

Hollins University

## Hollins Digital Commons

---

Hollins Student Newspapers

Hollins Student Newspapers

---

12-8-2003

### Hollins Columns (2003 Dec 8)

Hollins College

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.hollins.edu/newspapers>

 Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#), [Journalism Studies Commons](#), [Social History Commons](#), [United States History Commons](#), and the [Women's History Commons](#)

---



## NEWS



Campus condoms may cause complications

Page 2

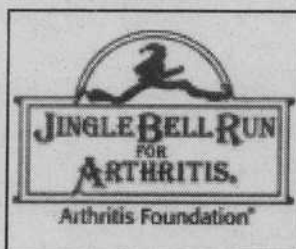
## FEATURES



Denise Giardina returning to campus

Page 3

## SPORTS



Runners dash to benefit arthritis sufferers

Page 7

# Senior gift set to break record

BY JEILENN GERLACH

As graduation nears, the class of 2004 is not only concerned with finishing their theses and post-graduation plans, but also how they can reciprocate what Hollins has given them. In the Senior Appreciation Program, each class of soon-to-be alumnae raise money to contribute to the Hollins Fund, which finances student scholarships, faculty salaries, and campus upkeep.

"The Hollins Fund is the operating budget of the university, so it's really crucial," said Jocelyn Sanders, Hollins Fund Officer. The program is organized under the supervision of Sanders, who serves as a liaison between as student committee and the Hollins Fund Office.

The student committee is headed by three senior chairs; Carrie Hughes '04, Alice Moss '04, and Savon Shelton '04, who in turn are aided by seven senior gift captains. These representatives have visited each senior individually to talk about

the importance of giving to the Hollins Fund.

Hughes explained her reasons for volunteering by saying, "I decided to be a chair because I was really excited about our senior class appreciation program. Our class tends to get together really well as a group to show our love for Hollins. I worked with the Hollins Fund previously, and I know how important it is to the functioning of Hollins as an institution."

The Senior Appreciation program kicked off this year with a champagne reception at President Bell's house on Nov. 13. At this reception, Horizon student Kelley Shinn '04 presented a \$10,000 check to President Bell and the class of 2004.

"Being a teacher at Hollins, you meet incredible women of all sorts, and that's one of the most enjoyable things about being a professor at Hollins," says classics professor Tina Salowey. "I continue to learn, to stretch, and to grow through my interaction with students like Kelley. She

is extremely passionate about causes of social justice. Intelligent. Witty. She's thoughtful in almost every sense of the word in that she thinks deeply about the things that people tell her and the things she hears and reads. And she is a sympathetic and nurturing spirit. When she sees someone in pain, in trouble, or just having a bad day, she will reach out and help."

Shinn, who was adopted into a family in Ohio, excelled at track in high school and was offered many scholarships at large state universities. At 16, however, Shinn suffered from bacterial meningitis and, as a result, had both legs amputated.

Shinn came to Hollins and became a classics major, befriending Professor Christina Salowey, art history. Shinn decided to take time off from school recently to embark on a journey around the world, beginning in Bosnia. Salowey, who was on sabbatical, went with her to visit with land mine victims.

"We met in Athens and drove

up to Bosnia, and spent a month traveling in Bosnia and in Greece. Travel can really bring people together, especially in a place like Bosnia, where we encountered a lot of difficulties in dealing with the reality of a war torn country," Salowey said.

Sandra Frazier '94, a member of the Board of Trustees, challenged the senior class to a \$10,000 goal. She promised that if the goal is met, then she will contribute \$25,000 to the university.

Rather than resting on their laurels with Shinn's donation, this year's seniors are aiming to raise an additional \$10,000.

"Technically the goal has been met, but we are trying to keep the momentum up," Sanders explained. "Even though the \$10,000 goal has been met, that was from one person. Her story is just so inspiring. What we'd like from the \$10,000 from her is to inspire other people to give."

Along with Frazier's \$25,000

SEE SENIOR PAGE 3

# Student committee aims to solve issues

BY KIRSTEN BREWER

This semester, the Student Task Force Committee has been working in conjunction with student Senate and the Student Task Force to come up with solutions to topics of concern on campus, including those brought up by the October demonstration on front quad. The committee was formed through Senate as a way of studying the issues the demonstration brought to light and researching solutions to those matters, focusing mainly on student issues.

According to member Katie McDonald '06, their focuses this semester include: intercultural programs, hiring practices, health and counseling, campus safety, curriculum and living wages.

Member Sonya Coleman '06 points out, "There are only 2 students on the Task Force; we're here to provide another voice, to research issues,

educate people and really bring to light what is going on campus and with the Task Force."

The Task Force Committee decides on a number of concerns each semester, researches them, and presents the results of their research, as well as their recommendations, to the Task Force.

According to Coleman, "We serve a specific group of interests on campus that we thought should be focused on."

Sophia Koinis '06 added, "We want to look in depth into issues that concern us as a group."

McDonald added, "There are many other issues on campus we want to address, but we are on a tight timeline. The issues we have now were narrowed down from a much longer list." The committee only has a semester to research and try to find solutions to the topics of concern they

SEE TASK FORCE PAGE 3



EMILY EIGEL

Residents of the international house express their creativity during the first snowfall of the year. They barely made a dent in the 4 inches of snow that fell on Thu., Dec. 4.

# Condoms distributed on campus may be harmful

BY LAURA SMITH

Students, be warned. The condoms distributed in both Randolph and Tinker contain Nonoxynol-9, a spermicide that is found in many condoms, which is extremely dangerous. While it was once thought of as effective in preventing both STDs and pregnancy, research now shows that condoms containing Nonoxynol-9 often cause ulcers to form in the vaginal wall - making users more susceptible to STDs such as gonorrhea, chlamydia, and even AIDS. Nonoxynol-9 also causes burning sensations, and reoccurring yeast infections in some women.

