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Hollins Columns

December 6, 2004

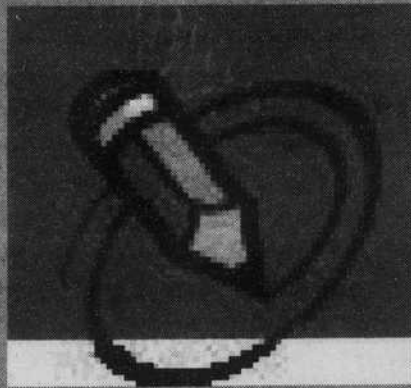
Hollins University

Volume 77, Issue 5



Search for new Dean of Students continues

page 4



Livejournal connects students past and present

page 8



New season looks promising, says coach

page 12

Budget cuts cause confusion for spring classes

BY LISA BOWER

An attempt to balance the Hollins budget means five courses will be canceled this spring.

The board of trustees voted to cut the budget for adjunct professors. Adjunct professors are faculty who are not permanently associated with the University. According to Michael Sitton, the acting Vice President of Academic Affairs, adjuncts are usually professors from nearby universities or qualified people in the community.

In a memo to the faculty the week before the Oct. 14-16 visit of the board of trustees, Sitton wrote, "we face significant challenges in the current fiscal year's budget, due

to the smaller than expected incoming class, the unmet vacancy rate which was part of the budget projections, an unexpected drop in short-term investment funds, increases in energy costs, and other factors."

To combat the situation, Sitton wrote in the same memo that "we will be bringing to the board meeting next week a number of strategies through which we propose to handle the significant gap and that one of those proposals would be a 7 percent reduction in nonlabor operating budgets across the campus."

Meaning, there would be a cut across the board, with exceptions such as faculty salaries or energy costs, and restricted endowed funds.

In the same memo, Sitton asked the

faculty to begin looking at how they could work around budget cuts.

This wasn't the first time the faculty heard of budget cuts.

"As we went into the May board meeting, already there were some budget pressures that made it necessary to identify a range of possible savings," said Sitton. "One of the few areas in the academic budget to offer some flexibility is that of adjunct appointments ...modest reductions could be made in the spring 2005 adjunct schedule to help with the budget situation. We hoped that the reductions would not, in fact, have to be made.

"However, when the first-year fall

Adjunct

continued on page 3

Forming new clubs proves difficult for some students

BY LAURA SMITH

The Student Government Association is revamping its club policies, but some club representatives say it's a lack of communication that's making their lives difficult.

"We [HUTV] haven't really found support from SGA. If you want to become a club it's really hard. We've been figuring out stuff on our own. No one

really helped us. That's the primary reason we aren't on the air yet," said Natalia Rocha, '07, co-vice president of Hollins University Television.



photo by Laura Smith

Clubhouse, with the trash piled up, looks more like a storage space, than an administrative office.

According to SGA by-laws, students trying to form a club should get in contact with the club coordinator. They must first write a constitution, present it in front of Senate and have it approved by that voting student body. Once active, clubs have one vote in Senate, and after one full semester can petition for money from both the Treasury board and Hollins Activity Board (HAB).

During the last few weeks of Senate, there has been a surge in students trying to form clubs. Junior Lauren Bates has been trying to make Circle K, a branch of Kiwanis International, a club for weeks. Bates turned to Joe Rosenberg, dean of activities and organizations, for help. Rosenberg gave her a sample

Clubs

continued on page 2

continued from page 1

Clubs

constitution and told her to contact the club coordinator, sophomore Caroline Adams.

"I've emailed her [Adams] multiple times and it took her forever, I think three weeks, to get back to me," said Bates.

Adams returned Bates's email after Senate rejected her constitution because her policies weren't compatible with SGA's laws.

Under Adams jurisdiction the clubs are separated into four categories: non-funded, funded, athletics and publications. Adams sits on the Treasury board, the Hollins Activities Board (HAB), and Roundtable (weekly meetings of cabinet members). She is also a representative at Senate and is responsible for filing each club's current constitution, organizing a Halloween Community School Fair, and one Activities Fair per semester.

Rosenberg acts as Adams's advisor and helps her with her role as club coordinator and with the communication problems that arise between clubs and SGA. If a club or organization wants to bring in a speaker, he signs the contract. For Rosenberg, who acts as an advisor to both Spinster and HAB, clubs are an integral part of student life.

"When it comes to clubs I think they are essential to retention. Where do the new students find their niche? In clubs. We need more groundwork developed between the club coordinator and my office. I can't be more serious than I already am. It's not on my side."

Much of Rosenberg's frustration stems from the lack of communication between Adams and himself.

"I have yet to receive a

complete list of organizations here on-campus with their full contact names. I have asked [Adams] for them several times. My position is to help take charge of organizations – that's why they hired me," he said.

When asked if she had given Rosenberg this list, Adams stated that she had. One day after her interview, she met with Rosenberg and handed him a final list.

A club contact list is not Rosenberg's only concern. Over the summer, Rosenberg presented Adams with a club manual that he had compiled. The club manual included how to petition for money, information on the Activities fair, fundraising guidelines, and additional information.

But much of what Rosenberg wrote was based on the by-laws recorded in the last club manual written many years ago. Since then many SGA policies have changed.

"I feel as though this club manual should not have been Rosenberg's responsibility and he should not have done the research for it. This would have fallen under Caroline's position . . . changes wouldn't have been necessary if a student familiar with the Constitution would have created it," SGA Vice-President Lisa Bower '05 said in an email interview.

The manual has since been discussed at Roundtable, and Adams and Rosenberg are working on creating addendums which include an instructional guide for start-up clubs.

Adams used to have club meetings in the Club House on the Monday of every month. She would make sure every club had written a constitution, were aware of the fairs they had to participate in, and were focused on fundraising.

At the first meeting "we

got keys to the club office, learned about the Halloween Fair. It was five or ten minutes and there weren't many clubs there. I don't really know what the purpose of it is," said junior Meg McFerren, co-chair of the organization S.H.A.R.E.

Adams said she became annoyed with the lack of club attendance and has since ceased her monthly meetings.

HAB Chair Tehra Coles '05 said in an email interview, "I know that there has been frustration on the part of clubs, Joe and Caroline, which has resulted in a communication breakdown. In the beginning of the year, Caroline held club meetings and tried to get contact information from all the clubs. However, all of the clubs didn't respond or attend the meetings."

