy our visits to Rollins College, with its ever-courteous students and the rich cultural programs it offers to the people of its surrounding communities. Thanks to the unexpected outreach of this unknown student, our admiration has reached a new high.

If she feels like it, I hope that the student in question will be kind enough to drop me a line, so that my wife and I could have the pleasure of at least making her acquaintance at a future time. Otherwise, I'd just continue to feel frustrated, as I did when I realized she had already left the restaurant.

P.S. On an unrelated topic, I would like to take the occasion to mention how impressed we were with the Nov. 14 *Sandspur* article by Jamie Pizzi '14, "Disenfranchised Floridians fight back." The writer pointed out (in informative detail) how 1.5 million fellow citizens of ours in Florida have lost their voting rights and related civil rights after having been sentenced and served time in prison for felony offenses. We certainly hope that today's college students will pay more attention than our generation to the political and social obligation to show compassion for those amongst us who have been unjustly disenfranchised, the vast majority of whom have lacked the privileges and economic advantages from which more fortunate people have benefited. I noted from the article that a group of Rollins students in Dr. Newcomb's senior anthropology course is cooperating with the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition on behalf of such mistreated citizens, illustrating what educated young people can do to improve our society.

- John J. Neumaier



# A Mere Experience

Amir Sadeh

Columnist



When I was a kid, I always wondered about God and the afterlife. I was obsessed with Greek mythology and was fascinated in how such an advanced civilization used elaborate stories to make sense of the world that they did not understand. Stories, in today's time, that sounded completely implausible, even to a 7-year-old. To this day the story of Demeter and Persephone is by far my favorite myth. For those who don't know the tale, it talks of Demeter, the Goddess of harvest, and how the abduction of her daughter, Persephone, explains the changing of the seasons. When I first read this story, I loved it. It was beautiful and heartbreaking, and while I knew it was completely facetious, my young mind couldn't help being more attracted to this "explanation" than the boring stuff I had learned in my science lessons about the sun and the Earth's axis. Stories such as these were used by both the Greeks and Romans to explain everything from the setting of the sun to the high tides of the sea. They were not the first and by no means the last.

By the time I was in high school, I focused less on "made-up" stories, and rather on learning more about Islam, my fam-

ily's religion. I never went to a mosque or service and my parents were not very devout, yet despite this, my mother always said "I don't care what God you believe in, I just want you to believe in God." I thought that becoming more religious would give me a sense of enlightenment and eventually belief. Yet the more I read and learned about religion in general, the less and less I could drive myself to believe these things as true. To me, their stories were no more fanciful than those of centuries before. How could the stories of Zeus, Thor, and Horus all be chalked up to ridiculous myth, yet Yahweh, Allah, and Jesus were "God's honest truth." Then one day, I stumbled upon George Carlin's comedy album "You're All Diseased":

"Religion has actually convinced people that there's an invisible man living in the sky who watches everything you do, every minute of every day. And the invisible man has a special list of ten things He does not want you to do. And if you do any of these ten things, He has a special place, full of fire and smoke and burning and torture and anguish, where He will send you to live and suffer and burn and choke and scream and cry forever and ever 'til the end of time! But He loves you."

Here was this person say-

ing all the things that I was thinking: How the concept of prayer is ridiculous if either way, it's ultimately God's Divine Plan whether your prayer gets answered or not. How people's ignorance and fear of new thinking has led to the censorship of great intellectuals and hindered scientific progress for years. And how, in the name of God, great acts of cruelty, slavery, poverty, torture, racism, and murder could all be hypocritically justified by the powers that be. I never knew that a lack of belief in God was even an option, but after listening to what Carlin had to say, it was the only thing that made sense.

Am I saying that I know I'm right? No. I would argue it is foolish for someone to claim definitively either way the answer to the question "What happens when we die?" In that sense, some would say that I am a bit agnostic; where a person neither believes nor denies the existence of a deity or deities, and that humanity lacks the knowledge to justify either belief. In the end, though, when push comes to shove, I err on the side of disbelief.

