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The **Sandspur**

EVERYTHING REAL. EVERYTHING ROLLINS.

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cliff lewis
not saying goodbye

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

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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Cover Photo: Cover Design:
Scott Cook David Matteson '15



WHERE in the WORLD

Compiled by Lauren Waymire

Yellow Sea, off the South Korean coast

A ferry carrying mostly elementary and high school students capsized off the coast of South Korea. The ferry was traveling from the northern city of Incheon to the Korean vacation island of Jeju. Of the over 400 passengers, nearly 300 are still unaccounted for as rescue efforts continue in poor weather conditions of strong winds and rain as well as the frigid temperatures of the Yellow Sea. The captain and other members of the crew have been arrested in suspicion of negligence and abandoning the boat when its passengers were in need. Rescuers are continuing to pull bodies from the overturned vessel.

Donetsk, Ukraine

Worshippers leaving the local synagogue were handed fliers declaring that all Ukrainian

Jews needed to register as such. The city, which has been under pro-Russian militant control for two weeks, is the center of the coal-mining region of the Ukraine. The fliers say that Jews must report to the building currently being used as headquarters for the militants and pay the equivalent of \$50 each, or "the guilty ones would be deprived of their citizenship and deported outside the republic and their property confiscated," according to the *New York Times*.

Beijing, China

The Chinese government has recently released a years-long study done on the soil after facing increasing public pressure. According to the study, which lasted from 2005-2013, nearly one-fifth of the country's soil is contaminated with toxic metals, such as nickel, cadmium, and arsenic, to

the point of being hazardous to health. Blame can be shared by multiple factors, such as rapid industrialization, overuse of chemicals in farming and low environmental regulation. Health advocates have already discovered several "cancer villages," in which the cancer rates are significantly higher than the national average.

Bor, South Sudan

Militants attacked a U.N. base in South Sudan harboring civilians, killing 58 and injuring about 100. An angry mob of South Sudanese locals initially went to the base and demanded that the 5,000 Nuer (tribes people) be relocated. They were then scattered by U.N. personnel, regrouped, and launched an attack. The South Sudanese government has sent troops to defend the base. The conflict in the area was originally sparked by a power struggle between

former Vice President Riek Machar and current President Salva Kiir.

Worshippers leaving the local synagogue were handed fliers declaring that all Ukrainian Jews needed to register as such.

Rollins is a business, not a school

Amy Zdon '14 believes that Rollins is drifting away from its academic roots and becoming a profit-making machine instead of an educational institution.

Amy Zdon

Writer

George Cornell blessed Rollins College with one of the largest personal donations in the history of U.S. higher education. From such money, many boons of collegiate academia at Rollins, such as the Winter Park Institute and CFAM, have been established. Plenty of Rollins' longstanding faculty also believe that the \$105.5 million given in total has been the safety net of Rollins throughout its history of trials and tribulations in economic stability. What about Rollins College, beyond the precedent of attracting wealthy students, led an alumni to make a generous donation of such distinction? The late George and his Rollins classmate wife Harriet most likely valued the continued success of their Alma Mater because of how deeply their lives were enriched by their time here. In fact, most of Cornell's philanthropy was focused on arts, education, and quality of life.

Is academia at Rollins today still characterized by the same aspects of former president Hamilton Holt's legacy that the Cornells deemed worthy of millions in support? Perhaps the Cornells would not even believe it appropriate to equate a sheer monetary amount with the sentiment behind their donation. The Holt presidency did, of course, create an environment on campus that fostered quality education for education's sake. Empty profits were not a main object in Holt's determination to assist Rollins in becoming a progressive democratic educational community.

Once he had succeeded in his mission, students benefited from "the intellectual ferment that engulfed the campus during the early thirties." The academia revered by the Cornells was characterized, in Holt's words, as follows: "the individual student's growth and development are the all important things, and that to justify itself, every course, by its subject matter and manner of being taught, must deepen and broaden the student's understanding of life and enable him to adjust himself more quickly

ly and more effectively to the world in which he lives."

On the surface, the student-centered approach of Holt could be connected to the student-centered approach of current President Duncan. However, the student-centered approach of President Duncan has been referred to rather as a "client-centered" approach. There is a basic difference between viewing students as "students" on "a joint adventure" in education, and viewing students as "clients" in a joint venture of business. That basic difference has stark and extensive repercussions on academia.

What does this mean for current students? "Client-centered" seems to mean we get what we want, right? Like: "the customer is always right." Like: the professors who enrich our lives the most, whom we most love, whom we give the most glowing teacher evaluations and award the student awards, must be respected by the president and consulted on matters that effect the Rollins community. Like: the C-Store employees who cheerfully listen to us as we demand ridiculously specific sandwiches and then practice our Spanish with us while we wait for our lunch should be earning more than one dollar a day above the poverty line and given the right to unionize. Like: Rollins will do its best to ensure that female clients (students) who come to this campus to enrich their lives with liberal arts higher education will be protected from the danger of being sexually assaulted at a statistical rate of one in four, etc.

But no, that is not what it means to be "client" centered. Being "client-centered" refers to initiatives such as instituting the trendiest new majors, such as the three similarly intellectually-confined business majors Rollins markets as making it "number one in the south," to reel in the highest numbers of admissions in an attempt to in-

crease profit. Perhaps the false pretenses of the admissions advertising initiatives are partially to blame for Rollins' low retention rate. Therein lies a major difference between "students" and "clients." Educators inspire students; businesses make money off of clients. Would the Rollins of today have been able to retain George and Harriet Cornell?

Being "progressive" is another characteristic that, on the surface, may let it seem like Rollins has continued the Holt legacy. Yes, Rollins has continued the once progressive tradition of close student-teacher relationships that function on an equal level of respect. But being "progressive" is a characteristic relative to the

era. Rita Bornstein, the predecessor of President Duncan, acted progressively for her era when she recalibrated faculty wages to meet a new standard of social consciousness. Just as Holt had worked with his faculty to develop a more progressive curricula, Bornstein collaborated with her Arts and Sciences faculty to develop a system of equality, transparency, and democracy in salary distribution. For example, Bornstein was in favor of the "living wage" standard that requires salaries to at least support the price of living.

When Bornstein left office, unfortunately, transparency and egalitarianism in Rollins' budget left with her. Rollins has since, without consensus from the faculty, regressed to a "market pay" system. A "market pay" system is one that pays professors differently based on the "market value," or external employability, of their expertise. Professors are managed like commodities, being traded by the standards of the nation's free market rather than by the standards of merit as an educator. The theory behind such a method of salary distribution is utilitarian for two reasons.

Firstly, faculty who hold expertise that is highly profitable in employment outside of higher education will not be tempted to leave their universities for higher salaries. Secondly, market pay helps to cut costs (especially useful in our current budget deficit) based on supply and demand principle. For example, I have been told that Rollins now pays philosophy professors 1/3 of an economics professor's salary because the country has more philosophy PhDs than it has employment opportunities for philosophy PhDs.

But does such infrastructure encourage a setting of "intellectual ferment" at Rollins? According to Dr. Charles Rock, one of Rollins' economics professors, it does not. One of the reasons Rock came to work at Rollins in the first place (under Thad Seymour's presidency) was the "esprit de corps" he felt he could enjoy with his fellow colleagues. Rock was also attracted to the liberal arts-esque freedom he was given to teach economics from a perspective that inspired interest in civic and social ingenuity rather than a perspective that taught trainable math skills. Dr. Rock has expressed concern about how Rollins' academia has changed since the "market pay" system was instituted. He observed that professors have begun to feel less like partners and more like replaceable cogs in competition with each other. Now that professors are valued primarily for their resume buffers they have reacted by focusing more on private work, such as getting published, than they do on community involvement, such as giving students the office time and attention they need to learn and excel.

Theoretical debates aside, the reality is that the Bornstein method created a meritocracy within the faculty at Rollins that attracted the professors students want. Bornstein's method did not attract professors who were interested more about money than about education. Many currently higher paid faculty, such as Rock, do not appreciate the pay raise at the cost of job quality loss. The typically student-appreciated professors who view teaching

as an end in itself rather than a means to a paycheck are overwhelmingly more attracted to Rollins' previous egalitarian, collaborative, and transparent system of salary disbursement. Just like "client-centered" focus does not mean the customer is always right, "client-centered" focus does not mean the students experience the education they most desire.

How does Dr. Rock see the rejection of liberal arts values and regression to dialectical standards of empty business jargon affecting the quality of life for the average Rollins graduate? Although it was not the case in either the Holt or Bornstein eras, Rollins is now graduating some students without a basic cognizance of skills applicable to all types of life after graduation. Many students graduate without basic writing skills that could easily be attained in the TJ's writing center. Many graduates will go on to become the only shlub in the office who cannot understand the technology behind the product he is selling. Some graduates will not understand the biology, physics, or chemistry of the world they live in.

