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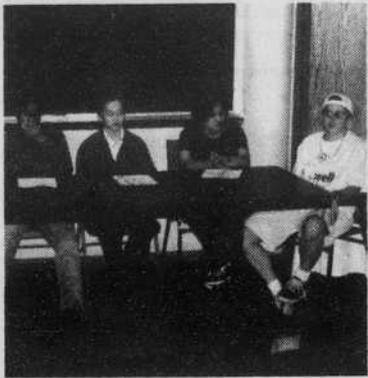
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Hollins Columns (1997 Sept 29)

Hollins College

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Hollins Columns

September 29, 1997

Hollins College, Roanoke Va

Volume 70, Issue 1

Trustees vote in favor of university plan

"I hear you," President Rasmussen says during student forum

by Rachel F. Smith

Hollins College is slated to become Hollins University by July 1, 1998, according to President Janet Rasmussen during a student forum on the future of Hollins that was held on September 10 in Babcock auditorium.

Over 100 students turned out for the scheduled one hour question and answer session which began at 9 p.m. and ran until nearly midnight. President Rasmussen dealt with a deluge of concerns, frequently responding with the phrase "I hear you" as the exchange continued with heated interjections and emotional pleas for

answers until every single student's voice had been heard.

During Hollins' 155-year history, several name changes have occurred as a result of the need to address the changing times, from Hollins Seminary, as it was originally deemed, to Hollins Institute and the current title of Hollins College. But some students feel it is more than just a name change and are concerned about the implications as well as the motives of those in charge.

The 20/20 planning committee, composed of five trustees, five faculty members and five administrators, held its first meet-

ing in April of 1996 and began studies in the following months along with outside experts to focus on the ambitions of students, its distinction as a women's college, its position in the academic marketplace and graduate programs, among other facets of development.

The committee was given a deadline of June of 1997 to report its findings to the Board of Trustees, so the idea was definitely "on the table" before the end of the last academic year, according to President Rasmussen in response to a student inquiry.

Students were first notified of the upcoming changes in a letter from the

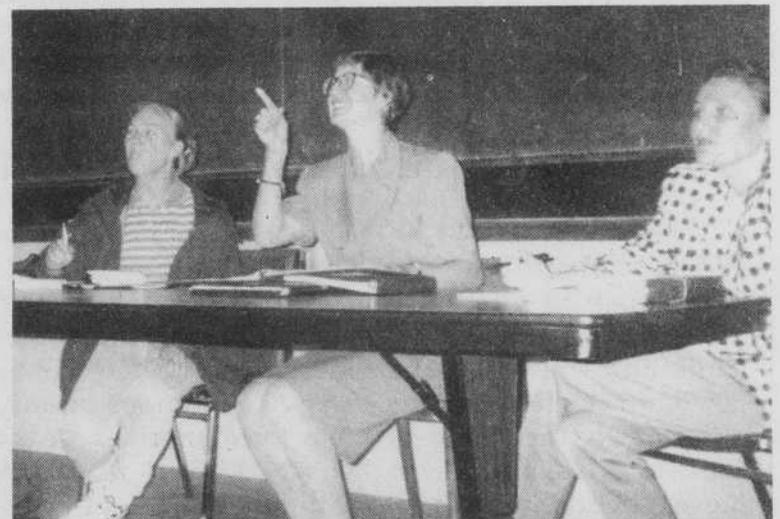


Photo by Amanda Griffin

Rasmussen addresses students during forum.

president that was sent out over the summer.

President Rasmussen said there was an urgency to take advantage of the

"window of opportunity" that was open after emerging from the successful Capital Campaign. The
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Electrical fires in Moody leave minimal damage

by Sara Kathryn Mathews

Lunch on Saturday, Sept. 6 was more than just a meal for students eating in Moody. Two electrical fires caused the evacuation of Moody and loss of power for the entire Hollins College campus.

Heavy smoke coming from an electrical box in the dish room alerted Chris

Sowyers, who was working at that time. Assistant Food Service Director Brent Muller immediately called the fire department.

"There were never any big flames, just a lot of smoke," said Muller.

The second fire, which began in the Rat in downstairs Moody was discovered by Leroy Lawson. Lawson was on his way downstairs when he saw the smoke. Moody was

again evacuated, all power was turned off and once again the fire department was summoned. The Roanoke Emergency Services responded quickly. At least four fire trucks and several ambulances filed the Moody parking lot. There was also a road block at the front gates after dark to ensure only students were coming onto campus.

Damages from the fires

were minimal. Nothing in the kitchen had to be repaired, and in the snack bar only the fryers were destroyed. They were replaced Monday, Sept. 8. Moody was closed for the remainder of the day, and all of the Hollins campus went without power until a new transformer was installed at approximately 10 p.m. Saturday night. Since Moody was shut-down, dinner was

Domino's pizza served on back quad.

The cause of the fires has not yet been determined.

"Although it was rough being without power, I think it was cool that they served us pizza for dinner on back quad. They handled this emergency situation very well" said Sara Ann Berlin '01. "I was very impressed," she said.

Hollins College is a state of mind, not a place

I love Hollins.

To me, this is the most important fact. I guess that is why I expressed it first. I love our whacked traditions and our inside politics. I love the perpetual construction, and the rockers on the front porch of Main. With all her faults, I love her unconditionally. She saw me when I came, a young lady of 18, walking timidly through the doors of Tinker. She will watch as I, a woman of 22, leave with a degree to face the challenges of the world.

Senior year has always been filled with mystery and excitement at Hollins. I never knew what they were up to, but seniors always seemed to have a sense of urgency. This was their last chance to do so

many of the things that they had been putting off. Perhaps, they had never been able to drag themselves out of bed to experience the fun of Tinker Day, or never had the nerve to paint the rock. Senior year is a no holds bar to do whatever you wanted to do. It is our last stab at fleeting youth. And finally, it is my turn.

However, my class has even more of a sense of urgency. We are lucky enough to be the last group of women to graduate from Hollins College. As of July 1, 1998, what we have considered to be our own personal corner of the world, it going to be opened up and proclaimed as Hollins University. We are the last group of

women who will know the joy and love of learning that only Hollins College can give. We will be the last ones to know what a pure liberal arts education from Hollins College really means. We will be the last

Marissa L. Jimenez

women to have "Hollins College" on our diploma and know how truly precious that is. This is our last chance. There has been a lot of talk about the future at Hollins. Well, pardon me if I cannot share in that enthusiasm. I have been waiting three years for my senior year and I have every intention of sitting back and enjoying the

present.

In essence, this is every student's senior year because next year we will each enter a new phase. The seniors will move onto graduate school, jobs, or marriage. The juniors will face the reality of giving three years to an institution that may not be on their diploma. But the hardest transition will be for the Classes of 2000 and 2001. How ironic that their class year is so historic, and that they will be involved in the most historic era of Hollins as an institution. It is up to you to preserve the reason why we all came to Hollins. We are counting on you to be involved, and to not stand idly by as the administration changes an institution

that you treasure. You have the power to truly shape the future of this institution. Do not take this for granted. Hollins will become a university. This is fact, and cannot be changed. But, we can all make sure that we know what is going on during this transition.