I guess I write all of this because of the time of year. During the holiday season, especially on the years when Ramadan, Hanukkah, and Christmas all happen to fall on the same

month (although not the case this year), we all go through the same awkward dance between faith and secularism. Fox News always runs their "War on Christmas" pieces, retailers are deciding whether to wish consumers "Happy Holidays" or "Merry Christmas," and we all have those two obnoxious friends; one who posts hundreds of statuses quoting scripture like they are Taylor Swift lyrics, and the other who feels the need to rudely comment about how the first person is an "idiot" for believing in "fairy tales."

I'm not saying that there is one specific way to celebrate this season. As I mentioned in last week's column, these holidays are so commercialized that anyone can celebrate them. People have asked me for years if I celebrate Christmas, and I have no problem in saying that I, in fact, do. Hell, my mother has told me that if she had known how to celebrate Hanukkah when my brother and I were growing up, we probably would have done both!

What I am trying to say is that, no matter what you believe, there is only one true reason why we celebrate these holidays. It's our time to celebrate love: Loving our neighbors, our friends, our families, and the fact that we are alive on this earth for one more day to enjoy

it all. Love for her lost daughter is what drives Demeter to sadness is the reason we have winter. In the end, we may have absolutely no idea what happens when we drop dead, but at least we can all agree that it's truly a gift not only to be alive, but to live a relatively good life with the ones we love.

I use the holidays as an analogy for our whole lives. The meaning of life is to live. Live in the most fulfilling way you can. It doesn't matter what you think will happen when it all ends, so as long as your beliefs don't harm or hinder your fellow man. If this is the case, then I see no problem in your beliefs. It's easy to judge and it can be uncomfortable to be confronted with opposing ideologies, but that is the essence of life. We are challenged so we can grow as people and learn that just because others have found different ways to answer the question, that doesn't mean their answer is wrong. In the words of Carl Sagan, "We on Earth have just awakened to the great oceans of space and time from which we have emerged. We are the legacy of 15 billion years of cosmic evolution. We have a choice: We can enhance life and come to know the universe that made us, or we can squander our 15 billion-year heritage in meaningless self-destruction." Which will you choose?







# Buying your way through the holidays

Lexi Mackle

Writer

I think it is safe to say consumerism is at an all time high this year as a largely anticipated "Black Friday" has come and gone. I know this because I am one of many retail workers (worse, a manager) who consider herself a "victim" of the holiday season greed.

But 'tis the season! It is the job after all. Or is it? Twelve years ago, when I first began in this industry, working minimum wage part-time at a local mall, I accepted the requirement of working the holiday season. Not the holiday.

But here we are, and here

I am, as I have graduated from local mall to Orlando Premium Outlet, the highest volume outlet mall, where shoppers can now get their shopping done on Christmas and Thanksgiving Day.

John Gray, news reporter for Fox 23, couldn't have said it any better, condemning shopping during the holiday: "It saddens me that the workers at these stores and malls will have to leave their families on Thanksgiving and run to a job to provide for those families."

Now, I am well aware there are other professions that are very used to staying open to the public during Thanksgiving and Christmas Day—i.e.

Disney, hotels, restaurants. However, hospitality requires service different from the retail service. Having a measly Sunglass Hut or Journeys shoe store open on a day like Christmas caters and condones the greed we as a society are enlarging, resulting in the ignorance to a day we, as a nation, can agree to take a day off and spend it with family and friends.

The pressure of the economic ramifications steer the decisions of corporate companies. Keeping open on days like these, they hope this will be an opportune time to cash in on missed profits or holes in their quarter, last year comparables, monthly, weekly sales, etc. The

mall institutions themselves find the most profit as it caters to their international customers. They adopt this Field of Dreams epiphany that "If you build it, they will come," convinced that foreigners from all over the globe would catch wind of this un-holy concept and travel afar to spend their currency at Nike, while Americans spend holidays at home.

The mundane shopping experience has now turned into the Tickle-Me-Elmo craze of '96 and customers now greet retail stores at all hours of the night on the day to give thanks (thanks to the midnight madness of the outlet mall) to take full advantage of any holiday sales, pum-

eling through crowds and parking like the Cabbage Patch Doll of '88 is about to sell out.

The sick part about all this as a retail worker is we are used to it. This country runs on the conceptual metaphor that "time is money" and take, take, take is the only way to view the holidays.