Of course, these types of college graduates can still make money in their respective fields. But, in a nation of resource excess, it is an unnecessary shame that higher education graduates are missing out on the savoir-faire aspect that makes liberal arts worthwhile. It is a shame if Rollins, in its current state of intellectual resource excess, is not on a path towards a future in which its graduates will not only achieve but also intellectually transcend basic skill-gathering.

It seems that already many current Rollins students are not able to enjoy the enrichment for the brain, heart and soul that inspired George Cornell to leave the majority of his post-mortem wealth to this institution. Not to mention there is a relatively high percentage of power-inheriting privileged students consolidated on this campus, and Rollins' curriculum does not require the development of humanitarian consciousness for graduation, despite what the Arts and Sciences mission statement seems to guarantee.

“Is academia at Rollins today characterized by the same aspects of the Holt legacy?”

Farewell from the Seniors

It's
not easy
saying goodbye

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NEWS

April 24, 2014

I sent in my application and first articles for *The Sandspur* the summer before my first year, thrilled to finally have the opportunity to work at a newspaper. There is nothing quite like the feeling of seeing your name in print for the first time.

Since those first articles, I have had over 100 articles printed in *The Sandspur*—more than anyone in recent history. I have wrote articles, taken pictures, section edited, copy edited, attempted to sell advertisements, delivered the paper, sent out too many emails, posted on and created many social media pages—I have done everything at least once, except design the paper, as our wonderful design staff rightly do not let me near InDesign until our pages are laid out.

I created the website that *The Sandspur* uses today—the website that receives 16,000 views a month, thank you very much—and sent you all those obnoxious “This Week at *The Sandspur*” emails. You think the number of *Sandspur* emails you receive a week is too much? Try being one of our staff writers. I inundate them with emails almost daily depending the time of year.

Sandspur, I want to be honest: I have not always agreed with you. You have given me many headaches and a few migraines over our four years. I debated quitting you more times than I can count, often frustrating friends and family who told me repeatedly to give up something that I always complained about being so frustrating, stressful, annoying, and—sometimes, I will admit—embarrassing.

But, *Sandspur*, as much as I have complained about you, you have also kept me sane.

The newspaper was always there for me. It was the constant in my life that served as a distraction from homework, readings, and other organizations.

Some job always needed to be done; some deadline always had to be met. *The Sandspur* allowed me to run my work ethic ragged while attempting to improve Rollins in my own small way.

Just as so many people say in these types of things, I met so many different people I never would have met if I had not worked at the newspaper. I created friendships that honestly, may or may not last, and memories that will last at least until I can list my first real job on my resume. I do not know if *The Sandspur* made me a better person over the last four years, though I like to think so. At the very least, it let me begin to understand myself a bit better.

So, *Sandspur*, Rollins, loyal readers, however many or few of you there are, I bid you “adieu.” It has been a very interesting four years. For those of you who consider college the best four years of your life, these years will go by way too fast. For those of you who cannot wait to graduate, these years will go by at a glacial pace. Regardless, they will pass. Make the most of them, make the least of them, but make something of them—even if that something is 60-something copies of an award-winning student newspaper.

- Annamarie Carlson
Managing Editor

Those who claim to be the least judgmental, often tend to be the antithesis of that idea in practice. In my time at Rollins, I have found this to be pervasively true in numerous ways. Over the past four years here, I have grown up more than many people do in a decade. I am someone who has had to be mature since day one, due to being dealt a less than perfect set of cards in life—the kind of growing up that goes beyond

just leaving home for the first time. While I would like to go on and on about how Rollins has shaped me into some sort of hyper amazing human being, that just is not the case.

Rollins has afforded me an incredible education from professors with whom I have been fortunate enough to make invaluable personal connections. As both a political science and anthropology major, I have developed an appreciation for certain aspects of life, literature, and knowledge that I never would have experienced if it were not for the professors who made these subjects jump off the pages of my textbooks and scream to be taken in. This is where my affinity ends, though.

Yes, I wrote the controversial article in 2011 about “illegal immigrants” when I was nineteen and still a freshman that had yet to experience much of a college education. While an entire student body, and even a portion of the country, made disparaging comments at my expense, few admirable people (that I still remember) stopped to realize the harm that was coming from the entire situation. Yes, I worded my opinion severely strongly and went against the mainstream views of the Rollins campus, but it was an opinion, something that innately cannot be “right” or “wrong.” While this opinion came from a nineteen-year-old college student, it somehow found itself up for debate with two doctorate-bearing professors of Rollins, who felt it necessary to take to campus-wide emails to get their points across rather than resorting to the comparable measure of submitting letters to the editor. Students at this time did not have the ability to send campus-wide emails like professors could, thus I could not submit an analogous response to the student body.

After working through

these issues throughout my college education, I will admit that the opinion I wrote about three years ago goes staunchly against how I feel today. I certainly did not come to this conclusion because of the outcry the original article garnished; in fact the reason I never publicly refuted the opinion was because of the initial defensiveness I felt from being viciously backed into a corner by people who claimed to support minority opinions and fighting against oppression.

Years later, a select few on our campus still seem to cling to this image of me because of their unsubstantiated ideas and an op-ed I wrote during my freshman year. As dim-witted as this may be, what bothers me even more is how many of these same people use this estimation to gauge the legitimacy of *The Sandspur* as a whole. Just as I have matured during these past years, so has *The Sandspur*. Instead of evolving as this publication and I have, these lingering opinions have shown how some sections of our campus remain less than understanding and reluctant to forgive. If the earth-shattering opinion I once defended can change, why can't yours?

- Jamie Lee Pizzi
Editor-in-Chief

Gingerly creeping up to *The Sandspur's* former office for their first meeting of the semester, my naïve freshman self could not have imagined the opportunities that were waiting for me after I entered that room. I will never forget my first “assignment” for the paper. I was given free tickets (Free tickets?! My high school paper only dreamed of those...) for the Matt Hires concert at The Social. I even got to interview him backstage! It was then that I realized the power and influence

The Sandspur had at Rollins and in the local community. Since then, I have had the privilege of interviewing more artists, including Grammy winner Paula Cole, and many other talented, respected people in the community.

I have seen many changes at Rollins over the past four years—the new Bush Science Center, the changing of Mills Lawn to “The Green” (sorry, Rollins, I do not think that will ever catch on), the alterations to Fox Day celebrations, the creation and controversy over the College of Professional Studies, to name a few—and *The Sandspur* was there to cover them all. I may be in the minority of those students who waited for those issues of *The Sandspur* to receive all the dirt, but to me the most important news perspective was always that of the students.

I do not think that people appreciate the advantages of student media nearly enough. It is one of the few places untainted by corporate media, a safe place where students are able to speak their mind and not fear any censorship. As the resident PR intern, I can appreciate that *The Sandspur* does not represent the public relations of Rollins, and we are proud of that. Never again will I have the opportunity to so easily publish my opinions or spread a cause that concerns me.

Whenever I need to say goodbye to a place that I am so fond of, I like to use one of my favorite quotes from my favorite book, *Demian*: “One never reaches home. But where paths that have an affinity for each other intersect, the whole world looks like home, for a time.” *The Sandspur* gave me a voice when sometimes I did not feel like I had one at Rollins, and for that I will always be grateful.

- Lauren Silvestri
PR Coordinator

Freshman looks back on first year

The first year of college is full of surprises, new experiences, and adaptation. Samantha Hirsch '17 recounts her first impressions while going through the unique and thrilling events of freshman year.

Samantha Hirsch

Writer

Where to begin. Looking back on my freshman year here at Rollins, it is hard for me to believe it is already over. I know everyone always say that, but it really is true. Going to college, I did not know what to expect. Who was I going to become friends with, what were my classes going to be like, where was I going to be living, what would the parties be like? I remember distinctly arriving on campus and parking by McKean, of course on the complete wrong side of campus considering I was living in Ward.

When I first got to the dorms, I remember my roommate was not there, but my parents and I started unpacking my things from the car. On one of my trips back to the car, I ran into my roommate. The encounter was long anticipated, having only Skyped and snap chatted over the summer being that she was from Sweden; it was nice to finally come face-to-face.

That night was a weird night—it was my first night of college! After having met the kids in my RCC class, I was going to bed with a few familiar faces in mind, and a very long weekend ahead of me. I was nervous—the good kind where you are secretly excited.