Rocha said, "No one goes to the club meetings because no one gets reminder emails from her."

But Adams swears she has sent out reminder emails.

Sophomore Siobhan Boyle, who has placed herself in charge of making the Hollins Outdoor Program a club, has issues with where the meetings are being held.

"Well I've only physically spoken to [Adams] twice and she has only ever pointed me in the direction of the club office – which is trashed. She's lucky the papers I needed were in a central location – half of them were on the floor, half were falling off a clip board. There was no sign, nothing. She just needs to organize," she said.

Senior Amy Torbert remains optimistic.

"The idea of club meetings is a great one. Assuming they are efficiently run and applicable I think they could really benefit the student body," she said.

For many students, the problem isn't emails or club

meetings, it's who to contact when a club issue arises. Often the choice is between Rosenberg and Adams.

"The communication hasn't been great. I feel like she [Adams] means well but I don't feel like I trust her. If I had an issue with yearbook I would go to Joe, not her, just because I know he would get it done," said Torbert.

"However, Joe is awesome about not taking other people's responsibility. I think if I was another club other than yearbook [since he's the advisor] he'd tell me to go talk to Caroline."

Students not knowing whom to contact is one of the reasons Adams cites miscommunication as a problem.

"I think a problem throughout the whole board of SGA is people don't know what their outlets are and the communication is lacking. People would email Lisa or Tehra or Joe and they would all individually direct them. When I was sending out mass emails to the clubs I wasn't getting any feedback," she said.

This communication problem has caused students to doubt the accountability of both Rosenberg and Adams.

"I feel like Joe Rosenberg is really inaccessible. He should make office hours and publish them. I've emailed him about HOP issues and he's never emailed me back," said Boyle.

Bower feels that perhaps Rosenberg is stretched too thin.

"I feel as though Joe has made leaps and bounds with aiding Spinster in reorganizing and restructuring its organization. Amy Torbert has been an amazing editor. However, I feel as though, barring Spinster and BSA, . . . he has not been able to

reach out to all clubs, as this would be a difficult endeavor to perform, given how many there are. I am the editor of two publications on this campus (The Album and Cargoes) and I have never been contacted by him," she said.

Torbert, who is president of the Spinster, disagrees.

"He devotes a lot of time to the Spinster but I feel it all works into his schedule. Spinster meetings have always been on Thursday nights and apparently HAB meetings have been as well. So he'll be at yearbook, but only for fifteen minutes and then he'll go to HAB meetings. I don't feel like he is choosing one priority over the other," she said.

Adams has come under even further scrutiny.

"She needs to be directive and take responsibility for the office she chooses to hold," said Boyle.

"I think the club coordinator should actively walk [each club representative] through a master list of what paperwork needs to be filled out, what needs to be on file, what's on the SGA constitutions and by-laws so there's no confusion. It would be really beneficial," said Bates.

Bower thinks there were external factors that caused this miscommunication between Adams and club representatives.

"I think Caroline has done the best she could and that a number of complications have arisen. Clubs are unsure of policies and get frustrated. With the resignation of the SGA Treasurer, I feel as though this only attributed to the frustration of clubs," said Bower. "Because of this, I feel as though Caroline has gotten

Clubs

continued on page 4

continued from page 1

Adjunct

enrollment came in under the projected number and several other very significant unexpected budget issues became apparent, it was clear that we had to go back to the current budget and identify additional savings, including those we had discussed in May 2004."

The amount saved from cutting five courses, according to Sitton, will be \$12,500. He went on to say that "we will spend nearly \$100,000 on adjunct courses this year, a figure that does reflect the modest cuts made but does not include significant additional support for part-time faculty, visiting artists, and leave replacements. In context, the amount (of the adjunct budget cut) may seem relatively small, but in order to balance this year's budget

we had to look to a number of areas for contributions which, collectively, enabled us to bring the budget in balance."

Hollins University's endowment is currently \$100 million dollars.

"The trustees feel strongly that in order to preserve the value of the endowment we must move toward an annual spending rate of 5 percent," said Sitton.

In recent years, Hollins has drawn 6 to 8 percent from the endowment for operating expenses. The 5 percent spend rate is standard for many institutions. Some have adopted even lower spend rates. Higher spend rates risk eroding the value of the endowment.

Besides cutting the operating non-labor and adjunct budgets, other

positions on campus that have been vacant are, according to Sitton, going to be either kept open temporarily or left unfilled this year.

According to Sitton, the administration plans to use some earnings from the \$5.5 million Eleanor D. Wilson bequest to the visual arts center (earnings that had accrued since the bequest) to offset some of this year's operating costs for the VAC. They also committed to an additional \$100,000 in fundraising for scholarships for this year, primarily from trustees.

However, some faculty and students are concerned about the institution's priorities.

"According to the Chronicle of Higher Education, the five highest-paid employees at Hollins received \$696,831 last year," Academic Policy Chair Emily Abeles '05 said in an email. "I've heard that Hollins is saving a mere \$12,000 by cutting the classes. These two figures have nothing to do with each other. I just thought the juxtaposition of the numbers would be interesting to share with readers. I wonder what it says about the value Hollins places on the educational experience of her students when \$12,000 is more important than five courses and the many students who would have undoubtedly enrolled in those courses."

According to Sitton, it was during the board's October meeting that the adjunct cuts were approved. Courses were cut in five departments - Biology, Business, Communications, Political Science and Psychology.

At press time, the following courses had been cut: Biology 130: Biological Self-Defense, Short Term seminar 58: Planning Special Events (Communications), Psych 350: Special Topic: Personality, and Political Science 206:

Criminal Justice System. At press time, university registrar Tom Mesner said no Business course had been canceled.

There were no campus-wide announcements made regarding the cuts.

Abeles said she did not believe students beyond SGA were made aware of the cuts.

Sitton explained the lack of a campus-wide announcement by saying that "a decision of this kind, especially because it affects certain programs and not others, would not be appropriate for a campus-wide announcement in a general vehicle like the Grapevine."

Associate Professor of Biology Rebecca Beach said in an email, "I learned of the adjunct cuts the third week of October (Oct 19 to be exact) following the fall board of trustees meeting. We had been warned of the possibility earlier this fall and even last spring but the language used was no different (i.e., no more concerning) than in previous years when ultimately no cuts were made."

