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SEPTEMBER 22, 2003

HOLLINS UNIVERSITY, ROANOKE, VA

VOLUME 76, ISSUE 1

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# Task force to bring diversity

BY REBECCA STAED

On Tuesdays last year, it was tradition for new members of ADA, Hollins unofficial sorority, to dress up in colorful outfits and perform wacky skits as a part of their initiation process. Lunchtime came complete with the group's public displays as well as a few campus announcements, shouted at the top of a member's lungs.

What some Hollins students weren't expecting one Tuesday in May was several initiates' faces painted black to resemble celebrities of black and Hispanic ethnic groups, such as Fat Albert and J. Lo, for skits they performed as part of their final induction into the group. The incident disturbed many in the Hollins community and produced a student-led forum concerning diversity.

ADA was suspended by President Nora Kizer Bell in May for the 2003-04 school year. The incident had no harmful intentions, former ADA members have said.

"It's disappointing that we are disbanded, but I think it's good too," said Jennifer Watkins '04, a previous member of ADA. "We need time to reflect on what happened. We know that what we did was bad."

"One of the good things about ADA getting disbanded was that we all came back to go through diversity training," Watkins said.

Whether the group will be reinstated next year remains unknown.

After the incident, Hollins students, faculty, and staff felt there was an urgent need to establish awareness and promote respect about diversity on campus. Over

the summer, many worked to come up with ideas for the purpose of serving diversity, and one of those has been the establishment of a diversity task force.

The task force's statement of purpose is to "bring the campus community toward a reality that embraces, embodies, and models...the free exchange of ideas, social justice, and humane principles."

President Nora Kizer Bell, chair of the task force, has said that the task force will review past campus programs used to promote diversity, assess community standards in relation to diversity concerns (i.e. the Hollins Honor Code and harassment policy), and identify efficient practices at other institutions. Several diversity training sessions for new students and student athletes have already taken

place. More training sessions will follow throughout the year.

"I think the diversity task force is something we really need at Hollins," said Meaghan Overton '05, chair of OUTloud, the gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender organization on campus. "We need to look at more than numbers. We need to look at the curriculum, programming, and experiences of students, faculty, and staff. I hope that the task force isn't the end and that we'll see recommendations from the task force being implemented on our campus."

When the ADA incident occurred, OUTloud drafted a statement in support of people within the Hollins community who had been offended.

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# Changes divide English Department

BY LISA BOWER

From graduate students teaching courses next year to Richard Dillard's resignation as director of the graduate program in Creative Writing, the English Department at Hollins University has undergone many significant changes.

Richard Dillard, professor of English resigned as Chair of the Graduate Program in English and Creative Writing and Undergraduate Creative Writing Sequence on May 28th of 2003.

Many students were shocked upon learning of his resignation.

"I had no idea that any of this was going on, that anyone was staying or going," said Liz Rigg '04. "Julia Johnson had been my advisor for the past two years, and I didn't even find out that she was no longer going to be here until the fall, which has really been hectic for me, as I am a senior now. I was abroad, granted, but that certainly didn't mean that was any less concerned about what was going on here."

"I didn't know Richard Dillard was resigning until you just told

me," said Samantha Gellar '04.

The search for the new tenure track junior professor was called off shortly before this. Julia Johnson had been a candidate for the new position. A new search will begin shortly. Until then, Inman Majors, Assistant Professor of English, has remained as a replacement.

Dillard could not say much about his resignation or the search.

"That position, which I had held for 32 years, was abolished after my resignation. Beyond that, I am unable to comment further upon either my resignation or the changes in the English department," said Dillard.

Pinckney Benedict, associate professor of English, was chosen as the director of the M.F.A. program in Creative Writing, one of the many tasks Dillard was in charge of before his res-

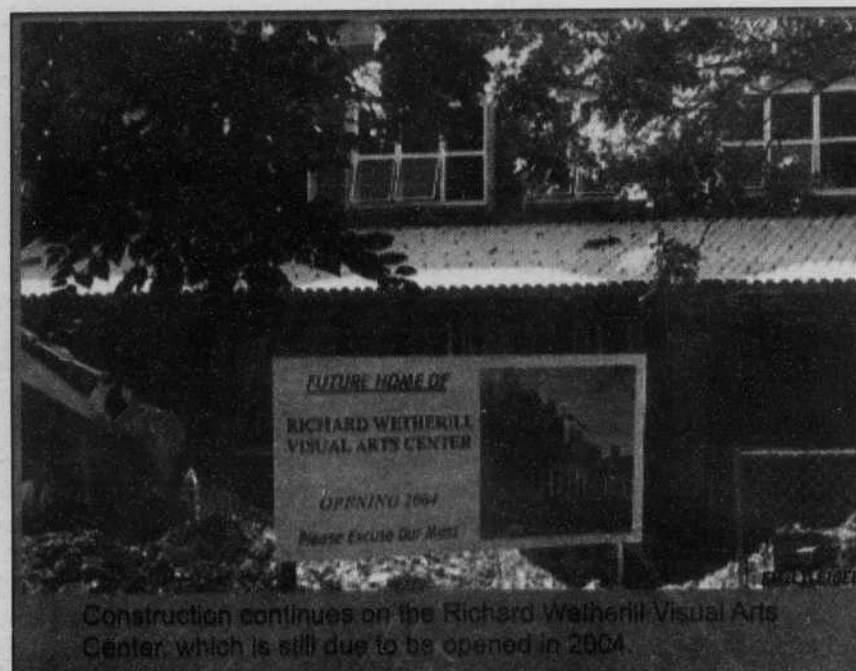
ignation.

A faculty member who wishes to remain anonymous was concerned with the fate of the department since Richard's resignation.

"Hollins has lost already the good will and support of many of our most successful alumnae, most of them Richard's students, and our

friends in the international writing community," said the faculty member. "I will do what is in my power to heal the wounds, but in my estimate they are too serious, too grievous not to think that the reputation of Hollins as a place

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Construction continues on the Richard Wetherill Visual Arts Center, which is still due to be opened in 2004.



FROM PAGE 1

# English

where students who have literary ambitions will come is all but dead."

Benedict has high expectations for the Creative Writing Program.

He said, "Principally, I want it to continue turning out writers of astonishingly high quality, as Hollins has done at the graduate and undergraduate level for forty-some-odd years now."

Nora Kizer Bell, President of Hollins University has goals of her own for the English Department.

She said, "From my perspective, we will continue to highlight the fact that English and Creative Writing are among the programs that established Hollins' national reputation early on. In recent years, most of the campus hasn't even known who our visiting writers are or that they are here. I didn't meet last year's writer-in-residence last spring, for example, until about two weeks before the end of the semester. Others had

the same experience. Let's hope that everyone gets to meet and know Denise Giardina this spring. I am sure that Pinckney will see that she is introduced to the campus community."

Dillard disagreed, countering, "I am very disappointed that President Bell feels the need to imply that it was because of some sort of dereliction of duty on my part that she was the first president in the over forty year history of the writer-in-residence program who apparently didn't even know that we had a writer-in-residence, much less who she was."

Jeanne Larsen, professor of English, responded to this by saying, "Her [LeAnne Howe] course was a hit, as was her reading at the Literary Festival last March—always a well-attended event. She met with several high-level administrators to discuss how better to attract minority students to Hollins. She did, however, express to me her disappointment that the President had made no gesture of welcome. Perhaps President Bell did not know that LeAnne was listed in the university directory and cata-

log, and lived on campus during Spring Term."

She went on to express the disappointment the department felt over the president's inability to host the reception in honor of the Writer-in-Residence and other readers at Literary Festival.

The decision-making progress challenged.

"The movement away from decision-making by consensus and consultation of tenured faculty on important issues such as department staffing and leadership is very unfortunate," said Cathryn Hankla, Professor of English. "Decisions affecting programs should be made by those directly involved with them, not by administrators or by any single member of the faculty—no matter how well-meaning they may be."

She went on to say, "While we search for revenue in the short term, the long term health of the institution may suffer, because it is the reputation of the English/Creative Writing program and the faculty who staff it that has attracted students to Hollins (usually

more than a third of the entering students each year), and given us our current standing among the top twenty creative writing programs in the country."

"The biggest change is that the members of the department are deeply divided, more divided than we have been since I began teaching here nineteen years ago," said a faculty member who wished to remain anonymous. "That is an empirical fact hardly open to dispute. In my view, the situation is unlikely to change until retirements alter the departmental makeup."

The English Department was supposed to move into Carvin this past August, where for the first time all of the English faculty would be under one roof. Currently, they are split among Bradley, Turner and Presser.

During the summer, plans for the move were scrapped when Carvin proved unsafe.

Many have been discouraged by the Carvin plan falling through.

"We, the department, were enthusiastic about the prospect of moving to Carvin, where for the first time the English department would all be together under one roof," said the same anonymous faculty member. "But many of us didn't believe it because we had been snookered before. This time, the promise, along with others, was made as one of the agreed

upon requirements—at least on paper—for the creation of an MFA program. By my count, all of them have been rescinded unilaterally. I might add that most of the important recent decisions concerning the English department have been made without consultation with the senior members of the department."

The faculty member continued, "Contingent upon our continued extraordinary record of publication—50 books amongst us—we are now more in need of changes such as course reductions, merit pay, and the prerogative of determining the direction of the program and hiring who we want to hire since we writers are the best judges of who is the most suitable than we ever have been."

"We received notice in early summer that there were some structural issues related to the maximum weight that could be sustained," said Wayne Markert, Provost of Hollins University, who learned of this when exploring the number and size of bookshelves needed for the faculty.

The issue of Carvin will be followed up, but as of right now the building is empty.

"We are going to do an engineering study of Carvin this semester so that we know whether there are any safety issues associated with having lots of students gather in

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## Campus joins crackdown on music downloads

BY KIRSTEN BREWER

This year, Hollins University has taken steps to restrict online file sharing and illegal music downloads.

According to the Hollins University computer help desk, the school has probably decreased the bandwidth for downloading music off the internet. This makes trying to download music off the peer-to-peer sites almost impossible—music files are too large to be transferred, and many users trying to access the site would flood the bandwidth and successfully block use.

Richard Alvarez, Vice President for Facilities and Technology at Hollins University, and Carol Reed, Associate Technology Officer, were both unavailable for comment on the changes to the network.

On September 8th, the Record Industry Association of America (RIAA) filed lawsuits against more than 250 individual users of peer-

to-peer music sharing sites, such as Kazaa and Gnutella, targeting users with more than 1,000 files on their hard drives. The RIAA is also offering an amnesty program to those who wish to prevent any future law suits.

In order to be granted amnesty, the RIAA request that you fill out an amnesty form, get it notarized, and send it to the RIAA with a copy of a photo id.

If those granted amnesty fail to comply with the guidelines set out by the RIAA (destroying all burned CDs with illegal music, deleting all illegally downloaded music files from their computer), they will be charged for willful copyright infringement. In their website, the RIAA cites copyright infringement laws (Title 17, United States Code, Sections 501 and 506) and maximum penalties of five years in prison and a fine of \$250,000. Civil charges could result in a fine of \$750 per illegal file.

Because school network provid-

ers could be held liable for music downloaded using their servers, many colleges and universities have responded to recent events by restricting online file sharing among students.

The University of Chicago, UC Berkley, and Virginia Tech are just a few schools who have taken steps to prevent file sharing on their campuses. According to Virginia Tech's new "Acceptable Use Computing Policy," a student who violates their policy by downloading illegal music, movies or other files will have to compose a five-page paper that focuses on internet ethics.

