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Hollins Columns



October 23, 1995

Volume 68, Issue 3

Termination of Paris program shocks students

by Pauline Newton
Abroad Correspondent

Waves of shock rippled through the campus last weekend when the administration announced the termination of the Hollins Abroad Paris (HAP) program. Some students do not feel that the administration acted in the best interests of the college. Many raised questions and searched for answers from Tom Edwards, dean of international studies, and Jeff Lipkes, director of international programs.

Why did the administration decide to terminate the program?

According to Edwards, HAP costs roughly \$320,000 this year, and only a handful of students go each semester. Due to a decline in the number of students during the last decade, the curriculum has not generated enough profits to continue.

"We have been watching the program for the last three or four years and made every effort to attract more students, even from other colleges," he said.

Jeff Lipkes, director of international programs, said, "We need at least twenty people to go each semester [in order to break even]."

Why didn't the administration notify the Hollins community earlier about the situation?

Edwards said the administration kept the issue a secret because it felt students "might not apply if they knew there was a chance that the program would be canceled." He also stressed that the international office intends to restructure, not destroy, the program.

He said, "students still can go abroad in the fall of '96. We are also looking into alternative programs similar to Hollins'."

However, applications were due



Photo contributed by Jean Fallon

Paris is beautiful in the spring, but several students doubted that they would ever get to see it.

Oct. 15, and enrollees received voice mail messages announcing the decision Oct. 13. Eleven had enrolled, and another handful planned to turn in their applications by the deadline. Several students had already received letters of acceptance.

Meredith Pierce, junior, said, "At five o'clock on Friday, I got a voice mail from Dean Edwards informing me it was an urgent call, and to call him back at his home...so I did. He told me the program was canceled. I wasn't quite sure what to think. I was really shocked.

"I felt that the manner in which they handled the situation was very improper," she added. "I understand why they wanted to adjust the program, but we should've been informed back in the spring."

Additionally, many wondered why the board of trustees and the alumnae association, as well as the enrollees, had not been solicited for funds or advice.

Carol Branigan, Caitrin McAlexander, Kathleen McDonald, Dana Myers, and Meredith Pierce, juniors, faxed the alumnae gathered in Paris for the 40th anniversary and contacted Jane Spilman, director of

the board of trustees. Neither party knew about the decision. Branigan's mother, Jane (Fingar) Branigan, a 1960 graduate visiting Paris for the reunion, resolved to discuss the issue with President Maggie O'Brien.

If the administration knew the program needed to be cut, why did it advertise in brochures and college guides?

Edwards stressed that the administration felt people would not apply if they knew the program was wavering. However, many students come to Hollins because they hear about the abroad programs. This advertising can be deemed false, and Hollins can be sued for breach of contract.

What efforts, if any, were made to curb costs?

Annick Scouten, the director of HAP, presented a proposal to change the location of the offices in order to trim expenses. The administration rejected the proposal.

According to Edwards, the lease contract for classrooms will expire in March; the professors may keep their

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The push for Paris program continues

Examine the following sentence: "The Hollins Abroad Paris program is canceled for the spring." Take out the words "Abroad," and "Paris." Replace them with "Riding." Say it out loud. Replace that with "HC-TV." Say that out loud. Whatever program, sport, organization, or area of study in which you're involved, apply it to that sentence. Say it out loud. Now it effects you.

As a Paris hopeful, this cancellation hit me hard. We are fighting for our chance to experience a cultured city, Hollins style. We are also fighting for each of you. We are a college that encourages, inspires, and promotes thoughts, ideas, and leadership. Taking away any one of those opportunities, in the middle of the year, is wrong. No wonder we have a high transfer rate. How do we expect students to stay if we can't offer and maintain intelligent, creative, and diverse programs? What is next on the chopping block?

Amazingly, the administration made the decision without the

consent of or consideration from the faculty, key advisors, or the director of the Paris program, Annick Scouten. So when we, as distraught students, needed answers, we didn't have informed

Caitrin McAlexander

sources to go to. We couldn't question our professors or our work-study bosses. We knew before they did. Even people who did know something about the cancellation gave very sketchy comments about solutions. They could not offer anything solid in which to put our broken faith.