This campus, despite its character and charm, is a place — a couple of miles of the Roanoke Valley that I considered home for several years. Hollins College is the people. It is the memories and the laughter that we all shared over the years. There is no Board of Trustees vote that can take that away from us. We are Hollins College.

President responds to student concerns about university issues

Dear editor,

The student forum on September 10 elicited a number of important questions and views on the 20/20 strategic decisions adopted by the Board of Trustees in late June. Given the significance of the new directions for the entire Hollins community, I want to provide readers with additional background information and to sketch

out the work that lies ahead.

During the 1997-1998 academic year, the implementation of 20/20 will be an overall campus priority (our three priorities for the year are: 20/20 Implementation, Presenting Hollins, and Student Recruitment and Retention). All Hollins constituents have the opportunity to engage in, and con-

tribute to, the implementation activity, which entails a number of simultaneous and mutually reinforcing initiatives, namely:

- engage curricular development and revision so that we give our liberal arts mission a dramatically sharper career focus and add programs that build distinctiveness;

- conduct a comprehensive campus life study;

- enhance our role in Roanoke and Western Virginia;

- identify a process for ongoing program review;

- monitor our strategic fiscal health;

- prepare to become Hollins University.

In addition, we are crafting and pursuing a comprehensive strategic marketing plan reflective of both our new directions

and our enduring characteristics as a small academic community dedicated to women's education and academic excellence.

The role of the Board of Trustees is to establish strategic directions for Hollins and then to charge the president with leading the implementation. On an ongoing basis, they will monitor our progress and

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We welcome letters from all members of the Hollins College community. 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.

Alumnus upset by 1997 Spinster photo

Dear Editor,

I graduated from Hollins in May of this year. I was very surprised to have the 1997 Spinster arrive at my home on Monday, September 8th, and also very disappointed. My name is Chelsea Eichelberger and anyone who tries to look me up in the yearbook under the seniors won't find me, because I was printed without either my name or my majors, or even in color, as my fellow students were.

I have spoken with the '97 graduate who was responsible for the '97 Spinster and have deduced that what happened with the printing of my picture and that of two other fellow students is the result of many mistakes, not just by one person. It began with the person who was responsible for getting the senior photos together. Instead of marking off a list each senior's name as she received the photos from the photography company, she simply assumed they were all there, arranged them, and then sent them off to the yearbook publisher only to have the company send her my photo, along with two others, a month later because they had misplaced them. (I would like to say here that not only did the photography company send my photo late, but they also sent the wrong photo.) Therefore, these photos were not printed in color. The student in charge of the yearbook truly believes that when she saw the final proofs of the yearbook, that my name and majors, as well as those of a fellow student, were on the proofs and that their not being printed was a mistake of the yearbook publishers. I waited four years only to be anonymous in my own senior yearbook. True, my friends will know me, but I paid money for this?

There are other problems with the Spinster, such as lack of pictures of staff, theater events, etc.!! Hollins inaugurated a new president; are there any pictures of her inauguration or even of her in general? I saw President Rasmussen's arrival as very important to this college, the yearbook even stated as much on one page, but I saw no picture to back it up. It is much too late to salvage the '97 Spinster so I challenge those who are on the yearbook staff to create something better, much better than their predecessors.

Some will be angry at me for this letter because they will ask where I was during all of this, how come I didn't make more of an effort to help the yearbook? To them I will say that they have a point. I too am to blame for the '97 Spinster not being in good condition, but the entire campus cannot put the yearbook on their schedule for many reasons, such as sports or responsibilities of other committees, etc. Hollins is a community that works together to get things done! And because of that, we must be able to put our trust in our fellow students to do the job that they chose to be the best of their ability.

Can one person remember every aspect of everything at their school? Of course not. Spinsters are your memories, Hollins, and the memories you will have of Hollins are precious! The pictures and words placed in them will endure. How many of you have stopped on the lower level of the library and paged through the Spinsters of 1902 or even earlier? We are reaching a new millennium, Hollins; which yearbooks will students of this new millennium reach for? Not the '97 Spinster.

Chelsea Eichelberger

SGA President welcomes students

Dear Student Body,

On behalf of the Student Government Association, I'd like to welcome you to Hollins! I hope you all had a restful summer, and your year is off to a great start. We have a historic and incredible year ahead of us and if you blink, you might miss something. Please be on the lookout for all the upcoming events happening in the Hollins community. There is something for everyone. One of these exciting events is happening Friday, October 3. Xiomi Murray, Campus

Activities Chair, has arranged a fantastic band—Key West to perform at our annual Oktoberfest. I would love to see everyone there.

A special welcome to the Class of 2001, I hope all of the returning students have had the chance to meet the members of the newest class. In addition to the freshmen, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all the students that have transferred. Congratulations on your decision to come to Hollins.

Thank you to

everyone who attended the Open Forum on Wednesday, September 10. I appreciate the time you took to address an important issue at Hollins. For those of you who could not attend, please feel free to contact me either for details on the forum, or any questions you might have. I can be reached at my apartment, 311 (X6062) or in the SGA office, third floor of Moody (X6410). Remember — SGA is here for you!!

Sincerely,
Sara A. Dettmer
SGA President

President

FROM PAGE 2

allocate financial resources accordingly. The faculty carries specific responsibility for developing the curriculum in accord with the overarching mission and direction established by the trustees.

Students have key roles to play, through a number of channels, in shaping the campus life study, in responding to academic program ideas, in assisting with the university transition, and in developing our outreach to Roanoke. Students will be central to the strategic marketing effort. The new faculty governance system provides for voting student members on the four administrative councils and three standing committees; these groups will initiate policy proposals and serve the 20/20 implementation within their respective arenas.

The 20/20 planning was undertaken in order to ensure a strong and vibrant future for Hollins. The planning assumptions include the goal of increasing our total undergraduate population to the equivalent of 1,000 full-time students, with an

entering freshmen class of around 250 and an enlarged Horizon program, along with proportionate growth in graduate enrollment and the addition of non-credit programs for alumnae and others, for a total of 1,250 full-time equivalent students. At this enrollment level, we can sustain excellent academic resources and an appropriate breadth of offerings. We have examined our housing capacity with this target enrollment in mind and there is space to accommodate more than resident undergraduates.

After much study and thought, I see the change to Hollins University as the best platform for Hollins looking to the 21st century. I believe it better communicates the breadth of our current programming and signals our intention to expand programs and enrollment and to attract a more diverse student body including more students for the Roanoke Valley, international students, and graduate students. It also challenges us to discover new ways to serve students who are interested in joint B.A./M.A. programs and pre-professional pro-

grams.

