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2-13-2014

Sandspur, Vol 120, No 16, February 13, 2014

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Rollins College, "Sandspur, Vol 120, No 16, February 13, 2014" (2014). *The Rollins Sandspur*. 1988.
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The Sandspur

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NIEMAN MARCUS

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By Micah Bradley

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The Sandspur Editorial Staff extends an invitation to all readers to attend weekly article assignment meetings every Monday at 6 p.m. In order to be considered for publication, the name of the author must be included.

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

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

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Winter Park, FL 32789

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WHERE in the WORLD

Compiled by Lauren Waymire

Tasmania, Australia

Scientists are currently trying to classify a new, giant species of jellyfish that washed belly-up on the shores of Tasmania last month. The jellyfish, about five feet wide, is one of three species of the largest kind of "jellies" and is only found off the coast of southern Tasmania. *Cyanea*, the genus that this jellyfish falls into, also contains the Lion's Mane jellyfish, a creature that can reach a diameter of ten feet. According to Australian scientists, there has been an unexplained increase in the amount of jellyfish in the area in the last few years.

London, England

British Prime Minister Da-

vid Cameron has begun his formal campaign to persuade Scotland to remain part of the United Kingdom. He chose the London 2012 Olympics as the backdrop for his campaign, citing the successes of Scottish athletes that competed for Team GB in 2012, such as gold medalists Sir Chris Hoy and Andy Murray. Scottish Independence would mean a host of economic, military, and border problems for the United Kingdom. A recent poll showed a slight increase (from 32% to 37%) of those who support Scottish independence. Scotland will vote in September on the issue.

Mogadishu, Somalia

Children that were once

forced to roam the streets in Somalia are now being offered an education at the best price - free. A new government-run program called Go2School, seeking to provide free elementary school to at least one million children, has already enrolled 35,000 students in 16 schools throughout the country.

The UN has urged the country to keep the donor-funded program running to boost the extremely low school attendance rate. Currently, only about 42% of Somali children attend school, and only a third of that population is female.

Tehran, Iran

The Iranian President's brother, Hossein Fereydoon,

walked into Iran's only Jewish hospital on February 6th to deliver a donation of \$400,000 from the government. The donation came with a promise from the Health Ministry that they would pay more attention to hospitals serving Jewish and Christian Iranians.

President Rouhani has taken a different route from his predecessor, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who denied the Holocaust ever took place. Iran is currently home to the largest Jewish population in the Middle East outside Israel. Rouhani, elected in 2013, has also worked to improve women's rights and diplomatic relations with other countries.

Politics emerge at Sochi opening

Hannah Blitzer

Writer

The Winter Olympics finally kicked off at the Fisht Olympic Stadium in Sochi on Friday, February 7. The event was visually appealing, historical, and seemed to attempt to veer away from politics (for the most part).

Russia's most popular pop duo, t.a.t.u. returned to close the opening ceremony pre-show, a suitable "blast from the past" and nod to Russian pop culture. The organizers of the ceremony took a predominantly intellectual and visually appealing approach to the performances; information was given about the Russian alphabet, we got to watch ballet renditions of Leo Tolstoy's "War and Peace," and dancers performed a modern dance synchronized to Tchaikovsky's masterpiece, "Swan Lake."

Despite the beautiful and dazzling artistry of the ceremony, it was disappointing to see people still focusing on political messages and tensions. The International Olympic Committee (I.O.C.) President, Thomas Bach, delivered a speech that was, without a doubt, directed at Russia's treatment of homosexual individuals and recent anti-gay laws.

He stated that the Olympics are about "tolerance, not discrimination," and pleaded politicians to, "have the courage to address your disagreements in a peaceful, direct political dialogue and not on the backs of these athletes."

NBC also worked in subtle political messages during their filming of the ceremony, such as when the Ukrainian athletes made their way through the procession during the parade of nations. As the athletes were

walking across the stage, the camera quickly turned to President Putin to see if he would react.

The historical lesson given in the ceremony was accurate and well done for the most part, except for the fact that it omitted some of Russia's darker times, especially the reign of Stalin. They seem to have erased him from their history - or at least this historical account.

Another minor fault with the opening ceremony was the technical mishap involving the appearance of the Olympic rings. They were shaped like snowflakes and gracefully floated down to the stage, except for the fifth and final one.

Instead of opening to form a ring, it remained in the closed, snowflake shape. It was certainly an awkward technical glitch, but luckily the Russian national anthem followed immediately

after and salvaged the faux pas. Russian television stations used the time delay to show five fully open rings, making most at home viewers in the country unaware of the mishap.

But, back to the athletics. As of Tuesday, February 11, Norway is in first place in the medal standings with 11 total: 4 gold, 3 silver, and 4 bronze. Canada and the United States follow in second and third place with 9 and 7 medals respectively.

The United States has won two gold medals in snowboarding (slopestyle), one silver in freestyle skating, and four bronze in figure skating, freestyle skating, skiing, and luge.

There are many events to look forward to this week including the biathlon and curling. Some of the air times are early in the morning, but they are worth checking out if you happen to be awake!

Plugging in and out with technology in the classroom

While many of us have grown accustomed to typing instead of writing our notes, it's possible that technology, by providing access to the Internet in class, hinders our learning process.

Ana Suarez

Writer

I am sitting in my class with Professor Smaw, when the girl in front of my desk pulls out her laptop, the way she does every day. She opens Word and sets up a page for notes. Nothing strange. In the middle of class though, my eyes dart over her shoulder to see her change from taking notes to socializing with several of her friends on Facebook. I am sitting there behind her, stumped, wondering how she can multitask without any worry of missing key information from the professor. However, and more importantly, as I sit there watching, I cannot help but feel a little offended for Smaw, who stands in front of us every other day, spending his time instructing us. Will she get an A? Will she deserve an A? Although intriguing questions, what I want to know is how other professors feel about students and their laptops, or any technology for that matter, in class.