For the time being, Hollins students will simply have to make do without access to their peer-to-peer sites.

For more information on file sharing, visit the RIAA's new site, <http://www.musicunited.org/>, where they provide a page of legal music downloading sites (usually with a charge of about 99 cents per song or \$10 per album).

### HOLLINS COLUMNS

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# Recent events spark a new protest group

BY LISA BOWER

Seniors were showing off their decorated robes and anticipating their first step on Front Quad while others were sporting green and gold armbands in protest over decisions and events stemming from the previous year.

An email chain was begun during the summer to promote awareness of and support of decisions regarding diversity and communication.

Kismet Loftin-Bell '03, who was on campus this summer, explained the initial reasons for the email chain, group's formation and protest organization.

"We all became concerned with the diversity issue and the firing and release of several staff members," said Loftin-Bell. "Students felt the taskforce wasn't enough. We wanted to take some weight off of people like Jeri [Suarez] so that [the administration] couldn't take time to look at things and postpone things which has happened in the past." She went on to say how she had discovered a document stating nearly 30 years ago there had been a similar task force created.

The group has been referred to as "The Take No Steps Back" organization in various emails and has gone through some changes.

"The idea was to move from a protest to social activism mentality. Hollins is a personalized campus. If you say things, people take it personally. I realized [the Take No Steps Back group] had become personal when the only person we heard from was Siclinda when information had been given to the President, faculty, staff, alum and some Board of Trustees members," stated Loftin-Bell.

The group's first and only public display so far has been the silent protest at Opening Convocation.

"We took into consideration the traditions of Hollins," she said. "We wanted faculty and staff and the students to unify the campus by wearing armbands."

Many have cited Loftin-Bell as the leader and founder of the group.

"Kismet was the leader, but she herself said that 'the protest isn't about me,'" said Danielle Thompson

'05. She went on to say, "but she was the organizer."

Loftin-Bell responded by saying that though she acted as a liaison between those who were away from campus and those who were in Roanoke, she was not the leader.

"People were solely depending on me, which was a downfall," said Loftin-Bell. "Though we received some support from faculty and

fering with a university event, vandalism and other rumors I heard this summer," said Siclinda Canty-Elliott, Dean of Students, who went on to say how pleased she was that the protest did not interfere with a university event.

"I would only have concerns about a protest that was destructive or harmful or obstructed others' abilities to do what they choose

Opening Convocation which I felt was inappropriate and directed at the participants [of the protest]," said Loftin-Bell. "We still haven't gotten a response. Her speech was based off rumors of the protest."

"In this particular case, I confess to wondering what was being protested," responded Bell. "We were working as hard as we could to get the task force charge developed, to

decide on the format the task force would use, its membership, its timeline and all the rest — specifically in response to student concerns voiced last May. We weren't sure what beyond that was the focus of their concerns."

"The fact that there was a protest is a success of some sort. I also worry though, that it may be creating more divisions than networks of support," said Kathy Berg '05, who is currently abroad in Mexico. "I think it is good that students are trying to be approachable and I think it is clever that the students are redefining the meaning of the school colors."

"If the protest had really achieved its purpose, we wouldn't need to alert the campus to its existence through this article," said Thompson. "I think the protestors would have been more successful had we all congregated in one central location and handed out flyers that

way. At the very least, we should have all been instructed on what to say so that we were all relaying the same message to the Hollins community. To this date, there has not been one face-to-face/non-cyber meeting of the people on this e-mail list. Until this happens, I don't know how there will be an impetus for change."

"I have to say that I disagree that the protest was unsuccessful," said

Carolyn Whitten, in an email to the group. "I'm curious to know what would constitute a success in your opinion, but some people, such as Beth Burgin, our SGA president, and Jeri Suarez, are wanting to work with us towards taking action. Part of having an effective movement is talking to people who can help. Wearing armbands helped raise awareness, but it is through dialogue that we will actually reach people."

Aheri Stanford-Asiyo '05 felt the protest was no longer needed, though she did participate.

"When the President made her Task Force on Building an Inclusive Community, I felt that there was no longer a need for protests," she said. "Many of us discussed how to show solidarity for the cause, and I chose to support my friends and wear the armbands after we had finally I believe, developed a 'protest' that expressed a positive attitude about the changes that are necessary on our campus. Since then, I have used the SGA to voice my concerns. After an increase in communication between the students and administration, and my own desire for a positive direction, I feel this is the most productive and civil route. I am not a fan of protests."

"And I think that alongside our reserves and complaints we need to help people to recognize that despite these things, the fact of the matter is that we like/love Hollins, which is why we are trying to make it a better place for everyone," said Loftin-Bell in one of the group emails.

"My hope is that our students will be a huge part of the larger discussions that the President's Task Force will have across the entire campus about creating a more inclusive community," said Bell. "Sadly this isn't just a Hollins issue. Thankfully, it is something that we can take a leadership role in thinking about for other communities like ourselves who also want to demonstrate what it can mean to live in a welcoming and inclusive community."

When asked if she thought this was the end of action for the Take No Steps Back group, Berg responded with a resounding "no."

1. We support SGA (Roundtable) in its efforts to open up communication not only between students and administration, but also between SGA and students and throughout the entire campus. (We are also asking that Administration gives the entire campus major information and changes within a reasonable time frame and be sure to get campus wide input for decisions that can be deemed worthy.

2. Along those same lines, we are asking that the President's Taskforce for an Inclusive Community give a monthly report of their status and progress.

3. We are asking that the University clearly define what "diversity" means to Hollins, so that we can work toward that goal and possibly expanding that goal.

4. We are asking that the University develop a clearer disciplinary action guideline for harassment and discrimination that occurs on campus or "within the campus boundaries." Also, that the University completely follows through w/ the sanctions that they have chosen to place upon said events, groups, or persons.

5. We are asking that the University develop an affirmative action statement after the forum/ Q&A session with the university lawyer, Victor Cardwell, to occur on Sept 4, thanks to SGA and others.

6. We are asking that the University create handicap accessibility to those areas that are deemed necessary (i.e., Cocke-Business Office, Health Services, Student Affairs, etc).

7. We support Jeri Suarez in her position in Intercultural and International Programs and will offer her input, programming ideas, and service to make sure that the campus community gets what we need.

8. We are asking that we go beyond the standard diversity training and educate through various programs.

from SGA, I was often times singled out.

I was here this summer and was able to aid in organizing in looking up resources and getting advice."

There were rumors throughout the summer about the group's purpose and plans.

"From the rumors I heard earlier this summer, I had concerns about the possibility of the protest inter-

to do," said President Nora Kizer Bell.

Opinions of the protest's effectiveness have varied.

"I do not think the protest was successful," said Amanda Bull '05. "I think the tone of president Bell's address indicated that the protest created a division between the administration and the protesting portion of the student body."

"She held her statement off until



# Abroad program expands horizons

BY LORRAINE FLECK

Ever wanted to take a course in AfroCuba? Tropical ecology? Roman Baroque art? West African music or dance?

Starting this spring, you may have the chance. Hollins' renowned study abroad program is expanding again. In addition to the Hollins Abroad programs in London and Paris and the affiliated programs in Athens, Cork, Limerick, Osaka, Puebla, Rome, and Seville, new programs in Havana, Cuba; Legon, Ghana; Perugia, Italy, and with the School for Field Studies are now available to Hollins students.

The program in Havana is sponsored by the Center for Cross-Cultural Studies, which also sponsors Hollins' program in Seville. It of-

fers courses on Cuban history, politics, culture and arts along with the opportunity to experience the blend of African, European, and

sity of Ghana, choosing from hundreds of course offerings in the arts (including applied and performing arts), humanities, and social sci-

ences. Many of the courses focus on West African geography, history, politics, and culture. The program is open to students of all majors.

For art history majors (and others), Perugia is the place to be. The program offers courses in Italian art history as well as limited courses in Italian economics, history, politics, and literature.

Because this is an exchange program, space is limited. Art history majors are given preference for admission.

Calling all science majors! The School for Field Studies offers five research-based environmental science programs, each with a different focus. They are in Australia (tropical rainforest management), Baja, Mexico (marine mammals and coastal ecosystems), the British West Indies (marine resources), Costa Rica (sustainable agriculture and natural resources development), and Kenya (wildlife management).

Students live and study in field

stations and do hands-on environmental research. The courses are science-based and require background in biology.

In other study abroad news, dance students on Hollins Abroad London can now take classes at The Place, a London dance studio, for independent study credits.

Students who are interested in Southeast Asia or development can apply to participate in Kalamazoo College's Thailand Sustainable Development Studies program (with financial aid restrictions).

We also hope to have a study abroad option in a German-speaking country within the next year.

Updated information on study abroad policies and programs and application forms can be found on the international programs pages of the hollinsnet or at the international programs office in Rose Hill. Make the world your campus!

**Application Deadlines  
for Spring Study Abroad**  
**October 1** for Athens, Havana, Legon,  
Perugia, Puebla, Rome, School for Field Studies  
**October 10** for Limerick, Osaka, Seville  
**October 31** for London, Paris  
For more information, contact Lorraine Fleck,  
Director of International Programs, at x6307

American cultures that form Cuba. The program is open to students of all majors who have completed intermediate Spanish.

While studying in Legon, a suburb of the capital city of Accra, students attend classes at the Univer-

## Students happy with quality of life

BY LAUREN CLEMENCE

For the second year in a row, the 2004 Princeton Review's list of Best 351 Colleges has placed Hollins University at the top of their list for "Best Quality of Life."

In addition to having top quality of life, Hollins also ranked second in the "Students Happy with Financial Aid" category, fourteenth in "Class Discussions Encouraged," and seventeenth in "Stone Cold Sober Schools."

The rankings were based on random student interviews conducted during the 2002-2003 school year. Each year, the Princeton Review conducts these interviews with over 100,000 students from across the country in order to rank the top 20 in categories such as academics, politics, diversity, social life, administration and extracurricular activities.

Out of a possible rating of 100, Hollins received a 98 in the Quality of Life category, 90 in the Academic category, 79 in Admissions and 95 in Financial Aid.

"I think everyone is elated about the rankings from Princeton review, but that doesn't mean our work is completed yet," said Dean of Students, Siclinda Canty-Elliott. "Student Affairs, as well as Hollins University, is always looking

for ways to enhance the quality of life for our students. One of our goals for this year and the future is to find new ways to enhance student quality of life. Student Affairs have put together a plan to help us do that because we realize that even though the rankings are good, we still have our work cut out for us."

The plan Student Affairs has come up with consists of collecting student input through forums and open discussions with students around campus.

According to the Princeton Review, "Many students are pleasantly surprised that for a women's college a good 20-40 minutes away from college age males, 'this school does a pretty damn good job of keeping us entertained on campus."

In addition to the many cultural events on campus, there are at least two school-sponsored popular concerts a month, visits by comedy troupes, and themed parties that people actually go to."

Hollins' numbers on the 2004 Princeton Review list are somewhat different from the 2003 rankings.

Aside from the "Quality of Life" category, Hollins rose from sixth in financial aid, but dropped off the list completely for quality of pro-

fessors (where it was ranked seventh in 2003) and professors' accessibility (ranked fifteenth in 2003). Hollins is new to the "Stone Cold Sober" ranking this year.

