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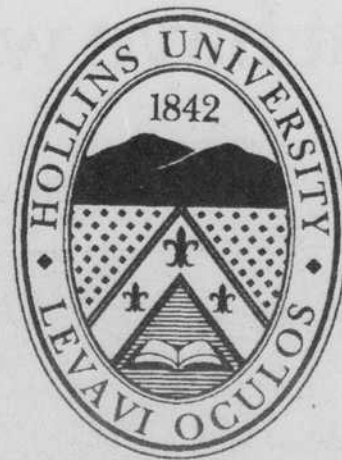
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Hollins

Columns

November 9, 1998

Hollins University, Roanoke Va.

Volume 71, Issue 4

Women Unite and Take Back the Night

by Jessica Daisy Bowden

On November 4 at 6:30 pm in front of the Coker Building women from the Hollins community gathered to protest violence against women at Take Back the Night, an annual event sponsored by the women's collective.

Women's collective is, according to their mission statement, "a coalition of strong, independent thinkers who, by working together, uplift the development of women."

Women's collective co-chairs Tamara Bishop '01

and Martha Lopez '01 organized a forum November 3 to answer any questions before the event and also a follow up session November 5 for anyone who needed someone to speak with someone after the event.

"It [Take Back the Night] means a lot of different things to a lot of different people...for me it was a time of healing." said Lopez '01



Photo by Kim Grubbs

The annual Take Back the Night began with a candlelit march around campus.

According to the '98 Take Back the Night flyer, "[t]he purpose of this

empower ourselves as well as others. We march to

annual rally and candlelight hike is to bring campus and community members together. To protest violence against women and to promote awareness to attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors which perpetuate this violence. We hope that you will join us and break the silence which is our worst enemy. We hike and rally to

show commitment to stop all forms of violence against women. We march to demand that the perpetrators of this violence—the batterers, the rapists, the murderers—be held responsible for their actions and be made to change. We march to Take Back the Night."

The evening began with short speeches by Chaplain Jan Fuller Carruthers, Chair of Women's Studies Drew Barker, and musical guest Jolie Rickman.

"It [Take Back the Night] has always meant

SEE WOMEN UNITE, PAGE 5

Matthew Shephard's death brings new urgency for hate crimes legislation

by Maggie McWilliams

This past month the headlines have focused on the tragic murder of Matthew Shephard, a 21-year old openly-gay University of Wyoming student and the impact this has had on our nation.

His death have prompted vigils throughout the country in order to remember him and to call for the passage of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act. This act would amend the current federal law which allows investigation and prosecution on crimes committed on the basis of

race, religion, national origin and color to also include victims attacked because of their sexual orientation.

On October 14, a national vigil was held in Washington, D.C. in honor of Shephard. The vigil was attended by two of Matthew's friends from Wyoming, several members of Congress including Dick Gephardt, Barney Frank, Edward Kennedy and John Kerry. Elizabeth Birch of the Human Rights Campaign, Joan M. Garry of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance against Defamation and Kerry Lobel of the National Gay

and Lesbian Task Force also spoke. Several film and television personalities also participated, most notably Ellen Degeneres.

Other vigils were held all across the country in places such as Denver, Chicago, Dallas, Atlanta, New York, and New Orleans. The majority of these were held on college campuses as an introspective into their own communities.

In the last session of Congress the Hate Crimes Prevention Act was not passed, despite a recent Time/CNN poll that found 75% of Americans think the problem of violence

against homosexuals is dire across the country. According to Senator Majority Leader Trent Lott, the legislation was not passed because it was too late to bring it up this year. On January 6, the first day of the new session of Congress, supporters of the legislation are calling for a March on Congress. On this day, supporters are asked to march into the offices of the members of congress and demand the legislation be passed. In a letter released by The Most Reverend Lawrence J. Harms, D.D., the Bishop of Maryland, the American Catholic Church is in sup-

port of this march.

"We pray and encourage that the Congress of these United States, who have protected our shores, our natural resources, and all that we have that surrounds us; will now pass a bill to protect human kind from hate and crime. Protect all who suffer from hate, because Orientation, Religion, Color, National Origin, Disability or any other state that may be the object of hate and ignorance."

