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## NEWS



*Symposium  
brings commu-  
nity together*

*Page 2*

## FEATURES



*Abate due to  
fill Keyser's  
position*

*Page 5*

## SPORTS



*Soccer program  
coachless*

*Page 12*

# Presidential hopeful speaks

BY LAUREN CLEMENCE

In an America where money rules politics, it is rare to find a candidate that stands up strongly against big business and special interests, and stands for things like universal healthcare and increasing the minimum wage. The past two elections have found that candidate in Ralph Nader. On Friday, April 2, Hollins found that in him too, when he visited campus for the first time.

The Independent candidate earned notoriety in the 1960's for releasing his book, "Unsafe at Any Speed," which exposed the dangers of the automobile industry, and led to a series of automobile safety laws in 1966.

He has also helped to found several advocacy groups including the Aviation Consumer Action Project, the Center for Auto Safety, the Clean Water Action Project, the Disability Rights Center, the Pension Rights Center, the Freedom of Information Clearinghouse, and the Congressional Accountability Project. More recently, he was named by Time Magazine as one of the "most influential people of the century."

Nader began his evening at Hollins with a dinner at Wildflour with about 20 students, Acting President Wayne Markert, Director of Student Activities Joe Rosenberg and Director of Media Relations, Jeff Hodges. The group was selected to attend the dinner by Lisa Bower, Chair of the General Speakers Bureau, who organized the evening.

After dinner, Nader was rushed to a press conference in the Green Drawing Room, where he made a brief statement about his platform. Even on the small campus of Hollins University, Nader couldn't escape questions about whether or not his run in the 2000 presidential election, then as a Green Party candidate, cost Democrats the White House.

He was immediately confronted with a letter from the Americans for Democratic Action, which requested that he withdraw from the race.

Without missing a beat, Nader responded, "The Democrats need to stop whining and go to work. The more

they whine, the more they signal for the end of their party...as advocates for a free election, why would they want to deny millions of Americans the right to choose?"

His position on this issue has consistently been that statistically, Gore's loss had nothing to do with his candidacy, but rather with Bush's recount strategy in Florida.

In addition to fielding questions about his need to run, Nader also mentioned that he would need 10,000 signatures from across Virginia to get on the ballot in November. He said he didn't anticipate having any problem getting that many, as he was able to do it in 2000.

After the news conference, Nader was escorted to the Hollins University Theater, where he was greeted by a crowd of over 400 students and members of the Roanoke community. Two protesters stood outside with signs, one of which said, "Get real - a vote for you is a vote for Bush."

In an article in The Roanoke Times on April 3, one of the protesters, Kathryn Young of Salem said, "Nader is not facing reality. He is harming the causes that he claims he stands for."

Nader went on, despite the mini-protest outside, and spoke on many of the same issues he's been advocating for years including raising minimum wage to \$8 an hour to account for inflation and keep it at the percentage rate it was in the early 1960's. He spoke out against corporate business' influence on the government.

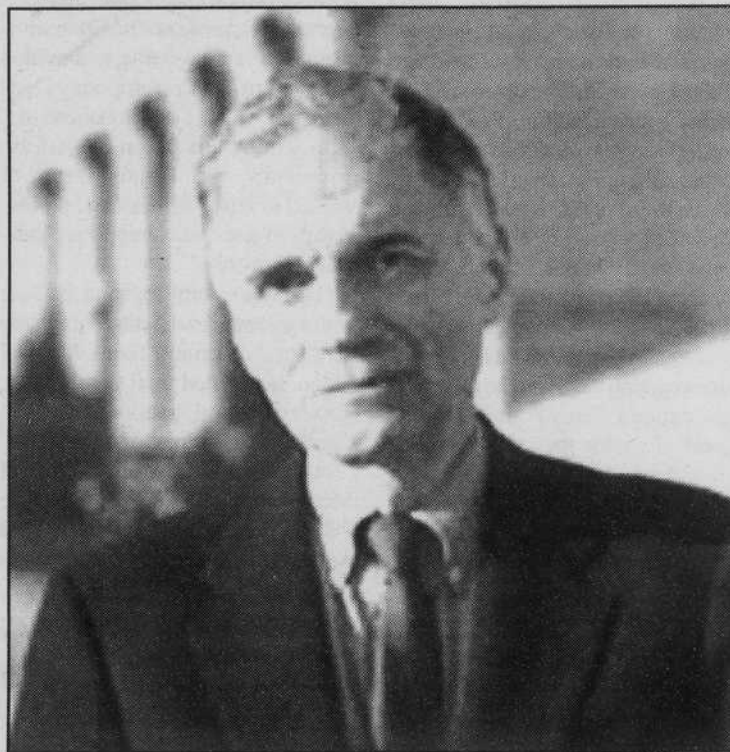
"Too much wealth and too much power are in the hands of too few," he said.

Nader made a wish for America that begged voters to do their homework for elections as well as they do for sports.

"Voters should look at the records, not at rhetoric," he said.

He noted that sports fans care about the record of their favorite athletes, not at how the athlete acts on television, as voters tend to do.

"Sports fans assign responsibility to the coaches, the players, the managers; do we see voters assigning that responsibility? No," he added.



FILE PHOTO

Ralph Nader, the Independent candidate for U.S. presidency, spoke at Hollins on Friday, April 2.

Many students were glad that Nader decided to stick to his obligation to speak at Hollins, though he'd made the commitment before announcing his candidacy.

"I think Hollins is fortunate that he kept his contract to speak here, not only because it brought him good press coverage for speaking at a small women's college in Roanoke, Virginia of all places, but also it brought Hollins good press coverage for having him here," said Hollins Activities Board Chair Kristina Partlow '04.

In addition to his comments on changing America at a national level, Nader made a proposal to the Hollins community to introduce a "Citizen Training" course next year.

If approved, the course would teach students how to become more informed and more responsible citizens.

The course would require that students pick a social problem in their surrounding community and go out to try to do something to solve it.

"I think the class, by asking students to be active participants in the

community and responsible citizens, fits in with Hollins' mission statement," said SGA President Beth Burgin '04. "I also think it's a positive step toward bridging the gap between the Hollins community and the Roanoke community."

Many students found his presentation thought provoking.

"I thought it was interesting to hear his views on why there should be more than two parties. He was a very good speaker and had a lot of interesting things to say," said Corinne Everett '06, who attended the event.

Nader, who traditionally appeals to more left wing voters, even attracted those who generally think and vote more conservatively.

"I think he made a lot of thought provoking points," said Joy Sparrowhawk '04, president of the Young Republicans group on campus.

She continued, "I didn't agree with everything he said, but he had very valid points. He sparked a dialogue on campus both before and after [his speech], which I think is very important."

# Symposium sparks journalism dialogue

BY LAUREN CLEMENCE

National Public Radio journalist, Nina Totenberg kicked off the first annual Hollins University Journalism Symposium with a bang. She spoke to a nearly packed house in the DuPont Chapel on Hollins' campus on Thursday, April 1. Totenberg has won numerous awards for her legal coverage of the United States Supreme Court since she joined NPR in 1975, including the George Foster Peabody Award for her coverage of Anita Hill's sexual harassment case against Judge Clarence Thomas in 1991, and she received the 1998 Sol Taishoff Award for Excellence in Broadcasting from the National Press Foundation.

Totenberg spoke about her experience covering the Supreme Court in a talk entitled, "Inside the Supreme Court: Covering the Only People in Washington Who Don't Care." In her talk, she recalled spending one month in the Library of Congress to read former judge Harry Blackman's papers when they were released five

years after his death. She was one of only two reporters to do so.

Totenberg's presentation was just the beginning of a three-day symposium created to bring journalists, scholars and students together to discuss topics in journalism today. The symposium, which began planning two years ago by professor of Communication, Jane Tumas-Serna, was entitled "Journalism and Contemporary Criticism: The Impact of Globalization." "I'm writing a book on journalistic criticism," said Tumas-Serna. "I wanted to relate scholars and professionals to discuss contemporary journalistic criticism."

Friday's events began at 8:45am with a greeting from Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs, Michael Sitton, and lasted until nearly 5pm. Topics discussed in various panels included, "The Business of Journalism," "Journalism Education," "Critical Methods for Journalism," and "The Public: Citizens in a Democracy." The panels brought together professionals from The Roanoke Times, and from

as far away as Las Vegas, as well as scholars from Hollins, Washington & Lee University, Ohio University, and Lynchburg College.