The instructor for Health and Wellness, Dena Pistor, has an open discussion at the start

of every semester for each new class about how addicted my generation is to social media through every technological outlet possible. She asks us if we can go a day without checking our Facebook's ten times and if we can leave our phones behind rather than bring them to class and everyone raises their hands in belief that we can do it—that we can go a whole

“ .. our bodies had been taken over by the machines!

day without them. However, at the next class, she asks out of all of us whether or not we succeeded. Only one girl raises her hand with the rest of us admitting what power these forms of social media have over us. It was kind of a blow, and I could feel how uncomfortable everyone felt. It was as if we all knew

that our bodies had been taken over by the machines!

In classes where teachers, like Professor Phillip Deaver of the English Department, allow computers, I asked him how he felt about students and their laptops. “When it comes to writing prompts, for my class, it's fine. Most students use them to take notes and write anyway. But I am livid when I stroll around and see a student online when I'm trying to tell them how to write a story.”

Professor Deaver is right when he says that some students really do need their laptops to take notes in class—I'm one of those students for a few of my classes where the lectures aren't provided in notes, and writing by hand too difficult to keep up. On the other hand, I cannot even seem to keep myself every once in a while from checking my “Likes” when a teacher is not looking.

In response to the overwhelming use and abuse of laptops, some professors, like Pistor, will give us students fair warning, saying that if she catches any of us on social media, the whole class will lose computer privileges. If you think that's bad, then you might want to check out Professor Personette, Professor Ruiz, and scores of other professors on campus, who have omitted computers in their classes completely.

The professors who do allow computers, like Deaver, believe it's your time and money wasted when distracted in class, whether it be by your phone, laptop or iPad. But let's forget about ourselves for a minute. The person at the front of the class, who spent years getting their degree and have chosen to teach you so that you can know as much as them deserves your respect.

And maybe that means leaving the laptop in the dorm, or at least waiting those fifty minutes until class is over.



Becky

Sex overseas

Rebecca Wilson

Writer

More than sixty percent of Rollins students go abroad before they graduate, so the actual majority of students deal with some insane changes and challenges, including, for many, a four-month detour in their sex lives. It's either a wild experience of foreign love or several months of pining for your significant other. I argue that this is the dichotomy that people seem to assume is happening but is not truly the case. The reality is much more complicated.

First, everyone thinks that you should break up with your boring American partner and free yourself up unless this is the person you are going to marry. Anyone who has been abroad would probably tell you it's really not that black and white. Shit relationships do not survive distance so well. You're completely wrapped up in a new life and new adventure; it takes brainpower and is emotionally taxing to miss someone everyday for four whole months. What are you really missing when you stay in a relationship and do not hook up with locals or other people on your program? That depends on you. Staying with your significant other can be the right thing, but only if you do it for the right reasons, and that reason does not have to be that you are going to marry them. It simply means they are worth your investment.

If you are single and choose to um...engage the culture, you are in for some interesting boundary navigation. If you are studying in a country where English is not the primary language spoken, navigating consent is a barrier you should be concerned with. Attraction definitely transcends language borders, but how can you clearly communicate that you just want oral, you only like your left nipple pinched, or even basics like ask someone to wear a condom in a language you don't speak? Movies give us this romantic

and exotic ideal that your bodies will come together magically and tangle in ecstasy. This is not true in America and it is not true in other parts of the world.

So being vocal and active in your sexual decisions becomes even more important, crucial in fact. Women tend to not be as vocal about what they want in bed because of the different socialization around sex we receive, and not being vocal about what you do and don't want often leads to crossed boundaries in the bedroom. So when your head is spinning from the foreign alcohol and the sexy accent someone is hitting on you with, try to use your voice. It is awkward to have miscommunication around sex to begin with and if your partner literally does not know what you are asking for, it is even trickier. So pull out some sign language and put some hands where you want them. Oui, Si, Ne, Ja, Sim, Ndiyo, Yego, if you are feeling yes say it, and if things are not going how you want them to when you are hooking up, make that as clear as you can. It won't be as seamless as we think it should go, but go to new lengths to explain what your yeses are and you'll be participating in your own pleasure even more.

In a new cultural context we are left with not only boundary questions but more questions surrounding hookup and dating culture. Some places you're golden, practices are the same as the US, and some places sleeping together once means you're in a relationship which can be a big wake up call. In any case, no matter whom you do or don't do abroad, you'll have some interesting stories and learn a lot about either the relationship you left behind or the new ones you're forging. The cliché is that you'll learn about yourself abroad, and while you'll do some soul searching on your own, you're going to be learning about yourself through relationships with people; which can be messy whether or not you're naked.

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Night students wish to see daylight

While Rollins claims to be an inclusive institution, some Holt Students feel segregated from the day benefits the college offers. Health services and Fox Day are clear examples of the isolation.

Laura Doncel

Writer

When I began attending Rollins in Fall 2011, as many students do every year, I went to Rollins Health Services to make an appointment. There I was informed by a staff member they only saw students enrolled through the day school. I inquired if I could pay for the appointment along with any additional charges out of pocket or use my insurance and they informed me that wasn't possible. This is a little tidbit that was left out at orientation.

I went to Connie Holt for answers to these and a few other questions our students have. She said not long ago (but before my time) they'd allowed Holt students to use Health Services, but shortly after that notice was sent out another followed discontinuing said services. It is true there is a health insurance plan available for purchase, but when you're going to school full-time and living on your own, coming up with rent is more important than spending approximately

\$1,000 on health insurance. I asked Ms. Holt if the students were ever given an option to pay a fee with Financial Aid or otherwise, as part of tuition for access to Health Services. Ms. Holt said she wasn't entirely clear but that she would be sure to suggest it.

This brings me to differences in experience of the day versus evening students in the celebration, or, in our case, little celebration, of the most beloved holiday of all for Rollins Students: Fox Day. Every spring, when the Fox is eagerly awaited by students sleeping in tents and our ever watchful Fox Day Cam, there is the lovely reminder that Holt students will not be able to participate in the same capacity as A&S students. Last year for example, an email sent by Sharon Lusk, Assistant Dean of Hamilton Holt School, dated March 14, 2013, we were informed "On the day designated to be Fox Day, 30 minutes will be shaved off the end of the first class (which usually meets from 4:00 - 6:30), and 30 minutes off the start of the second class (which usually meets

from 6:45 - 9:15). Holt faculty, staff, and students are invited and encouraged to join other members of the Rollins community on the Mills Lawn for supper, from 6:00 - 7:15 p.m."

