

Hollins University

Hollins Digital Commons

Hollins Student Newspapers

Hollins Student Newspapers

3-13-2006

Hollins Columns (2006 Mar 13)

Hollins College

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

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

Hollins Columns

March 13, 2006

Hollins University

Volume 78, Issue 7

RENT STAR ANTHONY RAPP VISITS HOLLINS

BY EMILEIGH CLARE

"Rent" star Anthony Rapp learned he had not arrived in time for Tinker Day when he met with students in the Janey lounge for a luncheon on March 9.

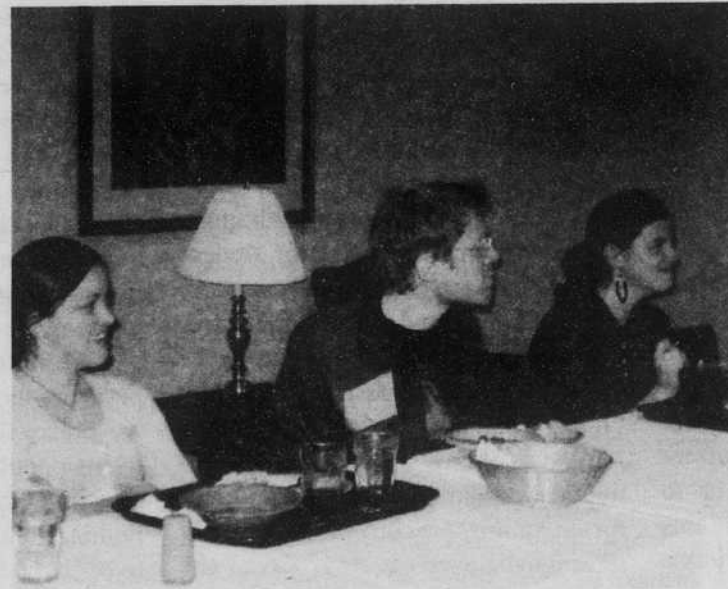
"Dammit!" Rapp yelled after he had been filled in on the tradition, and the subsequent loss of it. But he visibly brightened when one student offered him a tutu to wear if he came to next year for the "holiday."

The General Speaker's Bureau Series and the Hollins Activity Board arranged for Rapp to appear on campus, first at a luncheon for theater and other interested students, then in several classes, and finally to his lecture at the Richard Wetherill Visual Arts Center.

There is a specific process that is followed in the booking of a speaker event. Various public relations companies whose aim is to promote well-known and unknown speakers to universities, cultural and social venues, and other organizations. The bureau contacts these places and waits to hear a response.

In regards to Anthony Rapp, his agent contacted Joe Rosenberg, director of student activities, who then contacted the General Speakers Bureau chairwoman, Laura Smith '08' then responded with a price inquiry, negotiated a deal, and brought Rapp to campus.

Rapp originated, and is best known for, the role of Mark Cohen in the original Broadway cast of "Rent," and also for the same part in the recent film version.



Anthony Rapp addresses a question at a luncheon in the Janey Lounge. Photo by Emileigh Clare

"Rent" focuses on a year in the life of a group of friends in New York's East Village, bohemian who live carefree lives of art, music, sex, and drugs until real life shows up, a year's amount of rent is due and several friends face the hardships of AIDS.

"Over the past decade this is something I have done," Rapp said. "I've always enjoyed engaging with the fans of "Rent," and now that the film has come out, there's a lot more of them to reach out too."

Rapp has also appeared on Broadway in "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," "Six Degrees of Separation" and "Precious Sons" (for which he received a Drama Desk Award nomination).

"I found out about Anthony through seeing Rent in theaters," Carmen Sambuco '09 said. "Then I learned that he was in the original Broadway cast too and thought that it was amazing that he was ac-

tually coming to Hollins."

His film credits include "A Beautiful Mind," "Twister," "Dazed and Confused," "Six Degrees of Separation" and "Adventures in Babysitting." But his most recent addition to his achievements in music and acting is a foray into writing.

"Without You: A Memoir of Love, Loss, and the Musical Rent" is the title of Rapp's autobiographical tome, which hit book stores around the country last month.

"After I heard him speak, I'm totally interested in reading his book now," Sambuco said. "The excerpts he read were really moving I thought, and sounded very well written. His memories were really vivid."

The 309-page book, published by Simon & Schuster, begins with Rapp's audition for the original workshop of the late Jonathan Larson's "Rent" and continues through the show's chaotic journey to

Broadway and the phenomenal success the musical had. It also deals greatly with how Rapp comes to terms with the magnificent success of the show and the overwhelming loss of his mother at the same time.

"The publisher of the book "Rent" approached me about writing a book," Rapp said. "I considered different ideas like writing about gay and lesbian youth, but then we talked about how little there was out there about young people and loss. And we had both lost someone."

Rapp candidly and honestly discusses his life at the time, his work in Rent, his relationships with various family members and a few boyfriends, as well as his mother's battle with cancer.

"It was one of the hardest things I have ever done," Rapp said. "Writing it meant reliving my past, and a lot of my past was hard enough to go thorough the first time."

Fans and reviewers describe it as a less than celebrity tell-all than a plainspoken and honest dissection of the emotional upheaval Rapp went through as his mother was dying.

"As personal as it has been to do, it's now an object," Rapp said. "It's now separate from me. I feel free of it. I read a quote once, 'There's only you for all time, be yourself.'"

"I think we need more people being authentically themselves."

Voices speaks
Pro-choice



Page 5

Multicultural Festival



Page 6

Movie Review



Page 7

"QUADRANGLE" RE-APPEARS WITH A COLLAGE OF VOICES

BY RACHAEL MCGUIRE

In the 1970s, the Hollins Student Government Association funded an alternative publication to the campus newspaper. The Quadrangle was established as a vehicle for student concerns, allowing students to make their opinions about campus issues known through personal editorials. Now, after a long hiatus, The Quadrangle has returned to Hollins.

As the publication's "Manifesta" states: "[In the 1970s] The Quadrangle was their [students'] solution to address real campus issues, though short-lived, not widely distributed, nor consistent in its publication. Its intent and existence, along with the current tensions on campus, motivate us to carry forward this tradition during this crucial time in Hollins University's development."

Miranda Dennis '10, a writer for the publication, stated in an email interview that "we are not connected to the Columns, and we shouldn't be, either. Although the Columns can not claim that it is one hundred percent unbiased, it still seeks to be objective; the Quadrangle does not, as all of the articles are opinion-based."