I have also come to believe that with the new strategic directions we are honoring not only our commitment to women and to the core purpose for which we exist—to prepare graduates for "active lives of fulfilling work, growth, achievement, and serve to society"—but also the pioneering nature of Hollins. Throughout her history, Hollins has innovated, taken risks, and exemplified a readiness to lead with an ambitious educational profile. We move forward in that spirit, devoted to the Hollins that has been, as Valley Union Seminary, Female Seminary at Botetourt Springs, Hollins Institute, and Hollins College, and to the Hollins University that will be.

I look forward to staying in touch with your concerns and suggestions as we work collaboratively to implement the strategic directions.

Janet E. Rasmussen,
President

Freshman orientation adds new component

by Elizabeth Wyatt

Freshmen orientation added a new twist to its program this year. The girls of the class of 2001 had a chance to meet and mingle with Hampden-Sydney students on their turf as well as ours.

90 anxious girls left Hollins around noon and headed down by bus to Farmville, Va. where they spent Sunday afternoon and part of the evening participating in activities that enabled them to become more acquainted with the freshmen class of Hampden-Sydney.

The activities began as soon as the Hollins freshmen stepped off the bus. The girls were each handed a piece of paper with an exotic animal printed on it. They were then given the mission to locate the Hampden-Sydney freshmen that held their respective mates. This activity marked the beginning of what would be many meetings that day. For the

afternoon, the freshmen broke off into groups and played trust and get to know you games. In the evening, they picnicked and listened to the sounds of Where the Sidewalk Ends.

Kiley Ayliffe '01 was pleased to see that Hollins offered this experience as part of freshmen orientation.

"I had a great time. It was so awesome to meet on their turf and on neutral ground," Ayliffe said that the H-S-C guys were friendly and she thought the crowd mixed well, but she believed a major part of the success of the day was attributed to the structure that came with an orientation atmosphere.

Meredith Dugger '01 reflected on the day as both enjoyable and beneficial.

"I thought it was a lot of fun," she said. "I'm still in contact with the people that I met there." Dugger also believes this experience introduced the girls to the campus in an informa-

tive way.

"I think a lot of girls were worried about not knowing their way around campus if they were coming up here for a party or something," she said. "Now they will be more familiar with the campus itself."

As the girls finally prepared to depart around 7:30, spirits were high and feelings of excitement prevailed.

"There was just this electric energy in the air when we all got back on the bus," says Ayliffe.

While a group of Hollins freshmen traveled to H-S-C, another 110 women stayed here on campus to welcome the other half of the men from the class of 2001.

Amanda Seely '99 was one of the junior group leaders who helped welcome the guys and led many of the same activities Hollins students were participating in at Farmville.

"I think the day went really well," Seely said. "We also played a lot of

trust games and we had a picnic on Tinker Beach. I think the picnic was great because everyone was free to roam around and just sit back and have a good time."

Nikki Oakley, '01 was one of the freshmen who stayed on campus. She commented on the feelings that came from the groups after the day was over.

"I think for the most part people had a good time. A lot of girls wanted to go to Hampden-Sydney - I chose to stay here because I wanted to be able to go back to my room later if I felt like it," she said. "I thought the program itself was a good idea and that the orientation leaders did a great job."

Kit Layer, Director of first year programs, played a major role both in the creation and the execution of the dual orientation. Last January, Layer met with John Laws, assistant dean for student life at Hampden-Sydney. In the past, Layer and Laws had spoken of their desires to

offer Hampden-Sydney and Hollins students more opportunities to meet in structured atmospheres. Through collaboration and brain-storming, they felt orientation would be a great time to bring the students together.

According to Layer, however, the basic idea for these types of meetings originated from the students themselves. After having met with numerous students and focus groups, it became clear to Layer what the students of Hollins wanted and needed.

"The students want an opportunity to meet men in a safer environment," she said.

Layer was quite pleased with the outcome of dual orientation, and believes it will continue to play a part in freshmen orientation in the future.

"I would say that there is a 99% possibility that we will do it again next year," she says.

Items discovered missing from Tinker storage

by Amanda Griffin

Two students were welcomed back to campus this fall with the news that their computers had been stolen out of Tinker storage.

Last spring Buildings closed campus storage due to limited space and safety issues. Students petitioned Senate to reestablish it, and their petition was granted. Residence Life was placed in charge of storage. The college issued the following disclaimer: "Hollins College does not accept responsibility for loss of or damage to any items due to theft, fire, flood, or other causes. Store at your own risk." Even with this stu-

dents felt safe storing their possessions.

At the beginning of this semester students went looking for their tagged boxes in the attic of Tinker. Nicole Janowski '00 had placed six boxes in Tinker storage for the summer, but was only able to locate three of them when she returned to pick them up. The three missing boxes contained her computer monitor, CPU, printer, and programs. She found the tags and papers with her name on them ripped up and strewn on the attic floor. Janowski filed a report with security and then went to talk with Computer Services. Her computer was only a year

old and computer services still had her serial numbers on file.

"I was told I was lucky because after two or three years the serial numbers are gone, and other students had not been as fortunate," said Janowski.

Janowski filed an official report with the Roanoke County Police Department for grand larceny on Friday, September 19. She now awaits news from her insurance company. Janowski does not plan to use campus storage again.

"If we are lead to believe under the Honor Code that all aspects of the college are safe, then why are we asked to store

things at our own risk," Janowski said.

Lindsay Freedman '99 does not feel campus storage is safe. "I won't store anything of value here," she said. Freedman is currently a Resident Assistant in Far East, but was an RA in Tinker. Last year was the first year that the Resident Life Staff was in charge of storage. According to Freedman, the RAs were given no formal instructions on how to handle the organization of storage. The storage key was kept in the switchboard office, and when a RA was not on duty in storage, students were able to take the key from switchboard and enter storage on their own.

"One day we thought the key had been lost, but a student had just failed to return it. I feel that is part of the problem," Freedman recalled.

The storage area on campus is not high security and cannot be according to Robie McFarland, associate dean for campus life. Limiting storage access hours would make storage safer, but at the same time inconvenience students.

"Chicken wire and a wooden frame is obviously not safe, that's why we told students to 'store at their own risk' and avoid storing valuable items," said McFarland.

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FROM PAGE 1

committee decided to "seize the moment and keep the momentum" in order to move out in front to maintain the essence of Hollins going into the 21st century, she said.

Throughout the exchanges between students and the president, along with several other administrators who were on hand to answer questions, President Rasmussen outlined the specific changes that Hollins will be making as a "pacesetter", setting new standards for small universities. The planning committee has taken the long view, she said, using its strong desire to serve students while maintaining affordable programs committed to women's education and the liberal arts.

"We love our students," she said.

The changes that are scheduled to take place in this new initiative include an increase in enrollment from the approximately 1,000 students enrolled currently to 1,250; additional courses and programs that are more career oriented; establishing stronger student-alumnae relationships; becoming more involved in the Roanoke Valley; and striving for more recognition regionally, nationally and internationally.

