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### Hollins Columns (1981 Dec 7)

Hollins College

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Theatre grad student Sherry Wedemeyer (left), undergraduate Kelle Truby and grad student Peter Johnston rehearse one of Brian Aldiss' plays to be presented on December 10 and 11 at the College Theatre.

Photo by William Cates.

## Theatre Department Presents Three Science Fiction Plays

On December 10 and 11 the Theater Arts Department will present an unusual trio of short plays by famed science-fiction writer Brian Aldiss.

The three plays, *Working in the Spaceship Yards*, *Swastika*, and *Last Days*, have never before been staged in the United States. They are all set in a British pub of the future and involve an unusual array of characters who come there to socialize and philosophize. Among them are an android, a talking computer, a jovial middle-aged man, a woman having one last drink before the end of the world and a journalist who has discovered an incredible piece of news about Hitler.

Tom Atkins, Chair of the Theatre Arts Department, is directing the production, as well as acting in one play. The cast includes Theatre Arts M.A. students Sherry Wedemeyer, Julia Thorpe, and Peter Johnston, along with undergraduates Kelle Truby, Elizabeth Bradford, Miriam O'Day, Denise McGrath, Susan Behn, Kate Settle and Susan Wells.

"The atmosphere is calm and easy," says Sherry Wedemeyer. "Rehearsals began with theatre games. We each chose a life study, an animal study and a painting from which to incorporate some aspect for the part we were playing, improv-

sing toward the character. It's a nice way to start." Wedemeyer plays the role of a dotty old lady whose world has revolved around her rose garden. Now, in the pub just before the earth is about to be destroyed, she has met a man and has found happiness. "So it's the end of the world? Who cares? Let's not rush away from this; it's fun!"

Kelle Truby plays the part of the Captain in that same play. She is charged with rounding up citizens for the evacuation. And it takes some doing. About her part, Truby says, "It's wonderful working with the ensemble. The director provides an atmosphere where we can all be free to grow in our own way, everybody working as a whole. I feel a strong affiliation with the cast. It's been a joy."

Peter Johnston, who completes the cast of *Last Days*, added that the direction is relaxed and flexible, allowing time and space for exploring into characters with no outside pressure.

Inspiration for the computer, played by O'Day, came from Duchamp's *Nude Descending a Staircase* depicting the mechanics of motion and the unblinking wise placidity of an owl.

Elizabeth Bradford, playing a worker in the spaceship yards, describes the development of her

character as "a long process. It's not a stock part. I see the worker as an 80's woman: a feminist and aggressive. I chose Marian, from *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, as inspiration. She's tough, has good spirit, and is heroic with a very human side."

Kate Settle, who plays a barmaid, calls the direction of the production "innovative." "Tom is concerned with the actor's comfort in the part and leaves me room to experiment and expand into the character."

Susan Wells, who plays a deaf old woman, chose the qualities of somber sullenness from a painting by Isabella D'Este. She adapted the mannerisms of an observed life study in creating the role.

Julia Thorpe, as the writer who has discovered a major secret about Hitler, says that her characterization began as a super-earnest type, but evolved into a sexier and more manipulative person.

Cast members have been equally vocal in their appreciation of the credits which they each will receive as independent studies for their work in the production. "It's something that we've wanted to do for quite some time," says Atkins, "and all productions from now on will carry such credits."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5.)

## Ac Pol Explains Procedure For Examination Periods

First semester exams not yet scheduled will be administered under the Independent Exam System beginning December 17 through December 22.

The first exam period will be the evening of the 17th at 7 p.m.. The faculty have the option of allowing students to take exams during this period. Other exam periods are as follows: Friday, December 18—Monday, December 21: 9 a.m., 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Tuesday, December 22: 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Exams will be handed out on the third floor of the Administration Building beginning 15 minutes before the start of the exam period. No exams will be given out after the start of the exam session.

The Independent Exam System is administered by the Student Academic Policy Committee. Its chair, Leila Bristow '82, requests that all students keep four things in mind during this time: course titles and numbers; blue book requirements; the honor code; and the mandatory pledge.

Says Bristow, "We will know after each session who has not pledged their exams and they will have to come back immediately

and do so." She also asks that students sign up to proctor the exam sessions. A sign up sheet will be on the kiosk. There must be three proctors per session, or there will be no session at that time. Bristow stresses the importance of student support in this matter. She says, "Proctors are not paid because this is a student-run endeavor. The effectiveness of the system depends on each student's sense of responsibility for each other. We are lucky to be able to take our exams in such a flexible manner administered by our peers. I hope the students will sign up to proctor as a favor to each other and as a vital support to this system. It is also a good time to study."

