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### Hollins Columns (2006 Nov 13)

Hollins College

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# Hollins Columns

November 13, 2006

Hollins University

Volume 79, Issue 4

## DINING SERVICES ADDRESS STUDENT CONCERNS

BY COURTNEY CHENETTE

Appeasing over 900 women with various dietary preferences and restrictions is not always easy. The Sodexo food services company has faced several obstacles in the last few months while responding and adjusting to the Hollins Campus. While changes have been made since August, there are still viable concerns students have voiced that have not been addressed as Sodexo settles into Moody.

New options for vegan and vegetarian students within the past month have included vegetarian "Chick" patties, vegan and vegetarian burgers, and plain steamed vegetables. Vegetarians and vegans are not the only students relieved by some of these healthier options: many of the comment cards visible by the tray drop indicate a desire for a healthier variety of meals outside the daily salad bar.

However, there are some problems still to be addressed. The new labeling system, while beneficial in theory, is not always accurate, making it difficult for students to ascertain the health value of what they are consuming.

Students have noted since the beginning of the semester that foods like the ice cream consistently go unlabeled--an inconvenience which may become dangerous when a student with a nut allergy mistakes the Butter Pecan ice cream for Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough.

Jessica Merrill '08 is one of many concerned students trying to identify foods that will not give her an allergic



Dining services employee Hazel Lawson dishes up a plate of pasta for students at the sauté station in Moody. Photo by Martha Sadler.

reaction, "I'm a little limited when I don't know what's in the food. I usually stick to things like the grilled cheese, salad, and burgers," she said. "You never know if the cookies, ice cream, or cereal has nuts in it because there are never labels. You don't want to ask someone every time you want desert if it contains nuts. Labels make it easier for the staff and students, and a lot safer."

According to General Manager of Hollins Dining Services, Suzanne Bird, the labels provided by the Hershey's company for the ice cream were ineffective: as the adhesive cooled, they would often fall off the glass. "Hershey's will supply new labels that work, so the flavors will be marked," she assured.

Even with labels present, Bird has acknowledged flaws in the system. The sunflower symbol on the dietary content cards is meant to signify

vegan dishes; however, some of the dishes containing milk have been incorrectly labeled vegan-friendly.

Bird is working closely with students to fix these misconceptions with the staff's cooking and the company's labeling. "Students are helping us learn more about what foods and ingredients we can use to make vegan meals and have even suggested recipes we can incorporate into the schedule to give vegans and vegetarians more options," she said.

Other symbols to look for when pursuing a potentially healthier meal in Moody are the apple (for well balanced dishes), tomato (for vegetarian dishes), and asparagus (for carb-friendly dishes) icons. More information about the card indicators can be found online at Sodexo's website, [balancemindbodysoul.com](http://balancemindbodysoul.com) under FAQs.

Sodexo's online daily

menu, accessible through [my.hollins](http://my.hollins) has been disorganized as well. Its inaccuracy originates from Sodexo's corporate site in Maryland, which runs the online menu update. Bird will be training over the Thanksgiving break to run the menu software from the Hollins campus to accurately reflect the foods being served for next semester.

These adjustments will come into effect more smoothly and quickly with constructive comments from students. Suzanne Bird will attend her second senate meeting November 14, to hear suggestions. In addition to the note cards, students can voice their concerns online at [hollinsdining.com/contact.html](http://hollinsdining.com/contact.html), or in person to Suzanne Bird while in Moody.

Students Protest VA Marriage Amendment



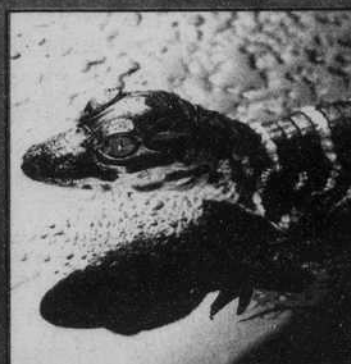
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Dancing the Night Away At Fall Formal



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7 Tips for Bored First-year Students



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# HPV VACCINATIONS AVAILABLE ON CAMPUS

BY EMILEIGH CLARE

At least 50 percent of Americans who have had sex at least once in their lifetime may have human papillomavirus (HPV), according to the U.S Food and Drug Administration. HPV, which is often symptomless, causes most cases of cervical cancer, and is the most rampant sexually transmitted disease on college campuses. There is no cure, but a vaccine has been released this summer. The clinic received their first shipment of it last week.

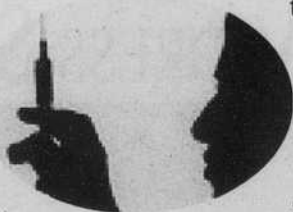
"It's really good news, every woman should get it," Louise Bond '09 said. "I'm definitely going to look into getting it."

This vaccine for HPV, Gardasil, serves as the only preventative vaccine

for a sexually transmitted disease or a cancer today. The vaccine is for girls and women between the ages of 9 and 26. It protects against the four most dangerous strands of the virus, those which have caused 90 percent of genital herpes, and 70 percent of cervical cancer.

"I'm in a monogamous relationship right now, but if that changes I want to be ready." Allison Hitt '10 said. "Most of the people who have HPV don't know it, and if they don't know they have it, how will I?" Hitt went to a clinic for the first part of her vaccination during fall break.

The vaccination consists of three shots: an initial shot followed by a second after



two months have passed, and a third shot after an additional four months have passed. The campus clinic has these vaccinations for \$125 an injection, which Director of Health Services Kim Mayhew said will be cheaper than other Roanoke area clinics.

As the disease becomes more widespread, so is the availability of the vaccine, particularly on college campuses. Mayhew said at least five students have found out they have contracted it this semester through the Hollins clinic. HPV is transmitted by skin-to-skin contact, so a condom will not always prevent it spreading. Researchers and Mayhew

credit this as one of the reasons HPV has spread to so many people.

"Even if you are in a relationship with another woman you can still be exposed to it," Mayhew said.

According to a study conducted at a Seattle college, 80 percent of students will get HPV before they graduate. Out of the 80 percent of students who get HPV, only 10 to 20 percent will show signs, and the rest will act as carriers who can pass it on without knowing. Women can find out if they have been exposed to it by an annual pap smear. There is no way to test men for this std or vaccinate them at this point.

