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Hollins Columns

February 26, 2001

Hollins University, Roanoke Va.

Volume 73, Issue 5

Hollins interns take front row seat at Inauguration

by Layla Manning

January Term has come and gone, and while a large number of students stayed on campus this year, Celena Cantrell '01, Catherine Beattie '01, and Joy Sparrowhawk '04 spent their time in Washington in exciting internships.

This January, all three girls were present for a momentous occasion: the inauguration of President George W. Bush. Beattie attended opening ceremonies, Sparrowhawk had a close seat, and Cantrell worked with Lisa Starks, a correspondent for the White House, covering the DuPont Circle protesters and the New Black Panthers.

Beattie worked for Congressman Nathan Deal, a representative from Georgia. Some of Beattie's duties included giving tours of the Capitol, answer-

ing phones, and writing responses to constituents who had called in with concerns about certain issues.

Sparrowhawk worked in the Cannon House Office Building for Congressman Nick Lampson of Texas. He is Sparrowhawk's Congressman and she had previously worked with him in Texas on children's safety issues. When asked what she did in her job, she said, "They kept me busy with a little bit of everything so that I would get a well-rounded experience. I answered phones and sorted mail like every good intern. I wrote some constituent letters and ran various errands. I also organized a year and half worth of articles for the press secretary." She also updated their database on newly elected officials and the contact

SEE INTERNS PAGE 3

Tax-cut fever in Washington

by Karen Roberts

After the long-winded battle over the outcome of the 2000 Presidential Election, George W. Bush stated in his victory speech on Dec. 13, 2000, that "it is time to find common ground and build consensus to make America a beacon of opportunity in the 21st century."

Now, more than a month later, Bush is faced with the arduous task of working with a split Congress while hoping to achieve some of the goals of his agenda.

One of the key features of Bush's agenda is his \$1.6 trillion tax-cut plan, which he unveiled two weeks ago. Democrats and Republicans alike have plunged Washington DC. into a tax-cut frenzy, heavily debating the pros and cons of lowering tax rates, even for the rich. Bush's plan calls for reducing the five-bracket personal-income-tax structure

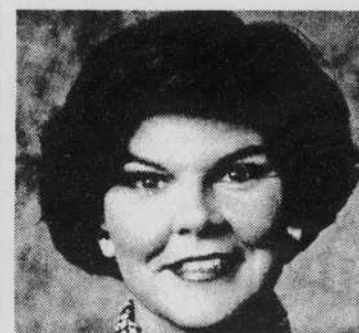
to four: 10 percent, 15 percent, 25 percent and 33 percent. He is also proposing to double the child-care tax credit to \$1,000 per child, reduce the impact of the "marriage penalty" and eliminate the estate tax. Bush says that in essence, the plan would save the average family of four some \$1,600 in annual payments. The proposal also is targeted to ease taxes on those just above the poverty line. But by Democratic reckoning, 43 percent of benefits (including the estate-tax repeal) flows to the wealthiest one percent of Americans.

Though there may be strong opposition from Democrats in Washington, a recent Newsweek poll showed that Bush's proposal won broad support from the American public, with 67 percent saying that they approve of cutting taxes across the board. This in turn has

SEE BUSH PAGE 3

On Campus:

Ann Compton



**ABC News
Correspondent to
speak at Hollins'
2001 Graduation**

Founder's Day



**181 years after the
birth of Charles Lewis
Cocke, Hollins cele-
brated his legacy on
February 15.**

What's to come is up to you

In the magazine and newspaper business, when writers are waiting for quotes or other facts they write "TK" where the missing information will go- "to come." Right now, the Hollins Columns is a big TK. We've made some major changes since last semester, and we are looking to make many more. In January we moved our office from the basement of Starkie to downstairs in Moody, in order to get an internet connection and have more space. We have a new computer and we are working to get the Columns on Campus Pipeline. I've thought a lot about what the Hollins Columns should be, and the "TK", the big unknown, is what you as readers want.

In a 1993 letter to

the editor, Hollins student Heather Frederick wrote "Why is it that everyone seems to be bitching about the content of this newspaper to their friends in private rather than giving the editors and staff constructive criticism?" I don't claim to know how much complaining is going on today about the content of the Columns. I only know how I feel about our paper. Hollins has a nationally recognized English and creative writing program, but our newspaper fails to exemplify this. Hollins also puts out wonderful publications (think of those guidebooks and our alumnae magazine). However, our student publications leave something to be desired, and we are to blame. Many Hollins students are extremely tal-



Jillian Kalonick

ented writers, photographers, and artists. The Hollins Columns fails to be a quality newspaper not because of lack of talent, but lack of interest and support.

The staff and I can try to make this newspaper what we want to be, but we'd rather make it what you as students want it to be. But we can't

do that without your help and input. Send your comments and corrections to hollinscolumns@hotmail.com. Write a scathing letter to the editor about what's got you outraged. If you want to work for the paper, come to our meetings Wednesday nights at 7pm. Call us (x6400) and tip us off about a campus injustice that needs investigation. Look us up on Campus Pipeline (click on Campus Life, then Student Organizations). Leave a note in our box in the post office. I invite each of you to participate in this paper, and let us know what you think.

I think the biggest challenge of being a Hollins student is the responsibility we each have to take in keeping Hollins alive. As we are

quickly discovering, the future of our small university is not always certain, and I think it takes every past, present, and future member of the Hollins community to keep the school we love going. This newspaper is one small part of Hollins, but similarly it takes people caring about it to make it good. What you hold in your hands is your forum, your chance to reach each member of the Hollins community. Please support and read the Columns. You are in charge of what's to come.

Hollins Columns

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We welcome letters from all members of the community. Please include your signature, address, and for verification only, a phone number where you can be reached. Unsigned letters will not be published. Because of the volume we receive, we regret we can only publish a portion of them. Letters should be e-mailed to hollinscolumns@hotmail.com.

News

Interns

FROM PAGE 1

list for members of the Congressional Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus that Congressman Lampson founded.

Cantrell had an internship at Nightline News with Ted Coppel. They kept her busy answering viewer emails, assisting producers on shoots, answering phones, sorting mail, assisting correspondents, and transcribing interviews. She even worked with the daily show and assisted with taping and graphics on occasion.