"Anyone who's been at the apartments on a weekend would probably wonder about our 'Stone Cold Sober' rating," says Cat Vasko '04. "And if we're number 2 in financial aid then I wonder why so many of my friends almost weren't able to come back this year. I guess I can see where the ratings come from, but I doubt if they realistically reflect what goes on here."

Despite the excellent rankings, Hollins' administration vows not to rest, but to continue to try to improve life for its students.

"I don't think it's a matter of trying to improve the Princeton Review rankings," says Canty-Elliott, "It's a matter of how we're going to work with students to enhance their quality of life. And I think if we're doing our job, then the rankings will come. I don't necessarily look at the rankings and say that this is a completed work, that we can sit down on our laurels and say, 'we've done our work and don't have anything else to do' when I think we have some work to do on campus to enhance the quality of life for all of our students."

FROM PAGE 1

## Diversity

The statement began: "We support the offended members of the community, including those of the Black Student Alliance (BSA); fellow minority groups; and the community at large in the quest to form a fair and accepting atmosphere at and beyond the Hollins campus."

Any new policies or programs recommended by the task force may not go into effect until the end of the 2004 spring term. However, the task force is expected to submit its ideas and recommendations to President Bell on December 19th.

Despite all of the excitement about building a more diverse campus, some students like Francis Carter '05, believe thus far there has been a lot of talk and no action.

She said the task force is a big step on behalf of diversity because it involves students and faculty coming together. But she added that she's afraid that it will complete its work and no changes will be made.

"I want people to step out of their comfort zones," said Carter, "How you grow up is a big deal and it factors into how people live their lives. We [BSA] are working for

everyone to be aware because there is a limited amount of diversity here."

The Black Student Alliance is one organization that badly wants to spread the word about diversity, by teaching not only about black history, but also about Spanish history and others. Their mission has always been devoted to diversity. Carter, a social psychology major, is currently treasurer and external chair-elect of BSA.

"I didn't leave Hollins [after the incident in May] because it would signify defeat," Carter said, confidently. "Last semester is not the issue anymore. Instead, the issue is what we can do to make people more aware. It's bigger than how many African-American and Latin students are on campus."

The first official meeting of the diversity task force is September 26 and President Bell will be in attendance. Other members of the task force include Michael Sitton (co-chair), Professor of Music and Chair of the Faculty; Sandy Boatman, Professor of Chemistry; Lori Joseph, Assistant Professor of Communication Studies; Dan Murphy, Associate Professor of Spanish; Jan Fuller-Carruthers, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies and Chaplain; Jeri Suarez, Associate Dean of Intercultural

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# Revised meal plan comes to campus

BY LISA BOWER

For the first time in Hollins University's history, there is a meal plan program for those students who live in the apartments.

As stated in the Hollins Updates pamphlet which was mailed to students this summer, if students choose the new meal plan, Aramark "will add \$75 to your account each semester to use for food purchases in the Rat."

"The reason behind implementing the meal plan was the input we received from students last year," said Siclinda Canty-Elliott, Vice-President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students.

The number of students who have adopted the plan is still low. Ac-

cording to Joyce Carroll, Assistant Director of Food Services, there are twenty-seven students currently enrolled in the plan.

So far, reactions have been mixed. "One of the reasons I originally liked Hollins so much was the absence of a meal plan," said Mary Beth Blakey '05. "I don't think it's necessary for a school this small."

"I don't know anyone who has the meal plan," said Sarah Poulton '06. "I don't think it's going to be effective because there is no 'upside' to having a meal plan unless you get refunded the money that would pay for your other nine meals."

Due to the new meal plan, there have been new procedures implemented such as the use of ID cards

and the installation of planter walls around the outside of the dining area.

As stated in the Hollins Updates pamphlet, "in order to keep track of the two meal plans, we have had to make a significant change in how students use the dining hall. Effective September 3rd, every student must present their Hollins ID card."

"[The mandatory ID cards] are a way to keep control of counts and plan better meals," said Carroll. "Last year we were averaging 329 students for dinner, this year it's 452, so things have picked up."

Many students have expressed irritation because, due to the planters and ID check-in, there have been long lines to get into meals.

"I wish my friends who have to work would not have to stress about how they are going to get food," said GeLynn Thompson '05. "They have to pay for this institution, and they cannot even get a decent meal. They are on the run, and their friends are not allowed to get them supper because it is against meal plan policy. This not a working system."

"The planters are in place for a specific design for people to enter and leave from the same place," said Carroll.

Others wish they could utilize the program.

"I think the meal plan here at Hollins is okay but I wish everyone had the opportunity to utilize the plan offered to students living

in the apartments," said Tehra Coles '06. "The Rat is open so much longer than the cafeteria, and since a lot of students end up having to go down there anyway because they don't find anything they want in the cafeteria, [having the meal plan] would be nice."

"In my opinion," she continued, "the meal plan is a little unfair considering I rarely eat the three meals a day I pay for and then have to pay extra in the Rat when I do miss one of them."

Carroll describes the program as successful, "We are having more people and more parents sending money for their daughter's cards," she said. "The meal plan has good and bad points but I think it'll succeed."

## Banta Room almost ready to use new license

BY JULIA KNOX

Returning students might have noticed the renovation of the Banta Room, the area adjacent to the Rat.

In an effort to not only generate more business for the Rat, but also to create an additional place to socialize on campus, the Banta room will sell beer and wine.

Before the selling of alcohol can take place, Hollins must be approved for a license by the Alcoholic Beverage Commission.

According to Siclinda Canty-Elliott, Vice-President of Student Affairs, they are still in the process of issuing the license, but it should be approved soon. Canty-Elliott also pointed out that

the license will cover sales at the snack bar, and will allow students, faculty and staff who are of legal drinking age to take their drinks into the Rat and Banta Room.

Questions have arisen about the sales policy of the alcohol. According to Canty-Elliott, beer and wine will be sold during

regular snack bar hours.

However, buyers will not be allowed to take the alcohol out of the Rat or Banta Room.

Students at Hollins have a mostly positive opinion about the addition of the Banta Room.

Caroline Adams '07, said, "I think it's

great. It'll give students a place to socialize and just hang out."

Amanda Wilson '04 said, "I think it's a great idea. Now that we don't have to go off-campus, it eliminates some safety concerns, like drunk drivers. Plus it'll bring more events to the Rat."



EMILY EIGEL

The Banta Room, located on the lower floor of Moody, sports a new look and a new liquor license this year.

FROM PAGE 2

## English

one room, for example," said Bell.

Wayne Markert, Provost of Hollins University, has some goals for the program regarding its location.

"The possible locations that have been discussed included Botetourt Hall," said Markert. "However, this idea assumes that an appropriate and better space will be identified for dance, which is a growing and important program as well. The renovation of the theatre/art annex would have to come first. This continues to be a complex issue."

Benedict still has hopes for uniting the English Department all under one roof.

"I gather that the committee that's now making up a kind of 'master plan' for the campus has as one of its priorities a new home for the department. Where that will be, I cannot say."

"The campus will engage in a master facilities plan this fall," said Markert. "The possible uses of these spaces will be a part of that plan and its recommendations, along with where we might best house the English Department. The entire campus, students, faculty, staff, and administration, will be involved in the planning process so that the plan can represent what will be best for Hollins and its programs."

Another change for the English Department is also a change for the University as a whole. Starting in the 2004-2005 school year, second year graduate students in the MFA program will be teaching courses.

"Our idea is that from 4-6 of them will have teaching fellowships," said Benedict. "Informally, we will observe them as they interact with undergraduate writers in our Advanced Creative Writing classes, and we

will get to know them in other venues as the year progresses, assessing their varying levels of interest and teaching skill. A formal application and selection process will commence later in the year."

Graduate students have never taught courses before. Some question this decision.

"When I came to Hollins, I knew that I was coming here basically for creative writing practice. With that said, if I were just coming into this school, I would probably be very unamused about being taught creative writing by students when first arriving here," said Austin Bouffard '04.

Some are supportive of the decision.

"I think that if they are students of Hollins' seemingly selective MFA Program, the experience of the workshop is nothing new to them," said Balli Jaswal '04. "They will be able to provide fresh insight and guidance as they themselves are workshopers."

Nevertheless, she went on to say, "For what we pay to go here, Hollins can allow students to be taught by real professors. It would stink to take a beginning creative writing class if you aren't a English major and never know what a class with a real professor is like."

Gellar '04 felt grad student teaching positions would lead to lower quality instruction.

Another change for the English Department is the creation of the Chair in Creative Writing, which may be named in Dillard's honor.

"Discussions about a chair in creative writing have been underway for a number of years," said Markert. "During Janet Rassmussen's term as president, that possibility was on the list of fund-raising priorities. The goal from the outset has been

SEE ENGLISH PAGE 6



# Questions unanswered after faculty, staff depart

BY JEILENN GERLACH

Many changes have occurred at Hollins beginning this term, so some familiar faces will not be on campus this year.

A graduate of William and Mary with a PhD in computer science, Professor Dan Chrisman left Hollins this past June after three years of teaching advanced courses. Chrisman declined to comment on his departure, but he still resides in Roanoke.

Professor Jim Allen noted that Chrisman had expressed an interest in leaving Hollins after 2004. Allen said regretfully, "We're disappointed at the fact that he wasn't coming back, but it was his decision he didn't return. We wished he had. He was a computer scientist who worked hard and made sure his students did well in class. It was an enjoyable experience having him around here."

Professor Nancy Healy also commented on rumors of Chrisman's unfriendly parting with Hollins: "I have no reason to think he was mad with anyone. Students loved him and he was great to work with. He was a really great colleague and I'm sorry he's gone. It's a loss for Hollins."

Chrisman's position has been filled through the one-year appointment of Diane Galinaitis, an adjunct professor last year.

Julia Johnson, Assistant Professor of English, has moved to a teaching position in the English department at Virginia Tech. Johnson was not available for comment about her departure from Hollins. Richard Dillard, former Chair of Creative Writing and the Undergraduate Sequence, remarked simply, "It's a long story that's completely confidential."

Annie Olsen '04 was disappointed that Johnson left. "I don't really understand the circumstances around her leaving," she said. "They encourage you to have a personal relationship with your professors here and she was one of the professors I enjoyed talking to outside of class. It would be nice to know when they do leave, the reason, if it's appropriate for us to know. At least to know where they are, what they're doing, and what's going on in their life."

Aida Martinez, who was formerly the Director of Intercultural Programs here at Hollins has been replaced by Jeri Suarez, Associate Dean of Intercultural Programs. Unlike Martinez, Suarez will not only work with students of color, but also with international students, and her increased responsibilities include administrative duties and handling certain campus emergencies.

Martinez has returned to the University of Minnesota, Morris, where she worked before coming to Hollins. Martinez declined to participate in an interview.

Eboni Wright '04, co-president of the Black Student Alliance with Shemecca Bryant '04, commented on Martinez's departure: "I was really hurt that Aida left because I felt that she left because of Hollins, but that she needed that change. Hollins was taking a lot out of her and it wasn't something she should have to deal with by herself. She should have had a staff and she didn't."

Tracee Grossman, former Director Student Organizations and Activities has left Hollins to return to her hometown of Miami, Fla. to program activities and contracts with the Orange Bowl. Grossman was not available for comment about her return to Florida. Her position has been filled by Hollins' new student activities director, Joe Rosenberg.