Professor Michael Real from Ohio University's E.W. Scripps School of Journalism spoke at the "Journalism Education: Professional or Liberal Arts" panel. In his statement on the program, he said, "Journalism education is placed in an impossible double-bind; if it ignores political economy, it sends the future news workforce toward naively and without necessary critical understanding; if it teaches political economy, it is taken by status quo free-pressers as rejection of the American free press system and objective journalism."

Saturday was a busy day for symposium participants. Pulitzer Prize winning photojournalist, Martha Rial gave a presentation entitled, "Women and Global Issues," on her photos taken of refugees in Rwanda and Burundi, female runners in Kenya, and refugees in Kosovo. In the evening, documentary filmmaker, Robbie



LUCY ERHARDT

Nina Totenberg spoke on April 1 to kick off the Sowell Journalism Symposium

Leppzer, showed his film *An Act of Conscience*, which documents the story of one couple's plight after they refuse to pay federal war taxes.

Overall, Tumas-Serna is pleased with how well the symposium turned out, and how well it was attended.

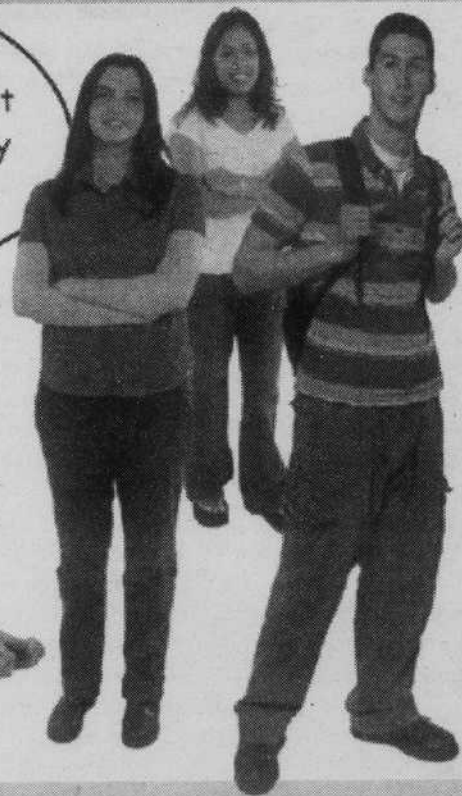
"I'm surprised it went so well," she said. "I couldn't have ever imagined it going so well. I felt very fortunate to get people like Martha Rial, Robby

Leppzer and Nina Totenberg. We got nice support from the students, and it was a great audience for Hollins. [The symposium] exceeded beyond my expectations."

The symposium was made possible by the Sowell Funds, General Speakers Fund, and the Hollins University Communication Studies Department. For more information on specific events, visit [www.hollins.edu](http://www.hollins.edu).

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# Problems arise for Colleges Against Cancer

BY LAURA SPEAKMAN

Conflicting constitutions are holding back College Against Cancer (CAC) from being an official SGA sponsored club.

The first conflict is financial. The CAC constitution states: "No monies shall be accepted on behalf of Colleges Against Cancer that will directly and/or ultimately be put to use by agents other than the American Cancer Society itself."

It continues, "Furthermore, no monies received by Colleges Against Cancer shall reside in third-party accounts, even if the school itself administers those accounts."

The SGA constitution says that the club's account must be in the club's name, Hollins University College Against Cancer.

By law, SGA cannot simply

put money into a non-profit organization account.

"The money given by SGA is for the club to operate. It cannot be straight to a charitable organization," said SGA secretary Tara Smith '04.

The second discrepancy with CAC's constitution is within its amendments.

"Basically the American Cancer Society has full control of their amendments and leaves our Senate out of the approval process," said Smith.

Right now SGA is not funding CAC.

"We've been paying for everything out of our own pockets from tea parties to all our other events," said CAC President Danielle Thompson '05.

This has become problematic for the organization since it has been so active with the support groups. In addition, the group is planning a forum on the concept of loss this spring.

This year they will also help with the Relay for Life event.

This is an event bringing the campus together to raise money for the American Cancer Society and teams of people take turns walking or running laps around the soccer field.

Many students really want to see the organization as a club on campus.

"I think this group is a wonderful resource for students and/or faculty that have experienced all types of loss," said Christina Krupski '05, "be the loss of a family member, friend, acquaintance, or even the feeling of loss that accompanies graduating from school or leaving home for the first time."

She continued, "There is something in this group for everyone."

Thompson was inspired to open a chapter of CAC after losing her mother to cancer.

"The whole reason I started

CAC was because of my mother's death. It turned out to be the best outlet being president of CAC," said Thompson.

The organization was recognized in the March 2004 College Against Cancer newsletter for forming support groups on campus.

"Our goal is to serve as a compassionate resource for all members of the Hollins community who have lost a loved one due to cancer or other causes," said Thompson.

Before CAC can become a club on campus, their constitution needs to be altered. An amendment to the SGA constitution must be added as well.

It is currently on the table to pass an amendment to the SGA constitution that asks all clubs and organizations to use only fundraised money in their charitable giving to other organizations so not to use SGA student fees in charity contribution.

"It's not that SGA is anti-giving-money-to-charities . . . we just want to make sure we are doing the right thing," said SGA president Beth Burgin '04.

Some students still don't quite understand the problem between the constitutions.

"While I do not fully understand why the SGA constitution refuses to recognize clubs that make charitable donations to non-profit organizations, I am encouraged by the fact that many SGA members are willing to support our cause," said CAC Vice President Carrie Spruill '06.

SGA is waiting to pass a group of amendments to the SGA constitution all at once, but faith is high about CAC becoming a part of SGA.

"I am 100% confident by the end of the year, CAC will be a fully running club on campus," said Smith.

## Center plans to bring awareness to campus

BY JEILENN GERLACH

The Center is sponsoring Take Back the Night, an event that promotes awareness of violence against women on April 12 from 6 to 8 p.m. on Front Quad.

Take Back the Night has formerly been hosted by other organizations, including Women's Collective and Voice. This is the first year that the Center has sponsored the event. Lisa Bower, who is in charge of organizing this year's gathering, hopes the event will garner funds and publicity for the Center, Hollins' student-run rape crisis center.

Bower said of her first Take Back the Night as a first year, "It was one of the most amazing experiences I had because of all people coming together chanting and sharing their testimonials. And it was a really big bonding thing for me to go to, and it really got me into women's studies, more so than my Intro to Women's Studies

class," Bower said.

This year's rally will include LeeRay Costa, Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Women's Studies, as faculty speaker. Costa will give a brief opening speech about empowerment.

In addition, the Center is trying to get one of the vice presidents of the National Organization for Women to come speak in place of the president, who was unavailable.

After the initial speakers, a march around campus with lighted candles will be followed by personal testimonials of verbal and physical abuse on the steps of the Cocke building.

Drue Barker, Professor of Economics and Women's Studies, recalled, "People talk about sexual abuse by their fathers, by their uncles, by their family friends. They talk about verbal abuse, physical abuse maybe. Some of the stories are not about the person being abused but watching little sister being abused. And so it's so powerful

by bringing those things forward. It's really a cleansing force, but it's also full of emotion."

Laurie Grove '04 remembers how she felt attending Take Back the Night last year: "I think it just needs more of a somber mood because everyone

available at Take Back the Night for those sharing their stories.

"In the past there haven't been counselors, which is traumatic if you are disclosing for the first time and you don't know what to do. Last Take Back the Night people have left sobbing and crying and you know, it's an

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"As an event it makes something that's kind of socially taboo more visible, and I think that can be a really empowering experience."

- Carrie Hart '06

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is clapping and saying these cheers. Then you go and tell these horror stories and it doesn't make any sense. At the end, you walk away from it like, what the hell just happened? It ends out of nowhere, and it's weird after that. They should have counselors afterwards."

For the first time, counselors from health services will be

emotional experience. So we're going to have counselors on hand," said Bower.

Another part of Take Back the Night includes Project Clothesline, which will bring messages about rape and abuse to light on Front Quad. The t-shirts, painted by survivors of sexual abuse and their loved ones, will be hung around the Quad as a visible re-

minder of ongoing victimization. The shirts will be donated from a department store or women's shelter and are made each year for the project.

Taylor Cook '04 talked about her first experience with Take Back the Night. "I went for about 45 minutes and I was embarrassed. I know it's a good experience for people participating and telling their stories, but I didn't have anything to share, and I kind of felt like a voyeur."