So, a piece of advice from someone on the front lines: we are not going to run out of stock so you can walk, not run; and if you are waiting until Christmas Day to buy your special someone a gift, it's a sure bet Santa has already beaten you to it and you definitely have proven to be ignorant of the meaning of Christmas.

## Dear Santa,

All I want this holiday season is...

"Nothing, I have everything I need."

Anna Reagan '17

"For people to be happy."

Avery Mendel '17

"To be back home with my family and friends."

William Boushie '17

"Food, good food, also a hooker to pop out of a cake."

Dylan Allen '16



# Rollins could use more like Moore

Rollins Professor Dr. Thomas Moore was recently named Florida's 2013 U.S. Professor of the Year, and his students understand why.

Lauren Silvestri

Public Relations Coordinator

Recently, Rollins College was ranked number 8 on Rate-MyProfessors.com due to the superior quality of its faculty. Now Dr. Thomas Moore, professor in the Physics department, was named the Florida winner of the 2013 U.S. Professors of the Year award. The award is sponsored by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, and focuses on the following criteria: impact on and involvement with undergraduate students; scholarly approach to teaching and learning; contributions to undergraduate education in the institution, community and profession; and support from colleagues and current and former students.

Moore grew up in Florida and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Physics from Stetson University. "I always had a lifelong passion for physics," he said. After graduation, he spent twenty-one years in the army, first as a commander during the height of the Cold

War, and then working behind the scenes with his physics background. He taught science courses at West Point Academy where he first realized his love for teaching. He decided to pursue a Masters at the Naval Point Academy and PhD at the University of Rochester, and afterwards found a position at Rollins College, where he has been a professor for fifteen years. "I specifically looked for a position where I could do research with undergraduates," he says. "It's where you can make a difference." Moore has published many papers with students as co-collaborators. He also adds that teaching at a large research university would "not nearly be as much fun. It's more important to have fun than to have fame or fortune."

Students who have had the privilege of working with Moore start to share his enthusiasm for physics. "Over the summer we focused on the piano and why it sounds the way it does, specifically looking at the longitudinal waves in the piano strings," explains Michelle Rokni '16. "Having the opportunity

to do research with Dr. Moore is amazing. He is extremely knowledgeable and at the same time able to explain concepts in a way that makes sense. I am so

**"I'm clearly not the best professor at Rollins or in Florida, but all I did was take advantage of the opportunities Rollins gives me. This award is not really about me, but about Rollins."**

**-Dr. Moore**

glad that I get to work with one of the best everyday." Another student, Nikki Etchenique '15, adds, "Dr. Moore is one of the most passionate professors I've

ever had; he cares more about his students learning the material rather than just working for an acceptable grade and pushes us further than we knew we could go. He never answers a question with an answer, only ever with more questions."

Moore focuses on the physics of musical instruments, and often collaborates with other departments on campus. Last year, he collaborated with the art and music departments for an Honors class where students made their own instruments. Moore called the experience "great, a lot of work but it's always a lot of fun to collaborate outside of your field." Moore also has an ongoing collaboration with the Vienna School of Music in Austria.

Moore was also one of the main faculty members that pushed Rollins to move forward with renovating the Bush building, and he contributed to its new design. He called the experience "very personal" and he is happy with the results, and what's still left to come.

After years of accomplishments in his field, Moore re-



R-net

mains humble and true to the values that made him want to come to a small undergraduate liberal arts school in the first place.

Despite being "extremely honored" by the award, Moore emphasizes that he believes most professors at Rollins deserve similar titles. "I'm clearly not the best professor at Rollins or in Florida," he modestly admits, "but all I did was take advantage of the opportunities Rollins gives me. This award is not really about me, but about Rollins."

## From India to Rollins

New exchange program plans for students from Jindal Global University in India to spend two years on campus.

Micah Bradley

Writer

Rollins College is planning a new program that would allow students from India to attend Rollins for their final two years of undergraduate education; their first two years would be at Jindal Global University (JGU). The program is set to begin in 2016, but it is still in its planning stages.

There has been plenty of contact between the two universities. The Vice Chancellor of Jindal visited Rollins last year, and a group of faculty from Rollins visited their campus in India in May. A group of faculty from Jindal Global College will be visiting Rollins again in early December. During this visit, both colleges will give presentations and sign a memorandum for the new program.