In an article on Sexuality.org's website called, "Nonoxynol-9: Better Safe than Sorry," it was stated that in the original study of Nonoxynol-9 in 1980 by the Food and Drug Administration, the Administration concluded that Nonoxynol-9 was "safe and effective... as a vaginal contraceptive." And later, on the basis of only one animal study, they reported that Nonoxynol-9 had no "significant adverse effect[s] on humans."

Rita Foster, director of Health and Counseling Services here at Hollins, said, "It is my understanding that it [Nonoxynol-9] was added to condoms so that if the condom broke there would still be spermicide to kill the sperm. They also thought it would kill the AIDS virus."

Since then, studies have proven that harmful lesions on the vaginal tract, and the killing of lactobacilli, a harmless bacteria that naturally grows in the vagina to protect against infections, are caused by condoms being used with Nonoxynol-9. In fact, condoms with this spermicide are not effective in preventing against gonorrhea or chlamydia.

Lauren Tate '06, the second floor Resident Assistant of Randolph said, "I think Hollins should be aware of the health issues that these condoms bring up, and I think they [those who need condoms] should go to health services because they have different types of condoms and they are free."

Vesper Hubbard '07, a resident of Tinker said, "Well, as a virgin, I don't use condoms but I feel like those who do and those who are looking to use the condoms the

school provides are getting cheated. It seems that they are not really helping; they are only creating a worse problem."

The only condoms on campus that do not contain this spermicide are the ones distributed in



FILE PHOTO

The 50-cent condoms available in Randolph and Tinker could be costly to students in the long run.

Health Services. Therefore, if someone needs a condom, and didn't feel like traveling over to health services to get a free condom, they would most likely go to the machines in either a) the first floor kitchen in Tinker or b) the first floor laundry room in Randolph to buy them for fifty cents.

To some, finding out that Hollins distributed condoms that are lined with a spermicide that may be detrimental to their health, was appalling.

"To me, it just seems more than a little ridiculous and just a little frightening," said Sarah Porter '07.

Condoms often contain about 25 milligrams of Nonoxynol-9. On Lifestyles Condoms, which also contain this spermicide, the warning label simply states: "This product contains a latex condom and a spermicidal lubricant. This spermicide, Nonoxynol-9, reduces the number of active sperm, thereby decreasing the risk of pregnancy... however, the extent of the decreased risk has not been established." On the back of this brand, it boasts, "If used properly, latex condoms will help reduce the risk of pregnancy, HIV infection (AIDS), and many other sexually transmitted diseases."

There is no warning of the adverse effects caused by Nonoxynol-9 either on the condoms, or the packaging. The ones distributed at the Health Center that are not lubricated with Nonoxynol-9 contain

the exact same warning as that on the back of the condoms lubricated with Nonoxynol-9.

Foster said, "The ones coming here [into health services] do not have Nonoxynol-9 in them. I stopped ordering them at least a year

them out?"

Hollins Health Services distributes a vaginal contraceptive film, VCF, which contains 28 percent of Nonoxynol-9. This film is pushed high into the vagina until it touches the cervix where it dissolves and releases Nonoxynol-9. Foster said that this film was better than the condoms that contained Nonoxynol-9 because there was no continual irritation that condom users would face when a condom was scraped against the vaginal lining.

But these films are not very effective in preventing unwanted STDs or pregnancy - condoms are more protective; in fact, studies show that roughly 25 percent of couples that repeatedly use vaginal contraceptive film will accidentally become pregnant. So the question remains: Is it better to use a condom loaded with Nonoxynol-9 that is harmful to a woman's health, or is it better to use a vaginal contraceptive film and pray that there will be no accidental pregnancies or is it better to use a silicon condom?

Horizon student Lauri Elliott said, "Distributing condoms that do not contain spermicide but prevent contraception may be the safest bet."

In fact, there is an overwhelming belief that condoms lubricated with Nonoxynol-9 are no more successful in preventing pregnancy than condoms lubricated with

silicon. Therefore, silicon lined condoms may be more helpful in the long run than those lined with Nonoxynol-9.

"There are natural lubricants that you can use that contain grapefruit seed, which is a natural spermicide. It's also anti-yeast," Williams said.

There has also been a call for more educational materials on condoms to be distributed by the new women's center at Hollins, or "The Center." Elliott, who attended a women's center in Santa Cruz, California, explained, "it was all inclusive: medical care for women specifically. You could find everything from childcare issues to sexual issues. It combines OB/GYN Services with basic health care services."

"We [health services] do pap smears, STD testing, we offer birth control pills, we get clinic pricing for them; there is no cost to see the physician, just the lab fee," said Foster.

"The first time I heard about it was recently in my women's studies class," said Amy Torbert '05. "So I think that Health Services could do a better job of educating us about the drawbacks of using these condoms. But better to use something than nothing."

Information was gathered from: <http://www.sexuality.org/l/ safersex/non9art.html>

## HOLLINS COLUMNS

Editor-in-Chief  
News Editor  
Features Editor  
Copy Editors  
  
Photo Editor  
Layout Editor  
Columnist  
Advertising  
Business  
Circulation

Angie Jeffreys  
Lisa Bower  
Jeilenn Gerlach  
Lauren Clemence  
Amy Torbert  
Emily Eigel  
Lucy Erhardt  
Cat Vasko  
Kasey Freedman  
Marly Wilson  
Laura Carruba

Layout Staff: Laura Carruba, Tiffany Edwards, Sian Thomas

Staff editorials and letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policies of Hollins University or the Hollins Columns.

