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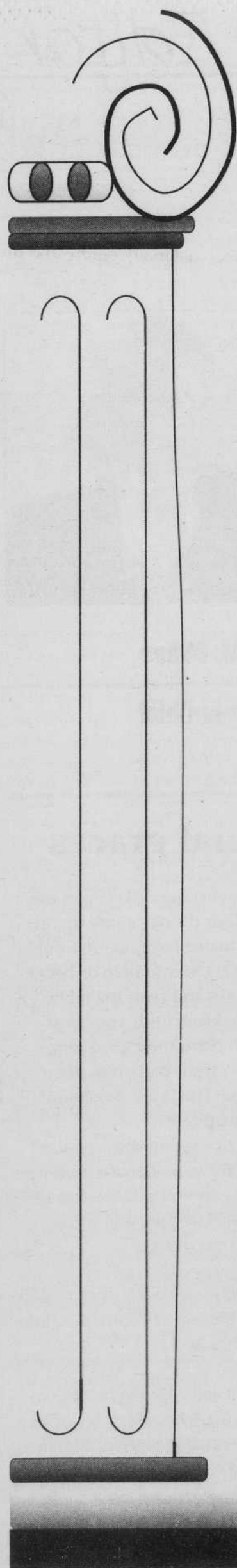
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Hollins Columns (1996 Sep 24)

Hollins College

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Hollins Columns



September 24, 1996

Volume 69, Issue 1

Hollins welcomes ninth president

by Betsy Hogan

On July 1, Hollins College welcomed Janet Rasmussen as its ninth president. Dr. Rasmussen, who holds a Ph.D. in Germanic languages and literature from Harvard University, was selected in early May from a pool of 150 candidates to serve as Jane O'Brien's successor.

"Janet not only knows the importance of international study in preparing students for career, citizenship, and lifelong learning, but she also personifies multi-culturalism," said chair of the search committee Anna Lawson in making the announcement of Dr. Rasmussen's appointment. "She has an insatiable curiosity that has led her from one side of the Northern Hemisphere to the other, and she is deeply committed to women's education."

Before coming to Hollins, Dr. Rasmussen held teaching and administrative positions at Harvard University, Pacific

Lutheran University, and Nebraska Wesleyan where she was the vice president of academic affairs. Dr. Rasmussen said that



Photo by College Relations
President Janet Rasmussen

her goal throughout her career has been "to foster the intellectual and personal development of students through the liberal arts."

"Janet has a high sense of academic integrity," John White Jr.,

president of Nebraska Wesleyan said, "she challenges people to think creatively and broadly."

With her induction in 1994 to the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, Dr. Rasmussen established herself as one of the world's leading scholars on Norway. She served as the president of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study from 1993-95 and last year served on an NEH evaluation panel for higher education.

"Working with President Rasmussen has been very rewarding," says Megan McCarthy S.G.A. President, "You can tell she wants to have a lot of student contact and she has worked closely with me to ensure a good relationship with the students. I am looking forward to a great year."

Quotes taken from the College Relations press release titled "Harvard-Educated International Scholars Named Hollins' Ninth President"

What's new about the Hollins Abroad Paris program

Information provided by
Lorraine Fleck, Director of
International Programs

The Spring 1997 Hollins Abroad Paris program will have some new features, making it a possibility for a wider range of students.

Students who are looking for the traditional HAP experience--immersion in the language, life, and culture of Paris-- will still find it. Courses in language, art, literature, and theatre continue to be taught in French, and homestays with French families are still an important part of the experience.

For students who like the idea of studying in Paris but are intimidated by the thought of taking four courses taught entirely in French, there is a new option this year. The social science courses are now taught in English or in a combination of English and elementary French. A student with enthusiasm and motivation but a limited French background can take an intensive French course to develop her language skills and round out her schedule with the history and political science courses taught in English. Courses on French history and politics and European international relations with field trips to the French National

Assembly and Senate, UNESCO headquarters, and local historical sites make the Paris program a great option for students interested in international studies or European politics and history.

For those who would like to spiff up their resumes with some overseas work experience, the Paris program now offers internships in galleries, businesses, and schools during the spring. Students going for the full year have the best chance of getting internships, but qualified students will be considered even if they are only going for one term.

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Hollins Columns

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Staff editorials and letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policies of Hollins College or the *Hollins Columns*.

So far, so good...

Welcome back returning students and hello freshmen. The *Hollins Columns* staff is ready to serve you. Our mission is to evolve continually and if you have any input on the product, please contact us in person or by voice mail at x6400. It is important to us that we hear from you, whether it is a letter to the editor or a suggestion you make to one of us in the Cafe Moody.

So far, this year has proved to be an interesting one. The class of '00 has declared war on the class of '97 via the senior rock. I'm still not sure how this happened or the incidents leading up to it, but pranks happen to the best of us.

What about the forum held in Babcock Sept. 16? It was called by Elizabeth Saab, senior class president, on behalf of the senior class for all students to address the following panel of staff: Dean of

Students Robbie McFarland, Scheduling Coordinator Dottie Weaver, Security Chief Robert Wills, and Residence Life Director Cheryl Hilton. It also included Leadership Development Director Gayle Stoner as a mediator (wise decision, I might add). I would like to say that it is unfortunate the meeting was necessary due to irregular incidents in the apartments Sept. 10, but it was an excellent chance to discuss concerns between students and staff. I think this kind of interaction is commendable and hope something comes of it.

The beginning of a new academic year is a time for excitement, especially when it includes having a new president of the college, so stay excited. Good luck to everyone in their studies.



Amy M. Miller

Editor-in-Chief

Alum appalled at students loss of social graces

Dear Editor,

I am including a headline in your paper that I believe is very tasteless [from the Fall of 1993, headline reads "If you think they're doing it they are"]. Have you ladies no respect for your elders?