The next few days went by really slowly, meeting new people each day and finding my way around campus. I remember one day in particular, the first Friday night, when we were invited to our first college frat party. Okay, well we were not exactly invited, but from word-of-mouth we decided to check it out. I remember we went as a small group of four and decided to walk. Let us just say that was a bad idea. Although the house was not far, it turns out that the GPS for walking is ridiculously inaccurate, causing us to ultimately get lost. After about 45 minutes, we stumbled upon the house and found ourselves standing at the door. We were not really sure what to do. Should we knock, ring the doorbell, or just go in? We opened the door and I kid you not, Project X... well, not really, but to me it seemed like it. It turned out that night was a night where I met some people that would become a big part of my college experience.

Fast-forwarding to when classes actually started, I was definitely nervous for this part. We met our teachers, played ice-breakers, and received the syllabi of what we would be studying for the next three and a half months. Classes seemed pretty chill. The semester continued on with various paper assignments, but for me it was

honestly about the people. I was loving the idea that everyday I would see and meet someone new. It was refreshing! Parties came and went—all honestly pretty much the same—and soon enough it was fall break.

My roommate came home with me, and my parents greeted us with a barbeque with my best friend and her family. It was really nice to be home with my family and my best friend after being away at school for about a month and a half. I will say though, it was weird. I had this strange feeling of almost emptiness; I had just moved into my dorm room where I went to school, where I ate, and slept—where I lived. Being home sort of messed with my mind being that all my things, my clothes, pictures, and my everyday life was not there anymore.

I came back to school with this strange, confused feeling. I started to realize that my routine was now here, at Rollins, and not at home with my family. The semester continued, and soon Thanksgiving rolled around. It was time to leave again. The semester was passing by a lot faster than I thought. One thing at this point in time though, was that my friends and I had created our own little group. Over break we would text and talk on the phone and it gave me something to look forward to coming

back to. When we came back, we only had two weeks until the end of the semester. I honestly could not wrap my mind around that. The last week of classes rolled by quickly and then it was exam time. I took my exams and was the first among my friends to finish. I said my goodbyes and I was off. It was weird that I would be leaving behind the friends that I live with, sleep with, eat with, and have classes for a whole month.

Winter break flew by. It was nice to vacation with my family and visit my distant relatives, but I could not wait to come back for round two. I came back a week earlier than most for Intersession. I took a journaling class, which was very interesting.

That week was good, a little quiet, but soon it was the Sunday before classes started, and I went to the airport to pick up a couple of my friends. My roommate had arrived with her friend from home which was awesome, but a little tight to have a third person in our room. The first week was cool seeing everyone after a whole month and getting back into the groove of things. I had new classes, with new people and was excited to start again. Second semester is different though; it is sort of the semester that makes or breaks you. While coming in as a first semester

freshman, you are on the high of college: you want to meet new people, try new things, and jump into everything with two feet. Having taken full advantage of my newfound liberty my first semester of college, the second semester more so became the time where I buckled down and took school a little more seriously. The second semester went by even quicker than the first. Even just writing this now, it is truly so bizarre to me to think that all of these things happened three or more months ago and that I will be finished with my freshman year of college in only one week. For the upperclassmen who are reading this right now, I am sure you can relate with at least a few of the thing I am saying here.

I look back on my freshman year and I can honestly say I have no regrets. Sure, there are some things I wish I could have approached differently, some things I should not have done, and some things that I should have, but I can truly say that my freshman year has been bigger and better than I could have ever imagined. The relationships I have made will last a lifetime, and I am grateful to have spent it here. As cliché as it sounds, one of the many chapters of my life has just come to an end, and I cannot wait for the next one to begin.

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David Matteson

Production Manager

On a particularly casual Friday evening, a Tar and a Knight met for drinks to catch-up and offer our contrasting points of view on a variety of topics.

Finals and summer internships certainly commanded the majority of the conversation, but what startled me the most was Brendan's response to my questions on dating. A former romantic, Brendan and I have known each other for the better part of six years—and while we chose two very different college paths (He is an engineering major at UCF, and I am a studio art major here at Rollins), we usually share a similar point of view. But when I asked Brendan if he had started seeing someone this semester his answer surprised me, "No, and if I don't meet a girl this summer, I'm going to stop looking. I'm just going to wait until after graduation and

get out of Florida."

The idea of actively looking for a partner is a concept I have not paid much attention to. Yes, college is this temporal setting and we certainly do not know where any of us are going to end up—but does that justify our unwillingness to become romantically involved? Is this disinterest in anything serious the foundation of the hook-up culture our generation is seemingly obsessed with?

I started thinking about looking for love. How we go through periods where we actively pursue candidates in the hopes of ultimately finding someone that is going to make us happy. Sometimes this pursuit can be an overwhelming, full-time job—especially when we consider the number of dating apps and websites in existence. My friend Charlie is constantly hooked in to some form of social media in order to find the perfect mate—Plenty of Fish, Grindr, e-Cupid-some-

thing-or-other. And yet, despite all of these efforts, Charlie has yet to meet a man on any of these outlets who satisfies his high standards for partnership.

In terms of my own experience with looking, I have certainly had luck. While I am familiar with online dating and mobile apps, all of my past and present serious relationships began with chance meetings. I met my first serious boyfriend at a bike-a-thon for education, and my current partner and I met through mutual friends out at a bar last summer. Both of these instances were during periods where I was not necessarily looking for a relationship—and yet love found me.

Maybe we should treat the pursuit passively; letting connections and partners find us in rare chance meetings rather than actively seeking out new people at bars or online. I consistently tell my single friends that they will meet someone when they least expect it, but

when it happens they will be aware that something has drastically changed. While this is certainly what happened to me, I am not sure that this always holds true.

There is a balance that must be achieved between an active and passive pursuit. Stop inundating yourself with new partners online or at clubs and gain awareness of the people surrounding you. You might be surprised as to who has been waiting for you this entire time. Maintaining an awareness and standing strong as a confident individual makes you more accessible to finding a partner—even in unusual settings. Hell, I have been asked out while pumping gas and folding laundry at the laundromat. Ultimately, it is about commanding your presence and staying alert to those surrounding you.

Brendan's statement also brought up the complications of college in regards to dating; the idea that we are in a short,

fixed period of limbo between our child past and adult future. I think this excuse is simply a red herring. And yet, watching seniors break-up with their younger partners in preparation for graduation and the next chapter in life, heightens my awareness of the college-temporal factor. But I stand strong in my position—ending a relationship out of fear for an unstable future is cowardice. If you love someone, then you will figure it out. Rather than detonate a relationship, communicate and find a solution to make the coming future work in both of your favors. Do not just end a relationship on the grounds of uncertainty.

College is certainly a finite period, but that is not a viable excuse to stop looking. You can find someone here, in this moment, and make it work for future success. Strike a balance between active and passive pursuits, but ultimately: never give up on the chase.

Pursuing the chase

Sexpert David Matteson '15 asks, "Is the temporary nature of college a viable excuse for not looking for love?"

A Mere Experience

Amir Sadeh

Columnist

Ever since I was a freshman, I always wondered what I would write about for my final article in *The Sandspur*. After having written more than 70 pieces over the last four years, including the work I have done with this column, I have had the opportunity to say most anything and everything that has come to mind. I have discussed world affairs and the national political scene. I have had the chance to meet and interview prolific writers and scholars. Most of all, I was given a platform to discuss my own personal experiences and beliefs in a conversational manner via "The Sandspur Hour" on WPRK and with this column, "A Mere Experience."

My goal for this column has been the same since the moment I was first given the opportunity to write for *The Sandspur* the summer before I came to Rollins. I have always tried, through my writing, to share

my honesty and truth with you all. If my words made someone laugh, touched their heart, or caused you to think of an issue in a different light, those responses were more than I could have ever asked for.

People have asked over the years about why I write for *The Sandspur*. To some people, the 'Spur is both entertaining and insightful, while others find it controversial and inflammatory. I have been as much a critic of this paper as I have loved it. It has the potential to do great good, and that is a goal that *The Sandspur* strives for. Personally, over the last four years, it has been a home to me. My initial excursions into the world of journalism, my introduction to the college's theatre department, and every friendship I have made at Rollins all stem from my first year working at this paper.

To my past Editors-in-Chief and Managing Editors, I cannot thank you enough. Nick, Greg, Shannon, Jenn, Hana, and Melanie, you all have taught me

some of the most important lessons I have ever learned, but more importantly, you accepted me so effortlessly into *The Sandspur* family.

To my fellow Sandspurians from past and present, especially my fellow seniors, I am honored to have shared this journey with you. I could think of no better group of individuals to share all the drama and successes that came in creating this newspaper.

