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News

Find out how students relieve stress, page 3



Features

An interview with the snazzy Nicole Janowski, page 4



Hollins

Columns

December 7, 1998

Hollins University, Roanoke Va.

Volume 71, Issue 5

Hollins welcomes Wolf: General Speakers Fund wraps up their lecture series.

By Rachel Brittin and
Farah Sanders

Speaker Naomi Wolf called for a "new feminism" November 19, as she spoke to a medium-sized crowd of mostly young women in the Hollins Theater.

Wolf, the author of many articles in magazines like "George" and "Cosmo" and books such as *Fire with Fire* and *The Beauty Myth* urged the crowd to forsake "victim feminism" for "power feminism."

She presented three principles for the new feminism. The first is the Diana principle which says the abuse must not be tolerated. Second, is the Sheba principle where women must use their money to politically com-

pel men to listen to their stories. Third, is the Nike principle which promotes victory as opposed to victimization.

"Fourteen percent of newspapers feature women on their front pages, and usually they are featured as victims," she said. "We lack icons of power."

The new feminism which Wolf called "power feminism" is sexually tolerant, intellectually open-minded and is aware that women are more than their suffering. Wolf said that women should not be afraid of power, noting that young girls at the beginning of adolescence became afraid of power and money and believe that these are mas-



Photo by Courtney Hughes
Naomi Wolf gave a moving talk on November 18. She spoke on feminism and how our generation relates to the feminist movement.

culine entities. This in turn, results in lack of

negotiating skills in women going into the work force.

"You are well on your way to second-class status," said Wolf.

Before adolescence she said, girls have a sense of power. To illustrate this idea she walked into the audience and asked what the women present thought they wanted to be at the age of seven. Some girls proclaimed that they wanted to be "She-Ra," or a CEO or just horseback riders. One girl said that she liked to ride her white horse named "Coke" because she felt a sense of freedom.

Wolf also said that women have trouble seeing themselves in a powerful positions because power and "standing your ground will only get you torn to pieces."

At age 26 Wolf wrote her first novel which caused so much criticism and pain for her that she vowed never to write again. She said she learned that if she was going to be a powerful woman then she had to believe in herself. "Even before the world had a chance to do it to us, we were doing it to ourselves," she said.

"Power," Wolf said "is the secret to freedom."

Wolf continues to travel, promoting her newest book, *Promiscuities*.

In Memory of Gerry Griffith

By Ez Peck

On November 20, 1998, Hollins University lost a friend, a confidant, and an employee for whom it was grateful. Geraldine Hale Griffith, born November 11, 1928, was the secretary

of the English department for 33 years. In her time at Hollins, Gerry became invaluable to the community who deeply feels her loss. On December 4, a memorial service was held in duPont Chapel for her. Richard H.W. Dillard, English department, was

one of several people who spoke. He said, "I wish I could say how much Gerry meant to me as a friend and colleague, but all I can say is that I can't even begin..." Dillard recounted memories of talks with Gerry and shared a poem he wrote

for her. Sue Luker Johnson summed up the feelings of those who knew her on campus when she said, "She was always as much for the students as for the faculty. Her counsel was golden and her lips were sealed." Gerry was loved and appreciated by all

those in the English department and around campus who knew her and she will be greatly missed. Contributions in Gerry's honor may be made to the Wyndam Robertson Writer-in-Residence Fund.

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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.

Oh the weather outside is frightful...

But there is no fire, and trust me, it is not oh so delightful, and if you look around, there is no snow, there is no snow, there is no snow. What the heck is going on?

My heater has stayed off, my winter coat has not seen the light of day, it is December third and I am wearing flip flops! I saw a family picking their Christmas tree from a lot (I could actually hear the decision making process since my car window was rolled down) and the young girl was wearing shorts. I have a bit of a problem with this.