"Certain insurance companies do help pay for the vaccine, and it may take a little while to clear, but it's

worth it," Hitt said. "I read that over 6 million Americans get a new HPV infection each year. I don't want myself, or anyone I love to be part of that 6 million."

According to the FDA, a person's risk of contracting HPV is lessened with the number of partners a person has, choosing a partner that has also had little to no sexual partners, and condom use.

"All young women who plan on being sexually active need to be aware and protect themselves from sexually transmitted diseases," Mayhew said. "My daughters are going to get the vaccination and they are 11 and 15. All of us are at risk."

## J-TERM OFFERS NEW OPPORTUNITIES

BY HARMONY WOLFE

Formally known as January short term at Hollins University, J-term is undergoing a fundamental change this year: instead of staying on campus for a January seminar, first year students may now participate in travel/study course sponsored by Hollins.

Started in 1968, J-term introduced an opportunity for students to pursue full-time internships during the month of January. Now, J-term also offers seminar classes for those who wish to stay on-campus and travel/study courses for students who want to go abroad but cannot afford to forfeit a semester on campus.

Traditionally, freshmen are the exception for studying off campus during J-term, restricted to seminar classes that aim to strengthen first year students' commitment and connection

to the Hollins community.

First-years now have the opportunity travel with any of the Hollins sponsored trips. The January term offers trips to Greece, Peru, New York, Germany and Baja.

Moira Glace '08 agrees with the policy change, reflecting on her own experiences. "During my sophomore year, I studied abroad during J-term. When I came back, I received comments on how much I had matured from my parents and bosses. Offering first-years the opportunity to study abroad during J-term helps them get to that point of maturity before junior year."

Emily Anderson '10 also agrees, believing that freshmen should be given opportunities equal to those of the upperclassmen. "First-years should be allowed to study off-campus for any opportunity, whether study abroad

or internships," she said.

Other students are concerned that the high costs of abroad trips will create new rifts between first-year students. "While it's an amazing experience to travel and intensively learn about another culture, it's a vacation," Alison Fraser '08 said.

She explained, "The travel/study courses last maybe a week with a few meetings before and after. Such little time spent for such a large cost, especially when money spent on tuition and board are wasting away, means it's only possible for the rich."

Anderson does not share her concerns. "Once you get into college, class divisions don't really matter and first-years should not be segregated into being told to stay on campus during J-term. However, staying on campus should be optional regardless of class status."

Kyssee Hall '10 thinks that the travel opportunities will actually help develop new friendships and bonds between students. "We spend so much time living, eating and socializing with other students; traveling strengthens that bond in another way. It's also just more real-world experience," she said.

The opportunity to travel during J-term does not automatically discredit the benefits of staying at Hollins during this time. Allyson Stevens '10 is looking forward to spending her first j-term on campus.

"Originally, I planned on going to Greece," she recalled. "Then there were many deadlines and arranging everything, so I decided to be here. I think it's going to be fun staying on campus. I'll get to know students and professors better."

# SGA OFFERS STUDENT ENDOWMENT

BY JULIA KNOX

A new endowment, funded by the Student Government Association (SGA), was signed into effect during Senate on Tuesday, November 7. The endowment, which began with \$150,000 of SGA contingency money, will be used to fund student research, internships, and various other scholarships.

Over the summer, SGA Treasurer Dee Mudzingwa '07 contacted SGA President Brittany Addison-Prescott '07 about the possibility of starting the endowment. Mudzingwa had noticed that there was a large SGA contingency available and decided that one of her goals for the year would be to find a way "to make our waste work for us." From there, she worked with Richard Alvarez, SGA and many others to develop the endowment.

Beginning in the 2008-09 school year, a committee formed by Provost Markert (with representation from Academic Policy) will meet to hand out need-based scholarships. Because the new endowment will not be restricted by current SGA treasury rules,

such as not funding food or transportation costs, funds can be issued for a wider variety of things, including study abroad scholarships and internship grants.

"An endowment like that for students is probably the best gift a student body could give," said Shivaughn Ferguson, junior class president. "Since the endowment doesn't even benefit us [students graduating before 2009], it shows that these initiatives are not about us per se but about making Hollins better."

The Board of Trustees agrees with Ferguson's thoughts on student endowments. At their meeting on November 4, they signed a resolution commending SGA and the student body for creating the gift that will undoubtedly benefit thousands of future students. The statement was read by President Nancy Gray at Senate on Tuesday, November 14.

The endowment will increase each year through accumulated interest and SGA donations. By 2042, Hollins's 200th anniversary, the endowment is set to

reach \$1 million.

Brittany Addison-Prescott '07, SGA President, said "I have never been more proud of SGA, especially Dee. I can't even tell you how happy I was when I got that call. This is the best gift we could have ever given."



# CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION

BY NYKKI DULAR

Unless you've been hiding under a recently renovated rock, you have either heard or seen the somewhat overwhelming amount of construction taking place recently at Hollins. Although it may seem like half of the campus is under construction, only Bradley Hall and Presser are undergoing renovations.

The relocation of the English department staff from Bradley Hall to Swannanoa allowed the opportunity for some much needed work in the now-vacant building. Bradley Hall is currently undergoing its second phase of renovations since 2004, addressing drainage and mold issues as well as the addition of air-conditioning and a fire alarm system.

Presser, on the other hand, has been accommodated with a giant dirt mound. This

obstruction serves to help resolve drainage problems, specifically water collecting at the building's foundation after rains. Additionally, Presser is being painted and undergoing gutter repair.

Some students are complaining about the rudeness of a few construction workers, claiming that they have directed some not so complimentary names towards the students in another language. However, Hollins assures students that the workers are under an anti-harassment contract. Concerns that have been raised were brought to attention and the workers were reminded to watch their behavior.

Other students were dismayed at the ill-timed renovations. Even with the early June starting date, the construction still has not been resolved. Incoming freshman arrived to the welcome

of an unusually imperfect Hollins campus. Likewise, construction was still taking place as prospective students came and went, possibly sullyng their first impression of the campus.

Although the interior work was completed over the summer, the exterior work will continue throughout the Fall. Bradley Hall is expected to be completed in November, while Presser's exterior drainage renovations will continue until December. The construction for both buildings has been delayed mostly due to weather, partly due to other issues, including the unavailability of sub-contractors and or materials.

