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News
Steinem
speaks to
packed
house

page 3



Features
Sherry
Mansfield
exhibits at
Hollins

page 5



Sports
Invitational
begins
swimming
season

page 7

Hollins Columns

December 9, 1997

Hollins College, Roanoke Va.

Volume 70, Issue 5

Hollins students unite against violence

"Burn the Silence" sparks community controversy

by Arin Black

A candlelit procession filed across the Hollins College front quadrangle. This line of people marched through the cold air, past Botetourt and Main and West, past the ragged line of tee-shirts that displayed messages like, "I was only 8-years-old. You took away my innocence," and "You killed my grandmother." As they walked, the group shouted,

"What do we want?"

"Safe Streets!"

"When do we want it?"

"Now!"

Women's Collective hosted the second annual

Take Back the Night on Wednesday, Nov. 12. The event was designed to serve as a demonstration against the violence that occurs toward women each day. The evenings events included speakers, a candle lit hike around campus, and an opportunity for individuals to share personal stories of violence.

This year's event began with remarks from guest speakers Jeri Suarez, direc-

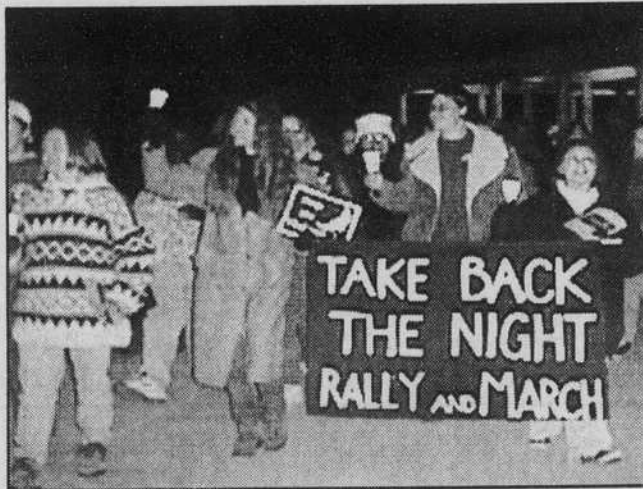


photo by Amanda Griffin

The Take Back the Night rally was held on November 12. It began with a candlelight march.

tor of the Women's Center, and Susan Thomas, assis-

tant professor of political science. In her speech, Thomas spoke about making changes to a system that she felt placed too little responsibility for domestic abuse and sexual assault on men. Thomas said that men should begin taking responsibility for their actions. She asked why battered

who beat them, are placed in shelters, lose their possessions and are relocated to a strange environment. Thomas said that rather than ask women to stay indoors at night, men be the ones given curfews.

"Yeah," members of the crowd shouted.

After both Thomas and Suarez had spoken Women's collective co-chair introduced Celina Cantrell '01, who sang "Lift Every Voice and Sing." Cantrell encouraged the women huddled on the concrete to join her in the song. Then, amidst a flurry of paper cups and candles,

SEE RALLY, PAGE 4

Robertson library to open January 1998

Farah Sanders

The new library is slated to open in January of 1998.

As of Nov. 14, construction is forming walls for the first floor. The cement is also being poured in for the base floor. The building and Grounds committee of the Board of Trustees met recently also.

"I think we got a really good construction team. The communication between Hollins and the

architects has worked well", said library director, Diane Graves.

According to Graves, there has been talk about building a new library since the flood in 1985. Fishburn Library lost a significant amount of books as a result. The new library, named after alumnae, Wyndham Robertson, will be four stories tall, with a bathroom on each floor. Other things that will be available are a forty-seat screening room, group

study rooms, a coffee shop and ADA compliant entryways. Like Fishburn, there will also be carrels, individuals study spaces and easy chairs. Outlets will be available in each study space for laptop computers. Graves among others in the building committee is hoping students will be able to run the coffee shop next year.

Fishburn will house the art department once the new library is running.