On Friday, March 11, Hollins

hosted the Women's Leadership and Social Change conference. The conference consisted of two panels. The first consisted of Hollins alumni, and the second of prominent leaders in the current student body. Speaking on the second panel was Dennis, a Quadrangle representative. Along with talking about this on the panel, Dennis further discussed the importance of speaking one's mind in an email:

"I feel as though the Quadrangle, or any 'alternative' outlet for student voices, serves to raise awareness about either serious, and often undetected, issues on campus, or how students view these specific issues," she said. "If anything, the Quadrangle serves to remind us of how we may lack in communication, how we may miscommunicate, or how we can communicate in new, maybe even exciting, ways," she said.

The Quadrangle staff makes no apologies for the publication's content. Their Manifesta states, "The Quadrangle won't shoot blanks, doesn't hold its tongue, and says what it feels. Submit anything you dare. We print opinion-based articles meant to be taken as such. We do not speak for Hollins University, but we do speak for a community we love enough to criticize; maybe you do too. Criticism does not equate with personal attack. Though we may criticize various groups, people, ideas, organizations, administrators, we do not think they are bad people."

This criticism is something that Dennis touched upon.

"The bad part is when people do not respond positively, either by ignoring or trying to stifle the speaker's voice; however, I feel that doesn't take away from the good that comes out of speaking one's mind. I can't say that I've been negatively affected by the process.

"Then again, I'm in a position of privilege as a white woman at an institution for women, and it's easy for me to wax poetic about speaking up. Still, I'm an advocate."

The Quadrangle encourages stu-

dents to submit their own articles, either anonymously or with their name attached to their writing.

The publication's 'Manifesta' declares: "On a campus as small as Hollins, people have as much to lose as to gain from speaking up. Many students are thought to be apathetic (i.e. disempowered), though sitting at any table in Moody refutes this.

"We all have opinions and ideas about this campus, and it is our belief that partial anonymity offers a solution by encouraging lesser-known 'names' to speak up.

"We find that too often, the usual suspects are those who speak up. Though we praise these beautiful women/activists/people/leaders, we also know how often the personal moves into the political realms of activism and wish to open the floor. The Quadrangle values and needs your voice, but not necessarily your name."

The Quadrangle stresses a love for Hollins: "We staff people of The Quadrangle want each and every one of you to take ownership of this publication. If you are asked if you are a member, please reply with the statement 'Of course, everyone at Hollins is a member.' Let's protect one another; let's protect our right to speak, even if it's something you disagree with . . . assume away and question those assumptions, as well as the emotions you have while reading. We love you. We love Hollins. Carpe Diem."

Dennis seems to echo this claim. "But then, this is just my opinion," she said. "I'm no more the voice or mascot for the Quadrangle than anyone else."

For more information on The Quadrangle, visit <http://hollinsquadrangle.tripod.com>.

Any article submissions can be sent to thehollinsquadrangle@gmail.com.

Hollins Columns 2005 - 2006

Editor-in-Chief - *Laura Smith*

News Editor - *Rachael McGuire*

Features Editor - *Heather St. Clair*

Photo Editor - *Sarah Whitney*

Layout Editor - *Emileigh Clare*

Business Manager - *Ashley Grizzard*

Staff Reporters:

Emileigh Clare

Stephanie Prosack

Sarah Whitney

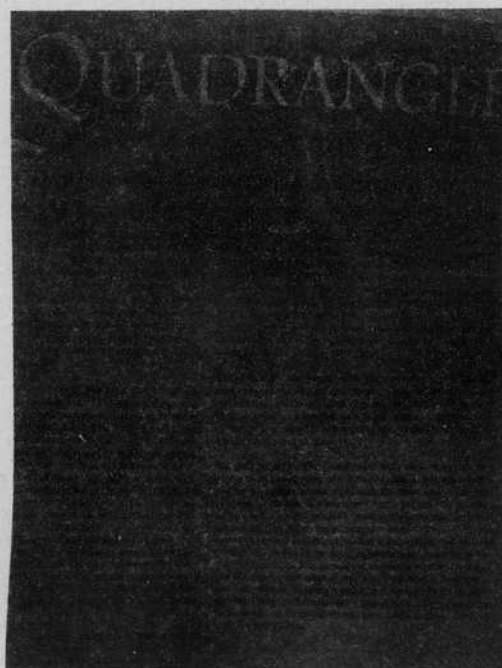
Mari Montes

Julia Knox

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

The Columns is still in need of staff members. We have the following positions available: copy editor, ads manager, layout and staff reporters. If you are interested please email: hollinscolumns@hollins.edu

All uncredited photos are taken from the www.hollins.edu



Front page of the Quadrangle.

Photo by Laura Smith

ADA REMAINS A PROMINANT PART OF CAMPUS LIFE

BY MARI MONTES

The secret society ADA has been a tradition at Hollins since 1907.

They have several reasons for their presence on campus: promoting school spirit, and informing the student body about community events.

Every Tuesday, ADA members wear purple shirts and make announcements during lunch. Since ADA has been around for so long, there have been changes to the organization. Last year's graduating seniors - Emily Fielder, Liz Sackett, Brooke Beard, and Nadia Hartman - took on the task of changing the organization.

Elizabeth Moncure, '07 said, "This

year the organization has made a conscious effort to become more involved in campus activities."

She said that ADA promotes involvement in events such as Tinker Day.

For this semester, the new spuds have already been chosen and are recognizable by their "spud wear" - a purple necklace that dangles around their necks.

Kristina Mascelli '07 said, "I love the new spuds."

Jessika Barnes '06 said, "I think they are a very promising group."

When Eva Watkins, '08 a new spud, was asked how she felt being a spud, she said, "It feels like an honor to be a part of such a long-standing tradition."

In terms of ADA's future, Christine Jehu '06 said, "As long as the spirit of Hollins is around, ADA will be around."

Jessika Barnes '06 said, "I think that ADA will continue to grow and change over the next few years. 2007 will be ADA's 100th year on Hollins' campus and both current ADA members and the hundreds of ADA alum hope it will continue for many years to come."

When these current ADA members were asked how ADA has affected their lives, they responded in positive ways.

Christine Jehu '06 said, "ADA has given me such a strong bond to this campus that is unexplainable. I've made some of my best friends while

being in ADA and have had the chance to get to know some amazing people who I never would have met had it not been for ADA."

Kristina Mascelli '07 said, "ADA has helped me develop love for our school. It made me want to be more of a part of Hollins history and has also introduced me to some of my best friends.

"ADA has been one of the most positive things I have ever been a part of and I am proud to wear purple every Tuesday."

Since ADA is about informing everyone about community events, they are hosting the blood drive held March 30th in the Tayloe Gymnasium. Sign-up to donate at lunch or dinner in Moody starting March 27.

