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HOLLINS COLUMNS

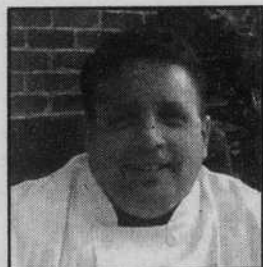


MARCH 15, 2004

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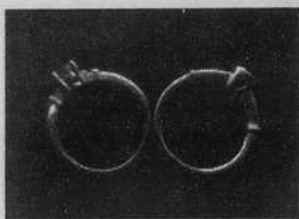
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Campus sets relationship rules

BY JELENN GERLACH

For the first time, Hollins University has a policy regarding consensual sexual relationships between faculty members and students.

Hollins has discussed creating these guidelines for more than a decade. The faculty approved this statement in Dec. 2003 after "lively discussions of nuances of wording," according to the faculty meeting minutes.

Some faculty say Hollins' statement does not go far enough and will need to be revisited. Drue Barker, Professor of Economics and Women's Studies, said, "It could have been stronger, but what we achieved at this time was exactly what we needed to do. Some people said it could have been stronger. I didn't vote for any of the amendments just because I was glad to see something."

Barker praises the approval of this policy as a big step for Hollins: "I think it is expressing an institution's value

that we are not going to regard women as sexual objects, as sexualized creatures, but rather as scholars and students, and we're going to draw that line. That's a very important line to draw."

Michael Sitton, professor of music and former chair of faculty commented, "Having this on the books is a good step at this point, and when the time is right, then if the need is felt we can return to something more comprehensive."

Compared to other universities, Hollins has lagged in the creation of a statement on consensual relations. For instance, guidelines at University of Iowa have been in place for nearly 20 years.

Some leading institutions have been moved to action by specific incidents. For instance, in 1999 at Ohio Wesleyan an affair gone sour became a case of stalking which created a problem because no guidelines were in place.

The issue of creating a consensual

relations statement stemmed in part from the revision of Hollins' sexual harassment policy, completed in March 2004.

According to Tina Rolen, chair of the harassment grievance board, a general rise in concern from the university attorneys led to the policy revision that now covers harassment based on race, religion, creed, sexual orientation, national origin and ethnicity. The revision of this policy last fall spawned the conversation that Hollins needed guidelines for professor-student relationships.

Hollins' Statement on Consensual Relationships between Faculty Members and Students contains the university's official stance: "Consensual relations between students and the faculty members who have pedagogical, advisory, supervisory, or evaluative responsibilities for them undermine the real or perceived integrity of the educational mission, and are discouraged by the University."

The statement also reminds profes-

sors involved with students that if sexual harassment charges are made, mutual consent will be difficult to prove.

The faculty executive committee crafted a statement before bringing it before the faculty for review. An initial draft contained a paragraph requiring that such relationships be announced to the chair of the department, but these rules were removed at the faculty meeting.

George Ledger, professor of psychology and chair of division III drafted the statement based on information gathered from nearly a dozen other schools, including College of William and Mary, the University of Calgary, and Amherst.

Ledger said of the drafting process, "There was a great deal of thinking about the larger issues involved here and trying to find a middle road between protecting people's rights and abridging people's rights."

SEE RULES PAGE 2

Tennis team crushes Methodist College



CHRISTINE JEHU

Above: Barrett Jones '07 (left) and Melissa James '06 (right) receive pointers from Coach Leslie Bernard on their doubles match on Saturday, March 6. The pair lost the match to Methodist college, eight games to five.

Right: Barrett Jones '07 waits for the return from Methodist College during her doubles match with Melissa James '06. Though Jones and James lost their doubles match, the Hollins team won the meet, six matches to three.



CHRISTINE JEHU

FROM PAGE 1
Rules

There is a broad range of stances on professor-student relations. The College of William and Mary forbids consensual relationships between students and faculty members altogether. At some institutions, professors announce relationships to department administrators. Other schools, such as Stanford University, simply discourage professor-student relationships, which is the path Hollins has taken.

Ledger concluded, "With this issue you are making a policy that could potentially abridge the rights of adults, and as adults we have the right to date who we like, and have relationships with who we like. We wouldn't allow the government to tell us, so you have to treat everyone involved as adults."

Ledger added, "If a student feels that she can legitimately claim she has been harassed, she should immediately talk to someone about that. That's something we don't tolerate."

Stephanie Stender '04 wonders about professors dating students they teach. "It seems to me you would have to take into consideration their grades if they are in the same class," she said.

Courtney Hamill '05 commented, "I think it's possible for a professor and student to have a successful relationship, but it's probably more problematic than it's worth."

Hannah Phillips '05 said, "I'm glad they made that policy, though, because if people want to be in a relationship,

there shouldn't be a regulation."

Julie Pfeiffer, Professor of English said, "I think we have a pretty middle-of-the-road policy. If saying, well, we don't like it, but we don't say you can't do it."

Pfeiffer expressed concern that while the parties are involved are adults, the potential for abuse exists.

"While they are students here, that creates problems for the whole community. There would be obvious problems for students because at what point is that kind of relationship considered truly consensual? At what point is the power differential going to be such that the student may end up in situations she isn't comfortable with and not feel she can say that?"

"It's hard," she continued. "We all know of circumstances where people who originally met each other in a student-professor relationship, but at what point is it appropriate for that relationship to become romantic? Does it need to wait until the student graduates?"

Richard Dillard, professor of English, married two of his students: Annie Dillard, BA '67, MA '68 and Cathy Hankla BA '80.

Richard Dillard did not respond to attempts to contact him.

Annie Dillard, who currently teaches at Wesleyan University, Conn. spoke in a telephone interview about Hollins' statement.

"Discourage" is a very strong word. The rubric among most colleges and universities is that a student and professor should have no relationship

until they have both left the university. I could not have been married to Richard if those had been the rules. He would have lost his job and I would have been kicked out."

"The rules are so much stricter now at other top schools," she continued. "I'm surprised that Hollins would use such a strong word as 'discourages.'"

Prof. Bill Nye, Sociology, whose former wife was a Hollins graduate, waited until she had left the university to begin their relationship.

"It's interesting that the wording was 'discouraged,'" Nye said. "Well, I guess it's saying you're only in trouble if someone brings a sex harassment charge against you. I can see why it was done. I know people who have been dismissed. There have been incidents where people have been asked to leave or terminated. One case I know, a person on tenure. So this is making official what has actually been the policy."