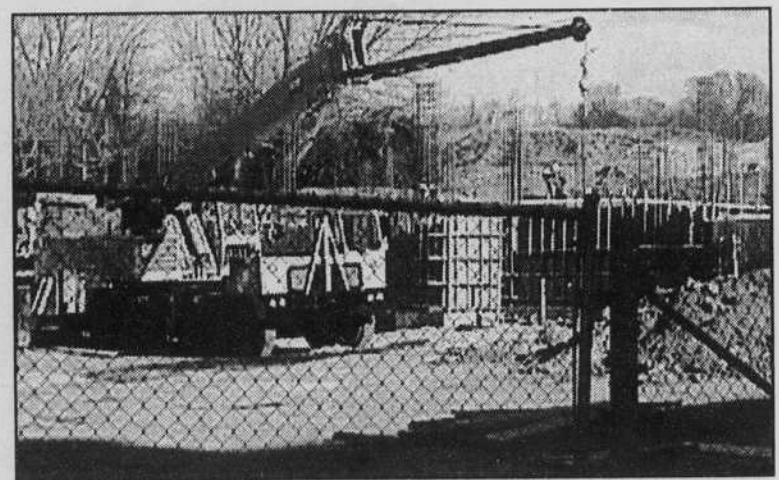


photo by Nikki Oakley

Construction began during the summer and continues throughout the fall. The new library is slated to open in January of 1998.

Christmas spirit can be disguised at the Wal-Mart cash register

Like so many others, I ventured to that mecca of capitalism we call Wal-Mart on a recent Saturday. Usually, I make it a rule to not visit Wal-Mart on Saturdays, but I had to do laundry and I needed detergent. So, I parked my car and tried to avoid being hit by those who insist that highway speed and parking lot speed are exactly the same.

I breathed a sigh of relief as I reached the sidewalk. And then I heard it. We all know the sound. That bell-ringing could be heard all around the parking lot. I always have an overwhelming feeling of guilt when I pass these bell-ringers. I know they must think I am the scum of the earth for rarely giving money. But this day, I did not care. I was in a hurry and the Salvation Army was going to have to survive without my contribution.

Kenny G's Christmas album was being piped

into the store's sound system. Everywhere I looked, there was some mention of the impending holiday—candy canes for stockings or artificial trees for the home. I enjoy Christmas as much as the next person, but there just comes a point when you have an overdose of Christmas cheer. Besides, my mission was clear: to leave Wal-Mart with detergent that would bleach my whites, but keep my colors bright. So, I made my way to the laundry detergent aisle. After I made my detergent selection, I went to the register hoping to make a quick get-away. Needless to say, I was mistaken.

I got behind a woman who had two carts of groceries. Her husband was helping to put them on the conveyor belt, but his wife was furiously independent. She was in a wheelchair, but still wanted to be the one in charge of the grocery shopping. She scolded

her husband for doting on her and ordered him to go to the magazine section. She would call him when she needed his help. I usually do not pay this close attention to other people's conversation but they were speaking in Spanish. Because I usually do not

Marissa L. Jimenez

hear it that much in Roanoke, my ears perked up.

The cashier rang up the groceries and gave the woman the total. The woman told him that she was going to pay for part of it with food stamps, and part with a check. After heavy sign language, the cashier got the idea. He nodded in agreement. He took the food stamps and waited for the check. However, there was a slight problem. She could not use her hands very well, and only scrawled

her name on the check with nothing else. She handed it over to the cashier and wanted him to fill out the rest electronically. This was not conveyed very well because the cashier just freaked out. He told the woman that she had to fill out her own check.

I have had very little Spanish training, unless you count the swear words I have learned growing up. But I knew what she was saying, more through her tone. I know that tone. That was the frustration I had heard in my grandparent's voices and in my cousin's voices in similar situations. The cashier just reiterated himself louder. I really don't know why he thought that would help the situation. The customer spoke Spanish; she wasn't deaf. Finally, out of sheer frustration for both her and myself, I just blurted out: "She just wants you to fill it out electronically!" The

woman looked at me with a smile, and said thank you. The cashier filled out the check and gave her a receipt. Her husband arrived to help her with the groceries.

As I left Wal-Mart, I saw the woman on the curb with her cart, and her husband was helping her into car. She opened her purse and gave money to the bell-ringer, smiled at me and thanked me again for my help. I smiled and waved. For no particular reason, I decided to give money to the bell-ringer there at Wal-Mart. Maybe it was guilt, or maybe it was because I had just experienced what Christmas really was. Amidst the Kenny G. and the twinkling lights, Christmas was about helping others. Yes, it was a hokie conclusion to my Wal-Mart trip. But standing there on the curb watching the couple pull away, I couldn't help but feel better about the world.

Faculty member responds to criticism of "Burn the Silence"

Dear Editor,

Members of the Hollins faculty responded to the "Burn the Silence" bonfire by lauding the principle of free speech and decrying the burning of books. What was curiously absent, however, was any vocal protest against violence toward

women.