Hollins girls in my day came from good families and had manners. What has happened? There is nothing wrong with woman's lib, etc., but let's not give up on social graces in the fracas.

I have received several invitations from present Hollins Seniors and they have been addressed to my husband's nickname. A formal invitation is to have a person's full name on it—not nicknames: Mr. and Mrs. Robert James Smith, III not Mr. and Mrs. Bob Smith

I have a younger daughter that I would love to see at Hollins to carry the family tradition but I sometimes question her even visiting the school. (She would be the

fifth generation.)

I have a close friend who's daughter is a Senior ['96] there this year. She and several friends visit frequently because she is so far from home. She and another friend joined our family for Thanksgiving. I was appalled at their lack of manners. They were supposed to arrive at my house one evening for dinner. I waited dinner until 8:30 (we eat at 6:00-6:30) and finally received a call they had stopped to visit another friend and were spending the night there. They never offered to help out getting the Thanksgiving meal on the table.

On Saturday evening, tired out from all the entertaining, we planned dinner out and a movie. We had made reservations at a nice restaurant. The girls announced they had Christmas shopping to do.

I ask you to publish my letter so other Hollins girls won't make

the same mistakes: (1) If you are expected for dinner, show up on time. Someone has gone to trouble for you. (2) Offer to help or better yet, pitch in and clear the table, make breakfast. (3) If your host has made plans, you go along. You are a guest, you do as your host plans. That's the price your pay for hospitality.

I am not signing this because I do not want to embarrass anyone but hope you will publish this in hopes it will be seen and recognized by the culprits.

Sincerely,
a Hollins woman from the class
of 1965

Editor's note: We received this letter May 10, 1996, and this was the soonest we could publish it. Though it is not in our policy to accept letters without signatures, we feel it is important to gain the perspective of a Hollins alumnae.

Letters to the Editor

Inmates seek companionship

Dear Editor,

I hope that life is treating you (and those you care about) with kindness, honor and good health.

Naturally, you are puzzled by this letter and I can only hope that you give my letter a moment of your time, patience and consideration.

Although "a bare assertion is not necessarily the naked truth," I will speak from the mind, heart and soul.

Myself (and those otherwise included) are in prison . . . and it's said "Compassion is the basis of all morality," (German philosopher, 1860) but there is very little of anything—amounting to compassion—in America these days.

Anyway, none of us are in here for crimes against women or children, and myself, I have eight sisters and someone did harm to my youngest, and I did what I felt I had to do and I'd do the same again . . . for any woman.

Thus, we are people caught in a web of life, seeking no tears or sorrows . . . "For there is no woman or man so good, who, were they to submit all of their thoughts to the law, would not deserve hanging ten times in their lives" (Michel DeMontaigne, French philosopher, 1592).

We seek "only" an opportunity—of which you can help in—and that is to place the enclosed letter in your college newspaper!

We are seeking (mental) relationships . . . that which is, sine qua non, a condition or thing that is essential or indispensable, and a relationship is that—indispensable.

Not everyone in prison is a nut, or even bad for that matter, in fact, very few are.

Everyday, women ask or state, "Just where are all the good men?" or "There are no good men". Well, we are either in prison or in a grave! Very few people do not have a brother, father, friend behind bars, and they know that person—is he bad, wrong, does he deserve it? Usually no!

All we seek is the opportunity to find people to write, and if you print our letter, someone will have compassion, interest or "out of boredom", and write back.

We are solid, good-looking, young and healthy guys, seeking to build "something" with a solid

foundation, and there can be no more sure way "to get to know" each other than long distance.

I know this is a strange request, and there can be misgivings . . . but it's only a clean interesting and safe letter . . . then the rest is up to the individual who makes the "choice" to write.

Therefore, we hope that you will find your own compassion and help—please!

"With Respect, Honor and Hope"

Respectfully yours,
Marvin Cooper

PS. It's a woman's article—smile.

"How a Man sees a Woman"

You are worth celebrating, for you are worth everything. You are unique . . . in all the whole world, there is only one you.

There is only one person with your talents, your experiences, your gift . . . no one can take your place!

You have immense potential to love, to care, to create, to grow, to think and to choose your own destiny—if—you believe in yourself!

It doesn't matter your age, or your color, or whether your parents loved you or not (maybe they wanted to but couldn't), let that go, it belongs to the past—you belong to now!

It's meaningless—what you have been, the wrong you have done, the mistakes that you've made or the people you have hurt. You are forgiven. You're accepted. You're woman, and you are loved in spite of everything. So love yourself and nourish the seeds within you.

"Celebrate You"

Begin now, start anew . . . give yourself a new birth . . . today you are you and that is all you need to be.

You deserve this new life, it is freely given—that is the miracle called love. So celebrate the miracle, and celebrate you!

'Write and begin anew'

1. Marvin Cooper #1042621
 2. Demetrius Barnes #1054436
 3. Ebony Black-Page #402679
- P.O. Box B
Anamosa, Iowa 52205

Inmate submits plea for info from single-sex institutions

Dear Editor,

My name is Michael Jordan. I am a 25 year old white male currently incarcerated in the state of Alabama. I'm also a full-time college student at Jefferson Davis Junior College.

I was referred to you by Patricia J. Albright, Assistant Archives Librarian of Mount Holyoke Archives.

I realize that you may find this letter a bit unusual, but I write only in hopes of obtaining valuable information that I otherwise have no access to.

I'm serving a 20 year sentence for forgery, so I'm by no means a violent person.

I am in the process of doing an independent study (for extra credit) on the histories of colleges and universities, and how all-female institutions compare to all-male institutions.