You see, I've lived in Virginia all of my life, and I am pretty sure we use to have these things called seasons. It was really quite beautiful to watch the hot sweltering summer days relax into cool crisp autumn nights. And then those



Cristen James

brisk fall days turn to frosted winter days, where the smell of snow lingers in the air, and you can't make it to class unless you are bundled in layers of clothing. But what do I see as I look out my screened window, short sleeves, people relaxing in the rocking chairs, and our holiday tea being celebrated with the Green

Drawing Room doors open. Forgive me if I am a bit confused.

This is the time of year when colds pass from one dorm to another, now people are complaining about allergies because of the mild weather. Did I mention I am wearing flip flops!

So let's talk about this global warming, el nino, el nina, crap. What does it all mean? Does it mean that I will no longer be receiving fun Christmas sweaters? Does it mean my New Year's Eve will be marked with a pool party? Will I always be wearing flip flops? I hope this is just a freaky, weird, once in a lifetime thing. I don't want the AC running while I'm

sipping my apple cider. I don't want to have to buy one of those video tapes that shows a burning, crackling fire in the fireplace. I mean, my favorite Christmas carol is Sleigh Ride! It doesn't work without any snow.

Well let me conclude this wonderful little hissy fit (and I realize a portion of you, like people from Florida and other hot places, have no pity for me.) I just want a little cold weather. I don't think I will feel like Christmas is here if I don't have it. You can put up as much garland, and wreaths and trees as you want, but without the temperature at least in the fifties, Jack Frost will never be nipping at my nose.

Letters to the Editor

Remembering a young life

The following statement was printed and distributed around campus November 29, 1998:

It is with much sadness and sorrow that Hollins University has learned that a Wabash College junior, who was studying on the Hollins Abroad-Paris program,

died in Paris on Friday, November 27, 1998. At approximately 1:45 a.m. (Paris time), Blair Collings of Rockville, Indiana, was found dead, apparently of a stab wound, in a telephone booth. The American Embassy notified Annick Scouten,

director of the Hollins Abroad-Paris program. The Paris police are handling the investigation. Blair has been studying on the Hollins Abroad program since September and was a French major at the Indiana college. He was the son of Joseph

Richard Collings of Rockville and the late Marianne Howard Collings.

The staff of the Columns would like to extend our deepest sympathies to the friends and family of Blair Collings.

December 7, 1998

News Editor: Elizabeth Wyatt

First year students take on service projects

by Lauren Taylor

During the upcoming January Term, as well as the Spring semester, the first-year class, led by President Opa Owiye and Vice President, Kisha Woodard, will be participating in many service projects that will reach out beyond the Hollins community and into the surrounding areas.

In the near future, first-year students will be participating in many service projects including a highway clean-up, a "Slave-for-a-Day" auction, and the continuation of the Tinker Coffee House on Monday nights. Owiye hopes to have the Class of '02 participate in two service projects

a semester and one during January term. The class is still searching for input on the spring service projects.

This semester, the class has decided to purchase a bike for one young girl on the Angel Tree. Class members donated money to purchase this holiday present.

Over January, Owiye has arranged a clean-up of a local highway. She commented that the highway clean-up was suggested to her and it was decided that this project would be beneficial to the community.

The Tinker Coffee House is the class's ongoing fund-raiser, with the Coffee House being open every Monday night from

7:30-10:30. The Coffee House is run by a "coffee committee," who is continually looking for performers. Woodard said that performers can read poetry, sing, play the guitar, and any other type of performance. The performers will receive free food the night of the performance.

The coffee committee is also looking for student artwork to hang on the walls of the Coffee House. Owiye commented that "at the end of the year, the artwork will be auctioned off, with half of the proceeds going to the artist and the other half of the proceeds going to the class."

In the spring, service projects might include an Easter egg hunt for the

community and an event called "Mayflowers," which would involve leaving anonymous flowers and cards at the doorsteps of houses in the community.

Owiye said that she is completely open to any suggestions, which may be submitted in the Comment Box, located in the Core of Tinker. Committees are now being formed to design the t-shirt for the Class of '02, as well as committees to plan service projects. Sign up sheets are located in the Core of Tinker. All first-year students are encouraged to get involved and voice their opinions.