Hollins Columns

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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.

Now what have we learned from this?

Picture this, you're sitting around your seventh grade bedroom with friends talking about the proper way to roll your jeans and how to get your bangs to their full height. Someone suggests (or maybe someone dares) someone else in the group to make a prank call. (Of course this all happens in an era free of star-69 and caller ID's.)

So the brave member of the group picks up the phone and dials a random number. Maybe they are brave enough to call and bowling alley and ask the infamous question, "Do you have eight pound balls," hiding their laughter and waiting for the answer so they can deliver the punch line, "Then how do you walk?" Ha, Ha, Ha the phone is dropped into the receiver and everyone congratulates the "witty" friend who completed the call.

Now, picture this, a

small all-women university in southwest Virginia. In



Cristen James

various buildings, young women are sleeping and enjoying a few stress-free hours. Suddenly, some of them are wide awake, and answering phones. An unidentifiable voice is on the other end asking questions and wanting to talk. These women just seem to

sigh and hang up the phone. Another prank call, another ten minutes of sleep lost, same old story. These are the thoughts running through the now awake student.

Do you feel like your privacy has been invaded? Do you feel a bit helpless? We are unfortunately at the mercy of this loser who finds some form of entertainment in calling people during

the late hours of night. All right, so here is the kicker to this story. With all the technological advances or whatever being installed in our school (the multimedia lab, the new computers and lap top access in the new library etc. etc.) we

still can't star-69 this loser. Instead we have security and even Roanoke police officers come and tell us important things like, hang up the phone if you don't know who it is. (You don't say.)

I guess until this poor person stuck in a seventh grade time warp is caught (there is that chance that he/she might slip up and give you his/her name and phone number — maybe you don't answer the phone and he/she is forced to leave a message) Hollins women will continue to lose sleep and just plain be annoyed at three a.m. in the morning. I can't speak for anyone but myself, but I hate being annoyed at three a.m.

Letters to the Editor

Senior urges others to set example

Dear Editor,
Since my freshmen year I've thought a lot about tradition and what it means to be part of a traditional setting, such as Hollins. I've been known to misunderstand tradition. I've been accused of sabotaging Hollins traditions, but I believe if a tradition is not founded on mutual respect it should be sabotaged. In India, many communities are fighting to hold onto a tradition called 'Sati': a tradi-

tion where women are thrown onto a burning pyre simply because they are widows. Various women's groups in India are fighting to end this tradition since it is based on the degrading assumption that a woman is not capable of surviving on her own. On the other hand, many communities feel that Sati is a vital part of their culture and worth fighting for.

Although we do not observe anything

that quite severe at Hollins, it seems that many seniors (from any graduating class) put more emphasis on enforcing tradition than we do on valuing tradition. How many seniors want the other classes to respect 'our' quad, yet how many of those seniors picked up their champagne corks and foil wrappers after we took our first step? How many seniors want other classes to respect the rock, but have to use harass-

ment and intimidation to enforce that respect?

The idea that seniors should demand respect simply because we've been here longer is simply narcissistic. I respect many seniors who have come before us—women like Holly Peterson and Carol Branigan ('97), not because they used intimidation to gain respect, but because they earned my respect through the power of example. I proudly admit to inviting

my sisters from the class of 2002 to paint the rock with me, not to spite tradition, but to enjoy the unity in an ever present sub-tradition. Seniors, before you throw your younger sisters on the pyre, ask yourself if you hope to gain a false respect through harassment and intimidation, or a true respect through unity and sisterhood.

Elizabeth Ropp
Class of '99

November 9, 1998

News Editor: Elizabeth Wyatt

Nikki Giovanni comes to Hollins

Jillian Kalonick

Writer Nikki Giovanni shared both poetry and opinions during her reading at Hollins on October 28. Giovanni drew a crowd that filled Babcock auditorium, as she addressed such subjects as Kenneth Starr, winning the lottery, and cockroaches.