JGU is a relatively young

university. The first class of this partnership program will begin at JGU in fall of 2014, and enter Rollins in the fall of 2016. It is a four year, dual-degree program. The expected participation is 30 students a year, with around 60 Indian students on Rollins' campus at a time. Once enrolled in the program, attendance at Rollins is required. Upon their arrival for their first year at Jindal, the students will be given a Rollins advisor, to help smooth their transition between schools and countries. Dr. Jonathan Walz said that this will "help give them an identity at Rollins, before they even get here."

The potential curriculum planned for the exchange students is very diverse. Many different departments have worked together to come up with acceptable curriculum requirements, focusing on the liberal arts. However, it is

proposed that the exchange students will become fully integrated as true participants on the Rollins campus—there will be no exchange student exclusive classes or exclusive dormitories. As of now, there are no anticipated housing problems or meal plan issues for the new students. The program is also working with Dean Powers to make sure that any of the exchange students that wish to take part in religious ceremonies will be able to do so.

Most Indian students are more Americanized than we might expect. Their high schools have IB programs, and they are often active participants in social media. It is vital to allow these students to experience the "real" America. As Dr. Jayashree Shivamoggi said, "These kids are going to be very aware of American culture, if anything we need to straighten them of all those

stereotypes and prejudices. To them, America means what they see on TV, and the music they hear... so that is what informs their knowledge of the US, and so I feel like when they come here, they will get a better understanding of what we are about."

Currently, the exchange program only works one way—with students from India coming to Rollins. Though there are currently no plans for Rollins students to study at Jindal Global University, a new study abroad program might become a reality with enough student interest.

It is important to realize that the JGU is a very prestigious university, and it is common for many good American colleges to have exchange programs with colleges in India. Dr. Walz pointed out that this new program "raises the visibility of Rollins College," and

Dr. Shivamoggi said that we are "following a global trend in higher education."

Dr. Walz believes that the program will be beneficial to both Rollins students and Jindal students and said, "It will help to further internationalize the campus—lending greater diversity to our student body. Through the interactions with these students while they are on campus, I imagine the perspectives of American Rollins students to be expanded." Dr. Shivamoggi agrees, and commented on the preparedness of the Jindal students, "I am actually completely expecting them to raise the bar for the students here. So, I think it would be really beneficial for Rollins students to have them here on campus. Because these students are not scared to work, and they are not scared to be challenged, I think it will be a win-win for everyone."



# Esquire couple teaches on top of the world

Catharine Skipp

Writer

When someone thinks of practicing law, few imagine Mount Everest or the rolling plains of India. But in the beautiful country of Nepal, you'll find Rollins College and University of Miami School of Law alumna Leah Statkus Mueller, with her husband, Jake Mueller, using their legal education every day at work. "We love living abroad and that was a great part of the appeal to us when we applied to join the Foreign Service," says Mueller.

The husband and wife esquire team moved to Nepal in November 2011, to accept jobs with the United States Agency for International Development, or USAID. USAID is an independent agency that works in

over 100 countries to provide economic development and humanitarian assistance in support of the foreign policy goals of the U.S., all while spending less than 1 percent of the total federal budget.

"We use the analytical skills, critical thinking, and writing skills we learned in law school every day. In particular, our administrative law course with Professor Copeland has proved invaluable as we are now the government employees that we read about in that course," says Mueller, a Financial Management Officer responsible for safeguarding U.S. Government funds. Statkus Mueller works as a Democracy and Governance Specialist, focusing on conflict management, especially in peace-building efforts with the Government of

Nepal.

But living in Nepal is just another international stop for the 2009 law graduates, who both spent time serving in the Peace Corps together prior to attending law school and working in Haiti following the 2010 earthquake.

As HOPE Fellows and a Miami Scholar, Statkus Mueller says that she and her husband were able to discover even more opportunities available to them in public service following graduation. They encourage all law students to keep an open mind. "Be willing to take risks to follow your interests, your law degree will always be an asset."