Finally, to Emily Russell, I thank you for your part in the success of this paper. Never once did I have to question the support you gave us all and the faith you had in us to provide a product to be proud of. You stood back and allowed us to grow not only as an organization, but as people. This paper gave me the chance to better hone my writing ability, so for that and much more, I could not be more appreciate for all you have done for us.

As I look back on my four years, I have learned many valuable lessons, especially the

following: we are more than the institutions we are a part of because our love transcends the confinement of any entity that tries to contain it. The power that this paper holds and its transformative nature is solely dependent on the people who comprise its infrastructure. I hope that this tradition of excellence continues to grow after I am gone.

As I said before, all I ever hoped for this little column was to get you to think, make you laugh, and hopefully to be of help. And if all else failed, at least you got a few wise words in the form of a quote to hold onto at the end of the day. With that mission in mind, I hope to leave you all with these final words:

"Every new beginning comes from some other beginnings end."

This quote, from the Semi-sonic song "Closing Time," began my first "Mere Experience." As I end my journey at Rollins, I know that I will begin "the rest of my life," but really,

life has only one definite beginning and end. Everything else is the intermingling and intertwining of the many experiences that create the tapestry of our lives. I hope that along the journey, you both find your bliss and fight for your happiness. Sometimes you have to fight like hell against the stress, the worry, the disappointment, and the pain in order to achieve joy. This paper has been my bliss for four years now, and even when times got tough, the happiness that came from late nights at *The Sandspur* office is not comparable to any other experience. So, to quote myself for once: "'Closing Time' is not the song you play after you cross the finish line. It's a reminder for you to celebrate right before the end of the race. We still have tons of time. But all the doors are opening and it'll be our time to go into the world. Like a last call for alcohol, if you will. I hope you have found a few solid friends. Because while you don't have to go home, you sure as hell can't stay here."

Columnist takes his final bow

Poster competition broadens political awareness

Students put social issues into perspective through creative posters.

Lauren Cooper

Writer

The Business and Social Entrepreneurship courses have met and exceeded the expectations set by administration and students. With courses aligning with business principles and social responsibility, the curricula frequently revolve around the notion of how students can impact the world, starting with themselves. From my own experiences in SEB 200: Social Entrepreneurship and Leading Change with Dr. Michelle Stecker, I can say that I have experienced a positive shift in my professional and personal self. I would recommend the course to anyone.

But, Dr. Tonia Warnicke's SEB 220: Global Development course showcased work last

week and appears to be equally as worthwhile. To be honest, though I intended to stroll through Galloway Room and get a feel of the event, I did not expect much since I am not a geopolitical expert. I was pleasantly surprised with the experience, however.

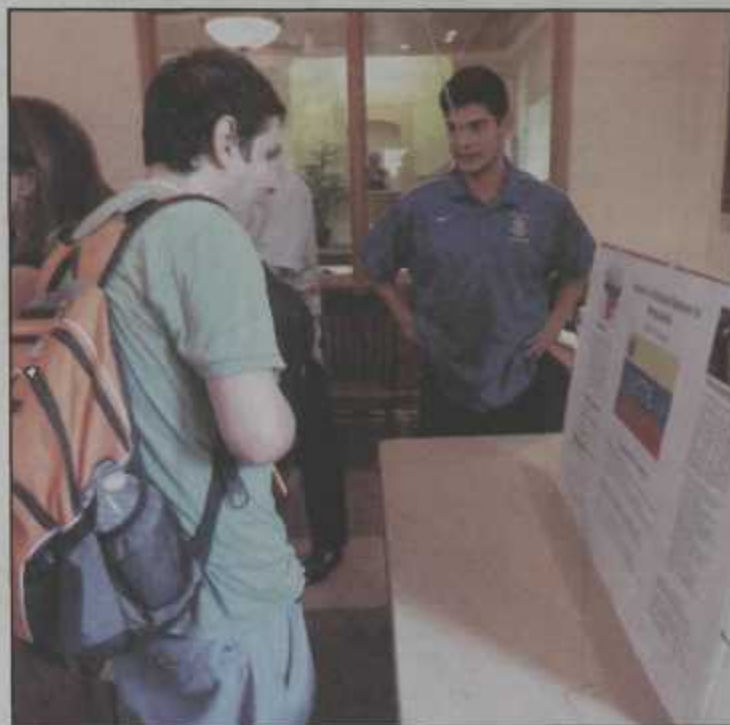
I casually strolled over to the poster of Alexios Venieris '15 since he was a familiar face. Unfortunately, his poster's content was still entirely foreign to me. Botswana? Yeah, fun to say, but I was clueless.

However, Venieris explained that the economy has abundant stagnant capital due to a cultural lack of domestic business. He suggested the country invest in tourism and move itself away from its infamous "blood diamond" industry. Botswana is not the under-

developed nation of Hollywood portrayal; it is a country of unlocked potential, I learned.

Perusing this poster among many, I learned about the prospects of economy, civil rights, and business in a global context that was interactive, comfortable and (dare I say) enjoyable. There were exhibits on Latin America, Africa, Asia, and Europe; no region was unable to develop, according to this event.

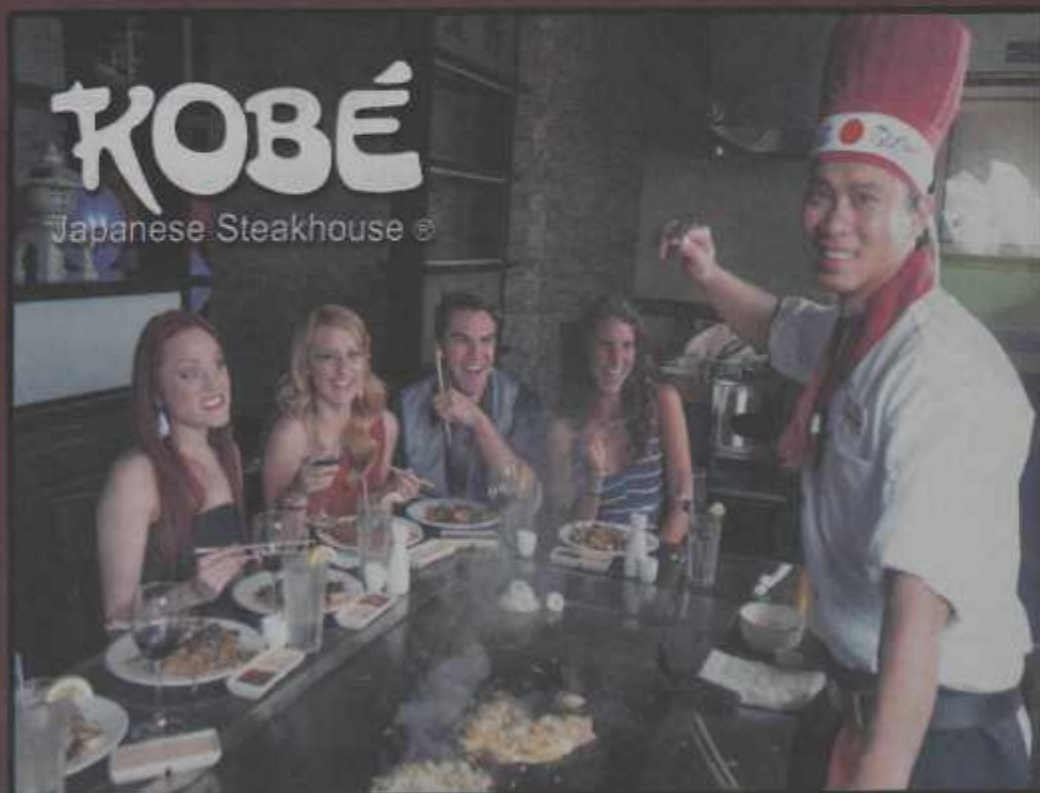
I enjoyed the presentations that the class displayed, and was proud to see my peers inventing solutions to daunting and complex issues in such a short period of time. Despite being in course overload territory, I could still see myself becoming passionate about this course one day and even hitting up Botswana.



Tonia Warnicke

LATIN UNREST Student presents his project on the political situation in Venezuela. A series of geopolitical posters were featured at the Social Entrepreneurship Department event held in the Galloway Room.

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FOX FEST 2014

This year, Fox Fest will be held at Mary Jean Plaza from 4 to 10 p.m. on Saturday, April 26.