While this statement only deals with consensual situations, if a relationship becomes abusive, a student can notify the harassment grievance board, which will conduct a full investigation. If the board finds a student has been harassed, efforts to stop the harassment, or formal discipline may follow. While professors engaging in consensual relationships put themselves at risk, false charges are considered a type of harassment and can be punished also.

Members of the harassment grievance board include Tina Rolen, chair, Kerry Edmonds, director of human

resources, Brenda McDaniel, director of development and alumnae communications, and two faculty representatives, Nancy Healy, assistant professor of computer science and Randy Flory, professor of psychology.

The statement has not been officially publicized because it is a part of the faculty handbook and will simply be added to the next edition. Though a few institutions publish their faculty handbook online, Hollins does not.

Input from students was not actively sought in the process, but it was not deliberately left out, Sitton said.

"We did not actively talk to students and we didn't talk about that," he said. "We didn't say we're not going to talk to students, but my sense is that we saw this as our responsibility. The question of faculty integrity and responsibility and that we need to

have our own sense of how our responsibility is on this, and so it needed to come from us."

Christina Salowe, chair of faculty said, "If students are concerned about it, they might ask us more about it. Read the policy and ask us or maybe make suggestions about how they would like to see a change if they have an opinion on that."



'THE SPINSTER,' 1980

Cathy Hankla jumps over Richard Dillard in her senior portrait for 'The Spinster' in 1980.

Seniors crawl toward goal

BY LAURA SPEAKMAN

It's supposed to be a giving time of year for the senior class, but many seniors aren't getting the giving fever. Each year the senior class donates money to the Hollins Fund.

The money in the Hollins Fund supports the mission of providing academic excellence to students, faculty, academic programs, and campus life.

As of the beginning of March, only sixteen percent of the class of 2004 has contributed to the Hollins Fund.

"For some, college is not about giving back to their college, but it's about what their college can give to them. So people aren't giving since they've gotten what they want out of Hollins and they will leave and not look back," said Mary Alston Geddie '04.

Co-chairs and captains of the Senior Appreciation Program, who or-

ganize money to be placed in the Hollins Fund, are using new tactics to get more participation.

The money contributed to the Hollins Fund will be in memory of former president Nora Kizer Bell.

"I think our class really bonded with Dr. Bell and so donating this money in her name should really get people enticed to donate," said co-chair Alice Moss '04.

In addition, the co-chairs are setting up tables in Moody to talk with seniors during meals.

"I think that percentage is going up having tables set up," said Moss. "Most seniors don't realize they don't have to pay right away. All they have to do is pledge now and pay by May 1."

At the beginning of the year, Sandra Fraizer, '94 sent out a challenge to the class of 2004.

The letter stated: "If your class raises \$10,000 for the Hollins Fund, I will match it with \$25,000, giving

your class an unprecedented Senior Class Gift of \$35,000."

At the champagne kick off in December, Kelley Shinn '04 donated \$10,000 which matched the alumna's challenge.

"We've met this amazing goal through Kelley's generous donation, but we still want to keep going to prove we can raise the money without her donation," said Moss.

The class of 2000 held the highest donation to the Hollins Fund of \$8,250. Already the class of 2004 has far surpassed this amount.

Those students who have already donated want others to be inspired.

"I want to feel like I can give something back to a place that gave me so much for four years," said Sally Peck '04.

For more information about giving to the Hollins Fund through the Senior Appreciation Program, contact Joycelyn Sanders at x6937.

HOLLINS COLUMNS

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Cafeteria apologizes after food fight

BY BECKY KLABUNDE

A misunderstanding recently put Hollins food service and some students at odds over policies and student adherence to those policies on to-go food from the Moody dining room.

Aramark posted signs warning students if the dining service's to-go policy was ignored as it had been, it would be removed altogether. This was not received well by Hollins students.

The signs led many students to believe that they were not allowed to bring any food out of the dining area if they ate their meal there, said Aramark food service director at Hollins Girard Short.

This is not the case: Hollins allows to-go items in moderation.

The food service staff reports that some students were abusing the to-go option provided.

Short said, "The policy is that if you eat in the dining room you shouldn't be bringing bulk food out."

But by Short's observation, the policy has been flouted to a greater degree recently.

People have been taking "bunches of bananas, jugs of milk; some students have brought in their own containers to fill with cereal," he said. "It's always been a challenge, but much

more in the last few weeks [before the signs were posted]."

Debbie Anderson, who has worked in Hollins food service for more than twenty years, said, "Some students do take more than others, but what are we supposed to do?"



LAURA SMITH

Girard Short, director of food services, poses for a photo.

In response to the signs, students posted comments online on the Hollins food services feedback area, and Beth Burgin '04, SGA President, met with Short to discuss better ways to com-

municate with the Hollins student body.

Signs were posted apologizing for the way the situation was handled.

"I don't think he should have written the letter the way he did, but he did apologize," said Amanda Leibensperger '07. "And we don't have the right to take gallons of milk."

Aramark agreed to approach SGA Senate if similar issues arose in the future.

"I plan on attending Senate to discuss this," Short said.

Neta Van Zwaren '05, who works as a cashier in Hollins dining services, said, "Aramark tries its best to accommodate students' needs but with this issue of students taking food, it should be dealt with through SGA."

Short explained that as a business Aramark must control its costs.

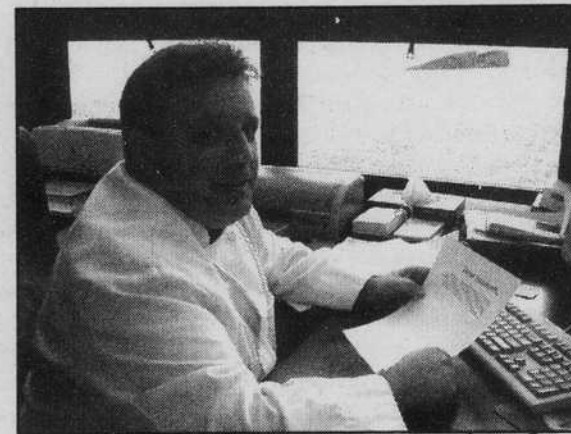
If they are unable to control costs in one area, like food, then costs must be controlled in other areas, which potentially can adversely affect the Hollins dining staff.

Dining services does shoulder some of the responsibility for the problems however.

