

Thursday

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Court accepts pledge case

▪ Montgomery County schools do not force students to stand for the pledge each morning

by Ellen Biltz
News Assistant

The Supreme Court decided Tuesday to accept a case that may potentially lead to the line "one Nation, under God" being omitted from the Pledge of Allegiance.

The pledge has been a tradition in schools throughout America, but in recent years it has sparked controversy with some students, parents and faculty.

The line "one Nation, under God" has been argued to defy the First Amendment by including church

and state. Wat Hopkins, a Virginia Tech professor and a representative for District G of the Montgomery County School Board, said he disagrees with this argument.

"This is not a church and state issue," Hopkins said. "I think the (Supreme) Court took this case to clarify that."

The Supreme Court said they would rule on the controversial case sometime next year. Hopkins said the Constitution states there should be a separation of church and state, but not religion and state.

Amanda Southall, a senior communication major and a member of the Campus Crusade for Christ, said she felt the debate was more of a political issue, but said she does think it represents our nation.

"Taking the line out doesn't change that we are one nation under

God, and as a Christian I love saying that," she said.

"I think the court will say the mandate of church and state doesn't deal with a traditional Pledge of Allegiance like this," Hopkins said.

Montgomery County schools strictly follows the state's laws regarding the pledge.

"We try to follow the state law which gives us permission to stand and do the pledge in the morning and it has 'under God' in it," said Dolly Cottrell, Prices Fork Elementary School principal.

Montgomery County also has a moment of silence each morning, as do other schools in Virginia.

"We do (the moment of silence) in the morning and have a statement that announces it, then at the end of

See PLEDGE, page 2

Ticket shortage irks fans

by Vince Hudson
Staff Writer

Long lines and an apparent shortage of tickets frustrated students Tuesday morning at Cassell Coliseum and War Memorial Hall.

The tickets for the Nov. 1 Virginia Tech vs. Miami football game went on sale at 9 a.m. at both locations and quickly sold out.

There were originally 17,721 student tickets available for the game, which is 721 more than usual, but 5,484 were already sold as season

tickets according to the Tech Athletic Ticket Office.

This left 12,237 tickets available for students, 1,500 of which were sold as guest tickets.

According to the University Fact Book for 2003-2004, there are 21,413 undergraduate students.

The line-up for tickets is not to begin until 6 a.m., and the Tech Police will ask anyone who arrives before to leave according to www.hokietickets.com.

"I showed up at (War Memorial Hall) at 6 a.m., and there were already over 200 people in line,"

said Ryan Webster, a junior aerospace engineering major. "I talked to one guy that got there at 4:30 a.m."

Police were not sure whether the no camping rule would apply to Tuesday's ticket distribution as well.

"During the ticket sales for Miami there was confusion on whether people could wait in line as opposed to camping out in front of the ticket office," said Tech Police Chief Debra Duncan.

Tech police arrived at 6 a.m. to

See TICKET, page 3

Lighting up the night



ROBERT DRAKE/SPPS

Students gathered on the Drillfield last night to watch fireworks. The Class of 2005 premiered their class ring, and the fireworks followed the event.

Team demonstrates dangers of drugs

by Brandon Morgan
Associate Features Editor

Every weekend thousands of students put themselves at risk when they go out and consume alcohol.

The Health Promotion Team sponsored by Schiffert Health Center hopes to reduce that risk by raising the awareness of rape drugs.

"We're here to make people aware of how to live a safer and healthier life on campus," said Aimee Hollander, a junior biology major and member of the Health Promotion Team.

The Health Promotion Team set up an interactive booth last night in Lee Hall to raise awareness about the risks of rape drugs. Instead of just receiving information about rape drugs, students were able to take a quiz and experience what it's like to be inhibited by a rape drug.

"I think it's fun for them," said Kira Zmuda, a junior graphic design major and a member of the Health Promotion Team. "They get to participate and learn at least one new fact about date rape drugs."

The quiz asked to identify what different types of rape drugs looked like. There was a "Make a Match" poster that included the drugs ecstacy, rohypnol, GHB, ketamine and alcohol. The



ROBERT DRAKE/SPPS

The Health Promotion Team, sponsored by Schiffert Health Center, had a simulation in Lee Hall last night to show the effects of alcohol and rape drugs.

purpose was to educate students about what these drugs look like so students can take caution when they go out.

"Now they know what certain drugs

look like," Hollander said.

After the quiz students were able to participate in a situation where they may have been affected by a rape

drug. On the table there were several cups that contained a similar looking

See DANGERS, page 3

by Aaron Blackwell and Tiffany Hoffman
News Staff

Many colleges and universities across the country have reported a decline in the number of international students. Virginia Tech has also experienced a decline in certain segments of the international student population, mainly because foreign students have experienced difficulty in attaining student visas.

"Before 9/11 we would have 20 or 30 requests ... from students who indicated interest in coming — now we're getting 10 or 15," said Judy Snone, director of the Tech English Language Institute.

As a result of the Sept. 11 attacks, stricter immigration laws were enacted.

"It takes longer to get a visa and it's more expensive," Snone said.

People used to be able to drop off visa requests without a personal interview, but now everybody has to have a personal interview at a consulate, she said.

"When people don't live in a capital city with a consulate, they may have to travel considerable distances to get visas," Snone said.

In some countries the application process may take one to three months, she said, because the information is sometimes required to be checked against government databases in Washington.

Snone said the number of students from the Middle East is almost at zero.

"There are no Arabic speakers or Muslim students right now," she said. "Before 9/11, Middle-Eastern students were probably second or third in regions (we were) getting students from."

While numbers in the ELI have declined, the overall number of international students at Tech has remained rather steady.

"We don't have a significant change," said Kim Beisecker, director of the Cranwell International Center.

Officials at Cranwell are compiling specific numbers at this time, so exact figures are not yet available, Beisecker said.

However, nationally, there are various factors that could contribute to the decline.

Other countries such as Australia, New Zealand and Great Britain have been attracting international students more heavily than in the past. England's more lenient immigration policies even offer students the opportunity to come study English for six months without getting a student visa, Snone said.

"One of the products England sells is English language classes and Australia stepped into that too," Snone said. "They're marketing real hard to get students away from the U.S."

Snone also said there are three American universities that are now offering programs in foreign countries so the international students can stay overseas but still get an American degree.

"The first place we see an impact is in fewer people asking to come to the U.S.," she said. "It's really a shame to think that distance learning will divide people rather than the system now where people come together."

Beisecker said it is important for international students to come to state universities because the

See VISA, page 3

Work on Au Bon Pain starts after delay

▪ The restaurant, in the Squires Food Court, was supposed to be completed in the fall semester, but will open in January instead

by Eric Beidel
Associate News Editor

Student Programs believes it has seen the last of several contracting delays in the construction of the second restaurant in Squires Food Court.

Virginia Tech will operate Au Bon Pain as a franchisee when it opens in January in the same fashion as Chic-Fil-A and Pizza Hut located in Hokie Grill & Co., said Rick Johnson, director of housing and dining.

Tech is currently in discussions with the Boston-based deli-style eatery to complete a construction services agreement, which is 95 percent complete, Johnson said.

"We are negotiating with Au Bon Pain to actually build the store," he said. "This is a style of contracting brand new to Virginia Tech."

The university usually bids for a general contractor or uses existing contracts to essentially become the contractor itself, Johnson said.

Au Bon Pain needed extra time to digest a construction manual unique to Virginia, he said. It took them all of July and August to become accustomed to the state's provisions, causing the opening date to be pushed to winter.

"The manual was a huge problem for Au Bon Pain," he said. "They'd never seen it before and we had to explain a lot to them."

The delay in construction forced the Physical Plant's renovations department and Student Programs to go ahead with the demolition of the restaurant site themselves. They constructed a wall and stripped the location of its old lighting and plumbing systems. Johnson said when the construction agreement is complete, the university will ask for the demolition costs back.

The total construction costs to the

See DELAY, page 2

Visa restrictions affect international students

by Aaron Blackwell and Tiffany Hoffman
News Staff

Many colleges and universities across the country have reported a decline in the number of international students. Virginia Tech has also experienced a decline in certain segments of the international student population, mainly because foreign students have experienced difficulty in attaining student visas.

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"It takes longer to get a visa and it's more expensive," Snone said.

News in Brief

Barge serves as classroom for midshipmen

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) — In its search for temporary replacements for classrooms flooded by Tropical Storm Isabel, the Naval Academy called in a gargantuan vessel that had just wrapped up a tour housing more than 1,000 sailors from a dry-docked aircraft carrier in Florida.

A tugboat hauled the barge more of a floating five-story hotel and office complex up to the school's Severn River seawall last week.

The vessel lowered its gangplanks Tuesday and opened for classes.

Tunnel reopens three days early

NORFOLK (AP) — The Midtown Tunnel between Norfolk and Portsmouth reopened Wednesday, three days ahead of schedule.

The tunnel, through which at least 35,000 vehicles each day, had been closed since Hurricane Isabel struck Virginia on Sept. 18 and flooded it with nearly 44 million gallons of water.

Some Virginia Department of Transportation workers nearly drowned as they struggled to close the flood gate.

Jane S. Wimbush, VDOT's Hampton Roads administrator, said Wednesday that major repairs were necessary to the tunnel's mechanical and elec-

trical systems, but that they were completed earlier than expected.

Dean to raise more funds

WASHINGTON (AP) — Presidential hopeful Howard Dean set a new Democratic record by taking in roughly \$15 million in the past three months, and on Wednesday hinted at the potential to raise millions more: only 1 percent of his donors have given the maximum so far.

Dean finished the third fund-raising quarter that ended Sept. 30 with about \$12 million on hand, campaign manager Joe Trippi said.

About 99 percent of Dean's donors have yet to reach the \$2,000 limit, meaning they can contribute again, Trippi said.

Scientists want elevator to sky

LOS ALAMOS, N.M. (AP) — Some scientists at Los Alamos National Laboratory want to build an elevator reaching 62,000 miles into the sky to launch payloads into space more cheaply than the shuttle can.

"The first country that owns the space elevator will own space," said lab scientist Bryan Laubscher.

"I believe that, and I think Los Alamos should be involved in making that happen."

Some researchers are working on their own time on technical details.

Delay: Tech to run Au Bon Pain franchise

Continued from page 1

university will be \$679,000. Construction will probably be ongoing even after Au Bon Pain is open, he said.

Tech began its relationship with Au Bon Pain when they put out a request for proposal that the franchise responded to, said Jim Dunlap, associate director of purchasing.

This method of seeking goods and services allows for the most campus input and communication between the franchise and franchisees, he said, but it is time consuming.

"It's really the best process to use, because it allows for negotiating and each party can go back and forth with each other with different concerns," Dunlap said. "The one downside is that it does take a little longer."