With registration beginning Nov. 8 for Short Term and Nov. 10 for the Spring, many students did not know until the last minute that the courses had been cut. The cuts did not just affect students' schedules but also plans to fulfill requirements in both majors/minors and the general education categories.

Kristen Badford '07, who is pursuing a planned minor in psychology, was a planning to take a psychology course called "Special Topic: Personality." She said that, if she had taken the course, she would have needed only one more course to finish her minor.

"Unfortunately, one day I checked the schedule and it wasn't listed anymore," said Bradford. "No reason was given; it just mysteriously

disappeared from both the registrar's class schedule page and the Hollins Information System. So I was stuck trying to find a class to take in place of it. And the class I'm taking instead is not going towards major, minor, or gen ed - it's just an elective."

Berg '05 said, "I did not know how I was going to be able to fulfill my SCI req without taking a six credit lab course that was way over my head. It would've been a nightmare to juggle that in combination with an honor's thesis and all the other joys I have to look forward to as a second semester senior. It was a stressful situation."

Susan Thomas, associate professor of political science, sees the decision as demoralizing and troubling, saying in an email interview that "the decision to cut teaching staff is devastating for students on several levels. Most immediately, some students might not be able to graduate as planned... Moreover, students will be forced to take courses they might not want to take...if preferred alternatives have been eliminated from the course catalog. Lastly, forced layoffs and termination of faculty is demoralizing for students who chose to attend a university celebrated for its low student-teacher ratio and large course offerings."

Of the twelve professors emailed for interviews, excluding Michael Sitton, only two responded.

"I gather that many do not feel safe enough to voice their critical feedback on this matter due to the threat of punitive consequences," said Berg. "I think that Hollins as an educational institution should be ashamed of such censorship, considering that fear is the foundation of an anti-intellectual climate."

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Search for a new dean of students continues

BY JEN SPELKOMAN

Currently awaiting the grip of a shredding machine is a stack of more 80 applications from last spring's unsuccessful dean of students search.

Joining together for a second time, the dean of students search committee hopes to find the perfect candidate for the position which will start July 1, 2005.

"We didn't see the right combination of skills — leadership, understanding of a residential campus, diversity, etc., and we felt it was better to wait," explained Joan Ruelle, speaking of last semester's unsuccessful search. Ruelle is the university librarian and chair of the dean of students search committee in both searches.

Last spring, phone interviews were held, but the nine members of the search committee comprised of faculty, administrators and students were not satisfied

with the applicant pool. Members of the search committee spoke with dean of academics Alison Ridley, who had been acting dean of students since former dean Siclinda Canty-Elliott left the position over a year ago.

"We had a long discussion of pros and cons," expressed Ridley, "and I was sad that the first search was unsuccessful, but we need to find the best person possible," she continued.

Ruelle and Ridley concur that the first search was most likely unsuccessful due to the untimely death of former President Nora Bell in January 2004, which exacerbated an ambiguity and lack of stability.

"[Applicants] are looking for stability," said Ridley. "If you don't know who your president is or what your president's vision is, that's a pretty scary proposition to up and leave what you are currently doing."

With Nancy Gray's term as president to begin next semester, the search committee is confident that they will have a stronger selection. Administrators express that although it was possible for Gray to come to Hollins mid-year, it rare for a dean to start in the middle of a fiscal year.

Regardless, Hollins administrators and members of the search committee know exactly what they want in a dean of students. Posted Nov. 12, 2004, a lengthy professional description for the open position of dean of students is in the Chronicle of Higher Education, as well as on the journal's website.

"It is essential that the candidate has the ability to effectively communicate with all campus constituencies, especially students, and has a keen understanding of and experience with the life and issues of a small, residential, liberal arts campus," states the

ad that was collaboratively written by members of the search committee and members in the president's cabinet.

The search committee will start a full review of the applications on Jan. 3 and will continue until the position is filled. On campus interviews of at least two to five candidate are expected to be held in the spring.

All though the recommendation made by the search committee is usually accepted, the final applicant is chosen by the administration and appointed by the provost.

Ruelle along with her search committee has a large binder full of potential questions to ask candidates, and Ruelle knows that the search will be even more successful with student involvement. "Students should get out and meet the candidates, and be proactive in asking questions," she stated.

"I'm hoping for a dean of

students who is very hands on with the students," continued Ridley, who will be a member of the search committee. "And I'm not saying that Siclinda wasn't, but her position was a vice president's position of management and in my mind a little more removed from the students. We want a dean, like me, who is very very involved on the student level." Ridley meets with students every day, attends weekly roundtable and student Senate meetings, and will continue to do so once her position is filled.

Ridley has been pulling quadruple duty on the Hollins campus as acting dean of students, dean of academics, orientation coordinator and Spanish professor, but she is okay with it for now.

"It's not something I would want to do long term for the students' sake or my own sake, but there is a lot of overlapping with dean of students and dean of academics," said Ridley.

continued from page 2

Clubs

very stressed out in terms of how to amend these frustrations . . . combining all this with her miscommunications/lack of communication with Joe, has resulted in frustration from her end. It's a cycle with blame on all ends."

Bower feels that the main solutions are getting a club handbook published "in accordance with SGA," and communication solidified between "all entities: clubs and club coordinator, clubs and Joe, Joe and Caroline, Caroline with SGA and HAB."

Boyle has a more radical solution.

"Given the title 'director

of student organizations and activities,' Joe Rosenberg has a responsibility for clubs. Since most of the activities on campus are sponsored by clubs, more students participate in club activities than HAB activities. I do not believe that a student club coordinator is even necessary. Anyway, Caroline Adams's first job is to be a student. Joe Rosenberg's first job is to direct student activities," she said.

"If you have a succession of weak club coordinators then of course you're going to question whether the position should exist," said Bower. "When was the last time we had a competent club coordinator? Barbara Walden, my freshmen year."

Since his sudden meeting

with Adams, Rosenberg is willing to believe that changes will occur in the near future.

"I'm cautiously optimistic," he said.

Rosenberg also stated that if Adams did not complete the club manual he would create his own informational club handbook that would be used as a resource tool for any student trying to form a club.

"Imagine what we could do if we all put our ducks in one basket and wrote things down," he said.

But for Bates the struggle has been disheartening.