"It's partly our fault for not communicating

in an effective manner," Short said. "We didn't want to make it a negative thing; that was the furthest thing from our mind. We wanted people to understand the policy."

Ashlee Neal '07 said, "Aramark as a whole



LAURA SMITH

Girard Short sits with the apology letter written to students.

does a really good job meeting people's needs considering we're such a small school. It's not their fault that they have such a small contract—they have to make do something to make a profit."

Magazine editor spreads feminist awareness

BY JEILENN GERLACH

On March 8 in Janney Lounge, Lisa Jervis, editor of 'Bitch' magazine, discussed pop culture from a feminist perspective and an anti-consumerist stance. With her bubbly personality and sharp wit, Jervis illustrated examples of how feminist rhetoric has become the new advertising ploy. Through personal anecdotes and transparencies of the latest advertisements and popular magazine covers, Jervis called attention to the harmful media messages about women and traced the evolution of her magazine from one focused on "personal pet peeves and obsessions" to a wider scope of the media industry.

'Bitch,' a non-profit magazine, is sustained by non-corporate advertisements, especially for women-owned businesses. Articles are submitted by the editorial staff as well as from readers. "Anyone can submit. It's very much like a literary magazine—essays, pictures. It's a very inclusive magazine that goes along with the point of feminism," said Lisa Bower '05.

"It's serious, but also irreverent at the same time. There's a sense of humor present. From what I've read of it, the editors are very accepting of different points of view not like, this is one sort of feminism and it's the only sort that we're going to promote," said Elaine Leahy '04.

Jervis intends for her magazine to be a source of motivation for others who want to be politically aware and involved. During her high school days, she attended pro-choice rallies and aiding in a successful letter-writing coalition against the highly politicized appointment of Supreme Court judge, Robert Bork, nominated by Ronald Regan. "I've never been an activist

in the traditional sense, because I don't have enough energy," Jervis laughed. "I think about stuff and I write about stuff. [My activist style] is more educational."

Though born in Boston, Jervis lived most of



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Lisa Jervis, editor of 'Bitch' magazine, spoke at Hollins on March 8

her formative years in southern California and New York. Growing up, Jervis's parents had limited her access to television, which became an enticing interest to her. After college, Jervis and her good high school friend, Andi Zeisler,

moved to Oakland, California and then San Francisco. Their career interests in writing and art combined with their shared interest in pop culture critique to form the basis of 'Bitch' magazine.

The first printing of 'Bitch' in Jan. 1996 was on 11x17" paper, sporting a hand-drawn cover. Driving around the San Francisco Bay Area in her station wagon, Jervis delivered the first 300 copies to various independent bookstores, asking them to sell the first copy for a dollar. The magazine was successful and another 400 copies went to print. "I wish I could say it was all very high-minded and thought out beforehand like, we really see a need, a broad audience for this kind of analysis. But really we wanted to write something that we would want to read and we'll see if someone else wants to read it too. Lo and behold, a lot of people did," Jervis said.

Rachel Fudge, senior editor, found the first issue in her neighborhood bookstore. About this first issue, Fudge wrote in an email interview, "It was exactly the kind of mix of intelligent critical analysis and pop/mass culture that I was trying to do in my own (very small) zine. I emailed Lisa to tell her I loved 'Bitch' and that I was interested in contributing."

Fudge and Jervis corresponded by email until they realized they lived only three blocks away from each other and became friends in real life. They worked together on Bitch and when the magazine went quarterly in 2001, Fudge joined

the staff as associate editor. After five years of hard work, the editors no longer had day jobs and the magazine was self sufficient. Since the first issue, the print circulation of Bitch has grown to 48,000 and Jervis hopes to broaden that audience to 100,000.

Lori Joseph, Assistant Professor of Communication Studies, invited Jervis to speak in her Women and Communication class. Joseph identifies the media as an important cultural influence. "The media reflects our culture as well as constructs our culture," she said. "I think sometimes women and men are very constrained by the media even with the agency that we have, so I think that magazines like Jervis's are really important to challenging the dominant discourse."

In an email, Andi Zeisler, editorial and creative director of 'Bitch,' wrote to discuss how 'Bitch' hopes to fulfill its mission. She said, "Media reform is crucial for any kind of women's movement to succeed, and we want to provide an alternate source of criticism and education for people who question what they see and hear but aren't backed up in their skepticism by the mainstream media."

Although such work has not necessarily been lucrative, it is rewarding. Marisa Meltzer, ad sales and publicity manager said in a telephone interview, "We'll never make \$100,000 a year doing this, but we can make a living wage and to do this work that's really important, really exciting and really vital is an honor."

Correction

In the March 1 issue of 'Hollins Columns,' Page Hodges '04 was incorrectly identified in a photo outline for the article entitled 'Celebrating life brings campus together.' Hollins Columns apologizes for the error.

Bush's plan to ban sparks dialogue

BY REBECCA STAED

Last Tuesday night, Carrie Hart '06 walked away from a lecture by a transgender activist feeling a bit more educated and a lot more empowered about gay and lesbian rights.

But Hart's power high came to a sudden stop when she returned to her room and glanced at the Washington Post headline glowing on her computer screen, which announced President George Bush's request for a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriages. "I really kind of wanted to take off from classes and go throttle [Bush]," said Hart, external coordinator of OUTLoud, Hollins Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender (GLBT) organization.

According to an online Newsweek poll taken in February, 56 percent of Americans oppose a constitutional amendment, and 33% are in support of one. In a recent student-led poll administered to 54 Hollins students about their political beliefs and attitudes, 72 percent said they were opposed to Bush's proposed constitutional amendment to ban gay marriages; 11 percent supported the amendment, and 16 percent were neutral.

Opponents to the proposed amendment have organized mini-marriage forums and letter-writing campaigns to state representatives, while most supporters remain silent because they say they are worried their beliefs are unwelcome and would create conflict on campus.

"Even though Hollins is diverse, it's such a small campus that even if someone is against [same-sex marriage], they are not going to be open about it on this campus because they would be targeted," said Sarah Kobiashvili, '06. "Emotions flare when anything is said about someone else's way of life, and that's why people are fearful [to speak up]."

OUTLoud has set the pace on campus for opponents of the proposed amendment. The group held a mini forum on Thursday to update those members who were not aware of its recent development and discuss how it will affect the GLBT community.

"The majority of people I know are really appalled with the discussion [of an amendment] and shocked at that kind of ignorance," said Christina King, '04, co-chair of OUTLoud. "I think a lot of people on don't understand all the legalities behind an amendment. All they can see is the religious perspective of it."