Au Bon Pain submitted a

proposal chosen out of a group that included bagel, pizza and burger restaurants, Johnson said.

It took Tech and Au Bon Pain about three months to sign a franchise agreement that was finalized June 18, he said.

Au Bon Pain's original agreement needed to be changed to conform to Virginia state law, Johnson said.

"Au Bon Pain has to understand that the state will not accept certain things," he said. "This is new to them, because they always deal with private owners, not universities."

"Au Bon Pain has to understand that the state will not accept certain things. This is new to them, because they always deal with private owners, not universities."

Rick Johnson

director of housing and dining

out of our control."

Au Bon Pain has several campus locations along the East Coast, but Tech will be the first university actually operating a campus location with their own employees, Johnson said.

Delays can partly be attributed to both Tech and Au Bon Pain being involved in a new situation, said Landrum Cross, vice president of student affairs.

"It's not unusual for things to take longer when you are doing something for the first time," Cross said. "It's disappointing because we wanted to have it open by fall."

Cross said the same type of delays occurred before Tech signed an agreement with Coca-Cola making it the only soft drink franchise on campus.

Officials from Au Bon Pain did not return a phone call from the Collegiate Times.

Corrections

In Wednesday's issue of the Collegiate Times, Heather Pearson was incorrectly identified in the story "Soldner keys 2-0 shutout over Old Dominion."

In the same story, Mallory Soldner was identified as a senior. She is a freshman.

The Collegiate Times regrets these errors.

Pledge: Pledge outlawed in 9 states

Continued from page 1

the minute, we have a closing," Cottrill said.

Both Cottrill and Hopkins said plans are simply to change along with the law when it comes to the ruling.

"I think we'll do what is decided by the law of the land," Cottrill said. "That's what our job is."

The Supreme Court's previous rulings regarding issues of the pledge have stated no students can be required to recite it.

"There is a requirement that anyone that doesn't want to say it, doesn't have to,"

Hopkins said.

Hopkins said he feels the Supreme Court will continue with its ruling and say the pledge is allowed as long as students are not required to say it.

The Montgomery County school system has not made any changes to its pledge rules because of direct controversy regarding the issue of having 'under God' recited.

"I think our parents welcome those words," Cottrill said.

"(The school board) looked into it and talked about it," Hopkins said. "We just decided that school children can not be

required to say the pledge."

"I just feel that 'one nation, under God' reflects the values of our founding fathers and that is why it is important to our nation," Southall said.

Because the Pledge of Allegiance has caused such debate among parents, schools and the government, the recitation of it has already been outlawed in nine states along the west coast.

While Virginia is not one of these nine, the Supreme Court's ruling could have a drastic effect on what can and cannot be said within local public schools.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

— 10/15/2003 —

DJIA	9803.05	▼	-9.93
NASDAQ	1939.10	▼	-4.09
S&P 500	1046.76	▼	-2.72

WEATHER



TODAY

Mostly sunny

Highs: 63°– 68°

TONIGHT



Partly cloudy

Lows: 40°– 45°

FRIDAY



Mostly cloudy with chance of showers

Highs: 60°– 65°

FRIDAY NIGHT



Mostly cloudy

Lows: 35°– 40°

SATURDAY



Partly cloudy

30°/55°

SUNDAY

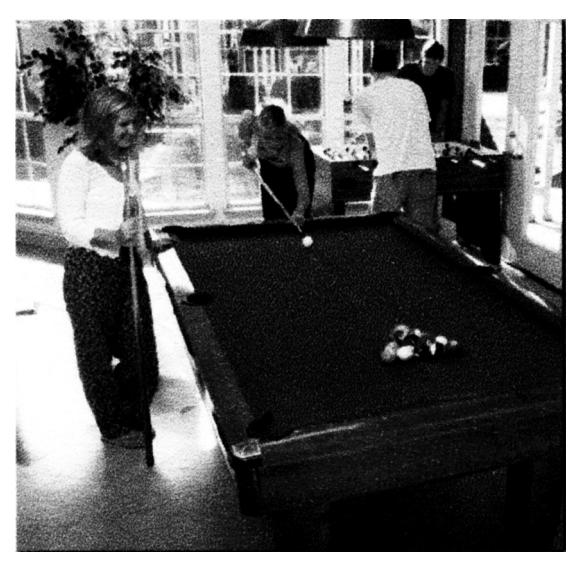
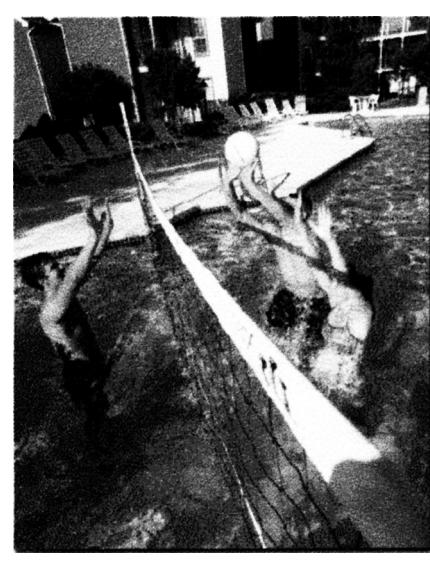


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3 Americans killed in Gaza Strip blast

by Ibrahim Barzak
Associated Press

BEIT LAHIYA, Gaza Strip — A remote-controlled bomb exploded under a U.S. diplomatic convoy Wednesday, ripping apart an armored van and killing three Americans in an unprecedented deadly attack on an official U.S. target.

President Bush blamed Palestinian officials for the attack, which wounded another American. "Palestinian authorities should have acted long ago to fight terror in all its forms," Bush said.

The State Department identified the slain Americans as John Branchizio, 36; Mark T. Parson, 31; and John Martin Linde Jr., 30 — all employees of DynCorp, a Virginia-based security firm.

Palestinian officials condemned the bombing and promised to help the investigation. But they will likely now come under intensified U.S. pressure to take action against militants.

If Palestinian militants were to blame, it could signal a dramatic change in strategy. While targeting Israeli soldiers and civilians for years, the main

militant groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad have not attacked U.S. officials.

Both groups repeated their stance Wednesday that they don't attack Americans, and there was no claim of responsibility for the bombing.

The attack targeted a convoy of U.S. Embassy diplomats heading to Gaza to interview Palestinian candidates for a Fulbright scholarship, Bush said. The three dead and the wounded man were American security personnel working on contract with the embassy, said U.S. ambassador Dan Kurtzer.

The U.S. Embassy advised U.S. citizens to leave the Gaza Strip after the attack.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat condemned the bombing as an "awful crime." The Palestinian prime minister, Ahmed Qureia, called Secretary of State Colin Powell to express his condolence and promise swift action.

An FBI legal attaché is investigating, the FBI said. A team of investigators who photographed the charred van was pelted with rocks by Palestinians and had to cut short the visit.

Visa: Grad students largely international

Continued from page 1

perspective they bring to the campus is very beneficial to the community, Beisecker said.

"Universal understanding comes through exchange," she said. "No longer does the United States live in isolation."

Monika Gibson, director of student services in the graduate school, said graduate programs would greatly suffer without international students.

"Over 30 percent of the graduate student body on the Blacksburg campus is international," she said. These students contribute greatly with talent and diversity.

A new computer system used to keep track of foreign students may make the student immigration process more efficient, Beisecker said.

"I think in the long run this program can be effective," she said.

Ticket: Many tickets for sale on Internet

Continued from page 1

supervise the distribution process, she said.

The number of guest tickets for the game was limited to 1,500 for the University of Miami, Syracuse University, Texas A&M and James

Madison University games this season.

The guest tickets for the Miami game ran out after about 20 minutes at War Memorial Hall, Webster said.

The sheer number of students who wanted tickets led to the lottery system being discontinued

when they ran out of wristbands with only the first 500 groups entering in the lottery.

Mek Tek, a junior finance major, was also in line for tickets Tuesday morning.

"I didn't get one single ticket," he said. There are already a great deal of guest tickets on eBay

being sold for several times their original cost, Tek said.

Sandy Smith, a representative of the Tech Athletic Ticket Office, said it's a common practice for people to resell tickets to make a profit.

"It is not illegal to resell tickets in this county," she said.

Staten Island ferry crash leaves 10 dead

■ More than 34 people were injured when the ferry crashed into a pier while docking

by Michael Weissenstein
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A Staten Island ferry slammed into a pier as it was docking Wednesday, killing at least 10 people, tearing off some victims' limbs and reducing the front of the mighty vessel to a shattered mass of wood, glass

and steel. At least 34 people were injured.

The ferry pilot, responsible for docking the vessel, fled the scene immediately after the crash, went to his Staten Island home and attempted suicide by slitting his wrists and shooting himself with a pellet gun, a police official said on the condition of anonymity. The pilot was rushed to the same hospital as many of the victims and underwent surgery.

The 310-foot ferry, carrying about 1,500 passengers, plowed into the enormous wooden pilings on the Staten Island end of its run from Manhattan, ripping a giant hole in the right side of the three-level, bright-orange vessel.

"There was a lady without

legs, right in the middle of the boat," said ferry passenger Frank Corchado, 29. "She was screaming. You ever see anything like that?" Corchado said it felt as if the ferry accelerated as it approached land, waking him as he napped on the trip home to Staten Island. He ran away from the front of the boat to safety, but saw others who weren't as lucky — six people dead, including one who had been decapitated.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg said at least 10 people were killed and 34 injured, making it New York's worst mass-transit accident in nearly a century. Some bodies were accidentally counted twice, leading to an initial report by city officials that 14 people

were dead.

The crash happened on a windswept afternoon, with gusts over 40 mph and the water in New York Harbor very choppy.

The cause of the crash was not immediately known, although Bloomberg suggested the heavy wind as a possibility. The National Transportation Safety Board convened an accident investigation team, which will look at the weather, among other possible factors. "It's a terrible tragedy, people who were on the way home, all of a sudden, taken from us," Bloomberg said at a dockside news conference.

He said the ferry's crew will be interviewed and tested for drugs and alcohol.

Dangers: Goggles simulate drug s effects

Continued from page 1

drink. Students was given a drink and asked to set it down on the table. Then they put on a set of goggles that impaired their vision. Students were then asked if they could pick out their own drink.

Most of the time students couldn't pick out their drink. The goggles simulated the effects one would experience if he or she were under the influence of

one of these drugs.

"It makes people realize how drugs and alcohol can effect you," said Ryan Bowler, a freshman University Studies major.

This activity showed how easily someone could misplace his or her drink and pick up a drink that may have a rape drug in it.

"It gives students an opportunity to learn about something they won't learn in class," said Bridget Eldridge, a junior communication major. "It's

important for students living on campus."