"It's made me doubt the ability of a student to make a difference at Hollins. Women come here to be strong women and to have to jump through obstacles for something you

believe in makes you question why you came here," she said. "When V-Tech has an

easier club policy, that's a problem."



photo by Laura Smith

In HUTV folder, constitution has yet to be filed by the club coordinator.

Library shelves become less crowded as more books go missing

BY JULIA KNOX

Hollins could do a lot with \$75,000 - hire a new professor, give full scholarships to two students, or buy printers that actually work. What Hollins would prefer not to do with \$75,000 is buy 1,000 library books they've already bought once.

Unfortunately, said Head Librarian Joan Ruelle, that's what will be forced to happen if the library staff can't find the over 1,000 books it is currently missing.

During an inventory taken this past summer, it was discovered the number of books missing from the library shelves had reached 1,000. According to Ruelle, a "missing" book can mean one of many things: a student could have lost the book, in which case they would be charged a replacement fine; it could be in the wrong place on the shelf; or the book could actually be gone from the library, whether stolen or accidentally not checked out.

The biggest concern, according to Ruelle, is books not being checked out.

"If a student goes through the downstairs handicapped entrance with a book that hasn't been checked out, the security gates will beep," explained Ruelle. "But sometimes students don't realize what's making it beep, or they don't know they still have a book, or they see it as an inconvenience to go upstairs and check it out."

"It's hard to hear the downstairs gate beeping from the upstairs circulation desk, either because of noise or because it's just too far away," Ruelle continued. "Therefore, most of the time our staff doesn't even know the book

is being taken. If they do hear it, the student is often gone by the time a staff member gets outside to check it out."

The security gates downstairs are not connected to the gates upstairs, so both gates don't beep at the same time. Ruelle says the library would prefer not to spend the money it would take to install a connected system. Instead, she would rather see people take on the missing books as a "campus responsibility" and be aware of the honor code.

Another common practice that leads to missing books is student reshelving of books. If a student attempts to put a book back on the shelf after using it, he or she might unintentionally put it back in the wrong place, especially if they aren't familiar with the filing system, explained Ruelle. This causes problems when the next student needs to use the book.

"Even if the book is on the shelf, it's still considered missing because it's not where it's supposed to be," said Ruelle. "If it's not where the library catalog says it is, a student most likely won't be able to find it when they need to use it. It's as good as gone."

If a book is discovered to be lost, whether during an inventory or after a patron can't find it, library employees will look for the book for six months. If it is not found,

the book is classified as missing and employees will spend one additional year searching for it before possibly replacing it.

It is the responsibility of student workers to comb the shelves looking for the missing books and making sure books currently on the shelf are in the correct order. However, according to Circulation Coordinator Margaret Airey, the success rates of these "shelf readings" are usually low, only approximately 1 in 10 books are found this way.

If it is still missing at

technically under Computer Services' jurisdiction, missing media materials such as DVDs are counted in the library's inventory.

Missing and stolen DVDs, VHSs, and Laser Disks are a problem said Media Services employee Lisa Bower '05 in an e-mail interview. "This is one of the reasons such a steep fine had to be created (\$3 a day) - because what with the slashing of the Media Services budget over the summer and the slow decline of the media selection - things were getting bad."

In the past, the library has hosted an Amnesty Day, held during Honor Awareness Week, when overdue library materials could be returned without students paying overdue fines. However, as a result of the high amount of missing books, Ruelle, in conjunction with Honor Court Chair Julia Henderson '06, decided to eliminate Amnesty

Day this year.

"We found it was having exactly the opposite effect of what was intended," said Ruelle. "It was an incentive to keep the books even longer." For example, if a student discovered a library book was overdue in October, he or she might wait to turn it in until Amnesty Day (typically held in early December) to avoid paying the fine. This creates a problem if another student needs the book.

"It encourages people to not be responsible," said Ruelle. "We don't want your

money, we want the books back so others can use them."

Ruelle says she understands some people may be upset by the elimination of Amnesty Day and doesn't rule out its return in the future, if the number of missing books becomes smaller.

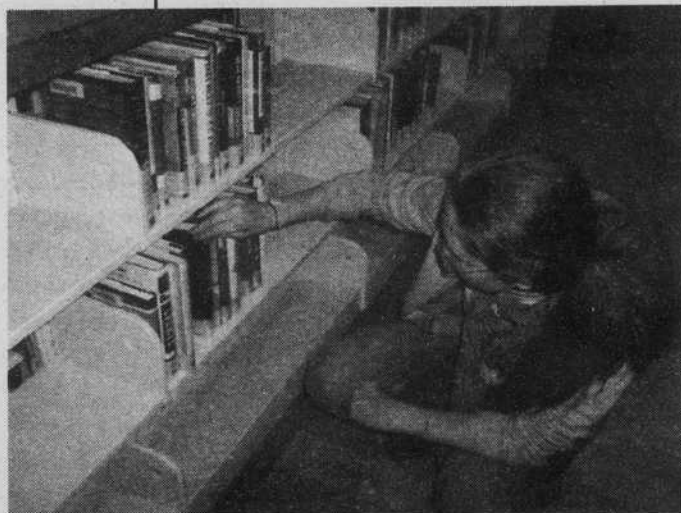
"I think the elimination of Amnesty Day is totally justified," said Elizabeth Bartenstein '07. "Students obviously more than took advantage of the library's services and we have such a great library that I would hate to see the huge loss of money create a problem for the library staff."

In order to try and combat the missing books, the library plans to implement a program aimed on "raising people's awareness," said Ruelle. She hopes that by approaching Senate and publishing a list of all the missing books in the Spring, students will become aware of the problems lost materials can cause the library.

While Ruelle thinks most missing books were not stolen, she warns that "intentional book theft will be treated like a crime, and the case would be taken to Honor Court."

In the meantime, Ruelle asks that patrons help the library by not reshelving books, instead leaving them on the designated tables for employees to shelve later. It would also be helpful for students to return to the front desk when security gates beep. This practice would drastically cut down the amount of books unintentionally taken, but not checked out.

Ruelle concluded, "We need patrons to remember the honor code and use the library responsibly."



Alyssa Lawless work for the library combing the shelves for misplaced books. However, only one in ten "missing" books are found this way.

the end of the year, the library must decide whether or not to replace it. According to Ruelle, the average cost of one replacement book is \$75. However, some materials may be extremely rare or out-of-print, making them priceless.