As a Horizon student, King interned with the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) in Washington D.C. over the summer. During her time there, Rep. Marilyn Musgrave (R-Colo.) announced her plan to endorse a constitutional amendment to define marriage as the union of a man and a woman. Shortly thereafter, Bush said he would embrace an amendment banning same-sex marriage.

King helped HRC find which senators were opposed to the amendment. Now she is putting her summer experience to use on the Hollins campus. This week, during meal hours in Moody, OUTLoud will have pre-written letters available for students to send to their state representatives, encouraging opposition to a constitutional amendment.

"All people have to do is tell us their zip code, and we will mail it for them," said King.

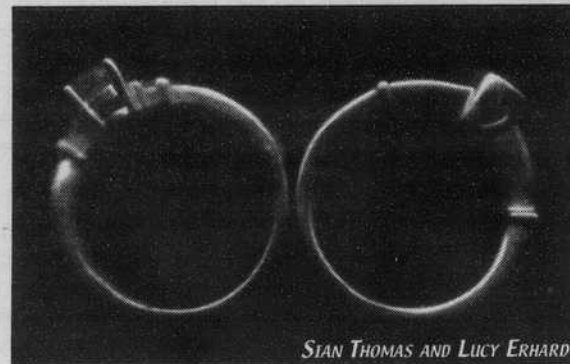
OUTLoud has also discussed having an open marriage forum to raise awareness about the issue on campus, but the group is waiting to see how much interest is expressed from the Hollins community.

"A lot of people don't even know the difference between a civil union and a gay marriage," said Hart. "As a group, we [OUTLoud] want to educate the campus on why this is an important issue is GLBT politics."

Not all members of OUTLoud believe in the institution of

marriage, but feel civil unions are a way of copping out. Denying same-sex couple's marriage can be problematic, according to Hart, when those couples are consequently denied basic human rights, such as domestic partner health benefits, family and medical leave from work in cases of need, equal job opportunity, insurance, adoption, and more. "It sends a strong message that GLBT people are second class citizens," Hart said.

For LeeRay Costa, assistant professor of anthropology and women's studies, banning same-sex marriage goes beyond naming GLBT individuals as second class citizens. "It's based on the



SIAN THOMAS AND LUCY ERHARDT

assumption that [GLBT people] are less normal, more promiscuous, less stable, and all of these various stereotypes," she said. "It's also a deflection away from these problems that heterosexual people aren't getting [marriage] right for the most part."

Costa's classes set the stage for themes like heterosexism, patriarchy, and power. According to her, Bush's statement on Feb. 24 that marriage cannot be severed from its cultural roots "assumes that first, everyone thinks the same way and we all share the same culture, and second, culture doesn't change over time."

She continued, "That's absurd. How would we have ever adapted to technology? [Bush] sees this single line of development. You have to think about what works at a particular time. Maybe now it makes sense to make marriage for people of the same sex."

Students in Costa's classes have briefly mentioned Bush's plan, she said. Because they have shown interest, Costa plans to discuss the issue in more detail this week. Other spaces for discussion about same-sex marriage have been in Contemporary Public Communication, a class taught by Chris Richter, associate professor and chair of Communication Studies, as well as in the Gender and Globalization class, taught by Drucilla Barker, professor of Economics and Women's Studies.

The amendment is more than a topic for casual classroom discussion to Susan Thomas, associate professor of Political Science and Women's Studies - it is a criticism on her personal life, as "an openly proud lesbian-identified activist."

"Bush's effort to sanction homophobia as national policy is nothing less than an officially organized national degradation ceremony," Thomas said. "Bush and his followers seek to degrade, shame, ostracize and shun, stigmatize and psychologically terror-

ize, stereotype, enforce invisibility, and subject to economic vulnerability ... each and every lesbian and gay citizen in this nation."

According to Thomas, her sexual orientation has made her the target of hateful anti-lesbian and sexist attacks by her faculty peers and administrators. She has witnessed less homophobia among students, she said.

"I think this is in part a factor of gender," she said. "Hollins is an overwhelmingly male-dominated, male-centered hierarchical institution. Studies indicate again and again that women are much more accepting of the idea of lesbian and gay civil rights."

Thomas expects that her students will not voice heterosexist, hateful or prejudiced opinions in her classroom. "If they do have these views, they know they must go elsewhere to voice them," she said. Thomas recently wrote an article, critical of civil unions, which will soon be published in the *Journal of Homosexuality*.

Some Hollins students are not open to same-sex marriage, however, and oppose it for religious beliefs, while others simply feel that they do not know enough about the issue to take a firm stance.

"God intended [marriage] to be between a man and a woman for the purpose of reproduction, which can't occur in a gay marriage," said Mariana Denke '06.

"The opportunity has not arisen where I've had to say something to defend my beliefs," she continued. "But even if there were a debate on campus, I'm not sure I would participate because I would be persecuted. I applaud the person who has the guts to stand up and say what they believe."

And there are students who remain caught between both sides of the issue. "I can't say I'm for gay marriage, but I'm not comfortable enough in my knowledge to say whether I'm against it either," said Hollins Christian Fellowship member Christina Rock '06. "I know there are a lot of issues involved, and I'm not sure that [gay marriage] is something that can be legislated."

Regardless of how members of the Hollins community feel about same-sex marriage, many agree that a constitutional amendment is discriminatory and that the legislation will not pass.

"I'm not sure a constitutional amendment is the right way to go," Denke said. "It goes against what the constitution was created for and steps beyond the boundaries of what our country represents."

"I don't think there is enough congressional support for it or to overturn the defensive marriage act," Hart said.

Costa said a constitutional amendment is too problematic to pass and hopes Congress will find it in direct contradiction to the constitution. If they do not, she said there could be a lot of protests in the future.

"The amendment is a reflection of Bush's desire to preserve heterosexual power," said Costa. "But if he takes away [same-sex marriage], [heterosexuals'] rights will be next."