Giovanni, a professor of English at Virginia Tech, is known for her poetry and essays. She was born in Tennessee and attended Fisk University, where her writing career began and she became involved with political issues. Her writing became influential during the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

Giovanni praised the creative writing program at Hollins and expressed her gratitude for the communi-

ty of writers in the Roanoke Valley. She spoke on many controversial subjects, including the murder of Matthew Shephard, the Clinton scandal, the Susan Smith trial, and the hypocrisy of Christians.

"Human beings are not nice," said Giovanni.

"Deep down inside, we're scumbags."

She also spoke on the difficulties of being young



Photo by Nikki Oakley

Nikki Giovanni spoke on the trials of being a young writer. She filled Babcock Auditorium on Wednesday, October 28.

and being a writer. "There is an ocean on everyone's chest," said Giovanni, referring to the pressures

that we face.

Not only did Giovanni attract the Hollins community, but also children from local schools and their parents. "Nikki Giovanni makes her poetry accessible to everyone, and that's important," said English professor T.J. Anderson.

She also told jokes and shared anecdotes about winning the lottery, building her dream house, and writing a murder mystery with her writers group.

"It's obvious that she is a performer in the way that she drew the audience into the reading," said Cynthia Manick '01. "I liked how she said 'Writing is not a craft, it is a way of thinking.'"

Giovanni stirred up the audience with her liveliness and comedy. "She is the freest spirit I've ever

seen," said Beth Echols '01. "She has so much energy."

Other students enjoyed listening to her speak, but were disappointed that she spent little time reading. "She was very entertaining, but I wish she had read more poetry," said Meredith Reynolds '01.

During the last half of the speech, she read a few of her more well-known poems, including "Poem for Langston Hughes," "Stardate Number 18628.190," "Winter Poem," and "Nikki-Rosa." After the reading, Giovanni held a book singing for her most recent volume of poetry, *Love Poems*.

Multicultural Fest '98 attracts local community

by Farah Sanders

Food, music and games were all part of Hollins' first Multicultural Festival.

The festival, which took place on Saturday, Oct. 24, was held in the Forest of Arden across from Tinker and under the gym. Exhibitors representing a variety of countries such as Korea, Kenya, Poland, England, and the Philippines displayed artwork, clothing, and crafts to exhibit their cultures. Other countries included were China, India, Norway, Laos, Turkey, Russia, Croatia and Japan. A Native American group also displayed cultural items.

The large number of attendants could be attributed to the various publicity provided by the media.

Three radio stations, four publications and Channel 7 News all publicized the event. Channel 7 interviewed event organizer Cheryl Hilton, director of Multicultural Programs and Pearl Fu, ambassador of goodwill of Roanoke. Fu organizes Roanoke's own multicultural festival, Local Colors. She and Hilton, who are friends, were able to collaborate for the event.

The idea of having such a festival was suggested by the multicultural panel, which is comprised of mostly students, last year. Hilton would like to see this event to be an annual one. She also said that she would like to hear student suggestions for future multicultural events.

Other organizations involved were the Multicultural Club and the



Photo by Nikki Oakley

Farah Rasheed performs a traditional Indian dance at the festival.

Carvin Global Village. Both organizations made suggestions for the event and helped with providing student performances. Gunjali Trikha, 2002 and Sukhprit Kuar, 2002 performed traditional Indian dances, as did grad student, Farah Rasheed.

The Club and Carvin Global Village shared a table displaying items of various cultures including origami from Japan, Dutch pancakes and pictures of Finland. They also provided face painting for children. Some students were dressed in traditional ethnic outfits.

The festival closed with Fu leading everyone to sing "It's a Small World."

Writers Harvest helps feed hungry mouths



Photo by Kim Grubbs

Adrian Blevins reads from her work during the annual writers harvest. This event is part of a nation-wide effort to raise money to combat hunger.

By Ez Peck

Writers Harvest: The National Reading took place on Thursday October 19. That day, more than 2000 authors read from their work in over 550 locations. Proceeds from ticket sales at this event were collected and distributed to fight hunger. At Hollins, nine members of the English department participated in reading their work.

Writers Harvest is a nationwide fight against hunger hosted by Share Our Strength. According to SOS, the foundation has distributed \$50 million in grants to organizations against poverty and hunger since its founding in 1984. The money received by the program in Virginia will go to support the Virginia Poverty Law Center.