In response to concerns about the ongoing construction already taking place on campus, President Rasmussen stated that it shows an investment in improvements of the academic facilities and student

life/satisfaction.

She also stated that the alumnae response has been positive overall. In talking with a relative of Charles Lewis Cocke, Rasmussen has been informed that he would have approved of the changes.

Among the concerns of students were the possibility of the name discouraging applicants who were specifically searching for "colleges"; the loss of smaller classes and personal attention that Hollins prides itself on; decrease of funding; whether Hollins will be taken seriously as a small university; what will be printed on the rings and diplomas of those who entered Hollins College, not Hollins University; where the additional students will be housed; whether additional professors will be hired; as well as the ultimate question: what if the name change doesn't produce the results the committee is predicting?

Lisa Hall '98 pointed out that Hollins has always prided itself on open communication, and that by stopping the flow of information during this process, students were left out which prompted them to lose faith in the Board of Trustees. She cited the forum, its purpose being to provide explanations after the fact, as "a little too little and a whole lot too late."

"I think that it's kind of ironic that hindsight is 20-20," Amanda Palmer '01 added, creating a play on words from the name of the committee that formu-

lated these changes.

"You can talk to your telemarketers until you're blue in the face, but you didn't talk to your market," she said.

From an international standpoint, Margarita Hernandez '00, an exchange student from Mexico, said she would benefit from the university status when applying to schools or programs in other countries, as well as in her search for employment in the future, because a university carries more clout by foreign standards; therefore, it may be more readily considered by international students who need the university name on their diplomas to be recognized for the higher education they receive.

President Rasmussen apologized throughout the forum for not communicating with students at an earlier stage in the process, stating that it would have been the right thing to do and that the timing of the decision was "awkward" and "unfortunate." She went on to say she supported the position of the board, offering her personal mission statement as part of the apology.

"I will model the joy of life long learning and I will learn from my mistakes," she said.

Vern Votypka '99 questioned President Rasmussen as to whether the decision to change the name of Hollins was reversible.

"I don't feel that it is," she said.

Facts About Hollins University

20/20 Directions (Updated Sept. 16, 1997): Facts about the 20/20 initiatives and responses to frequently asked questions

°A telephone survey of a random sample of prospective students showed that 65 percent said Hollins would be more attractive if it were a university; 27 percent said it would be less attractive; and 8 percent said it didn't make a difference or didn't answer the question.

°Some of the new programs that are being discussed under the plan include undergraduate programs in childhood studies, cognitive studies, media and technologies, and women's studies; additional programs in pre-engineering, women in medicine and health, nutrition, health sciences, anthropology, chemistry with business concentration, theater and dance; graduate programs in film studies and screen writing, management and commerce, studio art, social services, communications design, and a five-year BA/MAT in education.

°Hollins' rankings "most likely will improve." In 1994, the Carnegie Foundation, the national authority for college classification, targeted Hollins for reclassification as a comprehensive university because it awards more than 40 master's degrees annually in more than three disciplines. However, no Ph.D. programs will be offered.

°The seal will be changed "to reflect the Hollins University name but will maintain a similar design and character"; however, the green and gold colors "will be true forever."

°Hollins is not going Coed. "...the strategic initiatives are designed to preserve women's undergraduate education..."

°Special interest housing may be developed, but currently there is room to accommodate other students. "We have the capacity to house 782 students but presently house only 676 students in the residence halls."

°"The engagement of students in the decision making process was indirect, through recent alumnae who served on subcommittees, research data gathered from current and prospective students, and faculty involvement. Some of the 20/20 faculty members shared information and obtained feedback from their students. Although reports to student leaders and a student forum would have improved the communication about and understanding of the process, we were into May, 1997, before the committee's recommendations reached a useful stage for broad consultative sharing."

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Storage

FROM PAGE 4

Currently a floating RA lets students into storage and remains with them while they retrieve their items. This cuts down on the number of people who gain access to storage.

Bob Wills, Chief of Security, has received two theft reports, both were for computer systems. "Thefts don't happen often at

Hollins, but when they do they are always valuable items," said Wills. "Students should avoid storing high-priced items, and I consider a high-priced item to be anything over two hundred dollars. Paying for a storage unit off campus is not expensive if you just consider it insurance."

6 Forum addresses diversity on campus

by Peyton H. N. Lawrimore

Collage, a new organization on campus designed to promote diversity, held a forum in Babcock Auditorium on Monday, September 22 to address alleged incidents of intolerance on campus.

Cathy Draine '99, a co-founder of Collage, opened the forum with an address she had also given at Senate on September 16. In her remarks she highlighted the goals of the diversity forum.

Draine emphasized that Hollins needs to "avoid being left behind" in the educational voyage to the twenty-first century. She also touched on what she feels is a lack of inclusive-

ness in the Hollins community and cited specific incidents of discrimination which she feels Hollins must recognize, including race, sexual preference, class, religion, and region of origin. Draine concluded her remarks by reading an article by President Rasmussen's from the Grapevine, which tied diversity into Hollins' mission statement.

Marcy Trianosky, director of Hollins' Writing Center, acted as the mediator of the forum. The panel included students Deborah Topcik '98, Cristen Morgan '99, Lee Bussart '99, Kerrie Williams '99, An Do '99, Hoon Beng Peh '99, and Jess Groulx '99.

Trianosky asked the panel for opening com-

ments, and Do shared her story of experiencing discrimination as a freshman at Hollins. This opened a flood gate of comments about the discrimination and prejudiced attitudes prevalent on the campus. Bussart stated that there is a "huge tendency to prejudice" amongst Hollins women. Groulx spoke out about her experiences with discrimination, noting that "women, as a minority, tend to not be as confrontational as men" when they have prejudiced views they wish to express.

Students articulated concern about retaining minority students on campus. One student also expressed a concern that some women were intolerant of other women.



Photo by Nikki Oakley

Diversity panel member Ann Do '99 responds to questions posed by students.

"We [as women] are all running the same race," William said. "Why are we trying to trip each other up?"

The Diversity Forum had forty-two attendees, six of whom were faculty. Participants plan to fill Babcock for the next

Additional student housing fees raise questions

by Farah Sanders

Enforcement of a \$25 fee per day for early arrival and vacationing students has caused concern among the student body.

Those students who choose to arrive on campus before orientation or registration are charged \$25 per day stay on campus during. The charge also applies to those staying during Thanksgiving and spring breaks. During winter break no students will

be allowed to stay because no one will be on campus.

Not every student who arrived before August 29 had to pay the fee. Athletes, resident assistants and SGA members and other leadership positions are invited to come early at no charge. As of September 24, exact total of early arrivals was unavailable, but there were approximately 200 invites and 100 students who came at their own request.

Many returning stu-

dents were surprised about the fee, but according to Associate Dean of Campus Life Robie McFarland, the fee was always mentioned in the Student handbook, although it wasn't fully enforced. The fee was enforced this year because the number of early arrivals has risen in past years. This year's handbooks will be out in mid-October.