The Fox Hour is the extent many Holt students are involved in Fox Day. Now, I wonder if it is really necessary to have classes for only those students not enrolled in the 'day school'?

Ms. Holt said that "the 'Fox Hour' is something new." She recalled it had been added only in recent years and that it is progress, given the Holt students didn't have any participation initially. Ms. Holt said, "We haven't figured out a way to cancel classes and make up for that lost class time given many evening classes occur only once or twice a week." While I'm sure that is a concern for the teachers and possibly some students, having a free day off with no consequences seems like a lovely gift from the universe, not an inconvenience.

The term "working adults" (as it so clearly pointed out on the Holt School page) would

probably enjoy having that extra time to simply go home and relax or be with their family on Fox Day, but alas classes remain in session. The Rollins College website's mission statement speaks about how we as a college value excellence in teaching and rigorous, transformative education in a healthy, responsive, and inclusive environment.

In another statement on the Student Life page, "Every day is a new adventure, and much of that adventure is experienced through many on-campus opportunities and resources available to you." On the Rollins Evening page it states "...programs are designed with working adults in mind." They say they know the challenge of balancing a busy life with work, family and possibly continuing education added onto it. But all the students enrolled at Rollins through the Holt school are not in their twenties attending college for the first time as "...evening degree programs designed for working adults." The term 'working adult' excludes the many Holt students

I approached who live at home while attending school.

Why is our school seemingly deliberately causing a divide among the students, a watered-down experience to the 'evening' students? It does provoke the question of money. At the end of the day, is it really about the difference in what A&S and Holt students pay?

There wasn't a clear answer from Ms. Holt. "The residential students have their needs which are met by the day school and Holt meets the needs of the evening students."

I am not under any circumstances claiming there is a conspiracy from the high powers that be at this school, but I am saying students should be given a greater voice in matters which affect them personally.

If the entire student body is receiving equality in their education and Greek Life why not health services and social activities like Fox Day? Regardless of what anyone calls it, 'meeting the needs' of one student group versus another, there is segregation happening on this campus.

Hamilton Holt school compared with undergraduate Arts & Sciences

	Tuition	Male-Female Percentages	Acceptance Rate	Total Students Enrolled	Insurance Required
Arts & Sciences	\$41,460	42% / 58%	55.8%	1,884	Yes
Hamilton Holt	\$1,692 per 4 credit-hour course	28% / 72%	73%	1,037	No

A Mere Experience

Amir Sadeh

Columnist

"And every time she sneezes I believe it's love! And oh lord... I'm not ready for this sort of thing." — Counting Crow

Every year I've been at Rollins, I've always tried writing a Valentine's Day article for *The Sandspur*. Some years I never got published, while other times I even made the cover. No matter what, I have always tried to look at the holiday in ways other people can relate to. For my final V-Day submission I thought it would be fun to talk about some of my personal "Do's and Don'ts" when it comes to both Valentine's Day and love in general.

For instance, don't write a love letter on Percocet. But if you do write a love letter on Percocet, be sure to never give said letter or that poem you wrote about your crush to that person while still on Percocet. As a rule of thumb, wait until after your wisdom teeth have healed before you start professing your love to anyone. For that matter, don't write love letters. They sound brilliant in theory and love notes can be a very sweet gesture when you are already dating the person. Yet if you are thinking it'll be super romantic to start writing up your soon-to-be love a letter, let me stop you

right there. See, you are about to give a stranger a piece of paper that states, literally in black and white, how you have been secretly thinking about this person all the time, have somehow amassed a great amount of affection for this person without having had any conversation outside generic greetings and head nods, while also having never made any efforts until now to state these feelings of passion. I'm not even going to go into how intense/creepy that all is and just tell you that they ARE going to show that letter to all their friends and you WILL be the butt of their jokes for at least two weeks. Buy hey, who knows? You may very well get a response back... but restraining orders don't count.

This leads me to my next point: Be careful about being a secret admirer. Again, this is something that looks like such a perfect idea in the movies but quickly begins to backfire on implementation. So you buy that special someone a gift, find a generic love note at CVS, and slap on that good old "From, Your Secret Admirer" on the bottom of the card. You leave it in front of their door at around 6 a.m., as a means to be sure no one sees you do it, and then... what? Again, this can become a mixture of weird and sad very quickly. If you just want to give

someone a little gift because they have been going through a rough time and you think they might like one, but also don't like the implications that Valentine's Day brings in doing so, then may I suggest doing so on any of the other 364 days of the year. And actually hand it to the person like an adult. Trust me, you won't get cooties, and they probably would appreciate a nice gesture from a genuine person, especially if they have been having a rough time. They may even call on you later to be a friend and confidant, which is where you can truly do a great amount of good. But, like most people, if you are acting as a secret admirer this year it's because you really like someone but either don't know them well enough or are too afraid to send them a gift on Valentine's Day with your name on it because you know what the implications are. If that is the case, then please refer back to the response from my love letter scenario. Sure, some people may find it charming, but that's because the recipient of the gift believes it is only a one-off thing. If they still are getting gifts from a "Secret Admirer" in May... not so cute any longer. And let's be frank: You're going to want to know if they liked the gift, and that curiosity is likely going to get you

found out. Just remember: The reason why you gave that gift secretly in the first place was because you didn't think that person would be receptive to the gift if it came directly from you. Another rule of thumb: If you can't do the deed face-to-face, don't do it at all.

Finally, know the difference between love and lust. Last week I wrote about my philosophy, if you will, on love. While I do still subscribe to a majority of it, I realize that over the last six or so years, I hadn't been in love. I have really liked girls, thought they were cute, and wanted to become intimate with them in the first five minutes of conversation. But I didn't really know them. I never sat down and had longer, interesting conversations with them. I just wrote poems about how lovelorn I was and how awesome it would be to be with them (in the most poetic of terms, of course). With the few girls I did get to know, the one's I did think I was genuinely in love with, I later realized that it was an emotional codependency, at best. I am attracted to damage and I have a tendency to want to save people. And no matter how hard I tried to rationalize that feeling, I know now that isn't love. No matter how painful it can feel to have to let that person go.