Despite the inconvenience, the future of the Hollins campus is looking bright and new. Although the construction still may not be completed on time, the outcome will surely be worth the wait.

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# STUDENTS SPEAK AGAINST MARRIAGE AMENDMENT

BY FAYE DAIGLER

"We can't just be silent as our rights are taken away," Alli Crandell '08 said.

It was the Tuesday night of mid-term elections, and in the cold, a group of students huddled on the porch of Main. Most other college students across the US were probably sleeping, studying, or watching their district's results come in with relief or resignation. These young women were planning. In a short time, their anger at the passing of the Marshall-Newman Amendment (commonly referred to as "the marriage amendment") had turned into a desire to do something in response.

"Basically, we [were there] to show that we won't take this amendment lying down," Crandell said.

The group was initially led by Crandell; additional organizers stepped in throughout the night, including Megan Curtin '07, Meghan Foster '09, and Amy Grenier '08. However, the rally was a group effort

— many of those involved stayed up late into the night helping their friends plan: solidifying locations, making signs, spreading the word on LiveJournal and Facebook, and contacting the media.

On Wednesday, their planning paid off. At least forty-five Hollins students showed up to the event despite rainy conditions, lining Campbell Avenue in downtown Roanoke. They held home-made signs with slogans such as "We Will Not Be Silent", "Virginia Is For Lovers (Some Restrictions Apply)", "We Are Still Here", and "This is Not My Constitution". They also chanted "No hate in the state" and other slogans and cheered as supporters in oncoming cars honked at them. Roanoke community members and professors also joined in throughout the day.

Intermittently, a speech against the amendment was communally given by members such as Erika Ogier '08 and Carol-Ann Fitzsimmons '08.



A group of students from Hollins hold signs at the protest against the recently passed "marriage amendment" in downtown Roanoke. Photos above and bottom left corner by Abby Wardell.

"Unmarried citizens of Virginia, gay or straight, are now second-class citizens!" it proclaimed. As it grew dark, the protesters lit candles and observed a moment of silence for those affected by the bill and the loss of their civil rights. They then began an impromptu chorus of "Standing on the Side of Love".

"The beautiful thing about the rally was that it turned from 10 people smoking on the porch and saying 'this sucks' into something constructive that affected the whole community. I think that form of activism is unique to the Hollins community. It's really amazing," said

Amy Grenier '08.

42 percent of Virginia is against the amendment, Crandell said. The Marshall-Newman Amendment states "That only a union between one man and one woman may be a marriage valid in or recognized by this Commonwealth and its political subdivisions. This Commonwealth and its political subdivisions shall not create or recognize a legal status for relationships of unmarried individuals that intends to approximate the design, qualities, significance, or effects of marriage. Nor shall this Commonwealth or its political subdivisions create or recognize another union, partnership, or other

legal status to which is assigned the rights, benefits, obligations, qualities, or effects of marriage."

Although the first part of this amendment addresses gay marriage, the second broadly bans legal status "similar to marriage" for any "unmarried individual". Opponents of the bill feel that this creates hazards for those in domestic abuse situations, as it has already in Georgia and Ohio. Potential risks also include custody arrangements and end-of-life decisions.

Another rally is planned for the near future, pending permit with the Roanoke County Police Dept. Contact Crandell for more information.



# CURIOUS CRITTERS CAUSE STIR ON CAMPUS

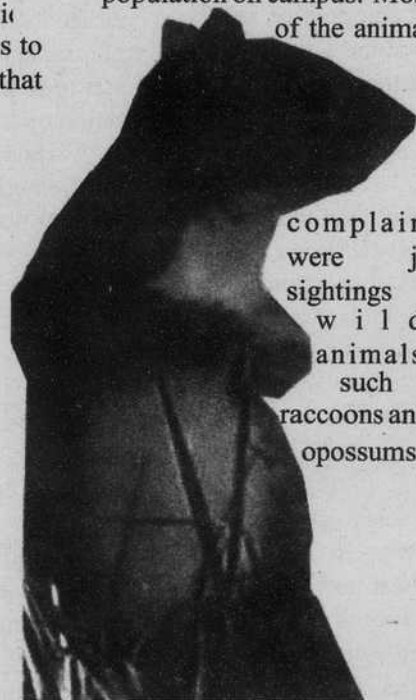
BY ELAINE PARROTT

Hollins students are used to seeing bold squirrels on campus as well as a few other species rustling in the bushes. It is to be expected on a campus that has so much wildlife.

In 2003, campus safety responded to only two animal complaints, and in 2004, one animal complaint. In 2005 there were twenty six animal complaints. So far, in 2006 there have been a total of nineteen animal complaints to campus safety.

According to David J. Carlson, Director of Campus Safety, "It cannot be determined why the numbers went up in 2005

and 2006 from previous years. We do not seem to have a larger wildlife population on campus. Most of the animal



complaints were just sightings of wild animals such as raccoons and opossums

by campus community members; this may be due to a small amount of negative animal contact such as a bite or scratch which created a stronger awareness of wildlife on campus."

"One squirrel ran straight into my leg and another fell out of a tree. It jumped from one branch to another and missed. Squirrels are not supposed to miss." Holt Salinger '10 said.

Other students' experiences are not as benign. Bess Wyche '07 came back to her room and found a snake hiding in a plastic bag on the floor.

"I reported it to Patty O' Toole and told the maintenance. They boarded up the bottom of my bookshelf, which is where I think it came in from," Wyche said.

However most students say they do not care as long as they are not attacked.

David J. Carlson, Director of Campus Safety, gave some helpful tips to any concerned students.

"My recommendation is to not attempt to make contact with any wild animal and avoid any wild animal. Just give them room to go about their daily business. Hollins University is located in a wildlife rich area and removing all wild animals from our campus would be impossible and not to mention catastrophic to our environment," he said.

Carlson advises students to involve campus safety only if the animal appears ill.

"Of course, if a community

member spots a wild animal in distress, or with obvious signs of disease, contact campus safety immediately and a security officer will be dispatched to the area to locate the animal and determine if Roanoke County Animal Control or the Virginia Health Department needs to be called. Normal animal pest issues such as animals causing damage on campus are the responsibility of the University and are usually handled through the Physical Plant Department. Roanoke County Animal Control will only respond to domestic animal concerns such as animals running wild or animal abuse, or for wild animals suspected of carrying rabies."