Cantrell's work placed her near a barrier that marked where protesters could not go. "There were protesters on one side and supporters on the other with conflicting viewpoints within five feet of each

"Singing the National Anthem with over two hundred thousand people, including the President, is unforgettable."
-Joy Sparrowhawk

other," she said. "Some of the supporters said that they didn't necessarily agree with everything he stood for, but

that they felt it was their duty to stand by the new president."

Beattie enjoyed her experience and said that it was "different." Where she lived, there were protesters lining the road, telling Bush to go home. "It was crazy," said Beattie.

Sparrowhawk felt moved by the experience. "No matter how cynical you are, you cannot help but feel patriotic when you witness a peaceful transfer of power after an election that would have sent any other country into civil war," said Sparrowhawk. "Singing the National Anthem with over two hundred thousand people, including the President, is unforgettable."

When asked if they enjoyed their overall experience, each girl gave an enthusiastic response. They all seemed to agree that Washington was a great city, that they learned a lot about the government, and as Beattie said, that it "was definitely worth it."

Bush

FROM PAGE 1

eased some of the controversy that has surrounded Bush since he nominated former Missouri Sen. John Ashcroft for the position of attorney general. Ashcroft has a reputation as a solid conservative, a sometimes fierce partisan and an abortion opponent. Bush's first taste of the split Congress came when it was unclear whether the Senate would confirm Ashcroft as the new attorney general.

Amidst the tax-cut fever plaguing Washington, the

President also hopes to

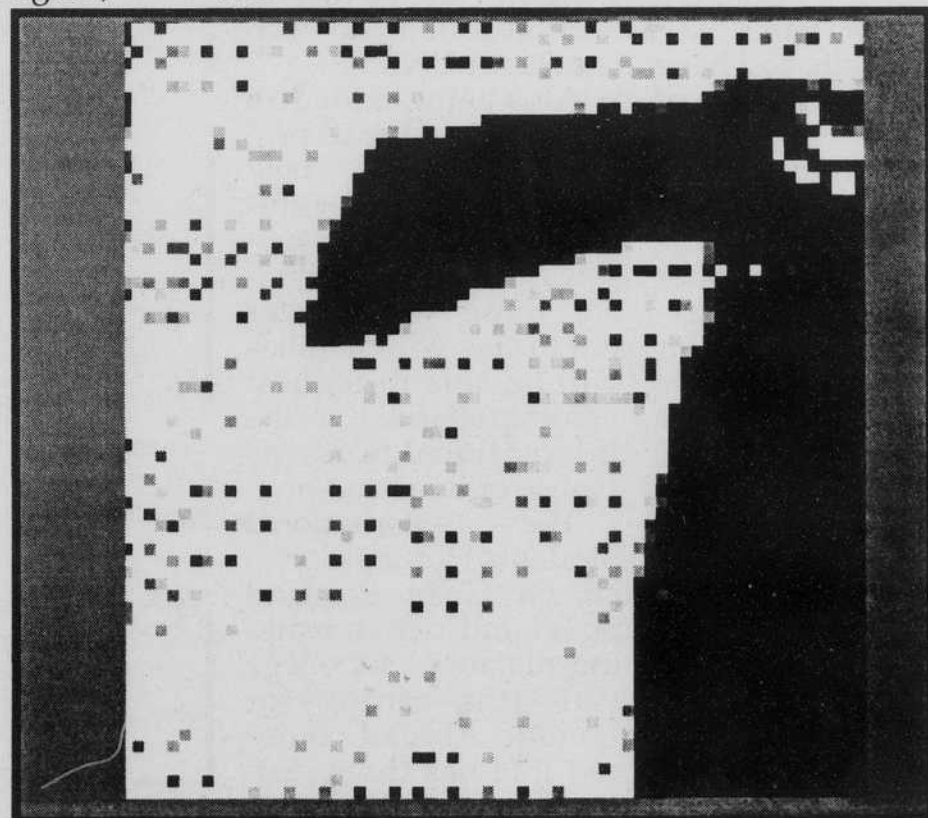
"52% of Americans approve of the way the President is handling himself."

-Newsweek Magazine

set in motion his education-reform proposals, a plan to use federal funds to support social services run by faith-based organiza-

tions, as well as the White House project to open up some protected Alaskan wilderness areas for oil.

Although not all of Bush's agenda has been looked upon favorably, a Newsweek poll on Feb. 10 showed that 52 percent of Americans approve of the way the President is handling himself.



New course and housing options expand Hollins London Abroad

by Karen Roberts

Beginning with this spring semester, participants of the Hollins London Abroad program will be given the opportunity to make their time abroad even more special.

Lorraine Fleck, director of Hollins International Programs, wanted to address student requests. Fleck said that a number of students wanted a greater variety of options in terms of their housing and to gain a feel of British university life. Currently, Hollins Abroad offers students with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better the chance to enroll in one or two courses of their choice at the University of North London. Starting in Fall 2001, those students will have the added option of enrolling at City University in accordance with the same GPA requirements for UNL.

Both institutions offer a wide range of courses. UNL has particular strengths in English, film studies, women's studies and the natural sciences. At City University, a student may study business and management, journalism, computer science, pre-med and art management. Fleck states there is an obvious advantage to these new

course offerings. "Students can take a class in their major if it is not offered through the normal Hollins Abroad program," she said. This would allow perhaps more students to go abroad who might not normally because of the need to fulfill their major requirements at Hollins.

Fleck also said that students will experience differences in classes. "Students should know the London university courses will be larger in class size, less personal and will not include field trips," she said.

There are already students taking advantage of the new course options. Nicole Phillips '03 and Lindsay Durango '03 are in London this semester and enrolled in film courses at UNL.

Also being added to the London Abroad program are two new housing options for students. Though homestays are recommended, those who prefer not to stay with families will be able to request accommodations in the International Students House or live in a flat.