The bonfire needs to be understood in its proper context. The Women's Collective held the event as part of the preparations for the Take Back the Night march that occurred the following evening. Take Back the Night is an event

held on many campuses across the country that actively protests against violence toward women. The bonfire should be understood as a way of bringing about the personal healing and empowerment necessary for effective public action. The stu-

dents were not protesting what a *Roanoke Times* editorial called a "putting down" culture. They were protesting a culture that turns a blind eye toward rape, torture, and battering that many women experience throughout their lives.

In the United States a

woman is beaten by her spouse or partner every nine seconds. Four million women are battered annually. Violence toward women by a male family member or friend is the leading cause of injury to

SEE LETTER, PAGE 7

Hollins Columns

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December 9, 1997

News Editor: Rachel F. Smith

Steinem speaks, challenges students to act

by Jenn Rubin

Gloria Steinem, author and feminist activist, declared Wednesday November 19, to be, "the first meeting of a post-patriarchal, post-racist society."

Steinem held this meeting in the Hollins College theater at 7:30 p.m. before a full house. She brought with her a to-do list, in which she encouraged everyone to take part in the progression of the tasks at hand.

Items Steinem discussed included

- Establishing a definition of work that would allow women recognition and financial compensation for work done in the home.

- establishing an inclu-

sive definition of families
-reproductive freedom as a natural right

-and exercising one's right to vote saying, "voting isn't the most we can do," said Steinem, "it's the least."

While emphasizing feminism, the movement she is credited with igniting in the 1960's, Steinem also acknowledged the importance and significance of civil, multi-cultural, and gay rights.

"One day we can have a human history," she said.

Steinem, 63, has a significant history of her own. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Smith College, Steinem now serves on the board of trustees for her alma mater.

She founded the



photo by Nikki Oakley

Steinem spoke to students November 19. Her speech addressed issues such as civil rights, gay rights, and multi-culturalism.

National Women's Political Caucus, the Ms. Foundation for Women, and the Coalition of Labor Union Women. In addition to starting Ms.

Magazine 25 years ago and continuing to be a spokesperson and activist for women across all socioeconomic, cultural and political realms, Steinem was inducted to the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1993.

Despite personal accomplishments and societal breakthroughs she believes there are still other directions humans need to explore. "Progress lies in a direction we haven't been," she said.

In her closing remarks, Steinem encouraged everyone to, "behave as if everything we do matters because it does."

Many members of the audience were anxious to ask questions about everything from issues concerning the recent

speech feminist opponent Phyllis Schlafly gave to single-sex education to the second wave of feminism. A 15-year-old high school student told Steinem that despite the high school male mentality she wasn't afraid to stand up and speak her mind. She credited Steinem for this power.

"My mommy told me about you along time ago," she said. "I'm a lot more confident because of you."

Steinem concluded her speech by challenging everyone to make the world a better place by Friday.

"Do at least one outrageous thing...and have a good time doing it," she said.

Fall Weekend '97 receives mixed reviews

by Peyton Lawrimore

Fall Weekend '97, held on November 14 and 15, received varying opinions from Hollins students. Friday night, there was a mixer in the Rat. Only sixty-seven tickets were sold for that event, according to Xiomi Murray '98, Campus Activities Chair. Over two hundred tickets were sold for the Saturday night event, which was held at the Top Floor, in downtown Roanoke.

The Semi-formal, on Saturday, was held off-campus for the first time this year. The band was

Staircase, which has played for Hollins events several times in the past. Murray noted that Hollins students "don't want to get dressed up to go to the dining hall," and holding the formal off-campus attracted more students to the event. Murray expressed that she wants the semi-formal to be held off-campus in the future, and that she hopes that next year, all five hundred tickets will sell.

This was the first Fall Weekend for Jessica Lewis '98. She like, many other students, had a mixed opinion.

Lewis said, "I was disappointed by Friday's turnout, but Saturday night was better than I could have hoped for." Megan Baptiste '00, said that the semi-formal was "nicer than last year's," She said that the location definitely helped the atmosphere. "I thought it was sparsely attended; I had hoped with the new location more of the school would turn out," Baptiste concluded.

Murray's hopes for Fall Weekend '98 were echoed by the students. She said, "Next year will be better than ever!"



photo by Liz Landry

Elizabeth Thorton '98, Jessica Carey '98, Kate Pringle '98, and Brandy Culp '98 pause for a photo during the Fall Weekend formal. Over 200 tickets were sold for the Saturday night event.

Correction

Elizabeth J. Jones did not write the short term article in the November 10th issue. Rachel Leigh was the actual author. We apologize for this mistake.

4 Rally

FROM PAGE 1

participants began the march around campus.