"Especially in budget problems, \$75,000 is a lot of money to be spending on replacement books. Plus, it takes a great deal of staff time and energy," said Ruelle.

Books are not the only missing material causing problems for the library. While Media Services is now

Various community service organizations offered on campus

BY INDIRA GROSS

"Think of giving not as a duty but as a privilege."

These are the words of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and few would appreciate those words more than the students who consistently choose to volunteer in the Hollins community and surrounding areas.

There is a wide variety of community service opportunities on campus that students can take part in, which are typically run by a few individuals who contribute large amounts of time to helping others through these projects. However, community service does not always have to be time consuming; even a small donation or a few minutes of participation can go a long way in making service projects successful.

"Volunteer work is one of the most important things in my life," said Danielle Thompson, '05, president of Colleges Against Cancer (CAC) at Hollins. "When I'm having a bad day, helping to make someone else's day better makes me feel better about myself."

CAC is a national intercollegiate organization that works to achieve the goals of the American Cancer Society, primarily through raising awareness within the campus community. CAC's major community service project is the Relay For Life, which they have helped to organize for the past two years at Hollins. This annual event is held in communities all over the United States, and is an overnight group-based event with games, contests, prizes, and food. In order to participate, students need to form groups of eight to 15 people, each of which must raise \$100 over the course of several months. This year's event will be held on April 16 and 17 from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.; if interested, contact Danielle Thompson and start forming teams now.

Many of the service organizations in the Roanoke community are assisted by S.H.A.R.E. (Students Helping Achieve Rewarding Experiences), a campus-based group that is responsible for encouraging many students to participate in community service projects such as the Day of Service and the

S.H.A.R.E. Olympiad. Each member of S.H.A.R.E acts as a liaison between community service organizations in the Roanoke area and volunteers from the Hollins community, working with groups such as TAP (Total Action Against Poverty) and Habitat for Humanity.

Another organization at Hollins that does a great deal of community service is SRLA (Student Religious Life Association), whose members organize the Golden Rule Dinner, a Thanksgiving food drive, and the White Gift Service. Many of these projects encourage monetary donations or contributions of food for charities rather than direct service, so students can easily participate. The Thanksgiving food drive is more direct, as SRLA members put together boxes from donated and purchased food and bring them to families in the Hollins community who are in need and who otherwise would not have had a Thanksgiving meal to speak of.

One way for students to get more involved in community service is to live in Sandusky, a specialty housing building whose members share an

interest in service. Members are required to do five hours of service each month, along with participation in two projects each semester.

"Living in Sandusky has motivated me to make time for things that I might not have done otherwise," said Rachel Banger, '06. "Even though I won't be living there next year, I've made community service into what I hope is a habit; I plan to maintain my volunteer commitments next year. I think that's the point of Sandusky— to help people discover how easy community service is and how valuable it can be for everyone."

This semester, Sandusky's two house projects were to help with the Pink Ribbon Walk during Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and sponsoring a "senior prom" at Friendship Manor, a retirement home in the Hollins area.

Members of Sandusky and other volunteers sometimes wish there was more overall participation in the service activities they enjoy so much. Certain events, such as the Olympiad, are more popular, but many times students and faculty feel overburdened and choose not to participate, even

when little is required.

"I think the campuswide interest in community service could be greater, but the students who are already involved do quite a lot to help both around campus and in the Roanoke Valley," said Sarah Parkington, '06.

"I always wish more students would participate, but I know my priorities can't be everyone's priorities," said SRLA president Kyrie Henderson '05. "Sometimes I wish the participation was higher, but I am grateful to have the students who do participate."

There are many opportunities for community service on campus beyond these organizations, such as OutLOUD, The Center, and Habitat for Humanity. Roanoke offers many other places to volunteer: free clinics, food pantries, schools, rest homes, and animal shelters.

"In the individualistic society we live in, community service is extremely important because it forces people to reach outside of themselves and contribute to the community that sustains them," said Thompson.

German department disolution rumors prove untrue

BY COURTNEY CUTRIGHT

Rumors of the German program's death are wrong, according to both of the department's professors.

"There is no truth to the rumor that the German program at Hollins is going to be discontinued," said Klaus Phillips, German department chair.

Phillips did acknowledge

that department has faced tough times during the last few years. Professor Theresia Reimers retired three years ago, after teaching German at Hollins for 40 years. A new professor was hired on a temporary contract, but has since left the university.

"She was not a good institutional fit and her contract was not renewed," said Phillips.

This fall, a new professor of German arrived at Hollins.

"Lesley Pleasant, Ph.D., from the University of Virginia, our dynamic new German professor has raised the visibility of German on campus considerably," said Phillips.

Pleasant, was also brought to Hollins on a temporary contract, will not find out until March or April whether her

contract will be renewed for the next academic year.

"Even if I don't stay, there will still be a department," Pleasant said.

Phillips argues the fate of the German department is left up to student interest.

"I find it most regrettable that so many people automatically assume German is more difficult than Spanish or French," said Phillips. "This

is simply untrue. Both English and German are Germanic languages, meaning they used to be one language and, as a result, have a whole lot more in common than English does with either of the other two."

Currently, there are only two German majors. A course in German literature was cancelled this fall because no students signed up for it.

Cargoes contest invites nationwide literary submissions

BY URSULA JONSSON

Cargoes is going national.

At a meeting earlier this school year, Cargoes co-editors Lisa Bower, '05, and Vivie Satorsky, '05, came up with the idea of expanding the literary journal to the national level, increasing Hollins' reputation within the writing community. According to Bower, it is normal for colleges and universities to have a literary magazine that is open not just for the campus community but also at the national level. She and Satorsky felt that it was only fitting that Hollins, with its popular writing program, would have the same.

The editors soon found out that Hollins does not have the means to support such an operation. There is not enough funding and there isn't a faculty member able to devote enough time to the project.

"Schools with journals that accept submissions from outside their community tend to have large budgets for such a thing and a professor who devotes their time to serve as a full-time advisor," said Bower.

If a professor did decide to take on the project, it isn't built into the Hollins budget to pay him or her for her work.

"I think it's a fantastic idea because it's a great fundraiser

for Cargoes," said Becky Klabunde, '07. Concern was expressed initially by people who thought that the national competition would take away from the traditional, Hollins community only journal.

However, Cargoes has made it clear that this change is a fundraiser and meant to boost recognition in the national circuit.