This kind of poor communication and planning could effect your organization next. There are classes with only one registered student here. Should this obvious "lack of interest" force a cancellation of the class? No. Hollins gives us the chance to really explore topics and subjects with our professors. "Classes for the masses" has never been our policy. So canceling a program that has fewer stu-

dents than wanted seems hypocritical. At a school of approximately 900 students, it is vital that we hold tightly to each area of interest and study.

The students pushing so hard for a chance at Hollins-Paris are your friends, your classmates, your program-participants. Push with us. I want to be able to say

"What is next on the chopping block?"

forcefully, as I did in this very space two weeks ago, that students here still have a say in what happens. Convince me, join us. We are using every available source we can; the skills, the leadership, the very things we've gotten from Hollins, to fight this.

No matter what the final decision, we aren't wasting our energy or our breath. We can't stand by and watch any program fall, mid-semester, with interested students. I say again, join us.

Student expresses frustration over Paris program

Dear Editor,

Disappointment is the only word that comes to mind when I think of Hollins these days. On Friday, Oct. 13, I received a phone call announcing that the Hollins Abroad Paris program was canceled for this spring. My choices were to go on another program this spring that was not yet looked into, go to London, or go to Paris next fall.

After I got off the phone and had a moment to realize what had happened, I thought to myself, where was this coming from and why was I just finding out three months before the trip was supposed to leave, that there was a problem?

I do not feel adequate notice

was given to me or the other students this decision is effecting. This is the program I based my college years around. This program was part of what brought me here. I do not understand how Hollins College can offer me and [other] students this opportunity, accept students to the program, and then take it all away.

These were my initial reactions to the problem the school is facing, and as I searched for answers to my questions, the situation seemed to grow more confusing. Evidently, the faculty was in the dark as well. Some faculty members found out through a newspaper article printed the Wednesday after my notification. It seems that not only do the students who make up this school do not have a

voice in decisions affecting them, but the faculty who gives us the tools to be able to do all that we do and who are the reason we can say we attended a fine institute of higher learning do not have a part in decision-making either. This is wrong. The school does not function because of one or two people alone—it is a compilation of talents, ideas, dreams, and hard work given by many different people.

We will go to Paris this spring with Hollins—dreams and expectations cannot be erased with one phone call. Hollins has taught me more than that.

Sincerely,
Carol L. Branigan,
junior

Freya asks for continued anonymity

Dear Editor,

We, the members of Freya, are deeply saddened that the identities of our members are, for a number of reasons, becoming better known. We remain anonymous not to appear elite, but to work for Hollins and her students without recognition. We feel that projects done out of love for the college are a way of giving thanks. This, Freya's mission, would be greatly jeopardized should our work become a matter of identity instead of service.

We know, and have always known, that it is relatively easy to find out who we are. We hope,

however, that students will respect our desire to work anonymously and allow us to walk in honor of hope without individual detection. Our walks are a time to reflect on one's personal goals, hopes, and aspirations—hopefully not on who we are.

Help us to continue our anonymous service by respecting our mission. Anonymity is crucial to our scholarship and emergency relief funds as well as our everyday projects. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,
The members of Freya

Ad Hoc committee set precedent for finding solution for weekend boredom

Dear Editor,

My name is Daphne Bar, and I am in charge of special tasks on the treasury board.

From the moment I arrived on campus, I have had many complaints about the lack of activities on the weekends. I would like to take this time to talk to you about the Ad Hoc weekend programming committee, which I took part in during my freshman year.

The club was headed by Amanda Jacobson, Elizabeth Thornton, and Leslie Woodmansee. Our activities included weekly meetings, poetry slams, coffee nights, a study break before exams, and our final project was

to clean the ark.

My advice to you is to get involved whether it be SGA or HOP because it is a wonderful way to make friends, boost your self-esteem, and it also serves as an alternative to road trips to Tech, Washington and Lee, and Hampden-Sydney, although I see nothing wrong about it.

If you would like to start your own organization on campus, you need to petition for money through the innovative fund. The fund is SGA sponsored.

