

JAMES BERKELEY/SPPS

Protesters gathered outside of War Memorial Chapel to voice their opposition to Marriage Protection Week, saying the president's proclamation excludes same-sex marriages.

Group fights 'marriage week'

President Bush has deemed this week to be Marriage Protection Week

by **Tiffany Hoffman**
Managing Editor

Members and supporters of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender community gathered on the Drillfield on Tuesday and spread through the campus with posters and handouts to protest President Bush's proclamation for Marriage Protection Week.

"It's written in (the proclamation that) the marriage they're trying to protect excludes same-sex marriages," said Heather Black, president of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Alliance and a junior biology major.

Bush announced his proclamation Oct. 3, declaring the week of Oct. 12 as Marriage Protection Week.

"Marriage Protection Week provides an opportunity to focus our efforts on preserving the sanctity of marriage and on building strong and healthy marriages in America," Bush said in a press release. "Marriage is a union between a man and a woman, and my Administration is working to support the institution of marriage by helping couples build successful marriages and be good parents."

Chris Hampton, a public education associate for the American Civil Liberties Union, said the GLBT community is responding to Bush's proclamation by raising the question of what the government and other organizations are trying to protect marriage from.

"Why is same-sex marriage

such a threat to anybody?" she said.

In addition to Bush's proclamation, Black said several family values councils, religious groups and members of Concerned Women for America are working to pass a Constitutional amendment outlawing same-sex marriages all together.

"It definitely puts a black mark on the ideals of compassionate conservatism," she said. "It's our belief the Marriage Protection Week is ultimately geared toward passing this amendment."

Hampton said the ACLU is disturbed by the way Bush is buying into the organizations attempting to pass the amendment, but said even if Bush endorses it, the amendment will have to be passed by both houses in Congress by a two-thirds majority vote. The amendment must then be ratified by three-quarters

of states.

Black said Vermont is the only state currently recognizing civil unions, which allows same-sex couples to have most of the same benefits as heterosexual couples, but it is not recognized outside of the state. There are about 37 states that have already decided to prevent civil unions or any other same-sex marriages, she said.

"I just don't think the government has the right to be in our homes and to tell us what we can and can't do," said Rachel Mikulas, a junior engineering science major. "I'm Mormon and the big thing in my religion is God put us down here and gave us the right to choose. If God says we have the right to choose, then that's what I say."

"It's all about love and how can you say that's bad?"

See **WEEK**, page 4

Cuts force new fund-raising ideas

by **Christina Peña**
News Assistant

Public universities from all over the country are battling cuts from the state and thinking of creative ways to fund themselves.

Virginia Tech is no different and certainly not alone. About 40 states have received reduced appropriations or funds from their state, according to Larry Hincker, university spokesman.

In recent years, higher education in Virginia was under-funded by \$200 million and has also received another \$150 million cut. This complicates how the state's premier universities will be able to keep up with the costs of education and research operations.

In 2002-2003, Tech raised tuition to \$21 million, but this does not come

close to covering the gap existing from state cuts. Hincker said it would take years to recover from the budget cuts and reach base adequacy.

Tech continuously works toward keeping tuition as reasonable as possible though, said David Ford, vice provost for academic affairs.

With state cuts increasing every year and more people attending universities, the only solution is to raise tuition, Hincker said.

Other methods are still necessary in addition though. Layoffs, salary cuts, cuts in course offerings, increase in class size and limiting student enrollment are all ways of aiding the lack of funds, he said.

In addition to these, Tech is in the beginning of a fundraising campaign to increase philanthropy to the uni-

See **CUTS**, page 2

Early decision comes under fire

Opponents of the program say early decision puts pressure on students to pick a college before they are ready to do so

by **Jared Turner**
News Assistant

When Sen. Ted Kennedy proposed legislation that could reduce federal support for colleges employing early decision policies, officials of the National Association for College Admission Counseling started to squirm.

Officials from the organization are concerned such legislation will eventually take away a college's right to dictate its own admissions policies.

The proposed legislation, part of

Congress' plan to renew the Higher Education Act, also limits support for institutions giving extra consideration for children of alumni or having a graduation rate for minority students 10 percentage points or more below the institution's overall graduation rate.

Opponents of early decision say it is unfair because it puts pressure on students to pick a college before they are ready to do so. They also say early decision is particularly unfair to poor or minority applicants who are either unaware of the strategic advantage of applying early or choose not to because they are unsure of the financial aid available under the plan.

Martin Wilder, vice president for enrollment at Mary Washington College, explained why his institution chose to do away with early

See **EARLY**, page 2

Tech sees rise in diagnoses of disabled students

170 Tech students were diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in the last year

by **Jared Turner**
News Assistant

The number of college students with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder is on the rise across the nation. Virginia Tech is also experiencing such a rise.

The Chronicle of Higher Education reports that researchers have found the number of college students with ADHD has increased steeply in recent years as more people have been diagnosed with the disorder.

For Tech, the trend is no different as the number of students served by Services for Students with Disabilities increased dramatically from May 15, 2002 to May 15, 2003.

Over the course of one year, 535 students were served by SSD, an increase of 75 students from the previous year.

Of those students, 170 were diagnosed with ADHD while 135 students were diagnosed as learning dis-

abled and 69 students were diagnosed with both.

"This office exists to facilitate equal access to programs, education, opportunities and facilities within the university," said Jane Warner, coordinator of SSD.

Warner explained how SSD inherits the names of many of the students it serves.

"We get referrals all over campus from faculty members who meet students with academic difficulties," she said.

"We talk with these students to see if there is a reason to test for learning and psychological disabilities."

SSD at Tech oversees an array of accommodations for students with ADHD or learning disabilities, including alternative test arrangements, assistive technology, course substitution, extended time on projects

and assignments, notetakers, priority class registration and reduced course load.

Testing accommodations may include extended time, low distraction environment, relocation or a different test format while assistive technology includes hardware such as an adapted mouse, large monitor or adapted keyboard.

Such special services for students with ADHD have become the norm on college campuses

throughout America, but many are skeptical about how much they actually help.

"We don't know empirically if the interventions offered help to them," said Lisa Weyandt, a psychology professor at Central Washington University.

"It's an area where we need more research."

"We get referrals all over from faculty members who meet students with academic difficulties. We talk with these students to see if there is a reason to test for learning and psychological disabilities."

Jane Warner
coordinator, SSD

Campaign battles suicide stigmas

by **Erin Zlomek**
News Assistant

Virginia Tech students have organized the first ever "Choose Tomorrow" campaign this week to raise student awareness about mental health issues and suicide.

"We were looking for an avenue in which we could serve the university in a way that does not get enough attention," said Kevin Troxell, a sophomore finance major.

Resident advisors will be conducting information sessions and showing videos in the residence halls to promote mental health awareness throughout the week. These R.A.s. were specially trained by materials provided by The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, also one of the campaign's beneficiaries.

A graffiti wall with student testimonials will be displayed on the Drillfield through Thursday. Thursday night will feature speakers, a concert by the band Temple, and a candlelight vigil.

An auction will be held Friday at the German Club Manor to round out the week's events. Donated items such as a Dell Computer, golf packages, and a dinner party by Professional Catering, will raise money to be split between the AFSP and the Mental Health Association of the New River Valley.

"Choose Tomorrow" was an original idea by German Club members John Grantham and Charlie Smith, however the week-long event is also sponsored by



TUAN PHAM/SPPS

A graffiti wall allows people to write reflections and words of encouragement for people affected by suicide.

Kappa Delta Alpha and campus R.A.s. among others.

"We are trying to gear it as (a project) for Virginia Tech students (put on) by Virginia Tech students," Troxell said.

Mike Lythgoe, a counselor in Roanoke City schools and a suicide prevention trainer said in a press release that it is easy to believe suicide only happens in other communities. However, statistics prove otherwise.