Not only does an awareness activity like this educate students about rape drugs, but it gives students a chance to ask questions.

"It helps out a whole lot because it's interactive," said Jared Canfield, a junior human nutrition, fitness and exercise major and member of the Health Promotion Team.

The Health Promotion Team is

a student organization that works together to inform and educate Tech students about health living. Other promotional awareness activities include HIV/AIDS, eating disorders, breast cancer, STD's, contraception, skin cancer, smoking, alcohol education, preventable diseases, mental health and stress reduction.

Next Monday the Health Promotion Team will have a safe sex booth located in Pritchard Hall.

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4208-J Franklin Rd SW
(near Wal-Mart)
815-8480
(M-Sat 9:30a-6:30p)

VALLEY VIEW
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Govt. man accused of breaking Hatch Act

FAIRFAX (AP) — A former Defense Department official has been accused of violating federal law by becoming a Republican candidate for Congress while employed by the government.

An Office of Special Counsel complaint charges Andre Hollis with three violations of the Hatch Act, the law that bans most government employees from engaging in partisan politics.

Hollis violated the act when he sought the GOP nomination to oppose U.S. Rep. James P. Moran Jr., D-8th, according to the counsel's office. The charges allege that Hollis solicited partisan political contributions through the Friends of the 8th District Committee, a Fairfax GOP group set up to back a candidate to oppose Moran, and that he allowed his official title to be used while engaging in political activity.

The complaint was filed in late September with the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, nearly 10 days before Hollis resigned Oct. 7 as deputy assistant secretary of defense for counter narcotics.

Hollis could be banned from working for the federal government if found in violation of the civil charges, a government attorney told The Washington Post. He has until the beginning of November to respond to the complaint.

Hollis, 34, did not answer telephone messages left at his home in Fairfax. His lawyer, David Tripp, said the government is overreaching because Hollis was not officially a candidate, but merely was considering a run. Hollis never filed Statement of Organization papers with the Federal Elections Commission, records show, nor did he officially announce his candidacy, Tripp said.

"This is much ado about nothing," Tripp said. He said Hollis's resignation had nothing to do with the allegations but rather were part of long-standing plans to leave the agency. Hollis is looking for a job in the private sector, the attorney said.

"It's particularly problematic because Mr. Hollis had already decided not to run," Tripp said.

High court considers time limit for cops

■ Police waited about 15 seconds before breaking into a man's home to serve a warrant

by Gina Holland
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A case involving a drug suspect who emerged from a shower to find armed officers in his apartment is giving the Supreme Court a chance to clarify how long police must wait before breaking into a home to serve a warrant.

While some justices seemed sympathetic to the plight of the soapy suspect during arguments Wednesday, they did not appear ready to give officers a strict time limit.

Police are concerned that it could take just seconds to flush away drugs or other evidence being sought, several justices said.

The case presents the issue of what is a reasonable wait before officers can presume they are being denied entry. Justices have never directly considered how long is required.

The case was brought by LaShawn Banks, whose shower was interrupted in 1998 by masked and heavily armed officers who were looking for drugs in his Las Vegas apartment. They had knocked and announced themselves, then waited 15 seconds to 20 seconds before using a battering ram to break down the door.

Banks' lawyer, Randall Roske, told the justices that amount of time "is virtually nothing at all if you're in the bathroom on the toilet, in the bedroom naked."

Bush administration lawyer David Salmons said it was a painfully long time to the officers, who worried that he was destroying evidence or preparing for a confrontation.

Salmons argued that 15 seconds to 20 seconds is "nowhere close to the constitutional line" and to rule otherwise "poses threats to officers on the front lines."

The Supreme Court has said that in most cases officers are required to knock and announce themselves, under the Constitution's Fourth Amendment ban on unreasonable searches. There are exceptions if police have reason to believe a suspect would be dangerous or destroy evidence.

Officers usually must get a special warrant from a judge for a year prison sentence before his conviction was overturned.

no-knock raid, but sometimes can make on-the-scene judgments.

Police raids such as the one at Banks' apartment are common, and sometimes are filmed for police television shows.

In May, a New York City woman went into cardiac arrest and died after a dozen heavily armed officers broke into her home at dawn and realized they had the wrong apartment soon after they entered.

The Las Vegas police and federal officers found 11 ounces of crack and three guns during the raid of Banks' apartment. He served four years of an 11-

year prison sentence before his conviction was overturned.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said officers should wait "a significant amount of time" before making a nonforced entry, and a "more substantial amount of time" between knock and entry if property would be destroyed. The court did not define what is significant or substantial.

Justice Antonin Scalia questioned if an officer should not have to wait a little longer than usual "before he rips my door down."

Other justices asked who pays when officers damage a home. The government, Salmons said.

There also were concerns about whether someone could ask for a copy of the warrant before opening the door, and whether there was an official law enforcement recommendation for how long to wait.

"Does it make a difference if the person (receiving the warrant) says,

'Wait a minute, I'm in the shower. I'm coming?'

Sandra Day O'Connor
Supreme Court justice

asked.

Salmons said that police have to worry about suspects getting rid of evidence and cannot wait.

"The question, ultimately, is going to be how long does 15 or 20 seconds seem to them," said Susan Herman, a professor at Brooklyn Law School. She does not expect the court to use the case to give officers strict rules to follow.

Regulators working to secure drug supply

by Randolph Schmid
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — America's prescription drug supply is the safest in the world, but attempts to counterfeiting drugs are increasing and becoming more sophisticated, the head of the Food and Drug Administration said Wednesday.

"This is a real public health threat," Mark McClellan told a meeting of the pharmaceutical industry.

The FDA commissioner called on drug manufacturers and distributors to help develop fresh and innovative ideas for keeping the drug supply secure.

Organized crime is becoming attracted to prescription drug sales because there is money to be made by faking costly medications, McClellan said.

Some counterfeit drugs come from foreign sources, raising concerns as Americans increasingly look outside the United States for less costly drugs.

McClellan toured a packed trade show displaying a range of technologies aimed at preventing the sale of counterfeit drugs.

Manufacturers showed off tiny bar codes that can be painted on pills, tamper-resistant packaging sporting hard-to-copy holograms and even tiny DNA-encoded microchips.

"What surprises me is how many technologies there are," McClellan said. Many of the ideas come from other industries and have not been previously used on pharmaceuticals, he said.

While no one argues against the need for safe and effective medicine, drug importation has become a complex political issue because many drugs can be bought cheaper in other countries, ordered by mail or over the Internet. Imports are the source of many counterfeit drugs.

The FDA says it cannot guarantee the safety of imported products, while critics charge the agency is trying to undermine congressional efforts to let people buy less costly drugs.

The pharmaceutical industry also launched a major effort to block drug import legislation, spending \$8.5 million on lobbying this year alone.

Council may approve new Iraq resolution

by Edith Lederer
Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The United States predicted that the Security Council will approve a new Iraq resolution despite its rejection of a key demand by France, Russia and Germany to add a timetable for the transfer of power to Iraqis.

Council diplomats said the resolution is likely to get at least the minimum nine "yes" votes needed for adoption on Wednesday. But the absence of a timetable diminished the possibility that it will be adopted with broad support from the 15 council members.

"It looks like the Americans are heading toward a divided vote — and a divided vote with nine countries in favor and probably five or six abstentions," said Mexico's U.N. Ambassador Adolfo Aguilar Zinser. This will send the message "that there is no consensus in the council on how to proceed on the ques-

tion of Iraq."

When the United States first talked about a new resolution six weeks ago, the primary aim was to get more countries to provide troops and money to help stabilize and rebuild Iraq. Those aims still hold, and the resolution would authorize a multinational force under U.S. command and call for "substantial pledges" from the 191 U.N. member states at a donors conference in Madrid, Spain, on Oct. 23-24.

The debate and focus of the resolution has shifted to the transfer of power from the British and American occupation to Iraqis. The French, Russians and Germans wanted a speedy transfer to a provisional Iraqi government but the United States and Britain insist that sovereignty can't be relinquished until Iraq drafts a new constitution and holds elections.

In an effort to reach a compromise with the United States on the pace of the transition from U.S. occupation, the three European powers made major concessions.

The timetable for a handover was the centerpiece of a package of amendments offered by the three opponents of the U.S.-led war.

They dropped their demands that power be handed over to an Iraqi provisional government within the next few months and that Secretary-General Kofi Annan be given the main political role in the transition. China supported their amendments.

Instead, the three countries proposed early Tuesday that Annan and the Security Council be given a role in establishing a timetable for transferring power, along with the U.S.-led coalition and the U.S.-picked Governing Council.

The United States rejected the proposal, sticking with its original text that calls on the coalition "to return governing responsibilities and authorities to the people of Iraq as soon as practicable." Instead of a timetable, it added a request to the coalition to report to the Security Council "on the progress being made."

U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte said the United States "made every effort possible" to accommodate "the

concepts but not necessarily all the details" in the amendments proposed by France, Russia and Germany.

Washington only wanted one deadline in the resolution which it proposed — Dec. 15 for the Iraqi Governing Council to submit a timetable for drafting a constitution and holding elections, he said.

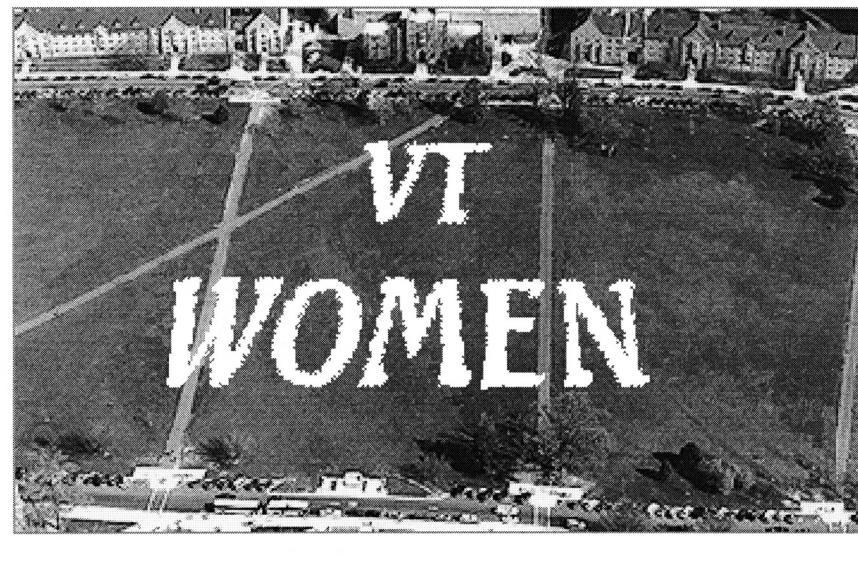
"We think the rest has to await developments on the ground rather than trying to artificially set a deadline here in New York," Negroponte told reporters after the council discussed the draft late into the night on Tuesday. "It's hard to predict things too far in advance."