Carrie Hart '06, a volunteer at the Center said, "As an event it makes something that's kind of socially taboo more visible, and I think that it can be a really empowering experience."

Barker said, "I'm really happy to hear that the center is doing this. It's really appropriate, and it's a good way to make visible what they're doing as well."

The Center's regular hours are in Randolph 316 from 1-5 p.m. Mon. through Fri. and 1-4 p.m. on Saturdays.

# The Hollins Columns is hiring for the 2004/2005 school year!

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**Features Editor:** Responsible for all features articles, editorials, and letters to the editor. Ensures that writers are progressing on all angles of their articles. Makes suggestions and copy-edits articles. Also responsible for article ideas for her section.

**Copy Editors (2):** Requires excellent grammar and editing skills. Editing must follow the Associated Press guidelines found in the AP Style Manual. Must be available production weekends to go over entire newspaper carefully. Also responsible for coming up with headlines.

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**Photography Editor:** Requires initiative and creativity. Must have knowledge of Adobe PhotoShop. Manages a staff of photographers. Will come up with all photo ideas from the story list and will assign each photo to a photographer. Free to take photos of breaking news or inspiring events that are not assigned. Responsible for creating a CD or scanning photos into the computer by the start of production weekends.

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**Business Manager:** Acts as the treasurer of the newspaper. Responsible for keeping an accurate account of all money spent and received. Must pay bills and handle check requests and deposits in a timely fashion. Must keep ledger up to date and submit to SGA Treasury Board when necessary. Also handles overdue advertising payments. Helps editor-in-chief prepare budget for following year for budget hearing.

**Circulation Manager:** Responsible for circulating current issues of the newspaper to the designated areas around campus. Old issues must be removed and brought back to newspaper office. Responsible for sending out any subscriptions.

**Web Manager:** Requires a knowledge of Macintosh computers, Adobe PageMaker and web page publishing. Responsible for formatting each issue in web-ready form. Submits each web-ready issue to Hollins webmaster on the Monday that the paper comes out. Will also work to archive all issues of the school year. This is a developing position as technology continues to change.

**Columnist and Entertainment Columnist:** The Columns has two columnist positions available. Both columnists must be creative, innovative and show a strong writing ability. Responsible for coming up with own ideas for bi-monthly column. Two writing samples required.

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Interviews will be held April 15-22. Decisions will be announced April 23.

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# English department welcomes new member

BY LUCY ERHARDT

Elizabeth Keyser, professor of English, sits behind the desk in her Turner office. Boxes of books she has taught in classes over her 16 years at Hollins are arranged on the floor, inviting any who dare compete with her insight in the margins to sample some of her readership.

After having taught at various institutions since she was 24 years old, Keyser is retiring from teaching. Approaching her 62nd birthday, she is planning to move back to her childhood hometown in Oregon.

Although Hollins is losing one expert in children's and American literature, it will gain another.

Keyser's position will be filled by Michelle Abate, a student just finishing her PhD at City University of New York (CUNY) who shares Keyser's interests in literature.

According to many members of the Hollins community, although Abate is capable of filling Keyser's professional position, she cannot truly replace Keyser.

Jeanne Larsen, professor of English, remembers being involved in Keyser's interviews and hiring at Hollins. "My first impression of Elizabeth was of elegant self-possession with a sparkle in her eye," she said.

Since she came to Hollins in 1988, Keyser has been involved in activities ranging from helping to develop the Master of Arts program in Children's Literature to pushing for an American Studies concentration, to editing the annual Children's Literature journal.

Of all her career accomplishments, Keyser is most proud of the latter.

"In the beginning I didn't even use a computer," she said. "I enjoyed the work a lot."

Julie Pfeiffer, professor of English, co-edited the journal with Keyser for four years before taking over editing entirely.

"It's because of [Keyser's] hard work and willingness to edit it that Hollins has been able to own the copyrights to the journal," she said. "Hollins has also been able to develop a prestigious children's literature program because of Elizabeth's reputation."

"Elizabeth really set the foundation for her field," said Jen Boyle, assistant professor of English. "She was a key in crystalizing the importance of children's literature...I would have liked to work more with her."

Larsen is impressed with the amount of work Keyser has put into her involvement with Hollins.

"She was a key figure in providing continuity within the children's literature MA," she said. "She worked hard with Amanda Cockrell [the program director] and Julie Pfeiffer to make sure it's really a Hollins-type program."

Carmel Palmer '06, who took Journey through Childhood with Keyser, said, "As a teacher, she always genuinely took time to go over student work. She was always willing to set aside her schedule for students."

"I've always heard students talk about how profound an effect she's had on them and how they see children's literature," Pfeiffer said.

Kendra Forant '04, who took four classes with Keyser over her college career, echoed that sentiment. "She's a good professor to take class with because she's objective but isn't afraid to tell you what she thinks...She makes you think objectively about what you're reading," she said.

Lindsey Paris '03 worked with Keyser on her senior honors thesis in English. Although she didn't complete her thesis, she noted in an email interview that Keyser's affect on her was just as profound as if she had finished the project.

"Dr. Keyser was an intelligent and inspiring advisor, but what I remember most about her was her generosity and compassion

when I could not complete my thesis," she said. "Dr. Keyser...made me feel as if my ideas and analyses were brilliant, and she gave me the confidence and desire to work on my thesis beyond college."

"I'm impressed at her willingness to go in new directions and move outside her comfort zone," Pfeiffer said, citing Keyser's branching into African American literature courses as an example. "What she does, she does well, but she's not willing to rest on her laurels."

Keyser also takes time out to develop other interests. She has taken classical piano classes at Hollins since 1992. She will be taking her Steinway grand piano to Oregon with her.

While she doesn't have any future career plans, Keyser will not take herself out of the Academic sphere entirely. She plans to do a lot of volunteer work and might write for the local newspaper.

"I really like working one on one with people on their writing, so I might do that," she said.

Above all, Keyser will miss the beauty of the stimulation of being on a college campus, but she likes change and is ready for the move.

She believes Hollins has improved dramatically in the time she has been here.

"When I first got here," she said, "the student body was passive...Now the campus is more open about lesbianism...and there is more emphasis on women's studies and gender in the classroom."

Abate is excited about being a part of such a campus. Having attended a large state institution for her graduate work, she missed the sense of community that comes with a smaller liberal arts institution.

"It's a fabulous environment for learning," she said.

Abate attended Canisius College in Buffalo, NY as an undergraduate, majoring in English and minoring in Women's Studies. She completed her master's degree and is working towards her PhD at CUNY.

Abate's primary interest in her studies, one about which she wrote her doctoral dissertation, is the tomboy character in late 19th and early 20th century literature.

Abate is interested in teaching a wide range of classes, many of which she has already drawn up proposed syllabi for. Among classes Abate has planned are "Orphans, Urchins and Wards: The Dependent Child in Children's Literature," "Nature and Nurture: Readings in American Romanticism," and "Lesbian Bodies."

"I think she's terrific," Keyser said of Abate. "She was clearly the most exciting candidate...She blew us away with the number of courses she had planned."

Other professors who met Abate agree.

"I think we all feel good about the hire," said Jeanne Larsen, professor of English. "[Abate has] high energy, is straightforward and is interested in literature, both aesthetically and in its social context...she packed a lot of teaching as well as study into her time to do it all."

Abate was hired to replace Keyser based on a search that started in September, 2003 with the English department collaboratively writing a job description for the Chronicle of Higher Education.

A committee, consisting of Pfeiffer as chair, Boyle and Associate Professor and Chair of the English Department, Marilyn Moriarty, attended a meeting of the Modern Languages Association in San Diego, Cali. from December 26-29 to interview a pool of 12 candidates over two whole days.

Having gone through the English Department's hiring process approximately a year earlier, Boyle felt she was able to offer a different perspective.

"I felt like I could participate because I knew a lot about the market," she said.

Because of the many different aspects of Keyser's position, the field of candidates was narrowed down quickly.

"All 12 were excellent candidates," Moriarty said. "It's a difficult job to fill because [the best candidate] has to be able to do children's and American literature and edit the journal [of Children's Literature]"

"We had to look for a particular kind of person," Pfeiffer said. "The top three really jumped out at us."

The top three candidates for the position came to Hollins in early February to meet all members of the English department, several students, Michael Sitton, acting vice president of academic affairs, and Wayne Markert, acting president.

"In general, I got a wonderful vibe from all three candidates," said Blair Fross '06. "Specifically, I particularly enjoyed the work [Abate] is doing on the tomboy."