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Calendar of Events: March 15- March 28

March 15: Gillian Pederson-Krag, our Artist-in-Residence, will give a slide and DVD presentation. She will ask the question, "What is Art," and discuss her views on the subject. A discussion will follow her presentation. 8-9pm, Jackson Screening Room

March 16: Grapheon reading, with readings by . 4:30-5:30pm, Green Drawing Room

March 16: Interest meeting for possible on-campus group for the reading and discussion of contemporary works of literary theory. Open to students and faculty. For more information, please contact Professor Marilyn Moriarty at email mmoriarty@hollins.edu. 6-8pm, Hollins Room in Wyndham Robertson Library

March 16: Drag King Show Auditions. Audition as an act or climb on board as

tech crew. Sponsored by OUTloud. 9-11pm, Rathskellar

March 17: Craftiness for Charity organizational meeting. Come knit a scarf for a cancer patient, crochet a shawl for a domestic abuse survivor, bead a necklace, or stitch a bib! Bring a craft project to work on and help organize this new charitable group. Sponsored by Colleges Against Cancer and the Chaplain of the

University, Jan Fuller-Carruthers. 6-8pm, Hollins Room in Wyndham Robertson Library

March 17: The classes of 2004 and 2007 invite you to the St. Patrick's Day party of the century! We'll have great music by "Labors of Man", games and contests, and lots of fun. Write your best pub song or bring your favorite for a chance to win fun prizes. We'll have t-shirts,

sweatshirts, and koozies for sale as well. 9pm-12am, Banta Room

March 22: official start of spring break

March 26: Come on down!

On Friday, March 26, 2004, The Arts Council of the Blue Ridge presents "Splendor in the Bayou," 7 - 11 PM, at Hollins University Riding Center.

Following in the style of the past two years' popular "Splendor in the Blue Grass," we are heading south for lively Cajun music and a great Louisiana-style dinner at this informal, friendly event. Music will be provided by the "Dixie Power Trio" whose motto is "Music is one big gumbo and every day is Mardi Gras."

This is not your ordinary "trio" - for starters, there are four members. Led by tuba player extraordinaire Andy

Kochenour and multi-instrumentalist Zack Smith, the Dixie Power Trio has been exciting audiences around the country since its formation in 1992. The heart of their sound is a combination of all that is New Orleans: zydeco, Cajun, rock and roll, honky-tonk, street parade and jazz. The group has a knack for reinventing classics while taking pride in the authenticity of its New Orleans sound.

The terrific Louisiana-style dinner will be provided by Jim Schaal Catering. A buffet including jambalaya, red beans & rice and other Cajun favorites will keep everyone in the mood. Guests at "Splendor in the Bayou" will have the opportunity to bid on unusual, often theme-related items in silent and live auctions.

Possibilities abound - trucks, boats, trips, art, event tickets, even a Pampillonia

Designs jeweled alligator pin - there will be something for everyone! Thanks to Cox Communications - "Your Friend in the Digital Age" - for its support as the media sponsor for this event.

Individual tickets are \$45 (Hollins faculty, staff and students receive a \$10 discount); or, reserve a table for eight and bring a group!

Also, corporate tables may be purchased - it's a fun way to entertain clients or employees. Practice your two-step and watch out for alligators!

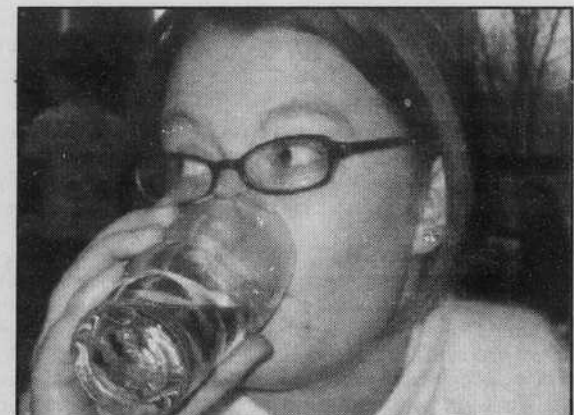
"Splendor in the Bayou" is a fund raising event for The Arts Council of the Blue Ridge, supporting its programs and services. For ticket sales and reservations, call The Arts Council at 540-342-5790 or info@theartscouncil.org. "LAISSEZ LES BONSTEMPS ROULEZ!!"

Sound Off: What do you think about consensual sex between professors and students?



"I really don't like that it's a legacy at Hollins"
- Kathy Berg '05

"Does it count as class participation?"
- Sharon Bonham '05



"There are a few professors here I'd 'consent' to."
- Jess McEwan '04

"I think that student-faculty relationships are fine as long as the student isn't in one of the professor's classes, so that power relationship doesn't come into play. But I also think the same standards should apply to faculty-staff and staff-student relationships."
- Christina King '04



"Yes, please."
- Laurie Grove '04



"If they both consent, what's the big deal?"
- Kelly Queener '04

I am Cat, and I'm addicted to my opinions

For four happy years now I've been a Hollins girl, and in four happy years I've learned a lot about Hollins women. We wear pearls and Lilly Pulitzer, and we wear non-child-labor non-harmful-to-the-environment totally organic hemp panties. We're Atkins-dieting loop-walking Nalgene-bottle-carrying health freaks, and we're French-fry-loving Marlboro-red-inhaling couch potatoes. We're passionate academics. We're raving drunks.

But one thing we all have in common is that we're all really, really opinionated.

I'll be the first to come out and say it. My name is Cat Vasko, and I am addicted to my own opinions. (Now everybody look solemnly at your newspaper and say, "Hi, Cat.") I will tell you my opinions whether you want to hear them or not. Hell, I even have this biweekly column dedicated entirely to my opinions.

And, like most of us, I think that I am the Least Sexist Least Racist Least Homophobic Most Open-Minded Awesome and Correct in All Ways person at our university.

I wasn't always so morally superior. There was a time when I wouldn't dream of going a day without shaving my legs, because what would people think? I wore foundation—thick, thick foundation. There was a time when I watched *Friends* and didn't consider the social implications of its gender stereotyping.

There was a time when I went to church every Sunday like a good girl, and contrib-

uted my tentative prayer to the fervent prayers of others in support of the pro-life movement. There was even a time when (and believe me, I shudder to admit this) I referred to things as "gay." As in, "I can't believe Marcia cried in the middle of class today. That is so gay."

But that's all changed. I've blossomed into a hairy-legged, birth-control-popping, protest-attending same-sex-marriage-supporting Adbusters-reading authority-questioning fist-shakin' agnostic woman. And I'm right, dammit.

Last year I went to Paris to study abroad with a group of about twenty-five other students. Most were not fellow Hollins women. Most were very wealthy UVA, Davidson, and Wake Forest students.