According to a vital statistics annual report issued by the Virginia Department of Health, in 1999, 13 of every 100,000 people committed suicide in the New River Valley alone. The same report also said that residents of Southwest Virginia were 50 percent more likely to commit

suicide than any other part of the commonwealth.

Jeremy Daniel, a sophomore communication major involved with "Choose Tomorrow" said he hopes the week's events console those affected by mental health as effectively as it raises awareness.

"This is an opportunity for students to reflect on those they have lost, but a lot of people just don't know about suicide (prevention in general)," Daniel said. "We are just trying to help."

Troxell, who had a family member commit suicide, said he hopes "Choose Tomorrow" does not end on Friday.

"Hopefully this will be a success and we can put on an annual campaign."

News in Brief

Gov. Warner outlines higher education agenda

RICHMOND (AP) — Gov. Mark R. Warner outlined plans Tuesday to increase the number of Virginia college graduates by 10,000 a year and to boost annual spending on academic research by \$1 billion by 2010.

The measures are part of Warner's "Education for a Lifetime" initiative, which also includes reforms in elementary and secondary schools.

Warner said the higher education initiatives will increase Virginians' earning power, stimulate economic development and help the state accommodate expected enrollment growth of 61,000 students over the next decade.

Accused teacher suspended

HAMPTON (AP) — A Hampton High School teacher has been suspended amid accusations he had a sexual relationship with one of his students.

Chatez Gyasi Gibson, 26, a health and physical education teacher in his fourth year at Hampton High, is charged with five counts of indecent liberties with a 15-year-old girl and five counts of contributing to the delinquency of a minor. Each indecent liberty charge is a felony, punishable by up to five years in jail.

After learning of Gibson's arrest Monday, Hampton school officials suspended him without pay pending the outcome of the case, said Ann Stephens,

spokeswoman for Hampton public schools.

Inspectors find roaches at HU

HAMPTON (AP) — The city Health Department cited Hampton University's campus cafeteria for repeated unsanitary conditions, including roaches near the food and the handling of raw meats at unsafe temperatures.

Since word spread on campus of the violations, students have been eating canned soups and packages of dried noodles to avoid eating at the cafeteria.

Tiny roaches or flies were common around the exposed lettuce and salad fixings, Wallace said. A friend found a worm in her baked chicken, she said.

The university expected a follow-up inspection as soon as Tuesday to see if the cafeteria had improved on more than 30 code violations from September.

Hit put out on 'Sammy the Bull'

NEW YORK — A reputed hit man plotted to kill mob turncoat Salvatore "Sammy the Bull" Gravano with a remote-control bomb in retaliation for betraying the Gambino crime family, a prosecutor told a jury Tuesday.

Thomas "Huck" Carbonaro, 55, took an oath "to kill on orders" when he became a Gambino soldier, prosecutor Joseph Lipton said in opening arguments at Carbonaro's murder conspiracy trial.

Cuts: Other schools have changed tuition scale

Continued from page 1

Resources would be solicited from corporations, foundations, individuals with an affinity for specific programs offered, alumni and parents of students.

"Unfortunately it comes back to people buying the service," Hincker said.

Currently, the only decreased tuition rates, Ford said, are for K-12 teachers and students studying abroad in Riva San Vitale, Switzerland. General financial aid is offered for all students in the form of the budget tuition plan and federal student loans.

Some universities around the country are coming up with more unusual ways of supporting themselves, such as charging tuition according to the wealth of families, time classes are taken, popularity or cost of programs, year of study and others.

In the mid-1990s several Virginia universities, including the University of Virginia, considered tuition pricing based on the popularity or cost of programs. Tech also had discussions at the

senior level to consider the same method, Hincker said.

No concrete policy about the popularity/cost-based tuition pricing ever came about from any Virginia university.

The University of Oregon already discounts prices for students who take classes at unpopular times.

This policy is being discussed at the University of Texas, according to the Chronicle of Higher Education, and the Chicago and Urbana-Champaign campuses of the University of Illinois; universities in Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania are charging incoming freshman a surcharge.

These different rate scales may seem drastic, but supporters said they could give students some control in how much they pay.

The question of how to raise rates fairly without driving people away is a major concern when considering new ways of adjusting funds, campus officials said.

"(As for Tech) anything's a possibility," Ford said.

Sniper suspect pleads innocent

VIRGINIA BEACH (AP) — John Allen Muhammad entered innocent pleas and greeted potential jurors with silence Tuesday as the death-penalty trial of the 42-year-old sniper suspect got under way a year after a series of deadly shootings terrified the Washington area.

Muhammad pleaded innocent to capital murder and firearms charges. He initially remained silent when asked a routine question by Circuit Judge Roy F. Millette Jr., but later answered after whispering with an attorney.

Muhammad, wearing a white button-down shirt and tie, told Millette he understood the charges and that he was ready for the trial.

"I'm prepared for it, yes," he said.

The case, which is expected to last up to six weeks, was moved some 200 miles out of metropolitan Washington to this southeastern Virginia city after defense lawyers argued that every northern Virginia resident could be considered a victim because the shootings made them afraid.

Some legal experts have said it will be difficult to select impartial jurors from a community where people may still have felt vulnerable as the attacks mounted. Intense media coverage of the case will also make it difficult to find unbiased jurors.

Early: Tech will not eliminate program

Continued from page 1

decision last year after offering the plan for almost 30 years.

"The decision was tied to a national discussion about how early-decision plans have been distorted from their original intention," Wilder said. "We felt students were already under tremendous pressure and that early-decision could unintentionally add even more pressure for the student."

Wilder explained, however, early decision policies do not have to be harmful.

"There's nothing inherently wrong with

early decision," he said. "It's just when it gets distorted by the hype of institutions that promote it too heavily that it creates a problem. It can be used in a fair, ethical way that is not harmful to the student."

As for Tech, early-decision continues to be an option for students who know Tech is their first choice, said Jacqueline Nottingham, associate director of undergraduate admissions.

About 20 percent of applicants apply early decision, she said.

Nottingham said admissions decisions are based more on students' qualifications than the decision plan they choose.

"It depends on the student and their academic credentials," she said.

Nottingham said Tech has had no complaints about its early decision policy and the university will not do away with it as long as no federal funds are denied.

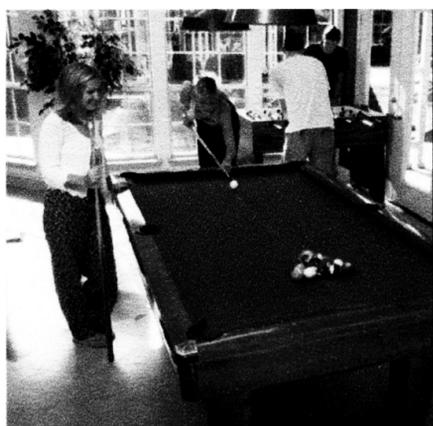
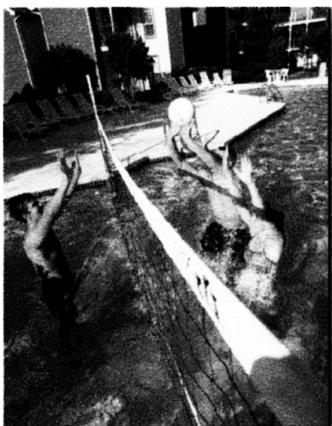
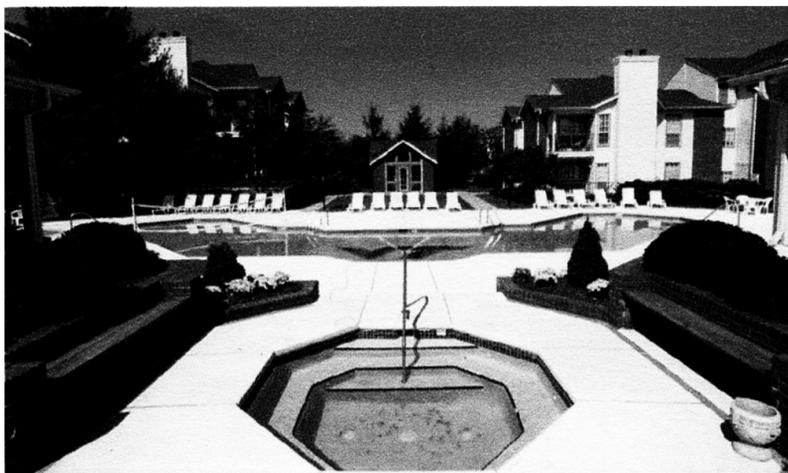
If legislation like Kennedy's is passed, however, Nottingham knows early decision plans would almost universally disappear.