After all three candidates had represented themselves, the department had a meeting to compare their notes with the student feedback they had received and came to a consensus about the most promising candidate.

"I was impressed with the level of consensus we were able to adopt," said Boyle. "I thought these kinds of processes would be fraught with difficulty and ideological differences."

Pfeiffer hopes Abate will continue Keyser's level of activity in programs such as the American Studies program, which was a concentration years ago.

"It will be nice to continue having people in the department who teach interdisciplinary studies," she said.

Richard Dillard, professor of English, said, "I hope Michelle will get a chance to push for more children's literature courses in the undergraduate program."

Having followed Keyser's work, especially on Louisa May Alcott, Abate was excited to meet her.

"It was an honor to meet her in person," she said. "I'd known her in print and she really exemplified what I want to do in my career. I have big shoes to fill and I'm honored to fill them."

"Nobody ever really fills anyone's shoes," said Moriarty. "But I think she'll do a fine job making the position her own."



COURTESY OF MICHELLE ABATE

Michelle Abate will fill the position left open by Elizabeth Keyser, professor of English, in Fall 2004.

# Ring Night dangers bring structural changes

BY REBECCA STAED

It's a four-day rite of passage on behalf of a ring.

It may not be as grueling and risky a trek as the one Frodo Baggins takes across Middle Earth for three endless sequels, but it is pretty close. Except the goal is not to destroy the ring but to attain it.

It culminates in one night of jaw-dropping skits and overflowing gift-baskets and is better known as Ring Night, a tradition wherein seniors secretly adopt junior ring sisters who craft and perform their skits and other silly antics in order to earn their rings and ultimately reveal their senior sisters.

A history of hazing and other acts inconsistent with Ring Night's mission to encourage sisterhood and carry on tradition has triggered the Ring Night committee to make changes that will promote safety and restore the tradition's value.

"The beauty of Hollins' traditions is that they are constantly shifting and changing to meet the times," said SGA president Beth Burgin '04. "Ring Night needs to evolve slightly to focus on positive elements...the sisterhood and zany stuff. Something magical happens to our campus that weekend."

Last November, a Ring Night group was found guilty of hazing, an infraction of university policy and a Class I misdemeanor according to the Virginia Hazing Law. As a result, they were not allowed to participate in the final night of skits.

"That made us open our eyes," said Joe Rosenberg, director of student activities and organizations.

The Ring Night committee is a mix of six students and three faculty members, including Rosenberg and Burgin; MJ Konopke, director of housing and residence life; Alison Ridley, dean of academic services; Jessica King, senior class president; Shannon Curley, junior class president; Breanna Husband, sophomore class president; Caroline Adams, freshman class president; and Julia Henderson, honor court chair, who was added to the committee this year.

The Student Handbook defines hazing as any intentional actions or situations performed by a group of individuals or an organization which create physical or mental discom-

fort, embarrassment, harassment or ridicule, and others that are not consistent with school policies and/or state or federal law.

There have been reports that in the past a Ring Night participant was blindfolded and then thrown in front of a moving car, according to Rosenberg. Another was allegedly left at a truck stop.

"There was a subculture of Ring Night that existed in the early to late '90s," said senior class president, Jessica King. "There have been so many stories of hazing incidents during that time."

Reports of hazing have slowly eroded the control that students once had in Ring Night, said King. Now, there is a balance of student and administration input. Administrators provide the parameters and contract for the event, while the students plan its activities and skits.

Last year, Siclinda Canty-Elliott, Vice President and Dean of Students at the time, held several meetings one week after Ring Night, which students were required to attend and were asked about any incidents of hazing they witnessed.

The meetings caused a stir among students not only because they were required to attend, but also because those who could not had holds placed on their student accounts.

"I understand if [administrators] wanted to have a meeting or talk to a few people, but it wasn't right to entrap people," said Courtney Hamill, '03, who had a hold placed on her account. "I wasn't able to register."

"Honestly, I believe it was handled inappropriately," said Burgin. "It was one of the few times I called a university officer at home late at night to voice student concerns. By early the next morning, many of the problems with the situation, namely the holds that were placed on student accounts for not attending the meeting, were lifted."

Rosenberg said he was mostly discouraged by the skits and antics over the course of Ring Night.

He witnessed students being forced to eat on the cafeteria floor without the use of utensils, as well as deprecating content in the final night of skits, which he was obligated to oversee as Director of Student Activities.

Ring Night policy in the student handbook states that Ring Night activities should affirm the dignity and rights of religious, ethnic, sexual, racial, and socioeconomic groups through behavior, costume, makeup, and skits.

"I was shocked and appalled at the things that were going on," he said. "They were degrading to women, while Hollins' mission has always been to empower women."

Joy Sparrowhawk, '04, was a senior sister in Ring Night last semester and said she would have liked to have seen more creativity in the skits and less nakedness.

"As a junior, it's your night, and you can do your own thing," she said. "But, I think you have to remember [your skit] reflects on you as a person."

Regardless of whether spectators liked the skits or not, King said they are protected by the First Amendment and therefore cannot be censored.

In an effort to capitalize on the beneficial elements of Ring Night and eliminate negative ones, the committee has added an educational component to the event as well as time margins that prohibit any Ring

Night activity between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m.

They have also planned alternative entertainment during Ring Night for those who choose not to participate.

Immediately following the final Ring Night skits this month, singer/songwriter and pianist Vienna Teng will perform a concert open to all Hollins students at 9 p.m. in the RAT.

Freshman may be able to participate in the future to make Ring Night more inclusive and cure dangers created by not having enough drivers. The committee also plans to draw up detailed job descriptions of and contracts for all participants.

"Ring Night will still be student led and student focused," Rosenberg said. "The only thing the committee is doing is putting structure in."

In fact, most of the changes were suggested by the six student committee members with the best interests of their classmates in mind, Burgin said. If students act irresponsibly during Ring Night in the future they stand the chance of losing the tradition.

Future participants of Ring Night are required to attend the educa-

tional program, which addresses dangers and concerns of hazing, using recent accounts of hazing-related mishaps and court cases, as well as responsibilities of students during Ring Night.

Konopke and Rosenberg created the program and led a session on April 2, in which they taught the program to the class presidents, who will teach Ring Night participants in turn.

"I was hesitant about the program at first because I thought it would be geared towards Greek organizations," said Shannon Curley, '05, junior class president. "But I came out of the meeting thinking, 'Whoa, this is more serious than I thought it was.' I was very impressed, and I think students will walk away with a little something that they did not know before."

"It's been a collaborative effort between the administration and the students coming together to say we don't want to lose this tradition," said Rosenberg. "All we can do is educate students and hopefully the light bulbs will turn on. But changes aren't going to happen right away."

Spring Ring Night is April 15-17.



PHOTOGRAPH COLLAGE BY LYNNE HAWKINSON

# Calendar of Events: April 5- April 19

## April 5

5:00 PM to 6:00 PM  
Informational Ring Night Meetings  
5:00 PM to 6:00 PM  
Ring Night Committee Meeting  
6:00 PM to 6:45 PM  
Appeal Board Meeting  
7:30 PM to 9:00 PM  
Faculty Recital: Michael Sitton, piano

## April 7

11:00 AM to 7:00 PM  
Return of the Bizarre Bazaar  
5:00 PM to 6:00 PM  
Batten Leadership Resource Group 2  
5:00 PM to 7:00 PM  
Study Abroad Orientation  
7:30 PM to 9:30 PM  
Japanese Film Festival  
8:00 PM to 9:00 PM  
Rhythm Circle

## April 8

11:00 AM to 2:00 PM  
Health Fair  
12:00 PM to 1:30 PM  
BIOL 472 - Senior Seminar  
4:45 PM to 6:15 PM  
Senior Information Tables  
8:15 PM to 10:30 PM  
Cathryn Hankla - English Department Reading

## April 12

8:00 AM to 6:30 PM  
SGA Voting Table  
4:00 PM to 5:30 PM  
Campus Reception for Callie Crossley  
5:00 PM to 6:30 PM  
Study Abroad Orientation - Paris  
6:00 PM to 11:00 PM  
Take Back the Night

## April 13

12:30 PM to 3:00 PM  
Tibetan Tashi Lhunpo Monks  
5:00 PM to 5:45 PM  
Big Questions Forum  
7:00 PM to 12:00 AM  
Dance Dance Revolution Night  
8:00 PM to 9:00 PM  
Tammy Sterling - One Sister's Story