After months of anticipation, some setbacks, and weeks of planning, *The Sandspur* and 91.5 WPRK FM are more than proud to announce the official return of Fox Fest. For a brief period, budget issues caused a roadblock in creating something as majestic as last year's Fox Fest. However, due to generous donations from B&B Junction, Charyli, Orlando Fashion Square Mall, Orlando Weekly, and Phat Planet Studios, we are confident that this year's Fox Fest will solidify its status as a new tradition at Rollins.

This year's lineup consists of some of the best local music Orlando has to offer. From shock rockers Room Full of Strangers, the progressive rock of Mojave Wilde, electronic DJ muse Fortune Howl, to funky, soul-inspired headliner The Groove Orient, there is not a free concert around that can boast the talent that will be at Fox Fest. New this year is the addition of visual artists from Rollins College, as we want Fox Fest to include multiple mediums of entertainment and artistic value.

Sea Dog Brewing Company will host a cash bar providing beer and other refreshments. The Meat House will supply delicious food options, including vegetarian options as well. This year Fox Fest will be held at Mary Jean Plaza (behind Dianne's Café and the bookstore) from 4 to 10 p.m., so come first with your beach towels to lounge in the lawn and stay late to stand close to The Groove Orient's jarring bass and guitar.

This event is more than the sum of its parts, however. Student media at Rollins has reached new heights over the past four years; student participation has increased in both outlets—we now have a burgeoning video department, and *The Sandspur* and WPRK continue to receive national recognition for their contribution to college media. Fox Fest celebrates the achievements of a group of students passionate about a common cause—putting on a b***** show, no foxes given.

- Lauren Silvestri

FORTUNE HOWL

Sometimes creating electronic music seems easy. Almost anyone with a laptop and a garage band can throw something together and call it music. Everyone seems to have a cousin with a "new dubstep remix" they are just begging for you to listen to. This is definitely not how I would describe up and coming Orlando electronic/experimental musician Fortune Howl.

Fortune Howl's first and most recent album, *Earthbound*, is ironically like entering a dreamland. Bryce Linde, the mastermind behind Fortune Howl, glitches us from track to track and slowly brings us into his own world. While listening to *Earthbound*'s intricate, yet ear-pleasing, chopped up, yet smooth tracks, you will catch yourself contemplating the atmospheric sounds, bobbing your head, and tapping your feet to the bouncing rhythms. Think Blackmill meets Ethereal Ratatat.

Linde has a lot more talent than your average electronic musician, and *Earthbound* has a lot more to it than your average electronic album. Give Fortune Howl a listen; you will not regret it.

-Drew DeVito

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ROOM FULL OF STRANGERS

There are very few bands these days that sound better live than on CD. Room Full of Strangers is one of those bands. Combining psych-rock with jangle pop, the Orlando-based band puts on a theatrically dazzling and aurally inspiring show. Room Full of Strangers combines the psychedelic feel of The Doors with the fun, garage, lo-fi feel of The Strokes into a potent musical force.

Room Full of Strangers has been a staple of the Orlando music scene for almost a decade. Utilizing fishnet tights, ski masks, and other eccentric clothing, they hit the stage with a rock and roll attitude. Albeit odd at first, they attract even the most conservative listener with their catchy riffs and a front man with the charisma of Mick Jagger. *Bushwick Daily* observes: "Their entrance to the show was at first both puzzling and theatrical, and I soon was intrigued by their presence and surprisingly strong sound. Their hard rocking sound, with frenetic fuzzy guitars and punk-influenced wandering vocal verses hit the spot."

Though they are best seen live and in your face, Room Full of Strangers certainly do not disappoint when they enter the studio. Their debut EP, *Ten Thousand*, features fun songs with classically memorable choruses in songs like "Let's Build an Idol." "Forget the orgies and the chicken feathers too, 'cause now we got this kick-ass idol for you," lead singer Mick McLaun wails.

Their upcoming full length LP, *Bad Vacation*, is a catchy album with surf rock tunes like the title track and spacey jams like their new single "The Haze."

From national festivals such as CMJ to weekly gigs at Will's Pub, Room Full of Strangers is a live band you will want to see. Luckily, you will have the chance this year at Fox Fest '14, which is this Saturday on Mary Jean Plaza. Whether you end up liking them or not, it is a performance at least you will not forget.

- Alex Fang



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Strong Hall redesigned

Although the dorm will not be complete by the originally date, the building will have earth-friendly features.

Lauren Waymire

Staff Writer

The newest addition to the Rollins dorm offerings is nearing completion. I was fortunate enough to recently be given a tour of the new Strong Hall Phase II. Every detail of the building shows intricate planning with both college students and sustainability in mind. All 58 rooms contain high-efficiency LED lighting and the dorm overall has an impressive amount of windows, allowing for plenty of natural light to stream in. As in many other buildings on campus, Strong will also have hydration station for refilling water containers. As Director of Facilities Manager Scott Bitikofer puts it, "It's about efficiency across the board."

The average setup is a bathroom shared between two double rooms; however, there are also singles that share a bathroom and doubles with

their own bathroom. There are four rooms equipped for special needs students who may be hearing impaired or mobility impaired. Each room has hardwood floors but hallways and stairwells are carpeted to reduce sound. Another feature I found impressive was the installation of fiberglass showers instead of the traditional tiled showers. According to Mr. Bitikofer, they are much easier to maintain over time and are far more sanitary. There are also built-in features to the dorm that would allow for future additions; "We build in future building capacity."

The new building, coupled with Strong Hall Phase I, will create a new enclosed courtyard space to enhance the sense of community amongst the building of the Strong Quad. While the building will not be complete by April 25 as originally intended, it will certainly be fully functional in time for the fall semester move-in.



Hongjin Du

WELCOME HOME Still under construction, the entrance to this portion of the revamped Strong Hall resembles the architectural style of many of the historic buildings already on campus.



Hongjin Du

READY TO MOVE IN By Fall 2014, construction should be finished on this new addition to Rollins on campus living.

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Stress levels reach tipping point

Avani Mooljee

Writer

The assignments pile up, the all-nighters become consecutive, exam dates grow closer and closer; time is encroaching upon us.

At Rollins, students have high expectations for themselves, and in turn, take on a lot each semester: four to five classes (if not more) and at least one extracurricular organization.

Juggling time is challenging on a daily basis, and even more so as the end of the semester approaches. Take a break, and find out a few ways to manage your stress levels and be ready for exam week.

Researchers are becoming more concerned with the stress levels of college students, looking specifically at incoming and current freshman. Statisticians have found that more factors are contributing to the levels of stress, causing a steady decrease in emotional health and stability. Barely over half (51.9%) of the students rated their emotional health above average or higher; the lowest it has been since the survey was first given 25 years ago.

Students at UCLA conduct an annual study, "America's Freshmen," that has been referred to as the "nation's most comprehensive assessment of college students' attitudes" by the *Los Angeles Times*. A short list of questions answered online by incoming freshman and again at the end of the year for first-year students provides information on what attributes are affecting stress levels, the employment status of their parents and guardians, and the amount of financial aid they are depending on to get through four years of higher education—all questions leading researchers to conclude that freshman come into college with a high level of tension.

On top of that, pressure to take lots of classes per semester and be involved in organizations and clubs makes the plate fill up really fast! The information collected in this observational study is reliable, as over 201,000 students are given the survey, from over 280 colleges and universities around the nation. Taking the quiz online pro-

vides the students with privacy, confidentiality, and encouragement to be completely honest when answering the questions.

The bad news is, until employment rates increase further and financial aid becomes more generous nation-wide, incoming students will not be calming down in the near future.

But there is good news. Although avoiding stress altogether is impossible, managing stress levels is doable. Stress is defined as a "response to demand that is placed upon you." The key to managing that demand is time management and clarity of mind. Whether it is sitting by the lake by yourself, hanging out with friends at dinner, treating yourself to a movie, or taking breaks in between studying and doing assignments is necessary.

There are four golden rules to remember during high-strung times like these:

Manage Your Time: Whether you like doing assignments in advance, or doing them last minute, estimate how long you will need for each item on your to-do list. A widespread misconception is that multitasking will help you get more done; however, your work will be haphazard and your stress levels will increase.

Know How You Study Best: Is it with lots of people around you or by yourself? Do you study all subjects one after the other, or categorize them day by day. Re-writing notes is proven to put information into long-term memory more readily than simply reading old notes.

Get Enough Sleep: You might not manage to get a full eight hours every night, but taking naps whenever possible, and getting at least a few hours every night will help your body de-stress, and will energize you to keep working the next day.

Be Realistic with Yourself: Know your potential and work pace. Do not be afraid to put yourself and your academic needs above other things during this last stretch. Have your goal in mind and think of all that awaits at the finish line: good grades, no more homework, and... summer!

