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Hollins Columns

March 9, 2005

Hollins University

Volume 77, Issue 7

Administration, students, and senate disagree over club sports

BY JULIA KNOX AND LAURA SMITH

With the enactment of the Clean Slate review last spring, three sports lost their varsity status. Now newly formed sport clubs are struggling to obtain funding for equipment, trainers, and entrance fees.

To date, there are two sport clubs recognized by the Student Government Association (SGA) - fencing and field hockey. As clubs, these two teams can petition for money only from SGA, Treasury Board and Hollins Activity Board (HAB). Often clubs petition for start-up money for fundraising events, to bring speakers to campus, or to journey to conventions. But SGA has only a limited monetary fund set aside for active clubs. This fund is not large enough to cover all of sports-turned-clubs external expenses.

"Absolutely, we, to be quite blunt, do not have the resources to support all club sports. They will fall very far if it is SGA's sole responsibility to fund these organizations," said SGA vice-president Lisa Bower '05 in an email interview last semester. "We can not

take away support from our current organizations, nor can we give these sports precedent over them. It's a hard situation because SGA was not thought of when this situation was presented; the burden was thrown on the students in a very callous manner."

Along with the Hollins administration and the Director of Athletics, Lynda Calkins, only two students sat on the Clean Slate Review Board last year - both were seniors. According to last semester's Athletic Associations Chair, Christine Jehu '06, the board did not communicate with SGA over how club sports were going to be funded, and "assumed that SGA would be able to cover all necessary costs."

"The administrators involved in the review didn't know the inner workings of SGA or have a grasp on how much [financial support] they would be able to give the club. I feel like there should have been more communication between SGA and the board to understand the impact this was going to have," she said.

Club Coordinator Caroline Adams '07 agreed. "I think with the Clean Slate Review some teams were confused because it was implied there were funds to cover them when in actuality we're still work-

ing on where the money is going to come from," she said in an interview last semester.

Faced with this dilemma, Bower and Dee Mudzingwa '07 approached Senate with a proposed statement to the administration, asking for monetary help in the form of 30 percent of the costs.

"I felt that since this was a student initiative that we should pay for the bulk of the cost. But since the cost is so large there's no way SGA could foot the entire bill," said Bower. "If we're really going to talk about having an inclusive community at Hollins, the administration needs to start working with the students fiscally as well as philosophically."

"Athletics are important because it's another aspect of the HU community and that to deny the value of sports is to deny another segment of our campus," continued Bower. "This was an excellent opportunity for Senate to come together and make a statement that was beneficial to the student body as a whole."

Club Sports

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Three new M.F.A. programs created

BY JEN SPELKOMAN

A cardboard box filled with more than 60 VHS tapes sits in dance professor Donna Fay Burchfield's Office.

No, the members of the dance department are not auditioning to be on the reality TV shows. These are the audition tapes from applicants to the newly instated dance M.F.A. program, which will commence next year. Starting in the summer of 2005, master of fine arts degree programs will launch in the areas of dance, children's literature and film studies/screenwriting.

The film M.F.A. program has 18 applicants thus far, while the M.F.A. program in dance has a larger number of applicants in part because of its affiliation with the distinguished American Dance Festival (ADF), a summer dance

program held in Durham, NC.

Dance professor and M.F.A. director Donna Fay Burchfield has been trying to establish a dance M.F.A. program since 1998 as well as a dual degree for undergraduates that would comprise of a B.A. and a B.F.A. This would include a four-year partnership with ADF (of which Burchfield is dean), where undergraduate students would study four years at Hollins and three summers at ADF. To date, many of the Hollins undergraduate dancers complete work at ADF.

"The B.A. in dance is what makes our students original and I love Hollins and I wouldn't want to change that. I just want to credit them for work they are already doing," said Burchfield.

Since 1998 Burchfield has been proposing the M.F.A. and B.A./B.F.A. program but was only approved last year for the

M.F.A. program. "Academic Affairs told me the only way I could get the M.F.A. approved was if I took the B.A./B.F.A. off the proposal," said Burchfield who will still continue to try and get the B.A./B.F.A. program approved.

The 60-credit dance M.F.A. accommodates two options for graduate students, both of which include participation in ADF. The "year residency" track includes two summers at ADF and a year-long program at Hollins. The other option is the "low residency" track program, where students complete their degree in two summers. Both summers are spent at ADF and Hollins - a few weeks at one, than a few weeks

M.F.A.

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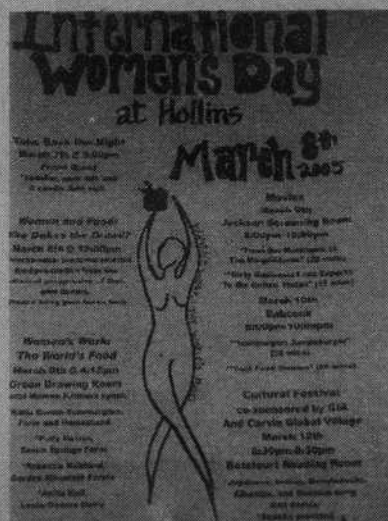
Students organize art exhibition

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Adderall proves to be problem on campus

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International women's day celebration

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J-Term analyzed through comparisons with other colleges

BY LISA BOWER

Hollins University is unique in its inclusion of a the January Term. Though many institutions, coed and women's institutions, also have an intense month of study amongst their curriculum, there are differences in terms of the time of year the program is implemented, the requirements involved and the amount of teacher-student collaboration.

The focus of the January Term at Hollins has been to foster an intensive time for innovative and creative learning experiences. A time, according to the Hollins website to "to test drive a career with an internship, take a travel/study course, or sign up for an engaging seminar."

Currently, Hollins requires that in order for a student to graduate, they must complete four J-Terms. Students may enroll in a class on campus, pursue a thesis, independent study or thesis work or pursue an internship on or off-campus.

Other institutions with comparable January Terms have structured their programs with slight and large variations.

For some schools, the January Term is optional.

Albright College, located in Reading, Pennsylvania with a student population of 1500, includes an optional January Interim. The time period matches Hollins with the period running from January 3rd until the 27th. According to the school's website, students may take up to two Interim courses to fulfill the 23 courses required for graduation. Like Hollins, students may take intensive study courses or involve themselves in off-campus internships or participate in a number of trips abroad.

Oberlin College, located in Oberlin, OH with a student population of 2800 and the first college in America to admit women, requires students to participate in three of their Winter Terms.

According to the Oberlin

website, possible options for the Winter term are: pursue a subject related to a first-semester course, work with a particular faculty member, study a musical instrument, take an intensive foreign language course explore a potential career field through an internship, volunteer with a community group, participate in a theatrical or musical production explore a field of inquiry that is new to the student; pursue a hobby or physical skill.

Wellesley College, an all women's institution located in Wellesley, Massachusetts with a student population of 2400, has a Winter session whose purpose, according to their school's website, is to "enjoy the benefits of being a part of the Wellesley Community without the stress of the academic semester."

The website went on to say that "students at Wellesley may choose to be at the College to pursue a course or project, try an internship, work, participate in team sports training, or simply enjoy the beauty of the Wellesley campus and a New England winter, without the pressures of schedules and deadline."

Whether a student is taking a for credit course or simply choosing to participate in jobs (paid or volunteer-based), they are still allowed to stay on campus.

Some schools take a different approach to the learning experience, allowing students to both develop and team teach courses.

Hampshire College, a liberal arts institution located in Amherst, Massachusetts with 1300 students, encourages faculty-student interaction. The school's website states that during the January Term "faculty members often use January Term to experiment with new approaches or explore new subject matter, making their students partners in curriculum development. There are also workshops offered by alumni, staff, and students.

Wellesley encourages students to both team-teach and teach

courses individually. Courses are created through a proposal based system where the student is expected to include information regarding the number and length of class sessions, content covered, location of the class and costs involved.

"I think short-term should be a time for students to take ownership of their educational experience and explore whatever it is that gets them excited about learning," said Emily Abeles '05. "An ideal short-term -- in my mind, at least -- would allow enough flexibility for students to accomplish this goal."

Courses offered at Hampshire College for the January Term have ranged from sea kayaking in a tropical paradise to dance therapy, dramatic writing, and gene cloning.

Hampshire also requires its first year student population to complete a program of study that satisfies Hampshire's Learning Goals.

Other schools have moved the time of their intensive month of study.

Roanoke College, located in Roanoke, Virginia with a population 1900 students, has its Intensive Month of Study from May 16th until June 23rd. Such courses offered include Antecedents of Terrorism, Fantasy in Child Lit/Film, The Science of Sports, Introduction to Sound Sampling, and Forensic Chemistry. Only one Intensive Learning Course is required for students of Roanoke College.

Some students at Hollins, many of which are from outside of Virginia, found the idea of moving the time of J-Term to be a positive thing.

"I think that would be a lot better actually" said Shaneka Bynum '07. "Then people who have internships would not have to worry about getting back here in the heart of winter. It would be a lot easier if you ask me.

Still, the Hollins Community has yet to publicly discuss changes to the J-Term system beyond allowing first-year

students the opportunity to participate in the study abroad trips.

"I think overall that we should consider all options in relation to J-term," said Wayne Markert, Provost, in an emailed interview. "How can we make it better? How can it serve the educational goals of Hollins and Hollins students? How can it really be distinctive?"

Alison Ridley, Dean of Students, was unavailable for comment.

"In my opinion there might be some differences between faculty members' understanding of the purpose of short-term and students' understanding of the purpose of short-term," said Abeles. "I think that short-term is in a very "gray area" right now. We need to find a clearer direction and understanding of what Hollins (students, faculty, staff, and administrators) wants short-term to embody. This could mean any number of things and we are in the process of trying to distill this information."