The International Students House is located on Great Portland Street and within walking distance of College Hall (the setting for London Abroad courses.) ISH has three resi-

dence halls, housing 600 students, 20% of whom are British, 7% are Americans and the rest come from around the world. All rooms are doubles and bathrooms are shared on the halls. There are no cooking facilities, so students staying at ISH receive a stipend for all their meals. Fleck believes this is a good option for Hollins Abroaders who wish to meet students from all over the world.

Hollins is now

working with a London agency to find furnished flats in central London for students who prefer to live on their own. The flats, which are within walking distance of College Hall house four students each and have two double rooms, a living area, small kitchen and one or two baths. A fixed amount of utility use (except telephone) is included. Students living in the flats are provided with a bus and tube pass but are

expected to cover the cost of their own meals.

Overall, Fleck hopes that these new offerings will bring in more interest and participation to the abroad programs. She believes that these possibilities will help students make informed decisions to study abroad.



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INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CONTACT:

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This Traffic is worth the wait



by Hadley Meares

Drug wars are usually on top of my so-not-interested list for movie plots. Male filmmakers have always seemed unduly fascinated with drug cartels, mob wars and tough cops. However it-boy director Steven Soderbergh makes the intricate and ironic world of drugs fascinating in his new Oscar nominated movie "Traffic."

"Traffic," in the vein of DW Griffith's "Intolerance" (I just couldn't resist showing off a little movie savvy) weaves four distinct stories together. Writer Stephen Gaghan has written a script which is a turns funny and at turns heart-breaking.

The plot line is dense and I often

found myself whispering questions to my buddy, and scratching my head. However the very human stories of people on every side of the drug issue are fascinating and deserve our intense concentration. Just don't go into the theater expecting "Dude Where's My Car?"

The cinematography is key to the mesmerizing quality of the movie. Soderbergh makes the audience a voyeur by shooting as though through a camcorder. Images are seemingly haphazardly shot like surveillance videos with the camera peering through blinds and underneath desks. It makes you feel like you are seeing too much and intruding in on these fictional character's lives!

The difficulty of separating four different stories is handled by shooting each story in a different way. The most daring way this technique is used is in the seedy world of Tijuana. The film is tinted yellow and slightly out of focus making the audience feel as if they are choking through the intense heat and smog. The Mexican Tourist Bureau should ban this movie because it creped me out enough to never want

to hop south of the border.

This is a perfectly cast movie with a deep bench of supporting players. Everyone blends in perfectly and is an ensemble in every sense on the word. Standouts include Catherine Zeta-Jones as the unsuspecting yuppie wife of a major drug smuggler (lets just say she turns out to be not so innocent). Michael Douglas, whose goal I think it is to play every major government official before he retires, shines as a conflicted head of the DEA. Cutie Topher Grace and Erika Christensen also shine as drugged out prep school brats. Benicio Del Toro is also (as always) creepy and amusing as a low life Tijuana cop.

This movie wraps you up in an often exotic and violent world. But unlike so many movies in this genre, the violence is not gratuitous and actually very mild. The movie shows all the contradictions of the war on drugs without sapping all the viewers' hope. Hollywood has found a new master director.

Forsythe Hailey encourages finding "inner old lady"

by Farah Sanders

Acclaimed author of "A Woman of Independent Means" and Hollins alumna Elizabeth Forsythe Hailey '60 spoke in front of a full audience for this year's Founder's Day Convocation.

The tradition of convocation began in 1952 when Freya suggested an academic Founder's Day with the dean of Sarah Lawrence College as speaker. Each year since Hollins has welcomed political, educational, artistic and literary leaders to speak on various themes. Past speakers include former congresswomen Shirley Chisolm, Gerri Houlihan, former soloist of the Metropolitan Opera Ballet, and alumna Lee Smith '67. Every year the senior class and a chosen staff or faculty member join together in a procession to the Cocke family grave to honor Hollins founder Charles Lewis Cocke by placing a wreath on his grave.

Forsythe Hailey spoke of her experience at Hollins and how it helped her in her adult life. She also highlighted

the lives of other Hollins women and their friendships throughout the years. She asked the students, "Can you imagine yourselves at 60 or 70?" She told the seniors to forget looking for that "inner child" once they are in the real world, but to search for that "inner old lady."

After her speech, Vice President of Academic Affairs Wayne Markert, presented Forsythe Hailey with an honorary doctorate. Awards were also given to Professor of Biology, Harriet Gray, and to Professor of English Elizabeth Keyser.



Spotlight on J-Term 2001

by Angie Jeffreys



Marine Awareness Research Expedition: Carribean Voyage

Emily Chewning '01, Lisa Dale '01, and Meghan Malone '03 all participated in the two-week sailing trip on board the Spirit of Massachusetts.

"In one day, we furled the sails and docked, had our first shower, hiked several miles through a rainforest and swam in a 200 ft. waterfall, then hiked back and hiked again to a river gorge

and back, then fell easily asleep at 9 p.m. In the midst of everything else, we took a "break" that consisted of classes on piracy, marine life, coral, and ethnobotany and medicinal plants. It was a very hands on learning experience and we were exhausted when we were through. It was one of the hardest but most rewarding things I have ever done," said Dale.

Brainstorming for Beginners: Professors Bowers, Flory, Ratcliffe-Baird, and Gray.

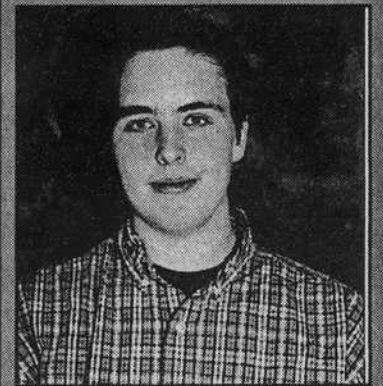
"This class focused on the brain, what it does, and how it works. We were able to learn by going out and actually studying vari-

ous kinds of brain behavior, which was fun because it wasn't a typical classroom lecture type of atmosphere. We also learned how to use many types of modern medical technology," said Heather Kent '04.