We are almost there! Good luck, Tars!

Reflections on what it means to be a Tar

Highlighting some of the best aspects of being a part of the Rollins community, Nolan Brewer '17 sums up what exactly makes this college the unique place it is.

Nolan Brewer

Writer

"If you want to get laid, go to college. If you want an education, go to the library." —Frank Zappa

I am a college freshman. I attend Rollins, and I am a Tar. Being a Tar is more than just going to Rollins College, being a Tar is an identity. One that can be worn with pride. So I ask the question: what does it mean to be a Tar?

Being a Tar can be going to a RIP performance and laughing your ass off or going to the gym and working your ass off. It means that you'll develop rivalries with schools you haven't even heard of—you'll celebrate when we win and cry when we lose. It can mean strolling down Park Avenue

looking at the restaurants and inhaling the rich smell of tobacco from Cigarz on the Avenue. It can mean climbing the Winter Park Christmas tree at two in the morning while all the Christmas decorations light up Park Avenue.

It can mean waking up Sunday morning and rushing to the Campus Center to get in line for Bagel Bar, because tradition makes everything taste better. It can mean falling asleep in the Pillow Room and then studying the rest of the day in Club Olin. It can mean participating in Rush and joining a Fraternity or Sorority. It can mean downloading the obscure Fox Day cam app so you can spy on the flagpole after rouletting the night before. It is knowing that Fox Day is the

greatest day of the year and probably should be a National Holiday.

It can mean making lifelong friends and maybe even a few enemies. It can mean watching some friends come and go, but meeting new ones every week. It means being more than a number to your professors—it means being a recognizable face. You know you're a Tar when you spend more time on Rollins Confessions than Tumblr or any other social media. It can mean waking up every day continually amazed by how beautiful the campus is.

Being a Tar is a combination of powerful emotions. Being a Tar is something unique to each and every person. Being a Tar is what you make it. Make it amazing!

Valedictorian shares perspective

Micah Bradley

Staff Writer

Zachary Baldwin '14 is one of this year's valedictorians. An art history major from Longwood, Florida, Baldwin enjoyed "The Culture and Chemistry of Crime" course with Dr. Emily Russell and Dr. Laurel Goj. For that course, the class read classic murder mysteries and even acted out their own murder mysteries. He has enjoyed participating in various college ministries, such as the United Campus Ministries and InterVarsity. He also served on the executive board of JUMP. Baldwin loved participating in work-study at the Office of Community Engagement, where he also had several internships.

Baldwin plans to take a gap year before continuing his education with graduate school. "I have a passion for higher education and want to continue working with college students." He would also love to have a voiceover role in an animated feature—hopefully Disney or Spongebob.

For his free time, Baldwin says, "I really enjoy fencing [the sport], reading, and cooking, though I generally do these separately." He also enjoys R&B and hip-hop, and his favorite holiday is Free Slurpee Day.

Baldwin's advice to students at Rollins is to truly engage in courses. "While at Rollins, you'll be exposed to a lot of new perspectives on just about every subject imaginable. Your professors will challenge your tightly held notions and your peers will offer counter positions to your own, which is awesome! Enjoy the benefits of a liberal arts education." He also cautions students to form their own opinions, without simply accepting views because they are presented in a class. "Don't be a sponge. Don't simply take on a view because it was said by a professor or found in a textbook. Ask questions and pose counterarguments. Education at a liberal arts institute shouldn't operate through a trickle-down effect, but through active discourse between students, staff, and faculty."



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Budget crisis endangers study abroad

Micah Bradley

Staff Writer

Rollins College experienced a budget deficit this year of about four million dollars. One of the reasons for Rollins' budget issue was the high number of students studying abroad, and now the study abroad programs are facing some cuts, and International Programs has sent in some proposed cuts to the president's office. Giselda Beaudin, Director of International Programs, posed the question, "How do we control study abroad costs, without damaging study abroad?"

Some of these cuts will affect all students who want to study abroad, and others will only affect those who want to study abroad multiple times. These changes will go into effect in Spring 2015 and will affect current students. Beaudin pointed out that it is important to "balance the budget issue, while keeping the culture of study abroad, which is pretty strong on campus." Though the president and administrators are overwhelmingly supportive of study abroad, it has become difficult to balance the economics of study abroad with the high numbers of people who want to participate in the program.

Rollins allows all of its scholarships to go with students as they study abroad. With the new proposal, students will not be able to take their scholarships with them for a second semester abroad. Usually, Rollins only has around ten students a year try to study abroad for a second semester, so this change will not affect a lot of students.

Scholarships will still be retained for a second semester if it is an exchange program.



Rollins currently has exchange programs in Spain, Ireland, Japan, and Hong Kong. With the loophole making exchange programs more appealing, they are hopeful to expand their exchange program offerings, possibly to include New Zealand and Taiwan soon.

These exchange programs do not have as many students participating as the more traditional study abroad, so this loophole will serve to send students to an underutilized program at Rollins. With an exchange program, more of the scholarship money actually stays on Rollins campus, instead of being sent to a foreign university.

Another change is that the school will probably no longer be paying for VISAs. Original-

ly, the school wanted to stop paying for airfare. Beaudin said, "We were under a lot of pressure to remove airfare, but we just felt that would be a stopping block for students, so we are trying to resist that." VISAs often only cost a few hundred dollars, but plane tickets can be several thousand, so it was important to International Programs to only make the students pay for VISAs.

Some high cost programs will also be eliminated or have numbers capped. For example, the Washington D.C. internship program will probably have a cap on the number of students allowed to participate. Several high cost SIT programs will also be eliminated, but some of the countries, such as Australia, will still be offered under nor-

mal study abroad.

Overall, study abroad participation has been growing in the last few years. Next fall there is an enrollment of 122 students who plan to study abroad, the highest ever. Some schools that have such high numbers studying abroad end up capping numbers on participation. Rollins wants to avoid that, since studying abroad is part of the dedication to internationalization that the campus has been promoting the last few years. It is unlikely that students will see capped numbers on study abroad anytime soon, if ever.

In addition to more exchange programs, International Programs hopes to add more summer programs. Right now, Rollins has many short immer-

sion and field study activities, but they want to add longer programs over the summer to make it easier for students to study abroad.

Beaudin said, "I think it's a good problem for Rollins to have. It's kind of unusual for a school to have so many students going abroad that they are trying to manage that. Usually, they are trying to get students abroad. So, it's a really exciting thing that Rollins has so many students going abroad. And so now, we just need to figure out a way to support that, without getting the college stuck in a position where they can't balance the budget." Hopefully, International Programs will know within the next few weeks whether or not their proposal has been approved.

Organization expands positions, hosts festival

Micah Bradley

Staff Writer

WPRK is Rollins College's radio station, often known as "the voice of Rollins," operating out of the Mills Building.

William DeVito '16, the station manager, says, "Whether it be through music or discussion, WPRK allows students to express to both the Rollins and

Orlando community what they believe needs to be heard."

The station is broadcast to thousands of people in Winter Park and Orlando on 91.5FM and plays almost every genre of music.

DeVito adds, "WPRK is a treasure to both Rollins, Winter Park and Orlando because of its unique and high-quality programming that can't be

heard anywhere else, and the vast amount of opportunities it presents for students to operate in the real world."

There are many different ways for students to get involved with WPRK. DeVito says, "WPRK harbors some of the most musically oriented, friendly and unique students on campus, and the station environment is engaging, relaxed

and fun." Students can help review music, coordinate concerts, work with advertising, or even apply for a DJ position. Over the summer, WPRK will be hiring two interns, in Audio Engineering and in Public Relations. For next year, they are specifically looking for a Business Director.

Members of the community can also get involved.

Residents of Winter Park and Orlando can apply for DJ positions, and some members of the community have had shows on WPRK for decades. In upcoming events, Fox Fest will be taking place on April 26 at Mary Jean Plaza. It will have a mix of live electronic, rock and roll, and indie music. WPRK is a great place for students to get involved.

New *Godzilla* film brings deeper message

Daniel Udell

Head Copy Editor

With the upcoming *Godzilla* reboot stomping into theatres May 16 of this year, I thought it would be interesting to look into why we love *Godzilla* so much. The subject matter is something beyond the typical, mind-numbing destruction porn we have grown accustomed to in films like *Transformers*, 2012, and *Man of Steel*. It is expected to carry some real cerebral heft if the trailers and teasers of the film are to be believed, which all have masterfully maintained a sense of dread, horror, and despair for the upcoming movie rather than one of reckless abandonment of everything but destruction of buildings and film-CGI budgets. The film is being helmed by horror-director Gaereth Edwards rather than a huge blockbuster staple like Michael Bay or Peter Jackson, and it appears Edwards is returning to *Godzilla*'s roots, unlike the last handful of the King Lizard's reboots. It is this respect for the source material present in the careful presentation of this modern retelling that brought me to consider exactly what *Godzilla*'s roots are and what our complex relationship with *Godzilla* implies.