Ashley Reynolds '04 was Chair of Social Events in 2002-03 and worked closely with Grossman. As SGA Vice President, Reynolds is vice chair of Hollins Activities Board and has worked with Rosenberg as well. "I was a little sad that she was leaving," Reynolds said. "However, the job she got was an incredible opportunity for her, so I was happy that she decided to pursue it. Joe's new to Hollins, so he's come in with a lot of fresh ideas and things that we never thought about. You can't compare the two people, but Joe was an excellent choice. I'm very happy with him."

Linda Arrington has been replaced by Anna Goodwin after 10 years at Hollins. Her most recent position was Assistant to the Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students.

Lately, Arrington has been spend-

ing more time with her grandchildren and traveling extensively. "I've just been to Chicago and several beach trips with the kids. So it's been a little hectic, but I miss Hollins. I mean Hollins is fantastic, and I miss the students, and I wish everyone well."

Hollins has left its mark on Arrington, who said, "I always was telling [President] Nora Kizer Bell that I would have to pinch myself to realize how lucky I was to be here."

For Arrington, the most rewarding thing about working for Hollins was seeing students transform. "I liked to get to see Hollins work its magic on you. It was not my choice to leave, but my life is great, you know."

Siclinda Canty-Elliott, Dean of Students, declined to comment on personnel issues, which are confidential.

Arrington's other plans include several trips abroad this fall and pursuing a career in graphic design.

Linda Prillaman, Assistant to Dean of Academic Affairs and Residence Life Director has taken her retirement after 22 years of service to the Hollins community. She worked for the past ten years with Tom Mesner, formerly Dean of Academic Affairs. Prillaman says that since Mesner decided to become the registrar, she wanted to make a change as well. "I decided to take retirement when Dean Mesner moved," she said.

"We communicated so well," Mesner said. "It was like an old couple. She is the best assistant I've ever had. I looked forward every day because she was going to be there, and I was heartbroken when I found out she was retiring."

"Her sense of humor is delightful. Low key, but positive and upbeat. She always looked ahead to the next thing," Mesner said.

Mesner also described her as an "unselfish person" who thought it best for Alison Ridley, now Dean of Academic Affairs, to begin her year with an assistant of her choice, Jennifer Teatino.

"I'm just loving life! I'm just trying to get used to this retirement thing, Prillaman said. She still maintains an active lifestyle by working out every day and vacationing with other retired friends.

"So retirement is fun, so far!" she laughed. Prillaman is currently enrolled in art classes, as well as being an active member and volunteer for of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill.

Retirement has offered her the chance to spend more time with family.

"It's so strange not to be part of school starting and getting everybody going. I really do miss my work," she said. She did, however,

visit over the summer to train the new personnel. "I told them how much fun student affairs is. It's not like a normal job where you go into the office. You get to do Tinker Day and Founder's Day. It's different from the real world," said Prillaman who has a lot of faith in the incoming staff and encourages old friends to keep in touch.

"Any time they want to talk, call me at home. I love to hear from people there."

FROM PAGE 4

## English

to acquire funds for a chair that could be used to attract a writer of established reputation who would, therefore, complement the faculty at Hollins in that program and would help to further advance its reputation. It was only after President Bell arrived, however, that we were able to bring this fund raising goal to a positive conclusion. She worked with various possible donors to secure the gift."

"The chair was endowed by two anonymous donors," said Bell. "It was they who wanted to name it in Richard's honor."

"The position announcement is

being developed now and will be placed in various publications this fall, as well as mailed to possible candidates," said Markert. "Professor Pinckney Benedict will chair the search. I would expect that we would interview candidates either late in the fall or early in the spring semester and make an announcement about the appointment in the spring semester 2004."

Richard Dillard declined to comment on creation of the Dillard Chair.

The year has been a time of great change, from the initiative to reach Tier 1 to the creation of the MFA program in Creative Writing. Undeniably, a new chapter has begun in Hollins' history, both in the English Department and the rest of the Hollins campus.

FROM PAGE 3

## Diversity

Programs; Kerry Edmonds, Director of Human Resources; Pat Harbour (co-chair), Hollins trustee; Victor Cardwell, Hollins University Attorney; and Beth Burgin, SGA President.

Some positions on the task force have not been filled yet. Within the next few weeks, three undergraduate students as well as one Horizon student will be recommended for President Bell's consideration for the team by Senate. One graduate student will be recommended by Dean Leslie Willett.

Students have voiced fears that while the task force's mission is to promote and support diversity, the people chosen to serve on it will not represent various backgrounds.

"[The task force] will try to be as balanced and equal with the constituents are possible," said Brook Dickson, Executive Assistant to the President, in response.

After recommendations for the task force have been submitted to President Bell, she will send an invitation to each person selected asking them to serve and include a copy of the team's charge, or its goals and responsibilities. The charge will then be distributed to the entire Hollins community.

"It is certain that we will involve the community and give opportunities for people to participate in everything we do," Michael Sitton, co-chair of the task force, stated.

Watkins said that what happened with ADA was a catalyst for diversity awareness.

"It was a matter of the whole campus becoming more aware, not just ADA," she said.



# Graduate students join residence life

BY JEILENN GERLACH

Myra Saunders, Alicia Smith, and Lori Beth Huck are Hollins's new graduate assistants, who oversee head resident assistants and their respective RA's.

Myra Saunders, a MALS student of social science, oversees the apartments and Main. She has an 11 year old son, whom she happily describes an athlete and an honor student at Northside Middle School. At first, Myra was unsure about accepting the position, but her son was supportive.

"He insisted that I followed up on it," says Saunders.

Saunders enjoys working with the students here at Hollins: "I feel a calling to youth ministry. It's a passion of mine."

Though Saunders was born in Welch, West Virginia, she was raised near Roanoke in Bassett, VA where her younger brother, a

Navy veteran of the first Gulf War, still lives. A minister's advice brought Myra to Roanoke to seek a management position for Roanoke city. Saunders worked in the Department of Social Services for 6 years, followed by 12 years of Social Security administration.

Saunders holds certificates in computer studies, family mediation, judicial process, as well as awards in public speaking and extemporaneous debate. A graduate of James Madison University, she obtained a degree in political science / pre-law. She also studied at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond.

At the moment, Saunders aspires to teach at the college level and has a PhD in her sights. Since she is a divorcee and her parents have passed on, she does not feel obligated to remain in Virginia. "The Roanoke area can be quite conser-

vative," she said, noting she is open to opportunities both in the city and beyond.

Saunders is adjusting well to Hollins life. "Hollins has some very intelligent women and the environment is different because I was at a co-educational university. But I'm adaptable."

Alicia Smith, a M.A.L.S. student of the Humanities hails from Buffalo, NY, and oversees West and Starkie. Before coming to Hollins, she was living in Yuma, AZ for two years as a grant writer for Juniper Tree Academy, an elementary charter school. When Smith decided to further her education, she came to Hollins.

"I liked the flexibility of the program. There was a wide offering of courses and my interests could be included in my degree," she said.

Smith said of Roanoke, "It's not

a bad sized town. It has some culture for a little town."

Smith has an undergraduate degree in English from the State University of New York at Potsdam. Smith would like to continue her education after Hollins, but still has undefined goals.

Lori Beth Huck, Tinker Hall Director, describes herself as a farm girl, born in Louisiana and raised in Ohio, where she graduated Baldwin-Wallace College. Soon after, Huck moved to the island of Maui and worked a job playing with children, including Tiger Woods' nieces and nephews. Huck also climbed volcanoes and ventured to the ocean to see the koholas and humpback whales. Lori Beth enjoys travel and loves animals, especially her dalmatian.

For Huck, coming to Hollins after living a relaxed lifestyle was an eye-opener. "I came back here and

experienced culture shock." Regarding life for first-year students, Huck said, "I believe living in Tinker is one giant lesson in chilling out."

Huck came to Hollins for a number of reasons. "I didn't like the New York, all-black, adult contemporary writing," said Huck. Although she writes stories for adults, Huck beamed, "I'm a major kid person." Huck is also a storyteller, and recently presented at a festival in North Carolina. She is halfway through the Children's Literature program and enjoys it so far.

"I'm smitten with Hollins, and I'll tell anybody that," she said.

Myra Saunders (x6085) and Alicia Smith (x6304) have an office on second floor Moody. Lori Beth Huck (x6265) can be reached in her office, which is located in Tinker B101.

# Rosenberg to increase student participation

BY JEN SPELKOMAN

Joseph Rosenberg, newly appointed Director of Student Organizations and Activities, has enthusiasm and dedication combined with leadership experience to motivate the social scene on the Hollins campus.

Originally from the Philadelphia area, Rosenberg's interest in being a candidate for the doctoral program for studies in higher education at Virginia Tech brought him to Roanoke. He began his active role in leadership as president of the Greek association at his alma mater, Temple University.

At Temple, Joe received his B.A. in Military History and his M. ED in higher education and student leadership in 1999. He gained professional work experience at many other colleges and universities in the Residence Life and Student Services departments.

"Seeing students succeed is why I love my job," Rosenberg said. "They are what make this place hop."

Even though he has resided at a Roanoke address for only two weeks, Rosenberg has already implemented his plans to increase participation for student social programs on campus. The long-term goals shared by Rosenberg and the

Hollins Activities Board (HAB) are to increase communication between HAB and the general student body, increase and intensify activities on the weekends, and to improve the quality of entertainment at events.

"Programs are geared to boost participation and add more diversity," said Rosenberg.

"The turnout at the recent coffee house program was really exciting and impressive," said Zirwat Chowdhury '05, who regularly attends HAB social programs. "In the past a lot of people didn't really show up at HAB activities."

A new idea of Rosenberg's is to hand out survey cards at student social programs that will give HAB and the student activities office feedback on events, thus amplifying communication.

"Knowing what students want is crucial," Chowdhury said. "I think surveys are a great way to get that information."

Rosenberg understands the lack of

males at programs is a reason for low attendance. "We are currently looking into a shuttle bus program with Virginia Military Institute (VMI) and Avrett College for Oktoberfest and Fall Formal," he said. He is also working with the

stating that she was not coming back for the 03-04 year, and that she would be permanently taking a position in Florida.

After meeting and working with Rosenberg, Bower's concerns were put aside due to his "enthusiasm, and determination to end apathy on the Hollins campus."

"Joe takes an active role toward programming and leadership," Bower said. "Because he is not from Hollins, he is not stuck in tradition." Together they will be bringing former Black Panthers leader Elaine Brown to the Hollins campus October 13.

"He's really wonderful at publicizing events and bringing hype to all activities," said Tehra Coles '05, who, as Social Events chair, worked directly with Rosenberg in organizing Fall Party.

"I was really nervous to meet the new director at first," said Coles, "but Joe is so supportive and enthusiastic. Organizing Fall Party ran really smoothly."

In Rosenberg's former position as Director of Student Affairs at Albright College in Pennsylvania, he developed an interactive website that provided a daily listing of pro-

grams and events. Rosenberg hopes to create something similar at Hollins.