"When we came up with this idea for the competition we made sure to build in more pages for the competition [so as not to infringe on the space allotted for the Hollins community]," said Satorsky. "We strongly encourage Hollins students to submit their work. We wanted to

boost campus awareness and national awareness because we are proud of the student work. This way people from the national level who read Cargoes will be able to read the work of Hollins students."

The next brainstorm was a national competition in poetry and fiction which included a monetary prize and publication in the 2005 Cargoes. The final step to establishing the competition was to recruit judges. The editors requested Nikki Giovanni and Jill McCorkle, who greeted the proposal with enthusiasm. Giovanni is a professor of black studies at Virginia Tech and will judge the poetry side of the competition. McCorkle

graduated from the Hollins Masters Program in Writing in 1981 and will judge the fiction side.

"We haven't heard concern raised about a bias in judging, but we may be closer to the competition. We are going to make it as unbiased as we can," said Satorsky.

There will be a \$10 entry fee for all pieces. The editors and six other readers — to be selected via an application — will choose 10 from each genre to be mailed to the judges. The winners will receive \$200 and two copies of Cargoes.

"We knew that there had to be a way for Cargoes to both open itself up to the public and also remain true to the Hollins community," said Bower.

Hollins community expands to online journal

BY CARRIE SPRUILL

A new epidemic has been sweeping the Hollins campus since the summer of 2003. The disease primarily affects young people between the ages of 17 and 24. Symptoms include—but are not limited to—the following: prolonged use of the computer, eyestrain, and maniacal typing. What is this mysterious malady? Why, it's an addiction to Live Journal!

Live journal is a website where visitors can create their own personal accounts and keep an online diary chronicling the joys, disappointments, and trials that they may experience during any given day. Community discussion forums are also part of this site. In mid August of 2003, an online community devoted to conversations about Hollins was established. According to Live Journal's user information page, its purpose is to serve as "a little

piece of Hollins here on LJ. A community for past, present, and future Hollins women," (www.livejournal.com/community/hollins/userinfo.bml?user=hollins). The site features a link to the official Hollinsnet website. It also boasts a wide array of visitors and posters, including current undergraduates, alumni, and prospective students.

Topics of discussion are as diverse as the members themselves. Generally, the women talk about classes, professors whom they admire, and current events, both on campus and worldwide. The interests section of the Live Journal user information page lists locations, traditions, and past times that are unique to Hollins women, such as visits to the RAT, walks around the loop, Ring Night, and the names of academic and dormitory buildings.

Occasionally, discussions can become quite intense. This was the case when the topic

of property damages during Tinker scares was introduced. While some were concerned by it, others considered it to be a trivial subject. Though the conversation occasionally became heated, there were positive moments that fostered connection between the posters. For example, the class of 2004 waged a friendly rivalry with their senior class during their freshman year, greeting them with silly string when the seniors came charging down the hall with pots and pans.

Members also work to raise awareness about cultural happenings on campus and worldwide. For instance, club representatives may post announcements about events that their organizations are sponsoring. Globally, the posters converse about issues of social and political significance. A few recent posts discussed the importance of voting. For instance, one user wrote, "If anyone needs an absentee bal-

lot, I can get them one.

If anyone needs postage to send off that absentee ballot, I will provide it.

If anyone needs a ride to their home jurisdiction, I will get them there. (Within reason.) And I will do an Election Scare, if necessary. Hit all the dorms, and announce who is leading the country for the next four years."

In addition to student visitors, alumni occasionally join the dialogue. They may want to know how the school has changed since they were students or establish connections with current students. They also advise younger Hollins women about career choices and opportunities that will be available to them after graduation. For them, the Live Journal website is an important way to maintain their connection to Hollins. Speaking about seeing Annie Dillard's book *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* and the memories it gave her, one user commented, "Hollins

is everywhere. It's positively surreal."

Prospective students may find the site to be an informal but valuable source of information about the school's academic and social environment. They can ask current students about their experiences with the departments that correspond to their intended majors and for information about the classes they're interested in taking. By interacting with students, prospectives can gain an idea of how they would fit into Hollins' social milieu.

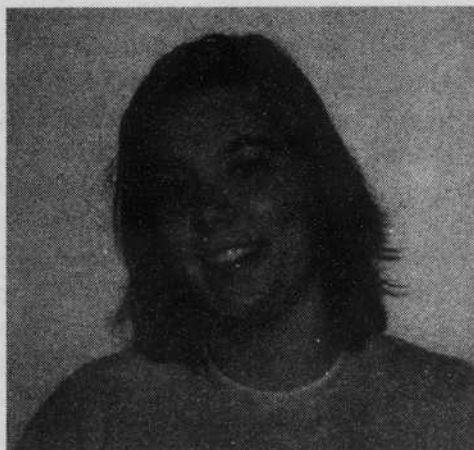
The Hollins Live Journal website serves as an opportunity for anyone interested in or affiliated with Hollins to experience a sense of community and establish or strengthen friendships. Here, they can discuss issues that are unique and relevant to their shared background. In order to visit, go to www.livejournal.com/community/hollins.

Sound-off: What are your thoughts on campus safety?



3. Ashawnda Graham, 08

"You can get to know them just as well as any other faculty member on campus. You can look at them like brothers and fathers."



4. Melody Thomas, 08

"Security always seems to have a presence and that makes me feel secure."



2. Crystal Clusiau, '08

"Both time I've dealt with campus safety, registering a car and getting help in the dorms they have been prompt and polite."



1. Amy Jarnagin, '04

"In the past as an RA I've dealt with situations that I need their assistance but they didn't show up as promptly as I would have hoped, but I think they have made improvements over the years. I feel as though there is miscommunications regarding the RAs and campus safety's responsibilities."



5. Latoya Simmons, 04

"I wish they had as much authority as they appear to. They're nice people, but over the past few years laws have been passed by Virginia legislation and, and I fell less safe than I used to."

6. Megan Anderson, 08

"When I am walking around at night I see campus safety driving around a lot, and this makes me feel safe."