For the first time in three years I was outside my cocoon of empowerment, and I found myself among a group of people who were much wealthier than me, educated in a coed environment, and (horror of horrors) devoted Republicans.

My mission was clear.

Contrary to my expectations, however, I immediately became friends with the worst of these offenders. She was hideously, beyond-the-scope-of-my-imagination wealthy. Her father had been a person of some influence in the original George Bush's administration, and she shared most of his beliefs. The second day we were there, she made a snide remark after another girl referred openly to her girlfriend. We should have

been mortal enemies, but, by whatever trick of fate, we got along.

Over the course of the semester, in between trips to the museums and long nights at the cafes and wild shopping trips on the Champs-Elysees, we debated every subject we could think of. By the end of October I'd accomplished two incredible feats. I'd made one of the best friends of my life, and, more importantly, I'd converted her. She was a liberal just like me.

So I was really shocked when she told me one night, "Cat, I don't want you to take offense to this, but you're one of the most closed-minded people I've ever met."

I nodded like I agreed, but inside I was thinking, "I'm not closed-minded. I'm just right, and I know it."

It's been over a year, but lately I've been thinking about open-mindedness a lot, and I've gotta say, most of us aren't. I know I'm not. The truth is, when I encounter the occasional pro-lifer or creationist I have to clap both hands over my mouth to keep from laughing at them. The level of hypocrisy I exhibit on a daily basis is dazzling.

My little brother, a senior in high school and (I'll admit it) a successful product of my constant liberal indoctrination, called me tonight. He was furious because he got into a conversation about same-sex marriage with a guy in one of his classes, and the guy told him gay people were all going to hell unless they'd finally make the correct moral choice and decide to be straight.

"I wanted to hit him," my brother said. "I was so angry. I hope I never run into him outside of school. I don't know what I'd do."

For a second I thought to myself, I wish

you had hit him.

But then I started thinking about it and realized that if my brother had called me and said the opposite—he was offended because some guy argued in favor of same-sex marriage, so much so that he wanted to hit him—I would've sternly lectured him for 30 minutes about the importance of letting people live their own lives according to their own beliefs, and then informed him that hitting the guy would've been a hate crime.

I've said before that I don't think a cross belongs in our "religiously unaffiliated" chapel where we hold secular university convocations. I still don't think it belongs there, just as I don't believe we should begin and end such convocations with hymns.

But it's one thing for me to poke fun at the cross hanging on the wall of the chapel; it's another thing entirely for me to poke fun at a cross hanging around someone's neck.

This column was originally supposed to be funny, and now it isn't at all, so I apologize. My name is Cat Vasko, and I am addicted to my own opinions. But I'm coming to terms with the idea that they may not be right for everyone. They're merely right for me. And before I can scream into a microphone that no legislature has the right to dictate what I do with my body, I first have to admit that I don't have the right to judge others based on what they believe.

Like most of you, I want a university and a country where I'm allowed to believe whatever I want and act according to those beliefs. But if I want that for me, then I have to want that for everyone else. No matter how much I may disagree with them.



Aries March 21- April 19

Volunteer! Give a few hours of your time to help out for a good cause. It will widen your perspective on life and it usually is really fun too, especially if you bring your friends along... Just don't sign them up to volunteer without asking them if they want to do it!

Taurus April 20-May 20

Watch out where you're going! Don't bump into other people so much, when you do this, you appear rude and spaced out. Wear more green: its relaxing effect will do much for your high levels of emotional stress. Another advantage is that this color works amazingly well with your eyes. Wink at that hottie you see in Wal-Mart, be daring, this is the best opportunity you'll get in a long time.

Gemini May 21-June 21

Bored, Gemini? This is unusual for you, usually the Twins keep themselves entertained, but this month you'll run out of things to do. Some ideas for passing the time: write poetry and read in Grapheon, or if you aren't a creative writer, sign up to host a Grapheon. Shy? Read a book or take pictures. Or go buy some inexpensive childhood nostalgia items such as play-doh, bubbles, jump ropes, etc, and go back in time. Have fun!

Cancer June 22-July 22

You will get invited to an event this month. You can go, but you need to be very careful, because you might run into an ex, and if alcohol is involved, you can sure as hell expect some ugly action. Broken glass, country music karaoke, and campus security might possibly be included if you aren't sensible. Watch out!

Leo July 23-Aug. 22

Work hard this month and reward yourself for it. Go out on the town, or splurge on those wild shoes, or bake that 10 pound

Horoscopes

BY MEGAN JONES

ultra rich cheesecake you haven't tasted since last August. Keep your priorities straight, and don't worry, you won't cease to exist socially; instead you will meet new people who are attracted to your winsome smile and hard working ethics.

Virgo Aug 23-Sept 22

You will make a new friend, but be judicious, Fair Maiden, and don't try too hard to impress, just be yourself. Try to listen to mellow music. Don't forget to keep up your exercise regimen up; spring break will be a welcome break from the daily abundance of enigmas you encounter in the cafeteria food line. If you don't stay on track, you'll start getting sluggish.

Libra Sept 23- Oct 22

Oh Well-balanced One, you appear to be off-kilter. Libra, who do you think you are? Don't spread gossip about your friend! Instead go talk to her in person and try to understand the big picture. Let's let go of all the goddamn drama for once. Is college not all about finding truth? Why do we continue to buy and sell lies? This is not only advice for Libra, everyone should make at least a small effort to understand each other and get past stupid, little, insignificant things!

Scorpio Oct 23-Nov 21

Wild Child! You have been getting drunk on weeknights, bad girl! There are other ways to have fun without getting trashed. Go out shopping with your friends, or go for a nice dinner out. You've been very absent minded lately; remember to keep a close eye on

your keys and ID card. Leprechauns have been spied on campus taking keys and ID cards around this time of year.

Sagittarius Nov 22- Dec 21

One of your little wishes is going to come true. Also you will meet a hot new love interest who, surprisingly, doesn't have buck teeth, a lisp, or a tendency to hee haw laugh at everything you say. Oh Sagittarius, you really aren't a creep magnet! You are just too nice to some people. And being nice is much better than being bitchy as long as you keep it real.

Capricorn Dec 22- Jan 19

Abstain from over-munching this month. Your toughest battle: Popcorn. Instead, eat fruit or twizzlers. Or pretzels if you still have got to have the salty sensation. Movies are perfectly fine without popcorn. Also some exciting news will be coming your way.