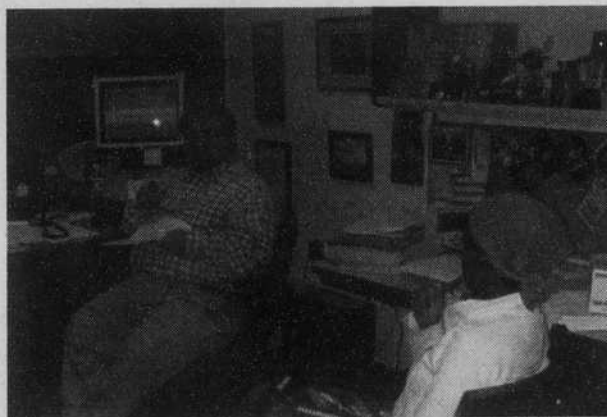
"Students can check out a band's music online before coming to the program, and they can e-mail me with any concerns," explained Rosenberg. He would also like to add an online scrapbook of programs and activities in hopes of attracting other current students, as well as prospective students, to events.

Some of his other programs and ideas include a bingo night with prizes, including a Play Station and VCR, trips to New York and Baltimore, and the 'Wooden Nickel Program.'

Through the Wooden Nickel Program, each student that attends an activity would receive a wooden nickel. When a student has amassed three nickels, they can exchange them for a raffle ticket to win a trip to an "exotic location" during Spring Break.

While discussing the coffee house program on September 10th, Zirwat Chowdhury '05 affirmed, "I have never seen so many students at a small scale Hollins program."

Tehra Coles '06 stated, "Although students know what students like, Joe gives us the direction and resources to complete our goals and make our ideas feasible."



EMILY EIGEL

Joe Rosenberg talks to Eboni Wright '04 about the new programs for this year.

assistant dean at Hampton Sydney College in hopes to establish more organized activities with the all-male school.

Rosenberg works with General Speakers Fund chairperson, Lisa Bower '05, to bring lecturers and entertainers to Hollins. Bower was "surprised" and to some degree "upset" when she received an e-mail from Tracee Grossman (Rosenberg's predecessor) in June



# Celebrate being a senior!



COURTESY OF ELISE BRANCH



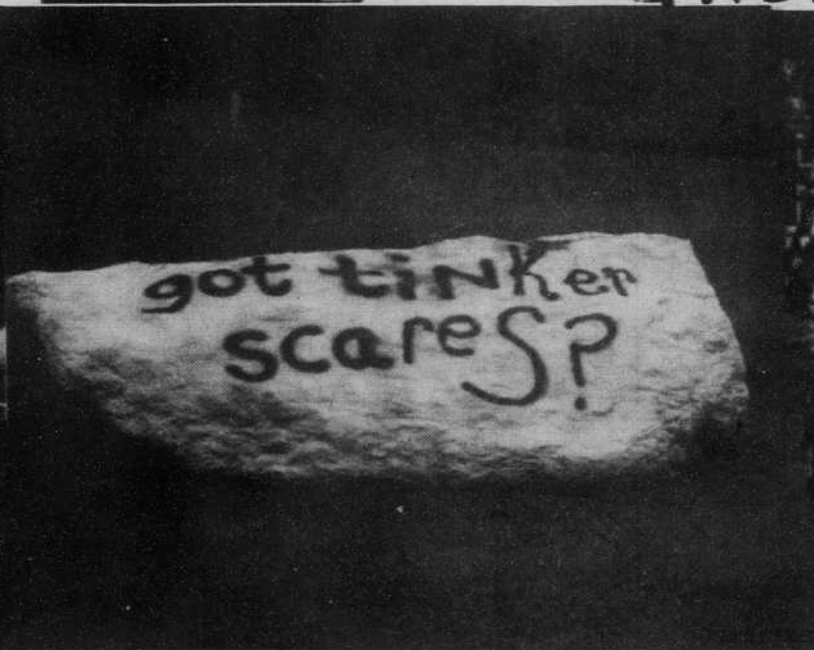
COURTESY OF LIZZIE BENCHOFF



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Tinker scares

first step



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fall party



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# SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>21</b> 7:30pm Chapel TN @ tournament FH @ tournament	<b>22</b> 8pm Play: A Game Apart (Talmadge) TN @ Tournament VB @ R-M 7pm	<b>23</b> SC @ W&L 4:30pm	<b>24</b> Last day to drop classes 7pm Relationships lecture by expert Ellen Gootblatt @ Ballator	<b>25</b> SC @ 4pm vs. SU FH @ 4:30 vs. BC VB @ Meredith 7pm	<b>26</b> TN @ Meredith	<b>27</b> Rosh Hashanah HOP West Virginia whitewater rafting TN @ Meredith CC @ Invitational
<b>28</b> TN @ Meredith	<b>29</b> 7:30pm faculty recital Judith Cline, soprano (Talmadge) SC @ Peace 4pm	<b>30</b>				

# OCTOBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b> VB @ 6:30pm vs. LC FH @ EMU 4:30pm	<b>2</b> 8:15pm English reading (GDR) SC @ 4pm vs. SBC	<b>3</b> Friday Night Comedy Club TBA HOP ropes course VB @ tournament FH @ 4:30pm vs. SU	<b>4</b> Fall Horse Show TN vs. Meredith VB @ tournament SC @ 1pm vs. Hood
<b>5</b> 7:30pm Chapel RD @ Radford IHSA FH @ 1pm vs. VA Wesleyan						



# New students adjust to unfamiliar campus

BY JULIA KNOX

College. That one word can strike up an entire smorgasbord of emotions. While the transition from high school to college is one of the most exciting periods of life, it can also be one of the most terrifying. There are so many things to worry about! Classes, increased workloads, roommates...the list is endless. Luckily, for the class of 2007 and the transfer students at Hollins, the adjustment period has seemingly gone smoothly.

Once moving day was over and students were (mostly) unpacked, the realization hit—they were hours away from the comforts of home, surrounded by total strangers. For some, the adjustment period was easy.

"At first, Hollins was kind of like a camp, so I didn't find it that hard to become adjusted. Plus, my roommate is really nice and easy to get along with, so I got lucky," Sarah Buchan '07 said.

Others, however, had a more difficult time.

"For me it was really hard. At first I cried every night, because I was so far from home and I missed all my friends. Luckily, it's gotten a little easier," said Tina Enriquez '07, who traveled from San Antonio, Texas.

"It was a lot easier for me, because

I'd been through it already," said transfer student Cathleen Kilgallen '05. "I've spent most of my time away from home since I was 15, so the adjustment was kind of old hat."

Each woman has different reasons for choosing Hollins as her home for the next four years, but the beautiful campus ranked at the top of most people's lists.

"I came to Hollins not only for the strong academic programs, but because the campus was absolutely gorgeous," said Lora Jarocki '07. "We don't have anything like this back in Oklahoma!"

Laura Latzki '07, from Michigan, also commented on how different the campus was from her hometown. "The campus is really pretty. I love all the mountains! Back in Michigan we don't have mountains. We have hills," she said.

The scenery isn't the only reason women have picked Hollins. The academics and campus atmosphere are also major factors.

"Another reason I came here was because of their strong creative writing program. That's my intended major, so I figured it would be the best place for me," said Latzki.

When asked why she chose Hollins, Rachel Nelson '07 said, "They gave really good financial aid, and I got a lot of money."

"I liked how everybody here was

so friendly and easy to talk to. That was a major reason for me coming," said Laura Dittmar '07.

First years aren't the only new students on campus. Transfer students must also get used to a new home. Cathleen Kilgallen '05 transferred from Cottey College, a small, two-year women's college in Missouri.

Kilgallen said she chose Hollins to complete her college education "because I wanted a small liberal arts education. I had a great experience at my previous college, and this was the closest match I found."

Once arriving at Hollins, Kilgallen noted the differences and similarities between her old home and her new one. "It's really almost exactly the same, but here there's a higher level of intellectual discussion and interest that's hard to find at a really small school. At Hollins, people have more involvement with the outside world.

A lot of people are from Virginia, so they go home, friends visit, or they go to other colleges for the weekend.

"At Cottey, it was kind of like its own little microcosm—really self-sufficient, with very little interaction with the outside community. Here, it's exciting because the women are more concerned with political and social issues—basically they're more concerned with

the world."

After living on campus for a week, the new students began to notice the things that make Hollins special. Many students, such as Nelson and Ali Yost '07, noted the friendliness of the campus community.

"This is one of the only places I've been where everybody, even complete strangers, say 'hi'." Jarocki said, "You can talk to almost anybody. I just go up and down my hall, and everybody is so friendly."

"I like that since it's all women, I think it makes people more comfortable. You don't care as much about what you look like or what you're wearing. Plus, the food is good, and there's a lot less high school drama," Enriquez said.

Buchan liked the "small class sizes, and the professors are great."

While students were eager to point out the good aspects of Hollins, they also noted things that could be improved. "The shower heads in Tinker are way too short. I have to flip my hair over in order to wash it," Jarocki complained.

"It's annoying when things are offered, but you can't just do them. Like the other day I tried to climb the climbing wall, and they told me I couldn't do it unless I had a supervisor," Yost pointed out.

"There's not a lot to do on the weekends if you don't have a car,"

says Nelson. "And if you do have a car, you usually end up at a college like Hampden Sydney or Tech."

"I could definitely do without all the fire drills in Tinker," Kilgallen said.

"There's a lack of handicap accessibility," Dittmar noted. "Some of my volleyball teammates have been injured, and they can't get to their classes on crutches. The only place that has a handicap ramp is the gym, and what are you going to do at the gym if you're in a wheelchair?"

Some of the first years have complained about the traditional Tinker Scares. "I respect the tradition and all that, but I think it's dumb that one of the only things involving freshman and senior interaction has to be so negative. It makes a lot of the first-years angry with the seniors, and that doesn't help class relations or anything. Plus, when personal property, like the dry-erase boards on the doors, get damaged, then it kind of goes too far," Nelson commented.

Despite the occasional complaints, every student said they were happy at Hollins so far, and they felt they had made a good choice for their college experience. Whether you're a member of the Class of 2007, or a transfer student, welcome to Hollins.

## Writing Center Hours Fall 2003

### Monday

9:00am-11:00am  
1:30pm-4:30pm  
6:00pm-8:00pm

### Wednesday

9:00am-11:00am  
1:00pm-3:00pm  
7:00pm-9:00pm

### Friday

9:00am-11:00am

### Tuesday

9:00am-12:30pm  
1:30pm-4:30pm  
7:00pm-9:00pm

### Thursday

9:00am-12:30pm  
1:30pm-3:30pm  
7:00pm-9:00pm

### Sunday

7:00pm-9:00pm

Located on first floor of Middle East.

Call x 6387 or email [thewritingcenter@hollins.edu](mailto:thewritingcenter@hollins.edu) for an appointment

## Spirit week 2003 Sept. 29-Oct. 2

"Friends don't let friends become Vixens"

Burn the Briar - that's the Hollins spirit. Now, it's the true battle of the classes, who will prevail? This year's Spirit Week is to be held September 29-October 2.

Lunch activities will include: class cheer wars, dizzy bat, and a pie-eating contest. Ongoing activities will be a penny war between the classes (sponsored by SHARE), and a vote for the faculty/staff king and queen of Spirit Week.

Residents of NEFA are going to paint faces for Green and Gold Day. After bingo night and a sharks and minnows war, Spirit Week will conclude with the Soccer versus Sweet Briar Game and a tailgate party. So get pumped up and look out for more information, because the seniors rule this roost!

If you have any further questions call Margaret x6058.



# Hollins rated Number 1 in quality of strife

Welcome back to Hollins, everybody! As you may have already learned by calling Campus Security, we've been rated number one in quality of life for the second year in a row.