"Once the students find out about the fee, they choose to arrive two days

early instead of five," McFarland said. "Many students feel they have the right to stay for free since they're paying the school so much money, but tuition only covers from the time one is supposed to arrive to the last day."

She says the money received goes into the general budget. McFarland also mentioned, however, that Hollins does not want to make anyone feel unwelcome.

Students, on the other

hand, feel the fee is unnecessary.

Nicole Janowski, '00 says, "I think (the fee) is crazy, especially since there are students here already, so the expenses should not be a big difference. It is especially hard for long distance and international students."

The fee will continue to be enforced, but college officials are planning to adjust next year's college calendar to students needs.

Hollins Taxi service revamped for students

by Bri Seoane

The free Hollins taxi service began operation on Friday, September 5. The college, in conjunction with Yellow Cab Company of Roanoke, is providing a free taxi service to students and their guests.

This is the result of dialogue between the SGA and Renee Romano. The taxi is an attempt to pro-

vide more effective transportation to students without cars. Previously, shuttles ran daily during weekends to various Roanoke destinations. The problem with the shuttle was its rigid schedule and limited available hours. The Hollins taxi is in operation from Friday at 6p.m. to 6p.m.Sunday. Destinations include: Roanoke Airport, Valley View mall, Crossroads mall, downtown Roanoke, and

Roanoke College. The taxi will provide around the clock service to students returning from Roanoke College parties and other social events.

Vouchers can be obtained at the switchboard and must be filled out individually before a cab can be called. In addition to the vouchers, a log book is kept at the switchboard to keep track of all transactions. Completed vouchers must be present-

ed to the cab driver upon entering the cab. Only one voucher is needed per group. Guests may use the service free of charge, but only when accompanied by at least one student.

The taxi can pick up and drop off passengers any place on campus. At this time, the service is only scheduled for the fall term. Yellow Cab can be reached at 345-7711.

Coming in the next issue:

***Profiles of Wayne Markert and Renee Romano**

***Oktoberfest highlights**

***Habitat for Humanity**

September 29, 1997

Features Editor: Rachel Brittin

Student shares music with Hollins

by Bri Seoane

Juanita Bennet once told her seven-year-old granddaughter when she turned on the Opera Channel instead of a Dallas Cowboys' game, "someday you're going to sing white people's music."

Eleven years later, Bobby Scott is well on her way to fulfilling her grandmother's prophecy of becoming an opera singer. A McCullough voice scholarship recipient, Scott attended Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in her native Dallas, Texas. She honed her skills at BTW in five different choral ensembles and an opera workshop. Scott appeared on TV while performing at the famous Majestic Music Hall in downtown Dallas. The highlight of the experience was taking a master class under her idol, the

famous African-American opera singer Leontyne Price, who has been ranked in the top three sopranos regionally for the past five years.

Last year, Professor Judith Cline discovered Scott by accident after giving a concert at the school on a recruiting trip.

"She asked a bunch of girls to come sing for her in a practice room. She didn't ask me. At first I wasn't going to go in, but I went anyway," the 18-year-old freshman said.

According to Scott, she was abused most of her life by her mother and she never knew her father except for the year she spent with her grandmother. At age 12 she was taken by Child Protective Services and placed in a girl's home, she said. She spent two years there until leaving to live with family.

"I went from house to house, staying wherever I could," she said. But for

two long weeks, there wasn't anywhere for her to stay, so Scott had to resort to living on the streets of downtown Dallas.

Despite strong efforts to



Photo by Nikki Oakley
Bobby Scott

keep her situation unknown, a friend confronted her and took her in. From the time she was fourteen until leaving for Hollins she lived with him.

"Even when I didn't have a place to stay, I kept in school and went to

church," Scott said, proudly. "I didn't have any clothing. I'm still very poor and my church bought me all of the things that I have."

Scott is a vocal performance major and member of the Hollinsingers. She hopes to complete her graduate studies at The Julliard School of music or Oberlin College. Her dream is to become a professional opera singer and perform for the New York City Metropolitan Opera. She also would like to perform around the world.

The transition from metropolitan Dallas to the comparatively rural Roanoke has not been an easy one. Since arriving on campus, Scott feels she has encountered discrimination which she is unaccustomed to.

"I never had to deal with [racism] in Dallas," she said. "Why can't people here just respect each other? By coming to Hollins, I believed [all

racess] could grow in harmony together I guess I was wrong."

Within the first week on campus she said she was verbally assaulted for dancing with a Caucasian man at the apartment parties. Scott filed a formal complaint with the administration.

"These girls give you shoddy looks, joke, and talk about you," she said. "I've been called everything from nigger to porch monkey." Although she admits not everyone has treated her this way, Scott believes the administration needs to tighten up their policies on racial discrimination and crack down on such instances.

"This is supposed to be one of the best schools in the U.S.," she said. "If people are that ignorant, this can't be a very good school."

In and Out delights audience

by Rachel Leigh

Although the plot was predictable, the humor in "In and Out" kept the audience captivated much like an old sitcom show from the sixties.

In the film, Kevin Kline stars the sensitive Howard Brackette, a well dressed English high school teacher. The movie presents the issue of homosexuality lightly, at times making fun of the stigma attached to homosexuality. However, Brackette takes the subject very seriously when Cameron Drake, a former student of Brackette's refers to him as his gay teacher at a movie awards show. After the student's comment, the media immediately flocks to Brackette's house for the hot story -

"English Teacher's Sexuality Questioned."

Brackette's struggle lies in his attempt to keep the media away from his life and continue his engagement to his fiancée Emily Montgomery, played by Joan Cusack. Throughout the film, Kline continually subjects himself to silly attempts in order to prove he is not gay.

Actors Tom Selleck and Debbie Reynolds keep the audience laughing as their eccentric characters take control of the screen. Selleck plays an eager desperate news hound who films the life of Brackette. Reynolds, Brackette's mother, attempts to create the perfect wedding for her son.

One actress not to overlook is Joan Cusack as Emily Montgomery,

also an English teacher who has been engaged to Brackette for three years. Cusack gives a terrific and exceptionally hysterical performance in one of her first leading roles.

One well done scene is when Brackette's parents arrive momentarily just after Brackette and his fiancée have heard Drake's thank you speech. What continues is an uncomfortable situation as Brackette reassures his parents that he's not gay.

If you don't see "In and Out" for enlightenment at least see "In and Out" for the well done portrayals by Kline and Cusack. Their performances are exceptional in that they take typical Hollywood hand me down scripts and add character to the character themselves.

Campus social life ressurected

by Jenn Rubin

It began at Apartment parties and spilled over into the first Til' Tuesday. The overflowing apartments, increasing number of cigarette butts and frenzied murmurs from the Rat suggest that a new vigor has spread across campus faster than rumors of Tinker Day.