"I think all schools would eliminate early decision unless they were private and had the funds to keep it," she said.

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Slow pace of case frustrates judge

by **Ron Jenkins**
Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — The judge in the state's murder case against Oklahoma City bombing conspirator Terry Nichols said Tuesday that lack of cooperation from the federal government was jeopardizing Nichols' right to a fair trial.

"At what point do the problems presented by the federal government become the state's problem and my problem in guaranteeing Mr. Nichols a fair trial?" District Judge Steven Taylor asked in a pre-trial hearing.

The judge's comments renewed complaints he had made in a letter last week chiding the government for not making witnesses available for Nichols' defense attorneys.

"This situation is unacceptable and a remedy should come quickly or the court will impose a remedy," Taylor wrote.

He did not immediately rule on the request by Brian Hermanson, Nichols' attorney, who said Tuesday that dismissal of the case would be the fairest option.

"We're getting tired of fighting this battle," Hermanson said. "If this had been any other case, I would have interviewed these witnesses years ago."

Oklahoma County Assistant District Attorney Lou Keel asked the judge not to dismiss the case, saying, "There's absolutely no reason to do anything drastic right now." He said depositions

of witnesses — the taking of testimony under oath before a trial — are under way.

Keel's boss, Oklahoma County District Attorney Wes Lane, has sent a letter to Attorney General John Ashcroft, saying Taylor has become "visibly frustrated" and could decide to throw out the case or prohibit the use of the death penalty.

"It is the unfortunate circumstance that the state finds itself in the position of having fought for several years to bring this case to trial — and to finally be on the very eve of the trial — only to find that the federal government can hamstring our prosecution by its refusal to cooperate," Lane

"This situation is unacceptable and a remedy should come quickly or the court will impose a remedy."

Steven Taylor
district judge

wrote. U.S. Attorney Robert McCampbell responded to Lane's letter, saying the federal government has misgivings over the intentions of Nichols' attorneys, The Daily Oklahoman reported Tuesday in a copyright story.

"Some of the effort by the defense in the current case seems designed to try to undermine confidence in the federal conviction rather than to prepare for trial in state court," wrote McCampbell, who is from Oklahoma City.

McCampbell said only 50 formal defense requests have been made, most in the last 30 days. At least 19 of the witnesses no longer work for the federal government and "cannot be expected to drop those things at a moment's notice," he said.

Court takes on pledge fight

▪ The Supreme Court will settle whether the phrase "one nation under God" will remain in the oath

by **Anne Gearan**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court said Tuesday it will decide whether the Pledge of Allegiance recited by generations of American schoolchildren is an unconstitutional blending of church and state.

The case sets up an emotional showdown over God in the public schools and in public life. It will settle whether the phrase "one nation under God" will remain a part of the patriotic oath as it is recited in most classrooms.

The court will hear the case sometime next year.

The justices agreed to hear an appeal involving a California atheist whose 9-year-old daughter, like most elementary school children, hears the Pledge of Allegiance recited daily.

A national uproar followed a federal appeals court ruling last year that the reference to God made the pledge unconstitutional in public schools.

That ruling, if allowed to stand, would strip the reference from the version of the pledge recited by about 9.6 million schoolchildren in California and other western states.

The First Amendment guarantees that government will not "establish" religion, wording that has come to mean a general ban on overt government sponsorship of religion in public schools and elsewhere.

The Supreme Court has already said that schoolchildren cannot be required to recite the oath that begins, "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America,"

The court has also repeatedly barred school-sponsored prayer from classrooms, playing fields and school ceremonies.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said the language of the First Amendment and the Supreme Court's precedents make clear that tax-supported schools cannot lend their imprimatur to a declaration of fealty to "one nation under God."

The administration, the girl's school and atheist Michael Newdow all asked the Supreme Court to get involved in the case.

The court agreed only to hear the appeal from the school district. The administration will be able to weigh in separately.

The court also said it will consider whether Newdow had the proper legal footing to bring the case.

In its legal filings so far, the administration has argued that the reference to God in the pledge is more about ceremony and history than about religion.

The reference is an "official acknowledgment of our nation's religious heritage," similar to the "In God We Trust" stamped on coins and bills, Solicitor general Theodore Olson told the court. It is far-fetched to say such references pose a real danger of imposing state-sponsored religion, Olson wrote.

Being a parent of a child in public school does not give a parent the power to dictate what the child will be exposed to, Olson said.

"Public schools routinely instruct students about evolution, war and other matters with which some parent may disagree on religious, political or moral grounds," he said in his appeal.

The administration also claimed that Newdow cannot sue on behalf of his daughter because he does not have custody of her. Newdow and the child's mother, Sandra Banning, have waged a long and bitter custody battle over the child, who lives with her mother.

Gene variation linked to longevity

by **Lindsey Tanner**
Associated Press

CHICAGO — One reason some people live into their 90s and beyond may be a genetic variation that makes the cholesterol particles in their blood really big.

"Supersize it" is not usually associated with good health, but evidence increasingly is showing that bigger is indeed better when it comes to the lipoprotein particles that carry cholesterol through the bloodstream.

Smaller particles, it is believed, can more easily embed themselves in the blood vessel walls, contributing to the fatty buildups that lead to heart attacks and strokes.

A study in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association suggests that the tendency to have large cholesterol particles can be inborn.

The study, led by Dr. Nir Barzilai, director of the Institute for Aging Research at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, found that people in their late 90s and beyond are more likely to have a gene variation that causes large particles of both HDL cholesterol and LDL cholesterol.

"We basically think the size is necessary for longevity," Barzilai said.

The results are intriguing and support the notion that "exceptional longevity may depend, at least in part, on inheriting 'good' genes," said Anna McCormick of the National Institute on Aging, which helped fund the study.

Nevertheless, while genes probably determine particle size, recent research has suggested that exercise can enlarge the particles.

Doctors do not routinely test for HDL and LDL particle size, but a few companies offer such tests commercially. If the findings are confirmed, they could lead to wider testing. Moreover, research is already under way on a cholesterol-lowering drug that also makes the particles bigger.

Cardinals: Pope still able to do his mission

by **Nicole Winfield**
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Although speech is becoming harder for him, Pope John Paul II still can carry out his mission and shows no sign of resigning, several cardinals said Tuesday.

Papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls hinted a time might come when the Vatican has to reevaluate how to cope with a pontiff whose skill as a communicator, a hallmark of his 25-year papacy, is clearly declining.

"I work very close with him, and I see his mind, his capacity for projecting things, for putting new goals, which is absolutely intact," Navarro-Valls said in an interview with ABC's "Good Morning America." "So the problem is not there — at least it's not there yet."

When asked whether the Vatican would have to deal with the problem later if it became necessary, he said: "I suppose so."

John Paul has had trouble speaking for several years as a result of Parkinson's disease, which causes him to slur his words. Recently, however, he has occasionally been unable to deliver his full speeches, often only saying a line or two before turning the text over to an aide to finish.

The change was most evident during his September visit to Slovakia, where for the first time in over 100 foreign trips the pope was unable to complete his arrival speech. As recently as last week, however, John Paul managed to

get through his comments, albeit with great difficulty.