At the end of the day, be smart. I know that it is in our nature to throw away what our minds say in favor for what's in our hearts, but sometimes our heart lies to us. Or at least doesn't know the difference. Love is complicated, and while true love can be beautiful, it is something takes time and effort to flourish. I don't write this to discount your feelings, but I implore you to not go down the route of cliché. The reason why you see it in movies or hear it in heartfelt love songs is because it is all wish fulfillment. This is how we wished the world worked. The only full-proof method to finding love is just as boring as the generic "exercise and diet" method to losing weight: You have to go up to that person you like and ask them out. If they say yes, awesome! If not, oh well, onto the next person. It takes great courage to put yourself out there and tell someone you like them. Don't discount those feelings by using a generic holiday that most people look at cynically as a crutch. If you are really digging someone and you honestly believe they dig you too, then stand strong, be bold, and say with all the confidence and certainty in world, "Hey! I think you're cute and I like you. Would you like to do something with me later?"



#SpeakAmerican

Lauren Waymire

Staff Writer

There I sat on Super Bowl Sunday, a very sad Peyton Manning fan, hoping to find solace in some great commercials. I'll be honest, it's one of the only reasons I can be persuaded to watch one football game a year. Ad after ad, I was beginning to lose faith. And then, it happened.

It didn't take celebrities, explosions or nice cars to make it the best Super Bowl

commercial of 2014.

As soon as the beautiful yet unassuming voice brought America the Beautiful into the room, people paused for a moment. Seahawks fans took a break from their arrogant outbursts, and Broncos fans stopped wallowing in self-pity. Coca Cola outdid themselves.

The soft drink commercial featured the patriotic song sung in multiple languages: English, Spanish, Tagalog, Mandarin, Hindi, Hebrew, Keres, Senegalese-French and Arabic. The

message was simple, wonderful, and powerful: celebrate diversity.

The responses to the commercial, however, were heart-breaking. #SpeakAmerican was trending on Twitter for hours, people took to every social media site to rant in ignorance, and the topic was covered the next day in every major news source in the country.

Ridiculous people with even more ridiculous opinions have always existed, especially in this country. In this day and

age, however, it seems people are constantly plugged into social media, and the news eats it up just to regurgitate it for tomorrow's stories. Everyone was so caught up in the drama and busying themselves with taking sides that many forgot what Coke was actually trying to do.

In 1971, Coca Cola aired an advertisement in which people of many ethnicities stood together, each holding a Coke and singing, "I'd like to teach the world to sing in perfect har-

mony. I'd like to buy the world a Coke and keep it company." This Super Bowl commercial just had a different song and better video quality.

The company has long been a prevalent sponsor at sporting events. From the NBA to the NCAA to the Olympics, Coca Cola has said through their ads, "Hey, great sport/event, huh? We think so too. Let's all have a Coke while we watch." Enough with the politics. Drink your soda, whatever it may be, and be happy.

Technology breeds new financial threats

In light of Target's breach in security, the reveal of personal information and possibility of credit card fraud is becoming more likely to occur.

Micah Bradley

Staff Writer

The news has been rampant lately with stories of credit card fraud and compromised personal information. The recent wave of fraud started in December with the popular chain store Target. The company reported that between November 27 and December 13—which included the popular shopping holiday Black Friday and also a large portion of the holiday rush—customer information was compromised.

During the breach, personal information such as credit and debit card information, customer names, emails, addresses, and phone numbers were all compromised. It has been reported that over 100 million people might have been affected by the breach. However, the breach did not affect PIN numbers or social security numbers.

Target is anxious to win back the trust of its consumers; they have been offered one year of free credit monitoring for anyone whose data might have been affected, and they also offered two days of 10 percent off everything in the store as a form

of apology. Catherine Kleindienst '17, had information that might have been affected by the Target breach, though she never saw any suspicious charges on her card. Her bank took it seriously, and just to be safe, "They issued me a new one."

Target is not alone. In a similar attack, Neiman Marcus stores have had over one million customers' information compromised, but their breach went on much longer than Target's. Neiman Marcus's breach began in July and went undetected until January. The craft store Michael's and several hotels have also recently reported possible breaches.

In a response to these issues of cyber security, executives from Neiman Marcus and Target spoke in front of Congress this week. They apologized to consumers and asked the government to increase cyber security laws. They also made some bleak statements.

Between the messages of the company executives and a Secret Service agent, it was made clear that American's data is never completely safe. The hackers' technology, and the number of hackers, is increasing faster than credit card

technology is, making personal information vulnerable.

Many companies are unwilling to make the expensive shift to the new technology that would make customer's data more secure. This new technology is already in use in several European countries and has greatly reduced instances of fraud.

The United States still generally relies on cards that use a magnetic strip instead of a microchip. However, by 2015 it is likely that most retailers will have updated their machines to read microchips, which is a more secure way of transmitting the data. PIN numbers may also eventually be required on most cards.

Most major credit card companies, like VISA and Mastercard, have issued statements to realtors stating that after the 2015 deadline they will be held financially responsible if customers are affected by a breach due to outdated technology. This new technology will not eliminate fraud but will certainly help in reducing it. Until the new technology is in place, it is hard for many retailers to guarantee the safety of their customer's information.

In an age that is quickly becoming totally digital, making cash more and more obsolete, it is difficult to know how to avoid credit and debit card fraud. The most vital thing to remember is to be careful where you use your cards. Be careful making online purchases, and try to do so using Paypal or other reputable websites. Never give your credit card number or other personal information out, and be sure to sign the back of the card with ink.

When buying items in a store, make sure that your card is never taken out of your sight. If in doubt, use cash. Jaime Pizzi '14 said this about keeping her information safe: "I never use the debit option when pumping gas, I always use credit because they cannot steal your info as easy that way. If I am buying something online from a site I am not familiar with I always use Paypal now. I also check my online checking account every day."