French, Russian and German diplomats privately expressed disappointment at the rejection of the timetable but refused to comment publicly saying they needed to consult their capitals on the amended U.S. draft circulated Tuesday night.

France has ruled out using its veto, and Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, in Austria, said Wednesday that "vetoing it is not an issue, for any side," according to the Austria News Agency.

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OPINIONS COMMENTARY

Editorial

STATE ISSUE

Students play a role in budget cuts

Gov. Mark Warner has called on the Virginia higher education system, which includes 39 public institutions, to improve its image.

His announcement included the goal of increasing the number of graduates from Virginia colleges from 47,000 to 57,000. This is part of Warner's general plan to increase the quality of Virginia's higher education system with low-cost initiatives.

Though there was no mention of an increase in funding, Warner believes the graduation initiative will help in two respects. First, the increased graduation rate will be incentive to the citizens to pay taxes for higher education. Secondly, it will build a more economically sound tax base due to the earning power of a college diploma.

Warner is right in calling on the students and faculty of colleges to create a system of education taxpayers are willing to fund. When students appreciate and are responsible with the opportunities created by the taxpayers who fund their education, the state will be better able to raise taxes to help fill in short falls in college and university budgets.

The student body sometimes feels helpless when it comes to dealing with budget cuts, but this is far from the truth. Warner helped highlight a way in which students have the opportunity to alleviate the problems associated with budget cuts: help improve the taxpayers' image of public education.

Furthermore, students should be appreciative of their education but also have insight for the future of Virginia's public schools. Students can do a lot with a degree and above all become a taxpayer willing to support higher education. But students cannot throw away this potential by becoming dropouts.

It starts with the student and ends with the taxpayer. If students show appreciation and potential, the taxpayers will find it hard to come up with excuses as to why their tax dollars are not going to education.

Marriage should remain a union between heterosexuals

Sean Wohltman

Well, it seems another controversy has gripped the campus of Virginia Tech. Since I'm not there to witness the events in person, I can only rely on the pictures, stories and editorials online to judge what is going on.

What's the big commotion this time? Oh, another misunderstanding over a seemingly well-intended statement from President Bush. I did hear a bit about the president's proclamation on the college's satellite TV over here in Australia, and I have to say I'm pretty shocked this statement caused such an uproar on Tech's campus.

I realize the sensitive history brought up by the idea of gay marriages and I really have to believe our president was not being insensitive with his proclamation at all. I think a more accurate analysis of the situation would be to classify the actions of the gay community as over-sensitive.

I think some members of the gay community at Tech and across America may be trying to spin the facts here to once again make sexual preference a hot topic in the public forum.

The fact of the matter is the tradition of marriage has been made a joke in our society, and the president's decision to address this moral dilapidation is truly a compassionate gesture.

Some of the biggest social problems in America stem from the fact more and more children are growing up in broken homes where marriages have failed, so how can you attack an attempt at making people realize their responsibility as married parents to their children?

I realize Bush comes from a strong Christian background; one that has given him a strong set of moral beliefs. The same moral beliefs this society was founded on, I might add. And yes, within this set of morals is the belief marriage is a union between a man and a woman. This belief crosses many societal and religious boundaries and echoes the order of nature.

I concede not everyone chooses to believe this, and you have every right to

disagree. What you don't have the right to do is to undermine the rights of this country's married citizens. Demanding gay marriages be legally acknowledged by the United States is to ask for the sanctity of marriage to be destroyed.

This sort of unchecked supreme secularist-driven thinking does nothing to help America but rather continues to eat away at the nation's moral fabric. The problem is by allowing gay marriages, you set an irresponsible precedence.

If gays have the right to marry, then you can't stop polygamists, animal lovers or even adorers of inanimate objects from wanting to legally marry their objects of affection. If you think letting people marry their livestock or their computers is a worthwhile endeavor, then I can't help you.

For all I know a man and his PC may excel at rearing a child, but I don't think it would be a responsible or worthwhile social experiment.

I can't deny there are members of our nation who are anti-gay, and I would never condone their often-brutal ways of expressing their feelings. But to cast the president in the same light as those who killed Matthew Shepard is truly ignorant and nothing more than blatant and unwarranted character assassination.

A good point is raised by the fact partners who are not married, be they heterosexuals or homosexuals, are not entitled to the same benefits when it comes to medical decisions, insurance, taxes and estate planning as married couples. Perhaps here is the arena where an argument that views this as discrimination is warranted, but there has to be a definition of the difference between a civil union and a marriage.

They are not the same thing, yet they are often confused to be. Legislation that would recognize these unions in a legal fashion might be worthwhile, but not if they intend to define the union as a marriage. A marriage must always remain the specially recognized union between one man, and one woman.

Sean Wohltman is a regular columnist for the Collegiate Times.

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Letters to the Editor

American principles include gays

As a heterosexual man, I do not know how it feels to be discriminated against or hated because of my sexuality; however, I can only imagine the sense of rejection and isolation a homosexual must feel when his or her own president has publicly denounced gay marriages. To these people, I am severely apologetic.

I attended the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Alliance of Virginia Tech's discussion panel on the need for allies last Thursday with an open mind, and what I discovered was a group of people filled with sadness and near hopelessness. A Tech faculty member (whose name I shall not include out of respect) remarked since she has come out, she no longer has the same rights she did a year ago simply because the person she shares her bed with has changed.

This struck me as something in need of change; a week later, President Bush declared marriage ought to be between a man and a woman.

I find it extremely ironic how the same stereotypical straight people who believe homosexuals are nothing but sex-hungry partiers are often the same stereotypical straight people who refuse to allow gays to marry. If we're so disgusted by their supposed promiscuity, then why do we deny them the right to be

legally committed as we are?

I challenge every American to ask why.

I think most Americans mistake their revulsion with the idea homosexuality is immoral. On what grounds is homosexuality immoral?

Religious grounds?

Even if true, the argument is not valid in America; our laws are made with the idea of fairness to all, despite religious views.

And don't tell me straight marriage is an American tradition, because so was slavery. Sometimes traditions are in need of a change, and straight-only marriages are definitely one of them.

Wake up, America.

We built this country on the principles of liberty and justice for all, and now it's time to live up to them.

Brent Keener
sophomore, political science
and philosophy

Pornography still covered by free speech

It makes sense people would want to have pornography censored.

It is offensive and inappropriate in most instances and parents surely don't want their kids seeing it.

You don't want to see pornography advertisements pop up on

your computer while browsing. But once you censor one thing, what is to stop you from censoring something else?

Once the filters are in place to prevent access to pornography in libraries or even on the Internet in your own house, what is to stop that filter from being further applied to something else people don't like, such as abortion or other sites that hold minority opinions?

Where are parents? Where is the parental common sense? Any parent who lets his or her child access the Internet unsupervised cannot expect the government to make sure he or she does not access bad things.

Additionally, if you don't like something, you don't have to look at it.

It is very easy to change the channel when you see a program you find offensive, and it is very easy to hit the "back" button when you come across a website you find offensive.

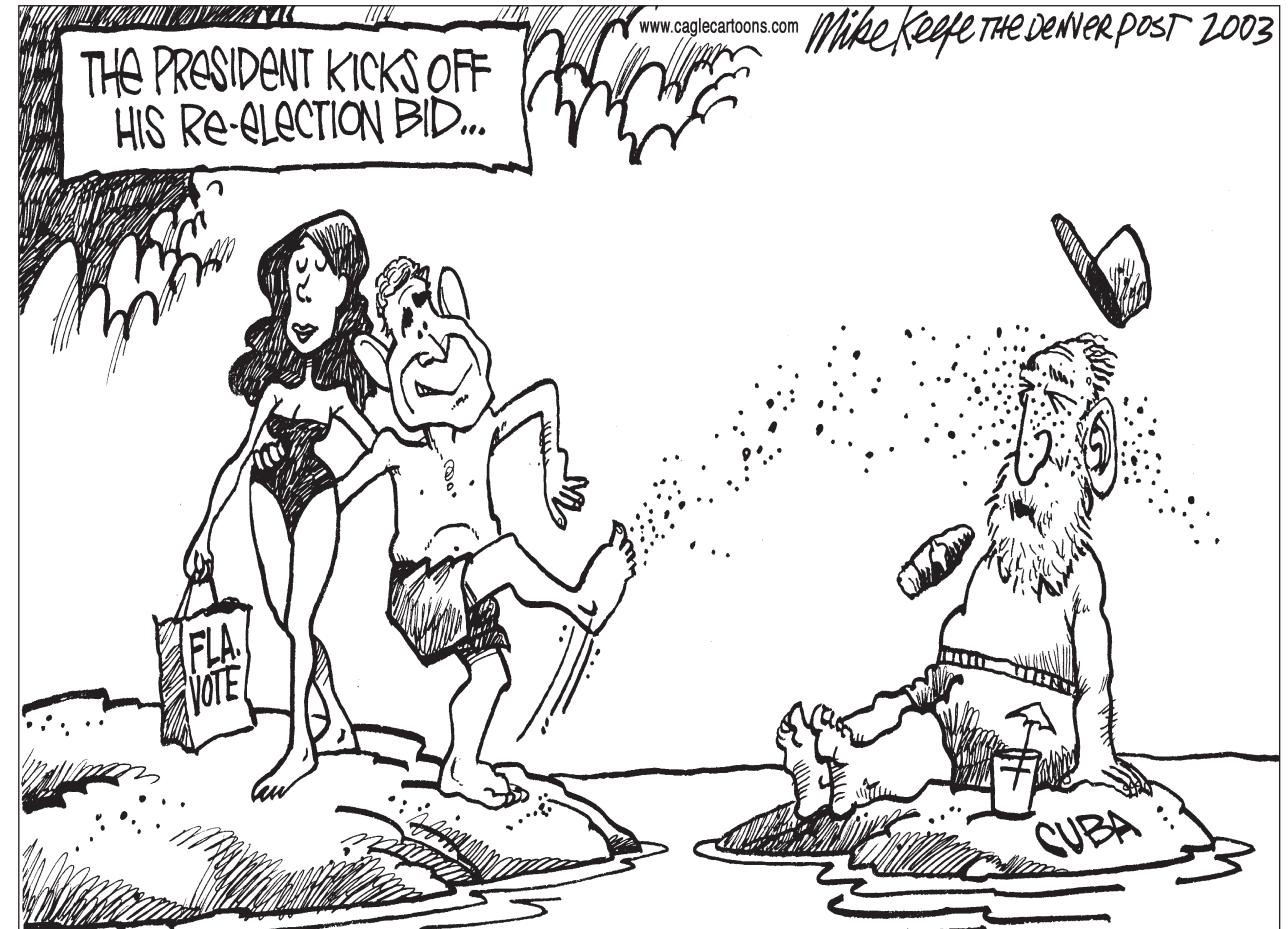
We don't need the government doing that for us.