## April 14

5:00 PM to 6:30 PM  
Study Abroad Orientation - London  
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM  
Election Speeches  
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM  
The Path to Peace of Mind  
7:30 PM to 9:30 PM  
Japanese Film Festival  
8:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Become the Beat: Movement as Meditation  
8:00 PM to 10:00 PM  
German Roundtable  
8:30 PM to 10:30 PM  
RA Orientation

## April 15

12:00 PM to 1:30 PM  
BIOL 472 - Senior Seminar  
4:30 PM to 5:30 PM  
Grapheon Student Readings  
7:30 PM to 9:00 PM  
Visiting Fellow Lecture: Callie Crossley  
9:00 PM to 11:00 PM  
Skott Freedman  
Banta Room

## April 16

8:00 AM to 8:00 PM  
Kohn Film Festival  
1:40 PM to 3:30 PM  
Faculty Writing Workshop

7:00 PM to 10:00 PM  
Dr. Joko Susilo: Shadow Puppet Master  
9:30 PM to 12:30 AM  
Kohn Film Festival Reception

## April 17

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM  
Art History Senior Symposium  
12:00 PM to 1:00 PM  
Art History Senior Symposium Luncheon  
9:00 PM to 12:00 AM  
Vienna Teng

## April 19

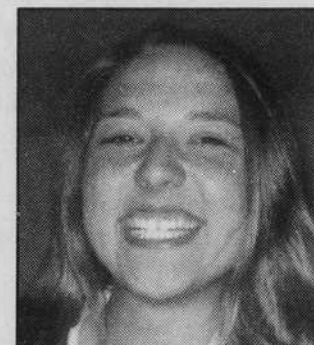
5:00 PM to 6:30 PM  
Study Abroad Orientation - Paris  
6:00 PM to 10:00 PM  
Housing Sign-ups  
7:30 PM to 9:00 PM  
Concert Series: Hollins University Concert Choir

## Sound-off: What are you looking for in Hollins' next president?



"This little piggy wants Wayne Markert." —  
Hadley Meares '04

"A hot body." —  
Kirsten Brewer



"I'd like to jump on the hot body train. That could be appealing to some students." —Sara Clemens '07



"Walter Rugaber had a really cool hat for Tinker Day. We should get him." —Molly Knudsen '04



"Somebody not too overboard." —Theresa Skurski '06



# SGA Openings '04-'05

The following is a list of positions available for the 2004-2005 School year. An email announcement will be going out later this week announcing the election and appointment timeline. Please be sure to check your hollins.edu email for this important elections and appointment information.

## SGA PRESIDENT

Serve as chair of Roundtable, member of the Elections Committee, liaison from the students to the Board of Trustees, and a member of Senate.

## SGA VICE PRESIDENT

Serve as chair of the Activities Board, chair of Senate, President of the Association in absence of President, and liaison to the Alumnae Association.

## SGA SECRETARY

Serve as chair of the Elections Committee, chair of Appointment Board, chair of the Abroad Correspondence Committee, and a member of Senate.

## SGA TREASURER

Serve as chair of SGA Treasury Board and member of Senate; Maintain and update the SGA treasury.

## CHAIR OF HONOR COURT

Call and preside over all hearings dealing with Honor Code offenses: lying, cheating, and stealing; Call and preside over all meetings of the Honor Court; Serve as a member of Senate and a member of the Elections Committee.

## CHAIR OF STU-

## DENT CONDUCT COUNCIL

Call and preside over all hearings dealing with Judicial offenses not covered under the Honor Code; Call and preside over all meetings of the Student Conduct Council; Serve as a member of Senate.

## CHAIR OF APPEAL BOARD

Preside over appealed cases from Honor Court or Student Conduct Council and on petitions of Constitutional interpretation; Call and preside over meetings of the Appeal Board; Serve as member of Senate.

## CHAIR OF STUDENT ACADEMIC POLICY BOARD

Serve as a member of the Academic Grievance Committee and as key student administrator of the independent exam system; Responsible for Student J-term Scholarships; Serve as a member of Senate.

## CHAIR OF THE HOLLINS ACTIVITIES BOARD

Serve as a nonvoting member of the Hollins Activity Board, assist chairs in booking of bands, speakers, etc., and conduct meetings of the Hollins Activities Board.

## CLASS PRESIDENT

Serve as a member of SGA and Senate; Call and preside over class meetings; Initiate and organize class activities and coordinate them with other events of the University

## CLASS VICE-PRESIDENT

Serve as a member of Sen-

ate; act as President of the class in absence of the President; serve on Activities Board; serve as a member of the Appointment Board

## CLASS SECRETARY

Serve as a member of the Elections Committee; Serve as a member of the Appointment Board; Serve as a member of the Abroad Correspondence Committee; Record minutes at all meetings held by the class; keep class informed of meetings and activities.

## CLASS TREASURER

Record all money of the class; Serve as fundraising chair of class activities; Serve as a member of the Treasury Board

## CLASS SENATORS (2)

Serve as a member of Senate and as a liaison between your class and the Senate.

## GENERAL SPEAKERS BUREAU CHAIR

Coordinate major events including speakers and other programs of interest.

## SPECIAL EVENTS CHAIR

Coordinate Fall Formal Weekend, Family Weekend, & Cotillion Weekend.

## CONTEMPORARY AND CULTURAL EVENTS CHAIR

Coordinate campus wide events with multi-cultural and special interests emphasis. Organize poster sale.

## SOCIAL EVENTS CHAIR

Coordinate Fall Party,

Oktoberfest, Crush Party, & Mayfest.

## PUBLICITY AND PROMOTIONS CHAIR

Be responsible for publicizing and enforcing University publicity regulations. Coordinate all on and off-campus publicity of campus events. Coordinate publicity of campus events. Be responsible for all publicity for the Activities Board including the distribution and removal of posters for campus event.

## HOLLINS CLUB COORDINATOR

Organize Activities Fair and Community School Halloween Party. Publish Master Club Book. Act as a liaison from the Clubs to SGA.

## ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION CHAIR

Serves as a member on the Hollins Activities Board. Responsible for coordinating spirit week and the Athletic Banquet as well as encouraging the campus community to attend athletic events.

## SPIRITUAL & RELIGIOUS LIFE ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

Coordinate activities and events of a spiritual nature for the Hollins community.

## SHARE CO-CHAIRS (Students Helping Achieve Rewarding Experiences)

Coordinate those volunteer activities and service projects which are provided for the Hollins community.

## GENERAL HAB MEMBERS

Six students will serve as general members to the

Activities Board and be responsible for attending HAB meetings and supporting University events.

## JUDICIAL BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

Four people from each class will serve on both the Student Conduct Council and the Honor Court. Individuals will be responsible for hearing cases involving conduct and honor offenses as well as promoting the University's Honor Code.

## APPEAL BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

Three people from each class will serve on the Appeal Board which will preside over the appeal of parking tickets and hear any cases appealed from the Conduct Council or the Honor Court.

## University Boards

### ACADEMIC POLICY

Two people from each class will be appointed to Academic Policy Board. Will aid in the decision to student J-term scholarships, and administer exams.

### STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Two students will serve on the Scholarship Committee to award scholarships to incoming first year students.

### HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL

Two students responsible for reporting Student Concerns to the Human Relations Council and reporting council notes back to the student Senate.

### STUDENT LIFE COUNCIL

Two students responsible for reporting student concerns to the Student Life Council and reporting back to the Student Senate.

# Summer jobs aren't all bad...that bad...

Well, that time of year is upon us again. We veterans call it The Last Stretch. There are no breaks left to look forward to, and the pleasant beginning-of-the-semester laziness is long gone. From now on it's a high-intensity race to summer vacation, full of books to be read, papers to be written, and alcohol to be consumed.

Seniors have an even greater hurdle to jump: the dreaded thesis. If you're a senior and you're anything like me, by now you're ready to buy a gun, shoot a hole in your computer monitor, set fire to all your drafts, run away forever and spend the rest of your life mindlessly folding sweaters at the Gap.

But if you make it through the all-nighters in Pleasants, the dead weekends in the library, and the hangovers—and you got that far without failing a class or, at minimum, getting on Hollins' bad side by disemboweling the Dana printer ("I'll show you a paper jam, you piece of crap!")—you are rewarded by summer break.

Ah, summer break. The hectic rush to pack all your belongings, say goodbye to all your friends, and then drive home for those glorious days of fun and sun. Those glorious days of sleep, relaxing in front of the television, and eating junk food. Those four glorious days before you start your summer job.