Here are some internship highlights from January 2005:

- Communications/Media:**
- Miramax Films, New York, NY
 - Time Warner, Inc., Washington, D.C.
 - Montel Williams Show, New York, NY
- Financial:**
- Davenport and Company LLC, Richmond, VA
 - State Farm Insurance, Midlothian, VA
- Fine Arts:**
- Triskel Arts Centre, Cork, Ireland
 - Exploris Museum, Raleigh, NC
 - The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY
 - National Women's History Museum, Annandale, VA
- Legal/Political:**
- The World Affairs Council, San Francisco, CA
 - National Institute for Environmental Studies, Japan
 - The Nature Conservancy, Charlottesville, VA
 - State Archaeology Research Center, Raleigh, NC

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Club Sports

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Bower and Mudzingwa first approached Senate on Dec. 7, the last Senate of the fall semester. During the presentation, they expressed their displeasure with the Clean Slate review and funding issues regarding club sports and asked if they could give the administration a statement sponsored by Senate.

"The reason the statement was formed was for the administration to repeatedly push things onto SGA is almost disrespectful," said Bower. "There's no way we can pay for everything they keep pushing onto us, like taxi vouchers and club sports."

"I don't think the fiscal funding should become an SGA burden," Mudzingwa told Senate. "I think the administration should meet us halfway."

"We need to be realistic," added Bower. "If we are going to have club sports and support field hockey, which has made all this effort, we need the cooperation of the administration. This could work if we weren't split administration versus the student body."

After debating the issue for more than 30 minutes, it was agreed that Senate needed to see the statement before approving it. Mudzingwa and Bower returned to Senate on Feb. 8 with the statement, which acknowledged the results of the Clean Slate review and asked the administration for a minimum monetary contribution of 30 percent to offset the costs of SGA funding.

The statement was voted on at the next Senate, Feb. 15. However, before the vote was taken, Dean of Academic Services and Acting Dean of Students Alison Ridley asked to address Senate.

She announced that the administration absolutely did not have the money to give to club sports, and implied if their help became required, tuition costs might be raised even more [than the original 6 percent].

"I needed to express a different opinion before the statement was voted on," explained Ridley. "I felt a responsibility to say

something for the administration. We shouldn't vote positively on a statement before having more information."

The prospect of increased tuition seemed to turn many people off, and the statement was rejected. It received 23 ayes to 19 nays, with 12 abstentions. A vote must receive 2/3 of the vote (in this case, 28 ayes) to pass.

"I was a little surprised by the statement," said Ridley. "I don't disagree about the idea of collaboration, and I understand why the statement was brought up. But I strongly felt that SGA needed to do more research before demanding the one-third the cost of an unidentified sum."

In response, Bower said, "I think for her to make such grand statements without speaking to me or Dee completely negates what she's saying. If she had done her own research, she would know that SGA has been meeting with all the top-tier clubs like BSA and HRDC and all the clubs that have the highest budgets in SGA."

"I agree with her that it's problematic to deal with an approximate sum for the cost of club sports, however, to say that I have not done my research is flawed in that she has never spoken to me about the endeavor," concluded Bower.

"If we had one-third of the money, we wouldn't have cut the number of sports," said Ridley. "If the statement had been presented to [President's] Cabinet, I guarantee it would have been turned down and I didn't want to see it happen that way."

With the rejection of their statement, Bower and Mudzingwa expressed disappointment in the ability of Senate to make decisive statements and act in the best interests of the students.

"Too often, leaders on this campus become administrative advocates instead of student advocates," said Bower. "I thought this was a good chance for Senate

to realize that we are the voice of the students and we need to do what's best for the students, and that is to support athletics. Other institution's Senates make statements all the time that they vote on. They make statements as a body and I just felt as though Senate could do so much more than they are."

One solution to the much needed funding for club sports may be a new program titled, "Friends of Athletics."

Mark Whittaker, vice-president of Development and Alum Relations, is putting this program together.

"Friends of Athletics" is a program that petitions for money from alumnae. These alumnae contribute a monetary amount to a sports team of their choosing, whether it be on the club or varsity level.

Allowing alumnae to choose which sport team they want to

"gift" options ranging from \$100 to \$2000 -- and up -- that will include different membership benefits. Once Whittaker receives a list of those interested in specific sports, he will create a database with this information to use in more targeted mailings.

"On average, 18 percent of alumnae donate annually to college and universities. At Hollins 37 percent of our alums donate annually. That's a huge number. But we want to raise it to 40, even 42 percent," said Whittaker.

Alumnae who choose to donate to the entire athletic program will have their contributions placed in an unrestricted fund. Director of Athletics, Lynda Caulkins, will decide how the money should be divided. Caulkins will also be in charge of how the money in the restricted funds (pertaining to certain clubs) will be distributed. Whittaker believes that field hockey's club funding will be governed mainly through SGA.

"I think SGA will be able to give field hockey a lot of the money they need. And even if they can't, both field hockey and SGA will be learning a valuable lesson. What's terrific about this is the members of SGA and the field hockey members trying to raise money will have to deal with these situations long after they graduate. In the coming years, SGA will have to figure out how to allocate their money even better than before and the field hockey team will have to constantly figure out the best way to raise money," he said.

Sophomore Megan Culp, current Athletic Association chair, believes that through aggressive fundraising tactics, club sports will grow in number and thrive.

"I feel that if the students see one club sport flourish and succeed as a club sport, it will encourage them to possibly take on forming their own team for rugby or rowing, etc. It's going to open up more opportunities for

students to get out and exercise," she said.

Currently, Adams, the President's Cabinet and Roundtable are looking at a variety of methods to make the funding of sports possible. Options include allowing fundraised money [from the two necessary club fundraisers per year] roll over from year to year. According to Dean Ridley, they are also looking at amending the constitution to allow club sports to charge dues.

"We also plan to share equipment and uniforms that we already have in order to avoid start up costs," said Ridley.

Bower thinks that outside of funding issues, there will be morale issues if athletic clubs can't participate in games due to external factors.

"What upsets me most is that the people who will suffer are those students who love the cut sports. How are they supposed to try and regain varsity status if they aren't given the adequate tools necessary (tournaments, uniforms, coaches, etc.). How are they supposed to believe they are supported in the current situation?" she asked.

Adams has a more cynical outlook.

"I think the administration was having some budgetary issues and this was just one solution. I also think the Clean Slate Review board is trying to build a stronger athletic program. But you can't keep a strong program and a strong team if you don't have funding for it," she said.

Ridley remains optimistic. "I'm proud of Roundtable for the way they've handled the situation so far," she said. "The administrative departments have had to take a really hard look at the budget and made some painful cuts. But we all have a great desire to make this work."



Fencing won 2nd in state February 21, 2005.

by Cathleen Kilgallen

endorse, state, Whittaker, "shines the light on the entire athletic system rather than just unfairly focusing on the teams who need the most financial support."

In field hockey and fencing's case, the money they receive from this program, said Whittaker, "will hopefully make-up the monetary difference they still need after they've petitioned and received financial aid from SGA, and fundraised for money on their own."

Whittaker began sending out letters soliciting for money from alumnae over the month of January. In these letters alumnae can choose from various monetary

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at the other. This program was designed for mid-career dance professionals.

"A year for a dancer is huge," said Burchfield, "Age is a huge factor- your body is your instrument and what you use to create your art. Also if you take a long time off it's much more difficult to get back into the professional world."

Out of the 62 applicants for the 05-06 year, the dance department plans to choose 8 or 9 students in the year residency program, and 6 to 7 students in the low residency program.

The graduate program is an entirely new program for Dance, but the Children's Literature as well as the Film studies/screenwriting M.F.A. (which will take place over the summer) are extensions of the already existing M.A. programs. Unlike the Creative Writing program, which absolved its M.A. program to instate an M.F.A. program, Film studies/screenwriting and the Children's Literature graduate programs will still sustain the M.A. program as a separate program from the new M.F.A.

"For years, we've had inquiries about the graduate program in Creative Writing, some people we referred to the Children's Lit-

erature program since that was a better match for them. I've taught in that program myself a couple summers and know what a fine thing it is. Adding an M.F.A. track there enriches their students' options in a good way," said Jeanne Larsen, director of the creative writing program and professor of English.

The two degrees signify different things. For the Film program the coursework in the M.A. program is specific to film studies with the student having the option of the thesis being either academic or creative. The new M.F.A. has a distinct prominence in screenwriting, and the thesis must be a screenplay. Like the M.A. program the M.F.A. will be a summer program. Students will be awarded degrees with the completion of 40 credits over a period of three to five summers for children's literature and five summer for the Screenwriting and Film Studies program.

"One of the strengths of the summer-only graduate program in screenwriting and Film Studies has been the fact that it has managed to attract to its top faculty [members] from institutions such as UCLA, The Helsinki Film Academy, and the British Film Institute, along with film makers from Germany, Iran, and Wales. In most cases it would not have been possible to get these individuals for an entire semester

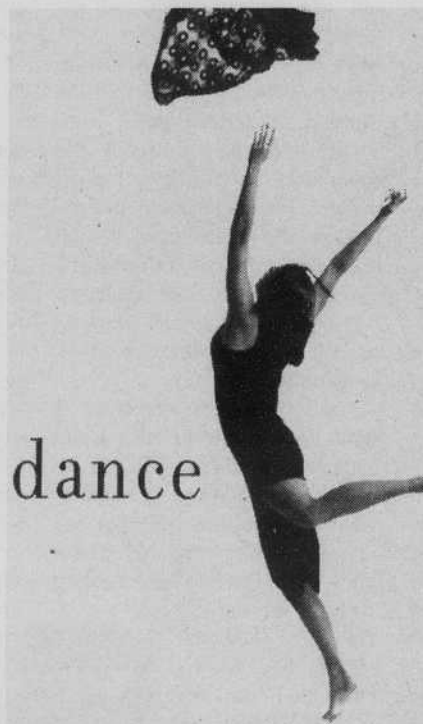
during the regular academic year because of their own obligations," said Film Professor and Director of the Graduate Film Studies and screenwriting Klaus Phillips.