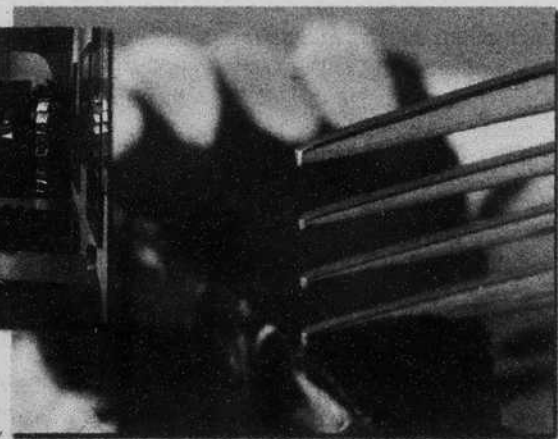
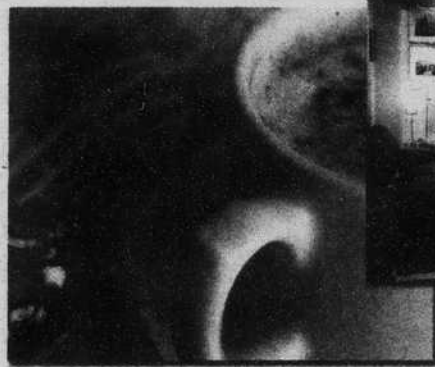
Café Soleil

Fresh Baked. Fresh Brewed.

Market Square North Shopping Center
Corner of Peters Creek and Williamson Roads
540.777.4563

Open

Monday & Tuesday 6:30am - 6pm
Wednesday & Thursday 6:30am - 9pm
Friday - 6:30am - 10pm
Saturday 7:30am - 10pm



organic coffee & tea

pizza
soup
desserts
salads
espresso
panini

Food to live for...

wireless internet

Coffee to die for.

bakery

Monday & Tuesday - \$1 off sandwich specials & free ice tea with your entree

Wednesdays - 10% off if you wear a hat

STUDENTS START WORKING ON COMMUNITY GARDEN

BY SARAH WHINEY

Ever wondered what all that land is doing sitting behind the Parsonage?

That's what Angie Smith '07 wants the campus community to be asking. As her independent study for the spring semester, Smith, along with her advisor Renee Godard, professor of biology and environmental studies, is developing a plan for a community garden on the acre and a half of land located behind the Parsonage.

With the help of local correspondences and students, the community garden is beginning this spring.

Community gardens are meant to demonstrate sustainability, provide produce, promote community development, and create opportunities for recreation, exercise, and therapy. They integrate students, educators, researchers together to cultivate food, science, marketing, and economics together.

Smith has many plans for the garden. The first step is to get people involved. Every first and third Wednesday of the month, there are meetings in the intercultural center for those who are interested in getting involved.

With plans of a smaller, more intricate garden to begin the project, there will be a fenced in area that will serve as the gateway to the future for gardening here at Hollins.

So far, a compost has begun. The dining hall is involved with saving waste to be carried away in blue gallon buckets to a dumping area near the garden. This is one of the steps necessary for a long term sustainable development program.

So, what are the long term projects that the community garden will encompass?

Beginning with community, there are plans for the Friendship Manor and the Community School's elementary and middle school to use the garden for education taught by Hollins students.

Secondly, the marketing and economics programs are urged to become involved with the community garden.

One plan is to grow enough flowers, by mass planting, so the campus can then purchase from their own garden to save money.

Next, the community garden is

planning on providing something to the cafeteria at least once a week, beginning with leafy greens, pumpkins, and squash, beginning next fall.

With the building of a shed in the future, there are plans for a place for lectures and learning to occur, and for seed and supplies to be kept. This will incorporate many different aspects of the garden.

Finally, with the production of a community garden, there is hope for either an eco-apartment or eco-dorm that would be use all natural cleaning products, eat a meal at least once a week together, and be environmentally aware as they are living in a community together.

With the help of the support from the university's students, faculty, staff, and alumni and the community of Ro-

anoke, the community garden is just a stepping stone towards a more sustainable campus. Look forward to eating a fresh salad or some nice veggies provided by the very own campus garden, and your fellow students.



Angie Smith '07 works on the Community Garden. Photo By: Sarah Whitney

VISUAL ARTS CENTER WELCOMES NEW SALLY MANN EXHIBIT

BY HEATHER ST. CLAIR

Photographer Sally Mann gained notoriety for her photographs of such controversial topics as the developing sexuality of pre-pubescent girls. She took nude photographs of her children in personal

settings. Her work has often been described as haunting, intimate and disturbing.

Arguably one of the most renowned alumnae to graduate from Hollins (1974), Mann's work is in the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art,

and the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

One of her early photographs, a self-portrait, will be on display at the Eleanor D. Wilson Museum in its upcoming exhibition, Selections from the Ralph Grant Collection. The photograph was part of a generous gift by Virginia

art collector Ralph Grant, and is currently the only Mann photograph in the museum's permanent collection.

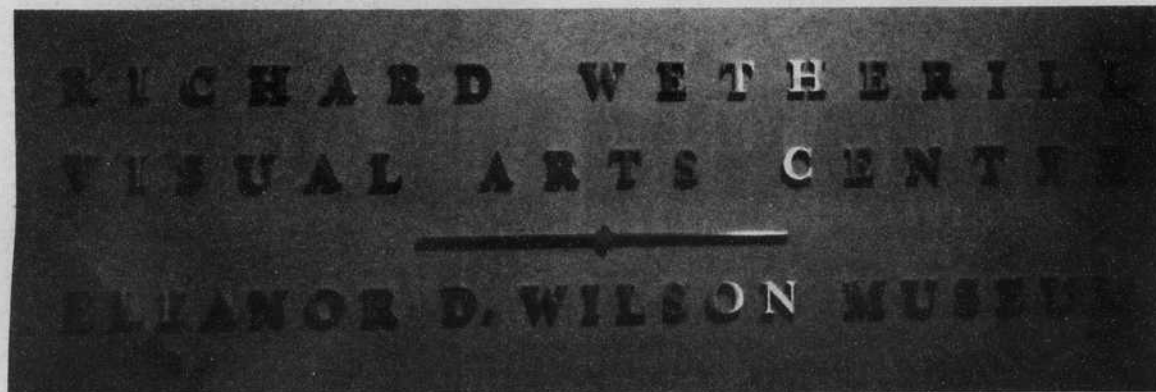
In fall 2004, Grant donated to the museum more than 150 works from his personal collection, including paintings, photographs, drawings and sculptures. This exhibition will showcase some of those pieces, including work from regional artists in Virginia and Pennsylvania such as Frank Hobbs and Edna Andrade. Interestingly, artist Jane Piper, whose work will also be in the show, is the mother of current Hollins artist-in-residence Jan Baltzell.