After returning to the steps of the Coker Building, attendees listened to anonymous stories read by members of Women's Collective. Included among them was a letter from Freya commending the event and its aims. After these letters, the crowd silenced as the microphone was opened for personal stories.

One by one, women, both from Hollins and the community mounted the steps to tell their stories. They spoke of domestic violence, of rape, of murder. Groups of women huddled together with cups of hot cider and cocoa, listening. When the cold became unbearable, participants moved to the Green Drawing Room and continued to speak until well past 11 p.m.. Many of those who spoke said that they had never imagined themselves doing so. Some ran from the room in tears. Many of the women who told their stories were accompanied by friends.

"It was incredible, the amount of support," said

Jamilyn Cole '01.

Take Back the Night officially concluded with Julie Goldman's '00 rendition of Dar Williams's song "When I was a Boy."

Although not all of the Hollins community attended this event, Take Back the Night was not as controversial as the previous evening's Burn the Silence bonfire. As Described by members of Women's Collective, that event was designed to be a "spiritual catharsis by fire." The bonfire was criticized by some students, faculty and members of the Roanoke community. It also captured the attention of the media statewide.

Despite the negative publicity, "Burn the Silence" was a quiet event. Students brought artwork,

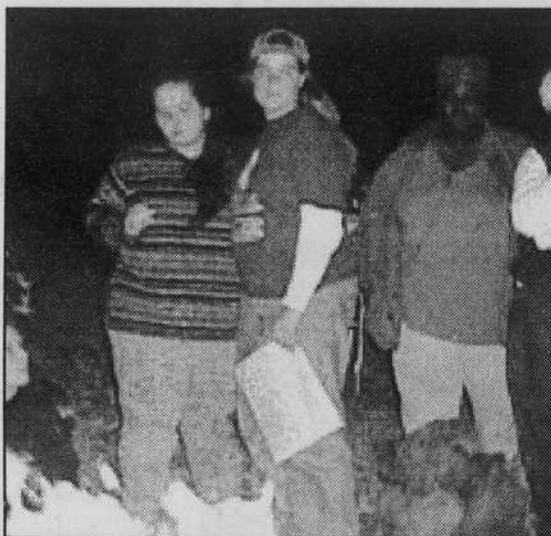


photo by Amanda Griffin

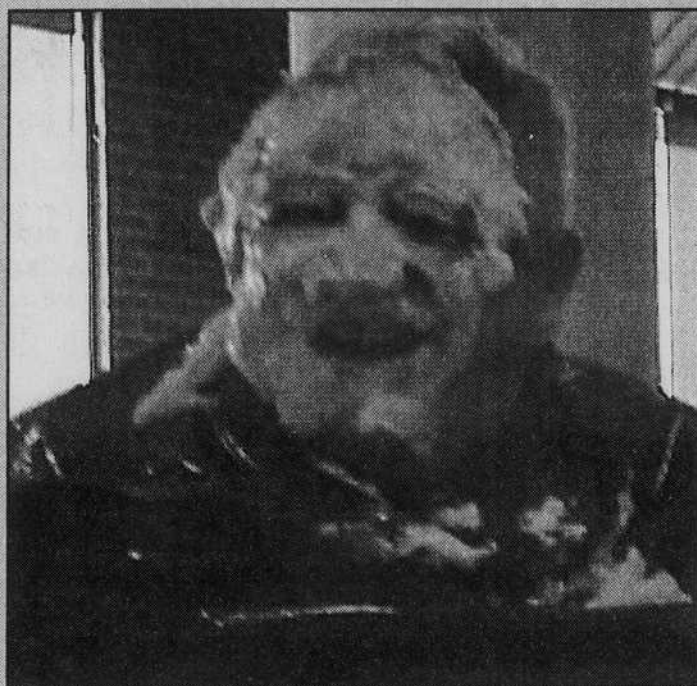
Women's Collective organized a bonfire on Tuesday, November 11. Women burned objects they considered symbols of oppression.

letters, signs, and magazines ads, but no books were tossed into the flames. "For me, Burn the Silence was more healing than Take Back the Night because it was more personal," Cole said.

A group of news reporters asked questions and filmed clips of the evening. Some students were bothered by the media attention.