The locations of the smoking and non-smoking exam rooms will be posted. Students are to go directly to these rooms after they have picked up their exams. The proctors will keep track of those with a time limit and give the time regularly. Completed exams are to be handed to the proctor who will staple them in the student's presence.

Honor Court Chair, Jennifer See Exams

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# Ring In '82 With The Bubbly and More

by Susan Kelley

One of the highlights of every college Christmas break is New Years, a festive time when friends and relatives join together to ring in the New Year.

There are many traditions characteristic of the holiday. People all over the country celebrate New Years in a variety of ways, however.

In New York, masses of people,

wrapped in their warmest winter coats, crowd together in Times Square for the countdown. The late Guy Lombardo was a favorite among many as he sang *Auld Lang Syne* to the millions watching their television sets. As the clock strikes midnight, streamers and confetti, as well as corks from champagne bottles, fly into the air, while cheers of happiness, kisses and champagne glasses are all exchanged.

Champagne is the most popular beverage at New Years parties. People often find, the next morning, that their heads are also ringing in the New Year.

Some believe that it is essential to have the Christmas trees and decorations stowed away to keep bad luck out of the house. This is a superstition that many people go to great lengths to avoid. Eating black eyed peas is another tradition. According to tradition, people who eat black eyed peas on New Years Day, will have good luck throughout the New Year.

Members of the College community reflect the diversity of New Years traditions and plans for this December 31.

"I am going to the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans to see the Bulldogs win. On New Years Eve I will probably be partying on Bourbon Street," says Louise Gregory '84.

Erma Wright, who works in the College laundry, says "Every year we go to Fincastle to hear the ringing of the bells. That is what we will do this year also."

Julia Gregg '85 plans to "go to a party and probably to the Cotton Bowl."

Chief of Security Ralph Watts says "Oh, I will be at a party, but I don't know if I will drink or not."

"I'm going to sit at home with my brothers and sisters. We'll make cookies and watch old Christmas movies of when we were young," says Tanya Oster '84.

Laura Menefee '83 plans to spend time "with family."

"I think I'll celebrate with a friend who is a male stripper," says Dierdre Blackwood '84.

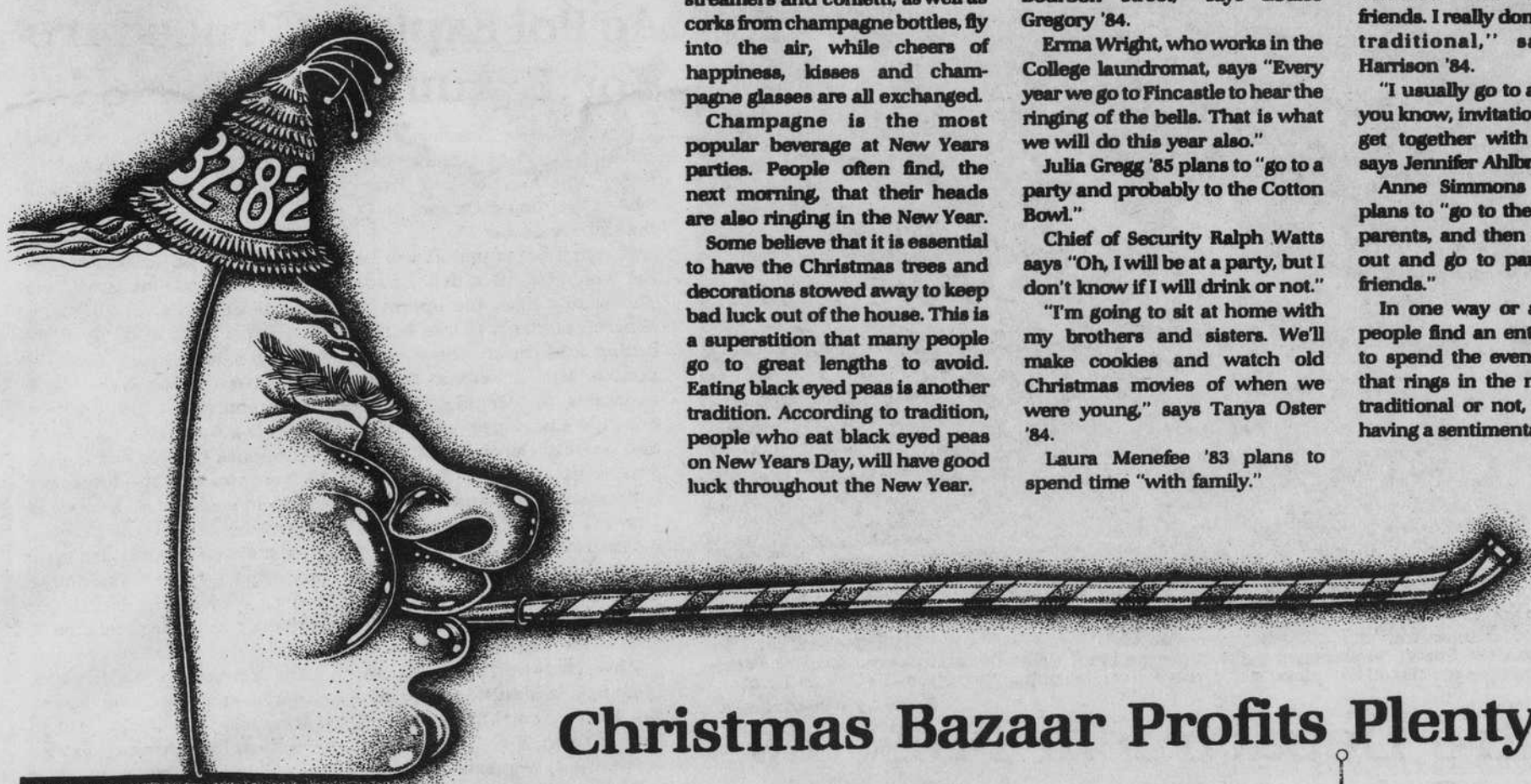
Barbara Garrison, a member of the dining room staff, says she is "going to go out and get drunk."