Owiye says she "realizes how important it is to

give back to the surrounding businesses and people of the community." She and Woodard want the class to get more involved in the city of Roanoke. "I don't believe that you are doing all that you can if you aren't helping," said Owiye.

Volunteers from the first-year class are still needed to get these activities going. Owiye wants people to sign up for class activities, share their opinions, etc. She believes that the class isn't helping themselves if they are quiet. Woodard believes "it's their duty as young women and students at Hollins" to voice their opinions.

The stress that hangs over all of our heads

By Sarah Kerr

Now that Thanksgiving has come and gone, the stress of getting those final exams and papers out of the way has or at least will be, descending over the campus. Many students feel the same as Kerry Bowers, '99 who said, "Stress sucks. Not knowing whether you are failing a class or not is the most stressful, aside from figuring out what you're going to do after graduation."

There are several ways to alleviate some of the stress of these impending finals. Courtney Thower '00 said, "I have to make a schedule and try to follow it."

Kerrie Williams, '99 remarked, "If I don't get

my work done, it sticks in my mind and I can't think of anything else."

Procrastination is the number one cause of exam stress. It's easy to do, but you know when the grades come out, it does not help your G.P.A. Another problem is skipping meals, or not eating good food once in awhile. Some of you might live off of sugar, caffeine and cigarettes, while they may give you the energy you're craving, they actually increase your stress level. Lack of sleep also leads to stress. Health Services, here at Hollins has a large collection of reading material that points out the signs of stress and how to handle it.

Julie Wismar '99 shared some of her advice for relieving stress. She

said, "When I get stressed out I usually go to Sonic (the fast food place) or either play my music really loud and dance around my room."

Thower and Williams offered their advice, "When we take a break, we listen to music and talk."

A quick walk around the loop has also been a favorite study break for Hollins students at exam times throughout the years.

With busy times ahead, be easy on yourself and do not compromise your health unnecessarily. Plan ahead, make a schedule, buy a calendar, and no more Scootches on Thursday nights!

Hollins University's First Short Term

by Julie Achalabun

In the middle of every school year, we pause for Christmas break and head straight back to Hollins for January Short Term. For freshman it's back to their rooms in Tinker and the friends they made during the Fall Semester. This is the first J-Term for the class of 2002 and Hollins University.

The intensive courses for students this J-Term include Jane Austen and a class on soap opera writing in North Carolina. Many of these courses are unique to Short Term, allowing students the time to focus on a unique subject they would not have the time or inclination to take during the fall or spring semester.

For many sophomores, juniors and seniors J-Term

is the time to explore career options through a faculty sponsored four week internship in the area of her choice.

Cyndy Manz, '99 says that "internships give you an edge over other students at other colleges." One internship experience in your career field can help you enormously upon graduation.

Nicole Janowski, '00 stated "internships as a way to learn about all kinds of fields." Her past internships may not lead her into her future career fields, but the experiences have left her with more knowledge and respect for those fields.

Jamilyn Cole, '00 has decided on an independent study for her J-Term project. Cole says "that without J-Term I would

SEE SHORT TERM, PAGE 6

December 7, 1998

Features Editor: Maggie McWilliams

Spotlight on Nicole Janowski

by Maggie McWilliams

Nicole Janowski '00 from Highland Heights, Ohio interned at the Fox television show, *Party of Five* last J-term and will intern at the WB's show *Dawson Creek*. Nicole also will take part in Semester at Sea next semester. Nicole takes an active part in life here at Hollins. She is the co-founder of H.A.R.E.M (the animal's rights group on campus), a member of S.H.A.B., a resident assistant in Carvin, President of the Multi-Cultural Club.

Nicole says that she wants to take full advantage of her time at Hollins by trying as many new things as possible and is certainly living up to her goal. She is currently taking Japanese and hopes to go further with this. One of the main reasons she chose Hollins is that it provides many opportunities to explore new ideas and pos-

sibilities. The interdisciplinary major was one of the main draws for her.