Aquarius Jan 20- Feb 18

Stop being so afraid, Aquarius, you have a specific phobia (i.e. cats, colored socks, tattoos, exercise) that is beckoning to you to overcome it. Go and do whatever scares you. Conquer it! You can take a friend for support, and then write down how you felt afterwards. Do whatever it takes, you won't regret it. You'll feel so empowered and become much more confident. Get out there and do it!

Pisces Feb 19-March 20

Silly fish, stop being so indecisive and make up your mind! Deliberating, procrastinating, and swaying back and forth will only make you more of a stress puppy! People will start avoiding you, because the only thing you say is "maybe if", and "what if" and lengthy lists of pros and cons. Just make a decision and stand by it. Make sure it is what you really want and are willing to live with.

Exercise, not just diet, key to healthy lifestyle

I heard an ad on the radio the other day that was a play on the Alcoholics Anonymous meeting stereotype. You know the ones, "My name is Bob, and I'm addicted to sticking my hands in Jello." Anyway, this ad was for a low-carb beer, and the so-called addict was saying things like "I didn't think a little carbs would hurt me, but soon the cravings started." At one point he said, "I even ate an entire vat of bread pudding just because of the name."

This ad got me thinking about all these fad diets, like Atkins and Slim-Fast. In all of them, there's a specific "evil" you have to overcome. In Atkins, it's the carbs; in Slim-Fast, it's overeating; in those miracle 48-hour diets, it's holding anything in your body at all. It seems to me what these people don't get is that the big "evil"

that's common in almost all weight gain is laziness.

Granted, there are many cases where genetics and diseases play



LUCY ERHARDT
EDITOR IN CHIEF

a part, but for the average person who's worried about those 10 vanity pounds she believes will make her go from hideous to irresistible, laziness is the issue to overcome.

Last year, I realized I had let myself go a little between the stresses of college work and the change from being on my feet for 8 hours a day at work to sitting behind a desk. So I made a couple of changes in my diet—nothing to drink except water, no eating after 10pm, everything in moderation—and started an exercise regimen.

The exercise wasn't especially rigorous or demanding; every day I did at least 30 minutes of cardio paired with a little strength training. I got a couple of Pilates videos and alternated with running back and forth in my apartment. In 6 months, I lost 15 pounds.

This year, my exercise routine has changed again—now running back and forth in my apartment has been replaced by running back and forth from my tables to the kitchen at the restaurant I work in.

I still only drink water, with the occasional diet 7-Up (which is much better than diet Sprite, I've found). I'll admit I do indulge in the odd dessert, but since Slim-Fast came out with their own low-cal ice cream, I'm set in that department.

I've been able to maintain my weight just from watching what I eat somewhat. I still eat pasta, I love my pizza, and fries are no match for me, but because I get my butt out of a chair for around 5 hours, 5 days a week, I can get away with it.

The secret, dear readers, is not cutting out everything you enjoy. Where is the fun in life if you're constantly beating yourself up over the tortellini you ate last night that was oh-so-good but oh-so-carb-filled? It's highly unlikely that you'll want to stick with a diet that tells you that you can sit on the couch and lose weight as long as

you avoid foods you've enjoyed for 20 odd years.

Sure, you might get that initial satisfaction of watching the pounds melt away while you involve yourself with nothing but 'The Real World,' but it's almost a guarantee that you'll let yourself slip at some point and watch them boomerang back on.

Losing weight shouldn't be about following the strict rules of a diet for a few months. It should be about analyzing your lifestyle and changing it for good to avoid what made you gain the weight in the first place. More often than not you'll stick with a more active lifestyle once you start and you realize you're having fun and getting fit all at the same time.

I read somewhere that Mr. Atkins of trend diet fame had heard problems and was obese when he died. Think about that.

Dear editor: diversity problem really exists on campus

Who would of thunk! Who would have thought that an opinion piece in a local paper could spark such a controversy? Since this piece first appeared, I have had a vice president in my office to inform me not to allow Hollins name to appear on opinion pieces I write (I didn't request it in the first place). There have been two letters in the columns in opposition to my opinions, and I have received threats and hate mail, both by phone and e-mail. This can only lead me to believe that the Hollins community does not really value diversity of thought, but only seeks opinions that support an already established position.

I would like to address some of my concerns regarding diversity and free speech at Hollins in this letter. First, the day after the opinion piece appeared in the paper I received a visit by a vice president to inform me that the piece was not

appropriate with any mention of Hollins attached, and an e-mail was sent out to everyone stating that this was not the opinion of Hollins University. Very shortly after that an opinion piece by our new VPAA appeared on the same subject that identified him as Chair of the Faculty at Hollins. After this piece appeared there was another e-mail sent out stating that Hollins celebrated and endorsed free expression and thought of all opinions. In my position, I could only wonder if this was a change in the Administrations position, or was this opinion piece more politically correct at Hollins, and thus more acceptable.

Recently our acting president issued a statement on diversity and caused it to be published on our intranet site. In his letter to the community Dr. Markert included the following: "It is important that we work together as we seek to

make Hollins University a place where all are treated with dignity and where the voices of all are given respect within a truly inclusive community."

If we then read the two letters that have appeared in the columns concerning my opinions, I think we can safely conclude that there really is a diversity problem at Hollins, and that diverse opinions are not given respect within the community. While rhetoric may have a place in rallying our supporters, it will most often cause an every widening gap between opposing groups. It is only when both sides can set down and discuss the issues with respect and tolerance that anything can be accomplished in bringing compromise to a situation. If we are to have an inclusive community, we should and must also include conservative and establishment thought as well. Just because we are the majority in

most settings, does not set us up to be verbally abused and ridiculed to advance the position of any minority group. Rather, I believe that it is more important that a civilized and open debate be started. To this end, I am open to meeting both in private and open meetings with any group to hear, discuss, and talk about our various beliefs. It is not my thought that I will necessarily change your mind or opinion, or that you will change mine, but rather that we might discover that we are each individuals with hopes, ideals, desires, and dreams, and that we can find common ground upon which to establish both respect and understanding.

I am sure that many of you will find my religious and conservative positions at odds with your own, but I would submit to you that if you would have me respect your ideas, then you must be willing to respect mine as well.

Finally, a liberal arts education is founded upon the principle of diverse thought. If there is any setting in this country, where lively and intelligent discussion should take place, it should be on the campus of a liberal arts university. To only allow one side of any discussion to be presented is thought control, and can only lead to further problems when we are at last confronted with other positions.