Cardinals who are gathering in Rome for celebrations surrounding John Paul's 25th anniversary as pope on Thursday said that even though he has such difficulty speaking, he shows no sign of stepping down or turning over leadership of the Roman Catholic Church.

"He still seems to be able to do it," Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, archbishop of Washington, D.C., said in an interview Tuesday. "As long as God lets him do it, he's going to continue doing it."

When asked whether the pope might step aside if he can no longer speak, McCarrick said he couldn't put himself in the mind of the pope.

"I do believe that this Holy Father is so much in the hands of God, he's going to let God tell him."

John Paul himself has made clear he does not intend to resign, saying he will carry out his mission to the end.

Portuguese Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins, head of the Congregation of the Causes of Saints, told the Portuguese newspaper Diario de Noticias that only the pope can decide what he would do if he loses the ability to communicate.

"Evidently it would have to be evaluated, it would have consequences, but it wouldn't be fundamental for the pope's work," he was quoted as saying. "The word is very important for those who govern, but the Holy See is governed more by the head than by the word."

Shortages hit Bolivian capital

by **Carlos Valdes**
Associated Press

LA PAZ, Bolivia — Supplies of food, gasoline and other essentials ran short Tuesday as protesters demanding the president's resignation blocked roads and virtually paralyzed the capital of La Paz and the nearby city of El Alto.

Clashes between demonstrators and soldiers left at least 16 dead Monday, bringing the death toll from two weeks of protests to as high as 60, according to human rights groups and local media. Authorities have not confirmed this figure.

Shops, banks and offices were closed in the cities of La Paz and El Alto, home to about 1.5 million people. The few people going to work had to walk. Many intersections remained blocked by street barricades erected by demonstrators using tires, rocks, tree branches and other debris.

The protests in South America's poorest nation began more than three weeks ago in opposition to President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada's plan to export natural gas to the United States and Mexico. The demonstrations grew violent over the weekend and grew into calls for his ouster.

Sanchez de Lozada said Monday he was freezing the gas project, but the protests raged on in La Paz, El Alto, Cochabamba and other cities.

Leaders of labor and indigenous groups opposed to the president's free-market initiatives announced plans for new demonstrations.

Among those hit by the growing shortages were

the La Paz newspapers, which had to reduce the number of pages of their Tuesday editions for lack of newsprint.

Sanchez de Lozada defiantly rejected the demands for his resignation, which he said were part of an international plot to topple his government.

He remained secluded at his heavily guarded home, instead of going to the presidential palace in the downtown Murillo plaza, which was also under heavy military guard. Four small tanks were deployed in the plaza and soldiers with automatic weapons erected barricades nearby.

Sanchez de Lozada's support appeared to be strong from the military, but it faltered elsewhere. His vice president, Carlos Mesa, withdrew his backing Monday, citing tactics used to quell the demonstrations.

Mesa did not resign, although Economic Development Minister Jorge Torres quit his post, also protesting government moves to repress the street protests. Sanchez de Lozada blamed two indigenous congressmen — Evo Morales and Felipe Quispe — for the alleged plot to oust him. Both denied the accusations but insisted that he must go. The president's five-year term ends in 2007. Morales, who is the leader of Bolivia's coca leaf growers, said Sanchez de Lozada should be succeeded by "an indigenous government."

Coca is the base ingredient of cocaine, but many Bolivians chew the leaves or use them to brew tea. About 30,000 acres of coca can be cultivated legally, but growers want the limit increased.



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Week: Some groups oppose same-sex marriages

Continued from page 1

Brant Snyder, president of the Student Government Association and a junior finance major, said he supported the GLBT community's efforts because of the immense discrimination they have faced and because of the positive effects he said a child growing up in a family with parents of the same sex may be exposed to.

"It's silly to think they wouldn't be raised appropriately and it's silly to think they wouldn't be raised with the same values," he said. "It creates a diversity awareness for them as well as their peers."

However, all people do not share these viewpoints.

"Marriage is a sacred thing between a man and a woman and has been for thousands of years," said Beau Correll, chairman of College Republicans and a senior international studies and political science double major. "In society there are various different aspects of tradition and marriage is one of these things."

Bush addressed these same traditional values in his statement about Marriage Protection Week and said marriage is essential to the continued strength of our society. One of his major points of discussion included the well-being of children.

"By supporting responsible child-rearing and strong families, my Administration is seeking to ensure that every child can grow up in a safe and loving home," Bush said.

Bush followed up this statement by saying the government is working to not penalize marriages, but GLBT supporters are saying members of their community who want to raise children are being penalized by not being allowed to legally marry.

"While President Bush and the religious right are celebrating so-called 'Marriage Protection Week,' a five-year-old boy is being denied financial support ... because our laws don't respect same-sex relationships," said Ken Choe, staff attorney with the Lesbian & Gay Rights Project of the ACLU in a press release. "... Lesbian and gay families need legal protections to get through difficult times just like straight families do."

Supreme Court will revisit online porn censorship

by Anne Gearan
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court agreed Tuesday to revisit the thorny question of how to protect children from online smut without resorting to unconstitutional censorship.

The case asks whether, in the name of children, the law restricts too much material that adults have the right to see or buy.

On a more practical level, the court will decide whether the government can require some form of adults-only screening system to ensure children cannot see material deemed harmful to them.

This is the second time in as many years that the high court has reviewed an Internet pornography law passed by Congress in 1998 but never enforced.

The American Civil Liberties Union, representing booksellers, artists, explicit Web sites and others, challenged the Child Online Protection Act as an unconstitutional damper on free speech.

The Bush administration appealed to the high court, arguing that children are "unprotected from the harmful effects of the enormous amount of pornography on the World Wide Web."

The law, known by the acronym COPA, is a reasonable solution to the proliferation of online pornography, Solicitor General Theodore Olson told the court. The law targets commercial pornographers, he said.

The ACLU replied that the law could make criminals of many people who use the Internet for legitimate, often health-related reasons. Those who operate Web sites about gynecology and safe sex could be covered, as could Mitch Tepper, who posts explicit how-to sexual advice for disabled people, the ACLU claimed.

Olson said the main target is commercial pornographers who use sexually explicit "teasers" to lure customers.

The free teasers are available to nearly anyone surfing the Internet, children and adults alike. The pictures sometimes appear even when computer users are not seeking out pornography. The teasers typically lead potential customers to a Web site that may require payment and age verification.

COPA could mean six months in jail and \$50,000 in fines for first-time violators and additional fines for repeat offenders. It is on hold pending court challenges.

A federal appeals court has twice struck down the law, most recently and conclusively in March with a ruling that the law is riddled with problems that make it "constitutionally infirm."

Previously, the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals had ruled the law unconstitutional on grounds that it allowed Internet content to be judged by "contemporary community standards."

The ACLU and other opponents of the law said that was a meaningless or risky standard to apply to the Internet, which is available equally to the most conservative town or household and the most liberal.

The notion of what is acceptable can shift, and would effectively give a heckler's veto to the most conservative dot on the U.S. map, the law's opponents argued.

In its first crack at COPA, the Supreme Court looked only at the standards question. In a splintered ruling last year, the high court delivered a partial victory to the government by ruling

that the evaluation standard alone did not make the law unconstitutional.

The justices then sent the case back for a fuller examination of the other free speech objections raised by the ACLU.

The law, signed by former President Clinton and endorsed by President Bush, was written to replace a 1996 statute, the Communications Decency Act, that the Supreme Court unanimously struck down as unconstitutional in 1997.

That law was so broad that it covered pornographic material that adults have the right to see, as well as nonpornographic sexual material, the high court said then.

Congress tried again a year later, and civil liberties groups challenged it on the same First Amendment grounds the high court found persuasive before.

Defending COPA, the Bush administration now hopes to build on success in a similar case earlier this year.