I realize that Hollins was founded in 1842, which makes it one of the oldest colleges in the country.

If at all possible, I'm requesting that you please print my name and address in your school newspaper in hopes that anyone willing to volunteer any information or materials they may feel helpful to this study will contact me. I would really love some individual opinions (for survey percentages) on how some of the current students feel an education from a predominantly (or all-) female college compares to that of an all-male college.

If you can be of no assistance, could you please refer me to someone who may be able to do so?

Thank you for your time, patience and possible consideration.

Sincerely,
Michael W. Jordan #138154
Holman Unit 3700 2-67B
Atmore, AL 36503

Alum thanks students for "Miss Kitty"

Dear Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those individuals involved in recently rescuing the stray, wild cat and her kittens living in Lineberger Mill next to Botetourt Hall.

I am happy to report that "Miss Kitty" (the mother cat) has been spayed, and is now gainfully employed as a barn cat in Troutville. Her three kittens have been placed in loving homes, and will be spayed/neutered in the future.

Many, many thanks go to the Hollins painters (especially Bill St. Clair and Larry Wood) who helped in the rescue, Rachel Cleveland '98 who risked life and limb to capture the elusive black kitten and to Dr. Carter of the Old Dominion Vet Clinic who has pro-

vided medical attention and support over the years to the Hollins cats. Thanks to Bill Wrobel, Chef Matthew Anderson, and Donna Martin who adopted the kittens.

These cats/kittens are indebted to those of you who contributed money and food on their behalf - thanks for caring.

No thanks go to supervisor of Grounds, David Bell (a.k.a. the golf cart devotee) who offered no help, no thanks, no nothing. Shame on you.

Contributions are still being accepted. Please call admissions at x6401.

Sincerely,
Molly Meredith

The Hollins Columns Needs

YOU!

The Hollins Columns is looking for a cartoonist, graphic artists, and photographers.

Please call our voice mail at x6400 and leave a message if you are interested.

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#1**

\$4⁹⁹ plus tax

Small 1-topping pizza
+
Can of Coke or Diet Coke

Try our new dipping sauces

- * Parmesan Peppercorn
- * Garlic
- * Original Pizza Sauce
- * Jalapeno Cheese - New Sauce

**Campus Deal
#2**

\$5⁹⁹ plus tax

Medium 1-topping pizza
+
Can of Coke or Diet Coke

Try our new dipping sauces

- * Parmesan Peppercorn
- * Garlic
- * Original Pizza Sauce
- * Jalapeno Cheese - New Sauce

**Campus Deal
#3**

\$6⁹⁹ plus tax

Large 1-topping pizza
+
Can of Coke or Diet Coke

Try our new dipping sauces

- * Parmesan Peppercorn
- * Garlic
- * Original Pizza Sauce
- * Jalapeno Cheese - New Sauce

**Campus Deal
#10**

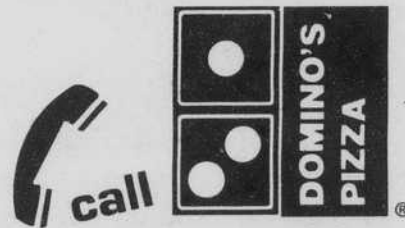
Medium **\$4⁹⁹ plus tax** Large **\$5⁹⁹ plus tax**

Cheese Pizza
+
Free Garlic Butter Dipping Sauce

Try our new dipping sauces

- * Parmesan Peppercorn
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Add 5 buffalo wings for only \$1.99 + tax

Try our new dipping sauces

- * Parmesan Peppercorn
- * Garlic
- * Original Pizza Sauce
- * Jalapeno Cheese - New Sauce

**Campus Deal
#9**

\$7⁹⁹ plus tax

Large 1-Topping Roma Herb Crust Pizza +
Order of 8 Breadsticks +
Free Garlic Dipping Sauce

Tangy sundried tomatoes, aromatic basil and robust garlic are baked inside our Classic Hand Tossed™ crust, with Parmesan crunchies sprinkled around the edge for a true Italian taste in every bite!

**Campus Deal
#5**

\$6⁹⁹ plus tax

30 zesty cheese sticks
+
2 cans of coke or diet coke

Try our new dipping sauces

- * Parmesan Peppercorn
- * Garlic
- * Original Pizza Sauce
- * Jalapeno Cheese - New Sauce

**Campus Deal
#8**

ONE FOR \$4⁹⁹ plus tax **TWO FOR \$8⁹⁹ plus tax**

Wednesday/Thursday Deal
Large 1-Topping Pizza
Wednesday & Thursday only

Try our new dipping sauces

- * Parmesan Peppercorn
- * Garlic
- * Original Pizza Sauce
- * Jalapeno Cheese - New Sauce

**Campus Deal
#7**

ONE FOR \$5⁹⁹ plus tax **TWO FOR \$10⁹⁹ plus tax**

Monday/Tuesday Deal
Large 1-Topping Pizza
Monday & Tuesday only

Try our new dipping sauces

- * Parmesan Peppercorn
- * Garlic
- * Original Pizza Sauce
- * Jalapeno Cheese - New Sauce

**Campus Deal
#6**

ONE FOR \$7⁹⁹ plus tax **TWO FOR \$13⁹⁹ plus tax**

Large
Unlimited Topping
Pizza

Try our new dipping sauces

- * Parmesan Peppercorn
- * Garlic
- * Original Pizza Sauce
- * Jalapeno Cheese - New Sauce

Hollins: Where everybody knows your name...

Staff Compilation

"This tight body of women together on a small college campus," explains Latisha Carter '00, "can give an intimidating first impression."

"I hated it when I first got here," remembers Michelle Sites '98 about the first week of orientation.

"I just wanted time to unwind," Alexis Goodfellow '00 recalls about her first week.