Where is our own common sense?

The fact of the matter is most pornography is free speech. Once you breach one form of free speech, you are creating a huge opportunity to breach more forms.

Any law written to limit the expression of free speech is a violation of the Constitution, plain and simple.

Paul Lockaby
sophomore, political science
treasurer,
Virginia Tech ACLU



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Labor unrest leads to strikes in Calif.

Thousands of bus drivers and mechanics have worked to stall the U.S.'s third largest mass-transit system

by Alex Veiga
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Labor disputes roiled Southern California, leaving hundreds of thousands of commuters stranded, grocery shoppers inconvenienced and county jails and courts threatened with closure.

The strike by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority entered its second day Wednesday, stalling the nation's third-largest mass-transit system. Some 2,000 MTA mechanics walked out, with an additional 6,000 bus drivers and clerks honoring their

picket lines.

"I'm just stranded," said commuter David Stratling, 59, who made it to Union Station on Tuesday on a bus line not affected by the strike before realizing he couldn't go any farther. "I won't be able to go to work today."

Meanwhile, 70,000 grocery clerks from three chains — Kroger Co.'s Ralphs, Safeway Inc.'s Vons and Albertsons Inc. — began their fourth day on the picket lines in Southern and Central California on Wednesday with no sign of a new contract.

In another dispute, 219 out of

the 343 Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies who provide security at jails called in sick Wednesday morning to protest stalled labor talks, said deputy Bill Spear, a sheriff's spokesman.

The deputies have had sporadic sickouts over the past three weeks, forcing officials to curtail some court activities.

The transit and grocery clerks strikes could deal a blow to the ailing California economy. Jack Kyser, chief economist for the Los Angeles Economic Development Corp., estimated the transit strike could cost \$4 million a day while

the toll from the supermarket walkout could reach \$6.3 million a day in lost wages.

"Those in both disputes are digging in their heels. And the common thread here is health benefits," Kyser said.

The grocery clerks' strike was forcing consumers to shop elsewhere or cross picket lines at more than 850 supermarkets from San Luis Obispo to San Diego. The chains have coped by bringing in replacement workers and scaling back operating hours.

More than a dozen transit lines, including Metrolink commuter rail and various regional bus lines, were operating as scheduled. But the half-million people estimated to use the MTA's train and bus system every day had to scramble for alternatives to get to work, school or other destinations.

" Those in both disputes are digging in their heels. And the common thread here is health benefits."

Jack Kyser
chief economist, L.A.
Development Corps.

Baby food jars, bottles raise cancer concerns

by Emma Ross
Associated Press

LONDON — Europe's food safety agency recommended Wednesday that baby food manufacturers change the lids on their jars as soon as possible because of cancer concerns over a chemical found in some food packed in bottles and jars.

The European Food Safety Authority said there was no need for parents to stop using infant food because any cancer risk was extremely low and the jars have an excellent safety

record for germs and other contaminants.

The chemical, semicarbazide, has been found in very small quantities in certain foods packaged in jars with metal lids incorporating plastic vacuum seals, a type of packaging used worldwide for more than 20 years.

Semicarbazide, or SEM, belongs to a family of chemicals known to cause cancer in animals. One study has shown it can cause tumors in mice. No human studies have been conducted. The European Food Safety Authority is the first organization to have

taken a close look at the risks posed by the chemical.

Although the amount in food is uncertain and its human health effects unknown, scientists investigating on behalf of the European food agency concluded the danger is very slight.

A baby's estimated daily intake of semicarbazide, based on the concentrations found in infant food, was at least 40,000 times less than the dose given to the mice in the tumor study.

"The risk to consumers resulting from the possible presence of semicarbazide in foods,

if any, is judged to be very small, not only for adults but also for infants," said Dr. Sue Barlow, chair of the European Food Safety Authority expert panel.

"Nevertheless," the agency said in a statement, "experts believe it would be prudent to reduce the presence of semicarbazide in baby foods as swiftly as technological progress allows."

The agency also recommended the industry change the lids for other products, after baby foods have been tackled.

Fast food affects obese children most

by Daniel Haney
Associated Press

"you like, until you have had enough," the youngsters were told. "There is more food available, and you may eat as much as you want."

Everyone started out with the equivalent of a supersize value meal of chicken nuggets, fries, cola and cookies that added up to 2,100 calories. And eat they did. Large or lean, the children wolfed down plenty of food.

"They consume more than half of the calories they need for the whole day in about 20 minutes," Ludwig said.

The big kids ate more. The obese youngsters downed 67 percent of their daily calories in one sitting, while the normal-size ones got 57 percent.

Next, the researchers made an unannounced call to see how much the same youngsters eat over a whole day when on their own. On a day when they had fast food, the obese youngsters ate a total of 400 more calories than on a day when they ate at home. However, the lean kids ate the same amount of total calories whether they had a fast food meal or not. They concluded that overweight children are more susceptible to gargantuan fast food meals because they do not have the ability to even out their intake by cutting back over the rest of the day.

"Do certain people have trouble compensating for energy-dense fast food? This study suggests overweight people may," said Simone French, a psychologist at the University of Minnesota.

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Jurors for sniper trial being selected

▪ Prospective jurors were questioned about their ability to give the death penalty to John Allen Muhammad

by Sonja Barisic
Associated Press

VIRGINIA BEACH — Lawyers on Wednesday began asking potential jurors whether they would be willing to sentence John Allen Muhammad to death if he is convicted of a fatal shooting during last year's sniper spree.

Prospective jurors also were asked individually about their exposure to pretrial news accounts and whether they felt terrorized by the shootings in metropolitan Washington.

Wednesday's court session began with a 15-minute bench conference on jury-selection issues. Then Circuit Judge LeRoy F. Millette Jr. summoned Juror 62 all jurors have been assigned a number to protect their privacy for one-on-one questioning about her views on the case and her ability to be impartial.

The juror said she could impose capital punishment for Muhammad if she felt it was warranted and that she had not formed an opinion on Muhammad's guilt or innocence. When defense lawyer Peter Greenspun tried to ask a follow-up question on her views, Millette disallowed it.

The juror also said she could set aside any pre-trial publicity about the case because "I expect to hear the

truth here."

Neither prosecutors nor defense lawyers objected to impaneling her.

The next potential juror said she would have a hard time imposing the death penalty. "I would rather not have it on my conscience," she said.

But, upon follow-up questions from defense attorney Jonathan Shapiro, she said she would follow the court's instructions about the law.

Prosecutor Paul Ebert tried to have her struck from the panel, and Shapiro objected, saying "Muhammad is allowed to have jurors who are very conscious of the weight that's put on their shoulders."

Millette agreed with the defense and approved the woman as an acceptable juror.

In all, 12 jurors questioned four prospective jurors all women in about 80 minutes Wednesday morning. All four were approved and will be rated at 50 percent and higher.

Under current law, disabled military retirees lose a dollar in retirement payments for each dollar they receive in disability

"Muhammad is allowed to have jurors who are very conscious of the weight that's put on their shoulders."

Jonathan Shapiro
defense attorney

jurors that must be impaneled. Each side then will get to strike six people, without providing a justification, leaving a jury of 12 plus three alternates.

Muhammad's trial was moved about 200 miles to this southeastern Virginia city after defense lawyers argued that every northern Virginia resident could be considered a victim because the shootings caused widespread fear.

A stone-faced Muhammad pleaded innocent Tuesday to capital murder charges stemming from the three-week spree that left 10 people dead.

House GOP leaders working to help vets

▪ The package will offer dual benefits to veterans whose disabilities are not combat-related

by David Espo
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Republican leaders are putting the finishing touches on a multi-billion-dollar plan that would allow more veterans to receive both disability benefits and full military retirement, congressional officials said Wednesday.

The package would extend dual benefits for the first time to some veterans whose disabilities are not combat-related, according to these officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity. They said the provision would be phased in over a decade, and eventually would cover individuals whose disabilities were rated at 50 percent and higher.

Under current law, disabled military retirees lose a dollar in retirement payments for each dollar they receive in disability

compensation, a rule that affects an estimated 500,000 veterans.

Veterans groups have mounted a fierce lobbying campaign to win dual benefits for all retired military personnel who are disabled, pleadings that have taken on fresh potency in the wake of wars in Afghanistan and Iraq in the past three years.

The Bush administration has balked at the cost, estimated at \$58 billion over the next decade.

One official put the overall price tag of the GOP leadership plan at \$22 billion over the same time frame. Several said the White House has signaled its support, adding that House GOP leaders are urging their Senate counterparts to do likewise.

Apart from the provision relating to non-combat disabilities, GOP leaders are recommending that full dual benefits become available beginning on Jan. 1, 2004, to retirees of the National Guard and reserve units who were wounded in combat.

Dual benefits would be made available to more military retirees who served in regular units and whose disabilities were combat-related but not suffered on the battlefield. They now are eligible

if their disabilities are 60 percent or higher. Under the proposal, all veterans with combat-related disabilities would be eligible for dual benefits. Retirees who suffered their disabilities in combat on the battlefield are already eligible for full dual benefits.

Politically, the issue has roiled the House in recent weeks. Democrats began an effort to force legislation to the floor to grant full dual benefits to veterans. Republicans notified their own leadership they would do so unless GOP leaders came up with an alternative.

Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., and Missouri Rep. Roy Blunt, the GOP whip, have been responsible for crafting the package in an atmosphere of unusual secrecy, and are seeking agreement by Senate Republicans.

Agreement among Republicans in both houses would allow the package to be attached to a major defense bill that lawmakers are eager to pass this year.

The issue is particularly tricky given the crosscurrents among Senate Republicans. While many lawmakers favor extending additional benefits to veterans, some have raised concerns about the

cost.

Because the money is not contained in the spending plan Congress approved earlier this year, critics could erect a procedural hurdle requiring supporters to gain 60 votes to prevail.

Supporters of dual benefits argue that former members of the military are singled out unfairly among all government workers.

The Senate agreed earlier this year, voting as part of its defense bill to give retirees who are disabled the full amount of both benefits. The House bill omits mention of the issue.

Apart from expanding benefits available to some veterans, House GOP leaders also are proposing creation of a commission to study the issue. The panel would be required to report to the administration and Congress 15 months after it convenes.

While lawmakers have come under pressure from veterans, the General Accounting Office recently warned against hasty action on the issue. In a letter to several members of Congress, Comptroller General David M. Walker wrote that a change could, by itself, have long-term effects on government spending.