Thesis

"These are the people I spent my short term with: a neurotic woman who hasn't been the same since her Dad ran over a cow, her outgoing best friend who's in love with her and is afraid to show it, an old woman who collects porcelain birds, and a traveling photographer with a one-

armed wife. I spent January working on my thesis, a yet-untitled novel. And while my short term wasn't an action packed, sightseeing, adventure-leaden month, I did learn something about writing. It takes hope and love and coffee and frustration and spell check and doing it every day," said Sara Gettys '01



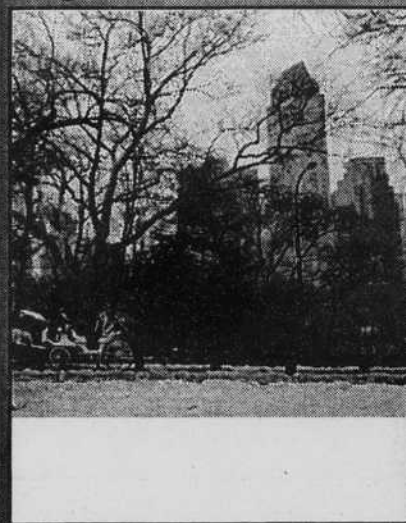
The Surrealist Revolution: Professor Anderson

"We learned what surrealism is, played surrealist games, watched movies, and made some really cool collages. The Washington trip was awesome because we got to see some of the

works of artist we talked about in class, and it was nice to get off campus, of course. I really liked the surrealist revolution because we had fun while we were learning, and we got to make our own art," said Rose Insana '03.

"It was one of the hardest but most rewarding things I have ever done."

-Lisa Dale '01



Weekend New York Trip

"All in all it was an event-packed couple of days that kicked off with a group outing to the Jeckyll and Hyde club for dinner, and then ice-skating at Rockefeller center if you were so inclined. After that, the weekend was

yours until 4:30 p.m. on Sunday when we boarded the bus back to Hollins. My trip was wonderful because we went shopping, to Central Park, got lost in China Town, and saw Alec Baldwin. It was such an amazing trip!" said Tara Smith '04.

Independent Study in London

Emily Schiller '03 spent two weeks of her short term staying at a Girl Guide Youth Hostile in London. Her independent study project was "London's Contemporary Galleries." "I spent most of my time just exploring the city and discovering the culture. I had a small bud-

get and decided not to pay to go on any of the normal tourist attractions. We instead saw the free museums and the pubs. All in all the experience of being independent and in charge of my entire trip was extremely influential. I feel more confident about my abilities and talents, and I learned a lot about the contemporary

art on display in London. I missed my parents and family a lot, but the feeling of London is unlike any other; I still miss the accents and money, the pubs and the architecture. It was an amazing experience," said Schiller.

BUDRO'S on the campus

by Maggie Hunt

While walking around campus, one may periodically notice entertainment such as dressed-up fire hydrants and artwork constructed out of silverware. This is the work of BUDRO, an on-campus secret society devoted to the promotion of campus entertainment through random acts. About ten first-year students are involved in the group.

BUDRO was first noticed by campus residents when they accidentally stumbled upon an outdoor ADA

meeting, while attempting to hang their "95 Proclamations," the goals the club plans to accomplish. BUDRO member Samantha Geller '04 explains, "We are here to entertain the campus, and we don't mean to offend anybody." An ADA member who wished to remain anonymous states, "Nothing is going on with BUDRO. Everybody was just having fun."

The club's proclamations range from the ambitious "All Freya walks must be attended by at least 50 people" to the less seri-

ous "Coleslaw wrestling should be offered as a varsity sport." BUDRO's purpose is probably best summed up in one of its proclamations: "If its weird and its on campus, we probably did it. If we didn't do it, we should have."

On February 1, students on campus may have noticed BUDRO painted on the rock in bright red letters. Many students became angry, knowing that there are most likely no seniors in the club. Geller says "We had nothing to do with painting the rock, but it's cool that some-

one did it!" Members say that it is difficult to entertain the campus because of vandalism to their work. In December BUDRO worked to construct the song lyrics to the Poe song "Angry Johnny" out of knives collected from the cafeteria. After hanging the exhibit outside of Moody, it was quickly ripped down by passing students. Despite the vandalism, BUDRO's actions keep the campus community entertained. Amethyst Vineyard '04 exclaims, "They provide the touch of chaos

that Hollins sometimes needs."

Geller would like everyone to know that inductions are coming up and they are a simple

procedure. There are no set rules and anyone is welcome to join. If anyone would like to reach

BUDRO, stop by Tinker 106 or see Samantha Geller for details.

Finding Forrester Falls Short

by Kelly Moul

"Finding Forrester" has it all: famous actors, directors and producers, a solid storyline, and emotional appeal. Acclaimed director Gus Van Sant produces and shapes the piece, Mike Rich makes a respectable screenwriting debut, and the cameo by Matt Damon is an unexpected bit of eye candy. Unfortunately, the film fails to develop these attributes to their full potential. The movie is therefore worth seeing, but lacks the strength of Van Sant's earlier drama, "Good Will Hunting"

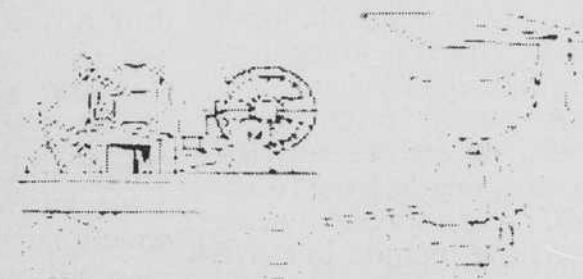
The storyline cen-

ters around Sean Connery, who is brilliant as William Forrester, a reclusive writer who hasn't left his apartment in forty years. Newcomer Rob Brown also puts in a solid performance as Jamal Wallace, a black teenager with a secret interest in writing. When Jamal scores exceptionally high on his achievement tests, he is asked to attend a prestigious prep school. Once there, however, it becomes unclear whether he was recruited for his smarts or his basketball skills. Seeking to prove himself in the classroom, Jamal butts heads with a pretentious teacher, who threat-

ens to throw him out of school on the grounds of plagiarism. Although the ending is entirely predictable and melodramatic, it still manages to draw tears and send moviegoers away with a good feeling.