Indeed, for those who are not familiar with the subject matter, *Godzilla* was not simply a fantasy-minded idea of epic proportions—the original *Godzilla* of the Japanese film *Gojira* was in fact a clear metaphor for the nuclear bomb dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki that closed out World War II. The senseless destruction of Japan was the heart of the original telling and inception and the monster's design was based on an alien, unstoppable force that only left destruction in its wake. The original Japa-

nese name—*Gojira*—actually is a combination of two animals that best described what the beast would look like: *gori*-*ra* (gorilla) and *kujira* (whale). Thus, *Gojira* was born. It was not until the beast was westernized for American audiences that the name was changed to *Godzilla*, which carries significantly different implications with it. With the new name (perhaps un-ironically, knowing the characters original metaphoric intent), a sense of justice was attached to the destruction. From that point on, *Godzilla*'s original message was watered down and he became a fairly two-dimensional giant monster only present to battle other, more dangerous giant monsters.

However, what I find interesting is our seeming allegiance not with the humans in these depictions of destruction, but the very beast who causes the devastation. Unlike other forms of destruction porn commonly seen in films, *Godzilla* seems to have a sense of invincibility—it is hard to imagine how the humans will overcome such a threat, and indeed, there is a feeling that the destruction will only end when *Godzilla* chooses to relent and return to sleep. There is a purposefulness present in *Godzilla* that seems odd in comparison to other examples. The destruction in *Godzilla*'s original debut, and what seems to be coming with the newest retelling, is not for our entertainment and that alone (see *Transformers* and *Man of Steel*)—the sheer amount of chaos and death brought on by *Godzilla* seems to serve the purpose of demonstrating the hopelessness that such tragedy ensues. Indeed, that seems to be the tone of the newest movie—how does one accept that the end, whether explainable or not, has come and that it is unavoidable?

The senseless destruction of Japan was the heart of the original telling and inception and the monster's design was based on an alien, unstoppable force that only left destruction in its wake.

Whereas the original incarnation of the monster represented nuclear destruction, based on the trailers for the new film, this reincarnation seems to represent a carelessness with Nature and its ultimate revenge on humanity. *Godzilla* rises out of the water as Mother Earth's champion, eyes set upon civilization in vengeance for its crimes against the world. This is not easy stuff or popcorn fluff, people. And the strange thing is, from what I have seen and experienced myself, we do not necessarily root for the humans in this time of need; in fact, we root for *Godzilla* himself. Does he represent the metaphoric retaliation of Nature that we have long come to expect from our destruction of habitat and home for other creatures? The mass extinctions we have caused? The mass pollution? Indeed, with the last major earthquake in Japan dumping terrifying amounts of radioactive material into the Pacific Ocean, this image of expected, grave consequences in the not-so-far-future is not a strange idea. Perhaps we root for *Godzilla* because we know, ultimately, we have had this kind of retribution coming for a long time. Ultimately, no matter what we do to harm the environment, whether that is radioactivity, global warming, or mass pollution, the ultimate victims will be us. The Earth will survive, but it will retaliate in its own way and will balance the scales. This might mean mass flooding, droughts, and

all forms of natural disasters, or even just our inability to cope with minimizing food supplies and clean air—we will be decimated by our own actions, but the world will live on.

Godzilla has come to represent that expected consequence of our selfish actions, and in a way, we have no right to fight it. *Godzilla* represents Nature itself, and just as it can be beautiful and life-giving, it can also be cruel, uncaring, and decimating. That latter half manifests in the imagination as *Godzilla*. If this all sounds grave and depressing, then perhaps it is time we begin to re-evaluate our place in the world, focusing on how to prevent a "real" *Godzilla* rearing its terrible head from the depths and bringing Earthly justice on us all. For the religious, perhaps *Godzilla* will represent the end promised in the Old Testament with the lizard being a direct conduit of God's wrath on the sinners; for the secular, he is the environmental revenge for centuries of abuse and abandonment; for the cinefile and casual movie-goer, he is a *tour-de-force* of artistic expression and a reminder of our history as a destructive people. And as the laws of nature dictate, for every action, there must be an equally powerful reaction; if we have yet to experience a repayment for our history of violence and disregard for Nature, then *Godzilla* represents that anxiety and submission to its eventual arrival.



Daniel Udell

Hinsel
TALK

Stans take over the internet

While celebrities have always had devoted fans, advances in technology have made it easy for super fans to take their obsessions to new unhealthy levels.

Chris Sarafian

Columnist

Sailing throughout the various oceans of the Internet, you may encounter the term "stan." The word stems from the 1999 Eminem song of the same name. Along with its music video, "Stan" tells the fictional tale of a crazed Eminem fan. As his pregnant girlfriend expresses her concerns over his unhealthy Eminem addiction, Stan breaks into a furious tantrum, beats her, and retreats to his Eminem-themed basement to write fan mail. Eminem raps as Stan throughout the song's verses, narrating the twisted letters sent from fan to idol. "I even got a tattoo with your name across the chest. Sometimes I even cut myself to see how much it bleeds." The rapper never responds to Stan's mail, thus propelling the fan into a fiery fury of insanity. He murders his girlfriend, shoves her body in the trunk of his car, and drives off a bridge while recording one last message for his favorite celebrity.

Despite its gruesome origin, the word has taken on its own life and meaning. To

"stan" is to pledge one's allegiance to a celebrity. It's an oath of loyalty to the artist that transcends casual admiration. Urban Dictionary defines it as, "an overzealous maniacal fan of any celebrity or athlete." Internetslang.com simply describes a stan as "a stalker fan." While these Internet definitions tote negative connotations, not all stans are insane.

Unfortunately, however, the term's ambiguity meshes devotion with lunacy. A Beyoncé stan could refer to a fourteen-year-old girl who looks up to the pop star as a role model. Perhaps she owns every album, or saves her allowance to buy a concert ticket.

A Beyoncé stan could also refer to a deranged thirty-three year old man who breaks into Mrs. Carter's house in order to serenade her sleeping body with an eerie lullaby rendition of "Partition."

It's time to consider redefining the definition. If you admit to stanning for Katy Perry, it's not fair for the world to assume that you've spent the past year collecting her toenails in Ziploc bags.

Stans mirroring Eminem's

fictional character unfortunately do exist; several celebrities have filed restraining orders after brushes with stalkers. Paula Abdul's "biggest fan" killed herself outside of the singer's home, and Latina pop star, Selena Quintanilla, was notoriously murdered by the president of her fan club.

Stanning has increased in popularity with the rise of the Internet and the evolution of fandoms, or groups of stans. Fandoms aren't new developments; Trekkies and Dead Heads are some of the more culturally significant. Today's notorious fandoms include: Little Monsters (Lady Gaga), Beliebers (Justin Bieber), and Directioners (One Direction).

On the battlefields of Tumblr and Twitter, stan wars rage between almost every fandom. Nothing has to spur the conflict; Directioners will clash with Beliebers simply because they both support artists that compete in the industry.

Using death threats, cyberbullying, and (in extreme cases) computer hacking as weapons, these extreme stans besmirch anyone or anything that poses a threat to their favorite celebrity.

I must admit—I identify myself as a Little Monster. Do I stan for Lady Gaga? Let's say I diet-stan. I adore the artist, but I have no desire to sneak into her apartment or threaten her haters. Contrary to stan stereotype, you do not have to abandon basic human morals to support a celebrity. Instead, support the artist by promoting their music or moral message.

Unfortunately, the Little Monsters have become one of the more notorious fan bases. After Kelly Osbourne poked fun at Gaga on Fashion Police, extreme stans galloped to Twitter to threaten Kelly and her family. Although these rabid stans don't represent every Little Monster's thoughts and feelings, their extreme antics continue to tarnish the artist and her fan base as a whole.

Unfortunately, the artist doesn't have much control over what her fans do or say. Lady Gaga has disciplined her Little Monsters numerous times, but they still take up the role of attack dog.

"To affiliate yourself with a mainstream artist today is just like the unwavering loyalty that sports teams have, like the Gi-

ants or the Celtics," says David Russell, an artist manager at Internet Explorer.

The stan culture has its pros and cons. People find inspiration from linking themselves to an artist. For instance, think about how many young women were given confidence because of Demi Lovato.