"There are a couple of parties planned, and I will probably celebrate with some of my friends. I really don't do anything traditional," says Yvonne Harrison '84.

"I usually go to a closed party, you know, invitation only. Then I get together with old friends," says Jennifer Ahlbrand '85.

Anne Simmons '83 says she plans to "go to the club with my parents, and then we all branch out and go to parties with our friends."

In one way or another, most people find an entertaining way to spend the evening each year that rings in the new year, and traditional or not, most end up having a sentimental yet fun time.



## Christmas Bazaar Profits Plenty

Exams

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1.)

Tuttle '82, will discuss the exam procedure with the freshman class. She explains that, "What I'm planning to do is hold an open forum mainly for the freshmen in Tinker and Randolph on December 14. For Tinker this will be at 7:30 p.m. (Tinker Oval Room) and for Randolph at 8 p.m. My main objective is just to talk with the freshmen and answer their questions." Tuttle will be accompanied by the two freshman honor court representatives, Janice Acela and Corey Cunningham. According to Tuttle the discussion will focus on, "the do's and the don't's, and then I'm sure they'll have a multitude of questions that they can fire at us, and we'll try to answer them all. The purpose is to educate the freshmen about the exam taking procedure. They've heard a lot about it and it's going to be very informative; it will tell them which rooms to use, the times, what you can do and not to take in blue books."

Tuttle says "We don't want people talking about the exams at all during the exam period because an expression on your face, or sigh is going to tell someone 'I better study a little bit more.' If someone asks you if you took your exam, a 'yes' or 'no' should be sufficient."

"We did very well," according to Ann Patten, Campus Activities Chair, commenting on this year's Christmas Bazaar.

The annual event, which was held on December 2 in the Rathskeller from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. attracted not only local people from places as close as Kay's Cabin, but also merchants from as far away as Williamsburg, Virginia Beach and Lynchburg.

The participants, according to Patten, included, "a lot of local people, ladies who have their own crafts, who make skirts, sell Mexican dresses or jewelry." One man from out of town makes gold jewelry and uses bazaars to display his work. Although many of the participants have been coming to the College for several years, others had never been here before.

Patten explains that, "we have a new handful that have just heard about us; I was astounded. I got phone calls all fall (requesting contracts)."