Of course, it is important to check your accounts often. With online banking now widely available, it is easy to check your accounts weekly or even daily. Check for anything that you did not buy, even if

it is only a few dollars. Often thieves will test the card by making a few small purchases before trying to buy something bigger. Right now, a large scam that includes a \$9.84 charge for "customer service" is affecting many people's accounts. This type of scam preys on people who either do not check their accounts or do not check them in depth. In these cases, it is easy for a small charge to go unnoticed. Sometimes the bank will call to report suspicious charges, especially as fraud detecting technology increases. However, it can be dangerous to completely rely on the bank to determine the validity of charges. After credit card fraud has been determined, it is important to contact your bank.

Though there have recently been several instances of major security breaches, the Secret Service insists that there are more than would be expected in such a technological age. Until the United States changes the credit and debit card security measures, American companies will continue to be the target of hackers worldwide. The fact remains, when most records are kept digitally, it is difficult to guarantee their safety.

NIEMAN MARCUS

MARRIOTT

CREDIT FRAUD

TARGET

HOLIDAY INN



Fraternity recruitment: play by play

Nolan Brewer

Production Assistant

"I may not have gone where I intended to go, but I think I have ended up where I needed to be."
— Douglas Adams, *The Long Dark Tea-time of the Soul*.

First I would like to thank all of the fraternities at Rollins for hosting and entertaining the new class of pledges this rush season. Is participating in rush worth it? Short answer: yes. Long answer: YESSSSSSSSSS.

But in all seriousness, my decision to rush was a great one. I rushed for many reasons: I wanted to meet other guys, have a good time, and of course, eat some free food. Each fraternity at Rollins has a rich history to share with all prospective brothers. Going from one chapter to another, I met some truly awesome guys and I would like to say thank you - thank you for being so welcoming, not just to me, but to the entire Rollins Spring 2014 Rush class.

At Rollins there is no such thing as a bad fraternity, each is unique, and there is a place for everyone, whether it's in Lambda Chi Alpha or Chi Psi. Just going through the process of rushing, I made friends I know I will stay in touch with long after I graduate.

At Rollins College there are five fraternities recognized by

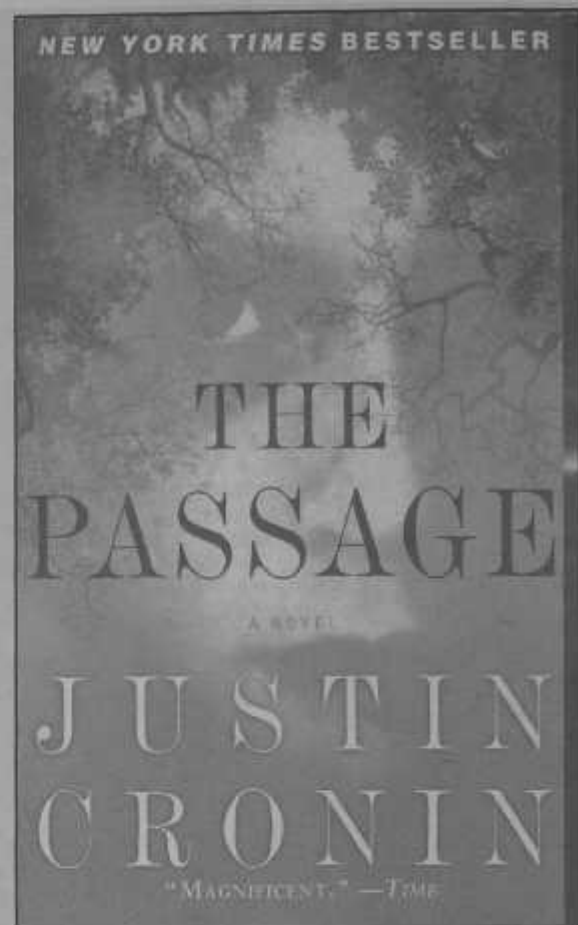
the college: Lambda Chi Alpha, Tau Kappa Epsilon, Chi Psi, Phi Delta Theta, and X-Club. The Spring 2014 Rush Season was very successful for each fraternity, with over one hundred guys participating.

Rush week consists of six days, with special events each day, hosted by the brothers of each fraternity. Sunday is orientation. On Monday and Tuesday, you meet each individual fraternity and learn what it's like to be a member. On Wednesday, the fraternities host a special event open to rush participants. The guys at X-Club had food from 4Rivers and hand-rolled cigars. On Thursday, there are more special events, but attendance is by invitation only. If you show interest in a certain fraternity and they want to get to know you better, you receive an email inviting you back to hangout with them. Not receiving an invitation to a fraternity does not always mean a fraternity is not interested in you. Failure to maintain the minimum GPA required for that fraternity might prevent them from issuing an invite. Don't let this dissuade you from participating in rush. It was an incredible experience and I would have regretted not participating.

Friday is business time - the illustrious Bid Day. Bid Day is

a hodgepodge of thoughts and emotions. You walk into the Campus Center, are handed your bid(s), and then it's decision time. After you make your decision, you head down the stairs into Dave's, and walk to the fraternity you've decided to join. Reality hasn't kicked in yet, and it won't for a while. You are handed your Bid Day shirt with your fraternity letters proudly attached. After everyone has made their decisions, it's time to run - literally! One by one, each fraternity and their prospective brothers run up the stairs and out of the Campus Center into a sea of beautiful sorority girls. I would like to give a special shout out to Nicholas "Daddy" Damiano for his beautiful stop and twist with the Lambda Chi Alpha flag as they ran out of the Campus Center. With adrenaline still rushing, each fraternity gathers with their newest members and takes the traditional group photo... and then it's time to celebrate.

I would like to give a special thanks to a few individuals whose effort made this rush season amazing. Aubrey Frazier, the Assistant Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life, Navreet Dhaliwal, Cameron Lamir, and Elie Gottlieb - thank you for making Spring Rush 2014 incredible.