Tobias Wolff, Writers

Harvest National Chair for this year, in a welcome letter read at the opening of the event said "Writers Harvest gives us a sense that we're putting out gifts- at least for the moment- at the service of others. It is an occasion to be alert, to be awake about what's going on around us. It is an occasion to celebrate the possibilities of art—to recognize that it can be a part of our moral atmosphere."

Richard Dillard, English department, said, "I was very proud that Hollins raises far more money than any other similarly sized institution [for SOS]."

Participants in recent Writers Harvests across the nation have included John Grisham, Wally Lamb, Joyce Carol Oates, Anne Rice, Amy Tan, and many others. Participants at Hollins this year included Adrian Blevins,

T.J. Anderson, Pinkney Benedict, Cathryn Hankla, Loren Graham, Wayne Markert, Jeanne Larsen, Eric Trethewey, and Richard H.W. Dillard. The readings illustrated the diversity of the department by the variety of poetry, fiction, and children's literature that was read.

Students and faculty enjoyed the event. Erin Pope, '02, said, "It was a barrel full of fun. It was awesome to see our English department read their brilliant works."

Pope, like some other students came to the reading in high spirits. They arrived bringing harvest corn to celebrate the season. The Writers Harvest was a success at raising money to help hunger relief statewide and nationally.

Women Unite

FROM PAGE 1

to me women as a group protesting that we can't walk the streets at night and be safe. It should be a basic right. Men do not have to fear that, and it makes me madder than hell," said Barker.

Rickman played a few songs to inspire the group before the candlelight march around Hollins which began at the steps of Cocke and went up faculty row and out into the soccer field where the unity circle was formed.

"I am so thankful that Jolie was able to come. She was a vital part of the night. She exemplified the spirit of the night. Jolie helped to make it bright and positive. She represented the hope," said Jennifer Dickinson '99.

The group returned to the steps of Cocke for open microphone testimonials.

As the night got colder, the group moved into Talmadge for the remaining stories. Women told stories of abuse, stories of healing, and some read poems they had written.

"It made me more aware of all the things other people go through, and it made me feel fortunate that I didn't have a story to tell," said Shanna Tillery '02.

Afterward there was a party in the Rat at which Rickman sang and Hollins student Julie Goldman '99 also shared a few songs.

"I think it is exhilarating that we could have so much momentum from 6:30 until now [12:10am.] It has been my honor to be here. This was so participatory. It was very impressive how many people got up to speak," said Rickman.

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November 9, 1998

Features Editor: Maggie McWilliams

'Mother Horizon' graduates in 1999

by Heather Willett

Jan Thompson '99, a horizon student, grew up in Memphis, Tennessee. She is happily married and has three girls. All three of her girls attended Hollins. Thompson and her husband are both retired.

After working on a pictorial book about the historical architecture of colleges, Thompson decided that it was her turn to go to Hollins. Her reason came when she went to apply for a grant for her book. They wanted her degrees and her scholarly work, prompting her on her mission to get her degree. The book is based on 147 colleges and the dates end at 1842 because she wanted to include Hollins. Thompson has already vis-

ited 30 different colleges.

Thompson moved to Roanoke, Virginia and is now in her last year at Hollins. "Hollins is an investment in me," she states.

Coming back to school was not an easy task for her. She believes that traditional students are a great resource for horizon students. Thompson says that, "we [horizons] are no different from you [traditional], we just have more experience."

Thompson came here as a second term freshman. When she got here, like many of us, she was not sure as to what her major would be. She started