"The same holds true to how many students who come to Hollins form all over the United States, as well as Mexico and Germany, and many of whom have careers which would make it impossible to engage in a year-long course of study. Given, this along with the truly international aspect of the program, the program in screenwriting and Film Studies is quite unique. It therefore made sense to offer the M.F.A. as an additional option," he said.

The new M.F.A. programs joins along side the Creative Writing M.F.A. program, which was created two years ago.

In the case of the Creative Writing department, to date the two year M.F.A. is the most distinguished degree, generally needed to teach Creative Writing at the college level.

"When the Hollins graduate program in Creative Writing was founded, there were maybe a dozen such programs in the whole country, and for decades the Hollins M.A. was recognized as being a highest-level degree in the field, a 'terminal' degree, just like an M.F.A. But with the



found at: www.hollins.edu

enormous growth in the number of graduate programs in Creative

Writing, there's been a kind of title inflation on the national level," explained Larsen.

The M.F.A. is considered the "terminal degree" for film studies as well.

Another distinction between the Creative Writing and Film/Children's Literature and Dance programs is the fact that Film, Children's Literature and Dance students will not have the opportunities to teach undergraduates. For Film and Children's Literature this is primarily because these programs are summer programs. As far as the Creative Writing program the teaching fellowships have been a helpful aid to the learning process.

The Dance Program is more about honing specific creative skills. "In modern dance, one builds themselves from the ground up; we're interested in artists shaping their own aesthetic, creating an atmosphere to be an individual," said Burchfield. "[With the M.F.A. program] one can find themselves among their peers. We're training people to be artists."

Although not directly affecting the undergraduate student population, the new M.F.A. programs will further expand Hollins horizons. As for the undergrads, the new M.F.A. program means more excuses to stay on campus after graduation.

First batch of creative writing M.F.A. students to graduate

BY JEN SPELKOMAN

Hollins University's M.F.A. program in creative writing will graduate its first crop of students at the 2005 commencement ceremonies in May. The time the M.F.A. guinea-pig class spent at Hollins was a transitional one. In their two years, there were shifts in the English department as well as overall administration.

In addition to being the first to receive an M.F.A. degree from Hollins, the creative writing M.F.A. program is the first, and at this point the only, to instate a teaching fellowship program at Hollins.

The teaching fellowship pro-

gram caused controversy on-campus last year with the letting go of adjuncts to make way for M.F.A. teaching fellows. The much publicized issues with the English department - which include a two-year long search for a poetry professor, and the delay in moving the department to one space - all took place during the inaugural creative writing M.F.A. students' tenure.

Richard Dillard, the long-time head to the creative writing program, stepped down from that post rather than lead the M.F.A. program.

Some students did not see effects of the administrative concerns on their education.

"Everyone, I hope, is aware of the changes and conflicts that occurred over the past couple of years, but these never once, in my own experience, had any effect on our education," said second year M.F.A. student and teaching fellow Richard Lucyshyn. "The classroom and the workshop was this kind of little haven, where writing was the sole issue.

"I do feel that the program and its transition have gone more or less smoothly, and now that the kinks are finally get ironed out, it will only go smoother."

Other second year M.F.A. students, including Derwin Sisnett, agree.

"Of course there are always

hiccups and situations beyond my control, but that could never take away from the quality of education and mentorship that has always been available to me at Hollins," Sisnett said.

Beyond politics of the university, the 48-credit program which now includes 24 M.F.A. students (12 in each class) have passed notable milestones in its first two years.

"For me, a big landmark was last fall. For the first time we had both first and second year M.F.A. students," reflected Jeanne Larsen, director of the creative writing department's graduate program and professor of English.

"I had wondered if there'd be

a rift between the 'old' grad students and the 'new' ones," she said.

Larsen's fears subsided as soon as the first year and second year students met one another in the beginning of the '04-'05 school year. Mixed classes and the sharing of office space, fostered cohesion between the two groups.

Last month four first year M.F.A. students were chosen as

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C.W.

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teaching fellows for the '05-'06 academic year. Yim Tan Wong is one of them.

"Teaching should broaden the scope of my education by expanding my vocabulary and improving my ability to articulate elements of craft," said Wong. "Being involved in and watching another person evolve as a writer and a reader is an exciting experience."

Larsen holds strongly that the opportunity to teach is beneficial to the teaching fellow as well as the undergraduate writer. She explains: "Since teaching is one way professional writers can support themselves, it's also good for their resumes, of course, but I think it's the immersion in an additional aspect of the Hollins experience that's the best part. Hollins graduate students have always learned a lot from the undergraduate writing community, after all."

As far as the Hollins under-

graduates, she said, "They're getting the enthusiasm and energy of new teachers who are themselves close to the experiences of a writer at the level of English 141, but the teaching fellows have more guidance and a better chance to swap stories and get ideas from other people teaching 141 than instructors did back in the years when we had to rely largely on adjuncts to cover that important course."

Lucyshyn said his teaching experience has aided him as a writer.

"I believe that teaching has had a positive overall effect upon my graduate experience. In teaching the fundamentals of writing poetry and fiction, I get to further explore the ways in which we use language for communication and expression," Lucyshyn said. Lucyshyn eventually plans to pursue a career as a creative writing professor but is first working on getting himself published.

Because of Hollins' size, only four teaching fellows are chosen from a class of 12. This allows M.F.A. students to focus their efforts in other facets of

the program, as the main focus of the program is writing and the production and craft of one's creative work.

PhD program after Hollins.

It is this small size that attracted many of the graduate students in the first place.



Teaching Fellow Richard Lucyshyn and his beginning creative writing class.

Photo taken by Rhiann Pask

"Not being able to teach has not hindered my graduate experience, as it has only given me more time to write and to pursue activities outside of school," said Sissnet, who plans to attend a

"Aside from the strength of our faculty, the greatest benefit that Hollins has to offer is its size and strong sense of community," Lucyshyn said. "That our numbers are small means that we

have the opportunity to know everyone. This eliminates any sort of competition that you might find at MFA programs of larger size. Instead, we are all in the same boat and working together to get somewhere."

Larsen said, "We feel it's important to maintain the close-knit community of teaching writers and student writers that has always been a key part of the Hollins experience."

Wong agrees.

"Being surrounded by people who are excited about literature and the processes of craft, as well as having close and critical readers for one's writing is a great benefit of any writing program," he said. "Someone once said to me, 'Surround yourself with people who will make you better,' and so, immersion in a community of writers can only invigorate anyone interested in improving their work and expanding the range of their literary cosmos."

"The program is interdisciplinary, the faculty and students' interests range from music to architecture to film, which only enriches the experience."

International Women's Day honored by Women's Studies department and students

By LAURA LATZKO

In the United States, there are national holidays that honor men such as George Washington and Christopher Columbus but none that remember the contributions of women like Harriet Tubman and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. To honor these, and many other women, Hollins celebrated International Women's Day (IWD) on March 8.

"Our goal is to bring people from across campus around IWD and to get people talking about the issues that are of concern to women today," said professor Lee Ray Costa, one of the key organizers.

Since 1909, many women's groups in the United States have used this holiday to commemorate the struggles of ordinary women, especially in industrialized countries. The United Nations endorsed the event in 1975.

According to the United Na-

tions, "When women on all continents, often divided by national boundaries and by ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic, and political differences, come together to celebrate this day, they can look back to a tradition that represents at least nine decades of struggle for equality, justice, peace and development."

Although it was not brought to Hollins until the women's studies department was established, IWD is now an annual event on campus.

The 2005 celebration of International Women's Day on campus, focused on women's economic roles in the production of food.

"This year we [focused] on the relationship between gender, food production, and the environment," professor Priscilla Barker, another chief organizer for this event, said.

In accordance with the themes

of Women's Work/The World's Food and Global Food and Hunger, local agriculturalists Anita Hall, Katie Gwinn, Rebecca Hubbard, and Polly Heiser sat on a panel titled "Women's Work: The World's Food," to demonstrate the importance of female workers providing food for needy communities all over Virginia.

Gwinn, one of the featured panelists, who is from the nearby town of Floyd, Virginia, is a woman who grows organic products for herself and farmers' markets, and takes care of goats and chickens on Summerglen Farm and Homestead.

The other three panelists are also very experienced: Hall produces and sells

goat cheese, Hubbard raises various types of livestock and poultry, and Heiser has experience with growing organic goods.

International Women's Day will kicked off at 12:15 p.m. in Ballator with the International Students Panel titled "Women and Food: Who Bakes the Bread?"

Nandini Roy '05, a member of the Global Interest Association (GIA) club, expressed excitement over this panel.

"GIA is hosting a multicultural festival during that week to promote the different cultures represented on campus. I am singing a traditional Bangla song at the festival and cooking a dessert for the reception afterwards," she said in an email. "I am very excited to see a celebration to honor International Women's Day at Hollins. It is great that we are doing so many different things here to create cultural awareness and diversity and am glad to be a part of it."