# HOLLINS ALUM LEADS SEX DISCUSSION

BY ASHLEY KONRAD

Dr. Jennifer Berman, a urologist and the co-host of the Discovery Health Network show "Berman and Berman: For Women Only", stopped by Hollins University on Thursday, November second to speak on the topic of women's sexual health.

Dressed in a trendy skirt and jacket with knee-high leather boots, Berman described her journey from a struggling medical student to a pioneer in the field of women's health. Beginning her career as a urologist after completing her studies at the University of Maryland, Berman became an expert at pelvic-floor reconstructive surgery.

Berman's talk focused on the progress of study in the area of women's



Photo by Elaine Parrott

sexual health. She recalls being dismayed at the lack of information available on the subject.

"There was such a dearth of information on feminine sexual anatomy, versus the wealth of information available on men's health," Berman said.

"A'la my Hollins empowerment, I did a pilot study, applied male and female studies, and then opened up a center."

Berman provided information on lack of sexual desire, which she blames on a low libido, arousal problems, or orgasmic dysfunction due to age.

"Forty-three percent of women have problems," she explained, "usually from a combination of factors."

After lecturing on the risks and

dangers associated with birth control and estrogen, Berman opened the floor up to questions. Many women raised their hands and asked questions about their mothers' reproductive health, including one woman whose mother was reluctant to go to the doctor. Berman advised her to give her mother some books and other materials in order to explain the importance of regular check-ups.

Questions were then read off of index cards that had been previously collected. One asked, "what's the cure for bad cramps?"

Berman recommended eight-hundred milligrams of Motrin and minimal caffeine, as well as an increased intake of fatty acids and complex B vitamins.

The questions then turned to Berman's days as an undergraduate at Hollins. When asked about her fondest Hollins memory, Berman

spoke of sitting on the floor of Tinker in her sweatpants and having great conversations with her classmates.

She also remembered driving to nearby Washington and Lee University, which at the time was an all-male school, jokingly referring to the school as "the epicenter of the universe."

A Spanish and Psychology major during her time at Hollins, Berman spent a year abroad in Spain and remembers the time as being exciting and eye-opening.

Berman concluded her speech with a reminder to women to "know and understand" their bodies. "You are always doing yourself a disservice by not communicating," she said.

# RIDERS FOCUS ON TEAMWORK, SKILLS

BY PAIGE BRIDDELL

Cafeteria workers aren't the only people who wear hair nets. The Hollins Intercollegiate Riding Team wears them for every competition, under their helmets.

Presentation is a huge part of competitive riding. Members of the Hollins Intercollegiate Riding Team wrestle their hair into hair nets, shine and buff their boots, and press their show shirts before every horse show.

On Saturday, November fourth at the Bridgewater College Intercollegiate Horse Show, held at Oak Manor Farm in Weyer's Cave, Va., the Hollins riders proved that they are more than just a professional-looking team by finishing third overall with a total of 32 points.

The University of Virginia placed first with 39 points, followed by Randolph-Macon Women's College with 33 points. The Hollins University riders still hold first place in the region.

"We have consistent, good rides," riding director Nancy Peterson said.



Katie Furches shows off her first place ribbon with coach Nancy Peterson, celebrating her success at the Bridgewater College Intercollegiate Horse Show. Photo by Steve Maxwell of [campusequestrian.com](http://campusequestrian.com)

Consistency is integral to the success of the Hollins riding team; they have placed in the top three at every intercollegiate horse show this semester.

"Teamwork -- it's become more of a team effort on everybody's part, hard work, practice and dedication," Nancy Peterson said when asked what was behind the Hollins riders' success.

Individual successes also contributed to the team's showing. Katie Furches '10, 18, placed first in both Open Equitation over fences and Open

Equitation on the flat, capturing the high point rideraward.

"I feel great, I think our team is very united" Furches said. Aly Sanderford '07, 21, qualified for the regional competition in the spring held at the University of Virginia. Sanderford will compete in Intermediate Equitation over fences at the regional competition.

"I like the team spirit," said Inga Mitchell-DiMicco '10, 18, Mitchell-DiMicco competes in the Walk/Trot/Canter division, she placed first on Saturday. Mitchell-DiMicco has placed in the top three in every horse show she has competed in this fall.

"The team atmosphere," Lindsay Little '08, 20, said when asked what the best part of intercollegiate riding is "I think that riding is something you never do as a team, until you do intercollegiate."

The team aspect of intercollegiate riding creates a support system and cheering squad that many riders have never experienced. Outside of intercollegiate riding, most riders only compete individually.

But there is a down side to this intercollegiate teamwork, Little said.

"You feel like when you have a bad ride you're not letting yourself down, you're letting the team down."

The Hollins riders didn't appear let down, they still congratulated and encouraged Little and others who didn't win primary colors at Bridgewater. Little took fourth place in Novice Equitation over fences.

"It's just fun," Peterson said smiling. "Sometimes I see people having more fun doing one class at an intercollegiate show than people horse showing for three days (at rated horse shows)"

Peterson's voice sounds like cotton candy. Upbeat and excited, she's coached and cheered for Hollins riders for 21 years. "It's the only sport where a beginner can excel," collegiate horse shows offer a wide range of competition based on ability and previous horse show experience. They're different from regular horse shows because riders draw horses' names randomly; most competitors have never ridden the horse they compete on.

Peterson mentioned that the worst part of intercollegiate riding is that the coaches must select only a few of their top riders in every level to compete.

"Leaving people home breaks my heart," Peterson said.

## LOCAL COLUMNIST VISITS CLASS

BY SARAH MANN

Shanna Flowers is not shy about her age like many other women. "Put it in the paper, I'm forty-four!" Flowers said with a laugh when one young woman asked how old she was. "I think I look pretty good for forty-four!"

Flowers visited the Writing for the Print Media class on Monday evening, November 6<sup>th</sup> to answer their questions - including her age. Jody Jaffe and John Muncie, the class instructors allowed their class to interview Flowers about her job, personal life, and her column in *The Roanoke Times*.

Flowers grew up in Flint, MI and claims she went into journalism for one reason: "I hated math," she said.