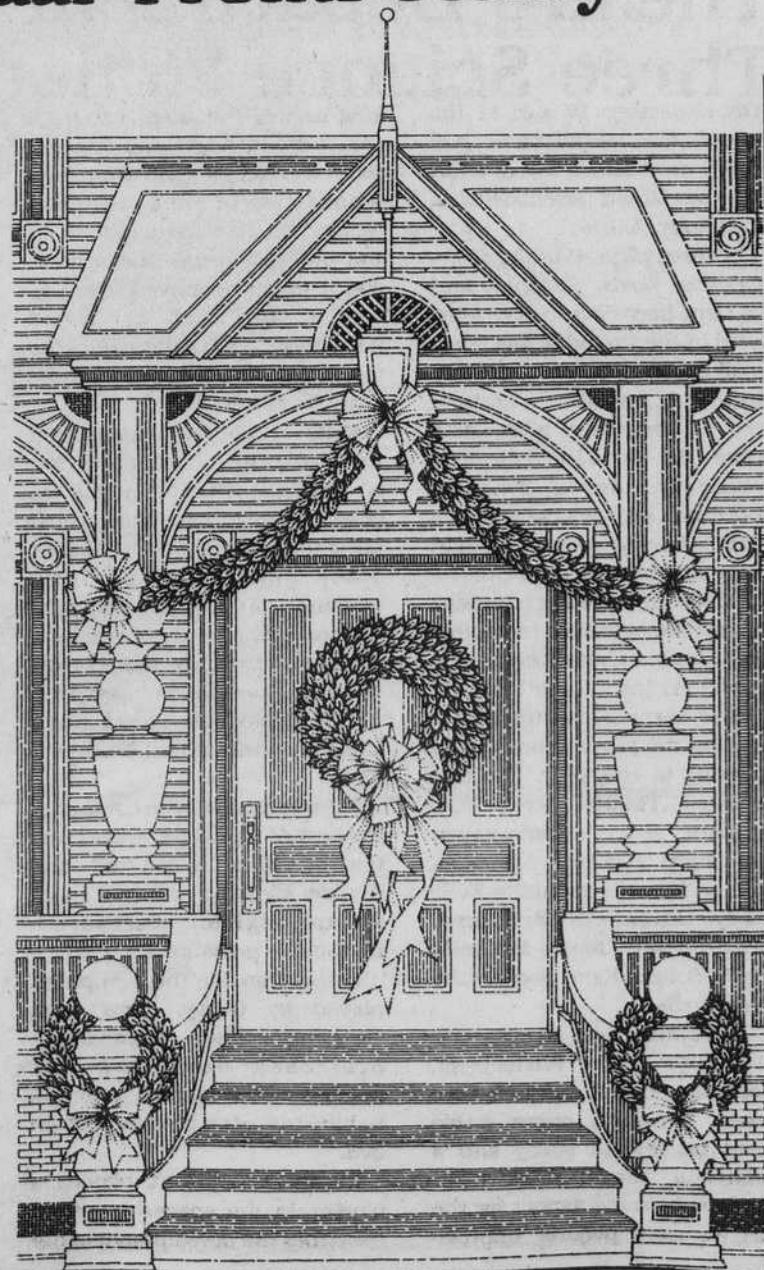
Some familiar "merchants" were the students who ran some of the 13 club booths and represented such groups as the junior and senior classes, ADA, and the Art Association. Unlike

the other participants, the student clubs were able to keep all of their profits. All other participants were required to donate a percentage of their earnings to the sponsor, Campus Activities.

Sarah Jones, Treasurer of the Student Government Association, reported that sales have improved each year. People had said that they would like to return next year, and some have requested the same places. Jones felt that, "as far as money goes everyone did really well, maybe 75 percent better than last year. The classes really had great things."

Patten added that, "a lot of the stores said they thought the shoppers were more conservative this year. They didn't see quite as many charge cards, and that people were thinking more before they would buy, but yet they were buying."

Campus Activities, which received money from the contracts, will give part of their profits to the White Gift Service. The rest will go to the Organization for second semester activities, such as Cotillion as well as to help pay for expenses and losses incurred this semester.





Mother Christmas May Be A Virtual Stranger

# Secret Santas Put Out For Xmas

It was a cold, blustery night in mid-December. No living being stirred on the desolate Hollins campus, and the security guards huddled fearlessly around space heaters in their office. The buildings turned blank, dark faces to the wind. Yet one yellow gleam shined onto Front Quad. It was the light of Polly Hollins.

Inside her room, the study lamp threw eerie shadows on a hot pot and a floor strewn with notebooks and Cliff notes. In the midst sat Polly herself, trying frantically to do a semester's work in one long all-nighter.