Gabrielle Commins has come here on exchange for a year from the University of Limerick and has found pleasant surprises in the hospitality and interaction between students. "I really liked it forthcoming, the students are more unified on campus than say in Ireland...You are made to fit in...like a unit."

Ann Huger '97 said, "You're treated like an individual here at Hollins, not just another social

security number." Huger transferred here during her sophomore year and has specialized her interest in Environmental Science with study abroad semester in Australia last Spring. A lot of students like Huger find special ways to personalize their careers at Hollins, which they might not be able to do at a larger school.

"I've found Hollins to be a very nurturing environment, you learn to be assertive and tell about yourself," explains Sites. "You can come here and completely create yourself...I hated it when I first got here, but Hollins has changed and I have too."

Bridgette McIntosh '97 has also seen Hollins change over the past four years she has been here. "Hollins has become more liberal...the diversity has increased and that adds to the culture of the campus."

McIntosh wasn't always happy with Hollins but something along



Photo by Virginia Bunting

Two members of the class of 2000 enjoy dorm life.

the way has kept her here thus far. "I was going to transfer after my freshman year but I didn't and my

perceptions have changed over time...Take time to get to know the people before you judge them."

Welcome Back...

Hollins College officially opened the 1996-1997 academic year September 4 at 7 p.m. with Opening Convocation in duPont Chapel. Afterwards, the senior class made their traditional walk across Front Quad and the champagne flowed.

Below (left to right)- Kate Lowe, Cindy Wood, Erin Hayes, and Brooks Ball, celebrate the beginning of their senior year.

Photo by Pam Kalousdian



Abroad

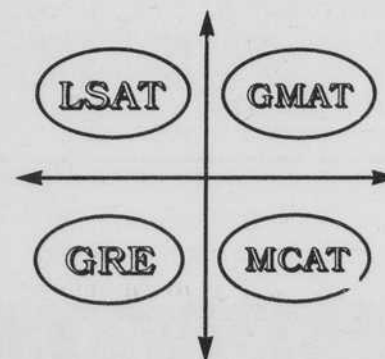
FROM PAGE 1

For anyone interested in studying in Paris, London, Mexico, Ireland, Japan, Vienna, or anywhere else in the world, there are information sessions in the PDR during dinner on September 24 (London and Paris) and October 2 (Exchanges). Students who have participated in the programs will talk about their experiences and answer your questions. The deadline for completing the application to study abroad in the spring is October 31. The world is your campus, take advantage of it.

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Interview with Nick Kiersey: "the Irish Guy"

by Caroline Hall Bruner

This semester Hollins has an undergraduate student unlike one ever before. This time the new student is a male. We have had male undergraduates at Hollins before, but never one that has actually lived on campus. Now, I have heard several rumors and questions floating around campus about the "Irish-guy." We can't help being inquisitive, so I decided to give him a chance to speak his mind, address the rumors, and satisfy our curiosity:

THE BASICS:

Name: Nicholas "Nick" Jeremiah Kiersey

Age: 21

Hometown: Dublin, Ireland

School: University of Limerick

Major: European Public Affairs
(The study of the politics of European Integration)

Caroline: So Nick, how did you hear and decide to come to Hollins?

Nick: I heard about Hollins through Eddie Maxon-Brown. He's a political science professor in Limerick who will be teaching here this spring. He asked if there was anyone interested in going to school in America through the Hollins program.

C: Did you know this was an all women's college before you decided to attend?

N: Yes, I did. However, I was under the impression that there would be other males in the exchange program as well.

C: What is your impression of Hollins?

N: It seems very isolated from reality and very biased towards women. It is very similar to the University of Limerick in that it is secluded in a beautiful setting, apart from the center of town, which seems to lead to a limited communication between the community and the school.

C: What is your impression of the professors?

N: The professors are great, however I am bit intimidated by the work load. In Limerick we only have work around mid-terms and final exams. I haven't had homework since I was fourteen.

C: What is your impression of the students?

N: The students seem to be a part of true American values. What I regard to be a part of the American Dream picture: cars, phones in their rooms, the right clothes, they seem to have everything.

C: How is that different from the students at home?

N: None of the students at home have cars. I think that students have it tougher in Ireland.

C: What is your impression of America?

N: I have been to America

before, but I feel that America is very big, decadent, and commercialized. In Ireland we have a more modest lifestyle.

C: What is your impression of Americans?

N: Melodramatic...but you are very generous people. You are always inviting people into your homes or to go with them to the mall or Harvest House.

C: Do you think we are over opinionated?

N: I think you suffer from being isolated from the rest of the world. You are in your own corner of the globe...

C: Meaning, our country is so big that many Americans don't know all of our own country, let alone anyone else's...?

N: Yes, It seems to me that in America people tend to become a number and there is a lack of a distinct culture or a variety of cultures. I could be wrong. But you are constantly trying to label yourselves and others. You are not only an American but also an "Irish-American" and a "Southerner." I have often heard the term "pearl-girls," yet I have only really seen two girls that fit that description. It seems to me that you are always trying to find reasons to be members of a particular group while excluding others.

C: What are some of the things you like about America?

N: The Beer...

C: Yuck....

N: No-no, it's very light and drinkable. I like the ice-cream, you can't get any better than Ben and Jerry's. It's also very cheap, my money goes twice as far.

C: Do you like Moody food?

N: I love it. It's very good and you have so much variety. At home it's the same thing everyday.

C: What are some of the things you don't like?

N: Living in Turner...it's very lonely. It is not as nice as the rest of the housing on campus. I feel very segregated.

C: What are some of your goals here at Hollins?

N: Well, I am in the play "The Madwoman of Chaillot." I am playing Pierre. I am also doing a study of the diplomacy between America and Europe during the Civil War.