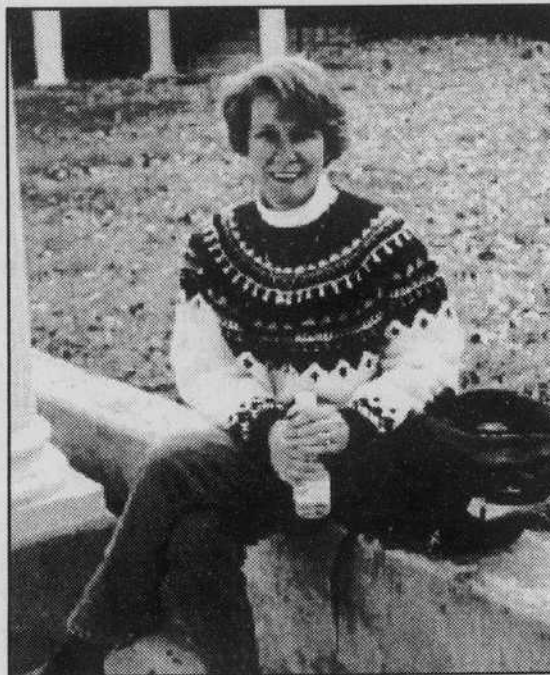


Photo by Courtney Hughes

Jan Thompson, one of the co-founders of the abroad program for Horizon students, graduates this spring.

to take classes that she enjoyed. Pretty soon it all came together. She is majoring in history and minoring in studio art. She says that at Hollins, "you feel that the professors want you to succeed."

Thompson has paved a way that will not be forgotten by fellow horizons, and for that matter, by anyone. Thompson, with the help of her friend Shelly, created an abroad program for horizons during short term. The program was a

home stay in London.

Thompson has received the nickname, "Mother Horizon" from her peers. That name appears on her black graduation gown in bright yellow letters.

Thompson believes the horizon program here lets horizons integrate with the traditional students, horizons don't feel left out. The program is small enough to have a network of friends. If it were much bigger, it probably wouldn't be as effective, according to Thompson.

In her four years at Hollins, she has been very involved. She cried as she stepped on Front Quad and was bathed in champagne. She has a ring from Hollins and a robe that

SEE HORIZON, PAGE 6

Admissions needs you

By: Cristen James

Everyone is familiar with the Senior Day visits and overnight hostessing. We've all seen the tour guides leading prospective students and their families around campus. And I'm sure if you think back to your high school senior year, you might even remember receiving a phone call from a Hollins student. But you don't have to be an "Admissions Volunteer" to help recruit future Hollins students.

Admissions intern Lollie Schmidt, '99 says, "Everyone can probably think of someone they went to high school with that would absolutely love Hollins. All it takes is a phone call or a quick note to get them looking at everything Hollins can offer."

Admissions intern Bizz Glover, '99 adds, "I

encourage current students to visit their high school guidance counselors when they go home for breaks. Give them the scoop on everything happening here so they can pass it along to interested students. Word of mouth is a great way to ignite interest."

Admissions would like to encourage students to help recruit future classes over Thanksgiving break. If you would like more information on the role you can play in recruiting the class of 2003, stop by the Admissions office in Main Monday-Friday 9 am- 4:30 pm.

Stuart Trinkle, Director of Admissions states, "We know from our own experiences and national research that the most effective recruiting tool is current students. They are the ones living Hollins."

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Hollins hosts the German Film Festival

by Sarah Kerr

The 1998 German Film Festival, hosted by the Department of German and Russian, presented three German films in the Babcock Auditorium. The overall theme linking the films was that they are a part of the New German Cinema "which is among the most exciting things on the face of the earth," said Klaus Phillips, professor of German and Film.

The German Film Festival opened this year on Tuesday, October 13th with Doris Dörrie's "Nobody Loves Me" (1994). Phillips said the film is "one of the favorites of Hollins." "Nobody

Loves Me" is about a German woman in her early thirties on a quest for love.

Student Johanna Bonskowski '99 said, "it was a great opportunity to see such a rarely seen film. I really liked it."

There are a few unique aspects to this movie that are associated with Hollins. Former student Francis Badgett '94 had a walk on part and Dörrie completed the screen play while visiting Hollins.

Film student Tamara Bishop '01 said, "This is the most crowd pleasing movie I have ever seen. I could watch it over and over again."

Suzanne Crawford '99

commented, "I am really

These films are "among the most exciting things on the face of the earth."

-Klaus Phillips, Professor of German and Film

glad they showed it again, because it is a really good movie."

The next film shown on Thursday, October 22 was "Reason Asleep." This was

the 1993 winner of the "Bundesfilmpreis," which is the equivalent to an Oscar in Germany. It is loosely based on the classic myth of Medea and is considered a "classic feminist film." The director of "Reason Asleep," Ula Stöckl presented the film at Hollins when it was shown.