Sincerely,
Daphne Bar,
sophomore

Student loses faith in the administration

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter in regards to the recent decision made to close the Paris Abroad spring program for 1996. I became aware of this decision two weeks ago during Parents Weekend. My first reaction was an explosion of anger and a demand for answers. I soon became aware that there were no immediate answers. Even the abroad directors, Tom Edwards and Jeff Lipkes, were unable to provide sufficient information, simply because the administration had not given them all the facts. As I attended Senate last Thursday night, I heard statements made by accepted students to the HAP program, and I wanted to cry. Most of these students have had dreams of studying in Paris since their freshman year at Hollins. Now all their plans are disrupted by one single decision. What if the administration had waited another year to announce these plans? It could have easily been me, standing before a group of students, demanding an explanation.

When I left Hollins last May at the conclusion of my freshman year, I was amazed to discover how much I loved this school. I felt as though I had a world of opportunities before me. Everything here seemed focused on students and their success. It seems I was wrong. The decision to close the HAP program shows this. The more I learn about the way this decision was made, the more I realize that the administration made this decision without any regard or concern for the effect it would have on students. It seems as though the administration thought the decision would affect only those students who were planning to go abroad this

spring, thinking "They'll get over it." However, this decision does not affect only the ten Paris applicants. It affects the student body as a whole.

At this school, we are asked to abide by a honor code, which most of us take very seriously, but this decision was made without honor. The financial situation of the HAP program has been kept from both the student body and the faculty for nearly five years. In addition, the decision to close the program was made without consultation of the faculty or the student body. This shows the lack of respect the administration has for both groups. It seems in decisions left solely to the administrators at our school, money takes precedence over students.

This decision has changed the way I will look at Hollins forever. I am no longer angry, but incredibly sad. I have lost respect for the administrators of our school entirely, and that is something that I will never regain. Even if these students still have the opportunity to go to Paris, my feelings will not change. The damage has been done. Perhaps I was naive and idealistic in believing that at Hollins, students are the most important thing. After all, Hollins advertises this approach. However, it seems that the faculty are the only people who do care. Unfortunately, the faculty were left out of this decision. Before we decide that this decision affects only a number of students, we must consider the implications of it. It affects us all.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Scales,
sophomore

Please write

We welcome letters from all members of the Hollins College community on campus issues. Please include your signature, address, and for verification only, a phone number where you can be reached. Unsigned letters WILL NOT be published.

All letters are edited. Because of the volume we receive, we regret we can only publish a portion of them. Letters should be left in the *Hollins Columns* box in the campus post office.

New study trips, experiences offered for Short Term

by Tiffany M. Marshall

Short term: the one-month period in January when students are given the opportunity to discover new things about themselves and to destroy previously conceived notions about a wide variety of issues. They do this by participating in activities which enable them to question their opinions and to assert their own leadership abilities and talents. The freshmen are given this chance by enrolling in seminars that may or may not be applicable to their perspective fields of study. Upperclassmen can participate in seminars as well, but unique to being among those of seniority, is the ability to undertake internships or research projects which will also contribute to the self-discovery Short Term allows all to undergo.

An attractive feature of Short Term is the travel/study programs. These study trips, like seminars and internships, allow students to see other parts of the world while also enabling them to partake in renewed personal reve-

lations as they become acquainted with the people and cultures of another country.

There are five study trips offered this Short Term. Judith Segal, director of the library, is offering a trip to Israel entitled "From Secularist to Fundamentalist: The Lifestyles of Women in Israel." According to the Short Term catalogue, the "goal of this study trip is to acquaint students with the culture and social conditions of women in Israel."

Segal lived in Israel from 1960-70 and from 1978-84. She feels that this study trip will "focus on sights and people, especially women." Segal believes "meeting women from another country is valuable to all of us as women."

Another trip offered is "Economics, and Social Change in Thailand and Vietnam." The instructors will be Drucilla Barker, chair of economics department, and Kay Broschart, professor of sociology.

According to Barker, this study trip "is unique in that it has an environmental emphasis. We will be looking at the effects of indus-

trial development and change on the environment and developing economies, particularly in Vietnam."

Klaus Phillips, associate professor of German, again offers a study trip to Munich, Germany, entitled "Munich: The Bavarian Giant." Phillips lived in Germany for fourteen years.

"[This trip] gives students the opportunity to get to know one of the greatest cities from the expert knowledge of a resident," Phillips said.

Edward Lynch, assistant professor of political science, and Gayle Stoner, director of leadership development, are offering a trip titled "Leadership and the Environment: The Amazon."

"This trip is different from the others in that it is strictly a wilderness experience," Stoner said. "It will give students the chance to become familiar with actual river people while emotionally allowing them to become cognizant of their daily lives and rituals."