My four wishes for Hollins during the Chrismukkah season

BY JULIA KNOX

As we head into that "oh my gosh I need to buy presents and wrap gifts and send cards and call relatives and sing carols and eat cookies" stretch between Thanksgiving and Christmas, I thought it might be nice if I got into the holiday spirit a little bit. I must admit, I haven't been a big fan of Christmas ever since we were forced to put my beloved dog to sleep on Dec. 26 one year. But I've decided to give it another shot this year, and therefore I bring you my "What I would give Hollins for Chrismukkah" list (thank you, Seth Cohen, for the spelling and existence of that holiday). Since Hollins' tuition rates are currently taking all my funds, most of these

gifts aren't actually tangible, but hey, they're priceless.

1. Lots of love and respect for Campus Safety

Campus Safety gets an unfair bad rep around campus. "They're all mean. They give out too many tickets. They're too strict."

Etcetera.

But honestly, people, they're just doing their job. It's not their fault you were speeding or forgot to move your car. Get to know them, and you'll realize they're fabulous people (especially Officer Simpson and Ms. Mavis). Besides, the nicer you are to them, the nicer they are to you, and that can come in handy if they bust your next party.

2. More appreciation for the Career Development Center

Along the same line, there

were complaints earlier in the semester about the CDC not being as helpful as it could be in finding an internship. Maybe I'm just used to doing things on my own, but I didn't think it was the job of Tina or Carolyn to actually find an internship for you. And they're already doing half the work by supplying you with contact information and details about previous internships. For those who complain that's all the CDC does, it's really not that hard to contact employers and set something up for yourself. Besides, is there an employee at Hollins that's more presh than Ms. Tina?

3. An increase in tolerance

Dr. Lynch informed me the other day that he'd had three Bush signs stolen from his yard during the campaign, and therefore perhaps Hol-

lins' commitment to diversity wasn't as widespread as they'd like to believe. It made me think that while increased diversity is always a desire, perhaps we should begin to focus more on tolerance of the diverse opinions and lifestyles at Hollins. With the country as divided as it is, there's no need to make it even more divided. If you don't agree with a friend's pro-life or pro-gay marriage stance, use the opportunity to debate with and learn from the other person. This isn't always easy, I've often thrown up my hands and walked away when I've attempted such a debate. But the more we learn from each other, the better off we'll be.

4. And finally, if I did have any money, it would go towards huge Chrismukkah baskets for the following people:

Lisa Bower, for being so all-around fantastic and keeping me company during late nights in Pleasants; the entire History department, partly because Dr. Coogan was forced to read many awful drafts of many of my papers and partly because they throw excellent parties; the girls of Apartment 105, just for being so presh; all the workers at the RAT, for making an excellent mocha latte; and Sage, President Markert's dog, for giving me my canine fix when I'm homesick for my dogs.

Happy Chrismukkah, Hollins! Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or another holiday, enjoy it.

Dear Editors: Walking provides nice alternative to driving

Dear Editors,

I was reading the Hollins Columns and came across the Angry Letter. I thought it was ridiculous. I thought the things that Jen Spelkoman said were just ignorant. It doesn't matter how stupid you think the law is, it is there for a reason and

if you break it, you're gonna get punished. It's that simple. I think that her getting angry for that ticket was just dumb. If you were on a normal road that wasn't on a campus and you did a rolling stop, you would still get a ticket for it and it would cost the same amount. I know because I

have been in a car where that happened to a friend. And seeing how my stepdad is an ex cop, I do know some things about the law. Plus, a rolling stop is just common sense. When the sign says stop, it means come to a complete stop. Not a rolling stop, not a half stop a COMPLETE

STOP. Didn't you take drivers ed? It is just common sense. And she wrote that the cop was "fat and you hate him". Wow. That is real mature. I thought she was in college? I think it's time for her to grow up.

Sincerely,
Ashley Moore

Ps. Hey Jen, if you dont want to abide by the law then maybe you shouldn't be driving. I hear walking is nice.

Moore is the daughter of a Hollins employee.

Dear Editors: Moody administration enforces an all too stringent food policy

To whom it may concern (and those of you it doesn't concern should also read):

I am a student here at Hollins and I feel so strongly about one subject here on campus that I have been mobilized to write about it. Simply put, my problem is with the Nazi-esque manner in which the bouncers of the

Moody desk run their regime. Do these people think that if I do not have a card, then they can assume that I am trying to steal Moody food and therefore should be prohibited from eating? Many times I even know the students who sit at the desk by name and they can verify that I am, infact, an honest-to-God Hollins student; yet, without

meal card in hand, I am still denied entry. Why is it that these people have the power to deny us food for which we as students have already paid? What is this arbitrary, meaningless number of three times that a meal card can be forgotten before our names are blacklisted and we are denied access to breakfast, lunch, or dinner- a meal that is rightly

already our own property? You may be thinking that this is an unimportant reason to be peeved and that we should just work with the system- but if the system is not working for us, then why is it working? I just want to know what happened between this year and last year to change the meal card policy, and why it is that we can no longer write

our names down if we forget our cards. Maybe with this explanation I won't be so bitter next time when shelling out another seven dollars for a new card before finding the original in my sock drawer later that same day. Then again, maybe not...

Nessa Ryan

Surviving crunch week: five helpful tips

BY LAURA SMITH

The semester is coming to a close. And with that comes a whirlwind of sleep deprivation, last minute projects, papers, and studying for finals. But the promise of home-cooked meals and sleeping until noon is keeping us all from sinking (as a coworker once said) "in the deep end of the pool of despair." Here's my tips on how to get through crunch week from a girl who pulls all-nighters like it's her job:

1. Procrastinate. Why am I telling you to procrastinate? Because it's lots of fun. Some of the best conversations can be had with friends who are just as tired as you are and are just as willing to engage in any type of conversation

regardless of the intellectual level. For example, the other day I witnessed this amusing conversation at three on a Wednesday morning:

Girl one: "It was like Moses, you know, parting the river."

Girl two: "You mean the Red Sea?"

Girl one: "Yeah. The Red Sea."

Girl two: "And why did Moses part the sea?"

Girl one: "[long pause] To get to the other side?"

Girl two: "And why did he want to 'get to the other side?'"

Girl one: "To let his people go!"

2. Visit the "Center for Learning Excellence." Okay, okay, I know I am a tutor and

this is a shameless plug, but bringing in papers to the CLE is really helpful. Especially when that final term paper is due in a few days and the thesis is still a bit shaky...