Bishop met Stöckl and said it was "inspiring to meet a director who sees the world in such a creative and different way than the average person."

The third film, shown on Thursday, November 5th, was publicized as the "mystery film." Its literal American translation is "The Harmonists" and is a

true story about the first male singing group in the 1930's. This group evidently influenced the Beatles and other popular musical artists. "The Harmonists" was a "hugely successful film and beat out Titanic (which was released at the same time as this film) in the box office in Germany," said Phillips who also mentioned that this film was, "one of the most expensive German films ever made."

In the near future we can expect to hear more from the German Club as it plans to sell imported German chocolate advent calendars sometime before Thanksgiving.

John Waters' 'Pecker' is more than just a clever name

by Heather Brown

The most recent film effort from acclaimed director John Waters is the satirical comedy "Pecker," which stars Edward Furlong and the ubiquitous Christina Ricci. Despite what the title of the film connotes, it is actually the name of Furlong's character, and was given to him as a child when he would peck at his "food."

"Pecker," like all of Waters' films, is set in Baltimore, where the 18-year old Pecker lives with his bar-owning father, his thrift store owning mother, his eccentric grandmother Memamma, and his sister Little Chrissy, who is shamelessly addicted to sugar. His job is at the local sandwich shop but his passion lies in taking

photographs of daily life in his working class neighborhood with an old camera, courtesy of his mother's establishment. Pecker's photographs, though far from being unblemished and well-developed, are his trademark. When he displays an assortment of them at his place of employment, they catch the eye of a New York City art dealer (played by Lili Taylor), and she assures him they are far from mediocre.

Much to Pecker's and everyone who knows him's surprise, his pictures, with the help of Taylor's character Rorey Wheeler, become the hottest thing on the New York art scene, gracing the cover of magazines with headings describing those portrayed in the photos as "culturally challenged." Waters' depiction of the art

world is nothing short of satirical, poking fun at the avant-garde and eccentric artists pictured in the film, such as Cindy Sherman. The time that Pecker, his family, and his girlfriend spend in New York viewing his first art museum exhibit is highly comical, particularly noting how the lifestyle they are experiencing is completely foreign and they do not know exactly how to deal with it. One example is when Pecker's mother invites some of the homeless people she encounters to join her at a private dinner, assuring them that everyone present will be willing to donate some of their attire to them. To her dismay, this proves not to be the case.

As the film progresses, Pecker realizes, with the help of his girlfriend Shelly, played by the

quirky and animated Ricci, that the life of an artsy high class photographer and all that comes with it is not cut out for him. Another aspect of his coming to this realization is the fact that everyone in his neighborhood, including the scantily-clad male dancers at the gay club where his uninhibited sister works, feel exploited by his photographs and make Pecker aware of their irate sentiments through various acts of theft and threats of lawsuits. Essentially he comes to terms with the fact that he wants to keep his career under his own control and shuns the world of commercial art, a bold and unusual move in itself. Is that a true artist or what?

"Pecker" is true to the style tradition of Waters, whose other film credits include "Cry Baby,"

"Hairspray" and "Serial Mom," in the sense that the characters and the dialogue are exaggerated and at times ridiculous to parody the way people act in life, for instance in the pretentious art world. At times it is difficult to take his films seriously, yet that becomes the point: not to take everything and everyone seriously, and look at things for what they really are. Even the technical aspects of "Pecker," where there are occasional cartoon-inspired thought bubbles in which the viewers see what the characters are thinking, are an added touch of absurdity that contribute to the way Waters plays off peoples' thoughts and actions, making for very amusing material.

Horizon

FROM PAGE 4

was passed down to her, and she has hiked up Tinker Mountain. (Her senior year was the first time up to the top of the mountain.) She feared that if she hiked it any earlier she might

not want to hike it again. She participated with other horizons in the skit the "old spice girls."

Thompson is a student will continue to care about Hollins after she graduates. She hopes to one day be on the Alumnae Board.