Located on the first floor on the Wetherill Visual Arts

Center, the exhibition will be in the Main Gallery from April 18 through August 26. In addition, there will be a gallery talk with the collector, Ralph Grant, and art professor Bill White in the Main Gallery on Wednesday, April 19 at 6 p.m., followed by a reception.

Janet Carty, assistant director of the museum, urges the Hollins community to come view the upcoming exhibition.

"The permanent collection of the museum exists as a resource for the entire Hollins community," Carty said. "This is an opportunity to explore some of the diverse range and depth of the collection. The Wilson Museum is your museum."



VAC Museum Opening Sign. Photo By Sarah Whitney

VOICE REACTS TO SOUTH DAKOTA ABORTION LEGISLATION

to our bodies is the most basic



The Cocks building features a sign made by Voice in protest of South Dakota's anti choice legislation.

Photo by Sonya Coleman

BY EMILEIGH CLARE

Pro-choice advocates marked International Women's Day on March 8 with protests across the world. Here on campus, 20 Voice members were involved in their own demonstration.

Voice is a student organization that is interested in promoting awareness, encouraging activism, and cultivating responsibility for issues concerning consumerism, feminism, social justice, and the environment.

"Everyone has different opinions, but our aim was to bring the current and important issue of reproductive freedom into our community and start conversations," said Sonya Coleman '06. "The right

of human rights. Restrictions of reproductive choice are restrictions of our most fundamental right to our bodies.

Safe health care was the underlying message behind the symbols we used.

Crude instruments and unsanitary conditions were the norm prior to the legalization of abortion and unsafe conditions will rise again if the procedure is outlawed. In a society such as ours, abortions will occur. They can be either safe or unsafe."

Throughout the day, many students were surprised to see bright red wire hangers suspended from trees and bushes, as well as signs depicting the same bold image, only this time crossed out all over campus.

"My first reaction was that I thought it was a very good thing," Sarah Triplett '08 said. "I am proud to be part of a community that is so involved and shows so much care."

This protest came in the wake of South Dakota's Governor Mike Rounds signing legislation that would ban most abortions in South Dakota, a law he acknowledged he was "inclined" to sign because he believed it would save lives.

It was signed two days before International Women's Day.

The bill would make it a crime for doctors to perform an abortion unless the procedure was necessary to save the woman's life. It would make

no exception for cases of rape, health, or incest.

"The legislation in South Dakota and the introduction of similar bills in other states make pro-choice a pressing issue at this time," Coleman said. "International Women's Day, March 8th, seemed an ideal time to organize for reproductive freedom, safe health care, and bodily self determination because these issues effect all women in all societies but can be seen in our own lives."

The specifics for what Voice decided to do was collectively brainstormed at a weekly meeting. Voice Administration of our plans for the poetry reading on Wednesday afternoon, and received permission for our signs from Publicity and Promotions.

The event included the large signs on campus with the coat hanger and slash or pro-choice phrases, and red-painted hangers put in the trees and bushes and even classrooms.

And there was also a Moody table where information was available and people could write the South Dakota governor and their own representatives through the Planned Parenthood website.

The event also included an international poetry reading at dinner about women's rights, especially to her body.

Student reactions ranged from enthusiastic to offended.

"One woman thanked me for making her think that morning," Coleman said. "The best response we could have hoped for."



Amy Dixon '09 spray paints wire hangers red to prepare for International Women's Day.

Photo by Sonya Coleman

What do you think?



"It's an atrocity. It's a danger to the lives of women everywhere. I can't believe that it's been passed."

-Mary Townsend '08



"I am generally pro-life, but I don't agree with the legislation that would not allow a woman to terminate a pregnancy in the case of incest or rape."

-Alicia Crosby '08



"I disagree with the law passed in South Dakota because they are not responsible for our moral well-being. A woman should be able to seek a legitimate procedure."

-Ashley Wilson '06

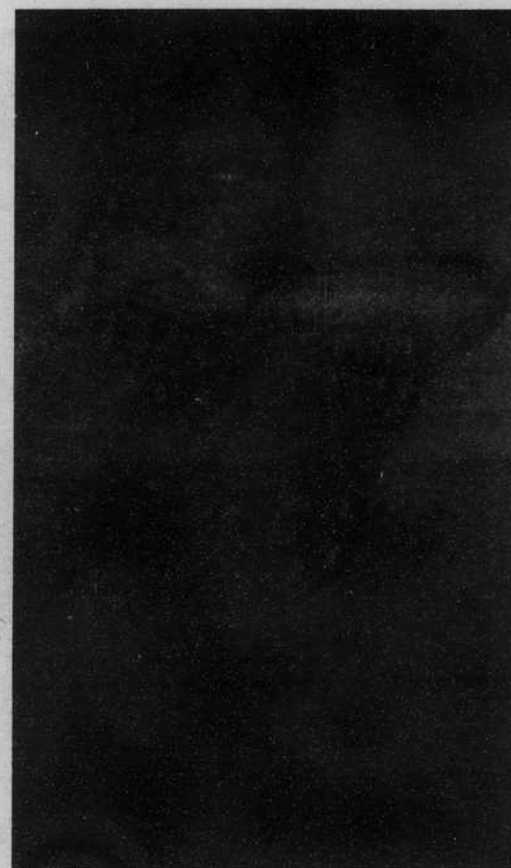
GLOBAL INTEREST ASSOCIATION'S MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL



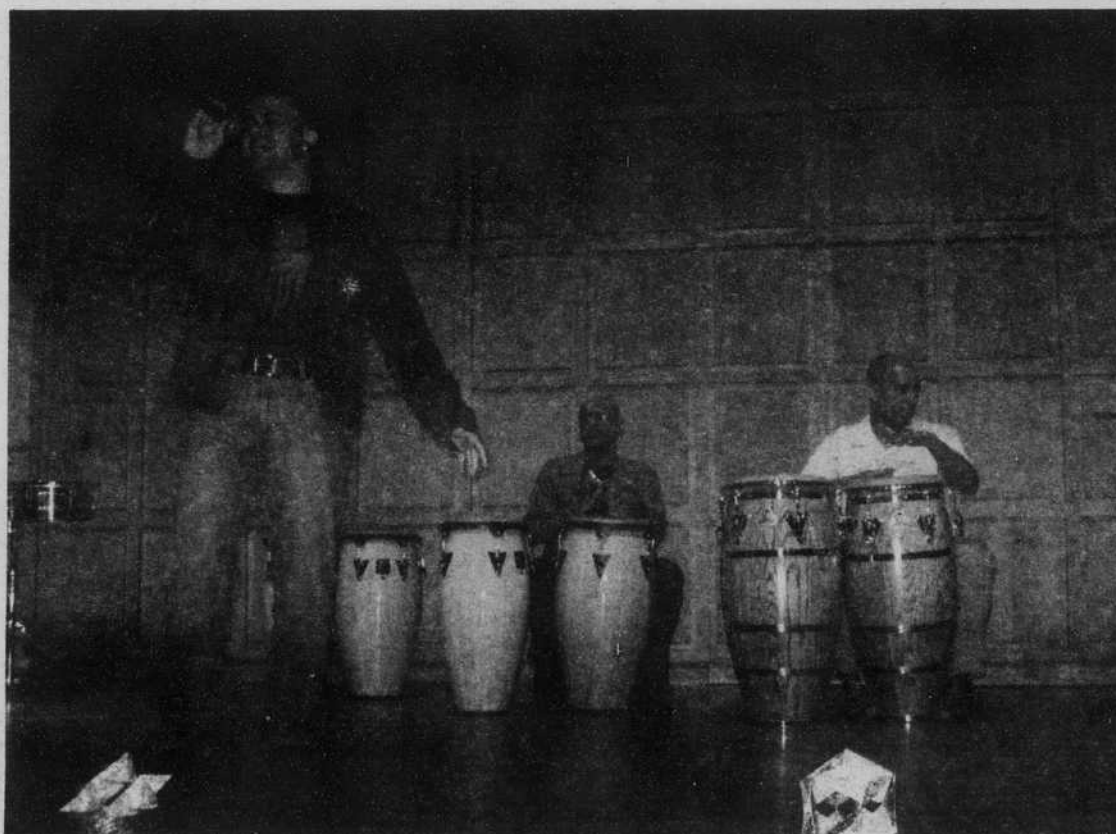
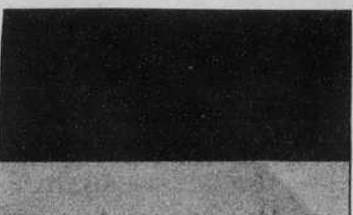
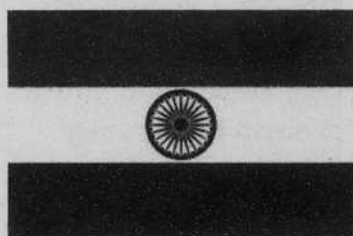
Xiaoping Yu performs Tai Chi.
Photo by Emileigh Clare

March 11th was a celebration of differences in Hollins students, both past and present. The Global Interest Association (GIA) presented a multicultural festival full of international dance, poetry, fashion and music in Talamadge Hall.

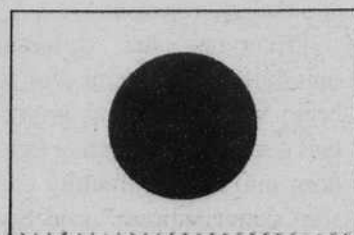
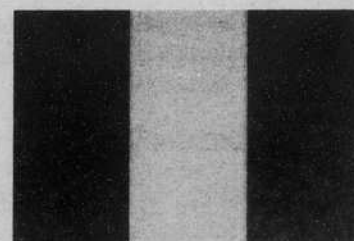
The festival was a Batten Leadership project by Writtikia Roy, president of GIA. The fashion show was a Batten project by Preeti Dhillon, vice president of GIA, and Jing Ye He, publicity director of GIA.



Writtikia Roy '08 performs a Bangladeshi Folk Dance.
Photo by Emileigh Clare



Local Colors member serenades the audience as Vladimir Espansosi and Daniel Ribera accompany him on Latin drums.
Photo by Emileigh Clare



BRINGS DIVERSITY, HERITAGE, FUN TO HOLLINS CAMPUS



Vanadhana Ramadurai '08 and Alex Lee '07 catch the rhythm during their performance on the Latin drums.

Photo by Emileigh Clare

A Chinese Fan Dance

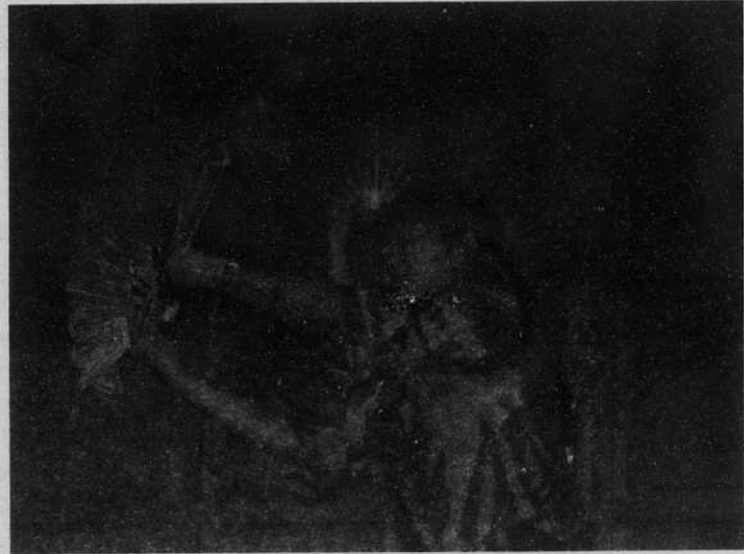


Rebecca Chang and friend perform a Chinese minority folk tune.
Photos by Emileigh Clare



Tess Gould '08 and Takako Miyamoto '07 show their heritage in the fashion show.

Photo by Emileigh Clare



NEW SGA CHAIR POSITIONS FILLED



Brittany Addison-Prescott, SGA President

Q: Why did you apply for this position?

A: Throughout my years at Hollins, I have seen many students blossom into incredible and influential women. The fact that our community thrives on its innate ability to educate strong, confident, and influential women is, in itself, amazing. I have learned how one can thrive in a community of women who have high expectations of themselves, and help each other become who and what they are capable of being. I applied to be SGA President because I want to continue to help this legacy thrive. I see that we need to improve our communication in the Hollins community by embracing and accepting constructive criticism.

Q: What is your vision for Hollins?

A: To re-establish the understanding of community and find constructive ways to our voice opinions. Our community has gone from a place where we can speak freely and voice our concerns to community that feels their suggestions and concerns are not being heard. I plan to work closely with members of the administration and faculty to improve programs we have designed to promote and celebrate diversity.

Q: What is your favorite thing about Hollins?

A: I love that we are a community of women who encourage and empower each other to do great things.



Fred Whiteman, SGA Vice President

Q: Why did you apply for this position?

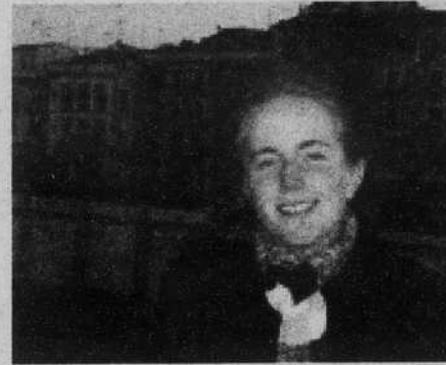
A: I've wanted to be vice president since freshman year. I was a hall senator and could never keep quiet in Senate. Then I'd write basically the entire minutes on the hall mirror. I feel like ice president is a job with great opportunity for making a difference and being a student advocate.