While there's no harm in admiring the artist, problems arise when stans become obsessive, expressing their affection via inhumane methods. Isn't that exactly what celebrity stalkers have done in the past? They stooped to insane and irrational measures in order to "show their love" for the artist.

This week, Demi Lovato tweeted in response to stan wars, "Dear Lovatics, for every hater tweet—don't respond with hate, but love and positivity. Try love instead of combat."

Following these words, perhaps we can move past cattiness and derangement and towards an acceptance of differing viewpoints. Though, if you would like to continue to act like a lunatic to support a celebrity, see Stephen King's *Misery*—maybe you'll have a change of heart.

French movie sparks sexuality controversy

Hind Berji

Writer

When the French romantic drama *Blue Is the Warmest Color* debuted in Cannes last summer, audiences were blown away by the actors' engrossing performances and the sensuous cinematography. The Cannes Film Festival jury awarded the two main actresses and the director the prestigious Palme d'Or (the Golden Palm); it also received the Cesar award for best film, along with countless global accolades.

Based on Julie Maroh's graphic novel, the film takes place in France and centers on Adèle, a fifteen-year-old high school student whose friends' obsession with gossiping about boys and relationships leads her to take a keen interest in having a love affair of her own.

Not unlike the heroines of the books she reads in her lit-

erature class, Adèle longs for intimacy and acceptance, but grows restless after her first sexual encounter with a boy from school.

After a female classmate's flirtations lead her to question her sexuality, Adèle decides to go to a gay bar with a friend. She wanders off to a lesbian bar where she meets the mysterious blue-haired Emma who she had seen crossing the street weeks beforehand. They build a friendship that quickly forms into an intense romance.

The film sounds benign enough. Two women meet, fall in love, and realize that romantic love is imperfect and complicated. It sounds borderline cliché to the European film-goer. But, after the initial success and favorable reception from international audiences, the film provoked some debate over its explicit sex scenes that gave the film an NC-17 rating in the

States.

Furthermore, reports of abuse from the film's director, Abdellatif Kechiche, led critics of the film to take a more in-depth look at the director's influence on the storyline. The film's ten-minute sex scene between Adèle Exarchopoulos and Lea Seydoux (playing Emma) took ten exhausting days to shoot, because of the director's insistence on it being an un-choreographed, realistic scene. Some call it justified artistic liberty to have such over-the-top scenes. Others call them blatantly pornographic and unnecessary. Both sides feel silly watching them.

As Julie Maroh stated: "The heteronormative laughed because they don't understand it and find the scene ridiculous. The gay and queer people laughed because it's not convincing, and found it ridiculous."

This criticism does not detract from viewers' appreciation of the beauty of the film. But the magic does not lie in Adèle and Emma's bodies. The magic of the film lies in Adèle's facial expressions.

Sure, Kechiche loves filming Exarchopoulos's backside, but it is the way he captures her subtle facial movements—a quivering lip, half-closed eyelids, a strand of hair flowing across Adèle's forehead—that truly captivates the viewer. The actress's distant, awkward facial movements define the film itself, whose French title is *La Vie d'Adèle*, or "The Life of Adèle."

The cinematography is lush and full of symbols of the film's signature color: Adèle's blue room, her mother's azure sweater, the vibrant blue bowl she eats her dinner out of as she is wearing her blue floral scarf, the blue bench she sits on at

school, Emma's parents' cerulean kitchen... the list goes on.

But do not let the blue smoke and mirrors fool you. Once the story fades out, you are left realizing that you watched another director's distorted idea of female sexuality. In a world where film representation of women and their sexuality is skewed by men, Kechiche's interpretation of the book is nothing short of his own self-gratifying desire to see two women having sex.

A three-hour film about women is something of a gem in cinema. The issue with *Blue Is the Warmest Color* is not necessarily the graphic nature of the film, but the number of unsatisfying discussions it has ignited among critics. We only get a taste of the possibilities in which Kechiche could have directed the film and represented a young woman's burgeoning sexuality.

Fusion cuisine offers curious flavors

The New Downtown Restaurant Artisan's Table is inspired by the farm-to-table movement. With innovative fusion dishes and creative cocktails, this restaurant is a new venue to try for date night.



David Matteson

FRIED POUSSIN Located at 22 E. Pine Street, Orlando, FL 32801, Artisan's Table offers a more casual alternative to neighboring restaurant Kasa. The menu features a variety of freshly prepared meats as entrees, including the Lake Meadow Farms Honey Fried Poussin (\$15). Battered in a zesty strawberry vinegar, the chicken dish has a crunchy fried exterior and is served with a delicious side of braised collard greens and a cold couscous-based pasta salad. For hours and more menu options please visit the restaurant's website: www.artisanstableorland.com



David Matteson

PANCAKE (above) The Korean Vegetable Pancake (\$7) is a delicious appetizer with tasteful oriental influence. Served with fresh soy sauce, the pancake features zucchini, carrot, and red bell pepper and is topped with imported kimchee, which provides a needed crunch to the light dish.



David Matteson

COCKTAILS (left) Prepared by an expert mixologist, the cocktail menu offers an array of satisfying alcoholic beverages. Try the apricot sidecar (\$8) for a fruit based drink with tangy notes. The Sweet Rye Manhattan (\$11) is an aromatic and delicious variation on the classic.

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World Cup arouses rants in Brazil

As the World Cup approaches and excites the world, Brazilians are protesting against the soccer event, demonstrating that there's bigger issues that plague the country.



Circuito Fora do Eixo

FACING OPPOSITION Brazilian students protest the increased bus fare in Porto Alegre. As soccer fans around the world prepare for the upcoming World Cup, the riots in Brazil have grown in size and scope as they demand better living conditions and a stronger middle class.

Marcie Oliveira

Section Editor

Tropical beaches, beautiful women, and lots of partying are the first pictures in people's mind when they think about Brazil. The last images I have of my country, however, are of tear gas, rubber bullets, and countless bruises.

These past few years have been important to many developing countries in the world. From the Arab Spring to the recent unrests in Venezuela, our global atmosphere seems to be shifting and an anxious agitation is in the air. The reasons behind such great events is up for debate, but one thing is for certain: Brazil has joined this new revolution club.

Throughout 2013, I attended diverse protests in my hometown, Porto Alegre. What started as a simple bus fare riot evolved into a massive wave of demonstrations throughout the country. Brazil is known

for being a quiet, tropical paradise, where people are way too happy sipping their capirinhas and chilling at Copacabana. Indeed, what happened last June was surprising even for me. What has led such a complacent population into a fierce state of protesting?

Probably the World Cup. Wait. What? Brazilians love soccer, do they not? Well, as fascinated as we are by soccer, I believe we have a higher esteem for a functioning educational and health system. I am pretty certain most Brazilians would also choose a less corrupt government or more equality within our society over soccer any day. The problem is that we did not get to choose between these options, so the World Cup it is.

Do not get me wrong, I did not protest against the World Cup, even though I am "against" it. The overwhelming and unforeseen movement that occurred last year turned into a mess faster than it made

any substantial demands. Honestly, I just wanted to be able to take a nice bus ride home, without having to be cramped and gasping for breath, to have a true public transportation system where no corporate profit is not involved (after all, I am pretty sure it was supposed to be public?), and to give the overall population a change to reach their destinations peacefully (in Brazil, public transportation is more common since the great majority of people cannot afford private cars). I thought my demands were not that complicated, but apparently they were; the transportation scenario continues the same.

What is sad, however, is not that our people's lives are becoming more complicated each day. What happened in Brazil, and what is still happening, is a generalized discontent towards not only one aspect of our country, but, apparently, all of them. Especially the World Cup. It does seem funny that,

for a country lacking in virtually all basic aspects of living conditions, we found the funds to build stadiums, reform the ones we had, restructure our airports, improve myriad roads, etc. Did we have all of this money in the first place? And, if we did, why did we not spend it on health or education (two things our nation desperately needs)?

I am not asking Americans to come to Brazil; I am actually saying quite the contrary. Now that the disaster has been made, please come! At least we can get some money back from all of the (pointless and ridiculous) investments the country made. I can guarantee that those coming are going to have a good time—Brazil's stereotype is to have fun, after all. Drink some exotic cocktails, enjoy the nice weather, and talk to some outgoing and happy people. But keep in mind that the ones who will profit from this marvelous adventure are those who already have money

in the country. That guy in the favela struggling to catch a bus in the middle of traffic will not see his life improved; however, the hotel owners and the airline CEOs will earn some fat checks during the World Cup. Come and enjoy, but keep a critical eye!

“It does seem funny that, for a country lacking in virtually all aspects of living conditions, we found the funds to build stadiums.”