The Supreme Court upheld yet another Internet anti-pornography law against free speech challenges, ruling that the federal government can withhold money from libraries that won't install Internet blocking devices.

Car bomb kills one in Baghdad

▪ The bomb exploded near the Turkish Embassy, and wounded more than a dozen people

by Sabah Jerjes
Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A car bomb exploded Tuesday near the Turkish Embassy, killing the driver and wounding more than a dozen others, U.S. officials and witnesses said. The suicide attack came one week after Turkey's parliament approved sending troops to Iraq, a step opposed by many Iraqis.

The bombing also was the latest in a series of blasts to shake the Iraqi capital. Two days ago, a car bomb at the Baghdad Hotel, home to U.S. and Iraqi officials, killed at least eight people, including the bomber.

In Tuesday's attack, a car rushed at the embassy in the midafternoon and exploded, witnesses said.

A concrete security barrier absorbed most of the blast, about 500 yards from the embassy, U.S. officials said.

Three embassy employees were slightly hurt, said Osman Paksut, Turkey's ambassador to Baghdad, interviewed on Turkey's private NTV television channel.

Col. Peter Mansoor of the U.S. 1st Armored Division said the vehicle's driver was killed. However, Iraqi witnesses said a second person also died and more than a dozen were injured.

Salam Tawfik Hussein, who was riding by in a pickup truck behind the bomber, said 16 people were treated at a hospital.

About 50 people gathered behind the Turkish Embassy after the bombing, chanting pro-Saddam Hussein slogans and waving Iraqi banknotes with the ousted leader's picture. Police detained several of them.

Mansoor said an investigation by the FBI and Iraqi police had begun.

"About three days ago, we received indications that there might be increased danger on the Turkish Embassy," Mansoor said. "We revved up security measures based on those indications."

Tuesday's blast was the eighth suicide or vehicle bombing since early August, most targeting facilities of the U.S. administration or of Iraqis and other nations help-

ing the occupation. The blasts have killed scores of people, and U.S. and Iraqi authorities have yet to determine who is behind any of them.

The latest attack came amid widespread Iraqi opposition to the prospect of neighboring Turkey deploying troops on Iraqi soil. Many Iraqis fear

Turkey seeks to dominate or grab territory in their country or that the deployment will cause friction with Kurds in northern Iraq.

The United States strongly backs the Turkish deployment, part of what it hopes will be a larger influx of international troops to help U.S. soldiers in

the struggle to bring order to Iraq. The Turks would be the first major contingent from a Muslim country.

Turkey made clear Tuesday's bombing would not derail its plans for a deployment.

"Turkey has from the start... done its best to help this country," said a Foreign Ministry statement released after the attack. "Turkey will persevere with its efforts with determination."

“About three days ago, we received indications that there might be increased danger on the Turkish Embassy. We revved up security measures based on those indications.”

Col. Peter Mansoor
U.S. 1st Armored Division

Court rejects medial marijuana appeal

▪ President Bush's administration asked if the government can punish doctors for recommending the drug

by Gina Holland
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court cleared the way Tuesday for state laws allowing ill patients to smoke marijuana if a doctor recommends it.

Justices turned down the Bush administration's request to consider whether the federal government can punish doctors for recommending or perhaps just talking about the benefits of the drug to sick patients. An appeals court said the government cannot.

Nine states have laws legalizing marijuana for people with physician recommendations or prescriptions: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Nevada, Oregon and Washington. And 35 states have passed legislation recognizing marijuana's medicinal value.

Federal law bans the use of pot under any circumstances.

The case gave the court an opportunity to review its second medical marijuana case in two years. The last one involved cannabis clubs.

This one presented a more difficult issue, pitting free-speech rights of doctors against government power to keep physicians from encouraging illegal drug use.

A ruling for the Bush administration would have made the state medical marijuana laws unusable.

Some California doctors and patients, in filings at the Supreme Court, compared doctor information on pot to physicians' advice on "red wine to reduce the risk of heart disease, Vitamin C, acupuncture, or chicken soup."

The administration argued that public health was at stake.

"The provision of medical advice — whether it be that the patient take aspirin or Vitamin C, lose or gain weight, exercise or rest, smoke or refrain from smoking marijuana — is not pure speech. It is the conduct of the practice of medicine. As such, it is subject to reasonable regulation," Solicitor General Theodore Olson said in court papers.

In states with medical marijuana laws, doctors can give written or oral recommendations on marijuana to patients with cancer, HIV and other serious illnesses.

Even some supporters of the laws had expected the Supreme Court to step into the case. They said the court's refusal to intervene, although it does not address the merits of the case, could encourage other states to consider passing medical marijuana laws.

"It finally definitively puts to rest these federal threats against doctors and patients," said Graham Boyd, an American Civil Liberties Union attorney representing patients, doctors, and other groups in the case.

Robert Kampia, head of the Marijuana Policy Project in Washington, said the court "has eliminated any doubt that states have the right to protect medical marijuana patients under state law, and that physicians have the right to give patients honest advice and recommendations, whether the federal government approves or not."

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Editorial NATIONAL ISSUE

Pledge of Allegiance needs modifying

In June 2002, a three-judge panel of the San Francisco-based United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ruled the Pledge of Allegiance was unconstitutional; after public disapproval, the court modified the ruling barring the recitation of the pledge in schools throughout the Ninth Circuit instead of annulling it entirely.

Now debate over the pledge in schools is under scrutiny once again, this time on constitutionality of the phrase "one nation, under God."

Does a phrase added in 1954 still have a place in a pledge recited by people believing in different gods or no god at all?

The purpose of the Pledge of Allegiance is to declare one's loyalty to the United States, the flag and everything they stand for — ideals including democracy and protection of individual rights.

Those rights include not being forced to vow allegiance to a country under a god you do not believe in.

The freedom so many Americans fight to preserve includes the freedom protecting us against oppression.

Being forced to recite a pledge involving a phrase one is adamantly against violates a fundamental right.

To protect the right of every citizen, there needs to be a clear separation of church and state.

The Pledge of Allegiance should remove the phrase "one nation under God." With this deletion, the pledge could be reinstated in public schools and everyone could recite the pledge with no reservation.

Those who do believe in a god or God can still pledge their allegiance separately in a more appropriate environment.

The Supreme Court will rule on the case in early 2004 without one of the court's most conservative judges, Antonin Scalia, who removed himself from the case because of his public denouncement of the appeals court's ruling in June.

Legislation needed to help protect children from porn

Nick Pascale

The U.S. Supreme Court has decided it will review a law intended to protect children from online pornography.

The Child Online Protection Act passed Congress in 1998 with the intent of establishing a means of preventing children from accessing and/or being exposed to pornography via the Internet.

Without surprise, the American Civil Liberties Union, a defender of publishers and artists, is challenging the legislation on the grounds that the enforcement of the law is unconstitutional. They go on to say legitimate websites on the Internet will be victims of prosecution, citing the example of Mitch Tepper, whose website posted detailed sexual advice for disabled people.

When is the ACLU going to realize that though the Constitution is the absolute law of the land, the rights it outlines are not absolute and are not without bounds. Just as no one has the right to scream "FIRE!" in a crowded movie theater, the ACLU should realize the pornography industry has no right to use the First Amendment to freely apply pop-up ads to build databases where the potential consumers are children.

Freedom of speech is not limited to what you speak, but extends to who or what the individual chooses to listen to. This is where the ACLU continually fails to protect the freedoms of all Americans.

No one, including the pornography industry, should utilize the Constitution in a way granting them unparalleled

"No one, including the pornography industry, should utilize the Constitution in a way granting them unparalleled rights — particularly when it overshadows children."

rights — particularly when it overshadows children.

Furthermore, those who have legitimate websites should not fear prosecution.

Though the ACLU is fearful of such people as Mitch Tepper being prosecuted, the law prescribes a clear procedure for decent proliferation of pornography, a procedure protecting children and empowering parents.