"It frustrated me that

Pie-a-Professor

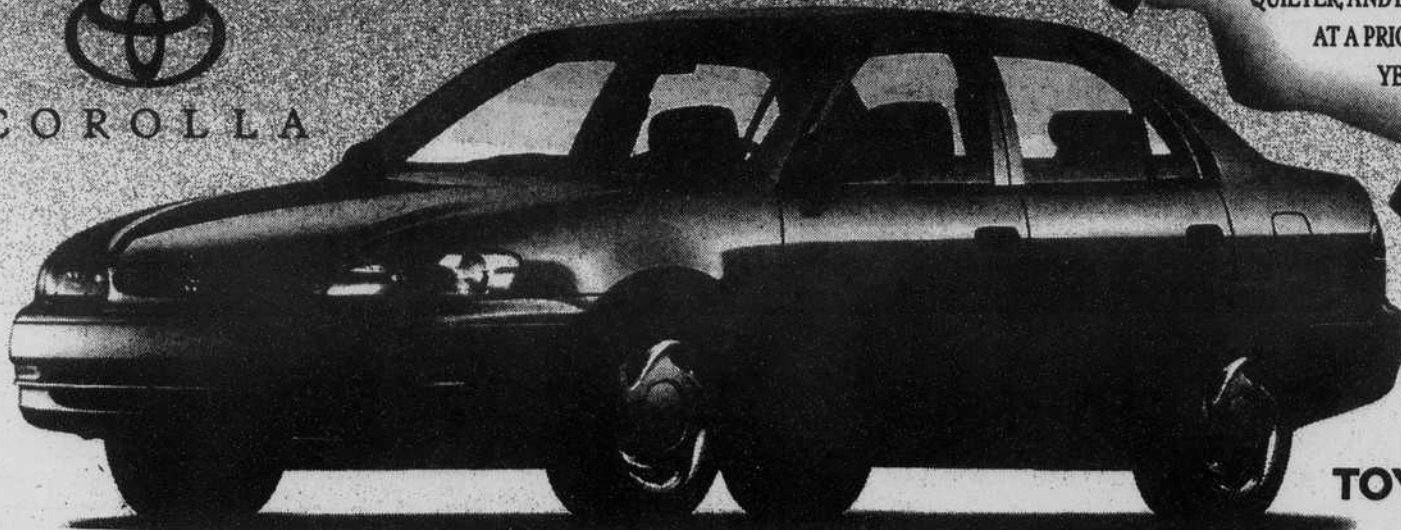


During November, the Honor Court sponsored a Pie-a-Professor fundraiser. The candidate receiving the most money was pied at lunch in Moody on Friday, November 7. Chief Wills was the winner.

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TOYOTA | everyday

December 9, 1997

Features Editor: Rachel Brittin

Artist uses fruit to express human emotion

by Kate Pringle

The black and white photography exhibit of pears and other fruit by Sherry Mansfield, a 1994 graduate of Hollins College, will be on display in the art annex gallery until Dec. 16.

According to the text accompaniment to her show, the pears are a reflection of her own life, like the way scars tell stories. The pears remain pears through all the alterations, she writes, much like people remain essentially the same through time.

Mansfield manages not to be overly obvious with her metaphor, however. The photographs are beau-

tiful in themselves. They are intriguing for one to look at, but he or she does not need to know what the patterned pear means versus what the feather-coated pear. Each photograph is precise, down to the scratches and crumbs on the table of each. Although most of the pictures are of pears, somehow altered, each photograph is distinct. Some pears have small incisions, and some are joined with other fruit.

"Tomato with Pear" is one good example of this. Both the pear and the tomato are nearly rotting. The bruises and age of the fruit are clearly visible, adding to the texture of the photo.

In "Banana Peppers with Pear," a pear seems to be holding the pepper, like in mid-dance or swing. Another pear sits blurry in the foreground. The pears seem to have personality.

"Untitled (3) Series 1" is a pear with a wicker-like pattern on its middle. The flecks of pigment on the pear are clearly visible. Each photograph couples this same precision with texture.

Mansfield's images are simple, but they reflect a delicate meaning. They are not simply fruit, but they're not just mangled fruit either. The fruit has become a canvas. Mansfield successfully presents photographs that