Life, legal battle of comatose woman ends

by Mitch Stacy
Associated Press

PINELLAS PARK, Fla. — Doctors removed the feeding tube Wednesday that has been keeping alive a severely brain-damaged woman at the center of an epic, six-year legal battle between her husband and parents.

Terri Schiavo, 39, underwent the procedure at the Tampa Bay area hospice where she has been living for several years, said her father, Bob Schindler. Attorneys representing her husband, Michael Schiavo, said it will take between a week and 10 days for her to die.

The tube removal came just hours after Gov. Jeb Bush told Bob Schindler and his wife, Mary, that he was instructing his legal staff to find some means to block the court order allowing Michael Schiavo to end his wife's life.

"I am not a doctor, I am not a lawyer. But I know that if a

person can be able to sustain life without life support, that should be tried," the governor said, adding the "ultimate decision of this is in the courts."

The father of the woman said the family was heartened by the governor's last-minute effort.

"The family has not given up hope on Terri," he said following

the meeting with Bush. "We have spoken to the governor, and he hasn't given up hope either."

Schiavo has been in a vegetative state since 1990, when her heart stopped because of doctors said may have been a chemical imbalance. Her parents believe she is capable of learning how to eat and drink on her own.

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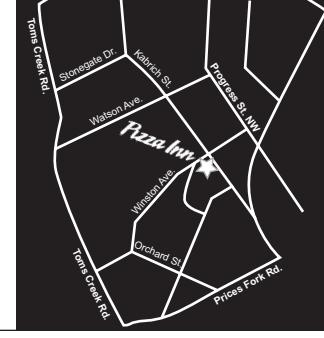
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Temple performs for 'Choose Tomorrow'

by Ashley Crockett
Associate Features Editor

"Choose Tomorrow," belts out Kurt Parks, lead singer of the band Temple. He could just be warming up his vocal cords; however, he is actually singing about the show the band is playing tonight.

At 6 p.m. on Henderson Lawn, the band will perform for approximately one hour as part of the activities for "Choose Tomorrow," a suicide-prevention week sponsored by the German Club.

The members of Temple include Parks, a senior finance major; Nate Parks, a freshman human nutrition, fitness and exercise major and drummer; and Josh Kim, a 2003 alumnus and guitarist. The trio, which describes its style as "melodic rock," is no stranger to performing.

In June they performed at the House of Blues in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina during a three-day stay. Nate Parks

describes as "the three days that changed the world."

"We just expected to go down there and play on the beach," Kurt Parks said. "It was total intervention, like someone in the heavens was watching out for us."

The person responsible for reserving night bands for the House of Blues asked them to play after buying the band's CDs at the beach.

"Here we are just going down there for a vacation and we end up playing at one of most prestigious places for a band to play," Kurt Parks said. "House of Blues is not a walk in the park."

The band also traveled to Tennessee to perform.

"We went down to Nashville and played a label showcase and that's basically the best outlet for undiscovered acts to go," Kim said.

Since the Nashville showcase, major labels have contacted Temple.

"We've been talking with producers,"

Kim said. "Things are definitely exciting."

"It's definitely in the works. There are two major labels that are interested in us," said Kurt Parks.

Temple also has released one CD and has another one in the making.

The first CD, "Carved," was recorded in 2002 and sold 1,000 copies. The follow-up "Lights" is being recorded and will have approximately 15 songs.

"One thing we like to do with our CDs is fill them up with music," Kurt Parks said.

Besides performing and making CDs, the band gains self-fulfillment through its music.

"Everyone has that thing that makes them come alive, and it's definitely music for me," Kurt Parks said. "When I'm on the stage, I feel like that's where I'm supposed to be."

"Music is the universal language," said Nate Parks.

Class of 2005 hosts ring premiere

by Eliot Kriviski
Features Editor

continue to work hard," Snizek said.

Snizek also noted the benefits of a college education, stating national surveys emphasized college graduates are paid more and live longer than those who have only completed secondary education.

The Ring Committee presented a variety of performances by student organizations. First came Juxtaposition, Tech's all-male acapella group, who received much applause from the audience. The group presented its musical talents by performing two songs, adding a bit of fun to the premier. Later, the National Society of Black Engineers Step Team added a bit of funk to the evening by performing two step routines, saying that it wanted to encourage the involvement of more culturally aware students in the university.

Many students began to grow impatient while waiting more than twenty minutes for the premier to start, but soon enough, the lights dimmed down and the crowd began to cheer.

First, various members of the Ring Design committee and Class Officers were introduced to the audience and thanked for all their hard work over the past year. The committee had been elected the previous year in order to work on the designs.

The audience was treated to a variety of speakers and talents for the premier. First, the premier showcased the role of the Corps of Cadets in the Tech community. After a moment of silence and the presentation of college colors and national anthem, the Gregory Guard, Tech's Military Precision Drill Unit, performed a complicated silent drill routine.

Although the Gregory Guard hit a few rough spots during the routine, they were able to carry on and impressed the audience.

Rice's messages were simple yet profound and talked about the joy he felt every time he thought about his years at Tech and hoped the junior class would form its own memories.

"Be proud of your university," Rice said.

Perhaps the most unexpected highlight of the evening was a computer-animated cartoon including the Hokie Bird in a "Matrix"-like world looking for the class of 2005's ring. The animated spoof was met with shouts of applause and laughter while techno music blasted from the speakers.

National Book Award nominees announced

■ Nominees Shirley Hazzard and Edward Jones both took more than 10 years to finish their respective books

by Hillel Italie
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Patience has been rewarded by National Book Award judges.

Shirley Hazzard and Edward Jones, both of whom needed more than a decade to complete their current novels, are among this year's nominees.

Other fiction finalists announced Wednesday include T. Coraghessan Boyle's "Drop City" and Marianne Wiggins' "Evidence of Things Unseen." It was the first nomination for both writers, despite more than 20 books combined.

None of the 20 finalists, five each in four separate categories, has ever received a National Book Award. The winners will be announced Nov. 19.

Among the high-profile novelists who did not receive nominations: Nobel laureate Toni Morrison for "Love," Jhumpa Lahiri for "The Namesake" and Jonathan Lethem for "The Fortress of Solitude."

Hazzard was cited for "The Great Fire," a romance set right after World War II and the author's first fiction work since the beloved "The Transit of Venus," published in 1980. Jones was nominated for "The Known World," a historical novel about a black slave owner and his first book since the story collection "Lost in the City," an NBA finalist published in 1992.

Scott Spencer, nominated for his novel, "A Ship Made of Paper," shares with Hazzard the rare status of being cited twice for the same book. In the early 1980s, when the awards had separate categories for hardcovers and paperbacks, Hazzard received two nominations for "Transit of Venus" and Spencer two for "Endless Love."

This year's nonfiction nominees include Erik Larson's "The Devil in the White City," a

best seller set around the 1893 Chicago's World Fair, and John D'Emilio's "Lost Prophet," a biography of civil rights leader Bayard Rustin.

Other nonfiction finalists are Carlos Eire's "Waiting for Snow in Havana," a memoir of Cuba in the 1950s, George Howe Colt's "The Big House," which traces history through a family summer home, and Anne Applebaum's "Gulag: A History."

Overlooked nonfiction works include Walter Isaacson's "Benjamin Franklin" and Anthony Swofford's "Jarhead," an acclaimed memoir about the Gulf War.

Eighty-year-old poet Louis Simpson, a four-time finalist first cited in 1964, was nominated for the anthology "The Owner of the House."

Other poetry finalists include three-time nominee Charles Simic for "The Voice at 3 A.M.," two-time nominee C.K. Williams for "The Singing," Kevin Young's "Jelly Roll" and Carol Muske-Dukes' "Sparrow."

The young people's literature

Drama won't be limited to the competitive categories. Horror writer Stephen King will receive a medal for contributions to publishing, an award given in the past to Philip Roth, Arthur Miller and others with more literary reputations.

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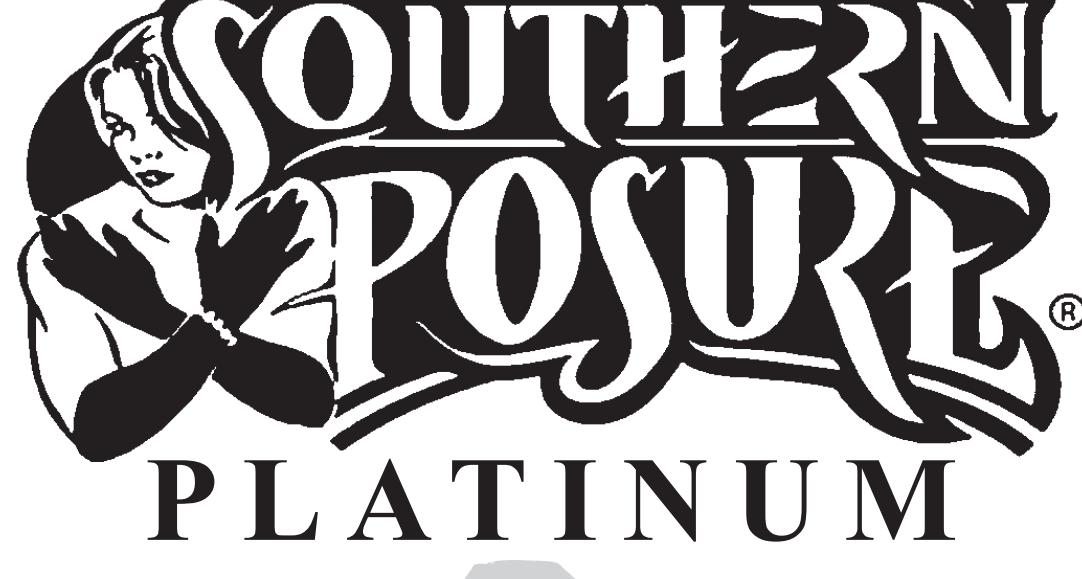
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Confederate descendants preserve heritage in Brazil

by Mike Williams
Associated Press

AMERICANA, Brazil — The monument could stand on any small-town courthouse square in the Deep South of the United States, the names etched in white marble calling up memories of the bloody war that split the nation almost 150 years ago.

But this monument isn't in Kennesaw or Chickamauga, Vicksburg or Antietam. Tucked beneath shade trees on a picturesque hilltop, it is more than 4,000 miles south of the land once known as Dixie.

The families memorialized here were Southern survivors of the Civil War who left America in the wake of

defeat and resettled in Brazil, hoping to build new lives in a fertile land that resembled the one they left behind.

Their arrival signaled the start of a strange new pocket of culture in this faraway corner of South America, a mix of Southern drawl and clipped Portuguese, of U.S. notions about farming and education layered with European customs filtered through a Brazilian lens.