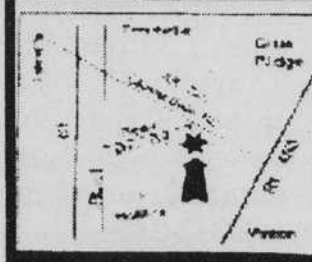
In short, Finding Forrester is a mixed bag. During its two and a half hours the audience laughed heartily, dabbed at tears and checked their watches. Best to wait until this flick hits the shelves at Blockbuster, then settle in for a lazy Saturday night.

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Angler's Cafe- An eclectic menu for all to enjoy

by Lauren Clemence

Whether you're looking for a light lunch with a friend or a casual date on a weekend, Angler's Cafe offers a menu for all types. Located on the corner of Second St. and Kirk St. in downtown Roanoke, Angler's Cafe offers a casual dining experience at very affordable prices. In a world where vegetarian fare is not usually a consideration when restaurants create their menu, Angler's offers not only a wide variety of vegetarian dishes, but also healthy choices of shrimp, fish, chicken and pork.

Appetizers range from a simple hummus and pita bread for \$3.50, to sun dried tomato basil bread, basil, pine nuts, garlic, mozzarella and parmesan broiled on a fresh baguette for \$4.95. Soups are both vegetarian and non-vegetarian with such flavors as pea leek, tomato bisque, chicken senegalese, or shrimp bisque.

Angler's lunch menu contains a variety of sandwiches, burritos, salads, soups and a group of heartier "eclectic selections." These include butterfly trout fillet, sautéed with white wine and garlic for \$9.95. Asian pasta; which consists of Sautéed mushrooms, black beans, and fresh spinach served over linguini for \$6.95.

Angler's also offers soup and half sandwich combos with a half of any egg, tuna or chicken salad sandwich and a cup or bowl of pea leek, black bean or tomato soups for \$5.95.

Portions here are large; regular entrees are no exception. One can choose from Angler's list of "Great Bowls

of Pasta," with your choice of pasta and sauce or perhaps the mango cilantro orange roughly fillet with a mango chutney and cilantro sauce for \$14.95. Vegetarians will enjoy the Greek linguini, a large serving of pasta served with a medley of garlic, basil, tomatoes, onion, cucumber, kalamata olives and feta cheese in a white wine sauce for \$9.95. For those seeking a vegan meal, Poppy's Portobello Red Pepper 'n' Rice has mushrooms marinated in Angler's vinaigrette, lightly grilled and served over brown rice with roasted red peppers for \$10.95.

Desserts vary from day to day, however the Italian cream cake at \$3.50 is highly recommended.

Angler's has a very friendly and private atmosphere for casual dining, but they do offer large orders for business meetings. Diners may choose to sit at an open table, booth or at the bar. Service is timely and pleasant. Although a special children's menu isn't specifically offered, children may still enjoy a Boca burger or cheese quesadilla.

All dishes are made to order, and the service is prompt. Reservations are accepted, but not required. Angler's Cafe is open for lunch Monday through Friday from 11:00 a.m.- 2:30 p.m. and for dinner Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 5:30 p.m.- 9:30 p.m. They are closed on Sunday. For reservations or more information call 342-2436.

Allies promotes diversity at Hollins

by Nicole Bower

Allies is an ongoing dialogue among students discussing issues such as racism and discrimination that are impacting the campus in a serious way.

The discussion group meets in the Gordh Room of the Chapel to discuss various topics dealing with campus events. It was conceived as part of the proposal for the Du Pont Foundation to promote diversity on campus, as well as build stronger relations with the Roanoke community. The faculty advisor of Allies, Professor Bill Nye explains the group's beginnings. "Allies

started as a group for students who were interested in diversity issues, and also interested in developing a dialogue about such issues and then exploring how Hollins would be able to achieve the goals of the Du Pont proposal, which is to make Hollins a more inclusive community," said Nye.

Allies initially organized diversity workshops for the sixth and seventh grade classes at Addison Middle School in Roanoke in the spring of 2000. Since then Allies has been invited back to Addison. "I started working with the volunteer coordinator at Addison to make

SEE ALLIES PAGE 10

What would your vagina say?

by Susan Honer

Red caution tape with "Rape Free Zone" inscribed on it were the first words I read as I opened the doors to the student center at Roanoke College. Opening night of "The Vagina Monologues" began from the moment I stepped inside. I have to admit, that from the time I bought my ticket until the bitter end of the play (and perhaps as drove back to Hollins and walked to my room) all I could think about was the vagina. And not just my own vagina, but everyone's vagina.

Along with my ticket, I received a slip of paper with two questions on them that I was to answer and return. To question number one, I

answered, "knee length skirts, halter tops, and sparkle bracelets." To question number two, I wrote, "eat me." These pieces of paper would be used later in a section of the play entitled "Wear and Say." More specifically, what my vagina would wear and say.

The Vagina Monologues are exactly that: testimonies of women's experiences with their own vaginas. The women interviewed ranged in age from six to eighty-five. The stories dealt with their first kiss with a boy, their first time with a girl, the first day they saw their vagina, the night they were raped, the days they were abused, periods, birth, and more.

The Roanoke College alumni and students who

SEE VAGINA PAGE 9

Allies

FROM PAGE 9

it possible for Hollins students into the school," explained Cheryl Hilton, director of Community Partnerships, "Allies will give Hollins students the opportunity to tutor at Addison, and to become mentors for the students there."

Allies member Melinda Paine '81, an economic development officer for Roanoke, was one of the driving forces behind the Allies idea and also promoted the idea of developing a student organization to discuss integration issues on campus. She had noticed how many of the African-American alumnae felt detached

from Hollins, and she criticized the university for not doing an adequate job of engaging those graduates in campus life while they were at Hollins. Paine views this as a problem and insists that if Hollins wants to remain competitive as a private academic institution, than "it shouldn't alienate alumnae, regardless of their race, religion or sexual orientation."

Paine believes that the first step toward building a more inclusive campus is by "building school spirit" among the students. One way to do this is to build cohesion among the members of the Hollins community. The first step would be

to give students a forum to share their worries, concerns and troubles in the student body and how they are dealing with it, because everybody sees things differently. Paine explains "Allies is doing this by giving students a forum to share personal concerns in a way that they won't have a fear of being judged by others."