These prescribed procedures and the outlined means of self-regulation and the establishment of a review commission leave little reason to fear those who are not commercial pornographers will suffer prosecution.

The ACLU might want to consider the country's children and reconsider who will potentially be harmed by the misinterpretation of the First Amendment. The Internet is not an invitation for anyone or anything to have access to you or your children.

When the ACLU comes to this realization, parents will feel safe about their children's use of the Internet.

Nick Pascale is the opinions editor for the Collegiate Times.

Letters to the Editor

Tech must rethink ticket distribution

Yesterday was going well for me until around 2 p.m. when I made it over to the Wesley Foundation, with which I am actively involved. I went downstairs to see a friend and to see where the seats for our group were going to be for the Miami game Nov. 1.

That's when I found out the terrible news — we didn't get any student tickets for the game. I immediately became outraged. I have been a Virginia Tech student for four seasons of Hokie football and have only missed one home game; I was sick as a dog back home in Hampton and couldn't make the five-hour trip back to Blacksburg on Thanksgiving weekend.

In the last four years I have had no problem getting the student tickets I needed. And now with probably the most important game in my time here at Tech, I won't be in Lane Stadium to watch. I think the university and the athletics department need to rethink their student ticket processes.

Somewhere around 25,000 students attend this school, with probably about 10,000-15,000 actually attending the games. In a stadium holding over 65,000 fans, how hard is it to get all of your students tickets to football games?

Oh I know, it's because we don't pay for our tickets, so therefore the university and the athletics department do not

make any money off of us. It's obvious they care more about money from the alumni and random people in the public who buy tickets instead of making sure students can get into games.

Why not set aside 10,000-15,000 tickets for the students and sell the rest to the general public after Tuesday morning pickup?

I've heard numerous people around campus say people got way more tickets than they needed this morning to sell them on the Internet and make money. That is truly sad and a problem that should be looked into. It's sad I have to go on eBay and pay over \$200 if I want a ticket to my own school's football game.

It's obviously all about money these days and not the students' enjoyment of their college experience. If it weren't for students, Lane Stadium would not be the intimidating place to play it is. I think Tech should seriously reconsider its football ticket policies to make sure every student who wants a ticket to a game has one.

Josh Otey
senior, history and political science

Bush policies insensitive to homosexuals

Five years ago, a kid named Matt was offered a ride home from two guys. He accepted, but they didn't take him home

— they took Matt out to a field, beat him severely and left him to die cold and alone.

A beautiful soul was beaten out of his small frame — all because Matthew Shepard was gay.

Now, in a sick and twisted display of insensitivity, President George W. Bush and a right-wing coalition has declared this week "Protection of Marriage Week." Is this his idea of compassionate conservatism? Where is his sense of respect?

On this solemn day, he has even expressed support for an anti-gay Constitutional amendment to restrict marriage rights to certain people.

I don't know your views on homosexuality. But I'd like you to know gay people have to put up with quite a bit. We are threatened, discriminated against, hated and sometimes killed. We don't get equal rights right now; now is not the time to further restrict them.

I want to get married. That's fair — it's something almost everyone wants. And I'd love to be able to raise kids. What's so wrong about my wanting to settle down with another man? Our love doesn't hurt anyone — why are some people so intent on hurting us?

I refuse to stand by and let Bush and his insensitive cadre disrespect the gay community this way. For the sake of my self, my community and for Mathew Shepard, I intend to fight the anti-gay movement until it's gone. I hope you do the same.

Toby Quaranta
sophomore, political science



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Sports

Hokies sink Cardinals in swim meet

▪ The Tech swim and dive team won their season opener against Louisville University on Sunday

by **Chris Bayne**
Staff Writer

Virginia Tech swimming and diving fans jammed into War Memorial Hall on Sunday evening to watch the men's and women's teams open their seasons with a splash against the University of Louisville.

The men drowned Louisville, 136-88, while the women overpowered the Cardinals, 142-89.

Coming into the competition, the Hokie men and women knew they were slightly under-matched, but head coach Ned Skinner said it didn't change the way both teams viewed the meet.

"Our goal coming in (to the meet) was to not just settle for winning the meet," Skinner said. "In every meet we want to race hard and learn something new."

One of the things Skinner and the rest of the coaching staff learned is they can look forward to a promising year with tremendous talent on both sides of the pool.

On the men's side, team captain David Szabo, a junior from Roanoke led the team with individual wins in the 200-meter individual medley (1:55.66), 500 freestyle (4:53.05) and the 100 breaststroke (58:73.00).

World-ranked freestyler Christian Lindberg, a senior from Woodbridge, won his only event of the evening, the 100 backstroke, with a time of 52:67.00.

"Lindberg looks amazing right now, and Szabo looks really strong early on," Skinner said.

Other men's team winners included Neil Savage (1,000 free; 9:57.57), Gus Calado (200 free; 1:43.28), Kevin Furlong (50 free;



DAVE FRANUSICH/SPPS

The men's squad of the swim team features a great foundation of youth which swim and dive coach Ned Skinner looks to build upon for the future.

21:82.00), Eric Pavlik (100 fly; 51:25.00) and Chris Bassler (100 free; 48:67.00).

In the men's relay events, a team of Lindberg, Furlong, Calado and Casey Moore took the 200-medley relay in 1:33.14. Lindberg, Furlong, Bassler and Moore won the 200-freestyle relay with a time of 1:25.13.

The women's team looked equally impressive. Senior Jen Brielmaier of Newark, Del., made an impact with wins in the 200 individual medley (2:08.65) and the 100 breaststroke (1:05.49).

"Brielmaier is off to an incredible start, we are really happy with her," Skinner said.

Jamie Spradlin, a senior from Roanoke, was also a double winner with victories in the 200 freestyle (1:53.94) and the 500 freestyle (5:04.22).

Other women's team winners include Lindsey Saufley (1,000 free; 10:32.58), Meagan Cleary (50 free; 24:48.00), Erin



DAVE FRANUSICH/SPPS

The women's swim squad soundly defeated Louisville this weekend by the score of 142-89.

Tarpey (100 fly; 59:42.00), Emily Guschke (100 free; 52:88.00) and Katy Peterson (100 back; 59:19.00).

In the women's relay events, a team of Peterson, Brielmaier, Mandie Yothers and Jamie Trivett won the 200-medley relay in 1:49.15. Whitney Johnsen, Cleary, Mason Walsh and Laura Campbell won the 200-freestyle relay in 1:36.95.

The men's and women's teams will have their second meet of the year at the College of William & Mary on Saturday. Session I will start at 9 a.m. and Session II will begin at 5 p.m.

The Hokies will return home Oct. 25 for a tri-meet against Clemson University and the University of Maryland. The meet will begin at 1 p.m. at War Memorial Pool.

Sports Notes

Football: Hall named Big East Special Teams Player of the Week

DeAngelo Hall garnered Big East Special Teams Player of the Week honors this week for his performance in Saturday's game against Syracuse University.

Hall returned two punts for touchdowns in the first quarter to help lead Tech to a 51-7 victory.

The first return was for 58 yards, and put the Hokies up 14-0. The Orangemen were forced to punt again on their next drive, and Hall ran that one back for a 60-yard score.

He ended the day with five returns for a total of 155 yards and is the only player in Big East history to run back two punts for touchdowns in one game.

Hall leads the Big East with an average of 16.6 yards per punt return, and he is No. 7 in the country.

Women's soccer: Soldner keys 2-0 shutout over Old Dominion

Senior keeper Mallory Soldner posted her fourth career shutout in the women soccer team's 2-0 victory over Old Dominion University on Sunday.

The Monarchs shot five attempts at Soldner. Junior Ryan Johnson scored Tech's first goal of the game 58 seconds into the match when she took a pass from Heather McPearson into scoring position and took it to the net.