Stoner hopes that this trip will "destroy myths about living in the wilderness, living with different

people, and the need to take trips with men." She believes that this study trip will affirm that "women can do it, and in a global sense, have always been doing it."

The last trip available to students this January is a trip to Britain. J. S. W. Helt, visiting professor of history, has titled this trip "Customs in Common? A Cultural Tour Through Britain." This year's trip will encompass more of the British Isles than just England; students will also travel to Wales and Scotland. Helt feels that the trip is "culturally diverse and will include more than just tourist things."

All of the study trips offered this Short Term are open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors, and are dependent on sufficient enrollment. According to the catalogue, if students are interested in participating in any of the trips, they are strongly encouraged to confer with the instructors to learn details about schedules and trip costs.

Junior class reclaims spirit stick at annual fall pep rally

by Adrienne Mullikin

Innocent Nixon, an upbeat rock band from Blacksburg, was the headline event of this fall's pep rally. The band kicked off the night with several of their original tunes followed by renditions of some popular hits. Kat Horton, junior, coordinated the night's festivities and was impressed by the large student turnout. This year's rally attracted 170 Hollins students, up from 55 last year. According to Horton, the selling point was the band.

The rally not only promoted class unity, it provided students with the opportunity for a little friendly competition. Points were given to each class in six categories, including a car decorating contest, the spontaneous creation of a class cheer, and participation in the blood drive. A percentage of the students that attended the rally by class was another determining factor in each class's total score, so as not to put the smaller classes at a disadvantage. For example, out of 224 freshmen, 50



Photo by Angela Rzepecki

Junior Heather Pierce and a fellow classmate show their spirit at the fall pep rally. The juniors won the spirit stick.

were in attendance, which meant 25% of the class was represented. Thirty-two out of 114 juniors came, which accounted for about 30% of their class.

Four cars, one from each class, lined the streets under the gym, all adorned with balloons, streamers and signs promoting their individual class. The freshman class car, nicknamed FARE, earned the most

points for creativity and originality.

Lynda Calkins, athletic director, then announced the coaches and athletes of this year's fall and upcoming winter sports teams. She congratulated the fall athletes on their seasons, and gave students a preview of the athletes to watch for during the winter.

Next, chants of all four gradua-

tion years grew louder and louder and almost reached higher decibels than Innocent Nixon's performance. Each class was asked to organize a group cheer on the spot which would in some way incorporate their class year or title. The classes were judged by Calkins, Robie McFarland, dean of students, and Stephanie Matthews, REC intern. The judges scored the classes on originality and enthusiasm. The senior class made the biggest impression on the judges with their random tumbling, and pyramid-making antics.

However, when all the points in the various categories were totaled, the junior class emerged as pep rally queens for the third consecutive year with a total of 58. Megan McCarthy, class president, accepted the spirit stick strewn with ribbons representative of previous year's victorious classes.

"Having [the rally] under the gym was better because it wasn't such a hike out to Siberia," Horton concluded.

SEE PEP RALLY, PAGE 6

A Midsummer's Night Dream leaves all enchanted

by Sarah Umbarger

Hollins College Theatre put on its final performance in front of a sold-out house Saturday night of Parents Weekend. Students, parents, and friends gathered to see the first major production of the semester, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, by William Shakespeare. One word can be used to describe the overall feeling of the audience when it left the theater: Enchanted.

The costumes and set, as well as music and lighting, were obviously well thought-out and meticulously crafted. The superb work of each of the designers and their production staffs blended together to envelop the audience and transform it to a world apart from the one it left upon entering the theater.

"The costumes were fun and the scenery was not only great but it added to the overall effect of the play," Misti Carlton, sophomore, said.