A 1985 graduate of Howard University, Flowers started her journalism career at the *Saginaw News* where she worked on the education/health beat. She

left in '87 for the *Orlando Sentinel*, returning to Michigan after 8 years to work as the assistant city editor. The job was high-stress and Flowers nearly burned out.

"There's a reason I say I never want to be in management again," she said. She took a break from the journalism world until 2001, when she accepted a job at *The Roanoke Times* because she knew and respected editorial editor Tommy Denton.

Flowers worked four years as an editorial writer before being offered the chance to write her own column, a job she enjoys.

"I like columnizing better," she said. Her column runs three days a week, and she doesn't always have to be politically up-to-date in order to write.

"Did you see CNN last night?" she mimicked her newspaper cohorts. "Nope," she said, answering as herself. "I saw CSI: Miami!"

She also does not have to work as hard for stories

if the topic is big. "I let the reporters do the heavy lifting, then I sort of parachute in and cherry-pick," she said.

One article she wrote detailing the story of a local black woman with HIV inspired others to get tested for the virus and generated overwhelming positive feedback.

Other columns have not been so well received. "People love to hate me, which I see as a compliment," Flowers said with a smile. She reported how one reader told her that he read the column "so I can see how she [Flowers] can piss me off today!"

Before she left, Flowers encouraged her audience to pursue their writing. "Even if you don't want to be a journalist," she told them, "I think writing is very important...I don't care what you do, writing is important."

# INTERCULTURAL CENTER REACHES OUT TO COMMUNITY

BY FAYE DAIGLER

It is a sad truth to the Intercultural Board that most students regard the Intercultural Center (IC) as "that room in Moody with the flatscreen".

Contrary to common belief, the Intercultural Center is a space for anyone on campus that needs it.

While still a growing presence at Hollins University, the IC was founded in the interest of supporting diversity, and more importantly, providing a community space for students to use.

The Intercultural Center can serve as anything from a welcome reprieve from roommates, a quite space for online research, or a room in which to host club or diversity-centric events. Currently, it houses several club meetings and has been the location of various club-based activities.

Jeri Suarez, Associate Dean of Cultural & Community Engagement, clarified in an email: "The Intercultural Center is open to all students seeking information and/or resources of other cultures as well as a safe space to gather socially and for formal meetings. The leadership of the Center is club-based cultural organizations (BSA, GIA, OUTloud, Spanish Club, French Club). Membership is open to any club or group that actively promotes cultural diversity, awareness and activism." She also added, "We want the space used."



Lauren Ashley Dale '09, Meghan Foster '09, Alli Crandell '08, Carol-Ann Fitzsimmons '08, and Catherine Fitzgerald-Pittman '08 make up the Intercultural Board. They meet once a month in the Intercultural Center to discuss fundraising, events, and speakers coming to campus. They see themselves as a support system for clubs like Outloud, and the Black Student Alliance. Photo by Martha Sadler

The members of the IC board would like to use the available wall space to express Hollins' view of diversity.

"We're hoping to have a mural contest," Intercultural Center Chair Carol-Ann Fitzsimmons '08 said. Winning designs would be painted in a communal paint day, hopefully co-sponsored with WASH.

However, one can not speak about the Intercultural Center without touching on the events that were its impetus. During the Spring semester of 2003, the now infamous "Blackface" incident (an ADA skit during lunch that involved two members painting their faces to mimic Fat Albert and Jennifer Lopez) took place and galvanized students into action. Attempts were made

to rectify the incident: ADA was disbanded for a year, and a forum was organized to discuss the event. However, many students were still left without a sense of closure.

Over the summer, students emailed back and forth about race and showed up to Opening Convocation wearing green and gold armbands to show both their awareness of the current issues and their continued love for Hollins. In the face of continued racial incidents, the BSA, Outloud, and VOICE, as well as other concerned students, gathered in the Hollins Room during the month of October to talk about their concerns and act on them: they formed committees, wrote a manifesto and planned a demonstration. (A more detailed history of

what followed can be found at <http://hollinsquadrangle.tripod.com/id1.html>.)

During this time the Student Advisory Committee was also formed as a student counterpart to President Bell's Task Force for Diversity, which was a solely administrative entity. One of the suggestions of the SAC was an Intercultural Center, an idea that had been advanced by Aida Martinez, former head of Intercultural Events. The Intercultural Center was to provide event and club space, a library of resources for the cultural communities, scholarship information, and a comfortable area for students to use.

Although the IC does not currently house any books, its primary dilemma is not

in resources but in interest. Although it is regularly used by clubs, the Hollins community has yet to utilize the Intercultural Center to its full potential. The IC Board hopes that its plans to involve the community in refurbishing the space may be a well-needed boost in the right direction.

One of the clubs associated with the Intercultural Board, GIA, is currently looking for new members. Contact [ldale@hollins.edu](mailto:ldale@hollins.edu) for more information.



# FALL FORMAL ENCHANTS

BY MONICA VILLA

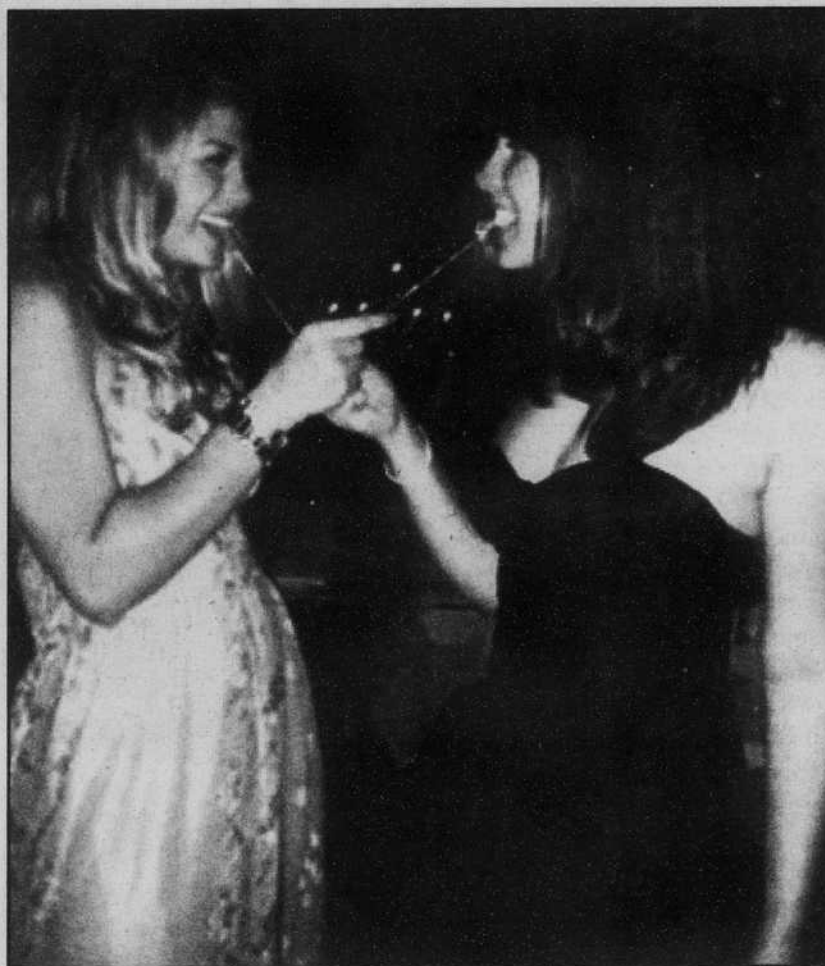
Between the girls in cocktail dresses and the guys in button up shirts or VMI military uniforms, everyone was looking sharp at the Patrick Henry Hotel on November fourth. Every thirty minutes, a shuttle bus transported a new group of excited students from the Hollins campus to the hotel downtown.