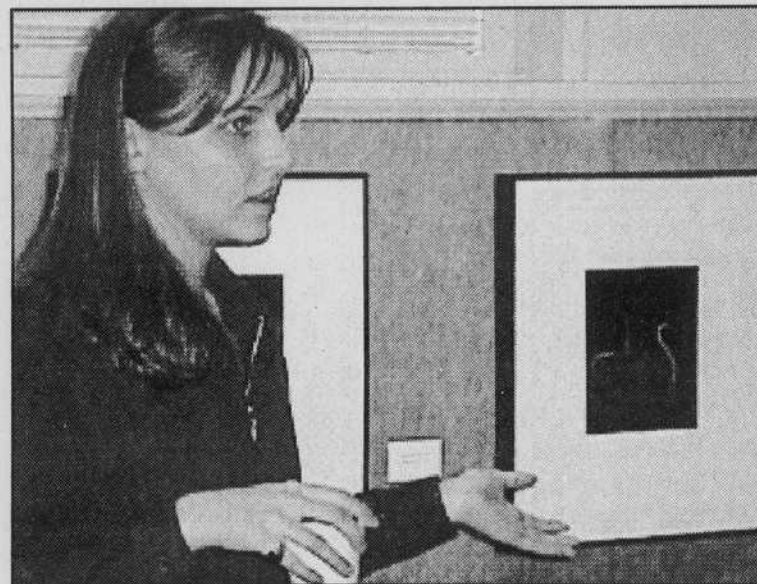


photo by Forrest Holland

Sherry Mansfield discusses the technique used for her photographs on exhibit in the Hollins Art Gallery. Mansfield is a graduate of Hollins and attributes much of her success to her liberal arts education.

don't yell, "look at me—I also steers from simply have great meaning," but photogenic fruit.

Mill Mountain Theater performs "Urn of Drew" at Hollins

by Cheryl LaRue

The theatre department and Mill Mountain Theatre came together recently to transform the college's Green Drawing Room into "The Reading Room."

A group of six actors—Barbara Alan Johnson, Beth Ramos, Jeff Berger, Pat Wilhelms, Doug Zschiegner, and Jack Parrish—assembled on a small platform at the front of the room and gave a dramatic reading of Mary Lathrop's two-act play "The Urn of Drew".

The play centers around the reaction of the Fink family to the suicide of its youngest member, Drew. As the family humorously deals with the question of what to do with the boy's

ashes, they realize how much they have grown apart over the years and try to reconnect.

"It's kind of ironic how the dividing of the ashes is what ultimately brings them all together," says Doug Zschiegner, who played Drew's brother Paul.

This is just one of the points that was brought up during the discussion session that followed the play, where both actors and audience mem-



photo by Forrest Holland

Actors from Mill Mountain Theater read the script of "The Urn of Drew." Following the reading, there was an open discussion by the audience on the work presented.

bers took the opportunity to exchange viewpoints.

Other issues debated were possible expansion of the character of Paul and

use of lighting to bring out psychological aspects in the play.

David Dvorscak, associate professor of theatre at Hollins, wrapped up the session with a brief plug for upcoming events at Hollins and at the Mill Mountain Theater.

Hollins will present Paul Zindel's play "The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon

Marigolds" April 9-11 in the campus theatre. Mill Mountain Theatre will feature "Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus" December 5-28 on its Mainstage, "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)" January 16-February 1 in Theatre B, "Inherit the Wind" February 13-March 8 on the Mainstage, "Beast on the Moon" April 10-26 in Theatre B, and "Having Our Say: The Delaney Sisters' First 100 Years" May 1-17 on the Mainstage.

Dvorscak urges all to attend these events, as they are an opportunity "to become a part of the creative process."

December 9, 1997

Staff Compilation

Riding season ends with Harvest Riding Classic

By Elizabeth Wyatt

The Hollins Harvest Riding Classic held on Sat. Nov. 14 put a close to the 1997 riding season. While it was run as an intercollegiate show, the Riding Classic solely consisted of Hollins riders.

The women competed among a wide variety of classes and levels, including beginner equitation, intermediate equitation and open equitation. Within their respective classes, the riders were grouped into sections, where they were able to display their talents on flats and over fences.

Prior to the show,

which was open to all Hollins riders, the women were required to draw the name of the horses they were to ride. Tash Vitkovic '00 had the experience of drawing two horses she had not ridden in the past.

"It is a huge challenge to get on a horse you have never ridden before," she said.

The riders who placed first in the beginner equitation were Emily Eagen '01 in section A and Ellie Snead '00 in section B. In the open equitation, Celia Sweeney '99 placed first in section A and Jennie Bershon '99 placed first in section B. In the intermediate equitation, Shannon

Peterson '98 and Amy Crist '00 placed first for their sections. Emily Chewning '01 placed first for Boarder's Division.

The riders for the intermediate class also competed in the mini-medals. The qualifiers were as follows: Becky Ciaciuch '98, Dawn Gravelle '99, Shannon Peterson '00, and Valerie Zgnoc '00. The riders for the open classes competed for the medals. The qualifiers were: Jennie Bershon '99, Erica Double '01, Hillary Schriber '00, and Tash Vitkovic '00.