We welcome letters from all members of the community. Please include your signature. Unsigned letters will not be published. Because of the volume we receive, we regret we can only publish a portion of them. Letters should be left in the Hollins Columns box in the post office or e-mailed to [hollinscolumns@hotmail.com](mailto:hollinscolumns@hotmail.com).

# First Flash Mob experiment meets success

BY LAUREN CLEMENCE

No amount of snow could prevent the "Flash Mobbers" from coming. On December 4, a group of about thirty students gathered on Hollins' front quad to participate in the first Flash Mob event ever held at Hollins.

The event was the brainchild of Communications Professor, Jane Tumas-Serna's "Understanding New Media" class.

"Flash Mobs" are part of a worldwide movement of performance art, organized entirely by Internet technology.

Most Mobs are organized by an anonymous source, who sends an email out with some vague instructions about a meeting place. People then forward the emails to their

friends and family to spread the word.

At the time and place set by the organizer, a mob will suddenly materialize, act out some type of instruction, and disperse as quickly as it formed.

The movement began in New York City in May 2003, when a Mob of about 50 people organized itself in the rug department at a Macy's department store in Manhattan.

The group told the salespeople they all lived together and wanted to purchase a particular rug. After about 10 minutes, the group appeared to vanish.

Since then, Flash Mobs have been spotted all over the world, from San Francisco, to London, to Bangladesh, to Vienna and beyond.

Planning for the Hollins event began at the beginning of the semes-

ter, as the class began discussing the new worldwide phenomenon.

"Over the summer they gained popularity, in New York and around the world," said New Media class member, Jen Spelkoman '05. "Jane [Tumas-Serna] mentioned it, and we all got really excited about it, so we decided to try one here at Hollins."

For Hollins' Flash Mob, members of the campus community received an "e-vite" from the New Media class in the daily "Today at Hollins" emails sent out by Jeff Hodges of Media Relations.

The email requested that people show up in Moody Lobby at 12:38pm and look for the girls wearing "Mob Squad t-shirts," who would give them their instructions.

Students and faculty then gathered in the falling snow on front quad and began greeting each other by say-

ing "Happy Holidays," or a greeting of their choice.

At precisely 12:46pm, the group burst into their own rendition of "Jingle Bells," singing the song just once, and then dispersed as quickly as they arrived.

"I had never heard of Flash Mobs before [the email was sent]," said Mob participant Jeilenn Gerlach '04. "I thought it would happen a lot faster than it did. I wasn't expecting to sing a song; I thought we were just going to yell something. I'm glad I participated though; it was cute."

Those that organized the event seemed pleased with the turnout.

"I really didn't think that many people would show up, especially with the snow and cold weather," said Spelkoman. "It was a pretty good turnout, and I'm glad that it got a good buzz around campus. It was really

great to see students eager to participate in campus events."

"I was very pleased with the turnout despite the inclement weather," said Tumas-Serna. "The class did a great job on the conception and implementation of the project. It was a lot of fun and the weather cooperated in a way with our concept of an all-inclusive holiday greeting and made our singing of 'Jingle Bells' quite appropriate."

Although no additional Flash Mobs are currently being organized by the Communications class, many students hope more events like the one held on December 4 will continue to happen in the future.

Mob participant Reed Middlemas '04 said, "I thought it was a cool visual arts activity, and should be preformed more often, seeing as Hollins is a liberal arts college."

## Giardina returning as writer in residence

BY KASEY FREEDMAN

W.V. novelist Denise Giardina will be the writer in residence for spring 2004. This means that she will act as a guest professor for the spring semester, while still contributing time to her writing.

This is Giardina's second residency here at Hollins; her first was a six-week program in 1991. Her friend from her first stay at Hollins, Richard Dillard, called her last spring and asked her to return to teach a class. While here, she will spend her time teaching a class that focuses on Appalachian stories and short stories from Virginia and West Virginia writers.

Giardina is also planning to write a novel in the spring. Previous well known works include "Storming Heaven," and "The Unquiet Earth." These novels focus on Appalachia, including life in the coalfields of West Virginia. Her most recent work, "Fallam's Secret," is one in a series of historical fiction that tells the story of a general from the 1600's.



Denise Giardina, a novelist from W.V., will return to Hollins to teach for the Spring 2004 semester.

Much of Giardina's writing is based on historical fiction from growing up in a small coal mining camp called Black Wolf, in McDowell County, W Va. She received her bachelor's degree from West Virginia Wesleyan and her graduate degree from Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia. She later pursued a Masters in Divinity from the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Va.

Besides holding the titles of writer and professor she is also politically active. Giardina ran for governor of West Virginia in 2000. Though she lost, her independent campaign received a lot of local and national attention. And, an independent political party called the Mountain Party was born in West Virginia as a result of her campaign. This party centers itself around such issues as the state's environment, health care, and small communities.

Now Giardina is returning to Virginia and to Hollins. She will arrive on campus with her dog and two cats Feb. 4 to begin the spring semester. She is looking forward to not only having time to write, but to also be able to work with her old friend in the English department.

FROM PAGE 1

## Senior

challenge gift, the seniors hope to ultimately raise \$45,000. The Hollins Fund coordinators may plan a fundraiser in the spring, depending on how far they are from this goal.

Seniors can use their donations to honor or remember friends, professors, and loved ones. The Hollins Fund sends out a card to the honoree, acknowledging the donor.

Lauren Clemence '04 intends to give her gift in honor of professors Lori Joseph and Julie Pfeiffer. "Both of them have been really influential in my four years here and have gotten me through some really tough times," she said.

The Hollins Fund officers are encouraging seniors to give what's called a "presidential gift." These are pledges in the amount of \$200.40, which commemorates the seniors' graduation year.

The minimum contribution is five dollars. Seniors have several payment options which include monthly installments, payment

in full, and pledging money to be paid by May 1.