Refreshments ranging from sushi and cheese platters to fortune cookies and éclairs, as well as a well-stocked cash bar for those whose ID allowed it, kept students' energy levels high, while the DJ's music variety kept the girls (and their often-reluctant dates) on the dance floor throughout the night. Eliza Broaddus '09 thinks the best part of the night was when "everyone was dancing and singing along to the Bohemian Rhapsody song."

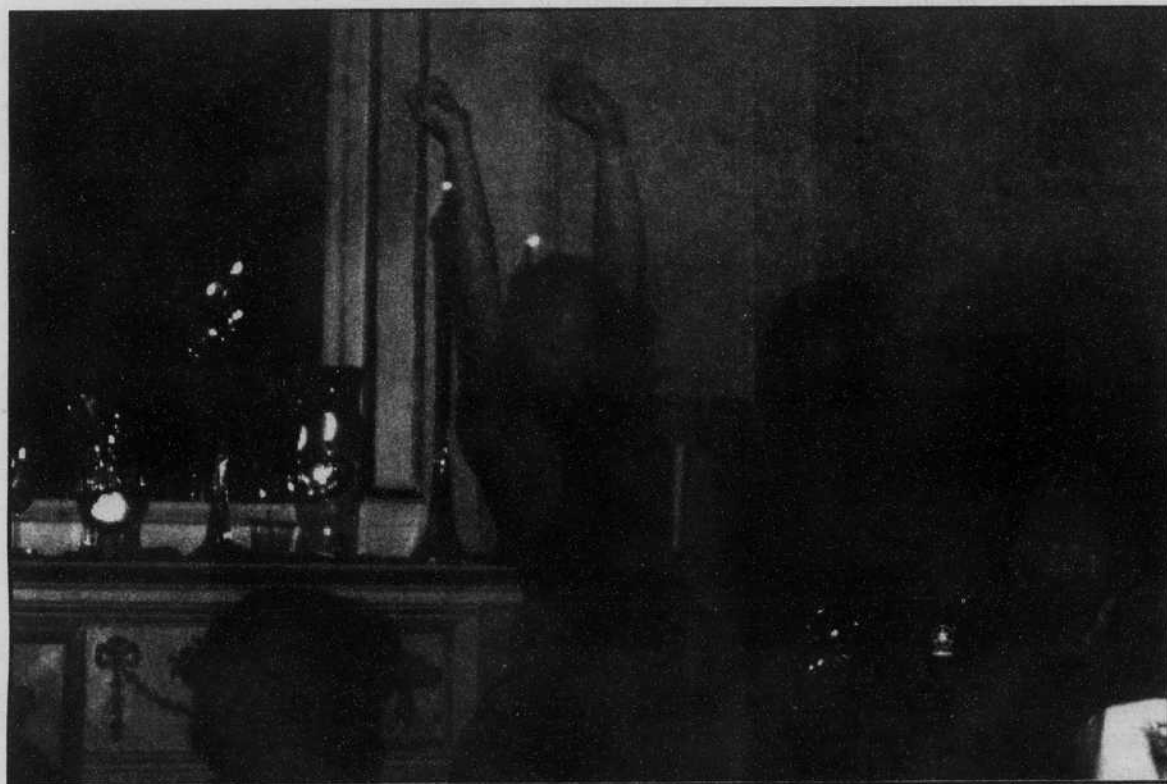
"This was my first dance at Hollins and I was very impressed with the overall turnout and the décor," said Hardin Powell '08.

It seems as if Hardin was not the only one who enjoyed fall formal considering the positive buzz the next day. "I loved the food, I loved the music, I loved how everyone was dancing and everyone just seemed so happy, there was definitely a good vibe floating around," said Maria Montes '08.

Their desire for dancing enkindled, students are beginning to look forward to Spring Cotillion.



Leah Twichell and Samantha Cole share a snack between songs. Photo by Christine Han