Has the social life at Hollins been resuscitated?

On Tuesday, September 2, SGA, Moody Monday, and the senior class welcomed new and returning students back to campus with the first official apartment parties of the school year.

The rules and regulations were more rigid than in previous years, but there

were no reported ABC violations or situations in which student conduct was a problem.

"These were the best apartment parties we've ever had," commented Maurie Dugger, senior class president.

Plans for the traditional parties began in April of last year. It was decided between the RA's, Dean McFarland and student government members that those 21 or older would be banded and would need to show two forms of ID's. In addition, a Hollins escort would be required for entrance of anyone who was not a student here. Their plans also included that no alcohol could be brought onto the premises

SEE SOCIAL, PAGE 8

8 Two new faces join English department

by Cheryl LaRue

You have probably noticed some new faces on campus lately.

Two of those belong to Assistant Professors of English, Michael Knight and Loren Graham who have both been hired to one-year teaching positions in the English Department.

The dissimilar backgrounds and teaching styles of the two helped them to win the jobs. As Jeanne Larsen, Professor of English said, "[the department] tried to get different kinds of writers so that the students could be exposed to different styles or flavors."

Michael Knight is a native of Mobile, Alabama. The 27-year-old holds a B. A. from Hampden-Sydney College, a M. A. from the University of Southern Mississippi and a M. F. A. from the University of Virginia.

Prior to coming to Hollins, he served as the writer-in-residence at the Gilman School in Baltimore.

He has been published in: *Shenandoah*, *Crescent Review*, *The Blue Penny Quarterly*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Paris Review*, and *Playboy*. His work has also been anthologized in Scribner's *Best of the Fiction Workshops*

and in *Crosscurrent: Writers of the Information Age*. His short story collection *Dogfight* is due out in 1998 from Dutton, and his novel *Diving Rod* is due out from the same publisher in 1999.

This is his first time teaching on a college level, but it is not his first experience with single-sex education. He has had firsthand experience with it from his undergraduate days at the all male institutions of Hampden-Sydney and the Gilman School.

"Kids who grow up in single-sex education have a certain confidence and self-assurance they are much freer in answering questions and speaking their minds in class," he said, "so far, this has held true with classes at Hollins."

He has a self-proclaimed "roll with the punches" attitude which he believes allows him to analyze the general character of a specific class and then to move in what he calls its "natural direction."

Students find this idea especially refreshing and reassuring. Rachel Sneider '01, a student in his Fundamentals of Writing Poetry and Fiction class, said that "he promotes honesty in his classroom and invites [students] to challenge him."

According to Knight,



Photo by Amanda Griffin
Professor Loren Graham



Photo by Amanda Griffin
Professor Michael Knight

whatever direction his classes may take, his students will walk away knowing how to recognize and incorporate good writing techniques while still remaining true to her gut.

He urges students to keep an open mind about new ideas and to remember that "for everything

you write, you have to learn to write all over again.

Loren Graham, age 39, grew up in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.

He has received a B. M. and a B. A. from Oklahoma Baptist University, a M. A. from Baylor University and a M. F. A. from the University of Virginia.

He has been teaching since 1982 at various institutions—a private high school in Texas, Central Texas College, Lynchburg College and James Madison University.

His literary credits include publication in: *Descant*, *Dekalb Literary Arts Journal*, *Southern Humanities Review*, *Amelia*, *Iris*, *Timbuktu*, and *Lilt*. He has also published a book of poems with Wesleyan University Press that is currently available in the Hollins College Bookstore.

Graham has had a unique experience with the practice of single-sex education. As part of a Central Texas College program in conjunction with the Texas penitentiary system, he taught English to groups of either all male or all female prisoners. He believes that his time spent there helped him to better understand the tensions between the sexes.

"Sometimes the women didn't get to speak because of the way young men are,

but here at Hollins the students seem uninhibited about speaking their minds. I don't know if it is because of the single-sex part or the character of Hollins in general," he said.

He summarized his teaching philosophy by saying, "In my classes, the students and I are all fellow travelers on a quest. We may be looking for different things, but there is a sense of we're all in this together...I lecture when I can't get out of it, but I don't want to teach some myth of knowledge."

Graham emphasizes two things to his students. First, stay in constant search for literary models, especially those works which manipulate structure. He believes the best way to learn how the parts of a story or poem work together is through example. Second, try to write a little each day to help, as he puts it, "sustain the excitement about your own work."

Despite their differences, Knight and Graham have one goal in common—to teach their students how to be good writers. Each employs a different method, but both believe in their ability to broaden the minds of the women here at Hollins.

Social

FROM PAGE 7

after 9 p.m., and with the exception of Tinker, the campus would be under an open option policy for the evening.

For the first time Moody Monday co-sponsored the event by soliciting the sounds of the band River.

"That's what made the apartment parties more fun, it gave everyone something to focus on," said Moody Monday Chair, Blake Green.

There are no official plans for seniors or SGA

members to sponsor an apartment parties sequel. It is up to the discretion of the RA's and apartment residents whether or not informal festivities will continue throughout the semester.

The spirit from the previous parties remained as the year's first Til' Tuesday kicked off on September 9. The Pat McGee band added to the liveliness of the evening.

"Everything is better. The whole attitude is more upbeat," said Jenn Self '00.

Fans were disappointed

when security asked the band to stop playing at 11p.m. However, the festive mood was refueled when fans moved on to the Harvest House on Williamson road until early the next morning.

The Harvest House excursions have become a senior sponsored event. Every other Tuesday you can find several of your fellow campus mates crooning karyoke style to "I Will Survive". Admission is \$1 at the door and the proceeds will go to the senior class fund.

"I want there to be a reason to stay on campus," remarked Campus Activities chair, Xiomi Murray '98.

With several Til' Tuesdays planned, pep rallies, numerous club and committee sponsored activities and Oktoberfest around the corner, there should be something of interest for everyone.

Friday, October 3, will be the onset of this year's Oktoberfest. While in past years the event has sparked minimal interest, Murray hopes this year

will be different. The theme is centered around the tropics complete with a Jimmy Buffet cover band. Tickets will be \$5 pre-sale and at the door (a decrease from previous years). Murray hopes that the campus will, "show some spirit," and come out.

Is it too soon to tell, or is there indeed a new lifeblood pumping through the Hollins campus?

"Oktoberfest will be the tale to tell," said Lisa Hall, '98.

Sculptures added to campus landscape

9

by Rachel Brittin

Construction has almost smothered campus this year as students anxiously await the new library, yet almost sprouting from what could be a melancholy campus comes the additions of several sculptures and other artwork to raise the spirits.

"The sculptures are very important for our campus," explains Bill White of Hollins Art Department. The school had been trying for quite a while to get some...now it's pleasing to see."