Shirt display sponsored by SARA and "Take back the night."

Photo by Cathleen Kilgallen

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Juried Art Show displays student work

BY INDIRA GROSS

There is a new group of students on campus that are hoping to revive an art club from Hollin's history, then-called "The Art Association." At least, that is what students who were meeting to discuss the upcoming Juried Art Show said. This Juried Art Show will hopefully be their first organized event as a "pre-club," if they can gain club recognition and funding from the SGA for next semester. Whether they will be able to adopt the same name as the former club, which disintegrated around thirty years ago, is another matter.

The meeting, and the idea of becoming a club, was proposed and led by Alexis Hair, a senior who will be graduating next December. "I started this initiative because I felt that the art depart-

ment at Hollins was seriously lacking opportunities for students to show their work. Art shows like this one can be really motivating for students and allow students to see each other's work as well as to show their work to the rest of the campus," said Hair.

There are approximately ten or more students who are currently working to put together the opening of the first Juried Art Show for students in years, or-

ganized almost entirely by this small group.

"Jan Knipe [Hollins Art Professor] and Janet Carty [Museum Assistant Director] are giving us

advice on how to hang the show, how to work with the students in getting frames for the pieces so that they don't have to pay so much to have it shown, and just all

kinds of other helpful information," Hair said at the organizational meeting in late February.

"There hasn't been an active art club on campus since the '30's, when this group was around," said Sarah Vanell, a sophomore art major. "It's sad, but that's why we wanted to bring it back. Now that we have an excellent brand new art facility, Hollins

is bringing in more and more serious future artists - which is also good too, but it's nice to know that we have a growing population of students who are really serious about art and will help increase the motivation, competitiveness, and talent."

"I really wanted to create more opportunities for students to show their work, and I also wanted to introduce a little bit of competition for some extra motivation," said Hair. "I came up with the idea to do this and did my best to get others excited and enlist their help. It wasn't very difficult to find people who wanted to be involved."

This story will be continued in the next issue of Hollins Columns, while the show is open to the public. The show opens March 14.



Alexis Hair arranges photo submissions.

Photo taken by Jen Spelkoman



Seniors begin their trek to the grave of Charles Lewis Cocke.

Photo taken by Rhiann Pask



Seniors lay a wreath on the grave of Charles Lewis Cocke.

Photo taken by Rhiann Pask

Founder's Day 2005



Sophomores hand out daisies to the seniors as they enter the chapel.

Photo taken by Rhiann Pask

Students join nation-wide trend of abusing prescription drugs

BY JULIA KNOX

All names have been changed. Class years have been eliminated for the purpose of anonymity.

It's 10 p.m. during finals week, and Michelle has two exams, a 10-page paper, and a computer science project due the next day. The nicotine isn't working, the coffee is wearing off, and Michelle's starting to get a little desperate. Trying not to freak out, she turns to her roommate and says:

"Dana, I need at least 30 milligrams - can I borrow some Adderall?"

Dana, happy to oblige (in exchange for \$1 per 10mg), hands her the pill, which Michelle promptly crushes and snorts. Feeling much more focused, she churns out the paper and project within three hours, then spends the next seven hours studying for her exams. She's on a high that the biggest pot of coffee could never give her.

From "Desperate Housewives" to college dorm rooms, the abuse of Attention Deficit Disorder [ADD] medication is sweeping the nation. Students under stress are popping Adderall and Concerta like it's Pez, needing that extra dose of motivation to finish that paper or stay up all night studying.

A recent study at the University of Michigan found that 7 percent of college students have used prescription drugs like Adderall for recreational purposes. Four percent have done it in the past month.

"At the end of sophomore year, two of my friends and I basically took Adderall constantly for three days and pretty much lived in Pleasants trying to finish all our work," said Lindsay, a Hollins graduate who is now in graduate school. "Because of the Adderall, the Red Bull, and the chain-smoking, we were up for almost five days straight, maybe like seven hours of sleep total thrown in. Afterwards, I felt like my body was trying to kill me."

Adderall (the most popular

drug of choice), Concerta and Ritalin are all amphetamines prescribed to people with ADD. According to the medical website, www.whatmeds.com, Adderall can be used to "improve a patient's attention span, increase his ability to follow directions, decrease distractibility among children ages three and older, and decrease impulsivity, stubbornness and aggression."

"I have ADD," said Mackenzie "and I take Adderall on a daily basis. If I don't take it,

But some people take Adderall simply to get high, not to get things done. When taken in large amounts or in certain ways, Adderall can produce a feeling of euphoria and what Michelle describes as "a hazy, happy feeling, like your brain is covered in fuzz. But at the same time your brain feels really focused and powerful. It's weird, and it's a rush."

The typical Adderall prescription is 20 to 30 mg, swallowed whole in the morning. A person trying to get high might take any-

with Attention Deficit Disorder are not immune to abuse. She also added, "When I was a junior in high school, I had already taken my regular 30mg dose. Then I had a really bad morning so I took another 70mg. I didn't really mean to - I just kind of popped them back and then realized how much I had taken. But I was on a great high all day, then didn't sleep for like, two days."

Whatmeds.com warns, "Amphetamines have a high potential for abuse. Administration of amphetamines for prolonged periods may lead to drug dependence. There is a danger of obtaining amphetamines for non-therapeutic use or distribution to others."

Some students have figured out how to get a prescription for Adderall or Concerta without having ADD. They then either take the medicine recreationally and/or sell it to other students. The normal price is anywhere from \$1 per 10 mg to \$5 a pill.

"It's so easy to pretend you have ADD," said Conner, a sophomore at the University of Virginia. "Tell your parents you think you have it. Then they'll take you to a psychiatrist, who asks you a bunch of questions like 'Do you have trouble concentrating?' Just say yes to all the questions it sounds like an ADD person would say yes to."

"Anybody with half a brain can get a prescription for Adderall if they want it."

But it's becoming harder to obtain a prescription, even for those who legitimately need it to function. Because it's an amphetamine (speed) with a high risk for abuse, doctors are aiming to be more careful about who they write prescriptions for and how students are able to get it.

Health Services requires each student meet with the campus doctor before filling a prescription for an amphetamine. Normally, this would not be a problem. However, since the switch to the new Carillion system, the new doctor only comes to Hollins once a month. Therefore, stu-

dents who legitimately need the medicines can run into scheduling problems.

Mary used to get Concerta from the old doctor, Dr. Pasley. When she ran out in November, she was told she needed to see the new doctor before her prescription could be filled. Due to scheduling conflicts, it ultimately ended up being easier for Mary to go home and get the prescription filled by her home psychiatrist.

"I don't blame Health Services, because it was my fault I couldn't come the day the doctor was going to be there," said Mary. "But it was kind of annoying because I wish I didn't have to see the new doctor if I obviously have ADD since I already had a prescription."

It seems the fears of doctors are not unfounded. During finals week, the computer labs echo with whispers of "Who has Adderall? Do you know anybody?" College students regard it not as a drug, like cocaine, but rather a study tool - on the same level as a mnemonic device.

"I don't really think of Adderall as a drug," said Michelle. "Even though I snort it sometimes, it's not dangerous like crack or something. I don't even take it to get high. I just snort it because it works faster and if I'm taking Adderall I obviously need to work as fast as possible."

Side effects of Adderall include headaches (particularly if snorted), loss of appetite, mood swings, and a constant jittery feeling. But for desperate students, the benefits of Adderall far outweigh the possible side effects.

"Even if I am taking it just to get high, it's still got a point behind it; I always get stuff done on it, even if I didn't specifically take it to get stuff done," said Lindsay. "And if you're going to take a drug, isn't it better to take something that increases productivity, like Adderall, than one that makes you sit around for hours at a time like weed?"



Adderall proves to be problem on-campus

found at: www.thegooddrugsguide.com

I'm all over the place. But on the medicine, I can settle down and focus and get things done. It was practically a life saver for me. I think I would have failed out of school without it."

People without ADD who take Adderall will most likely also get that same feeling of motivation and accomplishment. It is for this reason that Adderall is especially popular around exam time.

"I'm glad my roommate has ADD," said Michelle. "I had so much to do and I was so tired. If I hadn't taken Adderall, there's no way I would have been able to stay up all night and do everything I needed to do."

where from 20 to 100 mg, and either chew, crush or snort it.

"This only works with Adderall XR [a time-release capsule filled with tiny balls of Adderall]," said Lindsay, "but one time in France I actually took apart the capsule and ate the balls. Like, chewed them up and swallowed. It was great. I spent the entire day laying on the Riviera, talking with my friend about how fabulous life was."

Dana says her preferred method is snorting. "I actually have ADD, but I still snort it. It hits you quicker, and it's like all at once."

As Dana's quote proves, those

Colon Cancer Awareness Month recognized on campus

BY KATIE RICHARDSON

America loses more people to cancer every year than the total number of citizens in the state of Wyoming. But Colleges Against Cancer (CAC) wants to change things, and this week, they're challenging the Hollins community to get involved in their Rainbow of Ribbons campaign.

"We just want the Hollins community to pull together and spread the word this week," said Cecy Zimmermann '06, the CAC vice president. "Even though there've been many advances in cancer research, there's still not a cure out there, and we have a lot of work to do."

March is Colon Cancer Awareness Month, and the club has chosen the blue ribbon to symbolize colon cancer. A rainbow of nine additional varieties of ribbons that represent different forms of cancer, from ovarian and breast cancer to childhood and kidney cancer,

will also be available.

"Students can choose whatever kind of ribbon they want to help the fight to find a cure," said Naomi Valenciano '06.