Everywhere she goes she tries to sell Hollins. She tells others about the three R's: Recruitment, Retaining-working together to keep students here, and Remembering-more than just giving money, but making a difference.

November 9, 1998

Staff Compilation

Eight is enough to grow stronger as a team

Rachel Szwed

On the weekend of October 30-31st, the Hollins volleyball team battled hard in the Women's Invitational Tournament. They competed against three colleges, Salem College, Virginia Wesleyan, and Agnus Scott from Georgia. They won in all of the rounds but lost in the fourth game against Agnus Scott.

"It was a really long and tiring game, we played hard but not up to our fullest potential," Brea Strager, '02 said.

On the weekend of

November 6th-8th, they competed in the ODAC tournament.

They advanced to ODAC due to a victory over Randolph Macon Women's college.

"We were capable of beating every team there, I think we were just worn out by the last game," Strager, '02 said.

Strager said that the volleyball team has incredibly improved in skill and attitude since the beginning of the season, thus the team has grown closer because of improvement.

"Everybody has found out their specific role in the team and are playing

exceptionally well in that area," Strager, '02 said.

Strager also said after many trials and tribulations of players quitting and injuring themselves, the team has learned to deal with the absence of players and now are playing and competing with only a total number of eight.

"Our team includes a mixture of vocal leaders and people who lead by example, which promotes unity on our team," Strager, '02 said.

Lelia Payne, '01 adds, "We've accomplished a lot this year. Hollins hasn't

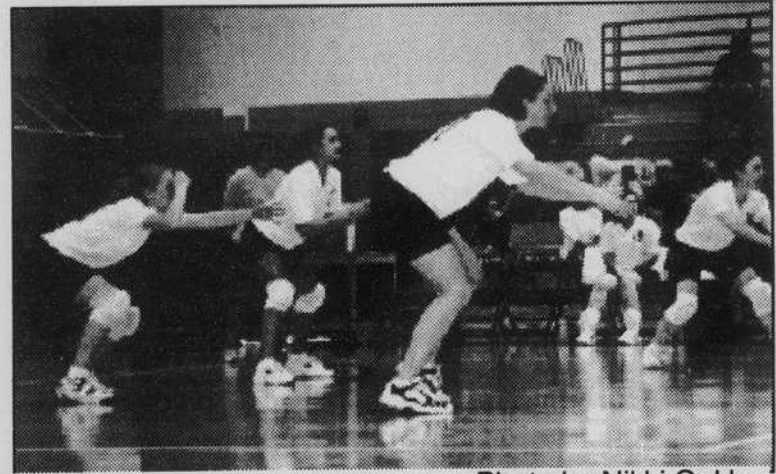


Photo by Nikki Oakley

The volleyball team competed last weekend in the ODAC volleyball tournament.

had a team make it to finally worked as a team." ODAC since 1991. We've

Fencing geared up for opening tournament

by Jennifer Wright

Halloween weekend marked the opening of the season for the Fencing team. Their first match will be held at Temple University. Under the instruction of their new coach, Vadim Polyakov, team members have focused on learning new techniques and strategies as well as physical conditioning.

Team member Karen Roberts, '01 says, "The team has worked hard and learned a lot."

In preparation for the season, team members practice five days a week from 4pm-6pm. Practice begins with running three laps around the field hockey field, stretching, and sit-ups; followed by drills in stance, lunging, and footwork. Finally, the players suit up for blade work and practice fighting.

A typical fencing outfit requires white pants and jacket, plastic chest covering, mask and gloves, and a 32 inch steel blade.

Colleen Hagerty, '02 claims "All the equipment

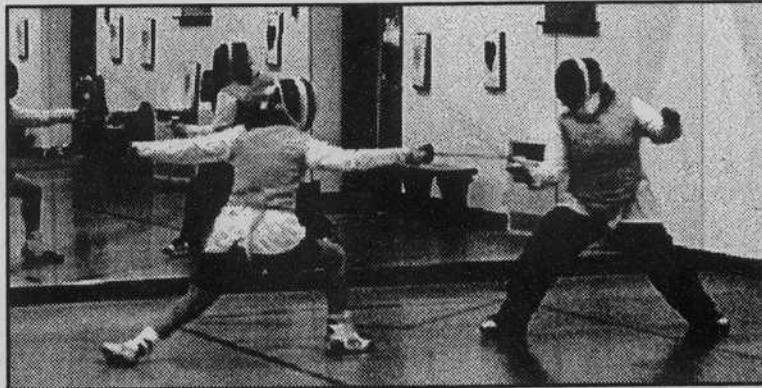


Photo by Courtney Hughes


The fencing team practices skills in preparation for upcoming matches.

we wear and remaining in a lunged position for a five to eight minute match makes the sport more demanding than most people think."