Allies newcomer Ashley Reynolds '04 describes how Allies has made her transition to Hollins campus life easier. "Through Allies, I have had the opportunity to meet new people and develop friendships with people who have common interests." Reynolds explains how

Allies has given her an outlet to discuss issues that have disturbed her.

"The underlying philosophy of Allies is that everybody has issues pertaining to diversity," Nye said, "And the best way to do something about them is to have students look within themselves." An example of a previous soul-searching issue could be illustrated by the flyer incident last fall, which was discussed in depth at an Allies meeting.

Allies member Kismet Bell '03 summed up the group, and how being part of it has benefited her. "By being part of Allies I have had the opportunity to open up and get to know other people. Based

on my experiences and their experiences, we are able to come together and present diversity to Hollins and the Roanoke community." Loftin-Bell added, "I believe Allies is a very good idea, and that it should be expanded to increase the awareness of diversity here at Hollins and in Roanoke."

Concerning this semester, Allies future meetings will be announced on the table tents located in the Moody Dining Hall.

Vagina

FROM PAGE 8

put on this play did a great job embodying the women and recalling the stories. I was actually quite surprised by the amount of humor used to get our attention in the audience. I was prepared for more accounts of rape and abuse. I was prepared for a play that was going to shock us with the details of women who have struggled to overcome the violence they went through. But for the most part the tone was uplifting. Yes, this is a serious matter, but I

actually liked the tactics this play used. I think it gave everyone a sense of hope. A sense that maybe one day we won't have to worry about sexual violence. It was relieving also. Relieving because in order for a play like this to be successful, it had to be raw. People had to be profound. The play was relieving because it was taken to a level where everyone could relate to a character (or multiple characters) in some way or another.

The "Angry Vagina" woman (Annie McMillan) helped a

great deal with communicating to the audience. She yelled about the ridiculousness of tampons and thongs and perfumes to scent your vagina. At one point she screamed to the audience, "I don't want it to smell like raspberries down there!" She was definitely a popular character. This is not to say that the serious issues were not ignored completely. They were mixed in well between the humorous scenes and the narrator's "Happy Facts". Perhaps the best part of this

play was that it made all of us in the audience cry tears of laughter and of sadness.

I left "The Vagina Monologues" with an awareness that I may not have had before. This is definitely a play that more people, both women and men, should see. Just as the narrator sang the word "vagina" to the audience in the prologue to get us comfortable with it, everyone should be aware and comfortable with themselves. I hope that this play helped people see that they are not the only ones think-

ing these things. I hope more people will try to help stop the violence that so many women have to go through. I am also excited to have left with a much larger list of nicknames in my mind to call the vagina. And not just my vagina, but everyone's vagina.

V-Day brings victory, controversy

by Farah Sanders

Guest Columnist

One of the most talked about plays, "The Vagina Monologues" is coming to Roanoke (surprise, surprise). I was excited when I heard this evocative and critically acclaimed play by Eve Ensler was to perform at Roanoke College. Just when we think nothing exciting, new or hip ever makes it's way to this valley city of southwestern Virginia, something jumps up from behind. I mean, an actual contemporary play in which Winona Ryder, Glenn Close and Whoopi Goldberg have all performed in the past? I was even surprised at actually seeing the "v-word" on flyers.

So how did Roanoke College attract such a presti-

gious play that is still being performed in New York and Los Angeles? The V-Day College Initiative. Eve Ensler, who wrote the play, was so touched by the enormous response she received during her first national tour, that she gathered a group of friends to use "The Vagina Monologues" to work to end violence towards women. Ensler told Oprah Magazine, "So many women came up to me about having been beaten and raped and incested that I started to feel I was going to have a breakdown. I made a decision that I was going to figure out my purpose, my mission and one day the answer rose up: 'Stop violence against women.'" Tough job, eh?

Since 1998 Ensler and supporters organized events to raise awareness and provide resources to global grass-

roots groups that work to end rape. The biggest event to date is V-Day, which took place at Madison Square Garden on Feb. 10. V-Day stands for vision, victory over violence, and of course, vagina. Celebrities, corporate sponsors and women activists from all over the world gathered to raise money and transform consciousness. Several colleges and universities participated in the V-Day College Initiative including: College of William and Mary, Agnes Scott College of Georgia, Duke, Harvard, Mount Holyoke and Roanoke College. These schools staged, or are staging productions of "The Vagina Monologues" on their campuses and then donating funds to local charities and women's organizations. Hollins should jump on the bandwagon. Sounds like a good thing

for strong, intelligent young women to do, right? There are numerous reasons to participate in this sort of initiative, but I can see why some colleges may not.

Just the title alone brings up questions and heated controversy, although it might just seem comedic if it was a play of the male, "perspective". Supposedly in one of the several scenes of Monologues a 13-year girl is "sexually-awakened" by an adult woman. Some people see this as an explicit rape scene and refuse to see the play. When I was told about this particular scene I was very uncomfortable. I can understand why some people would not see the play specifically for that reason. I had to question my views on relationships and choices. I had to question my views of what lines art should

and should not cross.

While all these questions were brewing in my mind, I thought about how I usually love books, movies, magazine articles that make me question rules, politics, social conventions. Plus, most of the play is about the empowerment of women. I'm not saying that is the only reason I watch or read something, but I am always interested in things about the human condition. I still feel hesitant to seeing the play, but I will eventually check it out and see it for myself. Maybe my questions will be answered.

From the East

by Lisa Maniker

I spent five weeks of my winter break living in Tokyo and helping launch MTV-Japan. During that time I lived with my Osaka host father's high school friend and his wife. Of course, I had many amazing work experiences with MTV, but I also had the chance to live in a completely different environment than I was used to. Tomio Ueda and his wife, Hideko, took me in with reservations. Not only was I the first non-Japanese to ever enter their apartment, but I was the first they'd ever spoken to! (As an aside, I can't even imagine how different my life would be if I'd never had friends from other backgrounds!)