For the first time in the history of art exhibitions of Hollins College, the sculptures on campus have popped up among us, and they will remain for an extended visit from August 1997 until May 22 1998. In fact, Hollins might even be "looking to add more sights" on the campus, according to White. The pieces created by Betty Branch, Steve Bickley, and Charlie Brouwer are in several locations across campus. From August 28

through September 14TH

Jan Knipe of the Hollins art department says, "The sculptures around campus are important for the Hollins community especially when the school had been trying so long to get some out on campus." Sculpture artists even enhanced the Art Annex itself with drawings reflecting similarities to the pieces on campus.

Branch, a Hollins Alumna, BA '79, MALS '87, has had many solo exhibitions and group showings in places like Virginia, D.C., Hawaii, North Carolina, New York and Paris France. Her bronze crow in flight can be viewed hovering among the bushes at the entrance to the Art Annex.

Steve Bickley is an associate professor of art at Virginia Tech, and has exhibited his pieces across the mid-Atlantic region with indoor and outdoor sites. His steel sculptures incorporate a stylized natural visions of fire and lightning to create recurring themes of man and

environment. His life sized metal sculptures can be spotted outside Moody.

Including a spot near Dana, Charlie Brouwer is also an associate professor of art. He teaches at Radford University, and has a MFA in sculpture, an MA in painting from Western Michigan University and a BA at

ed near the sidewalk between the Fishburn Library and Dana Building.

Nancy Dahlstrom remarks, "Energetic and colorful," about the newest exhibition in the art annex by Gina Werfel. Werfel's landscaping paintings have been on display since September 16, where they will remain until October.

Werfel, residing in Lynchburg, Va with degrees and others studies in such places as, Columbia University in New York, New York Studio School, and also at Hamilton College in Clinton New York.

In her artist's statement, (which can be found at the exhibit in the Art Annex) she states the importance of creation while at the scene. "It is important to

me that my work be completed on site, from direct observation. I relate to the tradition of American landscape photography, which was necessarily made on site, as well as to Cezanne's work from direct perception," she says.

After approximately a week on the walls, the reviews have been positive. Artist Bill White said, "Gina paints out on location and she's very much interested in the quality of light and of the atmosphere changing constantly. She responds with a gestured style of painting. Up close they are ruff and textural when you step back they become clear to a landscape."

Jan Knipe, also of the Hollins Art Department says, "She has a charged experience towards nature and an extra fluid quality of painting, where she frantically seizes each part of a particular plane. Each spatial direction is left just as a direct mark in her work, creating a whole landscape with broad strokes and lines of paint."

Werfel's drawings will remain in the Art Annex gallery until October 12, where on October 14 Barbara Grossman will exhibit her work which will eventually include a lecture and reception following.

"The sculptures are very important for our campus ..."

**-Bill White,
Professor of Art**

Portland State in Art. He has numerous solo and group exhibitions in Illinois, Virginia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Australia, Poland, and Hungary. Brouwer's sculpture "Faith" is the framing work of a house under construction which is locat-

President Rasmussen begins second year in office

by Arin Black

Hollins College President, Janet Rasmussen commented on her first year in office, and discussed plans for the future in a recent interview. Rasmussen replaced Jane Margaret O'Brien during the summer of 1996, and was officially inaugurated Nov. 8, 1996.

Rasmussen said that she initially focused on understanding Hollins, both as a community and an institution. She attempted to learn what she could about its history and its students. She did this by attending campus events, talking with students, and studying the history of Hollins.

Rasmussen then began instituting changes, the most notable of them being:

*The reorganization of the administrative structure. Hollins now has two vice-presidents to serve student needs.

*The approval of a new faculty government system, which is more collaborative in nature.

*The raising of over \$47 million under the Capitol Campaign, money that will enable the construction of the new library, new scholarships, and facilities upgrades.

Rasmussen has plans for the future as well. She hopes that this year's campus-life study will provide

ideas for new directions. Once Fishburn library is vacant, Rasmussen hopes to re configure specialized academic programs, providing space for departments that are currently overcrowded or diffused. She also hopes to find ways to connect undergraduate and graduate work, and to connect current Hollins students with alumnae.

"I'm always thinking, how can we connect? How can we connect," Rasmussen said. "Hollins students are ambitious," she said. Rasmussen hopes that in connecting students with alumnae and facilitating graduate degrees, that ambition will be fostered.

Rasmussen hopes to expand connections in the international realm as well. She would like to see an increase in international service opportunities and international internships. She is fascinated by Hollins' Jamaica Service Project and hopes that one day she and her husband, Ulf will be able to experience it first-hand.

However, Rasmussen said that finding time to do the things she'd like is sometimes difficult.

"I must continually prioritize and say no to things I would like to do," she said of the job. "It's like seven days a week." She and Ulf try to take one week-end a month for

themselves, but the majority of her time belongs to the college.

Rasmussen's presence on campus has been noted by students.

"She seems to be much more in touch with the students than other Presidents," said Carrie Allan '98.

"I was really impressed, that last year, she went to the Ring Night ceremonies," said Mason LeCompte '98.

While many student reactions to the president are positive, others expressed concerns.

"Opening Convocation was the only time I've seen her on campus," said Elizabeth Ciak '00.

September 29, 1997

Staff Compilation

Tennis team opens season with win

Players enjoy 1-1 ODAC record

by Megan O'Connell

Clad in crisp, Clorox whites, members of the Hollins tennis team took to the courts as early as 9 a.m. on September, 20 to sharpen serves and perfect volleys. The annual Virginia Women's College Tennis Championships quickly got under way as members of the Sweet Briar, Randolph-Macon Women's, Mary Baldwin and Hollins squads convened on the courts at Hollins for the two-day invitational.

Under the instruction of Coach Leslie Bernard and Captain Cristen Morgan '99, the team, including Liz Snare, Nancy Cobb, Mindy Goff, Catherine Bryan, Elske Parker, Phoebe Miller, Blair Sowers, Ali Tokarski and Ellie Snead, competed in a series of

both singles and doubles matches.

Hollins women dominated in both realms, winning three of the four flight singles and conquering both the doubles flights. Morgan '99, Mindy Goff '00, and Catherine Bryan, '01, won singles matches for the Hollins team, and as result, advanced to the finals.

Proving themselves as diehard competitors not only to visiting players, but to fellow teammates as well, members of the Hollins team played each other not once, but on two occasions to determine a winner for the match. "Flight B" of the singles matches put Goff up against Nancy Cobb, '00. Spectators who frequent Hollins tennis matches are likely to note this as unusual as Cobb and Goff are more often seen on the

same side of the net, a dynamic doubles duo. Similarly, "Flight A" of the doubles matches featured a crowd-pleasure to the Hollins audience: "go-getters" Morgan and partner, Liz Schnare, '01, versus Cobb and Goff. Morgan and Schnare emerged victorious after two exciting rounds of play.

Following the conclusion of all main draw matches, Hollins maintained control of the series, winning both rounds in consolation match play. Final tally of all scores confirmed Hollins' "landslide sweep," so stated a beaming Coach Bernard, over MBC's "Squirrels," R-MWC's "Wildcats," and the "Vixens" of SBC.