David Matteson

BLOODTHIRSTY AUTHOR Winter with the Writers speaker and author of *The Passage*, Justin Cronin will host a Master's Class at 4 p.m. and reading at 7:30 p.m. in Bush Auditorium on Thursday, February 13.

Cronin's bite into Rollins

Chris Sarafian

Writer

Rollins' "Winter with the Writers" program is a tradition rooted within the history of the college. Beginning in 1927, the festival has welcomed hundreds of established writers over the past 87 years. Rollins College is one of the only colleges in the country to hold a literary festival of this caliber.

Every year, four or five writers visit Rollins to teach a master class to a select group of students aspiring to learn the craft of writing. In addition, the writer gives a reading and a book signing. This year's featured writers include Charles Simic, Justin Cronin, Laura van den Berg, Alan Michael Parker, and Madison Smartt Bell.

This week's guest speaker and lecturer, Justin Cronin, is known throughout the literary community for his tales of family, heartbreak, and the inner struggle of human emotions. His most noted books include *The Summer Guest* and *Mary & O'Neil* (Penguin/Hemingway Award and the Stephen Crane Prize). A vast derivative from the realm of realism and familial struggle, Cronin's proclaimed

novel, *The Passage*, has attracted the attention of esteemed writers and critics alike (the master of horror himself, Stephen King, praises the book as "enthraling"). Together with its sequel, *The Twelve*, Cronin tells the story of an apocalyptic future overrun by vampires (or as Cronin calls them, "virals"). The third installment in the trilogy, *City of Mirrors*, is expected later this year.

A New England native, Cronin followed his literary pursuits by attending Harvard College and The Iowa Writers' Workshop. Cronin has taught at LaSalle University in Philadelphia and Rice University in Houston. Cronin is a major up-and-coming writer in the literary world, and a movie based on his book, *The Passage*, is currently in the adaptation process.

"I am very excited to see Cronin because of his ability to turn the vampire genre into something more complex and closer to literary fiction," says intern, Rachel Fox. Justin Cronin's master class will be on Feb. 13 at 4 p.m. in the Bush auditorium. His reading and signing will be that same day at 7:30 p.m. in the same location.

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VISA DISCOVER

Unveiling a musical genius

Winter Park Institute speaker Terry Teachout uncovers Duke Ellington behind his jazz persona while commemorating his iconic compositions.

Stephanie Garcia

Section Editor

A biographer's task is to tell the story of another. Terry Teachout, Wall Street Journal theatre critic and author, faced difficulty when telling the story of a renowned jazz musician, who "never talked about his personal life and only revealed himself between the lines."

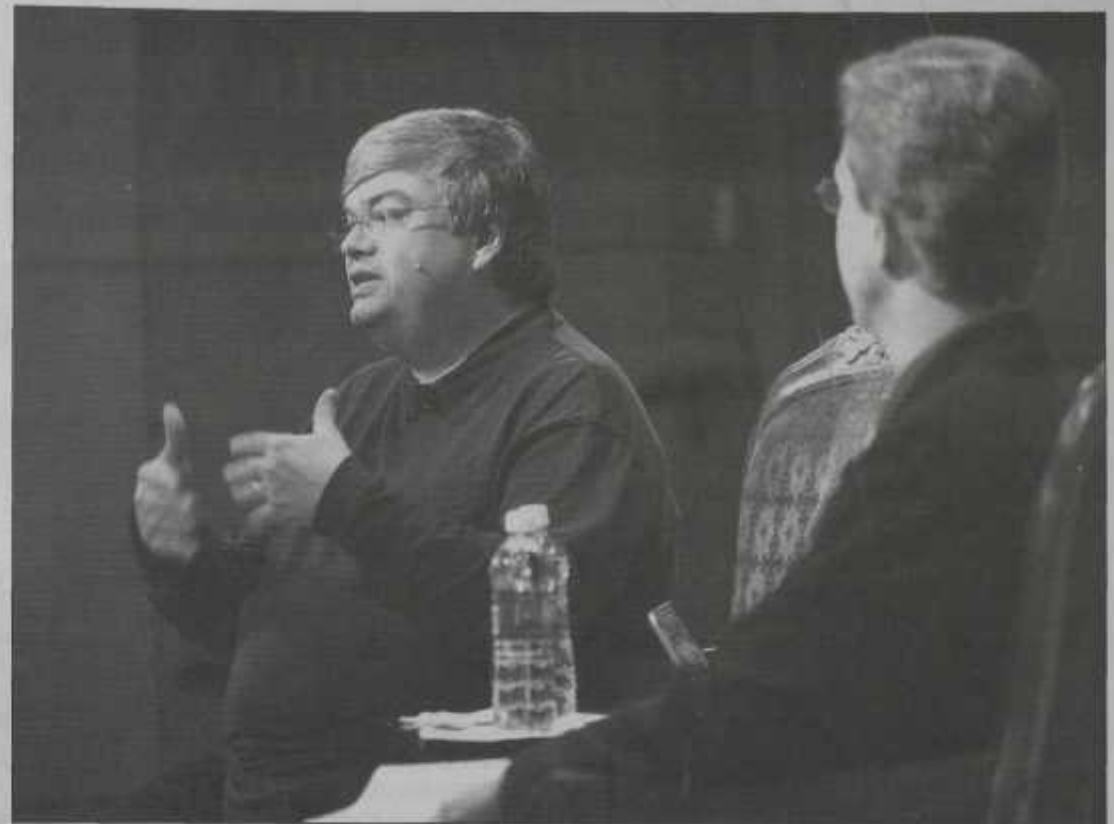
As the latest Winter Park Institute Speaker, Teachout discussed his biography *Duke: A Life of Duke Ellington* and recreated Ellington's signature compositions on February 4th at Tiedtke Concert Hall. Dr. John Sinclair, Chair of the Department of Music, introduced Teachout as a Renaissance man—citing his credentials as a columnist, Broadway playwright, encyclopedia of jazz,

and bass player.

While intrigued by the jazzman's mysterious personality, Teachout stated that artistry, not personality, is Ellington's enduring appeal. "Duke was the most important jazz composer of the 21st century, of indisputable and international significance," Teachout said. "No other jazz musician has left a bigger impact culturally."