Sanders emphasized the importance of having a large number of people donate. "We were asking each senior for a gift of at least \$52, originally the amount each person would need to give to make it to \$10,000 with 192 students," she said. "Participation is key. We're really focusing on participation. We are almost at \$4,000. On top of that, we'd love to make \$6,000 more to get to \$10,000. We also don't want people to be deterred by, 'Well, I can't give that much money.' Give what you can."

Already the class of 2004 has surpassed the record gift of the class of 2000, who left Hollins with \$8,250. The senior class has also raised \$3,850 in addition to Shimm's gift.

"Already we've raised more than twice of what the whole senior class pledged last year, so that was really exciting," said Hughes.

Sanders said, "One way or another the class of 2004 is going to go down in history for this because there has never been this amount of money raised."

FROM PAGE 1

## Task Force

decide upon.

Though the group works as a sort of liaison to the Student Task Force at present, it has higher goals for the future.

"We aren't just here to serve the Task Force, that is just the avenue we are pursuing right now to make sure these issues are addressed on campus," said McDonald.

Though future means of voicing these concerns are unclear, the group seems determined to continue with their goals into next semester.

The group researches the concerns, pre-

sents them to the Student Task Force, and makes recommendations to the Task Force based upon their research. According to Coleman, "We research [the issues we decide to focus on] by comparing the practices here with other campuses, interviewing people, and studying the campus' own methods of dealing with these issues."

The committee is still open to anyone on campus who is interested in joining. Committee members also encourage students to come to the meetings they hold every Thursday at 6:00pm in the Glass Dining Room. Students can offer the group feedback, or voice their opinions and concerns about Hollins, the community and its practices.

# Sound off: What do you think about Michael Jackson?



Kathleen Shaw '06

"He's a creepy man, and I think he's the same person as Janet Jackson."



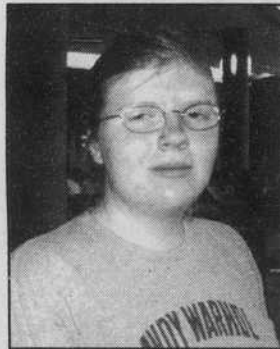
Emily Fielder '05

"He never had a childhood so now he's longing for it."

Katherine Mc Donough '06  
"I think he's a fruit loop."

Sharon Bonham '04

"EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEKKKKKKKK!"



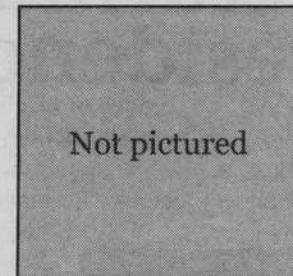
Sarah Porter '07

"It's a shame that whatever has happened to him has happened because he used to be a very talented musician. I'm sad to see this downward spiral of insanity he's gotten into."



Mary Beth Blakey '05

"I want him to go far away so I don't have to hear about him anymore."



Tehra Coles '06

"I think that no matter what the outcome is of these recent accusations, it will be sad, because he's done a lot in the music industry-- especially for blacks."

ALL PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARLY WILSON

# DECEMBER

## DECEMBER IS...

Hi Neighbor Month  
National Stress Free Family Holiday Month  
Bingo's Birthday Month  
Read A New Book Month

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HAVE YOU SIGNED UP TO PROCTOR AN EXAM? HELP KEEP OUR INDEPENDENT EXAM SYSTEM INDEPENDENT	campus events: 6:30PM Hollins Christian Fellowship mtg @ Gordh room 7pm Open Climbing Wall	campus events: 4:15pm Spanish Club mtg @ Middle East social room 6:30pm Senate 7:30pm Theatreworks @ theater	campus events: 4pm Holiday Tea @ GDR	LAST DAY OF CLASSES campus events: 7:30pm BSA mtg @ RAT 7:30pm "Mona Lisa Smile" premier @ Grandin theater	READING DAY campus events: 7:30pm WA^2 mtg @ 1st floor Tinker social room 9pm Pancake Study Break	FIRST OFFICIAL DAY OF EXAMS
14th-18th EXAM WEEK - STUDY HARD!					12/19 - 1/4 WINTER BREAK SEE YOU FOR J-TERM!	

# Substitution dieting will save us all, right?

I have a confession to make: I have an eating disorder.

It's sad, but true. I have an eating disorder. I absolutely cannot eat healthy food. Don't even try to feed it to me if it's not deep-fried or dipped in chocolate.

I've managed to coast along most of my life without worrying about this problem, but as it becomes more and more uncontrollable, I'm starting to get concerned.

With the arrival of the holiday season, the problem has naturally worsened. Obviously it's hard to be strong when confronted with such staggering amounts of food; and one can hardly be blamed for, on a certain recent holiday, eating five deviled eggs, two full plates of dinner, and three separate servings of dessert.

And in the days following this holiday, if one falls prey to the menacing presence of leftovers and consumes twice one's own weight in turkey sandwiches, pie, and mashed potatoes, one must chalk this up to simple human weakness in the face of adversity. Right?

This was essentially my philosophy, until I made the mistake of weighing myself and discovered that sometime in the last year (but in all

likelihood during the last two weeks) I've managed to gain a full 20 pounds.

Armed with this hard scientific evidence, I started to notice other symptoms of my weight gain, like:



1. My body suddenly seems to expect eight meals a day. Plus cookies.

2. My mother has started affectionately referring to me as "heifer."

3. My breast size has changed from what could be described as "flat-chested" to what could be described as "knockers."

4. I experience strong, insurmountable cravings for bacon cheeseburgers at least six times a day.

If I continue gaining weight at this rate, I will weigh 310 pounds by

the time I'm 30.

So, for the first time in a long and happy life of constant, uncensored eating, I have decided to change my eating habits. I have put myself on a diet.