Actors from all classes internalized their characters and thus gave

Theseus.....	Jen Camden
Hippolyta	Tiffany Seymour
Philostrate.....	Michelle Sites
Egeus.....	Amanda Jacobson
Hermia.....	Mary Kate Couch
Lysander.....	Laura Hester
Demetrius.....	Sahar Javedani
Helena.....	Ginger Pierce Davis
Nick Bottom.....	Laura Tuggle
Peter Quince.....	Deborah Meacham
Francis Flute.....	Teresa Talbott
Tom Snout.....	Carol Branigan
Snug.....	Jennie Gerke
Robin Starveling.....	Elizabeth Ropp
Robin Goodfellow/Puck.....	Jessica Shearer
Oberon.....	Lucia Del Vecchio
Titania.....	Tiffani-Amber Collins

each unique qualities. The audience was impressed by the acting ability of the cast; it was evident that the actors committed a great deal of time to both learning and

adding special touches to the script. Through their acting abilities, they were able to explain a difficult script and dialogue to their audience. Not only did they

accomplish this, but they did it with the perfect amount of humor to keep the story light and enjoyable.

"The play was very lighthearted and really attracted the audience more," Xiomi Murray, sophomore, said. "The actresses added their own comedy to the piece, which made it special."

She had seen the play done by another acting group and thought the Hollins rendition was much more enjoyable.

"At first I thought I would have liked it better if there had been males in the cast," Betsy Johnson, sophomore, said. "But as I was leaving the theater, I remembered how back in the days of Shakespeare, the cast consisted only of men. It is really ironic how tonight every part was played by a woman and how I liked the idea of that, how unique it was."

Everyone who took a part in this production should be commended for their time and effort; they made this show a success.

PARIS

FROM PAGE 1

offices until June. Lipkes also noted that the international office has looked at other locations. However, information about a breakdown in costs could not be obtained.

Why weren't other programs researched and lined up for this spring's participants?

The international office promised to search alternative programs which will provide students with similar benefits. Most deadlines for registration have passed, and it is too late to try to match the outstanding financial aid packages, academic courses, and professors that the curriculum currently offers.

The international office did not provide the *Columns* with information about other programs.

Will other colleges provide the same opportunities that HAP offers?

A program with another college simply cannot match the excellent faculty and teaching methods, according to Alice Cook,

senior.

"The professors teach a diversity of classes. They don't back down and speak English; they want the students to learn the French aspects of the language," she said.

Marc Germanangue, a HAP professor, has published several books, and another, Sabine Thiriot, works at the Musee du Jeu de Paume and teaches impressionism and modern art. Philippe Pantet, professor of literature, coordinates the Randolph-Macon/Goucher abroad program.

"These professors teach classes in music, art, and at museums," Cook said. "The program is really strong and cannot be replaced."

Finally, students desire to go on the same program which has been described to them by their friends and alumnae. Branigan's mother went to Paris when she was in college, and her daughter wishes to follow in her footsteps. This longstanding legacy will dissolve.

Over 300 students signed a petition asking the administration

to reverse their decision. Branigan and McDonald, as well as Meg Fitzpatrick, former abroad, and members of the SGA, put together a resolution which was presented during Senate, Oct. 17. Senate will vote on the resolution next Tuesday, since it had lost quorum. However, all present voted to pass the resolution.

Two spring abroaders and the French department faculty received phone calls from President O'Brien Oct. 19th.

"Maggie called ... and informed us the Paris program is up for the spring," McDonald said. "However, there will be some restructuring. It will be different, with new professors and some old. We'll still have homestays, but [the program] will be in a different building."

The applicants will meet with Edwards, Lipkes, the French department, and the President to discuss a solution on Oct. 24th.

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Capital Campaign makes public announcement on donations

by Melissa Sutton

On July 1, 1992, the Capital Campaign began. Due to great planning and meticulous detail, a five-year comprehensive campaign was in the making. A comprehensive way of running a campaign means using both capital and annual fund raising techniques.

This year, the campaign is focusing on the leadership part of the operation, which means there is fund raising, but no official campaigning.

A group called The National Leadership Gift Team is in the process of calling on friends of the college, trustees, and certain alumnae. These special alumnae are ones who have been devoted to Hollins and possess select resources.

A public kick-off for *A World of Possibility Weekend* will take

place Nov. 4. By this date, the campaign expects to have already raised \$30 million.

"A rule of thumb when fundraising is to [raise] 50% of your total goal," Brenda McDaniel, director of the campaign committee, said.

Hollins has already surpassed this halfway mark; its final projected goal is \$40.8 million.

After the announcement, there will be national newspaper coverage as it is rolled out to the rest of the world. This means all alumnae and the general public can get involved. Regional events throughout the country will concentrate on these generations of Hollins alumnae.