Q: What is your vision for Hollins?

A: I see Hollins as my own personal utopian community. Everyone would be respected and loved for who they were and for the unique perspective they'd bring to our community. All students would be involved in the campus community. Students would be open to learning from new people and new experiences. The board of trustees and administration would act primarily as a resource for the students, to help realize their dream for Hollins. The faculty would all walk around in Socratic-style togas and say profound things all the time, (Okay, maybe not that last one.)

Q: What is your favorite thing about Hollins?

A: It's how, in the fall and spring, the light shining through the leaves on Front Quad is actually green and gold. No joke!



Jessica McDermott, Honor Court Chair

Q: Why did you apply for this position?

A: I really value the student-run judicial system at Hollins and I wanted to do my part in ensuring its continuance. I feel like I can really give back to Hollins as Honor Court chair.

Q: What is your vision for Hollins?

A: My vision for Hollins is for it to continue to be a place in which determined, intelligent women thrive and develop into leaders in the real world. In my vision, Hollins women would represent their university with dignity and honor at all times, so as to maintain the school's excellent reputation.

Q: What is your favorite thing about Hollins?

A: It's the amazing friendships that are formed here. I will never forget any of my Hollins sisters.

Q: What do you most like to cook?

A: I like to cook, although unfortunately I am horrible in the kitchen. I can toast a Pop Tart like none other.



Sibohan Boyle, Academic Policy Chair

Q: Why did you apply for this position?

A: I think academic policy is something vital to an academic institution like Hollins, but that surprisingly few people take interest in it, or realize that they have the power to shape it.

Q: What is your vision for Hollins?

A: I envision Hollins as a women's college that after four years, graduates women leaders with diverse qualifications and experiences. I see Hollins as a place where we academically explore new ideas, and a place where we meet new people and broaden our social horizons. Most of all I see Hollins keeping its strong spirit of sisterhood and a tradition. Once a Hollins Girl, always a Hollins Girl.

Q: What is your favorite thing about Hollins?

A: I cannot choose one thing, but my two most favorite things about Hollins are: the close relationships that students have with faculty and staff, and the women that attend Hollins.

Q: What do you most like to cook?

A: When I do cook, I like to call it "hydraulic cooking" because I just make up what I am cooking right then from what ever is in the kitchen.

“TRANSAMERICA”: A TRANSFORMATIVE FILM



found at: www.imdb.com

BY MIRANDA DENNIS

Transamerica tells the story of a pre-operative male-to-female transsexual who discovers that in college she fathered a son.

In order for Bree Osbourne to undergo the final operation to become a woman, she must first be diagnosed as having gender dysphoria, which includes a drawn-out process of psychological evaluation. When Bree reveals that she has a son, one who happens to have been jailed for hustling on the streets of New York City as a prostitute, her therapist insists that Bree put

off her operation until she is absolutely sure that she can handle this new piece of information.

After having been forced into this position, Bree decides she will, in fact, bail her son Toby out of jail, as well as escort him across the country so that he may follow his dream of becoming a porn star in Los Angeles, where she lives.

Rather than telling Toby that she is his father, and in the process of becoming a woman, she allows him to believe she is a representative of a Christian civic-minded group, trying to save him.

This movie is about transformations, and not just in the physical changes of Bree's

body. While that is important, and intrinsically tied into the plot, the many ups and downs of her evolving relationship with Toby move the film.

The two characters are trapped in a car together as they explore America, including the good (diners, the kindness of strangers) and the bad (hitchhiking thieves). They must come to terms with how they interact with each other. Early into their trip, before Toby realizes Bree is transgendered (as she refers to herself in this pre-op stage), he asks, "Did you know that Lord of the Rings is gay?"

He tries to shock and awe, to ruffle Bree's neatly-coiffed and sensible-

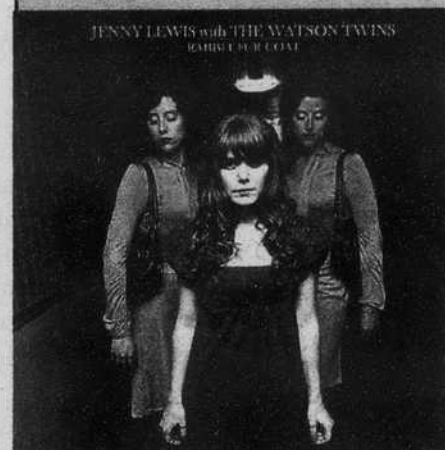
shoes persona, only to fail, as she calmly handles and redirects their conversation.

Though Bree never finished her degree, she explored a wide range of subjects in college (including having sex with a woman, an experience she referred to as "tragically lesbian") and tries to pass this knowledge on to Toby. They learn from each other, and from that, they grow. It is not until Toby learns that Bree is his father that their relationship becomes tumultuous.

In fact, "tumultuous" might be an understatement, considering the shiner Toby gives Bree before fleeing. This upsets Bree greatly, yet she follows through with her operation. Toby and Bree meet up later in Bree's home; Bree is now a woman, and Toby is working in pornography. Despite the breakdown of their relationship, they separately succeeded in the goals they had set for themselves.

Transamerica is important for its representation of the transgender and transsexual communities. Pop culture should be portraying the complexities of human lives, rather than creating caricatures for the benefit of complacency and the status quo. Transamerica as a title alone implies the transformation of a human body, the transformation of relationships, the movement across America, and, hopefully, the transformation of America. The film does not have a heavy-handed happy ending. Instead, there is a quiet happiness, the kind that comes from the possibility of forgiveness.

The Hollins Columns also recommends...



BY SARAH WHITNEY

Jenny Lewis And The Watson Twins Rabbit Fur Coat

A solo album for the frontwoman of the band "Rilo Kiley" and occasional "Postal Service" vocalist Jenny Lewis, Rabbit Fur Coat is just plain pretty.

Contributors include Bright Eyes' Conor Oberst, Death Cab For Cutie's Ben Gibbard and singer-songwriter M. Ward, and, of course the Watson Twins. This album finds that sweet-spot at the birth of rock n' roll, when folk, country, gospel and vocal pop could meld together and not sound rockabilly.