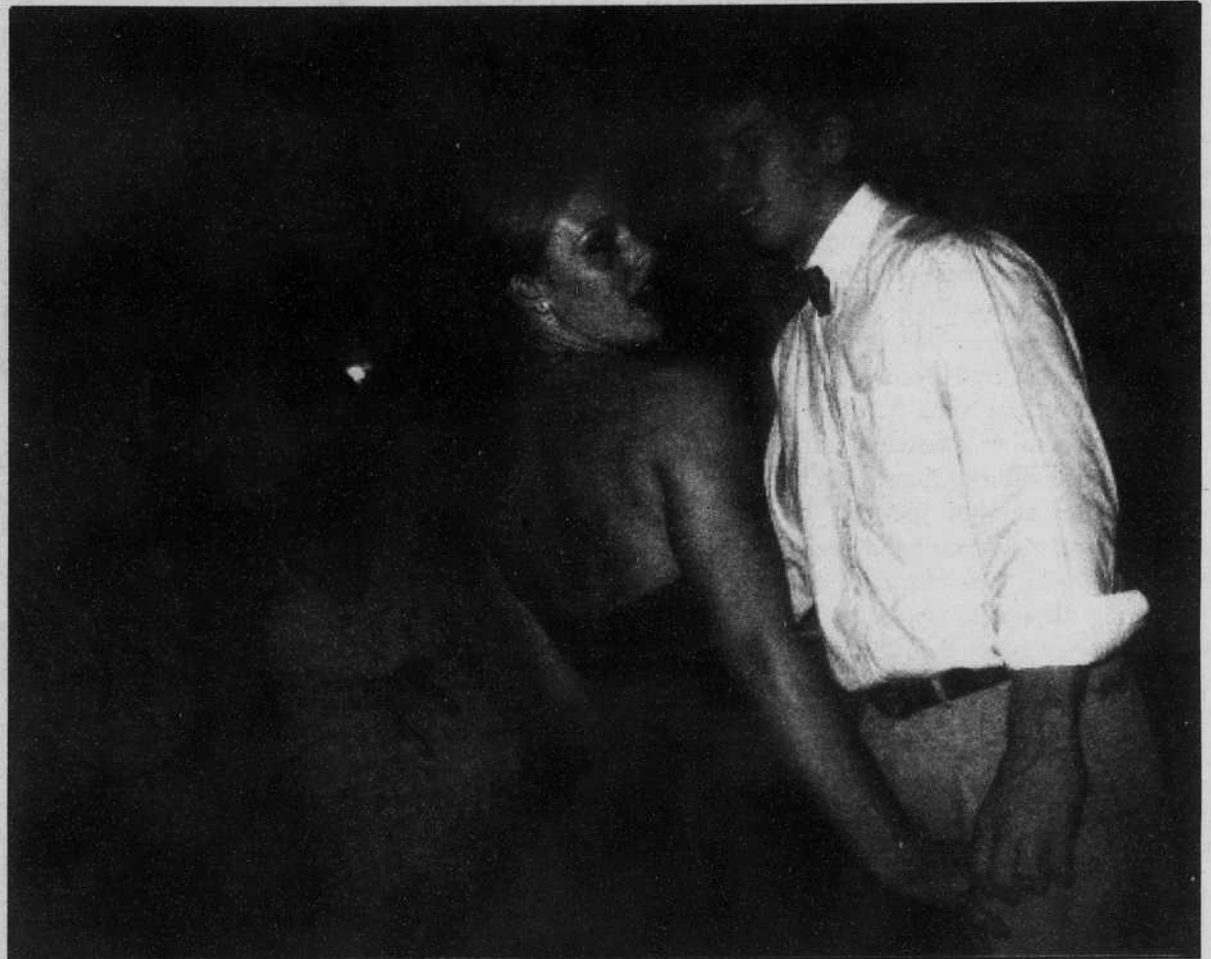
Lisa O'Quinn and Rachel Bright dance to the song "Brick House". Photo by Ryan Tunnell



Jessie McDermott dances with a friend. Photo by Martha Sadler



*Passport to  
Enchantment*



Laura Ashley Dale and date Michael Patterson hit the dance floor. *Photo by Radford Thomas*



The food table had pineapple, grapes, sushi and other treats. *Photo by Martha Sadler*



Jessie McDermott, Abbie Fisher, Summer Yarborough, Jessica Schmalz and Czarina Hunter pose for a picture. *Photo by Martha Sadler*

# "THE PRESTIGE" CREATES BIGSCREEN MAGIC

BY HOPE SWENSON

I was a bit hesitant to do a review on *The Prestige* because I just recently reviewed *The Illusionist*. Both films embody the splendor and thrill of magic in 19th century Europe; however, I have no regrets about seeing and writing about *The Prestige* because it is by far the superior film.

Magicians Robert Angier (Hugh Jackman) and Alfred Borden (Christian Bale) are long time friends who started out with an grounded and intelligent guru named Cutter (Michael Caine). After a tragic incident, they part ways and begin competing against each other using their magic tricks.

Getting desperate for new ideas that will not bore their audiences, they seek to utilize science to impress the viewers. Through the invention of Nikola Tesla (David Bowie), they use electricity to teleport themselves. The problem is that neither Angier nor Borden are exactly sure of the source

of the trick.

Scarlett Johansson plays Olivia Wenscombe, Angier's beautiful assistant who is falling in love with him. When he asks her to become the assistant to Borden in order to find out his secrets, she agrees. She then falls in love with Borden, terribly complicating his relationship with his wife. Johansson performs with her usual stellar presence that is thoroughly rapturing. Her costumes and hairstyles are especially eye-catching, drawing attention her important, though brief, role in the film.

I found the storyline extremely interesting due to the magicians' desperate desire to put on the best act and



awe their audiences. Their ambition had little to do with entertaining--the magicians actually did not care much for their

audience. They were totally enthralled in out-tricking one another, even wounding each other, threatening their lives, and the stage served merely as another battlefield.

The cast members are spectacular in their roles, effectively conveying the great emotion that was brought to the serious business of entertainers during the time. Jackman and Bale are amazingly dramatic actors that can really make the moviegoer almost personally feel the desire and anger they

portray on the screen. The film is over two hours long, but with the continuously involved plot, the time flies by.

At points in the movie the viewer could get lost. There are so many open-ended questions about who is who, what relationship they have with one another and how they are affecting the plot, as well as several confusing flashbacks. When the end credits finally roll, however, many of the obvious inquiries have been answered, but not all. With *The Prestige*, the director leaves some open ends for the viewer to use their imagination.

The two main characters are constantly vying to produce the most incredible prestige. Yes, each magician wants the best magic act, but the competition runs much deeper, involving several complicated personal matters that leave the viewer to wonder what each character's fate will be.

## VIRGINIA COALITION PROMOTE NEW ALBUM IN ROANOKE

BY ASHLEY KONRAD

The Virginia Coalition, one of Hollins' favorite bands, will be playing November 15th at Martin's Downtown in Roanoke to promote their latest CD release, *Live at the 9:30 Club*. The show begins at 9:30 and tickets are \$10 at the door.

*Live at the 9:30 Club* was recorded on January 6th, and the CD booklet features the name of every person who attended the show that night. This kind of audience recognition is typical of the Virginia Coalition, a band whose roots are so vested in fan support.