So far the couple says the landscape has been an incredible place to work, and people in Nepal have been more than



Catharine Skipp

**TARS TEACH NEPALIS** Rollins alumni enjoy the scenery in their off time. Nepal welcomed the esquire couple and their one year old baby in 2011.

inviting, especially to the couple's one year old. As Mueller says, "It's been great! Nepal absolutely love children and there are many families here with kids around the same age. We are happy to be able to provide him with so many diverse experiences."

Both hope to spend their

career working with USAID's Foreign Service and to continue traveling the world and putting their law degree to good use. "We learned that we really have picked the right career path for us. The investment in our legal education was worthwhile and the degree will continue to appreciate over time."

## A Gap in communication

Kaitlyn Alkass

Head Copy Editor

If there were ever a microcosm of upper-middle class American consumerism, it's Park Avenue. Complete with high end boutique stores such as Alex and Ani that sell bracelets and bangles at \$45 a pop and restaurants such as Luma, one could argue that this is where "the other half" shops and dines. While the Gap on the corner of Park next to Starbucks is certainly not exclusively limited to clothing the wealthy, it does not scream the word "diversity."

This is why I was caught off guard when stepping out of Powerhouse Café (tabbouleh and hummus in hand, no less) to see a large ad campaign featuring a Sikh man complete with a turban and beard modeling next to a gorgeous, presumably Middle Eastern or Indian woman. I was intrigued. The Gap brand has always been that of capturing the quintessential essence of Americana embodied by white, black and Asian Americans, even putting forth philanthropic efforts with their noteworthy Red campaign which directly benefits the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tu-

berculosis and Malaria. However, never has the Gap put forth a campaign that ventured toward any stance or possible statement regarding the precarious territory that surrounds religion, especially a non-Christian denomination in a predominantly Christian nation.

Naturally, I went inside the store to ask if their campaign was for a bigger cause. I was met with frank indifference by the store manager, who clearly thought I was a racist. My inquiring as to if there was a specific reason that a Sikh man be featured in the ad campaign was met with the icy rebuttal of "Our theme for the campaign is textured and cozy knits for the holiday season." Textured and cozy knits? I continued, asking if the Sikh man was a prominent religious leader or celebrity. He looked at me with mild disgust and retorted, "He's just one of our models, ma'am." At that, he promptly turned and began folding his textured, cozy knits. Have we become so terrified of coming off as politically incorrect that we have chosen to ignore diversity altogether? My questions were not from a place of hatred, but from the understanding of the reality that we do live in a racially charged

society and many Americans garner misguided feelings of suspicion toward anyone who appears to be Middle Eastern or Muslim. Furthermore, I pictured the reaction the ad must be rendering in stores worldwide where the turban is forbidden, not to mention recent national headlines of individuals writing racial slurs on the ad itself.

The campaign coincides directly with an increased trend of violence against Sikhs in the U.S. Just this past September, Columbia University Professor Prabhjot Singh, a Sikh man who lives in Harlem, was attacked by a group of young men. While Singh sustained punches to his face and upper body, they shouted "get Osama" and "terrorist." The attack received rampant media coverage and was labeled a "mistaken identity" hate crime, because it was actually intended for a Muslim. I have two issues with this. One, that this blatantly points out the ignorance of Americans to believe that Sikhism is a sect of Islam and incorrectly associate all turbans with Osama bin Laden. In fact, a study released in September by Stanford University indicated that 70 percent of Americans mistake all

turban-wearers for Muslims. Second, the term "mistaken identity" suggests that there is a respectable target for hate crimes. The hate crime would not have been any more justified had Singh been in fact, Muslim.

I clearly wasn't going to get any substantial information from the employees at the Gap. I first searched the Gap website and did not find the turbaned man anywhere, only pictures of perky white men and women jumping in their sweaters and slim fit jeans. If the Gap was supposedly putting out a national ad campaign promoting diversity, wouldn't they post such information on their website?

After additional research, I learned that the elusive man in the turban is acclaimed actor/designer/model Waris Ahluwalia. Ahluwalia was born near Punjab, India and moved to New York at age five. He now has a fashion company, House of Waris that is based in New York that specializes in distinctive jewelry pieces.