If the Hollins community really intends to advance diversity, and free thought, then we must lose the rhetoric and begin open and frank dialog between the various groups that make up our community. Buzzwords, rhetoric and anger will only increase the opposition and fear between the various groups. Meeting, discussion, and an acceptance of other people as individuals with their worldview are our only chance of success.

-Richard Carr

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 or contact Lucy Erhardt at 819-5929.

Task force reviews athletic program

BY JANET LUBAS

The Athletics Review Task Force is currently reviewing the Hollins athletic program. According to the task force's statement of purpose, their goal is to "review, evaluate, and recommend programmatic changes to the intercollegiate athletic program." The

The original goal of the review task force was to have a report ready to present to the board before Christmas of 2003. According to Lynda Calkins, Director of Athletics and member of the Athletics Review Task Force, it was the wealth and complexity of information that was unearthed that has brought about delay. She com-

tailed project. I think the committee has gotten more significant information and statistics than we had anticipated that's why it's taking so long. I know the team wants to be able to give students exactly what they want, increase school spirit and campus involvement in sports. I think we've tapped into a key part of the Hollins experience, and it's crucial that we guide Hollins athletics in the right direction."

There has been some speculation on campus as to the future of golf and fencing in the Hollins athletic program. Currently, neither are varsity sports. According to fencing Coach Lanetta Ware, "(Since) it is not a varsity sport, the students must raise funds for entry fees, transportation, food and officials." Coach Ware has hopes that one day, fencing will become a varsity sport. "The fencing club is composed of fencers who have an interest in competitive fencing. Hopefully, this

group will be the nucleus of the varsity team in a future year."

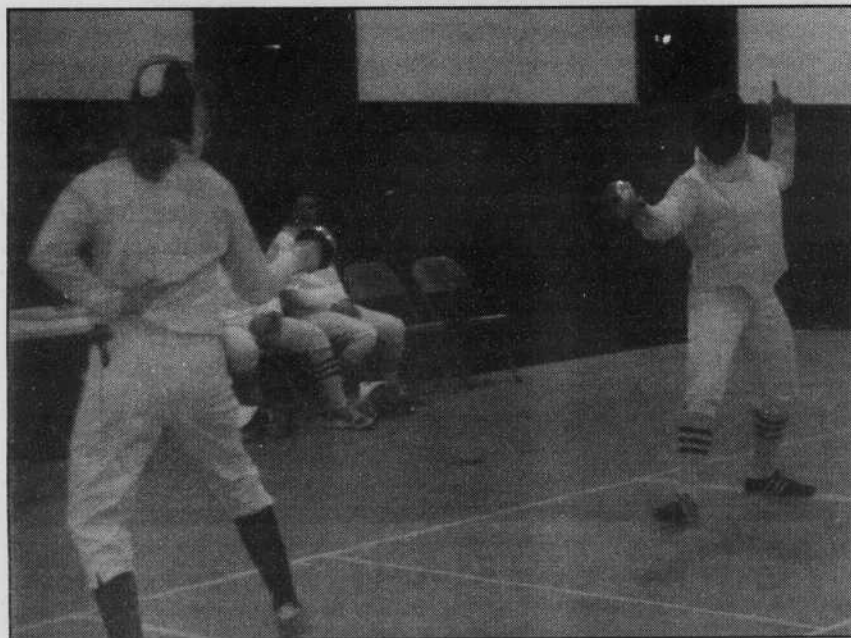
Fencer Melissa Eastlake '07 commented, "The delay of the Clean Slate changes is frustrating because I feel like we could do great things with even a small budget for tournaments. It's about the desire to compete. We have the commitment and talent to make the most of (varsity) status."

Having already experienced success as a varsity sport, the fencing team has been operating as a club since 2002. Among the accomplishments they achieved was the honor of Hollins varsity fencers being chosen on twelve occasions to compete in the NCAA regionals. There would be significant benefits if golf or fencing were to be raised to the varsity level. One benefit of note is that senior fencers or golfers would be eligible for the NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship Program. Each year, the NCAA awards academically accomplished student-athletes who are in their last year of intercollegiate athletics competition the chance to compete for a one-time grant of \$7,500. However, athletes must have performed at the varsity level in order to apply for this

grant. Coach Ware commented, "My goal is to have a varsity fencer compete in the NCAA tournament, be an excellent student and win a NCAA post graduate scholarship."

According to a survey that was conducted by the task force, there is a particularly high interest in participating in fencing at Hollins among students. Many other observations have already been assessed from the data collected in the student survey. One observation of concern is that "intercollegiate athletics does not receive adequate support financially, academically, through staffing, or with regard to school spirit."

Sally Beazlie '05, student member of the athletics review board commented, "We are making great progress and taking into consideration what the students, faculty, coaches, and Board of Trustees want."



Laura Smith

A Hollins fencer (right) faces off in a bout against a Sweet Briar opponent on Wednesday, March 10.

President's Cabinet and the Board of Trustees will receive the final report.

This process is not unique to the athletics program. All programs at Hollins are routinely reviewed to ensure that the current resources are being utilized to their best ability. The last time that the athletics department was under review was in 2000.

In a presentation made to Senate on March 9th, Margaret Hopkins '05, student chair of the Athletics Review Task Force, outlined the areas that are currently being evaluated. The task force must review all historical data information, assess the intercollegiate offerings at other comparable institutions, assess the interests of prospective students, assess the interests of current students and analyze the future expectations of athletic needs and resources. After these evaluations are completed, the task force must weigh the tradeoffs of interests and costs and then make recommendations to the Board of Trustees.

mented, "We have developed an aggressive new timeline. We plan on having a report ready for the board this April." Coach Calkins continued, "I feel that the review team is committed in creating thorough report."

Hopkins agrees with Lynda Calkins, "It's a very large and de-

group will be the nucleus of the varsity team in a future year."

Fencer Melissa Eastlake '07 commented, "The delay of the Clean Slate changes is frustrating because I feel like we could do great things with even a small budget for tournaments. It's about the desire to compete. We have the



Marly Wilson

Lacrosse players fight hard to defend the goal against Ohio Wesleyan on Saturday, March 6. The Hollins team was defeated with a final score of 22 to one.

2004 Summer at UNCW

Session I	May 20 - June 22
Intersession	June 14 - July 15
Session II	June 28 - July 29

Put yourself in this picture...

For more details, call us at 810-952-3213 or 800-229-5371...
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