My average attention span for a job is about five minutes, so I've held quite a few over the years. If, like me, you're



still in search of gainful summer employment, you may be wishing that someone would provide you with a lighthearted yet honest glimpse at what most summer jobs really consist of.

Well, you're in luck! I am that special "someone." So here is a breakdown of what I see as the three main categories of temporary employment.

## Lifeguarding

I was a lifeguard for many years. Lifeguarding is the kind of job you hate when you have it, but somehow keep returning to again and again, until one day you wake up and realize that you're old enough now to get a job that requires you to wear shoes.

Lifeguards, to my experience any-

way, spend a great deal of time sitting around. You do your shift up in the chair, waiting for someone to drown (they never do) and yelling at kids to stop running on the deck. You become drunk with power and start blowing your whistle at every unfortunate patron who walks by: "You! Yeah, you! That bikini is so four years ago! Get a clue!"

But when you're not occupied berating innocent swimmers, you're busy with a multitude of other tasks. Some people think lifeguarding is all about hanging out with attractive young coworkers, getting a tan, and eating hot dogs from the concession stand while listening to top-forty radio.

They're basically right. Don't be like me and let your self-respect get in the way of capitalizing on an amazing deal. As it turns out, the other jobs are four-thousand times worse, even after you set aside the fact that they require you to get dressed every day.

Which brings me to:

## Retail

Oh, retail. When I worked retail I was a salesperson at a trendy interior-design store we'll call, for the sake of discretion, the "Mottery Marn." In order to get hired at the Mottery Marn I endured three (three! Wall Street law firms don't even do three!) interviews with a deceptively cheerful person named Mindy who would later be-

come my boss.

Well, guess what? Turns out everyone in retail is deceptively cheerful. They are the sweetest, most caring people in the world, until the customers are out of sight, at which point they actually grow horns and attempt to suck your blood with long white fangs. The adults are the worst, although you can't really resent them. If your highest aspiration in life was to be promoted to Associate Lampshade Specialist, you'd want to kill everyone around you too, especially those snotty college brats who don't seem to care about lampshades at all.

During my time at the Mottery Marn, I almost got fired for a series of offenses, including making derisive remarks about the denim slipcovers (can you blame me?), wearing pants that did not quite qualify as khakis and therefore violated the dress code, and coughing in the presence of a customer. Employees of the Mottery Marn do not get colds.

Frustrated to the point of sheer madness, last summer I finally turned to the last possible venue for temporary employment:

## Waitressing

There are plenty of people out there who love being on their feet for twelve hours at a time serving food to ungrateful strangers who are either too rude to acknowledge the presence of a wait-

ress, or so friendly they consider themselves entitled to grab the waitress' ass. They're called masochists.

Waitressing is, far and above, the most demeaning possible form of work. It's stressful, intense, physically agonizing, and has the added benefit of driving you slowly insane.

If you want to make any tip money at all, you have to become so deeply concerned about whether the man at Table 31 needs another scotch and soda that you actually scold yourself when it turns out that he does and he has been waiting over ten minutes.

"You're a horrible person," you tell yourself, sobbing, in the alley outside the restaurant. "You don't deserve to live, much less serve food at this venerable establishment to these kind people."

Just remember that, in the end, the real joy of menial summer jobs is the little things. Skinny-dipping at night in the public pool because you have the keys. Stealing yourself a nice little set of dinner plates from Overpriced Home Design Hell.

So when that uppity lady at Table 11 looks at you like you're nothing better than a crackhead on parole for murder because you weren't quick enough clearing her stupid salad plate, just remember that you have all the power in the relationship. You can always blow your nose on her chicken.

And don't you forget it.

**Aries: March 21 - April 19** You are getting tired of doing the same thing, try some variety but be careful, too much can make you want to go back to the predictable. Listen to your body, it needs your attention before you get sick.

**Taurus: April 20 - May 20** Your ego is inflating, just so you know. It's good to be confident, but you Taurus, sometimes go too far. You are one with nature now, you love spring rain and the earth in spring.

**Gemini: May 21 - June 21** Keep your perky attitude up, a potential love interest or fling might just appear in your path. Don't neglect your creative side this month, little fun art and craft activities with good friends can really stimulate the mind and bring some relaxation.

**Cancer: June 22 - July 22** Family problems are looming in the future, be sure to meet them with optimism and address them appropriately. Stay aware and responsible while you enjoy yourself. Also don't be too cool to be the peacemaker between arguing friends.

**Leo: July 23 - Aug 22** Not to be rude or anything but you are getting to be a royal pain in the-you-know-where. It is mostly when you argue with people who refuse to be persuaded. Maybe you are

## Horoscopes

right, but is it worth a fight? Let them figure it out themselves the hard way, you have better things to do.

**Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22** You are so busy, take time for yourself. RELAX. Breathe. Read a book. This weekend take a little break to get back in the groove of things. However, don't let your responsibilities slide too much. You

could learn to balance your life better. Learn from Libra.

**Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22** Beware of flattery. Someone wants something from you. Also, don't neglect nature, you haven't been that nature friendly since spring break. Don't read too much into advice you will get around the 3rd, and eat your veggies!

**Scorpio: Oct 23 - Nov 21** Wow you look so different! April fools! Usually you don't change easily, or try new things readily, but be ready for an enticing offer that will make you think twice. Attending too many events will tire you if you don't keep your energy up.

**Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21** Check your lines

of communication, someone may be trying to reach you. Plan for the future. Is it me or do you always seem to look droopy walking to Moody? It's understandable but there's more to life than food. Thank god.

**Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19** Visit the library, you are always the lucky one, and something nice always happens to you. Keep on keepin' on and good things will happen to nice people like you Capricorn. Getting over your ex isn't easy but hey it's just the beginning to a whole lot of good things opening up.

**Aquarius Jan 20 - Feb 18** Carpe diem! Life isn't as bad as you have been saying. So yeah maybe you have financial issues and low self-esteem to deal with, someone else may be going through depression or addiction, we all have our burdens. You are strong, and someone loves you and is going to help you along.

**Pisces Feb 19 - March 20** Jealousy is a hard road to take. Don't jump to conclusions. Make your mark this week, yeah rebel and go crazy. You're fun and it's time you took some things a little less seriously. Be spontaneous, you might find learn something new and find a passion you never realized you had.

# Good marriage should be possible for all

I'm married. It's true. There was a time, a long time actually, when I avoided telling people at Hollins this fact because of all the Women's Studies and Feminist classes I've taken that preach that marriage is a faulty institution and women should be independent.

I'm done worrying about that.

It's true, marriage screws a lot of people over, and women should be independent. But it's only where the wrong people are married that problems occur.

Take my husband's good friend in Missouri, for example. He's been married for nine years, and he hates his wife. Despises her.

She treats him like something she stepped in on the way to the car and just can't get out of the tread of her shoe. She's

cheated on him repeatedly, she refuses to clean anything in the



LUCY ERHARDT  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

house, and she won't even buy him medicine when he's too sick to get out of bed.

Granted, he hasn't exactly been a saint either. He does things to annoy her because he knows she hates them, all to get back at her for treating him

like dirt.

The only reason these two people are still living together, sleeping in the same bed, is that they are married. They can't afford to get a divorce. They've racked up so much debt together and so many of their belongings are jointly owned that he doesn't see a way out. This is terrible.

But that's only one marriage. There are many other marriages on either side of the spectrum in which the individuals have made them either really great or horrifying. It's not marriage's fault.

I happen to be married to a wonderful, caring, intelligent man who shares my plans for the future. I'll have a career, and he'll have a career. When it comes time for family, we'll both make sacrifices. His career as a photographer will most likely offer the most free-

dom, so he'll probably end up being the stay-at-home dad. And he's fine with that.

He wants me to succeed and he is willing to do whatever it takes, including buying a house in Sydney, Australia, where I can do my dream grad school program, to make it happen.

I am honored that this man loves me and is willing to make sacrifices to be with me. I love feeling like I have a partner in everything I do, a partner who wants me to be independent when I need to be and by his side when I want to be.

Granted, there are things like the marriage penalty in which the secondary income earner is cheated out of most of his or her money, and married people are treated with unfair advantages over the people who must remain single so they can't share their

partner's work benefits and what have you. These are things inherently wrong with marriage, but steps are being taken to correct them. Once we get some more open-minded people in office, I think things will change.

Marriage can work for anyone who goes into it with the right frame of mind and with the right partner; and it should be able to work for everyone. I want every single person on earth to have the chance to be as happy as I have been and to have access to the benefits marriage affords happy couples. It's only fair.