Since the Uedas didn't know what to expect from me, perhaps I should have been pleased when they paid me their highest compliment: "You're more Japanese than American," they told me, and then continued: "It's because you're polite like a Japanese."

What's more is that this wasn't the first time I'd had the compliment bestowed upon me.

On the surface, it sounds like a nice thing to say to someone. It was their way of telling me I'd managed to grasp the complicated social rules of their culture. But, you don't need to think long to understand the flip-side of the compliment: I must be Japanese because Americans are not polite.

I've never been particularly patriotic, but it's an odd feeling that comes over you when someone tells you that your culture, your life, is inferior to theirs. It isn't like the Japanese have a monopoly on the polite-factor, after all.

Of course, the Japanese live up to their polite, helpful stereotype in many ways. When I've been lost, I've had people go out of their way to help me. When I was getting ready to leave Tokyo at the end of January, I met a woman who went above and beyond the call of duty.

The time was late morning. I arrived at the Shibuya

train station early and stored my heavy bags in a locker, but discovered a problem with my bus ticket only 15 minutes before my bus was scheduled to depart. I needed to find the ticket office, but no one seemed to know where it was located. I rushed around the station asking people, but no one could tell me where to go.

I found what I thought was the correct office and breathlessly told the woman behind the counter my story--in Japanese, of course. When she tried to tell me that I was in the wrong place, I didn't know what to do. The directions she tried to give me to get to the next office sounded complicated and I knew I would never find it on time. I just kept asking her to help me over and over again.

A kind Japanese woman came over, listened to the woman behind the counter, explained to me that she had plenty of time, took me by the hand, and led me (at a run) to the correct ticket office. (A place which, I might add, was difficult for her to find

even after understanding the Japanese!)

My helper didn't abandon me when we arrived. She interrupted the workers; all of whom were busy, and said that we did not have time to wait for them. Because of her, I got the problem with my bus ticket fixed with minutes to spare. I was still in a time crunch, though.

I shouldn't have worried. My kind guardian angel helped me find the locker where I'd left my bags and helped me carry them out of the train station and across the street to the bus stop. We arrived a minute before the bus left, panting and sweaty from the frenzied rushing to and fro.

The whole time, the kind Japanese woman who went out of her way to help me waved aside my repeated "domo arigato gozaimasu" ("thank you very much") by telling me not to worry about it because she had plenty of time. Because of the woman whose name I never got--and only because of her--I made it

to my bus on time.

This is only one example of how a Japanese has gone out of her way to help me, and my friends all have similar stories. In response to the comment that I'm too polite to be American, I have to wonder if those giving me the compliment are right. Would an American go to so much trouble for a lost stranger? I would certainly like to think so. I think there is a universal kindness in some people and no matter what their culture they will go out of their way to help someone in need.

Because of the poor American stereotypes I've encountered and the kind Japanese I've met, I know one thing for certain: the next time I see someone in need, I'm not going to have to think twice about my course of action; I'm a Hollins woman and I DO have the time.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Bri,

I thank you on behalf of the trustees for your thoughtful letter of November 15 about the athletics program review. As I am sure you must know, the medium inevitably affects the message, and your well-crafted approach reaffirms our belief that Hollins students are impressively intelligent, articulate, and caring members of the community. We appreciate, too, your sending the letter though the president's office-as an SGA leader, you (more than anyone) know that problems are usually better handled when one follows protocol. Thanks.

First, I want to stress that there is no mandate from the trustees to eliminate sports teams at Hollins. At some point-non of us among the trustees and administrators can figure out when or how-this term came into the discussion. There is no mandate to do anything. The direction from the board is that the athletics program, like the academic departments, go through periodic review to determine the extent to which each of our sports is meeting the needs of the student body. This study includes students, faculty, administrators, and outside reviewers, and we feel that it will provide good feedback about the viability of the various sports and their effectiveness at Hollins.

Our decision with regard to the athletics program will, like all of our decisions, be based on as much information as is possible to receive. Needless to say, concerns for recruitment and retention are top on our list. As you clearly know, attraction and keeping students is a complex problem, and all angles will

be viewed in light of many factors. The review that has been requested will be as thorough as it can be in order to give the information needed to guide in the decision making process.

Finally, I can understand student concerns about the moving of athletics from Academic Affairs to Student Services. It is the kind of conclusion that students who have some doubts about the intentions and integrity of the board and administration might reach. All I can tell you is that your 21 trustees, 13 of whom are Hollins alumnae, see our students as the number one issue, our chief resource, and our reason for being involved. And all evidence tells us that President Rasmussen feels as strongly as we do. At no time would we knowingly jepordize the life of the institution on which we spend enormous resources, including our own time and money.

We urge your participation in the review process whenever possible, and we are deeply grateful for your obvious love and commitment to Hollins.

Sincerely,
Anna Logan Lawson '65,
MA '70
Chair

February 9, 2001

Greetings Members of the Hollins Community!

I hope that everyone has returned safely from their winter travels, breaks, or even from abroad. I joyfully welcome everyone back to our beautiful campus and wish you good luck in your studies this semester.

I am writing to bring everyone abreast of a current event concerning our

Student Government. This past December, a petition was created to

instigate the recall and resignation process of my position as Student

Government President. Our current Constitution states the only

justification for these actions are for claims of neglect of duty. The

petition, as it was explained to me and within the context of our

Constitution, serves as the first step in my removal as President.

I admit that all of this did come as a surprise to me. Most of the

criticism that I had heard in relation to my ability to do my job was from a third party. The driving motivations of the individuals who participated in the passing of this petition are still unclear to me. I have asked on several occasions for specific stories and/or circumstances regarding any neglect or disenfranchisement on my part; however, I have yet to receive any. Therefore, I can only answer to the accusations written and presented to me within the petition itself. The document states that I have been neglectful of my duties to serve as a liaison to the President of the University and to the Board of Trustees. Specifically in relation to two occasions: the flyer incident in September and the current Athletic Review.