This has made me abruptly aware of certain harsh realities. Prime among them is the realization that everything is somehow unhealthy. Salads seem like they're healthy until you find out that ranch dressing has 8.5 grams of fat per tablespoon. A bagel seems innocent enough, until you learn that bagels are full of the dreaded carbohydrates, which not only cause weight gain but also actually make you stupider and almost guarantee you're going to hell.

Shockingly, the same is true of potatoes. I got a heaping bowl of potatoes at dinner, delighted at the realization that potatoes are both vegetables and something I like to eat.

Well, guess what?

Potatoes are full of something called "complex sugars." Now, your simple sugars just shut up and get digested. But the body has trouble with complex sugars because they are sometimes irritable and moody, and they have "father issues" that they refuse to shut up about.

Stymied by the knowledge that

nothing I could possibly eat would be healthy, I began to explore different pre-determined diet programs. There are quite a few out there, but I'll just give an overview of the trendiest ones.

Prominent among these is, of course, the Atkins diet. The basic premise of the Atkins diet is eliminating carbohydrates, which, as I mentioned before, are the root of all evil in the world. Carbohydrates are found in all of your really good foods, such as cake, French fries, even bread. That's right, kids: the food guide pyramid failed us. Six to 11 servings my ass.

Another popular diet program is Weight Watchers. This consists of using an elaborate system of points to determine how much fat you're consuming every day. The advantage of this program is that you eat whatever you want; you just eat it in moderation, adhering to your target number of points. The disadvantage is that you turn into a complete diet robot incapable of talking about anything except how many points everything is worth, so no one wants to sit with you at meals anymore.

There's also Lean Cuisine, a company that advocates healthy living and weight loss through eating completely disgusting food. One bite

of a Lean Cuisine meal will turn you off to food for days, and in two weeks you'll have a beautiful and lithe figure. Plus all that pesky hair on your head will fall right out, saving you the inconvenience of having to brush it every morning. One word: attractive!

In the end, however, I ignored the myriad of options available for the figure-conscious person and developed my own diet program. It's based around the principle of substituting healthy things for unhealthy things. Fruit for candy, juice for soda, original Oreos for double-stuff Oreos. And eating a lot of Subway, because as we all know from the helpful commercials, Subway sandwiches actually consume fat. Plus they make you a better person.

Thanks to this program, rather than weighing 310 pounds by the time I'm thirty, I'll have actually ceased to exist.

As I type these words, I have successfully been on the substitution diet for ten and a half hours.

I've only had one minor setback, when two medium-sized slices of Papa John's supreme pizza actually leaped from the box and dove into my mouth, leaving no option for me but to chew and swallow.

So far, so good.

## Campus community faces ethical controversy

BY CHRISTINA KING  
AND LISA BOWER

We have sat and watched the Hollins University community engage in a battle of words, politics and religions using the Hollins Columns and other methods over the past two years.

It has come to our knowledge that the article entitled "Susan Thomas to adopt Kazakhstani child," printed in the Nov. 17 issue of the Hollins Columns, was used maliciously.

We believe this type of interference isn't a result of personal conviction, but that this is spite. We believe this is immature, unthinking and uncaring spite. People are angry, we are among them.

This act of hate will not stop LGBT community both at Hollins and at large from receiving the respect

and rights they deserve. This has hurt the child, Dr. Thomas, her life partner and all who believe in the Hollins community.

We will fight harder than ever to combat such hateful and needless acts of malice.

When the article was published about Dr. Susan Thomas working on adopting a child from Kazakhstan we were excited to see the community supporting and praising a woman who wanted to save a small girl from her horrid conditions.

A person chose to use the column written by Lisa Bower to go beyond their personal beliefs and strike out against not only Dr. Thomas but this child.

A fax was received by the embassy of Kazakhstan that included a copy of the aforementioned article written explaining her position here and stated the fact that she is openly lesbian and plans to adopt.

This fax resulted in her

chances of adopting a girl in desperate need of a loving and safe home have been obliterated--the embassy voted and terminated the adoption immediately, and the adoption agency with which she was working permanently cancelled her signed contract with them.

Additionally, due to social circumstances and the inadequate health care in Kazakhstan, many female children are never adopted and now one more has lost her chance. If this was sent by a member of the Hollins University community then there is a much more serious problem on our hands.

The crimes committed here as we see it are as follows: Interfering in the private family life of a respected teacher and activist, forcing a specific limited religious belief on Hollins, working to destroy the Hollins University's sense of community, and quite possibly

stopping one 2 year old girl from ever having adequate health care, sleeping in a warm bed, having regular meals, the chance at an education, receiving individual love, or being treated like a human being.

This is a war that is bigger than the Hollins University campus. This is a war encompassing sexual orientation, gender (goddess forbid a woman speaks her mind), and the destruction of free will.

Over and over we have

heard "build community," how can we start to lay the ground work for "peaceful dialogue" if it contains members who attack one another in underhanded, vicious, hate-filled, ignorant, homophobic, and misogynistic manners.

All this at a woman's college, all of this in our home, all of this in our family. It is too much to believe and will not be tolerated.

**Join America's #1 Student Tour Operator**  
**CANCUN, ACAPULCO, JAMAICA, BAHAMAS, FLORIDA**  
 Sell Trips, Earn Cash, Go Free!  
 Now Hiring On-campus Reps  
 Call for group discounts

**1-800-648-4849 / www.ststravel.com**

# This semester's lesson: balance is key

When I came back to school this semester, I did not think I would be writing my final column so soon. I have been a member of the newspaper staff since my first semester here at Hollins, and it has been one of the most meaningful and educational opportunities I have encountered. I never could have predicted that I would decide to set the Columns aside before the very end of my college career.