National fundraising and media coverage is important to the campaign as a whole. Also, campaign members have invited the community to come to the theatre, Nov. 4, at 10:00 a.m., for the

unveiling of additional plans for the new library. Consultants for the new library project groundbreaking for mid-1996.

A multimedia presentation, including interior drawings for the library, will be in effect at the ceremony. The presentation will take place again at 3:15 p.m. Judith Segal, librarian, and Jay Lucker, architect, will lead this demonstration.

Afternoon activities include presentations for various elements of the campaign.

The new campus entrance and the Cromer Bergman Alumnae House will be dedicated at noon on the front lawn. All students are invited to attend.

At 2 p.m., there will be a library presentation. Library consultants will discuss and explain ideas and layouts for the building.

Occurring at this same time is a panel discussion for Hollins

Scholars. Five student scholars along with Roger Bowen, vice president of academic affairs, will speak in the Green Drawing Room. The panel had not decided on a topic at press time.

Bill White, professor of art, will lead a discussion about Andrew Forge, an expert on Monet and Degas, at 3:15 p.m.

Also at 3:15, Natalie LaPrade, senior, Kamran Khan, director of computer services and informational technologies, and Jim Allen, chair of computer services, will lead an electronic classroom demonstration.

The campaign expects 300 people to attend the panels and discussions. Members of the public as well as members of the Hollins community are invited to attend.

Pep Rally

FROM PAGE 4

The pep rally was a collaborative effort sponsored by Athletic Association, ADA, Extracurricular Activities, and Moody Monday. Horton says that students can anticipate another rally sometime in the spring.

In the meantime, a similar "Clash of the Classes" is in the planning stages for February. This competition will measure students' attendance at athletic events and campus activities by class, and will conclude at the end of the month with a "Clash of the Classes Night" in which students will participate in silly games and races. The winning class will receive a plaque to be displayed in the gym, according to Horton.

Any input students have for either upcoming event should be directed to Horton or any of the involved organizations.

Campus chapel opens doors to gays and lesbians

by Sara Tweedy

DuPont Chapel is now a place where Hollins, in the words of Open Hands, the Reconciling Congregation Program, "publicly affirms its ministry with the whole family of God and welcomes lesbian and gay persons and their families into our community of faith."

The cabinet of the Religious Life Association (RLA) voted for this change to a reconciling congregation, Aug. 31.

Jan Fuller-Carruthers, chaplain, believes that this step will "empower gays and lesbians to become active on the issue of justice."

The idea of becoming a reconciling church came about through Fuller-Carruthers' contact with other churches who publicly opened their doors to the homosexual community.

While at Yale, Fuller-Carruthers witnessed the chapel on campus open their doors to gays and lesbians. Since then she has felt a desire to do the same.

"I do not know what it is like to be a lesbian or gay man," Fuller-Carruthers said, "but I do know how it feels to be oppressed."

Fuller-Carruthers insists that RLA receives the credit for aiding the diversification of the duPont Chapel services.

"I raised the question," she said. "The RLA cabinet made this happen."

Elizabeth Joyce, president of RLA, said, "This was something that needed to be done and should have been done some time ago."

Joyce also said because Hollins is an open and liberal campus, the chapel should reflect the same commitment to diversity.

Although some might raise controversy over this decision, Fuller-Carruthers encourages students to discuss this with her.

"There are conservative Christians who will see this move as a compromise of moral standards," Fuller-Carruthers said. "I am willing to hear that from them. But reconciling means bringing people together who have not been together before."

Joyce and Fuller-Carruthers are

both very excited about the cabinet's decision and hope this will attract lesbian and gay members of the Hollins community to worship services.

"I do not think the road of faith is a road map," Fuller-Carruthers said. "I hope this helps us take seriously the uniqueness of individuals. There's a place for anyone here."

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Sports Talk

Being an athlete is no easy challenge to students

by Adrienne Mullikin

Trying to balance a 16-or-more-credit schedule in college is no easy task. Throwing athletics into the mix of classes, labs, and exams makes college life even more of a challenge. This statement is especially true of Hollins' athletes.

Hollins belongs to division three of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, specifically the Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC). This conference includes regional colleges, both women's and co-ed, in the tri-state area. ODAC proves to be extremely competitive even though its colleges are smaller institutions. Being part of this conference requires discipline and dedication on the part of each athlete.