"Hollins creates a beautiful environment o focus on things you normally couldn't focus on. We have the opportunity to research almost anything we want through the independent study option. The flexibility here to study what you are really interested in is amazing and is not available at other schools."

Nicole also feels Hollins' short term program is another opportunity for new experiences and to explore new things.

"Short term is an amazing chance to try something you never thought was possible. You really learn a lot about yourself by trying something you never thought you could do. I had never really thought an internship in television production would be possible and decided to try it. You just have to target an area and really go after it. Don't be



Photo by Nikki Oakley

Nicole Janowski

afraid to try new things."

On her amazing experience at *Party of Five*, Nicole learned a lot about the ins and outs of what goes in to creating an hour long drama. She saw the long hours and the extensive concern for detail. She says it would take an entire day to film three to five

minutes of show. After experiencing television production at a large studio in California, she is excited to experience production of *Dawson's Creek* which is filmed on location at Wilmington, North Carolina.

Next semester, Nicole will spend with the Semester at Sea program. They will visit ten different countries, including Venezuela, Brazil, Cuba, South Africa and Japan. Nicole has just learned

that MTV's *Road Rules* will be filming twenty sessions of their television show at the Semester at Sea. Six cast members will be chosen for this season, three from the general public and three from Semester at Sea participants. Nicole says they are doing this to encourage

students to take advantage of study abroad programs. Currently, only four percent of US college and high school students study abroad. During this exciting time, Nicole, an accomplished pianist, plans to work on a c.d to be titled *Placebo*. She plans to write a song for each different country she will visit. She feels this will allow her to see each country in a new light. Nicole plans to incorporate these songs somehow in her senior project.

When asked about her ultimate goal, Nicole replied with a very ambitious and interesting answer. Nicole wants to be the first person to teach a chimpanzee how to play the piano. She has experience training animals from her job at Sea World. She has worked with whales, dolphins and most recently a baby penguin.

American History X presents a disturbing look at Neo-Nazism

by Heather Brown

American History X is the first cinematic effort of director Tony Kaye, who also worked as cinematographer on the film. The film features the remarkably talented and versatile Edward Norton as the young neo-Nazi-turned-repentant character Derek Vineyard, as well as Edward Furlong who shines as Danny, the impressionable younger brother.

The film poignantly depicts the issue of racism in a society that is morally deteriorating, particularly in their Venice Beach, California neighborhood.

Derek, who is the protégé of neo-Nazi father-figure Cameron Alexander, played by Stacy Keach, uses his charismatic rhetoric and startling statistics to form an organization of young aspiring hate-mongers, devoted to the empowerment of the "white race" and the destruction of all that threatens its authority. When Derek is sent to prison for three years for murdering two young black men who tried to steal his truck, he faces challenges and horrifying experiences that make him aware of how terrible neo-Nazism is and that he can no longer believe in it.

American History X begins in black and white with the young Danny flashing back to the night when his brother killed the two black teenagers who attempted to steal his truck. Throughout the film, the sequences of the past as recalled by Danny are shot in black and white and the present-day situations are in color, certainly showing not only the way Danny remember the instances visually but the way he thinks of them, as only in black and white allowing no other shades and hues. While Danny himself is an enthusiastic young neo-Nazi, Derek surprises him and the rest

of the family upon his return home from prison when he reveals himself as no longer a part of what he used to stand for. This throws Danny's perception of his brother off, as he had just written a book report celebrating Hitler's *Mein Kampf* mainly to impress Derek. Derek then unfolds the story of how he came to understand what he had believed was wrong and how Danny should realize the same before it is too late.

American History X is not only provocative and relevant, it has stellar acting and an engrossing storyline. Both Norton and

Furlong deliver exquisite performances, and are strongly supported by Beverly D'Angelo and Avery Brooks. The film offers insight into racism and other social prejudices but without a definite resolution, which proves to be more realistic. Essentially, American History X does more for the viewer than just entertain, it opens one's eyes to the reality of the horrors of neo-Nazism and its growing presence in the country.