While I commend the Gap for making a brave decision in selecting a turbaned and bearded Sikh celebrity to adorn their ads, I do think they

should make the reasoning behind their decision accessible to the public, especially their employees. If the employees of the store, arguably the forefront of the Gap image, cannot promote diversity and be educated in their own product, how can their goals of equality and acceptance of diversity ever be achieved?

Instead of being met with blatant irritation by these Gap employees, it would have been better that they know the name of the models, and informed me that Sikhism is a monotheistic religion. Rather than being rebuffed, should they not have informed me that the turban is known as the dastar, an article of faith which symbolizes dedication, self-respect, and courage?

The Gap had conceivably respectable intentions, but should strengthen their approach in educating Americans that the turban is not extraneous cultural paraphernalia that can be used for racial profiling. Questioning the presence of a model that is atypical of the usual Gap campaign does not make me a racist or Islamophobic, but an inquisitive global citizen who is curious of her surroundings.



# Philanthropic dream team combats poverty

Recently, many philanthropists have made a positive impact by pledging to donate their fortunes. However, their donations come with more than just good intentions.

Lauren Waymire

Writer

Bill and Melinda Gates have long been making news with their tireless efforts in philanthropic causes, from healthcare to poverty reduction to information technology. The Gates family alone has donated an estimated \$28 billion to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the largest private foundation in the world. In a recent report on 60 Minutes, however, it was not just the couple's billions that had everyone buzzing, but what they were convincing other billionaires to do with their fortunes.

The Giving Pledge, made public in 2010, is a campaign created by the Gates couple, along with billionaire businessman Warren Buffet, to encourage the world's wealthiest people to donate most of their fortune to philanthropy. Bill and Melinda Gates have pledged to donate 95% of their wealth; Warren Buffet, 99%. The list of those who have committed includes Virgin's Richard Branson and his wife, Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg, and others. The list currently stands at 115 individuals and families and amounts to an estimated half a trillion dollars.

Philanthropy of this magnitude has accomplished unbelievable amounts; the

work of the Gates family alone has made huge strides in the worldwide push for the eradication of polio. There are expressed concerns, however, that giving on this scale has allowed philanthropists to wield an immense amount of power.

An essay published this year from George Washington University highlights the increasing influence that philanthropists have in

policy making. Assistant professor and author Jasmine McGinnis, argues that decisions made in public philanthropic partnerships do not reflect broad enough insights and perspectives. A prominent example of this mentioned in the dissertation is the partnership between the Gates Foundation and the Department of Education; it has been

widely criticized for having too much influence in educational policy making. The piece went on to suggest that "accountability mechanisms" be put into place for the purpose of structuring philanthropic involvement and including the public more in decision making.

As they say, "money is power," and

I doubt it will change anytime soon. The things that philanthropists like the Gates family have been able to accomplish over the years are projects that many could only dare to think of in their dizziest daydreams. I say more power to them.



## All the thrills of sex, minus the babies and STDs

Paige Timmermann

Writer

Everybody knows that "safe sex" consists of some sort of protection and precautions. After all, we are too young to get preggo, right? Well, even though the era of "Sex, Drugs, and Rock & Roll" has long passed, the "sex" portion of our generation has taken more of a risky approach. Most alarmingly, the title on a recently published article on the province.com stated that, "Just half of Canadian university students

use a condom during sex."

What gives? Have teenagers not learned from health class that the infamous "pull out method" is not fully reliable, and that pre-ejaculate (or pre-cum, the common term) can knock you up?

According to the article, around 72% of all 1,500 college students surveyed admitted to sexual intercourse in the past year, with only 51% of those claiming to use protection. This means, in essence, that our generation is at greater risk for teenage pregnancies as well as

sexually transmitted diseases. It is even noted that the rates of chlamydia and gonorrhea have increased over the past decade, with most of the reported cases being people aged 15 to 29 years old.

As a teenager myself, I can say we believe we are invincible—no matter how reckless we are. This is a dangerous way of thinking, though. If the pull out method is done normally (AKA not always perfectly), plannedparenthood.com reports a rate of 27 in 100 women getting pregnant each year. Along with

the pregnancy surprise comes STDs as well, which, if you fail to use a condom, can be easily contracted in college. Let's not forget about the one night stand situations where one might not know the past sexual history of their partner. I am sure it is awkward to say to the girl/guy you are about to sleep with: "Hey, uhhhhh, do you have a sexually transmitted disease? Because if you do that would really kill these vibes here." Are they always going to tell you if they have something going on down there if they really want

to get laid? Highly doubtful.