Highlighting his Ellington biography, Teachout revealed the jazz musician behind his public image. Teachout explained the contradiction between Ellington's sophisticated professional persona and public denial of his infidelity and musical collaborations.

"Sophistication was central to Duke's image," Teachout said. "In the late 1920s, jazz was simply functional dance music.



Rollins College

RENAISSANCE MAN Terry Teachout (left) explains how jazz legend Duke Ellington let his music express the man he was. The speaker digs into Ellington's legacy in his new biography.

When Duke became popular, he insisted on being taken seriously as an artist and as a black man."

The presentation alternated between commentary on Ellington's artistry, and live jazz band performances of *In A Mellow Tone* and *Sophisticated Lady*. The speaker also included a 1943 video performance

of *Mood Indigo* and an audio recording of *Koko*. Teachout featured these compositions to illustrate Ellington's unrivaled ability to capture emotion.

"What set Duke apart as a composer was the way he used jazz to say things; he used tone parallels to match human emotion," Teachout said. "His vocalists sang with faith, happi-

ness, and loneliness. He transformed his feelings to music."

Aside from Teachout's reading and discussion, Winter Park Institute commemorated the jazz master with further events: a swing era Q&A on February 6th and a performance of Ellington's *Sacred Service* at the First Congregational Church on February 7.

Abortion rate on the decline

Attributed to economic distress, accessibility of contraceptives, and higher awareness of the dangers of unprotected sex, the abortion rate is the lowest since *Roe v. Wade*.

Kyle McCoy

Section Editor

In and amongst all of the various topics of sociopolitical controversy in our country, there is one where the numbers have begun to read in favor of a more conservative stance. You would think that with the millennial emphasis on human rights that the pro-choice argument surrounding women's legality toward aborting a fetus would yield a higher amount of abortions. Instead, according to a recent article published in *The Washington Post*, the abortion rate has dropped to its lowest point since 1973. In 1973, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the procedure.

The article goes on to speculate about what this systematic decline could have been caused by, citing such causes as better accessibility to contracep-

tives and a higher awareness of consequence in regards to unprotected sex. One attributing factor that the article points out this study failed to suggest is an increase in regulatory laws pertaining to abortion by state. It is possible that people are simply being restricted from the possibility of aborting fetuses.

"The study released Monday shows that, after a plateau from 2005 to 2008, the long-term decline in the abortion rate has resumed. The rate has dropped significantly from its all-time high in 1981, when there were roughly 30 abortions for every 1,000 women of reproductive age. The overall number of abortions also fell 13 percent

from 2008 to nearly 1.1 million in 2011, the study said." (Sandhya Somashekhar, *The Washington Post*).

So could it all just be random? Or are we missing some obvious correlating factors to the abortion rate totals? A

It is possible that people are simply being restricted from the possibility of aborting fetuses.

significant suggestion made by the study was about times of economic distress. People are more aware of the harm to come from an unwanted pregnancy when they cannot afford an additional dependent. Thus, they are accordingly safer in their sexual practices.

As far as our rights go, be-

ing that we are Rollins College students living in Winter Park, laws in Florida have been exhibiting an expectedly conservative stance toward abortion rights over the past several years. Most notably, in 2013 the state passed a law declar-

ing that if an abortion were to result in a living child being removed from the womb then the

medical professional in charge of the procedure would be obligated to give the child emergency care in order to preserve the life. While it's a nice thought (you know, saving a life) this law raises questions about how that breeches certain rights of the women having these procedures done. The intention

of an abortion is to terminate a pregnancy, not to pre-maturely induce birth. With the chance of a surviving fetus as the result of undergoing the medical procedure, many women may opt not to run such a risk.

As a pro-choice endorsing, contemporary feminist, it might be obvious what my feelings are concerning women's rights and abortion. But the decline in numbers of aborted fetuses is a win for either side: life is inarguably valuable. If we are creating a society that promotes preventative measures toward unwanted pregnancies before abortion has to become an option, then these low numbers mean positive change is underway. But if they are truly the result of restrictions by our government, then it's up to us to us as the current generation to stay informed while the dialogue remains open.

Alex Mariano

Writer

I actually had the opportunity to speak with Amanda, who brings the role of Matilde (pronounced ma-ch-il-ge) to life. The Brazilian had moved to America to clean Lane's house after an unfortunate incident with her parents. Melancholy about cleaning, Matilde is constantly on the prowl for the perfect

A: Everything. Haha. But, in all honesty, every aspect of the play (from the costumes, to the set, to the script) is intertwined with one another so that it becomes this cohesive experience. And I'm also looking forward to audience members seeing themselves in each character.

A: "Love isn't clean like that. It's dirty. Like a good joke."

And there you have it, folks. Personally, I am ecstatic to get a closer look at this performance in its final form. Consider picking a date on your calendar, coming on over to the Annie, and joining me in seeing the outrageous events of *The Clean House* unfold. Lots of laughs and cathartic heartache will be sure to ensue.

Happy Valentine's Day
House Managers! I hope
your day is filled with
lots of love & laughter.
SURPRISE, I'm all of
your secret valentines!
- Jazmine Rodriguez

finseel TALK

The Wanted drowns on booze

The Wanted claim to split due to "conflicting personal lives." However, the ongoing tension between the band and One Direction says otherwise.

Chris Sarafian

Columnist

A boy band's lifeline doesn't stretch far across the palm. This past January, it was announced that British pop sensation, The Wanted, has decided to split after their tour later this year.

So, what drove the English lads to their decision? The group's bald-headed bad boy, Max George, confessed to British newspaper *The Sun*: "Our personal lives drove us apart—things started to happen and we were drifting. We used to be such a brotherly pact, but it started to feel like it wasn't The Wanted anymore."

Ah, conflicting personal

lives—the boy band's arsenic.

So, what does that entail exactly? Well, any fan of The Wanted's E! reality show can tell you the answer: girlfriends and drinking.