Benedict brings experience to Hollins

by Jessica Manack

Another accomplished writer has joined Hollins' faculty. Pinckney Benedict, the author of numerous books and plays, is teaching a variety of writing classes this year.

Benedict is no stranger to the area. His mother was a member of the Hollins class of '56 and he remembers visiting the campus as a boy. A West Virginia native, he grew up on a dairy farm in Green Brier County, about 85 miles away from Roanoke. Many of his plays take place in the present time in this area.

Benedict's latest work, *Four Days*, is an adaptation of a novel by John Buhl. He was originally approached to write the

script for a 20-minute short film of the book, but after the production went well, he was asked to make it into a full-length feature. The filming in Quebec was recently completed, and the movie is now in the editing stage. *Four Days* tells the story of a boy who is left with a bag of money when his father is killed after robbing a bank.

In addition to his plays, he has published two short story collections, *Town Smokes* and *The Wrecking Yard*; a novel, *Dogs of God*; and various pieces in journals.

During his undergraduate studies at Princeton, under the instruction of Joyce Carol Oates, Benedict says, he first gave thought to being a professional writer. After receiving his

B.A. in English with a concentration in creative writing, he got his M.F.A. from

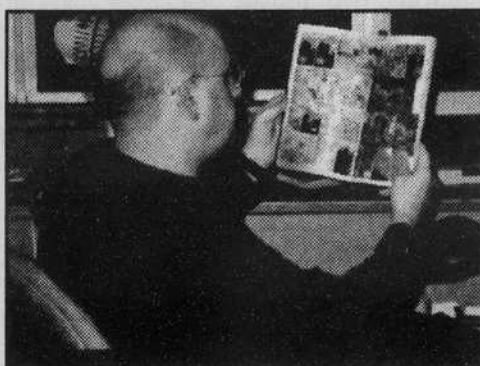


Photo by Courtney Hughes
Pinckney Benedict relaxes in his office between classes.

the Iowa Writers Workshop. He has since taught at Oberlin, Ohio State University, Hope College, Davidson, West Virginia University, and Princeton.

Benedict came to Hollins

because he knew of the tradition of excellence the creative writing program upholds. Nearly 10 years ago, in 1989, he attended the Spring Literary Festival and became acquainted with some of the faculty here. When a position opened up, he applied.

When asked what it was like to teach at a women's college after so many years at coed institutions, he said, "Well, I have found that creative writing classes generally are 60 to 70 percent women anyway, and I do have some male graduate students in my classes, so the proportions are not that different. There is a more frank atmosphere, and the girls can talk more, but as a

teacher, you always try to encourage the quiet ones to speak up anyway."

This semester, Benedict is teaching Screenwriting, Advanced Creative Writing, and a graduate tutorial. In the Spring Term he will be teaching Intermediate and Advanced Creative Writing.

When asked for advice for aspiring writers, Benedict offered, "I was at one of [Canadian novelist] Robertson Davies's readings, one of the last he did before he died, and someone asked him that same question. He answered, 'Go through every manuscript you have and take out every 'very.''" Benedict also encourages students to take advantage of his office hours and visit him in his office in Turner C21.

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From the streets of Nashville, to the halls of Hollins

by Nicole Bower

T J Anderson, a new professor in the English department this year, is now teaching Fundamentals of Fiction and Poetry for first-year students and will be teaching a course in Jazz Poetry over short-term.

Anderson and his family have moved here from Binghamton, New York; where he earned a Ph.D at Binghamton State University of New York (Suny Binghamton). He was born in Gufri, Oklahoma in 1958, and was raised in Tenni, Georgia. His father was a composer and his mother was a librarian, fueling his love for literature and music.

After graduating from high school in 1976, Anderson enrolled

in Boston University but dropped out in a year and took up selling incense and jewelry on Nashville city streets. Deciding that he needed some discipline in his life, he joined the Air Force and worked in Personal Readiness (a branch that prepares military troops for combat.) for four years. The jobs he performed were so monotonous, he claims that "I wrote poetry in between typing dog tags and planning war games for the troops."