As a first-year, it made the whole college transition a lot easier for me to have a group where I was immediately included, and editors who all made me feel welcome and important. I felt I had a working role in the Hollins community, that I was in touch with the issues here, instead of another ignorant newcomer. If I hadn't gotten involved, my only contact with Hollins would have been limited to two to three hours a day class-attendance and the fact that I happened to have a room located on campus.

After only one semester, I was promoted to features editor,

and that cemented my fate as a permanent newspaper dork. If nothing else, it gave me the confidence I lacked before I enrolled in college. I had put forth effort and dedication and in only a few months, such an inclusive organi-



ANGIE JEFFREYS  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

zation showed me not only that I was valued, but that they trusted me with greater responsibility. And as corny as it might sound, it stopped me from second-guessing myself as much as I had in the past.

It has also become one of the most practical educational

tools I have received over the past three and a half years here. After participating on the newspaper staff at all levels, I now know what career I want to pursue, and I have a great deal of practical and theory-based education in the field of journalism. I have learned a lot about communication as well, not only with a large reading audience, but also through collaborating with individual staff members. I have been able to study a vocation in such great detail, that in some ways it has demystified the concept of a "real job" for me. I now know I could handle it.

All of this noted, and the Columns being something I truly care about, I have spent more time working on newspaper than probably anything else at Hollins. This is the major reason I know I owe it to myself to take one semester away from it before I leave.

I enjoy contributing what I can to any part of Hollins, but I realized recently that I may have spent so much time working on things like newspaper and other

extracurricular activities that I'm not sure I really know what it is I am contributing towards. Staying so busy behind the scenes has left me questioning what it is about Hollins that I am going to miss after May. I have spent a lot of time observing and reporting about this school rather than being able to just be a part of it.

We all have different things that we immerse ourselves in as students here, and these are the things we remember after we leave. A lot of people remember their friends, parties, that one crazy spring break, etc. My memories consist mostly of spending endless hours during production weekends in the basement of a building with no windows, or rushing to finish something before the next deadline. Whenever any significant event occurs at Hollins, I can only think of it as material for a possible article and how it could be covered.

I am not saying I don't have wonderful friends, or I haven't had any fun here, but recreation defi-

nitely has not been my first priority, and that is part of what makes a college experience important. So in the spirit of the popular saying, "better late than never," I am going to try my hardest to just be a student for one semester before I leave. I want friends, and even homework to be top priorities, and through that I hope to better appreciate the people that I have been working with to create a campus newspaper.

I don't regret most of the time I have spent working on the Columns, nor the time I have spent as editor in chief, and I always encourage people who feel alienated or unhappy to get as involved as possible. But I do hope that students who are involved find a better balance between everything that makes the Hollins experience as significant as it should be. We are in a unique college environment, and while half of the experience comes from taking any active role, the other half comes from sitting back and letting it happen.

## Dear Editor: belittling opinions never constructive

Dear Editor:

I would like to respond to the letter written by Susan Thomas that appeared in the November 17th edition of the Hollins Columns.

Ms. Thomas goes into great detail in an effort to reply to opinions that were not expressed or implied in my commentary. The commentary was regarding a specific group of individuals who wanted to take a position in a religious organization. In the context of a religious organization, the concept of sin and sinner is most appropriate. In a church or religious organization, the moral concept of sin is a fundamental part of the belief and it is most appropriate to judge the leaders of the organization by the moral standards of the church. In most Christian religious organizations, that moral standard is the Bible. Hence in the context of the article, the statements were not only appropriate, but necessary to define the standards the church would be governed.

Ms. Thomas in her letter chooses to take my statements out of context and at-

tribute them to an out dated and morally corrupt position that is in contradiction to the laws of the country. If I may set the record straight, I am NOT opposed to equal rights for women or any law of the United States. While I am at odds with Ms. Thomas as to the moral appropriateness of gay and lesbian marriages, I would never propose that anyone be discriminated against in our society.

The statements made by Ms Thomas in her letter indicate to me that she is either vastly oversensitive or is trying to defend a position that she knows to be incorrect. The vast majority of our society could care less whether a person is "straight" or "gay". It is only when people try to push an agenda that forces their beliefs on the majority that we have a problem. Ms Thomas clearly feels that her agenda is the only one that may be held, and anyone who is opposed to it must be evil by his or her very nature. Ms Thomas, I do not hate you or anyone holding your beliefs. However, I do resent that you would attempt to portray me as a

Neanderthal who is incapable of thought or judgment. Our society has thrived on the ability of people to voice dissenting opinions. An open and active discussion of all issues is important in determining the will of the majority. However, to take statements out of context and to ascribe to members of the opposition, opinions and actions that they not stated, is to invite hate and animosity.

Again, let me state that my commentary was directed to a particular religious office concerning a particular group of people, who would violate what I consider to be the moral laws given to man by God, not society as a whole. All that I would ask of Ms Thomas is that she show the same respect for my opinion that she expects me to show for her opinion. I am perfectly willing to allow Ms Thomas the freedom to live her life as she wishes. I would hope that she would allow the same of me, and the others who hold similar beliefs.

Finally, I feel I must respond to the utterly contemptible comment that Ms Tho-

mas chooses to end her letter with. She states that the real reason for my letter is that I oppose efforts to dismantle the hierarchy of males over females. I find it impossible to follow any thread of logic that would take the comments made in my commentary and reach this conclusion. May I take this opportunity to categorically deny any such attempt on my part. Equality of the sexes is the law of the land and I support every aspect of it. If I may return the favor, is it possible that Ms Thomas and her supporters are afraid to face the world on an equal footing and desire that they be given some advantage? While I cannot and will not support a society that is dominated by men, I have no desire to be in a society that is dominated by people who attempt to belittle other opinions to advance their cause.

I would invite the reader to read both the commentary and the response of Ms Thomas before labeling who is the evil one in this debate.