C: Is there anything else you would like to add?

N: I have been having a great time since I have been here. Everyone has been really great and taking me out. This weekend I did Karaoke for the first time at Harvest House. I didn't think I would like it but I did. I guess I want to thank them for taking care of me...I'm having a great time.

C: So it's fun being the only guy at an all women's college?

N: I am definitely enjoying myself.

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Arts & Entertainment

Album Review

R.E.M.'s new adventures

by Kat Horton

R.E.M.'s thirteenth album should dismiss any doubt about the band's creative energy. *New Adventure in Hi-Fi* culminates R.E.M.'s musical history into a harmonious documentation of the band's career. R.E.M. has returned to the musical beginnings that made them popular back in the days when they dominated college radio. Still, the hard-rock edge of *Monster* remains a strong and integral force behind the band's music.

Michael Stipe emerges out of his enigmatic shell, writing lyrics only comparable to those of *Document* and *Life's Rich Pageant*. Gone is the spiteful irony of Stipe's lyrics, which have charged the band's last two albums.

Meanwhile, the band's intensely electrified sound of the recent *Monster* album and tour has toned down to a subdued murmur. Bassist Mike Mills has returned to singing back vocals, giving many songs the pop quality of *Out of Time*. The music no longer overpowers the lyrics. Rather, the members of R.E.M. have finally met halfway, producing the best album of their career.

The music of *New Adventures in Hi-Fi* is raw and fresh. Rather than a typical studio release, R.E.M. has combined studio cuts with songs recorded on the road, during soundchecks, and in dressing rooms.

The first release from the album, "E-Bow the Letter," has received mixed reviews. Stipe's lyrics never seem to fit the music and the music tends to be much too mellow to hold a listener's attention. Certainly an odd choice for the first release with better songs on the album. Rumor has it, however, that the lyrics to the song were originally a letter written to Patti Smyth, but one Stipe chose not to send. Smyth sings back vocals on the track.

"Be Mine" proves to be R.E.M.'s first successful love song that does not rely on sarcasm or irony to draw appeal. Other songs on the album, such as "How the West was Won" and "Where it Got Us," have the melodic appeal of *Automatic for the People*. Yet, every song on the album musically pulls from the band's earlier, lesser known albums.

"Undertow" could be the surprise hit from *New Adventures in Hi-Fi*. Recorded live in Boston, Stipe's vocals are relaxed and flowing, while the music is lyrical. The simplistic, audible lyrics and Peter Buck's driving guitar riffs are a winning combination. "Undertow" has the potential to take R.E.M. back to a chart topping stasis, a success they have not enjoyed since "Losing My Religion."

R.E.M. does not have future plans to tour in support of their new release. However, the band recently signed the largest record deal in history (\$80 million for five albums), with plans to be back in the studio soon. Yet, while R.E.M. is discovering a new world of high fidelity, what many R.E.M. fans are discovering is a new R.E.M. A good sign that the band will be around for a while, at least for five more albums.

Lone Star shines in theaters

by Maggie McWilliams

Lone Star, the newest film by independent writer-director John Sayles is set in the Texas border town of Frontera. A skull is discovered along with an old sheriff's badge in the outskirts of town. The present sheriff, Sam Deeds (Chris Cooper), immediately begins to unearth the mystery much to the annoyance of the townspeople who want to leave the past alone.

The central focus of the film is Sam's ever-present doubts towards his father. In his third Sayles' film, Chris Cooper is perfect as the morose Sam Deeds. His eyes reveal all the pain this relationship has caused him throughout his life. Although only on screen a short time, Matthew McCounaghey's performance as Buddy Deeds leaves a lasting impression.

The fact that this film is set in a border town brings attention to

the borders that exist between fathers and sons, between the generations and also between the different races.

The acting in this film is incredible. Ron Canada and Joe Morton, who play a recently reunited father and son, both give an exceptional performance. Elizabeth Pena provides a real sense of warmth with her character, Pilar Cruz. The use of flashbacks adds to the fluid feel of the film and perfectly unites the world of the present with that of the past.

The use of several long pans of the desert and the incredibly realistic set give a real sense of the dry, lonely place in which the characters live.

Lone Star flows very much like a novel with its many sub-plots coming together in an unexpected way. The characters and their stories are woven together into a film that is as varied and beautiful as life itself.

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RENT: changing our perception of the typical Broadway show

by Jennifer Dickinson

Rent. Winner of the 1996 Pulitzer Prize for best American Drama, four 1996 Tony Awards including Best musical, Best score, Best book, and Best featured actor in a musical—Wilson Jermaine Heredia and appropriately the talk of Broadway and of New York. The musical, based on Puccini's opera *La Boheme*, centers around East Village bohemians living with the AIDS, drug addiction and the possibility, and in some cases the reality, of homelessness. *Rent*, with its soulful musical score and brilliant cast, resonates with passion and poignancy. Sadly, Jonathan Larson, the author of the play, never saw the success of his work. Larson died of an aortic aneurysm on January 25th, 1996, the day after the musical's final dress rehearsal.

For this reason, I felt chills run down my spine during many of the songs in the musical. When

Adam Pascal's AIDS-infected character, Roger, grittily sings, "One song glory, One song before I go, One song to leave behind," I realized the stark irony of the words. It is this song that Larson's parents have said is the hardest to watch in the play.

Though there is much confrontation with the reality of death in *Rent*, there is much celebration of life, as well. When Mimi, played by Daphne Rubin-Vega, demands that Roger take her for a night out on the town in "Out Tonight," she howls and struts all over the stage. Likewise, when the cast victoriously sing, "Vive La Vie Boheme" or "Live the Bohemian Life," I felt myself practically rising out of my chair to join them in their excitement.