I'm proud to be married to my husband. I know marriage doesn't work for everyone, but I will no longer sit in the corner for the marriage discussions. I have a valid point of view. I'm happy. And everyone deserves to have that choice.

## Dear editor: Wal-Mart savings come with price

Dear Hollins Community,

We are writing this letter in hopes of getting your attention on a very important issue. Currently, Hollins student services offers a shuttle service to Wal-Mart several times a day.

We would like to request that they discontinue this service to Wal-Mart, and choose an alternative store instead.

Through research composed in our fall 2003 Organizational Communication class, we discovered that Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. is discriminatory to their female and minority employees.

According to an article in the June 30, 2003 issue of the San Francisco Chronicle, out of the 1 million people that Wal-Mart employs, 72 percent of them are women. However, women hold only one-third of management positions. Men hold 90 percent of store manager positions, and there is only one female among the top 20 officers.

Currently, Wal-Mart is involved in what will prove to be the largest employment discrimination case brought against a private employer in history. On April 29, the US District Court in San Francisco heard arguments to certify the case "Dukes vs. Wal-Mart Stores, No. c-01-2252 MJ," as a class action case. The class action suit represents

the 1.7 million women who have worked at Wal-Mart since December 26, 1998. The hearing, which occurred on July 25, 2003, is still pending a decision. The suit claims that women are often refused management training, are paid 37 cents less per hour than male counterparts, and are often passed over for promotions.

In addition to this consistent discrimination of female employees, Wal-Mart also takes advantage of ethnic and minority employees.

According to an October 24, 2003 article in Business News, 245 illegal immigrants from 60 Wal-Mart stores, in 21 states, were arrested, questioned and deported.

According to an Associated Press article on October 23, 2003, the investigation came because of previous investigations of subcontractors hired by Wal-Mart in 1998 and 2001. The employees were paid as little as \$2 a day and were often forced to work seven days a week and up to 60 hours per week without any overtime pay.

According to a November 2003 article in The Lowdown, Wal-Mart denied any knowledge of these practices, despite having an elaborate computer network that "tracks every cost the company incurs down to the penny."

Law officials told the Associated Press that

they gathered wiretaps, recordings and documents that indicated Wal-Mart executives were aware of the company's subcontractors' use of illegal immigrants. The investigation is still underway.

After we began discussing Wal-Mart's unfair employment policies, we decided to take a survey of the Hollins community. Our focus was to see who shopped at Wal-Mart and why they shopped there. We also wanted to see who shopped at alternative discount stores and why.

The survey showed that Wal-Mart has extensive power over consumers by their convenience and discount prices. The survey also showed that although the sample shopped at Wal-Mart, Target was the preferred discount store. With Hollins' efforts to become a more inclusive community, we believe Hollins should support companies that reflect our values and goals. We take this issue very seriously, and we hope that you take our efforts and your own values into consideration when considering shopping at Wal-Mart.

Sincerely,

Tonia Ellis '05, Crystal Hope Mitchell '05, Agatha Lynch '04, Melissa James '06

# Bush inspired me: liberal all the way

BY JULIA KNOX

My father is what he likes to call "a yellow dog Democrat," meaning he would vote for the Democratic party even if a yellow dog was running for president.

While I was growing up, he and my mother made their political affiliations known, but they always left it up to my siblings and me to decide our own political views.

I never really cared about politics until senior year of high school. Bill Clinton had been president since I was six, so I could barely remember anything the original George Bush did. And at the age of 14, I was far more concerned with my friends and the latest "Real World" episode than I was with Al Gore and George W. Bush.

But sometime over the course of my American Government class senior year, I became convinced I was a diehard Republican.

My teacher that year (we'll call her Ms. G) was the biggest liberal I had ever encountered. But unlike my father, she seemed intent on converting us all to her political views.

Ms. G was a good teacher, and I learned a lot from her, but the way she pushed her views on the class made me argue with her every chance I got.

For example, she absolutely loved Jimmy Carter and despised Ronald Reagan. One day, after the millionth praise of "St. Jimmy," I raised my hand and asked why, if he was such a good president, he got creamed by Reagan in 1980?

I didn't really care about either of them, but after this and countless other arguments drawn up just to prove Ms. G wrong, I became convinced that I was the lone conservative in a family full of liberals. Until now.

I was already having issues with the War in Iraq, Bush's anti-gay marriage amendment and the attempt to overturn Roe V. Wade.

My secret liberal views were starting to bubble up inside, but after reading an article in the New York Times regarding gay marriage, they came exploding out in the form of many venting sessions to friends & my father and this journal entry.

The article "A Lightning Rod on Gay Marriage, and

Her Split Town" in the March 11th edition of the Times contained these two paragraphs:

"Others said they supported a ban on same-sex marriage out of a sense that a small minority was gaining too much power in society. Gay men and lesbians should be free to live as they choose, many said, but when they assert a right to full legal marriage, they overreach.

"What the gays want is ridiculous," said Timothy Eugene Ramsey, a former rock-band bodyguard who now runs a downtown antique store called Collections by Gruff Pup. "The idea that we should take the fringe of society and call it the norm is insane."

When I read that, my mouth dropped open. I understand if you're not a supporter of same sex marriage, and I respect your opinion. But the logic behind this particular quote astounded me.

To me, the idea that we would deny same-sex marriages because it would create "a sense that a small minority was gaining too much power in society" takes us right back to a segregated society.

It's just like saying, "We can't let those damn blacks eat in our restaurants and go to our schools. That's giving them way too much power, and they'd obviously kick all of us whites out of our own country". Sounds ridiculous, no?

Then I read that Attorney General John Ashcroft was attempting to subpoena women's medical records from hospitals to determine if their abortions were "medically necessary". Regardless of whether I'm pro-life or pro-choice, I don't understand what his point could possibly be here.

What exactly does he plan on doing if he decides the abortion wasn't medically necessary? Show up on someone's doorstep saying, "Um, excuse me ma'am, but you know that abortion you had three years ago? Well, it wasn't exactly medically necessary, so here's a nice fetus to implant in your uterus to make up for it. Have a nice day."

And to top it all off, I read that the House of Representatives had spent most of Wednesday discussing and passing "the cheeseburger

bill", which stated that you can't sue McDonald's or any restaurant for making you fat. Yes, the idea that somebody actually thinks that it's McDonald's fault they're obese is absurd, but did we really need to spend an entire day passing legislature banning lawsuits that are just going to get thrown out in court anyway? We have hundreds of men and women coming home in body bags, horrific poverty and no jobs to help get rid of it, and we're worried about McDonalds?

I respect Conservatives rights to have a different opinion than mine. I don't hate Bush, and I don't agree with those people that don't like him because "he's such an idiot". You have to be somewhat smart to graduate from Yale and run an entire country. But the idea that some of his policies (which seem to be based mostly on his personal religious views) might actually become law if we keep him in office another four years made me immediately fill out a voter registration form.

I shared this piece with my father, and he was thrilled. I'm sure Ms. G would be too.

## Dear editor: accusations threaten campus

I was extremely dismayed when reading Rebecca Staed's article "Bush's plan to ban sparks dialogue," in the March 15 issue of the Hollins Columns to come across the following paragraph: "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 ho-

mophobia among students, she said."

Indeed, it would be very troubling if it were the case that anyone on the faculty or staff attacked others in our community with hateful comments for whatever reason.

As a long-time member of the American Association of University Professors and the current president of its Hollins chapter, I would immediately condemn such action

and would expect that my fellow faculty members would do likewise. But before taking a stand in such a case, I would want to know what comments were made and whether, in fact, they could reasonably be considered offensive or hateful.

However I am equally concerned that Prof. Thomas publicly accuses unnamed colleagues and administrators of making hateful, ho-

mophobic, and anti-lesbian remarks towards her without offering any proof of such allegations, and that the Columns chose to print her inflammatory statement without seeking substantiation or providing the opportunity for alternate views to be expressed.

It might also have been useful to speak with other gay and lesbian members of the faculty to see if they have

felt equally under attack by their colleagues.

In the future, I would encourage the Columns to exercise caution in making decisions about whether to print unsubstantiated accusations which, if taken seriously, can tear at the fabric of our community and unjustly damage the reputations of individuals and of Hollins University.

-Juergen Fleck

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 Lucy Erhardt at 819-5929.