All ribbons will be available in the Moody lobby throughout the week for a 50-cent donation. Proceeds go directly to Relay for Life and cancer research.

"We're selling the ribbons to help raise a little money to support finding a [cure]," Valenciano said. "Whenever we can give money to that, I'm happy."

In honor of Colon Cancer Awareness Month, the club particularly hopes to establish greater knowledge of colon cancer, the third most frequent type of cancer in women.

"Colon cancer is a type of cancer that's very prevalent

today," said Danielle Thompson '05, CAC president. "But most people don't realize it affects just as many women as men."

Cancer awareness bookmarks and stamps will also be available along with information about

screening for patients with high risk factors or who are over the age of 50.

"These are issues that'll affect us," said Thompson. "But we may not know. It's very scary."

The Rainbow of Ribbons project is only one of many efforts the CAC club will be hosting throughout the semester to help students gain awareness and work toward finding a cure.

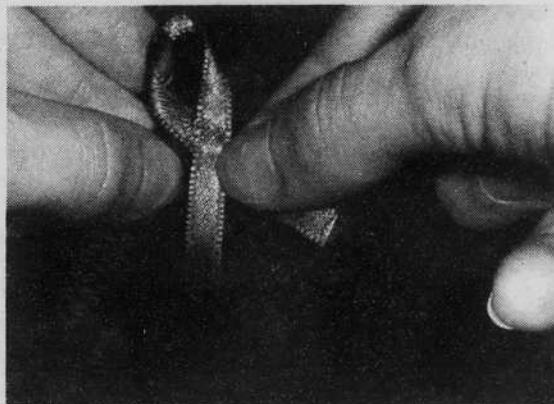
"We're at Hollins to learn," said Thompson. "And education includes not just academics but other things that affect our lives like health issues. Cancer is one of the leading health concerns."

This year, 662,870 women are estimated to have cancer, according to the American Cancer Society. Only 66 percent of these women will survive.

"It's a possibility that it could happen to you or your family and friends," said Valenciano. "Statistically speaking, it's pretty likely that cancer would affect you."

The American Cancer Society has found that one in three women will develop cancer. Cancer - America's second largest cause of death followed by heart disease - targets everyone, including children. This week, CAC wants your help in their fight to make a difference.

"The Rainbow of Ribbons is our way of making the community aware of the different types of cancer and how the Hollins community can help us," said Zimmermann. "We want a 100 percent chance of survival."



CAC Blue Ribbon.

Photo taken by Katie Richardson

Senate Bill 2265 and House Bill 4097. If passed, the bills would require insurance plans to cover the full range of colon cancer

Dana Weir scheduled to read her work during literary festival

BY URSULA JONSSON

Hollins University has always been a showcase for artistic talent, especially in the literary field. Whether it's a Grapheon reading on Thursday afternoon or a professor reading during a weeknight, Hollins promotes the sharing of student and faculty literary work. To continue this tradition, Hollins University is hosting the 45th Annual Literary Festival on Saturday, March 12.

For this festival Hollins invites three writers - including the writer-in-residence - to the campus to share their own work, and discuss undergraduate poetry and fiction pieces in the annual literary competition.

"Sometimes we know [the writer's] - former colleagues or people we've met in the literary world. Or we might read a book and say, 'Wow, we have to have them,'" said professor of English Eric Trethewey. He, along with

several other professors in the English department, was involved in the organization and planning of the event.

This year poet, editor, and playwright Patricia Spears Jones; novelist and essayist Darcey Steinke; and Writer-in-Residence Dana Wier; will share their own work in the Visual Arts Center, and judge undergraduate poetry and fiction pieces in the competition.

The judging process works this way: undergraduate students enter up to three poetry and/or fiction pieces into the contest. A panel of judges consisting of the three guest readers and one Hollins professor, along with an anonymous judge, publicly discuss and critique the poetry and fiction submitted. One student is selected as the winner in each field and given a hundred dollars. The



Writer-in-Residence, Dana Wier and her new book "Reverse Rapture."

by Jen Spelkoman

contest is open to the regional college area, not exclusively the the Roanoke (and surrounding)

Hollins community.

The festival began in 1960. Over the years Hollins has had writers like E.L. Doctorow (Ragtime), Sheri Reynolds (The Rapture of Canaan), Sharyn McCrumb (Ghost Riders), William Golding (Hollins writer-in-residence and author of Lord of the Flies) and Thorpe Moeckel (Odd Botany).

Senior Lisa Bower, co-editor of Cargoes, the Hollins Literary Magazine, has high hopes for the festival.

"I hope that as many undergraduates as possible take part in this event. It's amazing to see such well-known writers and the great turnout of

communities but I feel as though undergraduates, especially those who are not English majors, do not take full advantage of the event," she said in an email.

Leah Statorsky, the other co-editor of Cargoes, agrees.

"I hope that there is a large turn-out to the literary festival because there is going to be a variety of incredibly talented readers," she said in an email. "It is a good chance for the literary community of Hollins to get together and learn a little more about each other."

Out to the Movies with Hope and Cathleen

BY HOPE SWENSON AND
CATHLEEN KILGALLEN

For this issue's movie review, we decided to go out on the town and see the amazingly comical and heartfelt film that all our friends have been raving about: *Sideways*. I (Hope) had heard about the movie for months, but I never felt compelled to see the film because I am a huge fan of popular Hollywood films starring the biggest names from the red carpet, not low-budget, obscure independent flicks. Plus, the movie poster at the theatres was simplistic: a cartoon of 2 men tipped over in a wine bottle. I was a little nervous about going to see *Sideways* when I could have seen *Hitch* or the *Wedding Date*.

But whoa! This film was ab-

solutely wonderful; it gave a taste of the dramas of everyday life, had an irreverent attitude, and most importantly, it was truly entertaining.

Sideways, written and directed by Alexander Payne, is a story about two men, both losers in their own right, who set out on a weeklong adventure into the sumptuous wine country of Northern California. Miles (Paul Giamatti), a single, balding English teacher, and his college roommate, Jack (Thomas Haden Church), a cocky, ego-tripping, sex fiend, go on this trip to celebrate the last week of Jack's bachelorhood.

It soon becomes evident that the two men have entered into this road-trip with very different perspectives: Miles, nursing a depression brought on by a painful



found at: www.imdb.com

divorce and his failure to get published, sees it through the eyes of a wine enthusiast connecting with the cultivation of the vine, while Jack is just looking to get

laid before committing himself to a one-woman life. Jack takes control of their fates by setting up a double date with two beautiful wine connoisseurs: Maya (Virginia Madsen) and Stephanie (Sandra Oh) who add spice to their adventure.

As these relationships develop, the men are forced to ask themselves tough questions, and the trip becomes one of self-discovery (but not in the sappy Hallmark sense...). Through their interaction with these women, difficult lessons are learned that will change their lives and touch the lives of the people watching the film, as they contemplate the fortunes of these characters.

For Hope, our resident mainstream film-lover, *Sideways* was a crossover hit, but even in the independent film community,

this one turned heads. At the Independent Spirit Awards it won Best Picture, Best Actor, Best Supporting Actor, Best Supporting Actress, Best Screenplay and Best Director. The Academy also graced it with 5 nominations and a win for Best Adapted Screenplay. The story has an honest ring to it, and the cast does a wonderful job in creating characters that you could easily place in your life.

This creative independent film will take you on a joyride, chock full of crazy drama with lust at first sight, broken hearts, the shallowness of men, depression, naked men in the streets, and hope that anyone can push through the hard times and be happy. So go check it out at Valley View while you still can, and gain a greater appreciation of that \$4 bottle of wine sitting in your fridge...

"Sideways" cast deserves more recognition

BY LISA BOWER

Sideways is receiving fanfare in the same way as Alexander Payne's last two films, [*Election* (1999) and *About Schmidt* (2002)]: as a well-written indie with a focus on the individual. Words such as "innovative" have been used in reviews and in the commercials pleading with you to spend your money for a two hour film that happens to be, gasp!, character driven.

It's too bad the Academy had to miss the point.

Sideways is the tale of two friends who go off to explore the vineyards of California as a send-off before one is to be married. Miles, played by Paul Giamatti, is a failed writer working as an English teacher and Jack, played by Thomas Haden Church, about to be married. Each character could easily slip into cliché, what with Miles's depression and Jack's lothario ways but somehow the script reaches beyond this - looking at how such two different men could somehow end up being the best of friends.

Never has a metaphor fit so well as that of wine. See the movie just to hear the speech Virginia Madsen's character Maya gives about the aging process, or the way Giamatti's face shifts when talking about the nuances of the drink, of the ritual of taking a taste, or how he absolutely refuses to drink merlot.

I admit that yes, the film has received many accolades from the Academy, many nominations, including Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Thomas Haden Church), Best Actress in a Supporting Role (Virginia Madsen) and Best Picture. I should be happy with this, I should be proud that a well-written film is receiving praise outside of the screenplay categories.

But I'm hard to please. The point the Academy is missing is its acting core, what makes the film open up beyond that of a story about depression and revival, beyond wine and humor.

I want to know where Paul Giamatti's nomination is.

Much of the problem, I think, resides in the voting process. The

Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences website lists the rules for balloting and nominating. In short, to vote, you must be an active and life member of the Academy. The issue is that when voting for Best Actor, only active members of the Academy Actors Branch are allowed to vote.

This is how Thomas Haden Church is able to be nominated, out of sympathy, out of loyalty. Here is an actor who had been in slump, a former star from the television show "Wings" who hadn't been in a hit since 1997's "George of the Jungle."