The goal was Johnson's first of the season and the fourth of her career. Emily Barnhart scored the Hokies' second goal of the game 52:02 minutes into the contest.

The goal was her ninth of the year, elevating her team-lead. It was also the 24th of her career, adding to the career goals record she already owns.

The women's soccer team will be home at 7 p.m. Thursday when they take on Georgetown University for a Big East non-standings match.

Football: Miami game set for 7:45 p.m. and will be aired by ESPN

The Virginia Tech Athletics Department announced the game time for this year's football game against the University of Miami. Kickoff will take place at 7:45 p.m. on Nov. 1 at Lane Stadium/Worsham Field.

The game will feature two of the top-five teams in the nation if the Hokies and Hurricanes can both win games leading into the Nov. 1 tilt.

The contest is a Big East conference game and will be televised nationally by ESPN.

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WVU fans asked to behave at game

West Virginia security and police have asked fans to behave when Virginia Tech comes to town next Wednesday

by **John Raby**
Associated Press

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — West Virginia University security officials asked students Tuesday to behave at the Mountaineers' Oct. 22 home game against Virginia Tech.

WVU students took to the streets in Morgantown the night of Oct. 2 and set fire to couches, chairs, mattresses and garbage after WVU's 22-20 loss at Miami.

Three students face disciplinary action for inappropriate behavior, said the university's Department of Public Safety.

"Local fire, police and university officials stand together in a zero-tolerance policy against fires and destruction of property," said Ken Gray, vice president for student affairs.

"Such activity can result in charges and citations and university sanctions that could include expulsion."

Public Safety Chief Bob Roberts said he wants fans to follow a "Code of Conduct."

The code asks fans to show respect for all players, coaches and officials, refrain from taunting or

disturbing other fans, avoid booing opponents, cheer "in a positive manner" and not lean on or over railings at Mountaineer Field.

West Virginia coach Rich Rodriguez joked Tuesday there should be an added stipulation about not booing opponents.

"Or the home team," he said. "Have a no-boo policy."

But paying customers are always are going to voice their opinions, so the request is probably a moot point.

"When the home team gets booed, certainly the visiting team can get booed, in my opinion," he said.

The Wednesday, Oct. 22 game will be Tech's final visit to Mountaineer Field as a member of the Big East, although the teams already have scheduled to play each other in future seasons.

In previous years, some Tech players said they wore their helmets on the sidelines in case something was thrown at them from the stands.

"I think what's a good idea is to remind folks to act responsibly," Rodriguez said.

"If someone gets inebriated or if alcohol is involved and they want to throw things, there's no room or place for that."

In 1996, after Miami won on a last-second blocked punt returned for a touchdown, a trash can thrown from the stands hit a Hurricane assistant coach in the head.

The coach settled a lawsuit against the university and the Big East for \$50,000. The culprit was never caught.

In September 1998, fans threw a liquor bottle and golf balls onto the field during a game against Maryland.

The following week, WVU changed its student ticket policy requiring them to obtain a ticket like everyone else.

The tickets are included in a student's tuition fees. Previously, students could get into a game simply by showing their university IDs.

The student who threw the golf balls, a sophomore from Pennsylvania, paid a \$50 fine and withdrew from school.

The person who threw the liquor bottle was never discovered.

In November 1998, state troopers used pepper-spray on rowdy fans as thousands poured onto Mountaineer Field after a victory over Syracuse.

"If someone gets inebriated or if alcohol is involved and they want to throw things, there's no room or no place for that."

Rich Rodriguez
West Virginia head coach

Army coach Berry fired after 5-35 record in 4 years

Army is 7-31 since joining Conference USA in 1998, and has decided to leave the conference in 2004 because of schedule constraints

WEST POINT, N.Y. (AP) — Army coach Todd Berry was fired Monday with the team 5-35 in his four seasons and mired in an eight-game losing streak.

"The Corps of Cadets and the fans of Army football deserve a competitive program that is representative of this great institution," said Lt. Gen. William Lennox Jr., superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy.

Army (0-6) has just one win in its last 17 games. The Black Knights are averaging 63.8 yards rushing to rank last in the nation and are the only team averaging under 2 yards per carry.

South Florida, playing its inaugural Conference USA game last month, shut out Army 28-0 at Michie Stadium, marking the first time the Black Knights had been blanked at home since 1981.

John Mumford, who served as defensive line coach the past four seasons, was made interim coach.

"We have a commitment to restore the competitive vitality to the program," said

athletic director Rick Greenspan, who hired Berry.

A search will be under way in the next few weeks for a successor, Lennox said.

"I hate losing and the players hate it," Greenspan said. "It bothers them significantly. You can certainly sense their frustration. They're bitterly disappointed because they're representing a historic program."

Army is 7-31 in the Conference USA, which it joined in 1998. Citing schedule constraints, Lennox announced in July that Army would leave the conference after the 2004 season to become an independent again.

Greenspan said he had heard a "good amount" of dissatisfaction from alumni. The precipitous fall for a team that won a school-record 10 games in 1996 under former coach Bob Sutton and also went to the Independence Bowl that year was especially disconcerting to former players.

"I think the fact they're not competitive and have had a tough time has been difficult to accept," said Doc Blanchard in a phone

interview from his Texas home. Blanchard, "Mr. Inside" and the 1945 Heisman Trophy winner, and Glenn Davis, "Mr. Outside" and the Heisman winner the next year, led Army to national championships in 1944 and 1945.

"I hate losing and the players hate it. It bothers them significantly. you can certainly sense their frustration."

Rick Greenspan
Army Athletic Director

Bryant accuser's history to be withheld

The legal team of Kobe Bryant's accuser asked to withhold the accuser's sexual history from the case

by **Jon Sarche**
Associated Press

EAGLE, Colo. — Prosecutors accused Kobe Bryant's attorneys of deliberately smearing the reputation of his accuser Tuesday as they asked a judge to make sure any evidence about her sexual history is heard behind closed doors.

In a sharply worded court filing, prosecutors said defense attorney Pamela Mackey stepped over the line last week when she asked a detective at the preliminary hearing whether injuries to the 19-year-old woman were "consistent with a person who had sex with three different men in three days."

That question prompted Judge Frederick Gannett to

end the hearing, which was to resume Wednesday. The hearing will determine whether the NBA superstar will stand trial on a sexual assault charge.

Prosecutors said the question was a "deliberate and calculated" attempt to elicit testimony on evidence irrelevant so early in the case and came even though "attorneys are expected to proceed in an ethical manner."

"What was even more unexpected was her conscious misrepresentation of the evidence in order to smear the victim publicly," wrote prosecutor Ingrid Bakke. "The bell cannot be unring. It will be difficult enough to overcome Ms. Mackey's misstatement of the facts."

Mackey's voicemail said she would not return calls from reporters.

Prosecutors want Gannett to hold discussions about the accuser's sexual history in private, if he determines the evidence is relevant.

Bakke said prosecutors believe that sort of evidence is protected by Colorado's rape shield law, which bars the use of an alleged victim's sexual history in rape cases with few exceptions.

Attorney Tom Kelley, who represents several media organizations including The Associated Press, said he will fight the prosecution's request for a closed hearing.

"It's not as though a lot of sensitive material has not been presented to the public already, it just happens to be unfavorable to Kobe Bryant," Kelley said. "I don't think the process ought to be about presenting unfavorable information about only one side."

Kelley said he would meet with Gannett and attorneys from both sides before the preliminary hearing resumes. Bryant's attorneys have already asked the judge to close all or part of the hearing.

The hearing began last week with sheriff's Detective Doug

Winters describing the alleged assault in graphic detail. He said the woman was flattered by attention from Bryant and agreed to his request to come to his room late one night.

After chatting for a while, they began kissing consensually, but she said no after Bryant grabbed her around the neck, leaned her over a chair and lifted her skirt, according to the testimony. She said no again after Bryant pulled down her underwear before raping her, Winters testified he was told by the accuser.