Similarly, when a student or coach looks at a rival or neighboring school, all they see is the school's record, not the determination on the women's faces, the number of hours the players worked together during the week in preparation for the contest, or the sacrifice both players and coaches endured to bring the team up to a certain level.

Most athletes and coaches merely wish to have fun playing a game that they enjoy. But as one's record tends to drop from year to year to below .500, players and coaches find it harder to smile. Time management plays a key role in a student's allotment for sports, which are extra, and school work, which is required.

Molly Meredith, athletic liaison in admissions, feels that the time

block from 4-6 p.m. should be free of academic scheduling to allow students to pursue extracurricular activities. However, since the priority of all students at Hollins is academics, "athletics take a back seat," Meredith said, "which puts the entire team at a disadvantage."

The prestigious reputation of the academic program is what draws most applicants, yet prospective athletes see Hollins as "an environment where, if they choose to play sports, they can," Meredith said. "So (they) are sort of getting the best of both worlds."

From an athlete's perspective, in the college decision-making process, if an athlete really wants to compete, she first looks at the records of the schools on her narrowed-down list and generally makes her decision based on that statistic. Because a majority of Hollins' sports have not had a winning record in recent years, the admissions office has struggled to attract a significant number of quality athletes.

Each of the nine varsity sports Hollins offers is unique and each coach has his/her own philosophy about how players can benefit from the sport. There are many factors that could gear the teams back on a winning track. Whether it be the conditions of the surface on which the athletes compete, or the number of injuries suffered by the players, or even the fact that Hollins' short term and abroad programs take away a chunk of athletes for that month or term, there is always something that forces the teams to redesign their goals.

Meredith sees that latter as

unfortunate because the teams have "built up this nucleus of players and then all of a sudden, boom! You lose almost all of your juniors, maybe."

An obvious solution to building up the athletic reputation is to recruit all-star-quality athletes from across the country for our sports. But this is not as easy as it sounds. Hollins does not have a designated recruiting staff that could travel across the country and see various high school athletes play and encourage them to come to Hollins. What the school can afford to do is to travel to local college fairs, which are not specifically designed to attract athletes.

"Coaches in the past have visited schools to watch games in the area," Meredith said.

The main restriction on most coaches, though, is that being a coach is a part-time job.

"They can't be expected to spend their free time watching tennis matches and volleyball games," she said.

However, if an admissions representative, like Meredith, discovers a particular student who is interested in a sport, she will pass the student's name to the appropriate coach, who will follow up on the student in some way. This process holds true again for any department interested in attracting more students.

For the advancement of athletics, freeing up the 4-6 p.m. time frame is the number one objective, Meredith said. Once that is recognized and established, the next step is to stabilize the coaching staff. However, the administration holds

the power to decide whether or not the athletic department ought to recruit more actively. The athletic facilities, with the exception of the tennis courts, are more than adequate.

Another problem facing Hollins is the fact that it is a women's college, and generally it is much easier, according to Meredith, "for a co-ed school to attract women athletes than it is for a women's college. It's unfortunate."

A solution to the athletic program's problem cannot easily be pinpointed, because the number of prohibiting factors is great. Only time and more recruiters can generate noticeable changes. In the meantime, the community, outside of the athletes themselves, can take steps to improve the situation. Support from the administration, faculty, and the student body is fundamental for the success of any team. The support will encourage the current athletes to play better as individuals, and improve every team's overall performance.

"Everyone can only do so much," Meredith said. "Athletics is only one assignment for admissions."

Should the coaches to give up more of their time to recruit? Should students volunteer more of their time to recommend Hollins to their old high schools? Who is willing to step up and take the initiative to improve the athletic program?

"It's going to take everyone on this campus to recruit," Meredith said. "Not just prospective students that are going to come here to Hollins for the academics, but also student-athletes."