Richard A. Carr Sr.

Got something to say?

The Hollins Columns is a bi-weekly 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.

# Campus community members to run for arthritis

BY REBECCA STAED

This holiday season, Anna Coplestone, '06, is taking the tradition of giving beyond just its practice and running with it, literally.

On Dec. 13, Coplestone and a group of Hollins students and faculty will be dashing through the streets of downtown Roanoke, decked in Hollins colors, with jingle bells tightly fastened to their sneakers, to support the Arthritis Foundation's thirteenth annual Lewis Gale Jingle Bell Run/Walk in Roanoke.

The run/walk takes place every year in cities throughout the country from November to December. Organizers say it is a fun way for Roanokers to help make a difference in the lives of people living with arthritis.

There are more than 100 different types of arthritis, a disease that causes pain, stiffness and sometimes swelling in or around joints. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recently reported that arthritis affects 33 percent of the population, or 69.9 million adults.

Coplestone has been working hard to put together a Hollins team for the event.

Out of curiosity, she picked up an event brochure outside cross-country coach J.P. Weidner's office. After reading the brochure, she immediately began making posters and personal invitations, sending out mass e-mails and talking to people to get them involved.

Initially, Coplestone targeted Hollins athletes. Her motivation sprang from a discouraging article about the university's athletic performance, which recently appeared in the Roanoke Times.

"(The article) made me feel misunderstood and undervalued, but reinforced my belief in working hard for the sake of teamwork and dedication (and) not for the sake of other's opinions," said Coplestone, who is a member of Hollins' field hockey team.

"We need to celebrate how hard we (Hollins athletes) have worked and support the Arthritis Foundation at the same time."

Many from the Hollins athletic department plan to participate, including Weidner, who has also asked his cross-country team to represent Hollins at the event.

"It's a great opportunity to have fun outside of the (cross-country) season," he said. "For cross-country run-

ners, it's good to get in a competitive situation during the off-season"

Participants have a choice of walking or running the 5k (3.1 mile) and 3k stretches. Other events include a one-mile walk and the "Diaper Dash" for children ages 1-4.

Online registration for the event ends Tuesday, December 9. Those who register online are provided with a pre-developed web page, which they can use for fundraising.

Registration is also available through pick-up packets at the Lewis-



WWW.ARTHRITIS.ORG

Gale Medical Center Physical Therapy on Peters Creek Rd., or on location the morning of the race. Registration fee is \$25, which buys entry into the race, a t-shirt, and a goodie bag, which contains coupons, a race number, a set of jingle bells, a newsletter from the Arthritis Foundation, and information from the event's sponsors.

All participants are encouraged to raise money, but it is not required.

"Raising money is easy," said Marguerite Daniels, Arthritis Foundation's event planner and director of the run/walk. "A kid that is 5-years-old can ask their teacher for a donation."

The goal this year is to raise \$40,000. Because a heavy surge of donations are expected to come in this week, an exact report of total funds thus far has not been assessed, Daniels said.

27 percent of the total money raised will go to the Arthritis Foundation's national office, which is used for research. Of what is left, 35 percent is set aside for public health education in Virginia; 29 percent is for patient and community services, such as water aerobics courses at local YMCAs, self-help courses, and PACE (People with Arthritis Can Exercise), a new exercise program designed specifically for people with arthritis to help increase joint flexibility and range of motion and to help maintain muscle

strength.

Another 18 percent goes to research performed in Virginia; 12 percent is for fundraising, management, and daily operations of the foundation's Virginia chapter, and the remaining 6 percent is used for professional education.

"Every person in the community can give back this way to fight the cause and raise awareness," Daniels said.

Coplestone and Weidner said they hope to gather a large group of athletes, non-athletes, faculty, and staff to mix some "green and gold Hollins spirit" in with the holiday colors that will line the streets in downtown Roanoke on the 13th.

They aren't the only ones excited about Hollins' involvement in the event.

Arthritis Foundation's event planner and director of the run/walk, Marguerite Daniels, said she is excited about the university's intended participation.

Approximately 900 people from Roanoke are predicted to take part in the run/walk this year, said Daniels. Only 200-300 have signed up so far.

Most people register the day of the event, she said.

"We had 1000 participants in 2001," she said. "But that was because we had a staff person working in Roanoke. Now it operates on volunteers who also have full-time jobs. Having one person dedicated to the event helps."

Not having someone to recruit for the event full-time has not discouraged Daniels.

"Our volunteers are so efficient," she said. "Our Roanoke committee serves as a role model for all of the other events."

The Arthritis Foundation holds three run/walks statewide in Richmond, Norfolk, and Roanoke. Participant turnout for each location is "pretty comparable."

"The event continues to grow every year," Daniels said. "We have timers now, which will add more respect to the event so serious runners can compete."

"Or people can just come out

with their families for a casual stroll."

Those with arthritis who participate in the event by running or walking wear blue hats provided by the foundation.

The Arthritis Foundation is always looking for more people who have arthritis to participate and share their stories and experiences to make the disease more understandable for those who do not know a lot about it, said Daniels.

For example, it may not surprise people that 1 in 3 adults suffer from arthritis, but what most don't know is that it affects people of all ages. Unfortunately, there are a lot of children who have arthritis that have not been treated yet, and therefore, the foundation does not know about them.

"Others may not know about us and that we are a resource for them," she said. "We are trying to break that barrier."

The race will be followed by a party on the third floor of the former Heronimus building. The party will feature anchorwoman Karen McNew from News Channel 10 and Q99 radio personality, David Page. It will also include raffle prizes, refreshments, and sign-up opportunities to volunteer with the Arthritis Foundation.

The after-race party is not only open to participants, but also their families and friends, race spectators, volunteers, committee members, and anyone else who wants to come.