I for one absolutely can't wait until an axe murderer is banging down my door and I call Campus Security and get that recording. "Thank you for calling (slam) Hollins University (slam) rated number one again for quality (sound of wood splintering) of life (frantic screaming)."

There've been a lot of changes over the summer to keep this rating up. For example, the university has established a Diversity Task Force to address the hot and controversial issue of affirmative action. That's right--our ever-changing, dynamic university is finally moving into the year 1982 and I for one applaud them. As I'm sure do the four minority students on campus.

We've evicted the international students from Carvin and the seniors from Starkie to finally give

the English Department its own building. As a loyal member of the English Department myself, I'm really glad the university was generous enough to offer us a condemned building with rotten floors. Unfortunately those un-



grateful, temperamental English professors stubbornly insist on keeping books with them, of all things. Who do they think they are?

So Carvin is sitting empty while the English Department remains split between two buildings and

homeless seniors wander the campus like outcasts from Oliver Twist. "Please, sir, I want a room," they beg, throwing themselves at the feet of administrators. "Please."

At least we still have our right to protest, as many students have happily demonstrated by--gasp!--exchanging secret e-mails and wearing armbands. I seriously regret that I'm not quite trendy enough to protest, especially since it's apparently become so easy. You don't even need to tell anyone what's bothering you.

Gone are the days of yore, when one protested by speaking to administrators, signing petitions, and when necessary, exposing themselves to criticism and disdain by speaking out. Now all you have to do is wear an armband. You could protest by accident! I could protest right now, while writing this column! The possibilities are staggering.

There are a few seniors who still remember what it means to protest, and they were all in atten-

dance at the meeting to establish community standards in the apartments. Important questions were raised at this meeting, questions that affect all of us, questions like "If a hurricane descends on the apartments and rips off the door to my patio while I'm drinking alcohol out of an open container, what happens then? Huh?" I think we were all grateful to be a part of this discussion. For two and a half hours.

Those of you who attended Opening Convocation know how much President Bell supports this kind of dialogue. It's clear that Hollins is entering a new era, an era of communication--even with those who are heavier than us, or those from (prepare yourself) different regions of the country.

Yes, it'll be a tough adjustment, but luckily we're led by a woman who first learned the meaning of diversity when she and another white southern girl from her tennis club discovered they belonged to separate Christian denominations. She truly understands what

it means to learn from our differences.

What's particularly clear to me is how much Hollins supports religious diversity. From Baptist to Southern Baptist, we are all welcome in the chapel, where a giant cross towers over us during convocations as we listen to the sound of opening and closing prayers. Thank God for our religiously unaffiliated campus.

Well, I've made a lot of bold declarative statements in this column, and I've had the audacity to actually put my name on them. Feel free to engage in a dialogue with me by writing a letter to the editor or e-mailing me--hey, I may be a little heavier than you, and I may be from the Midwest, but as long as we have a shared economic background and interest in tennis, I'm sure we can communicate.

Or, if that seems a little threatening, you could just walk around wearing an armband that says "I hate Cat Vasko." I'll be in the non-denominational chapel praying for my safety.

Libra (September 23-October 22)

This is your month to verb. Making **noun** will be easy for this **adjective** sign. You may feel the urge to verb. Weigh the noun of your actions. Take time out of your adjective schedule to verb.

Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

A romantic relationship may form with **celebrity**. You'll have fun when you take the challenge of **verb**. Take part in activities such as **verb** and **verb**. Make a fashion statement and wear a **color** article of clothing on the 29. If you choose not to the stars will align against you.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

This month you should travel to that exotic destination you've been dreaming about--the Texaco on Williamson Road. It's less than a mile away from Hollins. The best part is you'll be back in time before your next class. There are travel brochures in Moody. Pick yours up today to learn more about the Texaco on Williamson.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You've been working too hard this month; you deserve a break. Go out for an evening on the town with that special someone. If you are single, don't check the want ads. These ads are full of people more desperate than you. If exclusive dining is unaffordable to you, the cafeteria at Hollins is also enjoyable. Light a candle, clear a space for dancing, and you've got the Rainbow Room.

Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Be on guard when you run into a **sign** this month. When things get tough use your **adjective** skills. Spend time with friends and attend an **event**. Display your originality by

## HOROSCOPES

Don't like your horoscope for this month? Write your own.

Fill in the blanks with your own words:

Verb-	Noun-
Adjective-	Color-
Game-	Sign-
Event-	Clothing-
Thing-	Celebrity-
4-digit number-	Person-

making a **thing**. Your **adjective** personality will attract many new love interests. Don't give in too quick; play the field.

Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Your intuition will tell you what to do about an important decision dealing with **noun**. The creative juices will flow when you gain inspiration from **person**. You will constantly catch yourself daydreaming in class about **noun**. This inattentiveness will make you feel **adjective**. Be giving by lending a fellow student your **color** accessory.

Aries (March 21-April 19)

You may feel compelled to initiate **thing**. Don't get **adjective** if no one wants to **verb**. With your fiery attitude it will be easy to **verb** people. Still no luck, show your enthusiasm by wearing an article of **clothing**. This will make things much easier.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Go out to eat at your favorite restaurant. Sport your favorite attire. You do like the best of everything. However, don't cuss out your server this time if the cilantro you asked for was left out or the soy sauce wasn't placed on the side. It is

likely an angry kitchen staff will have a communal piss on your food.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)

There won't be any job you can't handle this week including **verb**. If boredom sets in, try playing a game of **game** (There's also a party this weekend. Call extension **4-digit number** for directions). Chances are it will also alleviate any stress that may accumulate. We all know how hard it is for Gemini's to be on time. Wear an accessory on your **body part**. This will prove to be useful yet stimulating.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)

Don't be too oversensitive about a situation that involves **noun**. Get over it and have a glass of beverage. You may find yourself in the mood to **verb** this week. If so, seek assistance there are people in place that can help. Staying in for the weekend is your best bet. You will be content singing song around a campfire.

Leo (July 23-August 22)

It's time to trade in that ghastly mullet for a new 'do. You'll stop your love interest dead in their tracks. It's all about stylin' and profilin' for you this month. You will take center stage when you go out dancing with your gang this weekend. Remember: Say no to drugs and red meat.

Virgo (August 23-September 22)

There will be an on campus mystery that your investigative mind will be eager to solve. Your interest will attract others. A secret coalition will be formed under your name. However, your leadership position will be terminated when everyone realizes it was just a hoax, and that the fee to join is \$30.00.



# Too bad life isn't like this in the real world

I spent this past summer waiting tables in Greensboro, yet again. But this time, I had moved up the corporate ladder from the tacky, yet endearing decor of Macado's to a privately owned Italian restaurant.

At Macado's I scrubbed dishes, mopped floors, sold sandwiches called the "Lone Ranger" and the "Betty Boop." I left work covered in sweat, dishwasher, or both about every night, and I did this all for about a dollar a head in tips. I did this seasonally for two years, because I worked with some of my best friends, and it was comfortable.

When the Greensboro Macado's closed last February, I traded in my maroon polo and khakis for a white dress shirt, complete with tie and black pants.

I sold bottles of nice wine instead of the cheapest possible domestic beer and well liquors. And I could proudly profess that everything in our kitchen was made from scratch rather than reluctantly admitting our cooks were overpaid micro-

wave-ers and sandwich assemblers.

It took a lot of getting used to at first. I thought I wasn't good enough to list off specials with complicated Italian names, instead



ANGIE JEFFREYS  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

of "half off buffalo wings and \$2.50 schooners of beer."

At my new job, all I did was chop a few vegetables, wipe off a few serving trays, and the rest was just sucking up to my tables (I'm leaving out a few steps). Most importantly, I made twice the money in about half the work, and half the time.

This was supposed to be a big step up, right? I did the time at the crappy job, and now I could go home with real money instead of someone else's leftover food splattered all over my shirt or stuck in my hair.

But I actually hated this new job far more than my last. Sure, I don't like spilling a bucket of mop water all over my pants or getting stiffed on tips; I highly doubt anyone would. But when I did, at least I could laugh about it with people I cared about.

At my restaurant this summer, my coworkers were just plain mean sometimes, and they definitely didn't care about anything aside from whether or not you were pulling your weight.

I could go hours without decent conversation with a single coworker, and at my tables, sometimes customers at least asked how I was doing.

One thing I realized, especially because I was quickly approaching my senior year, is that this quite possibly could be life after Hollins.

I hopefully won't be a career waitress, but who knows what will happen.

The thing is, at any job people will not be so considerate. These people won't be my friends from Macado's, and they certainly won't be my friends and faculty at Hollins. These people won't care.

I have heard a lot of people complaining about Hollins lately. Most of the time, I hear about administration or SGA and how horrible "They" are making things for us.

I've heard a bit about protesting, (mainly from the article featured in this very publication!) and while I support everything the protesters support, I still have to say, take a minute and think about Hollins as a whole, not just the people who have offices in the Cocke building or upstairs in Moody.

I don't think the Take No Steps Back organization wants anything that every administrator wouldn't like to have at Hollins if they had all the possible freedom and resources. I'm not entirely sure who the protest is against.

Besides, "They" are here Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. That is their job, but this is our whole life. They go home at night, and we're already here.

Obviously if you haven't transferred, you like Hollins for some reason, probably more than one. Most people here actually care about you, and that's probably a big part of it. And unless I move to a city with all my Hollins friends, I want to enjoy it while I can.

I've given it a lot of thought, and I'd rather be scraping plates in a uniform, working in a community I love, instead of being alone no matter how much more money I make.

It's the same with Hollins.

This university obviously isn't perfect, but at least I live with people who care enough to try and initiate change, and I'm lucky enough to live with people who care about me as an individual in the first place. If that's not why we came, that has to be why we're still here.

## 'Dickie Roberts' does dick for audiences

BY SAMANTHA GELLAR

Actor David Spade's new vehicle, "Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star," hit theaters with a wet smack recently.

A cheery little comedy about a former child



star trying to regain his fame by landing a choice part, it took a turn for the stupid when he hired a family to give his character some depth. What could have been humorous if treated like an active rod at Chernoble, was instead thrown about like clowns at a rodeo.

Tact left this set a long time ago and Spade, known mostly as part of a one-two punch rather than a lead man, fluttered about totally out of control in this movie.

Spade's performance managed to strip this movie of any complexity it might have had.

Though director Sam Weisman tried his damndest to make points about what we do to child celebrities, he could not get past his affinity for sappy dia-

logue and musical swells. Instead of making anything truly impacting with his aims, he combined a cheap frame plot with cliché language to create a simple and useless movie.

What can truly be expected of this Weisman/



Spade combination? Spade is a mediocre comedian at best, surviving mostly on TV shows and giving us the same performance every single time. If it weren't for Chris Farley, he's probably be hanging out with Carrot Top on the AT&T Commercials.

As for Weisman, he's been working with sitcoms since "Family Ties" and "Who's The Boss?" He spends most of his time name dropping ex-celebs and former child stars which is really what everyone should have seen coming from this film. From the Bradys to gubernatorial candidate Gary Coleman, these has-beens showed up in droves to perform what they realistically see as one of the last roles they will be offered.

The saddest part of "Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star," wasn't the washed-up stars who finished the movie with a musical number, but the casting of Jon Lovitz as Dickie's agent.

Lovitz, who almost always puts in choice performances in every role he takes, failed to produce one decent line in the screwed up little



comedy.

Fond of his work in "The Critic" and movies such as "Rat Race," I grieved the waste of a good comic on this pitiful script.