Besides requiring strength and stamina the sport demands mental quickness as well. Hollins' players participate in two forms of fencing known as epee and foil. Epee allows for a point scored anywhere the blade hits on the body, making it a more violent form of the sport. Scoring in foil style is only possible if an area of the torso has been hit. There are also general rules such as "right-of-way", which

states the opponent with their arm extended first is the attacker and therefore the only one who may register a score.

Having been in practice since September, the team members feel confident in their respective styles. Consistency in form and unity as a team are the things Laura Clark, '01, feels will ensure victory for Hollins on October 31-November 1. With a strong track record, both experienced and new teammates, and a talented new coach, the Fencing team collectively feels confident of victory.



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8 What are you drinking?

A recent call from my mother sent chills down my spine when she told me about a new drug called GHB, and the new date-rape statistics that go along with it.

She said that she wasn't trying to scare me. She just wanted to me to be a little more cautious. As a middle school principal, she attends seminars on important issues concerning students of all ages. When she told me about GHB she had just returned from such a meeting. Mom said the drug is becoming both dangerous and common among fraternity parties and club scenes across America.

She warned me that it has no scent, no taste and no color. In liquid form it is slipped into drinks and causes unknowing women to pass out for hours. GHB starts with blurred vision and dizziness, progressing into sleepiness and eventually black-outs and no memory of the time spent unconscious. If this doesn't

sound any different from last Saturday night, it is.

After thinking for a few days about the phone conversation with my mother, I decided to snoop around the internet for some more information on the drug, and I came up with a few interesting tidbits you should take to heart. I went on the Web because I knew the information provides the most up-to-date information. I started with a sight sponsored by Centurion Aging research Laboratory, a Colorado based link to "a source for scientific information."

According to Centurion Aging Research Laboratory, also called "CARL," GHB was synthesized by chemists in the early 1960's. Chemists had only good intentions for its use. It helped control narcolepsy, depression and anxiety. CARL says it is a growth activating nutrient found in our bodies already, regulating mood and metabolism. Sounds great doesn't it?

CARL goes on to say that the FDA found reason to make it illegal to buy



Rachel Brittin

and sell GHB. The FDA carefully monitored the drug after several incidents linked to GHB caused illness. Now, despite its illegal status, the drug has grown in popularity and has become the replacement drug for earlier date-rape drugs like "Roofies." The CARL site

explained that GHB is not only dangerous, but also cheap and easily synthesized on the streets. GHB synthesizing kits can be bought over the internet, or purchased on the street for 10 dollars a pop.

To someone who has been drugged without their knowledge, several grams of GHB causes symptoms like extreme relaxation, and slowed mental reactions. Within five to ten minutes, the victim could pass out for hours.

GHB by itself is relatively harmless, but mixed with alcohol it becomes dangerous and unpredictable.

For someone with a smaller body size or no food in their stomach, one dosage equals 12 beers. Whereas one dosage for a heavier person or someone who has food in their

stomach, equals several glasses of wine. The CARL site said that high doses mixed with alcohol causes extreme cases of prolonged black-outs, and loss of control for hours. You don't ever want to spend four hours in the company of someone you don't know.

It's really scary to think that you could be talking to someone at a party or bar, thinking they are perfectly harmless. Suddenly, you find yourself in great danger. I think it's sad that it is not enough to trust your instincts with people anymore. GHB takes looking out for yourself to a new level. Always make sure that you mix your own drinks, and watch you cup at all times. Even if it means bringing your drink to the bathroom with you.

Before you get down and boogie at the next party, make sure you are in good hands and that your drink is in yours.

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