The thing is, Church was not asked to stretch with his acting, was not asked to play anything other than a caricature of himself, albeit a caricature flipped with nuances and fine direction. The Academy is not rewarding Church for his acting so much as for his comeback, for escaping their biggest fear as a group of actors - fading into obscurity.

It is too hard for the business, for the actors belonging to the Academy, to admit liking a character as flawed as Miles.

He is unsure of himself, steals money from his mother, socially awkward with a less than perfect body. He is the epitome of the man who's lost his dream, lost his drive, clinging instead to the facts of wine-making. Miles is a protagonist who's more similar to the viewer than we'd like to admit. And with the ending of the film, an open ended sort of set-up, the viewer knows he's overcome the awkwardness, the social hesitance that has punctuated the life we've seen onscreen.

Sideways is a movie too hard to deconstruct for an award show, too subtle for it to compete with such loud pieces of work as Martin Scorsese's "The Aviator" (another film nominated out of duty). Is it impossible to separate the actors from their art? Is it impossible to attempt objectivity?

Let's move the argument to Hollins, voting for Best Professor. I don't doubt that though some would look at the number of accolades for the year, the number of publications and speaking engagements, it would move toward professors who had gone through

a rough year (a death in the family, an illness) or to professors with extroverted personalities. Who would be our Leonardo DiCaprio? Who would be the long suffering Imelda Staunton?

I know I shouldn't put so much stock in an award show, but to see actors of less caliber receive nominations over a man who is able to spotlight the levity of humor, who can be so intelligent and helpless all at the same time, is worthy of a nomination.

Which brings up the winners of the last decade, the politicization of the Academy Awards and its nomination practices, how people vote and why - which can be its own article/editorial. I merely wish that if *Sideways* would have been nominated for achievement in the acting categories, that voters could have looked at the performances critically and seen who it was that deserved the acclaim. Paul Giamatti's character was an oxymoron and I truly wished that this actor could have been recognized for his achievement of playing a character a little too close to home.

Off the shelf: thoughts on literature

BY I.N. COGNITO

I have this friend; again, since I am amusing myself with letters instead of names and pseudonyms, we'll just call him Q for the purpose of this column. Q is one of those boys who quotes emo songs to you in lieu of conversation. Q never is clean-shaven and by the same note never has a beard, goatee, or soul patch but somehow has a 24/7 five o'clock shadow. Q doesn't need glasses, but wears black frames with non-prescription lenses. Q chain-smokes, Q has made-up addictions, Q falls in and out of love with me every other week, and Q thinks that he is a tortured genius.

A few months ago after listening to him relate himself over and over to a character named Victor Mancini, I took

the bait and asked him to tell me who the hell Victor Mancini was. "You haven't read 'Choke' by Chuck Palahniuk?" he gasped over the phone, "No Q, I haven't read 'Choke.'" I received it in the mail a few weeks later as a belated birthday present. I've always thought myself to be the opposite of a nihilist (Q's favorite description of himself, next to masochist), and Q championed it as the ultimate nihilistic novel.

While not necessarily the most optimistic of novels throughout, this book is far from nihilistic. The main character, Victor Mancini, is a con-artist who support his mother's nursing home bills. Victor's con scheme is as follows: he goes to a restaurant, pretends to choke, and allows someone to save him. By his logic the false savior will then feel a responsibility to him. In such a

way he gets these unsuspecting restaurant goers to provide him with monetary gifts.

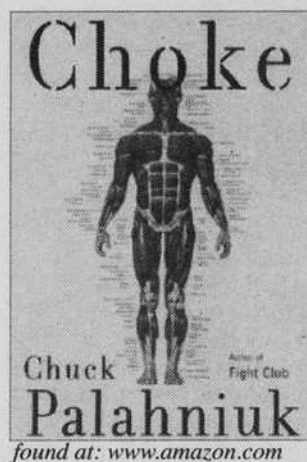
The story switches between both the present and the past and there are many unexpected plot

twists. I hesitate to say too much for fear of unintentionally giving something away. Occasionally I would find myself absolutely revolted by some of the passages (Victor is a med school drop-out and is absolutely obsessed with medical diagnoses), especially a few references to intestinal blockages (if you have fecal paranoia do not read this book!). I tend to find the measure of a good book in its quotability. My AIM profile and away messages were definitely pulled straight from various chapters for months. A few gems included: "It seemed that moment would last forever. That you had to risk your life to get love. You had to get right to the edge of death to ever be saved." (pg. 3)—Okay, admittedly emo, but good right?

Sometimes it amazes me what happens when you open yourself

up to other people's suggestions. Q and I disagree on everything - his taste in music, my taste in men, his taste in fake glasses, my taste in occasionally fake tanning; however, for the first time in the history of our friendship, we both agreed that we LOVED this book (though our reasons for loving it are incredibly different). A few of the final sentences in this book (don't worry, they aren't plot spoilers) seem an appropriate way to end this (oh so beautiful, and oh so emo...)

"It's creepy, but here we are, the Pilgrims, the crackpots of our time, trying to establish our own alternate reality. To build a world out of rocks and chaos. What it's going to be, I don't know. Even after all that rushing around, where we've ended up is the middle of nowhere in the middle of the night," (pg. 293).



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Dear editor: The ALBUM's staff responds to criticism

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the ALBUM, Cargoes eccentric spinster sister, we would like to take this opportunity to respond to the letter concerning our publication that was printed in the last issue of the Columns. We wholeheartedly agree with Anonymous: the ALBUM has gone too far and must be stopped. The following are the Three Es: a few simple suggestions on how one might halt the proliferation of our dishonorable reading materials before they do any more irreversible harm.

1. Encourage more honorable Hollins writing

Anonymous, most of your grievances with the ALBUM have to do with its content: a collection of poems, prose, puns, and photographs submitted to us by Hollins students and professors. The ALBUM's staff is not

responsible for generating either the written or visual artwork printed upon its glossy pages. Instead we request pieces from the Hollins community and receive an average of 200 submissions for each issue. If you wish to change the type of material published under the ALBUM's name, it is imperative that you appeal to the writers and artists of Hollins to cease producing offensive works.

An option at your disposal is to speak to the creative writing workshop classes to promote awareness of their vulgarity before they waste any more time, ink, or paper. Notify them that their hateful spewing depicts them as women devoid of honor and lacking self-respect. Such lectures will be instrumental in creating student work reflecting the open-mindedness you mentioned in your letter.

2. Establish concrete definition of art.

Of course obscenities aren't art. Any single word is unlikely to qualify as a work of art to most people (pickle and zebra are some examples). Regardless, the ALBUM editors would like to congratulate Anonymous on their ability to determine exactly what art is and is not: a question that thousands of years of philosophical debate have failed to resolve.

In the same vein: we are also impressed by Anonymous's revelation that vulgarities are NOT empowerment. The definition of empowerment has also been quite tricky for women and it is comforting to know that no matter how lost we might become, someone else will always be aware of what is and is not capable of empowering us. The editors shudder collectively to think that we once considered language a vehicle for

positive social change.

3. Enforce integrity.

This is another tricky one. It is apparent that Anonymous has a different opinion of what comprises personal integrity than we do. For example: as the editors of a campus publication we consider ourselves morally obligated to tender an apology in response to your accusation that the ALBUM contains venomous stereotypes against persons of faith. But due to the fact that we have not printed any such stereotypes, we have none to give you. All that goes into the ALBUM is everything from traditional prose poems to surrealist fits of experimental cross-genre glory. We are proud to give this sort of work an audience. We put our name on what we publish because that's our definition of integrity. If you feel that integrity is best defined as the omission of naughty words

or political opinion, we regretfully announce that the ALBUM has absolutely no integrity to offer.

So, to recap:

- 1) Single words are unlikely to be considered art (pickle, zebra).
- 2) Every woman is fully capable of deciding independently what empowers her.
- 3) People open literary magazines for a variety of reasons, but mostly to read them.
- 4) Submit your open-mindedness to the ALBUM by March 13th at midnight.

Lovingly,

The ALBUM Editors

Leslie Jarzabski
Kathleen Shaw
Emily Clark

Dear editor: Censorship oppresses women

Dear Editor,

I was distressed to read the anonymous letter in Columns concerning the "obscurities" found in the latest issue of "The Album." To be quite honest, it read like a manual of FCC regulations.

I truly resent anyone trying to impose a standard of morals on art. Yes, art often shows us at our most dignified and "honorable" but it also shows us at our nittiest and grittiest—our most real, in other words. If our art turns into a political rant, perhaps it's

because our country is indeed entrenched in a very real political divide — no polite poem in iambic pentameter is going to change that. If our art embraces words that start with "B," "C," or "F" (or "X," "Y," or "Z," for that matter), which have degraded women, perhaps it is trying to reclaim these words instead of using them to continually hurt women. These words don't damage women nearly as much as censorship does, however. The censoring of our thoughts and desires, our anger and bitterness, oppresses us all and does nothing

to make us "women of honor."

May "The Album" be always a forum where Hollins women can publish their art and expose their hairy vaginas.

Sincerely,

Rachel Fletcher

Dear Editor: a fencing clarification

Dear Columns,

While I trust Jen and believe that I must have said at some point the quotes in the newspaper, I would like to clarify a few things in order that fencing and I not be misinterpreted.