With her crisp, clear alto, Jenny Lewis makes for a dusty tone, with the Watson Twins reverberating in the background, once again adding to the charm of Rilo Kiley mixed with a girlie folk/gospel sound. As a mostly autobiographical album, the title track details Jenny Lewis' mother's obsession over a rabbit fur coat, a symbol of prosperity, that then leads her to force her daughter to become a child star on network TV. Sad, but true, Jenny Lewis was a victim, but has overcome her past and is loved by indie fans worldwide. A highlight to the album is the cover of Traveling Wilbury's (all-star indie-rock band) "Handle With Care," in which Conor Oberst recreates a Bob Dylan to instill a unique sound that makes this album an art without any boring twists to dodge, or naivety to overcome.

Hollins Columns requests Spring Break pictures (complete with descriptions) to use for their center spread in the upcoming March issue. Please turn these pictures in no later than March 27th, 2006. Thanks!

GPA IS NOT A MEASURE OF INTELLIGENCE

So this weekend I started crying.

Why, you may ask.

Because I got the worst grade of my college career. The shock factor of "oh-my-god-how-the-hell-did-this-happen," coupled with, "this is seriously going to affect my GPA," is a reaction that many of us have over our four years at Hollins.

But here's the funny thing -- our reaction should not be, "Ooh my God what about that honor society I really want to be a part of?" but "How did this happen and what does it mean in regards to my priorities and immersion in the quest for higher learning?"

In an institutionalized setting we seem so focused on grades, as if the letters we

receive equate with another scientific measurement -- our IQ.

Sure, one can argue that GPA portrays one's time commitment to a class, or even one's determination to succeed, but it's also a personal standard. GPA is not a measurement of one's intelligence. Nor should it be viewed as such.

When approaching our homework we need to understand that we are in an academic setting to learn, to become proficient (whatever this really means) in the field that we are pursuing. What we put into our assigned readings, term papers, and midterms should not be part of a grade-agenda, but rather a desire to expand our horizons.

We came to Hollins to make friends, become involved in organizations, but we also came to learn.



Laura Smith
Editor-in-Chief

We are told time and time again that the effort we put into our education is our choice. We're paying for this

education (or our parents are), so shouldn't we be here to learn, first and foremost? When we get a bad grade we should reflect not on how the grade is a deterrent to that "summa cum laude" title we desperately want to put on our resume, but on how we've let our academic priorities slip. We've lost sight of our desire to excel not for the sake of excelling but in order to understand and apply what we're being taught.

I'm not saying it's not important to be grade conscious. If I said this I'd be a hypocrite.

I understand the connection one feels with one's grades -- they are something one works for, and when one receives a grade lower than

expected an emotion is immediately evoked. I'm just stating that we shouldn't put such emphasis on something that isn't what so many believe it to be.

You may get a D or even an F on a midterm in a course you're using for your major, but that doesn't mean you're stupid. It doesn't even mean you shouldn't major in that discipline. It just means that you should re-evaluate your priorities in regards to academics or how you study.

There's always time to make changes. And resumes are just one (albeit "flat") portrayal of who you are.

Numbers never give the full picture. But they can tell an awful lot.

"Youth must be youthful"

In his play, *Night of the Iguana*, Tennessee Williams writes:

"Laugh for no reason except the red wine, for youth must be youthful, foolish and blind."

This got me thinking.

On a recent flight to Venice, I heard a guy of about 25 telling his friend that now that he was making money at his new job, he wasn't saving much, instead spending more money going out and random things (he called it a "lifestyle investment"). His friend's response was "Well we're young, why shouldn't you?"

This got me thinking even more.

Are Tennessee and this random guy right? The answer, I think, is yes. There's something about being young that makes certain behaviors acceptable. For example, skipping class to drive to Sweet Briar and make a random (yet hilarious) video is somewhat acceptable at 20; it probably won't fly with the boss at 30. And there's always that old saying, "Enjoy it while you can, because after graduation they call this alcoholism." As my friend said

while we were in Venice, there comes a time when drinking \$.87 wine from a juice box-like container is no longer allowed.

Youth, specifically the college years, is a time made for adventure.

Yes, you need to do work in college. It's not cool to flunk out, and you (or your parents, or whoever) aren't paying \$120,000 for a four-year party. But in my opinion, you need to get a good balance. Get your stuff done, but have a fun along the way.

I can't even count how many all-nighters I've pulled because I was sketching off somewhere instead of doing work at a normal hour. I don't mean to sound as if I'm complaining, because I fully accept that if I had better work habits I probably wouldn't be pulling

constant all-nighters. Besides, some of the best times I've had at Hollins are during all-nighters, when you and your friends spend more time facebooking and going to Sheetz than you do actually working.

Since I don't want to appear that I'm telling you to blow off work for Sheetz and incur the wrath of Dean Ridley, I'll move on.

But Tennessee is right -- youth is a time to be foolish. Being responsible is a good thing but if we didn't blow it off at times, our lives would probably be pretty boring. When you're 80 and looking back on your life, are you going to remember

that time you got your History paper finished early? Or are you going to remember the crazy, slightly sketchy adventure (most likely involving a dance party and the Loop) that caused you to stay up late finishing the paper?



Julia Knox
London Bureau
Chief

I'm currently a poor abroad student who can't really afford any more trips than I already have planned, but I'm dying to go to Amsterdam. Will my life really be that awful if I have to work extra hard over the summer to pay for it? I think that the memories of Amsterdam will outweigh whatever I have to do to pay for it.

The first time I saw *Rent* I was with my mom. Afterwards, all I could think about was the "no day but today" message and the characters' zest for life. My mom, on the other hand, said "You know, couldn't they pay their rent if they just got a freaking job?"

Speaking as someone who's held a 8-5 office job, I understand their decision not to slave away in a cubicle (though that is absolutely not the point of *Rent*). The "real world" is going to come soon enough, and we have a good 50 years of it to look forward to. In the mean time, embrace your youth. Put more money in your "lifestyle investment" than your savings account. Drink red wine (from a box), laugh, and be youthful.

QUADRANGLE ARTICLE MISLEADING

Dear Editor,

First off, a bit of disclosure: I work for the admissions office, as both a volunteer and a work-study student. The first time I volunteered for them, I was wearing the shirt I wore to Roanoke Pride in the fall which read "Outloud and Proud" in rainbow colors. In fact, I was the one who told them about the first issue of the Hollins Quadrangle, which contained an article written by Rachel McCarthy James, "A Bitter Taste: Admissions and the Queer Community."

In the article, which is based mainly off the testimonies of Ashley Parker and Jenni Austin, who protested the admissions "policies" through a flyer posted around campus. Ms. James recognizes Ashley Parker did not attend tour-

guide training in 2005, but "she says that in 2004 training, it was implied that guides should avoid any notion of an active LBGQT community on campus."