"My grandfather came from Texas and built his house in the middle of a forest," said Maria Weissinger, 86, one of the few remaining U.S. descendants with living memories of the original Southern settlers. "He spoke no Portuguese and the people here spoke no English. For years they couldn't

pronounce his last name, so they just called him 'John of the Woods.'"

The settlers also brought with them a deep affection for the American South that lives on today, centered on the shaded cemetery where the monument stands. Descendants of the settlers — who call themselves "Confederados" — hold an annual festival in a pavilion near the cemetery that draws hundreds to a feast of fried chicken, biscuits and grits.

The celebration is complete with old-time dances and period costumes, the men dressed in Confederate gray and the women in billowing hoop skirts.

There is also an unabashed pride in the Confederate flag. The Confederate

descendants have heard of the controversy the emblem has stirred in Georgia and other U.S. states, but insist the connection for them is one of family history, not ideology.

"We aren't saying we want to fight that war again," said Allison Jones, 60, an engineer whose great-great-grandfather William Hutchinson Norris of Oglethorpe, Ga., was one of the first to settle here in 1866. "For us, it's a way of honoring our ancestors. It was the flag of that time, not the flag of today. Our flag is the Brazilian flag, but this was the flag of our ancestors."

Although there are no exact numbers, some accounts estimate that as many as 10,000 Americans moved to Brazil after the Civil War.

Recruiters for the Brazilian government crisscrossed the South after the war, luring would-be immigrants with promises of subsidies and tax breaks from Brazilian Emperor Dom Pedro II, who was anxious to capitalize on their expertise in raising cotton.

But the 4,000-mile journey by ship was followed by hardship for many. Although the region where they came to live resembles the rolling hills of Tennessee and Georgia, tropical diseases took their toll, along with the difficulties of adapting to a new culture.

Brazilian historians estimate that as many as 60 percent of the settlers eventually returned home or died from disease.

Group helps promote healthy body image

by Lauren Kiger
Staff Writer

The sixth annual nation-wide Love Your Body Day was held all day Wednesday.

The event, a joint collaboration between the National Organization for Women and Womanspace, focused on promoting a positive self body image for women and men alike, and included an array of awareness projects.

"Love Your Body Day began to encourage activists to speak out against advertisements and media images of women and girls that are offensive, disrespectful, demeaning and harmful," said Susan Anderson, Faculty Advisor of Womanspace and Coordinator of NOW.

On the Tech campus, students and volunteers hosted an information table outside the Library Plaza, that focused on negative advertisement portrayals of the human body and requested feedback from students passing by the table. The table also sold "Vagina Pops," which were a definite hit, with more than one hundred sold.

"I had a lot of fun being out there talking to all sorts of people," said Katie Connolly, a junior coordinator of Love Your Body Day.

Connolly said that there were

"Love Your Body Day began to encourage activists to speak out against advertisements and media images of women and girls that are offensive, disrespectful, demeaning and harmful."

Susan Anderson
Faculty advisor, Womanspace

images are.

The video, titled "Redefining Liberation," featured prominent female activists and discussed how advertisers send negative messages to women in a variety of ways. The most popular advertisements were cigarette ads that targeted female's weight loss and freedom issues and alcohol ads that use sex to sell.

About 30 men and women were present at the video and discussion and talked about an array of topics ranging from body size to makeup.

Connolly said that there were

mixed reactions to the information, but most people tended to have positive feedback and seemed truly interested.

The group created a display case full of negative male and female images in the media, that will be on the first floor of Squires until Friday. To conclude the day, a video and discussion session were held in the Women's Center.

The video and discussion session of Love your Body strived to raise awareness of serious issues facing women in society today and to expose sexually exploitative advertisements. Laury Ward, a Womanspace Coordinator and graduate student, said that the day was about improving people's self esteem through showing how unrealistic these

people in other parts of the country are certainly graceful and intelligent and certainly better writers that I am, God knows," she said. "There's a different cache to the Southeast

Authors create best-seller buzz in Charleston

by Bruce Smith
Associated Press

CHARLESTON, S.C. — They write about different times and even different worlds. And yet something about this place of quaint buildings, gentility and sea marsh permeates the work of three Charleston writers whose novels all made The New York Times' best seller list this year.

"Charleston is Byzantium as directed by Fellini on a particularly good day," said fantasy writer Robert Jordan, whose "Crossroads of Twilight" again reached the top of the list. It's the 10th volume in his "The Wheel of Time" series and the fourth to reach No. 1.

"Story really matters here. If you can tell a story about something, that's extremely important in Charleston," said Sue Monk Kidd, whose first novel "The Secret Life of Bees" has become something of a phenomenon in the publishing industry.

"Being a Southerner is something a lot of people secretly aspire to," said Dorthea Benton Frank, whose first hardcover, "Isle of Palms," made this list this summer.

"People in other parts of the country are certainly graceful and intelligent and certainly better writers than I am, God knows," she said. "There's a

different cache to the Southeast

and the Low Country — it's more spiritual. There's a spiritual aspect to our writing you don't always find elsewhere."

Jordan, a native who lives in an 18th-century house in Charleston's historic district, doesn't mention the city in his multi-volume epic about Rand al'Thor, a farm boy destined to become the champion who will battle ultimate evil in a mythical land.

"What I write is certainly not set in South Carolina, but I have had a number of reviewers comment on the fact that I write with a distinctly Southern voice," he said.

"It goes beyond more than simply where the story is set," Jordan said. "I believe it is something we take in the air and the water. It's a matter of word choices — of the rhythms of sentences and the rhythm of speech in particular."

Kidd's novel has been on the best seller list for the better part of a year, first in hardcover then in paperback. There are about 1.7 million copies in print.

Set in 1964, the book tells the story of a young white girl who runs away with her black caretaker and ends up living in a small South Carolina town with a trio of black sisters who keep bees.

"Race is the wound of my geography, and as a writer it organically becomes part of my writing," said Kidd, who lives

in nearby Mount Pleasant.

"I think if you write deeply out of a sense of place, you write out of the great beauty, and humor and charm of that place, yes," she said. "But you also must write equally about the tragedy and the failure and the violence of that place. We must write both about its luminous soul and its darkness."

Frank's novel is a humorous, no-holds-barred contemporary tale of the experiences of a woman in her mid-30s who, after living on the Isle of Palms as a child, finally fulfills her dream of returning to the island.

"They are friends of mine — old friends and family members — and they think it's really fun," she said. "If I know them, I make them successful and good looking. I don't make them the devil of the book."

For all three writers, their next novel is now the concern.

Frank calls it "a miracle" her book made the list for five weeks this summer. It's the peak buying time for fiction for summer reading, and there were other big names with books out, she said.

Now, she said, "I'm terrified

because I have to try to do it again."

"I have a wonderful story I'm writing now, but it scares the daylights out of me," she said. "You wonder if you have it in you to pull it out again. You wonder if you have another story to tell and will it be as affecting as the last one."

The success of her first novel has been a bit overwhelming for Kidd.

"You never expect anything like that," she said. "When I was writing the novel, I wanted it to be reviewed well and have a respectable readership. That was the most I was hoping for. I decided the only response to this was gratitude. There is so much going on here, I couldn't possibly take credit."

Eight of Jordan's books have made The New York Times' list. The first time it happens, "you go out in the middle of the floor and you do a little dance," he said. "Then you go someplace booze is being served and buy a drink for everybody in the house."

And that first time requires a bit of luck, he adds.

"You have to have talent to some extent — I certainly hope I have talent — but you have to have luck as well," Jordan said. "Once you get that first shot, that will get you noticed for the rest of your books and that will give the rest of your books a better chance."

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Sports

Cheerleader advances in national contest

■ Senior Jessica Clem is a finalist in the Athlonsports.com first annual sideline spirit competition

by Rajan Nanavati
Sports Editor

Between the hardcore football fans, the pockets of sauced-up spectators and the common fans adding to the electricity of a Virginia Tech football game, there are definitely a lot of people screaming their lungs out supporting the Tech football team and professing their team spirit.

But there is one group of Tech fans who show up rain or shine, hurricane or blizzard, and they're responsible for making sure the rest of the fans do their best to deafen the other team. Plus, they get the best seats in the house — right on the field.

They're the Virginia Tech cheerleaders, and their captain, senior finance major Jessica Clem, has been recognized by Athlonsports.com's first annual sideline spirit competition as the representative of the Big East conference.

Athlon sports shot pictures of the Tech cheerleaders as well as other schools and chose to use Tech's team as the representative of the Big East conference.

The company sent the pictures to cheerleading coach Brad Grigg, and Grigg chose to use the picture of Clem, since she was the captain

and the senior member of the squad.

Clem is competing in the second round of a contest in which cheerleaders from schools of each of the six BCS conferences compete with one another in an online poll.

The other schools include the University of Tennessee (from the SEC), the University of California (from the Pac-10), Wake Forest University (from the ACC), Penn State (from the Big 10), and the University of Nebraska (from the Big 12).

The winner of the contest will receive the chance to be on the front cover of Athlon's annual college football previews, and the squad the winning cheerleader is from will receive \$1000 from Athlon. Currently, Clem holds a slim lead over the representative from the University of Nebraska.

The fact Clem leads has much to do with how she sees Tech as a family-like atmosphere.

She has received lots of attention as a result of her name and picture being placed on the website.

Everyone from friends, professors and alumni at Tech has congratulated her on the honor, and through word of mouth, many of these people have voted for her in the poll.

Despite being recognized individually by Athlon, Clem chooses to focus the attention on her squad and Tech spirit as a whole and not just herself.

"My first reaction was that it was a neat thing," Clem said. "But, I look at it as not really voting for me but for Tech and

for school spirit."

Clem has been cheerleading for the past three years and like any other student athlete has to go through the rigors of having to balance her schedule with the time she spends with the cheerleading team.

The team practices four days a week, and a small group within the team travels to all away football games.

Despite the time and effort required, Clem completely enjoys the routine and perks it brings.

"I do enjoy it," she said. "There's nothing like the feel-

ing of running through that tunnel in front of 65,000 fans. There's no other feeling like it."

The second round of the contest will end Monday and the winner will advance to a third and final round.

Voting for this round will take place until Nov. 30, and then the winner of this poll will receive the prize.

To vote for Clem and Tech, visit www.athlonsports.com and select the cheerleaders link on the left side of the page.



COURTESY OF JESSICA CLEM

Tech cheerleading captain Jessica Clem holds a slim lead in a poll at www.athlonsports.com

Bryant's defense gives 'compelling evidence'

by Tim Dahlberg
Associated Press

was sexually active before her encounter with Bryant.

Winters also said two pairs of panties from the woman were tested — one from the night of June 30, the other being the one she wore to a hospital for an exam the next day.