Overall, the riders were pleased with the results and thought the

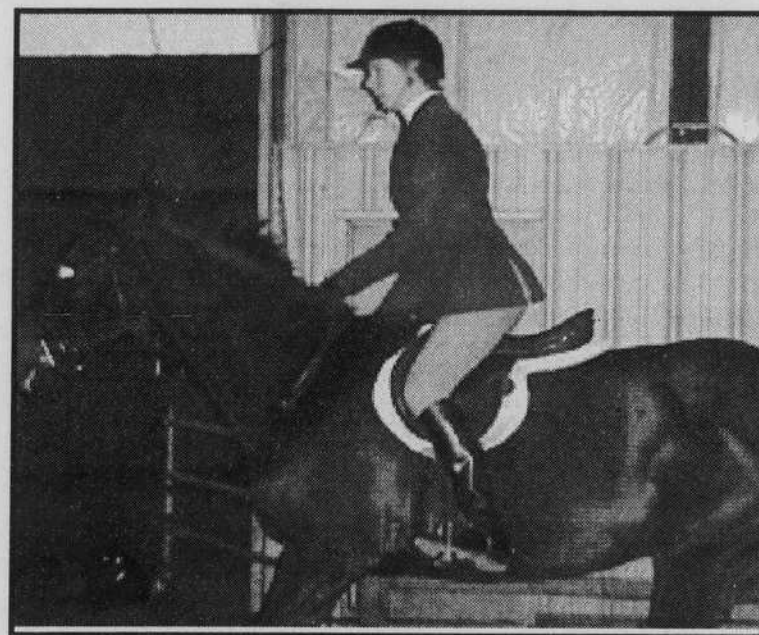


photo by Nikki Oakley

Emily Chewning '01 practices before the Riding Classic. She and her horse "Ready or Not" won two first places ribbons and one second place.

show was a nice way to end the season. "It (the show) was a nice way to end the year," said Celia

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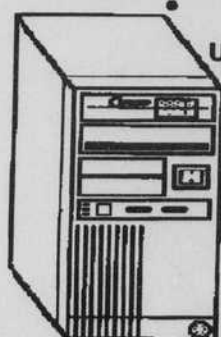
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Swim team begins season with Invitational ⁷

Team prepares for upcoming meet against Sweet Briar

by Pearl Bell

While many students were packing and leaving for their Thanksgiving break, the Hollins swim team was hard at work hosting a two day invitational.

Beginning Nov. 21st at 6:00p.m., the first day consisted of two events, the 400 IM which had seven heats and a 1650yd swim which had three heats.

This invitational was strictly for time trials. No points were given. The following nine teams swam with Hollins: College of Notre Dame, Catawba College, Salem College, Gallaudet University, Mary Baldwin, Washington & Lee, Sweet Briar, Hood, and Radford University. According to Calkins, more

teams showed up the second day for the relays, and in general, it was a more successful day. While the

"I think we have a lot of talent--it's a matter of gelling and pulling together..."
Linda Calkins
Swimming Coach

first day focused on individual events, Nov. 22nd consisted only of relays.

Coach Lynda Calkins felt the event was a success. "It was exciting and fun and informative all at the same time," Calkins said. "There were some

beautiful races that took place in the pool."

The relays included the three by 100 Back, the three by 100 breast, the three by 100 Butterfly, the step up relay, the medley, 800 free, the three by 500 relay, the 400 free, a 500 free relay, and a four by 100 IM relay.

The first one on one swim meet took place Wednesday Dec. 3rd against Mary Baldwin College at Hollins.

"I think we have a lot of talent, it's a matter of us gelling and pulling together," Calkins said in relation to the teams' upcoming meets. "In order for that to happen, it must



photo by Forrest Holland

The Hollins Swimming team practices twice a day to build endurance. The team's next meet is December 9 against Sweet Briar College.

happen within the athletes themselves," said Calkins.

Whatever the outcome of this coming year, Calkins is pleased with the

effort and hard work of the students. The next home swim meet will be against Sweet Briar College on Dec. 9th at 6:30pm.