Overall, "Dickie Roberts" sucked, blew, and screwed you out of six bucks.

Got something to say?

The Hollins Columns is a bi-monthly newspaper that welcomes and encourages readers to speak out. To contribute letters to the editor, e-mail us at [hollinscolumns@hotmail.com](mailto:hollinscolumns@hotmail.com) or contact Angie Jeffreys at x6400.



# Experiences of war differ from overseas

BY MANDY WIESER

Bush da sangre por petroleo. Yankee go home. Remember Vietnam. No a la guerra. From a window as I travel away from my first international flight and to my first destination in a new country, I see these and so many other expressions spray painted along buildings and concrete walls next to the road. Bush gives blood for oil. No to the war. I remember thinking, what war?

Now, I knew "what war," but it hadn't even begun yet. I had even innocently, ignorantly maybe, thought the war would never come to be. In that thought I learned something that will stay with me. When you leave that comfort zone of home, you fully, truly realize the significant impact the United States has globally, and that the world is not an empathetic place. While you as the traveler in some way (and don't deny it outright) want the world to know your true feelings separate of your government's actions, they as citizens of a different country want you to listen to them for a change.

Every semester Hollins students travel abroad, but since 1990 they haven't had the experience of traveling abroad during a declaration of war by the US. Even more, not since the implementation of unilateral sanctions has the United States chosen to act against the disapproval of the United Nations.

During a reflection of my own experiences abroad in Chile during the Iraqi war, I wanted to discover other experiences of my peers during their travel abroad. Maybe in reflection we can all come to realize the impact globally and the impact individually of this controversial and bloody war in Iraq.

A primary experience for Hollins Abroad students was the large number of anti-war demonstrations. Delilah Courville '04 says of her experience in Osaka, Japan, "Japanese voters tend to be apathetic, but it was amazing to see all the people protesting, holding signs, for blocks and blocks." Hollins students studying in Spain, France, London and Ireland saw similar demonstrations.

Annie Olson '04 had the opportunity and dared to participate in one of these demonstrations on the International Day of Peace in Cork,

Ireland. She saw many "colorful floats, street theater, instruments being played and lots of energy."

Olson expressed the relief to encounter not an anti-American sentiment, but either an anti-Bush or anti-war sentiment. The unique thing about Ireland, she told me, is that during the war, Ireland remained a neutral country. "It was the most exciting thing I experienced because the government is not supposed to aid another government in the war. But it came out that the US was landing in Shannon airport and refueling planes headed for the Middle East."

Often, students were inspired by the number and zeal of protestors abroad. Witness and participant in some of these peace protests, Olsen says, "There was a frustration by the Irish people that the citizens of the United States were not daring enough to oppose and affect governmental change."

I experienced the same sentiment in Chile and often argued against that the American people were just as impassioned and forceful as the protestors in Chile and anywhere else. But inside I could not help thinking, why am I here then? Why am I not with my family? Why am I not in the streets of DC outside the Pentagon protesting with my sign and my passion? And then I would read the daily diario and be reminded: I am here because I want to learn outside the boundaries of my culture and government.

The daily newspaper and media had strong impacts on all the Hollins Abroad students. Whether in Spain, Germany, London, Mexico, France, Ireland or Chile, every student has at some point opened up a paper or glanced through a magazine and been exposed to something the people of the United States have been shielded from: the true gore of a war. For three weeks straight I never went a day without shedding a tear or a bucket of them over something I saw in the papers. Mothers, fathers, children, soldiers, bombs, empty streets, buildings destroyed, tears, cries, pain and blood, blood, blood. Strewed across the headlines, dripping off the pages, was the anti-war sentiment.

Anne Snoddy '04 says of her time in Spain, "It makes you realize how biased our media is, what you see here [US] versus there [Seville, Spain]." Courville reflects that the Japanese news is incredibly biased. Some of the people didn't even have a clear understanding of who was actually fighting the war. She reflects, "My host mom thought President Bush now was the same President Bush in the past [term 1988-1992]."

The bias generally reflected the feelings and beliefs of the people of the country. The news was strongly against the war because the majority of the population was against the

like Saddam Hussein. All I could see in my head and in the streets was that most famous picture in Chile of the old Iraqi man holding a little girl missing her legs due to a bomb, his head bowed, her eyes closed, her mouth open, and the background all rubble and destruction. I remember thinking, "Ok, where do I go from here?"

It could feel strange walking through the streets of a huge city like Santiago, Chile. On virtually every corner were newsstands with pictures depicting President Bush as Hitler, or entire pamphlets describing the atrocities committed by the imperialistic Estados Unidos.

A wonderful girl I was blessed to have in my travel group was an ardent giver of alms. She made sure to give a few pesos to every homeless mother begging money for her children or disabled man shaking his tin cup.

One morning she came into class looking less than cheery. I asked her what was wrong. She told me on her way to class she had given an old man some money. He stopped her and asked where she was from. When she told him the United States he spit on the ground and threw the money back at her. "I don't want your money," he muttered in Spanish. I felt awful for her. But she just shrugged her shoulders and said to me, "I can't change who I am. If he doesn't want my money, then he doesn't want it. That's all there is to it."

But in my mind there was more to the event. From that point on when I walked down the streets I wandered if people thought I was like a Nazi under Hitler. After all, whether or not I voted for him, President Bush is still the leader of my country. I am still an independent person, but as a white American I can not travel independently of my nationality.

About two or three weeks after the bombing campaigns in Iraq, we began a month of traveling through the regions of Chile with 10 other peers. Our first stop was in the popular tourist-based city of Viña del Mar. We decided to hop a bus to the neighboring city of Valparaiso. On that bus I had my first face-to-face encounter with someone opposed to the war the United States. He got in our faces

and hurled insults, screamed that we were baby killers and a bunch of rich imperialists who only wanted Iraqi oil for ourselves and left the rest of the world to drown in blood.

We calmly tried to defend ourselves, but to no avail. Then a woman next to him put her hand on his back, told him to sit down, smiled at us and offered an apology. I remember feeling so grateful that all the insults just fell away. That one smile sustained my faith in a human race that would not judge an individual by his or her government.

Tosha Tillman '04 traveled to Germany over short term and told me a similar story. There, too, was that global anti-war and anti-Bush sentiment. One day she was strolling through a small German town looking for a certain type of candy. She entered one candy store and, not knowing much German, tried to explain what she was looking for. Laughing, she and the woman who worked there could not find the candy.

As Tillman was leaving the woman spoke these few English words with a sincerity Tosha describes as inexplicable, "God bless America." The two shared a hug and departed.

Each kindness that a student experiences abroad is ten-fold the bitterness, I truly believe. During a war, emotions are heightened, tensions are strained and in so many countries the people express their political views. But it is just a facet, another experience of the traveler.

The war has opened our eyes to the views of others and to some of the inequities and bias of the United States as well as in other countries. It has re-colored our experiences away from home, but it has not unilaterally shaped them. Our reactions and lessons from traveling abroad are shaped by so much more.

Often I would say I am American to label my identity separate from other countries. But so many times a Chilean would give me a disapproving look and say, "I am American, too." It seemed to me a metaphor to show how all peoples have that interconnection. And I wonder if it took a war to really emphasize the global impacts of a conflict or event between just a few countries, or if every move of a developed country ripples down those that are still developing. I plan to go back and find out.

"I am still an independent person, but as a white American, I cannot travel independently of my nationality."



# Reggie's death affects students campuswide

Reginald Hancock was my personal vision of Hollins. From his slouched slow-paced walk to his tipped newsboy hat, slipping glasses and denim overalls, it was he whom I thought of when I envisioned our university.

Reggie was a veteran of the U.S. Army and worked as a custodial worker at Hollins.

He passed away on Wednesday, September 10, 2003. He had spent his last hours here on the Tuesday before, at a place he loved dearly, before being whisked off to the hospital where he would die from a heart attack.

Reggie was one of the things I took for granted about Hollins. To me, he was a fixture in the same regard as things, people and traditions such as front quad, Professor Dillard, Bradley, First Step, Professor Ra and The Green Drawing Room.

I looked for him when I returned from break, one of the people I couldn't wait to see and talk to after a break or a busy week.

His death has hit me hard; it's almost like I woke up and discovered Main had burned down in the middle of the night.

I didn't believe it at first; instead I raced over to the post office where I had been told a sign had been hung about his passing. And there it was, across from my own post office box, a simple sign

printed bold font stating that Reginald Hancock had died. I realized I hadn't known his last name before this moment.

This man's good-natured heart and commitment to students consistently brightened my day. It was he whom I met as a shy and scared first-year and it was he who con-

vinced me not to transfer not once, but twice.

I remember the second day of my freshman year just like it was yesterday. I was sitting on the brick wall outside of Tinker waiting for my roommate and he sat down next to me, plopping his garbage bag next to his feet as he had been

picking up cigarette butts.

I introduced myself and we started talking about New York, where he had once lived and where I am from.

He talked of his children and his sister, the tunnel, and the differences between the North and South. Whenever he saw me afterwards there was always a nod and a smile and an inquiry of how my family was.

In those early days, before I had found a niche at Hollins, it was nice to know someone who I had only had one conversation with would think of me in passing.

Later, he convinced me I would find my place at Hollins. I was always in Dana and he was often there at the same time, emptying trash cans or cleaning up a mess.

After a horrifically emotional Senate I found myself frustrated and in tears in the middle of the Dana Mac lab.

Reggie happened to walk by and wave, doing a double take as I sat unusually listless. Reggie came over immediately, dropping his garbage bag at once. I told him of how I wanted to transfer, to run away from all of it.

He encouraged me to stay, saying in his slow southern drawl, "We need more nice girls like you here. Don't you want to change things yourself? Who else is going to do it?" I'm still here. His

point of view was from the outside looking in and I respected him too much to dismiss his comment.

Reggie cared for students in one of the most pure and fundamental levels I have ever seen.

What hurts very much, and I'm sure others feel the same way, is that I hadn't even had a chance to tell him much about my summer. I didn't have a chance to tell him how much he meant to me.

The last time I saw him, I was hurrying from my film class trying to run to make it to the SGA forum. I passed him near the chapel, I hadn't seen him since I'd been back so I paused and we spoke about the crazy weather, his back (which wasn't doing very well) and then I told him I would tell him all about the summer the next time I saw him.

Reggie has passed on and in a sad way, it seems appropriate. We cannot deny the fact that our University is changing and shifting. We have heard the buzzing about our institution being at a crossroads in all realms.

My only hope is that someone else at Hollins will be able to find a similar connection to a person here, find something or someone to believe in at the end of a hard day.

Lisa Bower  
News Editor

## Porch Steps for Reggie

Now that we've had some dry weather  
I have many steps to sweep:  
concrete and wood,  
painted white and green.

A futile action I know -  
Heeled shoes  
will turn spring earth  
and re-soil my path.

So if you don't mind  
I will sweep slowly down  
this set, watching the dust  
descend from step to step.

-Vivie Satorsky

# Senior (sort of) speaks out about Tinker scares

My name is Balli and I'm a senior. Well, sort of.

As a freshman, I was a fan of Tinker scares. It seemed like everyone involved was having fun. I loved the conspiracy behind it, and the stories I heard the following day about how the seniors got into certain buildings.