The characters, costumed in bright colors and eye-catching rubber cat-suits and thigh-high boots by German designer, Angela Wendt, ooze with vitality. The concept of the set was very simple. Paul Clay, a visual artist and the

set designer for *Rent*, enhanced the tone of the play by using Christmas lights, trash cans, and tires to create the atmosphere and to enhance the reality of the characters' economic situations. In this case, the phrase often used in theatre, "Less is more," was definitely true.

During many moments in this musical, I felt myself drawn into the lives of the characters because of their conviction and emotion. However, in spite of their powerful portrayal in song and dance, I felt very disconnected from the real essence of the personalities of their characters. I sensed this especially with the central protagonists, Roger, Mimi, and Mark. By the end of the play, I realized I knew more about their drug addiction and intake of AZT than I did of the characters themselves.

Many critics have applauded *Rent* for openly addressing so-called '90's issues" such as AIDS, homosexuality, and drug use. I hope that by confronting these

issues that more people will open their minds to different lifestyles and opinions. Nevertheless, I have to wonder if all those that have so heartily supported this musical really embrace the idea of coexisting in a society with drag queens and lesbians.

Despite all the hype surrounding *Rent*, I still found the play extremely moving and I encourage everyone to see the show if in the New York City area. A touring Broadway production is still in the works. The soundtrack to the show was recently released and I am constantly singing all the songs—much to the dismay of my roommate. For the dedicated fans, the rights for a film based on *Rent* have been bought by Robert DeNiro's film production company, Tribeca for a rumored \$5 million. I wonder what Jonathan Larson would have thought of that.

Summer concerts:

Smashing Pumpkins: smashing through their summer tour

by Rachel Brittin

The Smashing Pumpkins have hit their bumps and bruises during their 1996 tour. Their growing popularity and respect, as well as their much publicized controversies, have made their tour into one of the most talked about concerts of the summer.

This year was tough on the Pumpkins. First the death of a young girl while "moshing" at the show in Dublin, Ireland. Next the untimely heroine overdose of their keyboard player, Jonathan Melvoin. Finally, the arrest and firing of drummer Jimmy Chamberlain on charges related to possession and use of heroine at the scene of Melvoin's Death. Unfortunately, these are the main things remembered from *Melancollie and the Infinite Sadness* tour. What about the music one might ask?

The Smashing Pumpkins were

riding in a hurricane of success with their recent CD, *Melancollie and the Infinite Sadness*. It was on the way to selling more than 6 million copies. According to Rolling Stone Magazine (September 19, 1996), they were playing the "best concerts they had ever played." Those of the Hollins community that attended the concert had similar views.

"I thought it was really good," says Cristen James '99.

"It was well done, very impressive and powerful" thought another student.

"The lights and sounds were really cool," states another.

Some might say, Pumpkins front man Billy Coragan, could sing anything and make it seem deep and heart felt. Others might say he couldn't sing a note. At any rate, his intervals of raspy wails and whispering voice were accompanied by basest D'arcy, guitarist James Iha, and at least for

a little while drummer Jimmy Chamberlain. Along with the sounds of songs like "Tonight, Tonight," "Zero," and "Bullet with Butterfly Wings," were the vibrant lights and screen of visions behind them.

"I thought everything looked really good, but I still think they are better in the club scene," says Kat Horton '97. The power that Coragan creates is strong but not as intimate as the earlier smaller shows."

So if you were lucky enough to catch one of their sold out shows, or even see them with the whole band intact, you too know what a good neck aching, ear ringing effect is like. To those of you that missed them this year, that's OK, they will be around again. Despite the trouble accompanied with the tour, the Smashing Pumpkins are already planning their future.

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Career Development Center Monday Lunch Programs Fall Semester 1996

Sept 23: Resume Basics

Sept 30: Short Term Internships: Orientation

Oct 7: Graduate School: Exams, Application, Admission

Oct 14: Resume Basics (Repeat of 9/23 Program)

Oct 21: Interviewing for Internships and Jobs

Oct 28: "On-Line" Job Search Strategies

Location: Private Dining Room

Time: 12:40 p.m.

Learn while you dine ... see you there!

Calendar of Events

September 25, 1996: Spanish Film Festival: Tie Me Up, Tie Me Down, 1990. Controversial hit film starring Antonio Banderas in Babcock Auditorium at 7:30 pm.

October 2, 1996: German Film Series: The Broken Jug, 1937. German and English subtitles, Babcock Auditorium at 7:30pm

October 2, 1996: Lecture Series: The Honorable Bernard Braem, The Cultural Attache to the Embassy of France in Washington D.C. Green Drawing Room at 7:30 pm.

October 7, 1996: Lecture: Former Nuns, Barbara Ferraro and Patricia Hussey speak on their journey of faith in and out of the Catholic Church. Private Dining Room at 6:00 pm.

October 7, 1996: Faculty Recital: Judith Cline will sing from Shubert, Wolf, and composers from the Second New England School. Talmadge Recital Hall in Bradley at 8:15 pm.

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Soccer team prepares for competitive season, with new faces

by Elizabeth Wyatt

The soccer team begins its '96 season in full force. The team dominated Mary Baldwin 2-0 during their first game on Sept. 11. They continued this streak against Hood College, ending with a final score of 4-2, Sept. 14.

While the team welcomes back several old faces, it also greets many new ones.

"We lost several strong players last year, but many new girls are out there on the field, including several freshmen. Some of them are even new to the sport," said Weesie Glendenning '99.

"We are playing at an extremely difficult level," Coach Hartman acknowledges, "being in the Old Dominion Athletic Conference is quite challenging."

The captains Cielene Glavin '97, Cindy Wood '97, Chelsea Eichelberger '97 and Meredith

Pierce '97 aid Coach Hartman in pulling the team together for the season ahead.