This is why condoms are so important. Not only do they prevent pregnancy, but they also protect you against the "other stuff" as well. Yes, risks can be so much fun! Who doesn't love living on the edge, right? But if you are a risk/adrenaline junkie, go skydiving or whatever else makes you go, "Wooh!" So, guys, let's wrap it up. That way, you will not have to juggle an unplanned child or STD and college at the same time—that is just some unwanted multi-tasking right there.



# *hinsel* **TALK**

## So you want to be famous?

The road to fame may be easier than you think. With these five steps, you'll be one step closer to the spotlight.

Chris Sarafian

Columnist

Have you always dreamed of performing on a stage in front of thousands of screaming fans? Have you ever wanted to strut down a red carpet? Do you want to be that girl who trips while walking up the stairs to receive an Oscar?

Unfortunately, not everybody "makes it big." Thousands of hopeful actors and actresses flock to Hollywood or New York with dreams of starring in films alongside the likes of Angelina Jolie, Bradley Cooper, and Gabourey Sidibe. Sadly, not everyone's fame-related aspirations take flight. Though, some do hover—perhaps one day, you'll book an online commercial for Sweet Tarts. Better than nothing, right?

The life of the aspiring celebrity (whether that be the singer, the actor, the comedian, or the porn star) is not an easy one. Some make it. Some don't. That's the harsh reality. Perhaps you'll be told during your first Hollywood audition that you don't have the face for film.

You can easily buffer this by citing Sarah Jessica Parker's career and financial success.

So, just how does one make it? How do you go from bussing tables at a Calabasas Chili's to starring in a TV-movie opposite Melissa Joan Hart? Here are some hints, tips, and facts about how to become the star you've always wanted to be.

### 1. Be In the Right Place at the Right Time:

Natalie Portman was discovered in a pizzeria. Jennifer Lawrence, in a family restaurant in New York. Rosario Dawson, on a stoop. A lot of the time, people get discovered based on pure luck. The hefty, old man who keeps staring at you could possibly be a renowned talent scout (or, he could just be a pervert).

Luck and chance play a huge role in getting roles. These scouts purposely people-watch as a means of stocking their talent arsenals. So, keep cracking those inappropriate jokes while in line for Chipotle. Don't be afraid to dance ridiculously at that SoHo nightclub. And if someone random strikes up

a conversation with you, for Christ's sake, be friendly. You never know who it is. It could be a guy who works at Home Depot. It could be the same talent scout that discovered Jennifer Lawrence. Which leads to my next point—

### 2. Don't be an A-Hole:

Look, if you're living out in L.A. or New York, always pretend like someone important is watching. Most likely, a talent scout will trail after the friendly, sunny girl rather than the insufferable snoot. Treat everyone with respect—I mean, this should be a general rule applicable to all mankind. But, in the fame game, you never know who you're talking to. So, don't immediately brush that old guy off. He could be your ticket to hosting the VMAs.

### 3. Have Talent:

This one's a given. Have something you're good at. The casting directors of that Advil commercial aren't expecting you to be Meryl Streep, but it's still important to give them your best. Regardless of what you want to do, there are always lessons available. Your

acting skills are subpar? Take a class. Not sure if you have a decent singing voice? Videotape yourself. Become the best that you can be—thousands of other people are chasing the same dreams as you. Stand out.

### 4. Keep Going:

The road to fame is a bumpy one. It's not overnight. Hell, it's not even as magical as #1 makes it out to be. Unfortunately, the chances of you getting discovered on a stoop are pretty slim. Slim, but not impossible. Your dream could take years to reach. It's important to be patient in the process. Just keep going. Keep auditioning. Keep practicing. Keep bettering yourself. Don't let rejection sting—everyone gets tossed from an audition. Every celebrity in Hollywood has been denied at least once.