3. Take naps. Sleep deprivation makes it hard to speak, let alone write, coherent sentences. Last year I studied for two days straight for a history midterm and by the end of the second night I was doing "Whose Line is it Anyway Impressions," from the episode vaguely known as "Horward." Few people probably have any idea what I am referring to. Needless to say my friend thought it was hysterical but my history professor didn't think my essay responses were up to par.

4. Organize your time. I find the best way I get homework done is setting specific (yet realistic) goals for myself. I normally approach the weekends with the mindset of "I'm going to start this project on Friday, do my laundry and write a paper on Saturday, and type my blackboard post on Sunday." It's really beneficial to make a basic outline.

5. Prioritize. Sometimes it's hard to choose between socializing and doing homework. There are times when socializing REALLY is more important than that 12 page paper. Then there are times when it's not. Witness a conversation that was recently had by two pals over dinner:

Girl one: "Let's go see Afroman tonight at W&L!"

Girl two: "I can't. I have a huge organic chemistry test I have to study for."

Girl one: "Take it from Afroman: 'I was going to study for my organic test, but then I got high; I was going to learn the periodic table, but then I got high; and now I'm going to fail my test and I know why - 'cause I got high, 'cause I got high, 'cause I got high.'"

Girl two: "It'd be fun, but np. I'm still not going."

In the end remember that homework is just one aspect of student life. There are more exciting things to involve oneself in, many people to socialize with, tons of theories to learn. And those things are what makes waking up for classes bearable.

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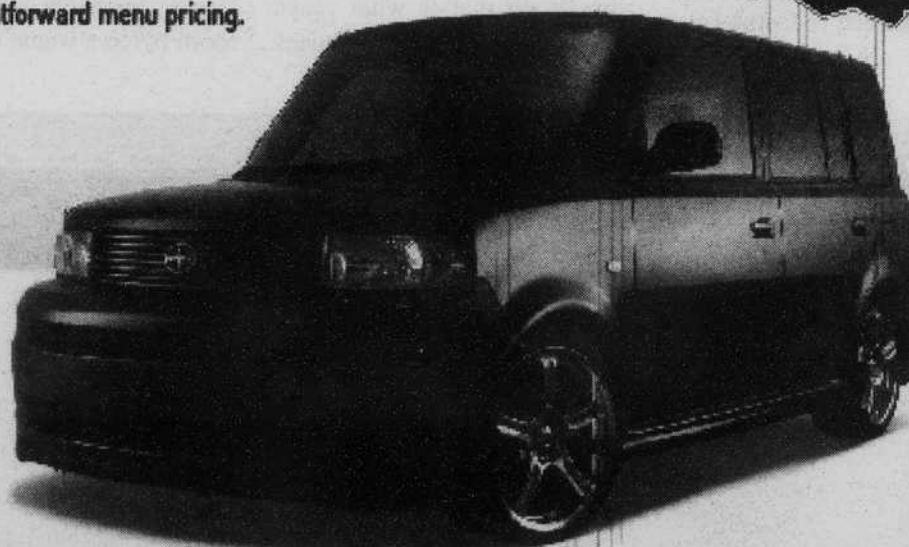
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Basketball coach confident of a great season

BY: AMANDA MILLER

Already topping off Meredith College and the College of Notre Dame, the Hollins 2004-2005 basketball team is in high gear and isn't planning on slowing down. "I feel that one of our strong points this year is our experience in the starting line-up" wrote Coach Karen Harvey in an e-mail interview. "We start two seniors and two juniors, and that experience and the way they play together shows."

Harvey also expressed the team being stronger in three areas this year that they were weaker in last year. Harvey stated, "Number one is this team seems to really get along well, and so the team chemistry is strong." In addition to that, "so far we have rebounded a lot better than we did last year, and I also think we are a little quicker

than we were last year."

The main concern this year is not having as much depth as last year. "We actually lost a lot of players from last year (one to graduation, one was an international exchange student, and two transferred), but we have two new players; one is a freshman (Nicole Grant) and the other is a junior who has not played basketball until this year (Rebekah Cocke)."

Rebounding is one thing that Harvey would like to see improve, "and so far in the first two games of the year it has." Some minor changes were made to what will be run offensively, but mostly what is done on defense is the same as last year. "Because of our lack of depth, we will probably not do as much full court defensively," stated Harvey; but "The bottom line is no matter what plays we run or what defenses

we run, execution and consistency are going to be key to winning."

Winning isn't easy, especially if you are in the ODAC conference. "Every team in our conference is competitive. We know that we have to work hard for everything we get so we know that every game we play, will be a battle," stated Harvey. Coach Harvey and her team practice about 2 hours every day. "Our practices consist of 15 minutes of warming up and stretching, about 30 minutes of individual skill development, about 30 minutes of offense, and 45 minutes of defense," stated Harvey. Also Coach Harvey has them in the weight room twice a week.



Photo by Brittany Addison-Prescott

Hollins Basketball team scores a victory over Randolph Macon Women's College on Friday Dec. 3.

The basketball team is also pushed by its four captains: Brandi Cochran, Kahla Garris, Coby Wilmer, and LeighAnn Woodley. Harvey stated, "Everyone on our team has to contribute in a positive manner for us to have a great season."

A great season is also accompanied by working together. "With many talented women, no one is labeled, as this is a team sport and our success depends on the team as a whole, not one individual," Harvey stated.

When asked what makes this 2004-2005 team different from past basketball teams here at Hollins, Harvey replied, "They have a lot of talent, knowledge, and quickness. In the past we have had to rely heavily on underclassman and this year we are fortunate that we don't really have to do that." Also, she commented on one of her new additions to the team, Nicole Grant, "We do have one freshman who starts for us, and we expect a lot from

her. It is nice to combine that youth with the five upperclassmen on our team."

Fans also contribute at games in a big way. "It has been said to me by other coaches in the league that Hollins is a tough place to play at. A lot of that has to do with us having a great crowd behind us," stated Harvey. Also she stated, "The players feed off of the energy of the crowd so we would love to have a great crowd at all home games."

At every home game this season one lucky fan will be chosen to sit on a couch for the entire game. They may choose to sit by themselves, or with two friends of their choice. They will also get to enjoy a large, two topping Dominos pizza and a soda that will be delivered at half time.

Their schedule is posted on the Hollins webpage, and there will be a sign in Moody to remind everyone of the home games. Come out to support a great basketball team.



Photo by Brittany Addison-Prescott

Basketball defeats Randolph Macon Women's College on Friday Dec. 3