Cindy Wood expressed some of the challenges that the team is faced with at the start of any season. "Many players, even the ones who have soccer experience beneath them, face challenges at the beginning of the season. Frequently they are placed in new positions, but this can only mean that with each game we play, we will become stronger."

Hartman reveals two main goals he has for the girls: to make it to the conference tournament (only 9 out of the 10 schools are picked), and to finish with more wins than losses.

With all of this in mind, the team looks forward to games against tough competitors such as W&L and Randolph-Macon Womens College as pivotal points in the season.

"If we can defeat teams that are within the conference, like R-MWC, we will have a better chance of securing a spot in the conference," Weesie Glendenning '99 said.

Overall, the team expressed excitement and positive feelings for the games ahead.

"Everyone on the team works together really well. There isn't any tension between players, and I think this year will be good simply because we function more as a team rather than individual players," said Cindy Wood.

Coach Hartman along with his four year old son Ryan (and Ryan's imaginary friend "Boo Boo" who always has a place on the field) help maintain high spirits and give the players incentive to work that much harder.

The team's next game will be at home on Sept. 26 against Ferrum at 4:00.

Field hockey team inspired by coach

by Kate Lowe

Hollins' field hockey co-captain Chanda Braselton '97 has high expectations of the team this season.

"We've been spending a lot of time improving our skills and learning new ones."

Much of this can be attributed to the second year Hollins coach Jen Blizzard-Halliday.

"Coach Halliday doesn't take for granted that everybody knows their skills and she always gives everyone a fair amount of attention," says Braselton.

The team feels this equal attention helps to make Hollins' field hockey a team and not a group of individuals.

Erin McKinney '97 says, "Coach's love and enthusiasm for field hockey is an inspiration in itself."

Braselton and Kristen Stoneburner '97, also a team captain, have been leading their team on an uphill journey. The team is a young one, with a relatively new coach which means that it is building to be something impressive in the years to come. The team is now 0-3, but they still have at least eight games left in the season. The team only has three games at home this fall, which means there will be a lack of team support from the sidelines.

Braselton and Stoneburner encourage students to come support the field hockey team at their first home game on October 11 against Roanoke College at 4:00.

Volleyball team ready for new challenges

by Allison Connolly

"Our team set a goal this year, and it's to make the conference tournament," says volleyball player Nikki Johnson '98. According to Nikki, only the best six or seven teams make it to the Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC) tournament, and the Hollins women are determined to be there.

However, the team has obstacles to overcome before tournament time. Coach David Turk believes the traditional conference powerhouses Guilford, Bridgewater, and Eastern Mennonite will again be dominant teams. He also thinks that Washington & Lee's volleyball team will be tough competition.

Coach Turk says that this volleyball team is one of the strongest he's coached in several years. "They're dedicated to playing well, and their biggest strength is how much they want to play well."

Of the thirteen members of the team almost half are new this year. Coach Turk is encouraged by the talent of the team.

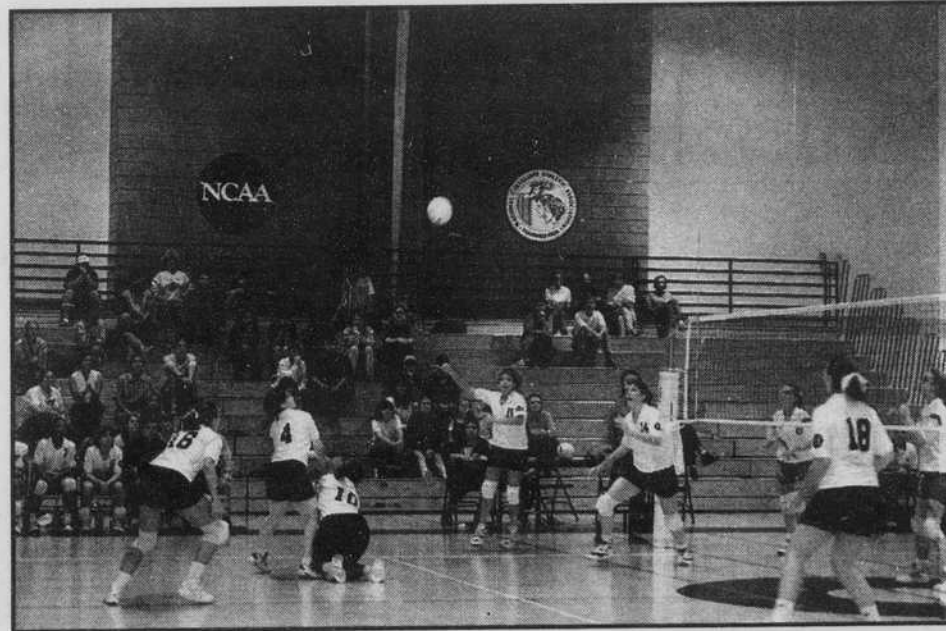


Photo by Meg Sisk

Volleyball players scramble to make a key play during a recent match. Their next game is scheduled for Sept. 25 at home.

"This year we have more people who can contribute to the team. We need to bring them together and get them to react out of a single system."

Nikki Johnson echoes Turk's statement when she says the hardest thing about volleyball is learning how other team members play the game and learning to adapt to

each other to make the best team possible. She adds the volleyball team needs student support at their games.

"We only have five home games this year, and the more people there are, the more we get excited. It gives us a real energy surge."

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SGA

*SGA Office- top floor of Moody, x 6410

*Aerobics have started: Monday 9 p.m.

Tuesday and Wednesday - 7:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.

Thursday - 8:30 a.m.

Questions or comments can be directed to Erin McKinney, Athletic Association Chair, x6410.