It was Mackey's cross-examination of Winters that prompted the judge to end the hearing.

Legal experts said Gannett might give Mackey a chance behind closed doors to provide information to back up her suggestion the woman had other sexual partners before her June 30 encounter with Bryant.

Big East files second lawsuit against ACC

Four current Big East schools have filed lawsuits against the ACC for conspiring to destroy the conference

by **Donna Tommelleo**
Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — Four Big East football schools filed a second lawsuit Tuesday over the Atlantic Coast Conference expansion, adding Boston College, its athletics director and four ACC officers to the list of defendants.

Connecticut, Pittsburgh, West Virginia and Rutgers allege in the lawsuit that the ACC and Boston College conspired to weaken the Big East and ultimately reap a larger share of television broadcast revenue. Boston College announced Sunday that it would follow football powers Miami and Virginia Tech, which accepted the ACC's invitation in June to join the conference.

Boston College officials called the allegations "unfounded and irresponsible" and struck back with legal action of their own Tuesday, filing a complaint in Massachusetts Superior Court over the Big East's withdrawal provision.

Big East bylaws require 27 months notice to leave the conference, or colleges face a reported \$5 million exit fee. BC officials say the conference tried to change the policy through an invalid procedure and said the latest complaint against it smacked of politics.

"Some observers suggest this complaint stems from political agendas and ambitions in the state of Connecticut," BC spokes-

man Jack Dunn said in a prepared statement. "In any event, Boston College will vigorously defend itself and its employees against these claims."

ACC officials have already had one such lawsuit thrown out in their favor and say the latest complaint also has no merit.

"It is a sad day for higher education and intercollegiate athletics when universities initiate this kind of unwarranted action — suing faculty members and conference officials over an institution's freedom to associate itself with whatever conference it chooses," ACC Commissioner John Swofford said in a written statement.

Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal filed an 82-page complaint on behalf of the four schools Tuesday in Vernon Superior Court. The schools claim they spent millions of dollars to upgrade their football programs based on the promises from BC and Miami that they would be longtime members of the conference.

"It is now clear that such promises were not then true and that Miami was simply readying itself for the day that it would walk away and sell to the ACC the value that Miami was encouraging others to develop as 'partners,'" the lawsuit states.

The suit names Boston College athletic director Gene DeFilippo, Swofford, ACC President Carolyn Callahan, ACC Vice President Donn Ward and ACC Treasurer Cecil Huey.

The four Big East schools are already suing Miami. A judge last week threw out a case against the ACC on jurisdictional grounds because the plaintiffs could not prove the conference did enough business in Connecticut to warrant a state suit.



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Features

Speaker brings new light to Greek life

by Eliot Kriviski
Features Editor

Members of Virginia Tech's Greek community were given an opportunity for self-reflection, and a chance to view themselves in a new light last night in Squires Colonial Hall, during a speech given by speaker, Lori Hart Ebert.

The Interfraternity Council of Virginia Tech hosted Ebert's speech last night in an attempt to bring new members of various Greek organizations together, as well as challenge stereotypical views of Greek communities.

"I'm here to introduce new (Greek) members of what it is to be Greek, and why it is a good leadership based option," Ebert said.

Ebert began her speech in a very frank and easygoing manner, admitting that she knew quite a few of the members of the audience did not want to be there. She classified the audience into three types: "Prisoners," who were being forced to attend; "Vacationers," who had heard about the event and decided to check it out; and "Explorers," who actively sought out the event. She agreed to let the "Prisoners" go if the whole audience could pass two tests. The first test was an exercise in listening and quick addition and the second was testing the ability to quickly recognize the number of times the letter "F" appeared in a paragraph. The audience failed to pass either.

With that comfortable tone established, Ebert carried on with the rest of her speech, which was aimed at making the Greek community reflect upon how they viewed themselves and how the rest of the college community viewed Greek life.

"I am here to talk to you about being Greek in a way that you're not used to," Ebert said.

Ebert asked the audience to shout out what adjective



ERIC KIM/SPPS

Dr. Lori Hart Ebert addressed stereotypes of men and women involved in Greek life and encouraged community leadership last night in Squires Colonial Hall.

first came to their minds when they thought of the "typical" Greek. Some of the women said their initial impressions of most males in fraternities were "sketchy," or "arrogant." When it was the men's turn to describe women in sororities, words such as "slut," and "stuck up" were echoed across the room.

From there, Ebert discussed the basic stereotypes that are associated with Greek life across the nation citing examples from her own career with Greek organizations over the past ten years that help strengthen those stereotypes.

Ebert spoke about how Greek life is much more than just partying and wild antics, but allows for unprecedented opportunities for leadership, career building and social awareness. Ebert stressed the ability of fraternities and sororities to play an integral

part of the college community, but only if individuals made the decision to step up to the challenge.

"You as a new member of a Greek organization have a choice about what kind of experience you will have," Ebert said.

Ebert also compared an individual's experience with a Greek organization to a good relationship, stressing the need for characteristics such as open communication, honesty and goals.

While many of the members in the audience listened attentively, there was a constant murmur of noise and conversation from the back of Squires Colonial Hall, which prompted Ebert to ask the group to be quiet several times throughout her speech.

Ebert closed her speech on a note about the need for coop-

eration between the different Greek organizations, saying that most of the times, college communities do not view Greek organizations as separate entities.

"They associate these letters as all of you," Ebert said. "You need to start acting like a community."

Most students found the speech to be informative, and said that Ebert touched upon some valid points.

Joe Ferraro, a junior finance major and pledge master for Zeta Psi, agreed with Ebert about the Greek community not being unified.

"I thought the speaker did an excellent job," said Lindsay O'Conner, a sophomore clothing and textiles design major and a member of Kappa Delta. "We all took it to heart. I look forward to taking her advice."

FDA rethinks ban on silicone implants

■ The FDA stopped the sales of silicone gel implants in 1992 fearing they could cause disease

by Lauran Neergaard
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Women pleaded with the government on Tuesday to continue a ban on most silicone gel breast implants, telling of years of pain and suffering they blame on leaking devices.

As many as 46 percent of women who get silicone-gel breast implants need additional surgery within three years, research indicates.

Manufacturer Inamed Corp. argues that implants filled with silicone gel are comparable to today's only option, those filled with salt water — which just as frequently require more surgery, too.

That doesn't justify letting routine sales of silicone implants resume, a line of women told advisers to the Food and Drug Administration.

"I live in pain every day," said Sherry Henderson of Louisiana, who had her silicone implants removed after 11 years and cites a litany of diseases including lupus and chronic fatigue. "We are tired of all the suffering."

"My bones still scream with pain," said breast cancer survivor Pam Dowd of Boise, Idaho, who had silicone scraped off her chest wall when her leaking implants were removed in 1995. "We are being asked one more time to trust the manufacturers. ... We have no reason to believe they're telling the

truth." They spoke as the FDA's advisers began a two-day meeting to decide if Inamed has proved its case. Dozens of women are lined up for a chance to sway the decision, most of them critics.

Some women pleaded for access to an implant they say feels more natural.

"Unfortunately for me, I'm just a woman seeking to undergo a cosmetic procedure," said Michele Colombo, 34, charging the FDA with keeping implants away from women seeking bigger breasts as a moral judgment when cancer patients can get them in studies — and men can get silicone testicular implants.

Elizabeth Weber of Maryland tried saline implants after cancer surgery, but they turned rock-hard, causing disabling pain. She had them replaced with silicone implants and "I felt like myself, a whole, natural and complete woman," Weber said. "My breasts felt like mine. I hope you give other women the same choice."

The FDA ended routine sales of silicone gel implants in 1992 amid fears they could break apart and cause serious disease as the silicone leaked into women's tissues.

Yesterday's Crossword Answers

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R	U	N	K	V	E	T
Q	A	T	A	R	I	R
U	T	O	P	I	A	D
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