I did apologize for not bringing up the flyer issue for any length of time during my formal presentation to the Board of Trustees this past October. I was informed that the Board had already received information on the matter while it was happening. The President's office keeps

close contact with the Trustees and sends them any correspondence between the Student Senate and the Administration. I saw that the student voice had been heard and written within the letter approved through our formal student forum. I realize that some might believe this to be faulty reasoning on my part, but as I explained privately to the one who initiated this petition; this is my first time in the role of SGA President. I am only human and I am not perfect. All I can do is learn from this, carry on with my other duties, and ask forgiveness.

I believe that this is what I have done. As soon as I learned about the full implications of the Athletic Review, I took action. During the same Board meeting I asked them for their reasoning and informed them that we, the students, were not going to be pleased with the situation. When I could, I told the Student Senate everything that I had learned from the Administration and the Board. Because of this, I have also been criticized.

People claim that I am not serving as the voice of the student, but of the administration. I have a difficult job, much more so than I ever imagined it could be. I see that my job is to serve as a link between the students and the administration. Thus, I am required to act on two different levels: (a) I relay the student concerns to the administration and (b) in turn I relay the administration's concerns to the student body.

So what happens now and where do we go from

here? The senate will

(hopefully) review and vote next Tuesday, February 13 as to whether or not the entire Student Body will vote for my removal from office.

Of course, I am concerned about remaining in my elected position, but I mostly recognize this whole ordeal as another symptom of our very vague and poorly written Constitution. This is not the first time this year that our Constitution has indeed let us down. Back in September, the SGA Top Four and I recognized that the Constitution was in need of revision and we made it our goal to re-create it into something better. My vision remains the same as it has since the beginning of this year: We have to re-create our Student Government into an organization that not only makes sense but works and accomplishes positive outcomes. Without a doubt this has been one crazy year made up of situations illustrating our huge need for a more reliable student governance system.

I hope that we can soon join together again and lead Hollins into the future and put her back on more stable ground.

Sincerely,
Sarah Parkerson
SGA President

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Letters

To the Editor:

Students arriving to Hollins this year, and all those who shall follow ever after, will never have the chance to meet a great woman. Her name is Gail Stoner, and we who have been here any time in the last fourteen years have had the enormous privilege of knowing her and experiencing her positive influence in our lives. She was the director of the Hollins Outdoor Program, but she was also counselor, wise woman, and friend to so many of us. She was, in short, a breath of fresh air in the Hollins community. Last June, while we were traveling, working or lounging in our respective home towns, Gail Stoner received notice that she had been fired.

I almost envy this year's freshmen because since they never knew her, they don't feel the great sense of loss that her absence evokes. They never pass by the tiny office that HOP used to occupy in the basement of Moody,

where students would often poke in their heads to ask Gail to recommend some good hiking spots off the Blue Ridge Parkway, or to borrow a mountain bike or a kayak for the weekend, or just to sit and talk to her about a personal problem, or some big philosophical conundrum, or God, or the weather. She made time for everyone.

So now we wonder, indeed, demand to know, why this wonderful person who had such good rapport with students, staff, and faculty alike, who did great things for Hollins students through HOP activities and her advocacy and support of student interests in general, this undeniable asset to the Hollins community, was fired, surreptitiously, and totally without the input, knowledge, or consent of the students who loved her so much. We have a right to know why, even if it is far too late to reverse the fateful decision of whatever bureaucratic boardroom com-

mittee it was that "asked" Gail Stoner to leave last summer.

By all likelihood, the administration expected us to come back to Hollins, spend the first few weeks of the semester fluttering around trying to settle into our new living spaces and classes, unaware, in our frantic state, of who was and who was not here with us. Perhaps they anticipated that, when the dust had begun to settle, a few of us might look around and say, "Wait a minute! Something's wrong. Hey, where's Gail?" And then, not getting any answer, or being fed some vague line about "financial inconsistencies" or "best interests of the campus community," they undoubtedly assumed the low din would die down, ivy would begin to grow over the name Gail Stoner in the collective Hollins memory bank, and all traces of someone who has committed 14 years of her life to this school would disappear. So far, it looks as though

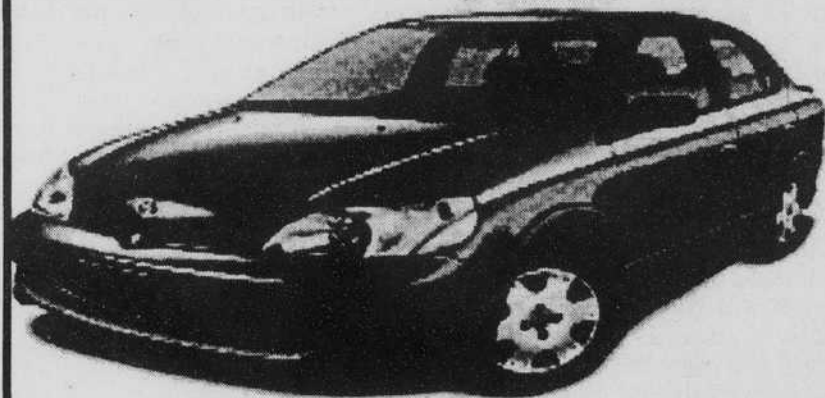
their predictions have been accurate.

But we have not begun to forget. We are tired of complicity and tacit consent. Tired of important decisions that directly affect students being made by upper-level administrators who most of us do not know by name or sight; who have no direct contact with students' opinions or perspectives. We want and deserve explanations for decisions regarding the budget and personnel. In a way, we are just like the American public. If we are paying, we want to know where the money goes. We want to know why good people we trust get fired. We want to have a recycling program and we don't want to be tricked with recycling bins all over campus whose contents just get dumped in with all the other waste. But that's another letter, another outrage.

Many of us suspect the firing of Gail Stoner is linked with an administrative play

to slowly dissolve the Hollins Outdoor Program altogether. I mean, hey, why should the budget pay for weekend backpacking trips, rock climbing classes, spring break sailing trips, the ropes course, survival skill workshops, etc.? Why don't we all just go to Hampden-Sydney on the weekends and use the Stairmaster if we need some exercise? Girls don't really need sports, right? Never mind that we have consistently voted to maintain, if not increase, the financing of HOP and other athletics. What do we know about a big complicated thing like economics? We're just students. We're just girls. Right?


Sincerely,
Sarah Eggers '01



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