At the rank of sergeant, Anderson left the military and enrolled in the University of Massachusetts where he received his Bachelor's of fine arts in Creative Writing and English. He then went to the University of Michigan for his Master's degree in Creative Writing, and received

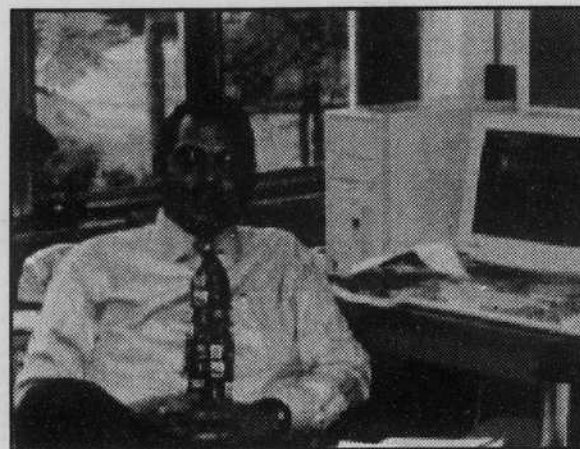


Photo by Kim Grubbs

Hollins' new English professor, T.J. Anderson.

his Ph.D. at Suny Binghamton in Literary Criticism.

"Writing is something I've loved all my life," he explains. Anderson admits, though, that "for a while I wanted to be a

lawyer, mainly because there were more TV shows with lawyers in them than with poets in them."

Professor Anderson's last teaching position was at the American University in Cairo, Egypt, where he taught Creative Writing, African American Literature and Play Writing. He and his family were still in Egypt during the Gulf War.

Anderson and his wife, Pauline Kaldas, are both poets, Pauline specializing in Egyptian and American Poetry. They live in the faculty housing with their two daughters, Celine and Yasmine.

Short term FROM PAGE 4

not have any other time to work on such a project." For her project, Cole is studying the life of a Botetourt County woman who lived during the Civil War.

Many students agree that Short Term is a great time to explore, regroup and find out what you want to do after you graduate. As anyone will tell you, take advantage of your Short Term because you never know what will come of it.

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November 9, 1998

Staff Compilation

Basketball team prepared for season

By Meagan Johnson

The Hollins basketball team began the season the weekend of November 20 at the Tip-Off Tournament, which Hollins hosted. Hollins won its first game in the tournament 70-64 over Hood College. In the championship game, Peace College defeated Hollins 55-46.

This year, the Hollins

basketball team has 12 players, including six freshman players; last year, it had only seven players. Coach Karen Harvey identified this increase in size as one of the team's strengths. "We have a lot more depth this year," she said.

Tanya Holmes, '99, a member of the team since her freshman year, added, "We have a good core of freshmen in this year." However, Holmes also said that, for the fairly

young team, "[lack of] experience is a weakness."

Harvey identified the team's quickness as another one of its strengths. "I think we're going to be able to run on teams and press teams," she said.

Holmes feels that the team is well-prepared for the season. "Coach has been drilling us on everything we need to know. We just have to put it together in the games,"

she said.

Samantha Webb, '02 added, "We're in really good shape."

During the season, the team will strive to advance to the ODAC tournament. In order to advance to the tournament, at the end of the season the team must rank eighth or higher among the 11 teams in the conference. In the pre-season, the team was picked to finish in ninth place.

Harvey said that the team's biggest challenge is "to continue to believe in ourselves when we face adversity."

Allison Dickson, '02 agreed, saying "I believe that the team will have a successful season as long as we keep our heads up."

"I think we're going to have a good team. I think we're going to have fun," Dickson added.

Volleyball team wins trip to ODACS

by Maggie McWilliams

The season started off slowly for the volleyball team because of the many player changes, but they ended the season with a major accomplishment; a trip to the ODACS tournament. Their attendance at the tournament is an even greater taste of victory as this is only the second time in fifteen years that a team from Hollins has been able to go. They eventually lost to Washington and Lee who went on to be the champion team.