"I'd like to recognize Cristen Morgan for her outstanding performance this weekend," Bernard said. "She was consistent

in both singles and doubles, and her team support is incredible. Cristen's always there to help, an ideal captain for the team."

"Catherine Bryan, Elske Parker and Blair Sowers fought long and hard, and came from behind to pull three-set victories," Bernard continued. "All in all, I'm very pleased with the efforts of each girl and the team as a whole. Their hard work and uncompromising spirit made this happen for them. I'm really proud of the team."

The team has an exceptional record from this year's Virginia Women's College Championships in

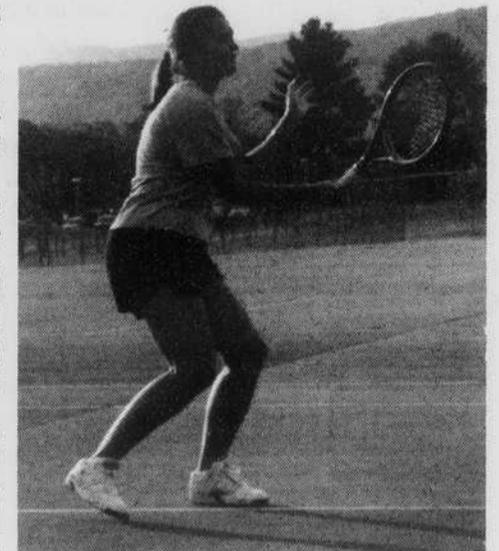


Photo by Nikki Oakley

Ali Tokarski '98 prepares for a forehand drive during a recent practice.

addition to their present 1-1 ODAC record (victory over SBC, loss to Meredith College).

Mount Everest survivor honored

by Elizabeth Jones

During the ceremony in which Hollins' climbing wall was dedicated in her name, Charlotte Fox '79 joked that she was lucky the honor was not being given 'in memorial.' In 1996, Fox survived a storm on top of Mount Everest which killed eight other climbers.

On Friday, September 19, as part of the annual Alumnae Leadership Conference, the college dedicated the Charlotte Fox Climbing Wall. Funds for the dedication were provided by an anonymous donor who wished to honor Fox. The college also presented Fox with a surprise induction into the Hollins Athletic Hall of Fame.

Fox, the only American woman to have climbed 8,000-meter peaks, says her love of climbing began at Hollins. As a student, Fox hiked Tinker Mountain and the Peaks of Otter; however, climbing was not her only passion during her undergraduate years.

"I can't say I was at the mountains every weekend and not at W&L," Fox said.

Fox's ordeal on Everest is captured in John Krakauer's bestseller, *Into Thin Air*.



Photo by Marissa Jimenez

The 30-foot indoor climbing wall in the Gymnasium was dedicated in honor of Charlotte Fox '79 on Friday, September 19, 1997

by Megan O'Connell

A graduate of the University of New Mexico with a B.A. in English and a Northern Virginia native, Wendy Orrison joined Hollins this Fall as the new head field hockey and lacrosse coach. She coached field hockey and lacrosse for eight and six years, respectively, at Langley High School in McLean, Virginia.

She intends to "redevelop and add consistency" to the hockey and lacrosse program that has recycled coaches for four consecutive years.

Advocating a realistic approach to collegiate athletic participation, Coach Orrison aims for players to integrate sports into their schedules for balance.

"I want the girls to feel good about doing something healthy; getting in shape, while having a good time and enjoying the competition," she says.

Of the twenty-one girls belonging to this Fall's

field hockey squad, nine are beginners. When asked about her objectives for

"I just want to teach the sport,"
-Wendy Orrison,
Field Hockey Coach

coaching a team so diverse in experience, Coach plainly remarked, "I just want to teach the sport."

Coach Orrison and her husband of four years, Mike, currently reside here at Hollins, and eagerly await the ground-breaking for their "dream home" in near-by Natural Bridge. When off the field, Coach Orrison can be found hitting the books and smacking the crop as she is enrolled in both the MALS program and horseback riding lessons, which she remarks are "great fun."



Photos by Nikki Oakley

(Above) Field hockey player practices before the game against Roanoke College on September 27.

(Right) Wendy Orrison watches as the game begins. Orrison's goal is to redevelop the consistency of the team after four consecutive years of new coaches.



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Women who are going places start at Hollins

Women who are going places start at Hollins. This phrase is very important to me. I remember as a senior in high school having that bumper sticker on my car. Stopped at a red light one afternoon, someone yelled to me, "What is Hollins?" I proudly answered, "It is an all women's college." I was proud of a school I hadn't even been accepted to. In fact, I would receive a rejection letter after applying for admission for Fall 1994. I was disappointed, but then again I wasn't surprised (I was a bit of a slacker in high school). I bided my time at George Mason University. I worked hard, brought up my grades and parked my car in Mason parking lots with the bumper of my car displaying my Hollins sticker.

The following year I left for Roanoke. I came to school with the same level of enthusiasm and fear that seemed to run throughout the halls of Tinker. I couldn't wait for the next four years at Hollins.

It was my first year here that made me realize how important this decision was and how fortunate that I was to be here. I'm sure we all remember the late night talks we had with the new friends on our hall.

"Do you think we are missing out on something by not going to co-ed school?" How many times was that question asked? I do believe I do think I had a bit of insight in that subject. I had just finished a year at a large co-ed university. I had to agree that even while living among

these beautiful mountains, the scenery was sometimes better at George Mason.

It was during these talks, however, that I became aware of how

Cristen James

appreciative I was to be attending Hollins, to be attending a women's college. While we all agreed obvious drawbacks were present, everyone left the conversation with the same thought: I am glad Hollins is all female. I heard one of my friends say that exact thing at the beginning of this year, her junior year.

There is something in the atmosphere at Hollins that is empowering and supportive. Every year that

I return here, I feel like I am better prepared for life after graduation. I am excited about it. I look forward to it. I know wherever I go, the women of Hollins will be there to support me.

I was intending to use my column for humor, something witty and light that might make my readers crack a smile. I wasn't even going to touch the issue of college vs. university or address what changes the future holds for Hollins. I went to the computer lab to start composing my column with that in mind. It was only when I was messing around on the Internet that I lost my sense of humor.

Just out of curiosity, I connected to the Hollins home page. I was greeted by a beautiful aerial shot of

our campus and the following words, "people who are going places start at Hollins." What? Did I miss something, a meeting, a questionnaire, a paragraph in a newsletter, or a forum maybe? Who changed our catch phrase? No offense to the men who participate in our graduate programs but what about the women of this campus, who forgot about them? They are what makes Hollins strong—we are Hollins! If the administration of this college is determined to keep this a strong women's college, it should be shouted from every brochure, pamphlet, and web page about this school. I am a woman and I will be going places because of the strength and knowledge I gained at Hollins.

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