The Virginia Coalition, commonly referred to by fans as "VaCo," began with four friends attending Alexandria, Virginia's T.C. Williams High School during the late 1980's. Through the school's music program, the band was formed, and VaCo's first studio album, *The Colors of the Sound*, was released in 1998, to local acclaim. Following their first studio album, VaCo began playing gigs at smaller venues (including the famed D.C. nightclub 9:30 Club). In 2003, VaCo's third album, *Rock n' Roll Party*, hit the billboard charts as Billboard's 18th top-selling internet album of that year.

Virginia Coalition's sound fuses rock, soul, R&B, and bluegrass. The members of the band - Andrew Poliakov (lead vocals and guitar), Paul Ottinger

(keyboards and percussion), Jarret Nicolay (bass guitar and banjo), and John Patrick (drums and backup vocals), credit each other with bringing their own separate musical knowledge to the band. Because of this, the material on VaCo's studio albums are vast and varied - some songs sound bluegrass, with heavy banjo and string playing, while others embrace the more lyrical rock styling of Dave Matthews.

*Live at the 9:30 Club* is unique for the Virginia Coalition because of the absence of the second guitar (usually played on the studio albums by Nicolay), which gives many of the songs an intimate, poppy feeling - the lyrics are more present, and the tempo is faster. The songs on this album are the classic VaCo songs featured on their previously released studio albums, with a slight differences in harmonies and guitar riffs. Songs such as "Green and Grey" and "Lonely Cowboy" take on an almost ethereal feeling when played live, especially when accompanied by front man Andrew Poliakov's unique vocal delivery. Unlike the songs from VaCo's studio releases, the feeling of forced rhyme in session with tight musical accompaniment is relaxed - Virginia Coalition is actually one of the few bands who do come alive in performance as opposed to in the studio.

The two-disc, sixteen song recording can almost

be listened to as a Virginia Coalition greatest hits album, with some extra treasures, such as a pop rendition of "Lean on Me," which works fabulously among the set list of original songs.

Also present on the album are the occasional jam sessions and random, but amusing, monologues.

The greatest part of listening to *Live at the 9:30 Club*, however, is the sense of close connection that the band has with the crowd. The imperfection of live performance enhances the quality of the songs - the instruments are played loosely with an increased emphasis on vocals. *Live at The 9:30 Club* sounds less like a watered-down version of their albums (which is often the case with guitar-based music when played live) and more like a fresh, rock-infused Dave Matthews.

The homegrown heroes have made good with this album, but they have not forgotten their roots in the Virginia music scene. *Live at The 9:30 Club* is a kind of gift to the local fans, a way of saying, "hey, guys, thanks for listening."



# 7 FUN IDEAS FOR BORED FIRST-YEARS

When you're not of age to drink, money is tight, and boys are a minimum of 45 minutes away, and you aren't exactly familiar with what to do in Roanoke, weekends on campus can be painfully boring for a freshman. Here are 7 things to do on a dull weekend:

## 1. Buy a Pet

Now, I know that most pets are not allowed in dorms, however, with a little imagination, there are plenty of options. For example: beta fish. Did you know that they grow according to the size of their tank? Why don't you and your hall mates do an experiment and see how big the fish can get? Also, the rule for animals is that the majority of the time they have to be in water. Besides gold fish and turtles, why not try an alligator? These animals also grow according to the size of their tank, so if kept small, you can have a permanent baby alligator!

## 2. Dye hair

When you are bored of seeing your friend (or yourself) looking the same day after day, try a



new medium for arts and crafts! Try non-permanent colors or just add highlights or frosting.

Tip: Nice N' Easy is great because the colors are subtle. There's also a sale on hair dye at CVS.

## 3. Have a séance

Everybody knows there are plenty of ghosts in Hollins, so why not try and contact them? Light some candles and hold hands, or work with a Ouija.

## 4. Have a scary movie marathon.

Curl up with friends (and a teddy bear?) and watch back-to-back scary movie sequels such as "The Ring" and "The Ring 2", "The Saw", and "The Saw 2." There are plenty of freaky movies to get you in the mood for Halloween, so check out the library- it has plenty.

Tip: Look for the movie "Ouija."

## 5. Throw a party-- the legal kind.

Reserve a common room for an '80s dance party, an ice cream social or a chick-flick and

chocolate bash for a friend who has just broken up with her boyfriend. Serve snacks (Chex mix is always a good party staple) and "mocktails." Celebrate a birthday, an engagement, a full moon, or whatever!

## 6. Have a cooking party

OK, so the kitchens are not that big. They can still be used to bake cook cookies with friends (just try not to eat all the dough before it makes it to the oven!), replace the everyday Ramen and make pasta, or show off your culinary prowess by inventing your own recipe.

## 7. Catch up on work and studying

Sorry, I had to add this one in. It may not be fun, but it's definitely worthwhile to take one weekend day every now and then and catch up or review-- it'll come in handy on Monday.

## JOIN THE HOLLINS COLUMNS STAFF FOR SPRING '07!

Want Ads: Contact [Hollinscolumns@hollins.edu](mailto:Hollinscolumns@hollins.edu) if interested.

### Business/Economics:

Someone who is interested in managing our business, which would mean working with the advertising people of such companies as U.S. Cellular, Toyota, and eventually pitching our business to local Roanoke companies. This job could also entail managing our SGA budget and the money we receive for printing our ads, as well as the costs of printing the paper and making sure we have the money we need to buy certain equipment.

### Communications/English:

Any students who are interested in print media could work as reporters and write articles for the Hollins Columns which would give them work samples for when they apply for jobs or internships in the field of journalism.

### Computer Science:

Anyone who is interested in learning the intricacies of quintessential computer programs such as InDesign,

Photoshop and other publishing software could be much needed for our layout team. These are important programs to learn for those that are interested in doing computer work.

### Film:

The Hollins Columns would love to have an official movie reviewer, someone who is a huge movie buff and can handle their subject with expertise, wit, and knowledge of the subject of film. This would help with their media criticism abilities.

**Photography:** Photographers could take photos of events on campus or in Roanoke. These photos could become part of their portfolio and help give them exposure. Photographers could also learn to work with the computer program Photoshop to edit their work.

### Art:

The Hollins Columns is looking for someone who loves to doodle to be the staff cartoonist.