Mainly, I got the idea that fencing might not have a coach next year from the fact that a job opening for a fencing coach was not in the Grapevine, and to my knowledge, the fencing club had not been approached by the Athletic Department to start a search for a new coach. I appreciate the

opportunity to clarify this, as I wouldn't want to misrepresent the Athletic Department, who has done a wonderful job with the state tournament, or fencing's situation. The quote about full fencing classes was true my sophomore year and I think also this year.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Meghan Morse

Got something to say? To contribute a letter to the editor e-mail us at hollinscolumns@hotmail.com

The "letters to the editor" do not necessarily represent the beliefs of the Hollins Columns staff.

Spring Break: you can't please everyone

BY LAURA SMITH

If "March comes in like a lion," it roars with random snow flurries, rainy/windy days, St. Patrick Day hangovers, academic withdrawal due to a sudden onrush of papers and projects, midterm denial, and oh yeah -- the supposed glory of Spring Break.

For some college students, Spring Break ignites in them a week-long state of euphoria where the sleep-late-party-until-the-early-morning motto is made complete with best friends, a Polaroid camera, swimsuits, and large quantities of alcohol. But for many this bliss is ill-attained.

According to urbandictionary.com, spring break is "a week long recess from the confines of rigid college life. Many students participate in such acts as: heavy drinking, pot smoking, sex, tanning on various beaches, and generally passing out. [This] is often done with a large group of friends who all want to party hard and have a good time,

while simultaneously erasing all memories of academia (and all-night study attempts) from their lives. Many blackmail pictures ensue from this week-long trip, relationships dissolve, and grades slip another notch."

While spring break should be a time for general relaxation with close friends and family, the pressure from piled-up coursework and parental demands causes a gray atmosphere to loom over what should be a stress-free week.

And just as that promised break comes into sight, teachers (abruptly!) begin to stress about all the academic works/practices/theories they still need to teach to their pupils. To them, the spring semester is rapidly "slip-sliding, away." In a moment of desperation -- "it really was that one snow day that set us five days behind on the syllabus," they'll say -- they give their students at least two of the following for homework over spring break: a book to read, a paper to write (which compares that book to a previous-

ly read book), an oral project, an analysis of three twenty-five page articles -- posted on blackboard -- and three chapters from a thick textbook.

Their reasoning? Of course, we as students have plenty of



Laura Smith

extra time to devote to our studies. Multiple this course-load indecency by twenty credits, along with extra-curricular work for clubs, and your break is looking like a week of pure academic hell.

Now along comes that much needed break. You are super busy with homework. Times that

work by your parents' insistence on your obtaining a decent summer job -- preferably finding a name-dropping corporation that hands-out high-paying summer internships like Halloween candy -- and the ever-present need to file your taxes before the April deadline. So, when you're not spending your break doing homework, you're calling various high-tech companies whose internet profile sounds as exciting as eating cardboard, but whose pay is better than the job you had last summer -- a hostess at a restaurant. Suddenly spring break is looking like a bigger headache than the ones you get by just participating in a week of normal college-life.

And just as you are about to congratulate yourself for juggling it all -- including those two days you managed to find time to visit your best friends from high school (the ones you still talk to) -- your parents complain "you aren't spending enough family time at home." As Charlie Brown would say -- "good grief." Your last two days of academic free-

dom are spent in a guilty state of grocery shopping, playing games with the younger siblings, going to movies, and shopping for a spring wardrobe (a nice plus).

Before you know it you're driving back into the gates of said "University" with half of your homework left to complete, a frantic break behind you, and unreturned phone-calls from friends "who [had] to see you over break" catalogued in your voice mailbox.

At the moment before you begrudgingly accept another Sunday all-nighter, you let yourself dream of impending summer laziness and pool-side paradise. Then you remember the 60-hour weeks you pulled last summer working in some secretarial position in which you were bored out of your mind, and the terrible pet-sitting experience you did for a little "cash on the side." As you get out of the car and walk towards your dormitory you begin to endorse the motto: "work hard, party harder." If only you'd let yourself follow it for once.

New MTV shows: bad habit or guilty pleasure?

By Julia Knox

I am a self-described pop culture junkie. PageSixSixSix.com is basically my crack, I nearly cried when my "Us Weekly" subscription ended this week, and I admittedly spent over an hour reading Paris Hilton's e-mails from her hacked Sidekick. Therefore, it should come to no surprise that I constantly find myself watching MTV and VH1.

It's understandable that I'm addicted to VH1. After all, who can resist "Best Week Ever" and constant repeats of "I Love the 90s?" But I'm starting to wonder why I even bother turning the dial to MTV.

Let's start with their new show, "PoweR Girls." The network has inexplicably decided that entertainment publicist Lizzie Grubman, a woman most famous for being overly tanorexic and drunkenly backing her SUV into a crowd of Hamptons party-go-

ers, deserves her own show.

"PoweR Girls" (complete with clever capitalization to assure you know it's about someone in PR) is supposed to give a behind-the-scenes look at Lizzie and the lackeys she employs at her firm.

Now, granted, as I write this the first episode hasn't premiered, so maybe I'm not giving it a 100 percent fair chance. But with previews that give us deep insight into the PR world by Lizzie telling us, "All we do is kiss ass. We're professional asskissers," how could I not think the show will be the best new show of the spring? And by "best," I mean "completely horrible."

People like Lizzie and her partner-in-crime Jonathan Cheban (note to self: you're spending too much time on Gawker.com if you actually know who Jonathan Cheban is) are the type of people who give publicists and public relations professionals a bad name. By considering themselves

celebrities and worthy of TV shows, they make it seem like all publicists do is hang out at Marquee doing coke with Mary-Kate at night, keeping their days free



Julia Knox

to convince Richard Johnson and Ben Widdicombe they're worth of being mentioned in "Page Six" and "Gatecrasher."

(Another note to self: you actually know who writes "Page Six" and "Gatecrasher?" Seriously, stop reading New York gossip columns.)

It's people like dear Lizzie and Jonathan who make it so that when I tell someone I want to be a publicist, they roll their eyes and respond, "...oh. That could be fun."

Moving on to my other new favorite (read: "makes me want to kill myself") show: "My Super Sweet 16."

This fine cinematic work follows a different girl each week as she prepares for her massive 16th birthday party. Viewers watch in rapture as our heroine faces challenges like: will Daddy really not buy her the brand new Range Rover? Will she ever manage to kick out all the "stupid freshmen" crashers? Mom wouldn't really cancel her party just because of a few Ds on a report card, would she?

I can just imagine the casting call for this show. I'm guessing it read a little something like this:

"Are you rich, impossibly bratty and annoying, and think you're better than everybody

else? Do you idolize Kristin from "Laguna Beach?" Do you think anyone who shops at Target or Sears could be identified as 'poor white trash?' If you answered yes to all these questions, you would be PERFECT for our new show!!!!"

Seriously, these shows are the worst thing since "North Shore." But I still tune in like clockwork, thinking to myself the entire time "why am I subjecting myself to this crap?" And really, why do I watch? Don't I get enough guilty pleasure from my twice-daily viewings of "Family Feud?"

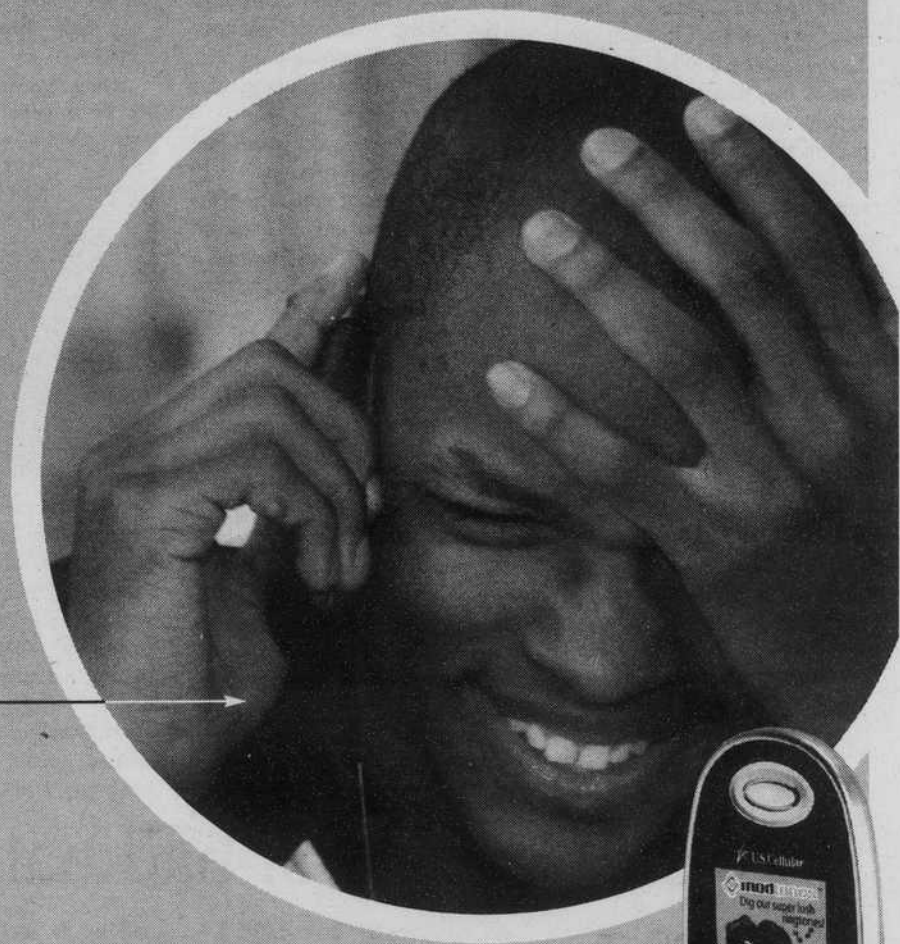
Maybe subconsciously I want to be Lizzie Grubman in 20 years. Maybe I wish I had as much money as the brats on "My Super Sweet Sixteen." Maybe I...