One that still cracks me up is about this group of seniors who showed up at Tinker, pots and pans poised, when they realized that they had no key. After a little brainstorming, one senior remembered that she had a friend who lived in Tinker, and called her from outside to ask to be let in. Imagine this freshman's surprise when she opened the door and was trampled by screaming girls in black cloaks.

Like I said, I had nothing against Tinker Scares, but this also might

have been because I am a very heavy sleeper.

What I understood about Tinker scares was that they are meant to be exciting, festive and a huge part of the fun that surrounds Tinker Day, which I also love, though I have yet to conquer that mountain without cheating and taking the bus.

I participated in the last Tinker scare expecting to include the underclassmen in this event, while mildly irritating them. Although I had a lot of fun, I was also disappointed with some of what I witnessed.

To begin with, the scares are for fun. They are not meant to be taken seriously and certainly don't have to end in screaming cuss words. When a freshman appeared out of the corner of Tinker when we were

done, yelling that "Seniors suck," I wasn't too offended. I don't think anybody was, and the loud, "Oooooohhhh's" that followed from the seniors was in the spirit of Tinker scares - class pride, etc.

What I found unnecessary were the harsh verbal exchanges that ensued, that included threats to "f\*ck that bitch's shit up". This happened after a group of freshmen, sitting outside Tinker, spewed similar expletives to an increasingly angry group of seniors, whose noise-making didn't seem to intimidate these girls.

This is not what Tinker Scares are about. Yes, those girls were not afraid, but what were we going to do? Bang them over the heads until they apologized? No, we could have moved on. There was no need to make threats, however frustrat-

ing that these girls weren't cowering in the corners of their rooms as some might have hoped.

And I'm not saying that either side isn't to blame. While these girls needn't have been quivering in their pants, they didn't need to be so disrespectful. I'm not talking about disrespecting your seniors in this age-difference context, I'm talking about generally respecting others. You know that Tinker Scares are tradition - would you be so rude as to tell your church pastor that he "sucks balls" just because you didn't enjoy communion? Come on, now. I assure you that when you are seniors, you will want to do the same, so just bear with it.

I'm not trying to pick on the seniors who were a little more forceful with their Tinker Scares than I

remembered from my freshman experiences. I'm not trying to make you feel guilty either, or trying to teach you a lesson, and I'd be a hypocrite to do so because I did knock too hard on some doors and I'm sure it pissed people off. I'm sure that each senior was tempted to bash a door down or two. It's an amazing sense of power to be holding a pot and wearing a black cloak. I felt like fighting crime. What I'm saying is that we need to neglect our personal pride when participating in a tradition like this and that it goes for both the classes. I would hate for this year's freshmen to pass on the tradition of Tinker Scares as a bullying session and while their insults were uncalled for, the responses were equally unjustified.

- balli jaswal -



# Freya continues tradition

To the Hollins Community:

This year's Convocation marked the 161st opening of Hollins. An important part of the events surrounding the official opening of the university is the traditional walk by robed members of Freya.

Freya is probably one of the most difficult organizations to explain, whether to incoming first-years or to seniors. In this letter, the members of Freya would like to share with you our purpose - who we are, why we walk, and the part we play in the Hollins community.

Freya is neither affiliated with nor bound by any particular organization of the Hollins community. Rather, we work in the community through each of our members. Membership is gained through the unanimous decisions of the current members of Freya. We have different interests, values, and resources. Though the members of Freya vary widely in many ways (race, religion, sexual orientation, socioeconomic class, etc), we all hold in common a love for the spirit of Hollins and a dedication to the betterment of our community.

We remain anonymous in order to achieve a collective character and to show that we represent not one idea or belief, but all the opinions and perspectives of the people at Hollins. We are here not for ourselves, but for the community. Freya's anonymity gives us the freedom to function without the association of any political, social, academic or personal labels. It also allows us to utilize fully the individuality of each of our members.

Freya continues the tradition of walking to maintain tangible contact with the community and to draw attention to issues of the university or of national or international significance. When we walk we wear black robes to preserve our anonymity and to promote our symbol of unity. We carry candles as symbols of hope and faith.

Many people believe that walking is the only contact the Hollins community ever has with Freya. While a strong and recognizable symbol, walking is the least of our activities. Members of Freya come from all walks of life and all groups on campus.

We are everywhere, always striving to improve Hollins in any way we can. The Hollins community interacts with Freya every day, although it may not be recognized.

Freya serves Hollins through two funds: the Freya Scholarship Fund and the Emergency Relief Fund. These funds are made possible largely through donations from alumnae and from the White Gift Service. The members of Freya hope the continued growth of these funds will make it possible to assist more students each year.

Freya has been in existence since 1903. During our 100 year history, Freya has changed as much as Hollins itself has changed. As Hollins begins a new year, Freya will continue to grow and change, always welcoming the challenge of narrowing the discrepancy of what one is and what one could be.

Sincerely,  
The Members of Freya

# Smokey says...

My junior year at Hollins marks my third year of living in Tinker. Not only do we have freshmen, and Tinker scares, but we also have fire drills. Lots of 'em. Can you believe that Tinker's had at least FIVE fire alarm evacuations since the start of school? The most recent came Saturday morning, 6 AM, waiting outside for twenty minutes clad only in a bathrobe, fantasizing with fellow Tinkerites about how to torture the culprits.

There's a reason why students can't smoke indoors. I'm sorry people have habits to feed, and I'm sorry it's rainy outside. Suck it up. Literally. There's a difference between mood lighting and fire hazards. Don't light those candles. There's a difference between meditation and conflagration. Ditto for incense. And you must be THIS HIGH to ride in the washer and dryer! Load limits exist for a reason. And fire alarm #2 was caused by too much lint in a Tinker dryer lint trap.

Every fire alarm must be treated as the real thing. You might enjoy checking out the cute firefighters and their hoses, but some of us actually prefer studying, or sleeping, or doing anything other than standing on a sidewalk for half an hour. You might not want to have your little ciggie out in the rain, but think of the poor people taking showers who don't want to stand outside clad in only a towel.

Please show some respect for your dormmates. Let's put an end to unnecessary fire drills.

Laura Carruba

# Professor initiates table for discussion

Dear Members of the Hollins Community,  
I am writing this letter to invite you to join me for lunch on Wednesdays in the glass dining room for what I'm calling "The Common Table."

The purpose of this encounter is for us to explore all we have in common and strengthen our friendships.

The conflict at the end of the semester in the spring upset me. It especially disturbed me because I knew and liked the people on both sides.

With that uneasiness in my mind, I also had two experiences during the summer that contributed to this idea for The Common Table. Let me explain.

The first experience came through music. As a member of the handbell choir at First Presbyterian Church, I was part of a group who performed at High Street Baptist Church. (For those who may not know First Presbyterian is predominantly white and High Street Baptist is predominantly African-American.) During this joint concert, we were not so much separate groups as we were one large group very excited about playing handbells.

The second experience came when my

godson got married this summer. Danton is a white man from Severna Park, Maryland. His bride, Rowena, is a woman from Liberia who now lives in Washington, DC. The wedding took place in Las Vegas. Many of the 100+ people who attended were different in skin color and nationality, yet we were all having great fun celebrating the wedding of a couple we all loved.

As these experiences converged in my mind over the summer, I had this idea. At Hollins, we have much in common. We live and work in this beautiful place, we love to learn, we experience stress in our attempts to succeed.

What will happen if we join for the purpose of strengthening our friendships? We can share what we have in common and explore what our differing contributions and views are.

If you would like to join me in this experiment, I welcome you. Bring your friends, your joys, your problems and your special lives.

I could be lots of fun. See you on Wednesday at lunch!

Nancy R. Healy

# Barbershop quartet campus Nov. 1

**Roanoke's annual barbershop harmony show will be Saturday, November 1 in Shaftman Performance Hall at Jefferson Center. Roanoke's Virginia Gentlemen barbershop harmony chorus will present "What's That Tune?" a musical game show featuring local celebrities earning money for the Hollins Communications Institute.**

**The show's headline quartet, Four Voices, is the 2002 Quartet Champion of the International Barbershop Harmony Society.**

**Also appearing will be Trade Secret, an award-winning collegiate quartet. Shows are scheduled for 1:30 and 7:30 p.m. Reserved seat tickets are on sale now at the Jefferson Center box office, (540) 345-2550, or by contacting Ed Burke at (540) 977-0472 or eburke1038@aol.com.**

**A major portion of the proceeds from the show will be donated to the Hollins Communications Research Institute.**



# Student survey part of clean slate review

BY MARLY WILSON

Throughout the fall semester, the Department of Physical Education and Athletics is engaging in a review of the current varsity athletic offerings.

The committee reviewing the athletic programs is composed of Athletic Director Lynda Calkins and two students, Margaret Hopkins, '04, chair of the Athletic Association, and Sally Beazlie, '04, chair of the Student Athletic Advisory Committee.

According to a newsletter sent to returning students, where a paragraph was dedicated to describing the review process, the review "takes into consideration the resources available (students, facilities, budget, conference, geography, etc), the interest and ability of current and potential students, then seeks to determine the athletic program offerings best suited to the university."

Over the summer, Calkins spent time researching different factors related to varsity sports. She examined the average costs, NCAA

regulations, necessary facilities, available local conferences of varsity offerings, and which athletic programs the "Tier 1" schools offer. In examining these different factors for the past two years, the

rent students, which she created with the help of Political Science Professor Jong Ra.

The questions in the survey look to gauge student interest in specific activities from Acrobatics to Windsurfing, and also look at why students participate in athletics. The survey is still being formalized but should be distributed to the student body before mid-October.

The week of Sept. 14, Calkins and the committee were busy finishing up a

study of budgeting constraints, and are currently working on a timeline for the implementation of the final decisions.

Although the review only pertains to intercollegiate athletics,

Calkins anticipates that there will be a "trickle-down" effect; if it's impossible for the Athletic Department to offer one popular sport at the varsity level, it might be offered at an instructional or intramural level.

Many students are concerned, thanks, in part, to the ominous-sounding paragraph in the emailed newsletter. Some are confused as to the motives of the review, noting that the committee might "play favorites" financially, without truly taking into account student interests. A few student-athletes are worried that their programs may be cut altogether.

"I waited a year to find out if I could be part of the golf team," said Emily Eigel '06. "And now, after we've gotten it back, it might be gone again." Golf was cut from the varsity list last year but made it back this year after much lobbying. "We had the smallest budget of any of the teams besides fencing, and it got cut," Eigel continued. "Supposedly there weren't enough people who wanted [golf],

but there were."

Calkins remains optimistic, insisting that students will be involved every step of the way. She attended an SGA meeting on Sept. 15, and hopes to attend another before the surveys are distributed to the student body. She also plans to have open forums for students and faculty.

"I do hope that students, when they get the survey, will take the time to fill it out thoughtfully and honestly," Calkins said.

Some students, however, are skeptical. "I think it's a good idea, what they're trying to do," said Holly Bailey '06. "Unfortunately, only probably about half of the student population participates in a sport, and I doubt that anyone will take [the survey] seriously."

Calkins stressed the significance of the survey and the review, saying, "Maybe we're missing the boat on this. Maybe there's some new interest in [a previously unpopular sport].... If we do this well, we'll make Hollins very distinctive in itself."



Field Hockey is one of many sports involved in the Clean Slate review.

athletic department has been attempting to track prospective student interest in athletics.

Much of Calkins' work over the summer focused on the development of an athletic survey for cur-

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Questions? Call Jenny at x6053 or Susan at 982-1469