*Congratulations to all new freshmen class officers.

*Who's Who Applications will be available for all juniors and seniors in the Moody Lobby on the kiosk, starting Wednesday, September 25.

*For all clubs and organizations that need money: the club contingency forms are available outside the SGA office. They will be petitioned at the first Senate of each month.

*Thursday, Oct. 3, General Speakers Fund presents:

Susan Rooke, 7:30 p.m. Little Theatre

Questions? contact Meredith Pierce, GSF Chair at x6410.

*The annual Pep Rally has been scheduled for October 14. LIVE MUSIC!
Jointly sponsored by the Athletic Association and Moody Monday.

*Moody Monday Presents:

Sept. 24 - Everything (Acoustic show)

\$3.00 Hollins students

\$5.00 non-Hollins students

Oct. 1 - Dogsled (no cover)

Oct. 8 - Javelin Boot (no cover)

Questions or comments? Contact Kat Horton, Moody Monday Chair x6410.

*Senate on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Everybody Welcome!

Ross Perot, victim of premenstrual syndrome?

On the first day of my sophomore year of high school, despite my turn-the-other-cheek upbringing and the peace sign ironed onto my army surplus book bag, I was a raging woman.

I hurled a health textbook at Scott Jackson, rather at his head. The book had a hard cover, four hundred pages and sharp edges—a school board approved killing machine.

The book flew through the air in slow motion, sitcom fashion, allowing me to contemplate my actions. I used the time to think of my fourth grade teacher, Ms. Judy Kitts, who brought my class to tears one afternoon by explaining how her family had been forced into financial ruin. It seems a lawsuit depleted their savings after Ms. Kitts' younger brother blinded a child by tossing a textbook across the room...

Scott's eyesight, however, was intact. The book landed an inch from his eye. A little bleeding and a gross scab were the only repercussions of my fury.

It was the only act of deliberate violence I have committed in my life. I regretted it instantly. Even now, four years later, I get 'deja ewww' vibes thinking about the incident. Still, he had it coming to him.

Mr. Jackson was a football player, a stud, and the bane of my existence. Over my high school career this boy got two Tootsie Pops (one chocolate and one grape) stuck in my hair, stole my umbrella during a downpour, tried to run over my dog with his motorcycle, and

launched a campaign to get my Spanish class to call me Barf ("Really," he explained. "It's Spanish for Elizabeth.>").

The final attack, which ignited 'the incident' was when Scott yelled at me from across the courtyard in front of ten or twelve similarly thick-necked boys.

"Hey Barf, what size do you wear?" He asked. "I want to dress my cow up for the homecoming

ON THE RAG

ELIZABETH J. JONES

parade and I don't have a clue to her size."

His slam wasn't particularly clever or all that mean. Compared to the daily threats of violence and sexual harassment many women in the high school atmosphere face, it was incredibly minor. But it made me mad, so I threw a book. Particularly reprehensible was Scott's response to the hurling.

"Someone sure is on the rag," he howled among other choice words.

I hurled my health book. I was embarrassed. I was out of control. I was, however, only on day six of my cycle. I was not premenstrual, post menstrual, or anything else thank you very much.

There is a lot of dialogue these days about PMS and to what extent (if any) our menstrual cycles alter our moods. I have decided that, for me, PMS does not exist and since I discovered

OB tampons (Made by a woman gynecologist!) I barely notice my period. I get angry and I get the blues, occasionally before and during my cycle. But, in my case my period is only a coincidence, not a cause.

I am not trying to suggest that women never experience mood swings during their monthly cycle. That would be just as dangerous of a claim as it is for our society to use the media and the medical industry to promote the myth that every woman experiences emotional symptoms. Women know their bodies.

Despite its start and title, this column is not a forum for Hollins' women to discuss their mooncycle. Instead I am trying to reclaim those words: on the rag...

Let us transform this expression so that it no longer refers to a woman whose anger is a result of her hormones, therefore denying her the right to anger and reinforcing misogynist attitudes. Instead, let these words mean someone who questions authority, fights the man, someone who is right on. As in, "Arlo Guthrie is on the rag!"

As a columnist, I may highlight the extraordinary individuals of this campus. Hollins certainly has enough of them. We have a new president who stops prospectives and their parents on the sidewalk to introduce herself and answer their questions. There is Patty, the infamous Tinker housekeeper, who makes so many of Tinker's residents feel at home that she admits when students come back in September she, "gets hugged

until her arm falls off." At Hollins, the faculty is composed of professors like Klaus Phillips whose enthusiasm about his classes and Hollins are contagious.

Hollins has its share of funkiness and *On the Rag* will cover that too. Like, what exactly is the composition of the mist which is sprayed out of the boiler beside Fishburn and is it toxic? Why does Hollins, a women's college, not have an official women's studies major? Why haven't the College Democrats held a meeting since Groundhog's Day 1989? There are a few Democrats on campus, I know of at least three.

I also hope that this column will debate national issues. I plan to investigate what exactly is up with Bob Dole's hair. What about the fact that the most influential women in politics are not politicians, but Presidential candidates' wives? Why hasn't a magazine published the vice presidential candidates chocolate chip cookie recipes?

Alright, so mostly the column will deal with things that make me cranky. But after all, nobody ever listened to Pollyanna as well as Oscar the Grouch.

I doubt Big Bird ever asked him, "Is it your time of the month?"

Jones is a junior studying stuff she likes—English, film, and - women's studies. Let her know what makes you grumpy: e-mail her at Jonesej@minnie or call 342-5436.

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.

ATTENTION!

If you had an awesome summer experience that you would like to share with the *Hollins Columns*, please call Mary Ann Davis at x6979.

She will be writing a feature story on unique summer experiences next issue.