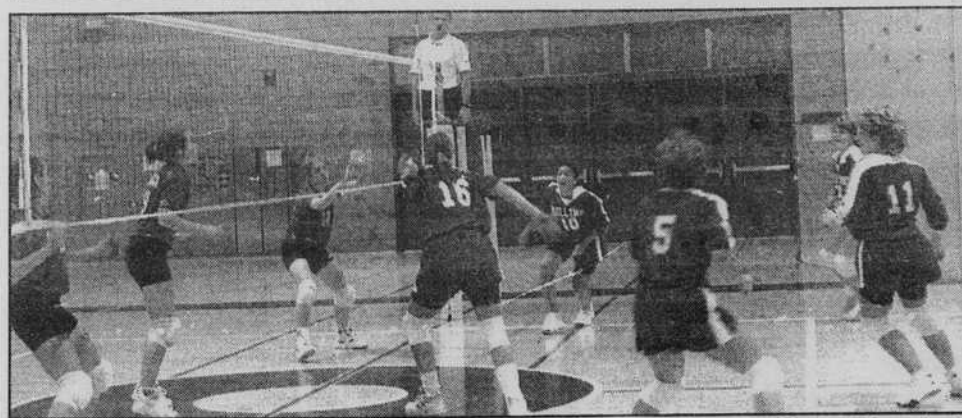


photo by Tiffany Marshall
While an official looks on, the volleyball team positions itself for a play during a recent game.



Photo by Tiffany Marshall
The soccer team scrambles to regain control of the ball. In the next issue, look for a complete summary of fall sports.

Don't Believe the Hype: Transcending O.J.

by Lillian Potter

Over the past 18 months, discussions of the Simpson trial have been as commonplace as weather forecasts. Business people and mechanics have swapped O.J. jokes across the gas pumps, while doormen and lawyers discussed trial strategies as they hailed taxis. When the court reporter read the verdict in the "trial of the century" Oct. 10, politicians rescheduled press conferences, and shoppers gathered in electronics departments to hear the end of a year-and-a-half-long saga that had Americans riveted to their television sets.

The trial was a uniquely American drama, comprising both stereotypes and archetypes of the American psyche: the racist cop, the successful black hero, the tough woman prosecutor, and the beautiful victims all played roles in this drama.

The trial raised questions about the lack of seriousness with which domestic violence is treated, the racism of police officers, and the very nature of the justice system. The trial also brought to light some of our most disturbing



Photo by Susun Crawford Potter

beliefs about one another.

Television played a major role in creating and manipulating images of the trial. Television is not an inert, objective force—it is often the messenger. Reporters, journalists, and commentators are no less products of their society than is Mark Furhman. Television is strong and real and it sends us a thousand messages, some subtle and some blatant, but pervasive all the same. We take in a daily diet of images that make it easy for us to think only in terms of stereotypes.

Too often, for example, black people are portrayed as impoverished and violent and white people as racist and vicious.

A friend of mine, a first generation American, believes that the discrimination he experiences as a Latino stems not from racist beliefs that people have developed based on their own experiences, but on images they see on television and in the media.

Another friend, also a first-generation American, argues that most recent immigrants to the United States believe the negative perceptions that Americans have developed about each other, most often from television, present an unsurmountable wall of racial hatred for minorities in this country. Undoubtedly, a society that views individuals only as members of a race or a gender deprives itself of its humanity.

Too often, we forget that television is not our community, that we have a local as well as national consciousness, and that both are equally important. This country is not, and never has been, monolithic. Instead, we are a country made up of small communities of diverse people who share certain

common beliefs: fairness, justice, and nonviolence. It is easy to become despondent from watching the divisiveness of the American people as a whole.

Two days after the O.J. trial, I attended the fourth annual Total Action Against Poverty (TAP) Women's Resource Center candlelight service in memory of victims of domestic violence. On my way to the service, I wondered whether or not O.J. would end up making the event fractious and uncomfortable. I did not have to worry. The service was a deeply stirring and poignant one, and as I stood in a room filled with men and women of all colors, orientations, walks of life, and political beliefs, I learned again the importance of being involved in local community efforts. We united simply to work for a more just society, and in doing so, we transcended the stereotypes and hype of the trial—which suddenly became irrelevant to us. As anthropologist Margaret Mead once wrote, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever does."

Upcoming Hollins Events

Oct. 23: LEAD Workshop, 7:00p.m. in the HOP/LEAD office

Oct. 27: HOP Afternoon bike ride (Call x6465 for more details)

Oct. 30: "Do you have what employers are looking for?" Presented by the Career Development Center
12:40-1:10 p.m. in the Small Private Dining Room

Oct 31: "A Foreign Perspective--Russia" presented by Naida Vedeimakh, 12:15 p.m. in the PDR

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