Hollins 2nd Annual Basketball Tip-Off

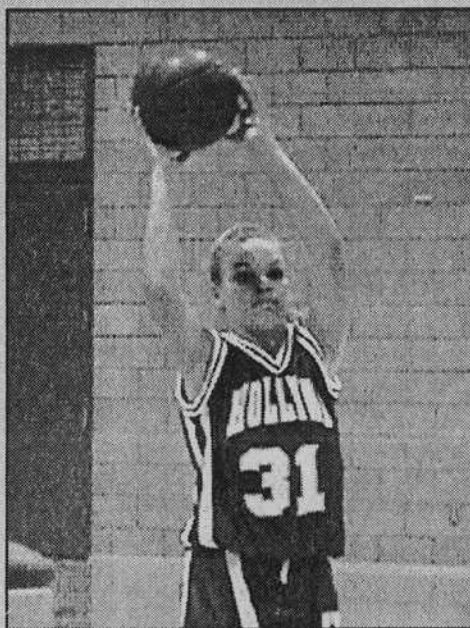


photo by Amanda Griffin

Cabell Martin '00 looks for an opening in the Tip-off game against Peace College.



photo by Amanda Griffin

Liz Schnare '01 looks for a hole in Peace College's defense. Schnare is one of three freshmen on the team.

Hollins' 2nd Annual Basketball Tip-Off was held November 21 and 22. Participating colleges were Meredith College, Peace College, and Hood College. Hollins won their first game of the season against Peace College. The team's next game is January 6 at Randolph Macon-Ashland.

Letter

FROM PAGE 2

women—greater than the combined injuries from car accidents, rapes and assaults by strangers.

Where is the outrage and righteous indignation toward these facts? Women's bodies are the battlefield upon which the struggle for gender equality and dignity is being waged. In their representation of controversies surround the bonfire, many Hollins faculty remain significantly silent on this issue. Although no books were burned, women continued to be battered and raped. I applaud the students who have the courage in standing against violence toward women. I only wish that more would stand with them.

Sincerely,
Drucilla K. Barker
Associate Professor of
Economics

Decking the halls and other family traditions

I struggled over what I should write about for my last column of the semester. In fact, I probably struggled more with this column than I did with my first one. I didn't know what I wanted to say. What would be the most brilliant way to finish off not only the semester but also 1997. It kept me up at night, tossing and turning discarding draft after draft after...well I think you get the picture. I just didn't know what to say.

Well, after much soul-searching, I decided to write about something that makes me happy in this never-ending time of stress. In the middle of all of these exams and change of season and sickness and cabin fever, the holidays kind of creep up on you. Before any of us know it, we will stuck in the middle of the most joyous time of the year.

And as each year rolls by and I slowly grow older, I sometimes have a hard time recapturing some of the ole' holiday cheer. Which brings me to the point of this final 1997 column. The following is a collection of "traditions" that seem unique to my family and always help me remember what fun this time of year is. These memories seem to transport me back in time and help me smile through these final stresses of the semester. Maybe it will spark some special memories of your own family traditions.

Thanksgiving brought the Macy's parade which signals the anticipation leading toward Christmas. While my mother is slaving over the feast in the kitchen, my sister and I have transformed the two couches in the basement into parade floats. We

climb on top and wave as we travel down an imaginary route (this tradition might not be that recent, I don't remember doing it last year, but that's all I can promise you).

The day would not be complete if we didn't have pine cones circling vases of colored macaroni in the

the homemade "special" ornaments (you now the ones you make in kindergarten out of Styrofoam and pipe cleaners). Our artificial tree is surrounded by my mother's prized Currier and Ives collection that my grandmother and aunt made for her in previous years.

I love my house when it is completely decorated for Christmas. But I have come to the conclusion that it is a mild form of torture to decorate it. There is a specific way to decorate my house that has been drilled into each of my sisters and my minds. First you have to clean it entirely. You then must pull out all of the boxes holding the decorations. Now that doesn't sound unusual; however you must do all of this in one day. This event is usually highlighted by many fights over where the decorations are

"suppose" to go. After the decorating and the cleaning up, we fall into bed exhausted.

This is the same thing we do for baking. After planning out our baking menu, which would put the Keebler elves out a job, we bake it all in one night. I'm not sure I understand why my family incorporates this ritual into our decorating traditions. It must stem from our fondness of extreme exhaustion.

A family gathering on Christmas Eve, complete with a wide-variety of finger foods, and waffles shaped like Mickey Mouse as breakfast on Christmas morning, completes my traditional family Christmas. It is the same thing every year, and I wouldn't changed a thing.

Season's Greetings to everyone and I wish you and your family many great memories.

Cristen James

center of the table, a centerpiece that would put Martha Stewart to shame, and forced each family member to dress either as a pilgrim or an Indian.

Christmas is an interesting story. I think my family owns more Christmas decorations than anybody else on this planet.

We have two Christmas trees; an artificial one and a live one. The live gets the honor of displaying the presents as well as all of

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