Sumner Menchero '00 said, "We were just psyched to go. Attending ODACS was our main goal for the season and we were able to accomplish it."

The team's slogan is "Eight is Enough" as many player changes have left them with eight players. They are especially proud they were able to have such a great season and go to ODACS, because of this.

The final statistics for the team reflect the great season the team has had.

Lelia Payne '01 led the team in hitting percentages with a .318 hitting percentage, in blocks

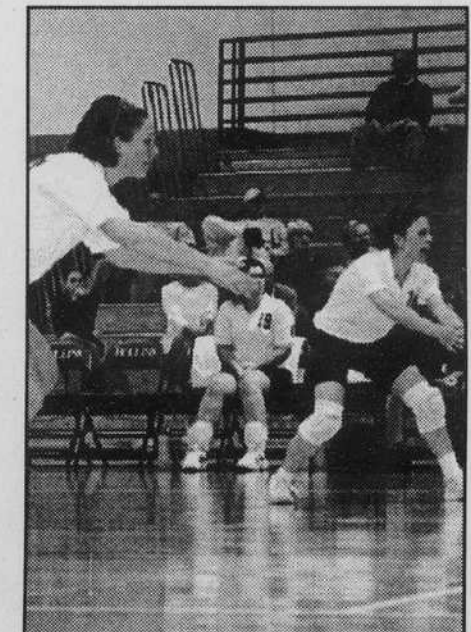


Photo by Nikki Oakley

The volleyball team competed fiercely against their opponents during the ODAC tournament.

per game with 2.73 and in kills per game with 265 kills. Nicki Sarver '02 ended the season with 401 assists and Jenny Scott '02 with 303 assists. Sumner Menchero and Brea Strager '02 led the team in digs, Sumner with 388 and Brea with 322. They both also led the team in serving percentages with ninety percent.

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'Tis the season to be nutty

Every time I throw the last bag of luggage in my car and head up 81 towards home, I start the "Great unwind."

The Great unwind is a phenomena of getting into my car and as I pull out of Hollins and turn onto the highway, I begin to feel my muscles from my head to my toes unwrap their death grip on my body. For the next few hours I stare at the open road, imagining Christmas trees my family and friends. I know that exams are behind me, classes are over, and the tension headaches are all but nightmares in the past.

I live in Harrisburg Pennsylvania, a beautiful five hour drive and the perfect amount of time to unwind and go through Christmas lists in my head. At first it's hard to relax. I look for speed traps and worry that I forgot something like my underwear back at Hollins. Eventually I notice things like a flock of geese overhead or a good song on the radio and I begin to realize that the stress I felt just a few hours ago is all but gone.

The fact is we can't complain about the million pages we have to review or the papers to write, because beneath all



Rachel Brittin

the griping lies a hidden sense of pride. Keeping busy means we have a

life, something to achieve. When was the last time you heard a voice in your head that said "Nobody needs me" or "I don't need to finish this." Some people find it difficult to just take a break.

Let it go! Or at least every once in a while. If you are finding yourself working all the time this exam season, you're probably more likely to do more harm than good.

Stress seems to be the fast forward button on our lives. It seems that everyone is rushing around hurrying to get things done. How about

pushing the "Pause" for a while.

In the end, we are failing to recognize the efforts of relaxation. In order to relax you have to set time aside for it, and separate your work from pleasure. You have to work to relax.

Set aside some time during exams to watch a little TV, talk with friends, catch a movie, or go out to dinner. Ten years from now you are more likely to remember a good laugh with a friend than a stressful day during exams.

You will feel better and thus do better work with a five hour drive home.

TOYOTA



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(Best Selling Car In History)



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(Now You Can Get A Well Equipped '99 Corolla For Less Than Last Year*)



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*Savings based on comparison of '99 Corolla equipped with options package vs comparably equipped '98 Corolla. Corolla is the best selling car in history, based on worldwide sales figures.