"It's basically a big party for the city of Roanoke," said Daniels. "It's such a feel-good event. I've never seen anything like it."

The run is not just for fund raising, Daniels said.

A participant in Richmond's recent Jingle Bell run/walk suffered from severe rheumatoid arthritis and had trouble walking.

"When she found out what the course was - it was really hilly - she went out and started training," Daniels said. "She would call me and tell me about her progress. By the day of the event, she completed the entire course. It was really rewarding for her. Her morale and self-esteem was through the roof. Being able to touch people like that is the best part of (my) job."

The event's committee members are Beth Bell, Barry Brewer, Paul Klockenbrink, Nancy May, Paula Mitchell, Barry Smith, David Thompson, Lori Thompson, Donovan Young, Jill Sluss, Emily Ditmore, Janice Herlong, Gregory Hunt, and Jacquelyn Andres.

Sponsoring the event are Richmond Eye and Ear Surgical Specialty Center; Wachovia Securities; Stony Point Fashion Park, Keiter, Stephens, Hurst, Gary and Shreaves, Certified Public Accountants and Consultants; Lasik Center of Virginia; Newsradio 1140; and Amtrak.

If you would like more information about the Arthritis Foundation's Lewis Gale Jingle Bell Run/Walk on Dec. 13 or how you can be a volunteer with the Arthritis Foundation, please contact Marguerite Daniels at [mdaniels@arthritis.org](mailto:mdaniels@arthritis.org) or by calling

You can also log on to the event website at [www.arthritis.org](http://www.arthritis.org).

## What's the deal with Senate?

**Who?** All students of the Hollins community can participate at Senate

**What?** Senate is a forum for students to voice concerns and issues of importance to the Hollins community.

**When?** It takes place every Tuesday night at 6:30 p.m.

**Where?** We meet in Babcock Auditorium.

**How?** Senate Agenda Forms, the Senate Agenda, and Senate Minutes are available online at [www.hollins.edu/sga](http://www.hollins.edu/sga) or through Hollinsnet.



# Swimming warming up for winter season

BY BECKY KLABUNDE

The Hollins swim team is splashing their way through the season.

The team has five meets under their belts and they're getting better each stroke of the way.

"All the swimmers have improved so greatly and all have helped contribute to the team, whether they're the fastest or not," said assistant coach and Hollins alumna Laura Orcutt '03, who swam for Hollins herself.

Though they are still 0-5, the team has posed some serious threats in their ODAC meets.

"Two meets were lost within 10 points; we came very close. Most of the fault lies in the lineup, not the swimmers," Orcutt said.

The return of Lynda Calkins, longtime

Hollins swim coach, to guide the team and the addition of some key swimmers has bolstered the team's performances.

Orcutt named the senior team captains, Sarah McClurg and Jessica McEwan, as strong team leaders and swimmers.

Mary Petit '07 agreed. "The seniors, Sarah and Jessica, are always encouraging in their roles as captains."

Some standout individuals on the team include distance freestyle swimmer Marly Wilson '06, who was named the ODAC Swimmer of the Week earlier this season.

"We have a strong base of returning students as well as great incoming swimmers - Mary Petit is one of them, as is Natalia Alfonso," Calkins said. "Others are

stepping up to the plate as well, and really following through."

Petit cited Wilson as a strong teammate as well. "Marly swims in the lane next to me and she's really fast - I see her next

to me and she gives me something to push for [while I'm swimming]," she said.

The team has progressed individually and as a team over the course of the season so far. Currently, they have met 15 personal best records at a meet with Washington & Lee University, and boasted a combined 24 personal bests in the meets against Randolph-Macon Women's College and Sweet Briar College.

"These women are swimming better every time they step up to the plate. It's exciting; it's great to watch," said Calkins.

Petit credits Calkins and Orcutt with providing the motivation the team needs to perform their best. She said, "The coaches are very encouraging and they make us work hard, which is good."

Hollins' academic schedule poses a problem for the swim team: many swimmers are away during January for internships or traveling abroad, and the team must compete without them.

Petit said, "We're losing some of our strong fast swimmers [during January term]. But if we stick together as a team, even if we don't win meets point-wise, we'll be able to win for ourselves."

"They have great potential. The women are dedicated and willing to work hard," said Calkins. "They have a lot of determination and drive."



FILE PHOTO

The swim team hopes to make a resounding splash this season.

"The team has developed and grown [over the season]. I think right now we're at a rebuilding stage, progress the talent we have on the team while maintaining a good, solid base that's already here," Calkins said.

*Do you have a sharp eye for detail? Can you work on deadline? Do you have experience with Adobe PageMaker?*

If you have answered yes to one or all of these questions, we want to hear from you.

We are looking for a layout editor and a copy editor for next semester.

Applications are outside the Hollins Columns office in downstairs Moody and are due Wednesday, Dec. 10.

Questions? Call the office at x6400 current editor in chief Angie Jeffreys at x6060, or future editor in chief Lucy Erhardt at 819-5929 for more details.

*Cargoes is now accepting submissions!*

If you would like to see your work in print, submit your poetry, fiction, and artwork in the Cargoes trash can in Bradley or e-mail submissions as attachments to [cargoes@hollins.edu](mailto:cargoes@hollins.edu) right now!

The deadline for submissions is Friday, Feb. 6, but get them in as early as possible.

Cargoes is also looking for readers, so if you are interested in applying or have any questions, send an e-mail or call Angie Jeffreys at x6060.

## DIAMOND'S ANGELS

*Some girls  
just want to  
have fun!*

Check out our  
really cool web site  
for money saving  
specials and other  
neat stuff!

### DIAMOND SALONS

362-8282

5220 Williamson Road [www.DiamondSalons.com](http://www.DiamondSalons.com)