Suddenly, there was a tap at her door. Startled, Polly knocked her coffee mug over on Lipsey & Steiner and, hopping over the

papers, jerked open the door.

The hall was empty. Thinking herself the victim of an annoying prank, she turned to her room. As she did, she stumbled over a package of Dunkin' Munchkins. Polly bent down and picked it up. The typed card read, "for late-night munchies from your Secret Santa."

Polly's case is only one of the many instances of the Secret Santa phenomenon at the College. All across campus students will be surprised by unexpected notes and small gifts at any moment. Students will wake up to find their doors gift wrapped, and some will be sent on scavenger hunts to find the day's surprise. Cookies,

Christmas candy and other goodies will be left next to rooms to satisfy pre-exam restlessness. Gift certificates for Hardee's biscuits will find their way onto mirrors; hair ribbons and holiday bells appear on door knobs. Gag gifts attempt to relieve end-of-semester tension. Tree ornaments and picture frames materialize on desks and dressers.

Responsibility for these anonymous attentions has traditionally been claimed by one "Secret Santa." However, new evidence points to an organized ring of do-gooders and well wishers which operates under the trademark of Old Saint Nick. Speculation as to the identity of

these imposters has thrown suspicion on other Hollins students themselves. While maintaining a front of neighborly relations, these women secretly plan and carry out a conspiracy to spread holiday cheer among the hall community. Recruiting for the program is intense; more and more students are being drawn into the Secret Santa plot. Undisclosed sources point the finger at the Resident Assistants as the ring leaders of this conspiracy.

Students are asked to keep a special lookout for the "Secret Santas" during the week of December 7-11.



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# General Hospital



# Seduces Avid Hollins Women

The time is 3:55 p.m. All of a sudden, there is an agonizing wail heard throughout the corridors of West. What in the world could cause such a distressing clamor?

Could Jeanne Dixon's famous prediction of a mass murder at a women's college finally be occurring? Could some woman have a date for the upcoming weekend? Is someone getting engaged? No. Something far more serious has occurred.

Believe it or not, Scotty Baldwin has finally returned to Port Charles, just in time to see his ex-wife Laura and Luke Spencer,

Laura's former rapist, tie the knot. Scotty even had the audacity to catch the bouquet.

Unfortunately, the five minutes left until 4:00 will be wasted on commercials for Borax, Ajax, and Playtex. So if one wants to find out what will happen to the happy honeymooners, she will be watching *General Hospital* from 3:00 to 4:00 every weekday.

Soap operas are one of the most popular forms of college entertainment these days. Where else could one find such thrilling entertainment? After all, here at Hollins we never discover that Bob, who is dating Mary, Jane and

Anne, is really bisexual and enamored with Richard, who is married to Susan, who is pregnant by Bob. To make things more exciting, the script writers have arranged for Suzanne to be raped by Tommy, who is engaged to Roberta, who is Suzanne's twin sister.

Soap operas are rising in popularity each year. Faithful observers explain the plot to their friends, who spread the word to other friends, who tell their friends, and so on. Soon, everyone is watching the same soap and discussing it over breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Currently, the nation is suffering from a *General Hospital* epidemic. Hundreds of loyal students center their academic and even their social lives around this series. Several young actors have acquired fame from this program. Rick Springfield, who portrays a young, handsome, and eligible doctor, is not only reaping in the bucks for his role as Noah Drake on *General Hospital*, but is also becoming famous as a singer. It has been reported that actress Laura Baldwin is the highest paid daytime actress.

One loyal fan of *General*

*Hospital* says "the plot is so fantastic. It is really exaggerated, I know. But it really keeps you suspended."

One extremely zealous fanatic said she watches the show because "I like to fantasize about men. I really want to have an affair with Rick Weber, but since he and Leslie are getting remarried, I will have to settle for Scorpio." Another student claims that she favors Heather Weber, because "she is so insane."

*General Hospital* is not the only soap that is favored amongs Hollins students. *The Young and the Restless* is another favorite. The main families are the Brooks, the Fosters, the Prentisses, and Mrs. Chancellor. Apparently, Jill Foster had Mrs. Chancellor's husband's baby. Then, after Chancellor's death, Jill resumed another affair with Mrs. Chancellor's new husband, Derek, an under-aged, oversexed hairdresser. Leslie Brooks was impregnated by Lance Prentiss who is married to Laurie Brooks. Then on the rebound, Leslie married Lance's brother, Luke. To complicate matters even more, Snapper Foster is married to Chris Brooks while his mother is married to Chris's father, Stewart Brooks. All this and much more occurred over a span of about three years. The true beauty of soap operas is that one can miss two whole months of the series and catch up in two days.