### 5. The Magic of the Internet:

Haven't we all heard of Jenna Marbles? She's a Youtuber who videotapes herself (and her dogs) being ridiculous. This "Youtuber" has millions of fans and followers. Mostly every young adult in today's society

knows who she is. How? The Internet. Jenna's fame is off the charts—she's even been offered her own TV show (which she politely declined, stating that Youtube is her home). The Internet is the perfect venue for you to display your talent and personality. So many comedians have been discovered on Twitter. Likewise, singers get plucked up from Youtube on the daily. So, cover that Katy Perry song and upload it. You never know who'll watch it.

So, if you want to be famous, go for it. Live out that dream. You only get one life. Don't be that person who has to live out their failed aspirations through their children (lookin' at you, Dina Lohan). Do what you have to do to make your dreams a reality (corny, I know). Take the steps you need and want to take. Don't let anyone hold you back (whether that be a producer or your own mother). It's your life and you've only got one. Every celebrity out there never knew they'd actually make it. Don't feel discouraged. It's a hard goal to reach, but not an impossible one.



## Café for hipsters

If you are looking for a quaint atmosphere, Stardust café is the right place. With indie music and ironically named food, you are guaranteed an experience you will want to repeat.

Lauren Cooper

Writer

Granted, the building was made of concrete and not celestial matter, but the place is still out of this world. When I want to escape, I find it far more relaxing to ease up on my wallet and heels in exchange for solid music and good company. I may stumble into Austin's Coffee, or grab some lunch and hit the dock with some pals. But, either way, I'm going out for atmosphere. Stardust Video & Coffee, in this respect, has earned its name for being all atmosphere.

Having finished a group mobile app project for International Business, my group decided it necessary to reward ourselves with an outing. Especially on a weeknight, when Stardust was having comedy starting at 9:23 PM. So, we did, and we got a night to remember. Consistent with online reviews (3.9 on Urbanspoon, 4 on Yelp) and my outlandish expectations, the interior

was fantastic: classic books, records, and lights lining every surface. The café is walk-in and you order at the main counter—this also provides the opportunity to get take-out as necessary. As usual, I was the last to order: soy hot chocolate and a grinderman sandwich (chicken, pesto, hot sauce, and goat cheese). It

Pedro," and "Ironie Slogan." Like Napoleon, it's dynamite. Anyone with a craving for good food for eating and for thought can immediately feel at home here. Sunday brunch from 11-3PM is also a fan-favorite giving new selections every week.

As the night progressed, an array of indie and alternative music played. Lanterns were strung above the dining room, with flowers and plants in cans served as quaint center-

**Anyone with a craving for good food for eating and for thought can immediately feel at home here.**

pieces. If Tumblr, Pinterest, and Instagram had a culinary lovechild: it would nestle with various teas in a French press in the trendy cave of Stardust. Facial hair is optional.

As for the comedians, they just added to the diverse and personal experience of a Stardust trip. The night offered a bucket of stories and the memories made were tied together by a grade-A hole in the wall. The seven minute drive to Stardust is well

was perfect. Even my friend who ordered a Caesar salad was impressed. Make sure to bring dollars for the photo booth and maybe a few for food, because the prices are affordable and quality. Think Farmer's Market meets Starbucks. There is a variety of sandwiches, salads, teas, "booze snacks and random fare" and accommodating Vegan options. The foods have great names such as 'Eddie's Speedo', "Vote for

pieces. If Tumblr, Pinterest, and Instagram had a culinary lovechild: it would nestle with various teas in a French press in the trendy cave of Stardust. Facial hair is optional.



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## Finals Schedule

Exam Times	MONDAY December 9	TUESDAY December 10	THURSDAY December 12	FRIDAY December 13
8:00a.m. - 10:00a.m.	11:00a.m., T R	8:00a.m., T R	11:00a.m., M W F	10:00a.m., M W F
11:00a.m. - 1:00p.m.	1:00p.m., M W F 1:30p.m., M W 2:00p.m., M W F	9:00a.m., M W F	1:30p.m., M W	8:00a.m., M W F
2:00p.m. - 4:00p.m.	12 noon, M W	2:00p.m., T R	3:30p.m., T R	9:30a.m., T R
5:00p.m. - 7:00p.m.	Make-Ups Only	Make-Ups Only	Make-Ups Only	3:00p.m., M W