In 2005 tour guide training, which I attended, Meg Scott, who runs the Admissions Ambassadors program, clearly stated that students were not to say, "There are no more here than anywhere else." Hollins does not poll their students' sexuality, so guides were encouraged to talk about Hollins' accepting community and give their opinion of the presence of LBGQT community. Furthermore, according to the Hollins admissions office, there was no tour guide training meeting in 2004. Training materials have been put together in a binder (currently sitting on my desk)

along with all the printed materials from the Admissions Ambassadors program. Some of the contents are at least nine years old, but much of it is not dated.

One of these undated documents, which I believe dates from somewhere from 1998 to 2001, instructs tour guides to respond to a question about the LBGQT population with the following:

"You do not know what the percentage of lesbians on campus is; Hollins does not survey its student body about what their sexuality is. We do have an active gay-straight alliance, Harmony [one of OUTloud's past incarnations]. Harmony brings the campus together for community outreach and humanitarian efforts."

There is no mention of a

proscription against discussing LBGQT issues, but in all of the admissions documents, tour guides and student callers are encouraged to share their personal involvement and experiences on campus.

I am not the only person to object to the Quadrangle article. Amy Dixon, '09, wrote a letter to the Quadrangle stating that she felt, "as a part of the LBGQT community, that the article was misleading and factually skewed."

Ms. James requested her permission to post the letter on the Quadrangle's website on March 3rd. The website does state, "This site is to give a voice to everyone who takes the time to respond to the Quadrangle. Tell us what you think by

emailing us."

Ironically, on March 12th, Ms. Dixon's letter is nowhere to be found on their website, even though she agreed to Ms. James' request. The Quadrangle objected to what they perceived as the admissions department's representation of the Hollins community, but by not posting letters that counter their views and claims, they do not honestly represent the opinions of the Hollins community.

Sincerely,
Noren Bonner '08



SENATE PRESENCE A CONCERN?

To Concerned Students:

I could respond to Berg's recent articles in regards to her concerns about boundaries, specifically between students and teachers, but I think my record stands for itself.

Instead, it has come to my attention that members of the student body are worried, concerned, or confused regarding my attendance in Senate. I hope this letter serves to untangle some of the confusion and put fears to rest.

Your representatives, Gwen Fernandez, SGA President, and Christine Jehu, SGA Vice-President (and Chair of Senate) recently sat with me to talk about the concerns.

Firstly, I have to admit, that my years at Hollins (5.5 come May) have shown a precedent for not only graduate student attendance but faculty attendance in Senate. These incidents have happened not only because of dissent, but because of curiosity. Besides this fact, Ashley Reynolds, SGA VP for the 2003-2004 school year, recently told me that one of her initiatives when she was in office, was to increase graduate student and faculty attendance and input. This, of course, was before graduate stu-

dents lived on campus and before we had Teaching Fellows in The English Department.

I must say, my attendance in Senate boils down to two reasons. One, I see my purpose on this campus as one of information and context. I've been here a long time, attended Senate since my freshman year, and ran it last year. Besides this, I have long been concerned with the Hollins campus and its policies, SGA-created or not. I have been selected as a Teaching Fellow next year; I want to know the concerns of students. I remember a time when faculty members came to Senate. I remember a time when campus community meant more than Undergraduates; it meant Staff, Faculty, MALS/M(F)A/MAT/etc.

Just a reminder, Senate is an open meeting. Do we really want a narrow scope of opinions when deciding issues? Though I have identified myself as a "grad kid" (let's forget the former, verbose title I struggled with), I have never spoken as a graduate student. Meaning: I have not related graduate student concerns. Instead, I have provided context, questioned documents, statements, and information, and worked to provide another option for the permutation-like process of creating a solution to a

problem, policy, or discussion.

I promise, I am not evil. I promise, I am not out to get any of you.

Secondly, as my last letter to the editor discussed in greater detail, I have heard much dissent on the Hollins campus regarding Senate, SGA, and other campus venues. I wanted to experience Senate myself, as the minutes can only convey so much. (I think the Senate Secretary -- past and present -- do an admirable job and I have much respect for them.) Can you fault me for doing my research? Can you fault me for backing my words up?

Though I realize it must be strange that I am attending Senate, I have to admit that I'm confused as to why people have not approached me regarding my presence and/or behavior. Also, just as a point of reference, I have never said to CJ or Gwen or even to Senate or SGA as a whole, that they are wrong or that I could do the job better. I have merely offered suggestions to various issues.

I promise, I love Hollins. If I didn't love Hollins, I wouldn't work hard, do more research, or care enough to attend Senate, read The Hollins Columns, among other actions. I promise, my life is busy enough these days, it's not like I'm bored

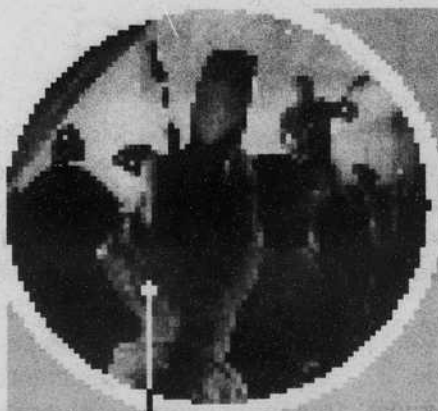
and need a hobby.

That said, I have to wonder why I am feared. I do my research (printing out the HAB Constitution, reading it, and making edits), bring up alternate points, and phrasing my comments, suggestions, and/or concerns in the most productive manner I can manage. If we're worried about students, even graduate students, faculty members (or soon-to-be faculty members) attending Senate, are we worried about something else? It would be one thing if I dominated conversation, if I was rude, or if I was silencing students (with a rude tone). However, I do not feel as though I have done any of those things.

I am not only a graduate student. I am a community member. I am an alum. I live within the Residence Life system.

If any of you would like to come by my Apt. (402), email me (lbowe@hollins.edu), send me a postcard/letter, or any other form of communication, I welcome it. I'm glad that Gwen and Christine related your concerns; please know I'm aware of them.

Yours,
Lisa Bower '05; MFA '07



Now,
all your incoming
calls can be free.

(Even the ones your friends
think you can hear.)



Now,

when people are wasting your time, they're not wasting your money.

Unlimited CALL ME Minutes

\$40 • 400 Anytime Minutes
• FREE Incoming Text Messages

Plus, ask about:

- 250 Text Messages for \$5.95 per month
- Unlimited Nights & Weekends on plans \$50 and higher
- 400 Bonus Minutes with Instant Bell

No contract. No credit check. No charge for incoming calls.



Requires Plan
for just \$40 after
(all restrictions apply)



GETUSC.COM
1-888-BUY-USCC

US Cellular
We connect with you.

© 2004 US Cellular. All rights reserved. Service available in the U.S. only. Service subject to change without notice. See store for details. Service available in the U.S. only. Service subject to change without notice. See store for details. Service available in the U.S. only. Service subject to change without notice. See store for details.