There are many more soap operas such as *The Guiding Light*, *Days of Our Lives*, *Ryan's Hope*, *All My Children*, and *One Life to Live*. Some daytime television viewers blame their addiction on boredom, their friends and habit. One soap opera junky claimed that she watches them because "I have a zero social life. Thus, they give me my climax, you know, my orgasm. Anyway, there is nothing else on television at that time of the day."

There are some people who do not like these serials. One opponent says "I hate soap operas. I think they are degrading, common, trashy, gauche and demoralizing. I consider them to be similar to fantasyland. They are for the bored wives of blue collar workers. They pertain to topics applicable only to common people." Another adversary believes that "they are unrealistic and for domestic workers. They are entertainment while doing menial chores. Therefore, I am surprised that so many of my peers waste study time to watch junk shows." One student reproached them as "not even worthy of a comment."

Worthwhile or not, many students spend hours each day watching and caring what happens on the soaps. Perhaps classes should be held on Saturday and Sunday to completely avoid scheduling conflicts.

HOLLINS COLLEGE THEATRE ARTS DEPT.  
PRESENTS

THREE BY ALOISS



DEC. 10-11  
8:15 PM

THREE SCIENCE FICTION PLAYS BY  
BRIAN ALOISS

HOLLINS COLLEGE THEATRE

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**Ann Givens:** *I love it. The atmosphere's conducive to furthering your education.*



**Karen Jones:** *I like it, but the social life is tough.*



**Pam Partlow:** *It has advantages such as no male competition.*



**Mariam Beasley:** *It has a lot of advantages such as liberal education and a lot of disadvantages such as having to travel to your social life.*



**Anne Holmes Hurley:** *Like I'd rather be going to a co-ed college.*

### Play

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1.)

Brian Aldiss, well known to science-fiction fans throughout the world, is author of such novels as *The Long Afternoon of Earth*, *Cryptozoic*, and *Frankenstein Unbound*. His books and stories have garnered numerous prizes and honors, including the Hugo and Nebula Awards.

Atkins met Aldiss at a writer's conference, where the British author read from one of his plays. "I found *Last Days* to be irresistibly funny, witty, and meaningful," said Atkins. "Aldiss is an imaginative writer who boldly mixes comedy and serious substance. Part of the fun in acting in the roles of his plays is

that they are all 'characters.' In a longer work they might have been bit players, but in these plays the small people take center stage."

Ron Keller, Assistant Professor and Technical Director for the Theatre, designed the production as well as supervised the stage crew, which includes Hollins students Missy Davis, Kim Shepard, Henrika Dyck, Beth Grubbs, Terri Paris, Elizabeth Reeder, and Kim Van Amerongen.

*Three by Aldiss* will be presented in College Theatre on December 10 and 11 at 8:15 p.m. No reservations are necessary. Admission is \$1.50 at the door.

## What do you think about going to a women's college?

by Susan Arnesen  
and  
Jeannine Atalay



**Patty Sifton:** *It's an experience.*

### THE HOLLINS COLUMNS

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# TIME OUT

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<p>Christmas Tea Green Drawing Room 4 p.m. White Gift Service duPont Chapel 7:30 p.m. Christmas Desserts Green Drawing Room 8:30 p.m.</p>		<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>		<p>17</p>


Learning is finding out what you already know.

Doing is demonstrating that you know it.

Teaching is reminding others that they know just as well as you do.

You are all learners, doers, teachers. You teach best what you most need to learn.

Richard Bach  
*Illusions*



## N.Y. NEWS CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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# Season's Greetings

## Career Woman Gives Talk To College Business Group

by Preston Bond

The Business Awareness Organization began the group's year on November 5 with guest speaker Loretta Donnelly, Budget Manager at Norfolk and Western.

Donnelly, 35, is a graduate of Virginia Tech with a degree in accounting. The mother of two sons and working full-time, Donnelly earned an MBA from Virginia Tech by attending night school.

She holds the distinction of being the first woman to be hired for a managerial position at Norfolk and Western. She spoke to the group about a woman in the male-dominated business world, and she offered some suggestions to those who will soon embark on business careers.

The next meeting of the Business Awareness Organization will be on Tuesday, January 12. The group invites students who are interested in learning about the business world, particularly as it applies to women, to attend the meetings of their new organization.



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