Sorry, I have to stop writing. A marathon of "Battle of the Sexes" is about to start.



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Basketball season ends without ODAC championship

By JESSICA DIFFER

Downtown Roanoke is hosting the Annual ODAC Conference at the Jefferson Center, but sadly Hollins University's basketball team won't be playing under the bright lights.

Despite a fighting effort this season, the Hollins University basketball team finished eleventh in the conference, three short of being eligible for the Old Dominion Athletic Conference Tourna-

a career record of 1357 points. She also holds the records for the most steals and assists.

Coach Harvey is no stranger to tournaments either. She was a Kodak All-American Athlete during her days at Roanoke College. Her team was eighth in the nation in the year that she graduated. With so much talent on hand why isn't the team having more success?

The season began well with Hollins winning the Tip-off Tournament, but according to team

uted to the fact that many students feel that, due to the Clean Slate review, the Hollins administration puts little emphasis on the importance of athletics. Not only are there few sports getting the required funding, but also those with low participation numbers are annually in danger of being demoted from varsity status to clubs. Fencing, golf and field hockey have all faced this problem in past seasons.

Basketball has the advantage of being a widely played sport

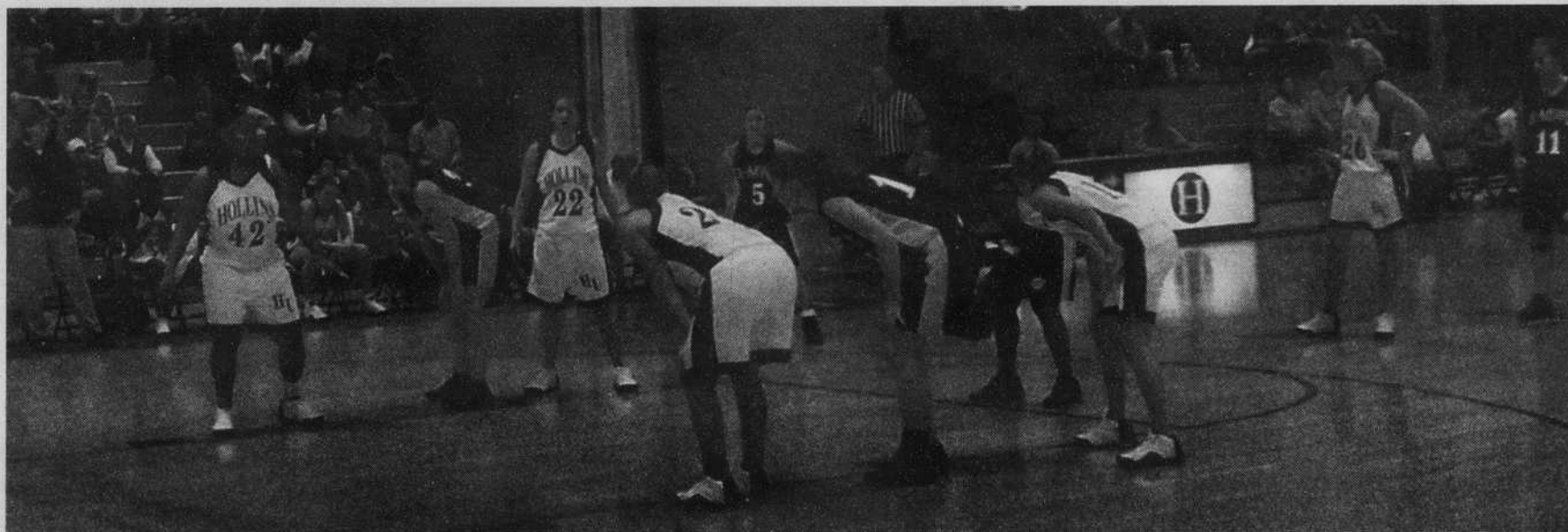
its funding. However, the Hollins team still faces challenges.

"Unusual class times make it hard to schedule a practice when all the players can be present to work as a team," said Coach Karen Harvey. "We end up having to hold practice very early in the morning or late at night."

Training and practices can range from one-and-a-half to two-and-a-half hours, and after a full day of classes and work study, it's not unusual that some players might not be up to running drills

have to welcome and train three new members in the fall season. Harvey has already been devoting her spare nights to the recruitment process. So far she has been able to get definite commitments from two students, but she's hoping to have six to eight potential team members by the end of the spring term.

Friendship helps, but the team members still face the responsibilities of balancing an academic course load with the rigors of training and practice, as well as



Last year's basketball team plays a home-game.

Photo taken by Brittany Addison-Preseott

ment, which only features the top eight teams.

The team finished the season with a record of seven wins and sixteen losses. Four of those victories were in non-conference games. Fifteen of the losses were within the conference. This is an improvement from last season when the team finished with a record of six wins and 19 losses.

"I feel like we had a lot of talent and could have went far, but for some reason we never got it together," says Coby Wilmer, a third-year member of the team.

That talent included star player senior Brandi Cochran who has played for Hollins for four years. She has played on two all-conference teams and has

member Kahla Garris '05, it was difficult to maintain the momentum.

"We started out really well," she said. "Going into Christmas break we all thought that we were going to have an awesome year. We had the potential to have the best record Hollins basketball has ever had. Our record ended up being disappointing, but overall we had a really good time this year."

Part of the problem might be attrib-

with the ability to attract a crowd, and so far the sport has retained

at full speed. Without effective practice a team can suffer.

The team is accustomed to playing together. Most of them have been playing together for years and the camaraderie is strong.

"We spend a lot of time together during the season and even in the off season," said Brandi Cochran '05. "We train together and lift weights. Usually we get together when there are recruits on campus."

The team is also going to face another challenge when three team members graduate in May, and they

time spent off campus playing away games.

"At times having to balance between a sport and academics, things can get tough," said Wilmer. "You just have to stay focused and know that you are here to get an education. Basketball is just an added bonus."



Brandi Cochran plays against opposing team.

Staff Photo

Swim team wraps up its season

BY URSULA JONSSON

The Hollins University swim team had eighteen swimmers for the 2004-2005 season, eight of whom are freshmen. The Hollins swimmers won four of the nine regular season NCAA swim meets—beating Emory & Henry College and Greensboro College.

"This was a really exciting group; very dynamic," said athletic director and swim coach Linda Calkins. "The energy, drive, dedication was really pretty exciting. Every student athlete stepped up to the plate and overcame [hurdles]. I was very fortunate to have that experience."

One of the closest meets was against Randolph-Macon Women's College on February 11 where Hollins lost by ten points (Hollins 56, RMWC 66).

"I think people need to understand that [winning or losing

by] thirty points in swimming is a close, close meet," said Calkins.

Calkins has been coaching Hollins swim for seventeen non-consecutive years and plans to coach again in the fall.

"There is a good pool of prospective athletes who've been accepted to Hollins," said Calkins.

When asked what goals she has for next season, she said she hopes that "everybody will be back in the fall." There is only one senior, Alyssa Galinaitis who will be leaving the team when she graduates in December.

The team size gave the swimmers many opportunities to grow close especially since almost half of the team was freshman.

For some swimmers, the tight-knit team has allowed them opportunities they would not find at other colleges.

"I was able to go from being an exclusively distance freestyle

swimmer to swimming sprints and backstroke within months, an opportunity that no division one freshman would ever have," said freshman, Megan Hennessey.

Hollins placed fifth out of ten teams in the Atlantic State Championships and fifth of six in the ODAC Championship at the end of the season in February. Thirty five points separated Hollins from third place in the ODAC Championship, which according to Calkins equals about a tenth of a second.

The Collegiate Swimming Coaches Association of America has recognized the Hollins University swimmers for their superior standards in academic performance.

"They did a fabulous job. I'm very proud," said Calkins of the swimmers.

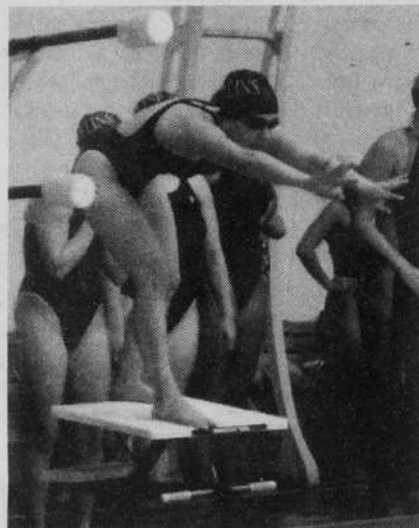
Swim Team Scoreboard

Oct 23: Hollins (121) - Sweet Briar (136)
 Oct 30: Hollins (63) - Notre Dame (59)
 Nov 6: Hollins (92) - Emory & Henry (65)
 Nov 13: Hollins (58) - W&L (174)
 Nov 13: Hollins (131) - Guilford (97)
 Nov 17: Hollins (95) - RMWC (110)
 Dec 3&4: Hollins places 5th in the Yellow Jacket Invit'l
 Jan 15: Hollins (108) - Greensboro (69)
 Jan 22: Hollins (92) - Randolph Macon (130)
 Feb 11: Hollins (56) - RMWC (66)
 Atlantic States Championships 5th out of ten teams
 ODAC Championships - fifth out of six



Swim team poses for camera.

Staff Photo



A member of the swim team prepares for dive.

Photo taken by Megan Hennessey



A member of the swim team swims during practice.

Photo taken by Megan Hennessey