# Soccer program adapts without coach

BY JULIA KNOX

After the resignation of Coach Esteban Martinzes, recruitment for Hollins' soccer program is being left up to Christine Jehu '06 and other members of the Hollins soccer program.

Coach Martinez resigned for undisclosed reasons a month after the team's fall season ended, and has yet to be replaced.

"The search for a soccer coach is currently underway. The college has advertised and applications are being received. It is hoped that we will complete the search by the end of April," said Athletic Director, Lynda Calkins.

Without a coach to act as recruiter, several members of the team have had to step up. One member with a prominent recruiting role is Jehu.

Jehu, who has been playing soccer since the 6th grade, said, "Our captains are either abroad or involved in lacrosse, and I didn't want to see the program be put on hold, so I just kind of stepped up."

Erika Langsjoen '06, a captain for the team, said, "Well, it's true that lacrosse, along with various academic activities and employment, have very effectively kept me from fulfilling my captain duties the way I should be doing - but those are only reasons, and certainly not valid excuses."

She continued, "The rest of the team and I, and future Hollins soccer players, for that matter, are truly blessed to have someone like CJ. She has been so amazing, so hard-working and dedicated...the way

she has stepped up to help resolve the many challenges the soccer program now faces is just testament to that. I think she deserves a captain's band more than I do."

While Jehu has help with the recruiting process from other members of the team, she is doing most of the behind-the-scenes work.

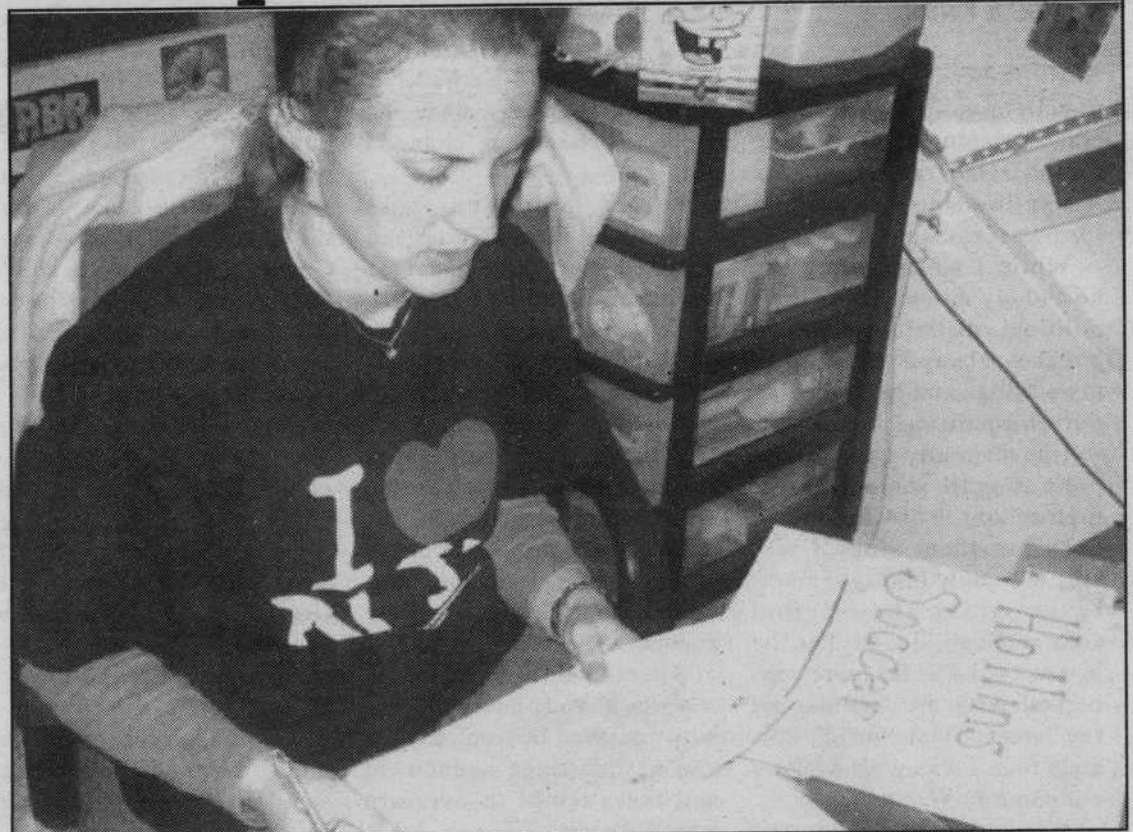
"Coach Calkins gives us [members of the soccer team] a list of girls, and it's up to us to e-mail or call them. I usually divide up the lists and contact the majority of the girls. I've probably e-mailed about 20 girls," Jehu explained.

While Coach Calkins says it is normal for students to help in the recruiting process, the lack of a coach for perspective students to talk to poses a slight problem.

"Sometimes they can ask questions regarding things like playing time that only a coach can answer. I have to be really careful about how I answer some of the questions. I can't promise them playing time if I don't know they're going to get it," Jehu said.

Hannah Phillips '05, a soccer player for 15 years, agrees. In an e-mail interview, she stated, "If I had been recruited to play soccer at Hollins and I knew there was no coach yet, I would probably still play, but look at it more as a joke than as a real serious soccer career."

She continued, "This wouldn't necessarily be bad for me, because it would mean that I could just have fun and play whenever I wanted maybe. However, this then would probably make me lack motivation and not play as much as I should/could. If the only reason I was com-



EMILY EIGEL

Christine Jehu '06 goes over her recruiting paperwork. She has taken on the job of recruiting players now that the soccer team is without a coach.

ing to Hollins was because of soccer I would definitely be wary of coming here if there was no coach. Hopefully, we will have a coach before the summer."

The recruiters usually don't tell perspective students that they're still in the process of hiring a coach unless they ask directly.

"Only one girl that I know of knows for sure that Martinez is gone. I don't really make it part of the conversation, especially because we should have a coach soon. If it

comes up, or they ask about the coach, I tell them. But it's more important to build interest in the team, then mention we don't have a coach if they ask. The girl that knows was just kind of like 'oh, really', but it didn't effect her decision to come to Hollins," Jehu said.

Jehu isn't too worried about the future of the soccer program. "I don't think it's in danger," she commented. "We already have a strong group of girls - a solid ten are planning to return next year and at least

one perspective is definitely coming. But it's always nice to have a strong bench."

In looking for a new coach, Jehu said it's important to look for a person who puts a high priority on recruiting.

"Martinez had about nine girls in each recruiting class," she said.

Until a coach is hired, however, it will be up to Jehu and the rest of the soccer team to make sure Hollins' soccer program keeps going strong.

# Tennis team serves up hopes for ODAC

BY LAURA SPEAKMAN

As the school year and the athletic season wraps up, the Hollins tennis team is serving up hopes for an ODAC championship and a chance to compete in NCAA, Division III national competition.

"The tennis team has come great lengths to be in the position that they are in," said Catherine Morrissette '04. "They have achieved a lot this year despite being a smaller team than the competitors and not having availability of home courts."

They start off on the road to play for a chance to compete in the NCAA Division III Atlantic South Region tournament. The top seven teams of the hundreds of schools in the region compete in regionals for a chance at the national tournament.

In March, Hollins, ranked eighth in the region lost to seventh ranked, Salisbury University, 5-4.

"We were tied 4-4 then lost. I was so proud of everyone because they played incredible tennis," said coach Leslie Bernard.

If Hollins can beat Roanoke

College and Lynchburg College this week and Salisbury loses its matches, Hollins will take seventh place and will compete at Washington and Lee University (W&L) the first weekend in May in the regional tournament.

To make it to the national tournament, they would have to beat Emory and Henry College and Washington and Lee, the number one and two teams in the country.

"To make it to nationals it's going to be tough. It's not just based on one tournament so it can get cutthroat. Our last match with

Salisbury was tense. But sophomore year we came two matches away from making it to nationals, so we have a chance this year," said Bess Kelly '04.

The team will also compete in the Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC) tournament at the end of April with thirteen different area schools.

"We are hoping to finish behind or above W&L, the number two team in the nation," said Bernard.

Two years ago the team won the ODAC tournament against W&L. "We can definitely beat them

with the right mindset. We have a smaller team with more practice and dedication," said Melissa James '05.

Currently the team is 4-2 overall. Regardless of this season's record, Bernard feels the team's unity has been just as rewarding.

"We have a smaller group this year but everyone works so well together. They are like a little family that helps each other with school and home issues. They have bonded across the board and have been so supportive of each other," she said.