In contrast to the settled down homebodies (Tom Parker and Siva Kaneswaran), The Wanted also consists of the party boys, Jay McGuinness and Max George. Then there's Nathan Sykes, the middleman and voice of reason. So, how does boozing lead to the collapse of a platinum selling group?

First off, it can be said that this 'conflicting personal life' dilemma serves as the final straw. The Wanted had flourished for a while, charting Billboards with their hit "Glad You

Came." Despite their success, The Wanted faced constant comparisons to their fellow Brit band, One Direction.

"[They're] a phenomenon that no one else can compete with. They've taken over the market. We have our own fans, who we love, but we couldn't stop things from happening," says George.

So, did 1D knock The Wanted out of business? Possibly. Despite having different musical styles, The Wanted is often grouped with One Direction. This contrast spotlights The Wanted as the least successful, or even the copycat, act. The Wanted's split fuses an inferiority complex with band drama.

Their breakup illustrates

just how dangerous artist comparison can be. One Direction vs. The Wanted leads fans to "choose a side." We saw this in the 90s with Christina vs. Britney and N*Sync vs. The Backstreet Boys. According to these match-ups, one rises and one falls. In the case of One Direction and The Wanted, it's pretty obvious as to which most people would consider the 'loser.'

But are The Wanted losers? No. They're successful—more so than you or I. Yet, the Hollywood press machine, with the help of squawking preteen fandoms, assigns a winner and a loser to the "brawl."

This is ridiculous. Really. "Team One Direction! I want to marry Harry Styles!" "Team

The Wanted! I want to have sex with Max!" First off, most fan support is usually stupid and shallow—people like to side with whomever they deem more adorable. Secondly, they're not boxers or football teams: they're musical artists. Their goal is to create and sell their art—not to smack down with other performers.

So. The Wanted is over. Let's let the group RIP instead of marking them as defeated by the One Direction force of nature. One Direction didn't KO them; a lot of other factors did. Besides, this is how boy-band's work: they rise and then they fall—sort of like a drunk Lindsay Lohan walking down the street at three in the morning.

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Connections between sports and breakups

Paige Timmermann

Writer

I remember my first boyfriend like it was yesterday. His name was Trae Schuller, and he was the cutest, most obnoxious boy I think I have ever met in my life. Second semester, junior year of high school, he asked me out at our Swimming States after party.

Although I was playing hard-to-get at first, I eventually gave in to his pearly white smile and stupid Australian accent (I'm grossed out just talking about him... ugh). We were obsessed with each other for four months straight, but our relationship was just as high school as we were, and what I thought were "passionate feelings", were purely two 17-year-olds mistaking drama and highs/lows for "true love".

Just as we were crazy for each other one day, the next day he would do something stupid and I would end up breaking up with him, for a day. The day before prom, I recall, we got into a huge argument over how he said he was "moving to Alabama" (long story, but it was not true), and I broke up

with him the day before prom. Of course we got back together the day of prom and had a magical night, but that's beside the point. If there has ever been a love/hate relationship, it was "Paige and Trae".

I always wanted to free myself and break up with that stupid Australian (I am not saying Australians are stupid at all! Just that one...), but I thought I "needed" him and "loved him" so much that I was more miserable without him than I was with all of the drama. Once I finally got sick of his s**t and kicked him to the curb, I grieved for months about "losing the love of my life," and I thought I would never find that level of passion and "crazy-about-you love" that I had with Trae.

As it turns out, I remember Mr. Australian and cherish all of the things he taught me, but our on-off relationship was not healthy—in fact, it was miserable. In essence, my on-off relationship with Boyfriend #1 was like my on-off relationship with swimming after I got injured, and I am sure many injured athletes can relate to that feeling of loss.

It probably sounds pre-

posterous to relate being an injured competitive athlete to an on-off relationship with a sexy Australian (well I thought he was sexy back then), but hear me out. Just as I met Trae during junior year, I was battling a two-year shoulder injury that required me to get surgery and take time out of a sport that was my "identity" and lifeline.

Without swimming, I was miserable. With swimming, I was in pain from my injury, constantly. My sport, in essence, had taken me from just Paige to "Paige Swimmermann the swimmer chick" and I didn't want to let that label go.

I lived and breathed swimming, and it was my dream to swim for UF in college since I was nine years old. Getting the sports injury the end of my freshman year of high school should have been a sign to let go, but just like an on-off relationship, I was that athlete that refused to withdraw from my sport, even though the constant pain I was in made me miserable.

Just like with Trae, I would have rather been miserable in a sport than without one. It takes courage to move on from some-

thing that you love so much, whether it be a relationship or a sport, but you will be more grateful in the end when you finally take the leap.

Sports, just like relationships, require time and commitment, and sometimes can be hard to handle. Learning to let go of something so important as a sport at which you excel can be really hard, but if you are permanently injured, do you really have a choice? Approximately 51% of athletes experience depression with injury, and this can get severe, with 12% of that population being suicidal, and the numbers get even higher in college (*Athletes Injuries Go Beyond the Physical*, New York Times 2000).

Sports define so many people. I know what it is like to not be able to identify yourself with one anymore. Like all other injured athletes, I went through the stages of denial, depression, anger, and finally acceptance, but it took a full "who am I" crisis and two years of fighting my situation to realize that swimming had its beautiful place in my life, but it was time to move on. Now in college without a sport, it was tough at first to

adjust to not having an instant group of friends in a sports team, or having something to identify myself, but there is also a freedom of not being "the swimmer girl" anymore. I love being allowed to be anyone I want to these days. Life without swimming, just like life without Trae, is awesome and drama-free!

To anyone who is going through a bad breakup or sports injury (they honestly are similar I promise), you will get through it and laugh about it later. I thought my life was over when swimming ended, and I was heartbroken when Trae and I were officially over, but life always works out in the end. Those memories are upsetting, but also wonderful and will be cherished forever. As the cliché goes, nothing lasts forever, and although whatever you are going through now can seem overwhelming and life-changing, just recall this article and how I am telling you to never doubt who you are and your purpose in life. Hold your head high and stay the amazing person that you are, and whatever your struggle is, it will make you stronger. I promise.



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