The latter pair contained blood and semen, Winters said.

"The accuser arrived at the hospital wearing panties with someone else's semen and sperm in them, not that of Mr. Bryant, correct?" Mackey asked.

"That's correct," Winters responded.

Mackey suggested injuries found during the woman's exam could have come from having repeated sex, a contention she first made in court last week.

The defense contends the tests on the underpants provide Bryant with compelling evidence of innocence.

Stan Goldman, a professor at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, said the argument might be more of a public relations move.

"The defense may be spinning this more for the public than the court," he said. "It's impressive, but its negative public relations value for the prosecution is more significant than its legal value."

Bryant sat stoically with his hands folded watching his attorney tear apart the prosecution's version of the case. Occasionally, he leaned over and talked to his other lawyer, Hal Haddon.

Mackey also managed to introduce something prosecutors didn't talk about last week. The night auditor sent police a letter saying she saw the woman as she came back to the front desk at the Cordillera Lodge & Spa.

"What the night auditor says in her letter is the accuser did not look or sound as if there had been any problem," Mackey said, asking Winters "Correct?"

"Yes," Winters responded.

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Canassi has tough year on Indy circuit

by Mike Harris
Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Chip Ganassi's second full season in the Indy Racing League was tougher than it appeared.

It began in March with a victory by Target/Chip Ganassi Racing driver Scott Dixon in Homestead, Fla., and ended Sunday at Texas Motor Speedway with Dixon finishing second to Gil de Ferran in the season finale to wrap up the IndyCar Series championship.

"I said to Scott up on the podium, the win in (Homestead) seems like 10 years ago," Ganassi said. "It's a long, difficult season."

The depth and intensity of the competition in the 8-year-old open-wheel racing series was something Ganassi, in the sport for more than two decades as a driver and then a team owner in open-wheels and stock cars, hadn't counted on before running full-time with Jeff Ward in 2002.

Ward did manage to win one race, but his 14th-place finish in the points wasn't what Ganassi was looking for.

The owner came back in 2003 with a two-car effort headed by Dixon and severed his longtime association with the rival CART series to concentrate on the IRL.

"It was a new challenge for us to understand the competitive nature of the (IRL) series, what really week in and week out (takes place)," said Ganassi, whose powerhouse team won an unprecedented four straight championships (1996-99) in CART. Ganassi also won the IRL showcase Indianapolis 500 in 2000 with Juan Montoya.

Ganassi found out quickly just how tough IRL is.

"You go to a test and you're fast, and you're faster than someone else at the test, and you feel pretty good about it," Ganassi said. "Then, you go back for the race and

find out that little tenth or two that you had on the other guy doesn't mean anything."

The IRL, with Toyota and Honda coming in to challenge Chevrolet with all new engines, went into the Texas race with five of its 22 drivers still in the running for the championship.

In a 16-race season, there were seven pole winners and nine race winners, led by Dixon, two-time series champion Sam Hornish Jr. and de Ferran with three victories apiece.

There were nine races in 2003 with a margin of victory of less than one second, including Hornish's 0.009-second win over Dixon last month at Chicagoland Speedway. Bryan Herta was third in that race, 0.0100 seconds behind, the closest three-way finish in league history.

Hornish, who has won the three closest races in IRL history, came back two weeks after Chicagoland to set an all-time race speed record of 207.151 mph at California Speedway. It was his record 11th career win.

That was particularly gratifying to Hornish, who spent more than half the year simply trying to hang in the points race until Chevrolet could come up with a new, more powerful engine to compete with Toyota and Honda.

For obvious reasons, the IRL was counting its blessings in August when the 24-year-old Hornish despite his frustration with the engine situation chose to remain in the IRL, signing with the elite Marlboro Team Penske for 2004.

He will team with Penske holdover Helio Castroneves, who also battled to the last race with Dixon, de Ferran, Hornish and Tony Kanaan for the 2003 championship.

Hornish acknowledges a key reason for choosing Roger Penske's team was its record 13 Indy 500 victories, including the last three.

"My opinion is, if I can't win the 500 driving for Roger, I probably can't win it."

Hornish said. His hopes for a third straight title ended with a late-race engine failure Sunday.

Hornish replaces de Ferran, who retired from Team Penske at 35 and at the top of his game.

De Ferran missed the last race of 2002 and another one early this season with injuries sustained in race crashes and still nearly won the championship for Penske each year. He finished third last year and wound up second, 18 points behind Dixon, this season.

"The decision to retire was not totally black and white," the Brazilian driver said. "I had the worst and best of what racing has to offer this year. The worst is lying in a hospital bed and the best is winning the Indy 500."

"That just served to confuse me more. But I realized being on the fence is not a good thing. You either have to drive with total concentration or not at all."

Winning the last race of his career was not all positive, either. The race was cut short and his celebration subdued after a horrendous crash that left 1998 series champ and 1999 Indy 500 winner Kenny Brack in the hospital with multiple fractures.

It was the worst of a spate of injury-producing crashes during the season.

"Oval racing can be a very dangerous sport," said longtime racing star and new team owner Michael Andretti, who retired from the cockpit following the Indy race in May.

"Those concrete walls are always right there next to you, and the speeds you are traveling make for some very hard impacts."

Andretti spent most of the year trying to help Kanaan win the series title and tutoring newcomer Dan Wheldon, who came on strong at the end to take Rookie of the Year honors.



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COLLEGIATE TIMES

James adjusts well to life in Blacksburg

by Bennett Aikin
Staff Writer

Virginia Tech was not an unfamiliar place for freshman Ashley James. In addition to having two Hokie parents, James' grandfather lives in Blacksburg.

The decision to make the transition from Jamestown High School in Williamsburg to Tech's Division I tennis program couldn't have been easier.

Thanks to her family ties, her

four years and the regional title for three years.

This impressive resume led to her being recruited by several universities, but James said there was never any real competition — she knew she wanted to be a Hokie.

Now that James is here, she said Tech is everything she hoped it would be and being a part of the tennis team has only made the transition easier.

She was able to quickly make friends with her teammates and is already enjoying her first classes as a building construction major.

James seems to be adjusting quickly on the court as well. In her first two tournaments, the Tech and Wake Forest Invitationals, she has shown the power and the skill that made her such an intriguing recruit for former coach Lisa Hart.

She has a combined 5-3 record thus far in singles competition and a 5-2 mark with doubles partner Ginger Lowdermilk. The doubles mark includes a 3-0 sweep to win the Flight B bracket at the Wake Forest tournament.

These results reflect the potential James has to have a successful first season this spring.

" My parents always told me that there was no pressure to go to Tech. After visiting, I fell in love with it here."

Ashley James
Tech tennis player

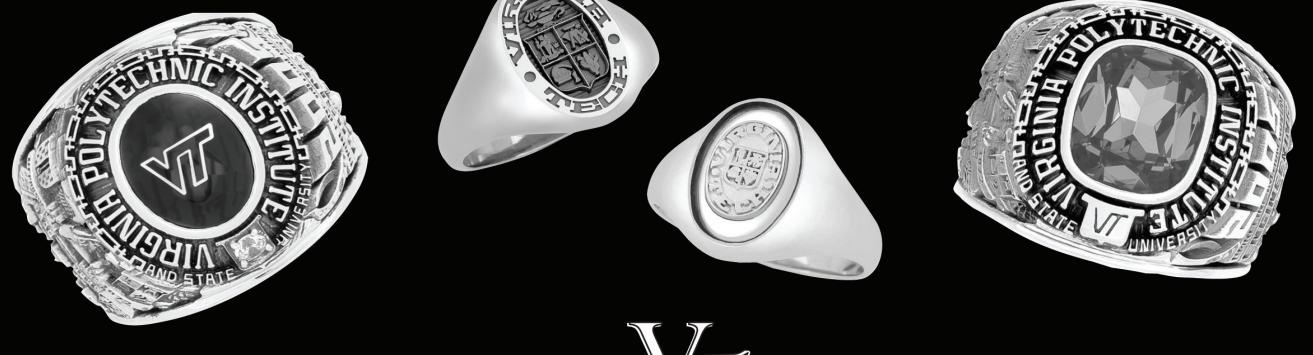
James was also familiar with the Hokie facilities because her high school state championships were held at Tech and Radford University every year. Her team won the championship for three consecutive years and made the finals in her fourth.

James also made it to the state singles championship match in both her junior and senior years and won the state doubles championships for all four years.

Her high school successes included winning the district all

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Grant Hill among those honored in Va.

CHARLOTTESVILLE (AP) — NBA star Grant Hill, the first freshman to start at South Lakes High School in Reston, was among eight athletes, coaches and contributors inducted into the Virginia High School Hall of Fame on Tuesday night.

Hill, a six-time NBA all-star whose career has been derailed by injuries since he signed a \$93 million contract with the Orlando Magic after the 2000 season, scored 2,028 points at Reston and was selected as a third-team All-American by Parade in 1990.

The inductees were honored at a banquet at the DoubleTree Hotel.

Hill was joined in the class of 2003 by Barry Hamler, a basketball star at Powell Valley High School who scored 2,094 points in the early 1970s and led the Vikings to a state championship. Hamler later coached at the high school and college levels.

Three coaches were inducted, including Stephen Hubbard, who guided Coeburn High School to the 1975 and 1979 state championships in 34 years as baseball coach.

Hubbard's teams won 450 games in baseball, and he also coached football, wrestling, track and field and basketball, and served as the school's athletic director.

The coaches also included Joe May, the only football coach in Nottoway High School history, whose teams have won more than 250 games since the school opened in 1970, and Lillie Moore of George Wythe High School in Wytheville, who led six state championship teams as the volleyball and track and field coach at the school for 28 years.

Three contributors were recognized, led by Abingdon High School's Judy Wallace, who has been a teacher, coach, athletic director and assistant principal since 1965. Wallace also organized and coached Abingdon's track, volleyball, basketball, golf and tennis programs for girls, winning a volleyball state championship in 1983.

Other contributors honored were forensics coach Karen Finch of Blacksburg High School, who holds a record 14 consecutive state championship titles, and who also coaches 40 students to VHSL titles, with nine going on to add national championships.

Cecil Layman, the principal at Riverheads High School from 1962-88, also was enshrined as a contributor. Layman spent 33 years with the Augusta County Schools and served the Virginia High School League on a variety of administrative committees.

Arrington says 'Skins need to stay focused

by Joseph White
Associated Press

ASHBURN — Neither Fred Smoot's injury nor the defensive coordinator's decision to scale back the game plan could overshadow LaVar Arrington's weekly spiel.

The Washington Redskins linebacker, who is quickly becoming a can't-miss interview every week on the stairs outside the locker room, said Wednesday that he has been "too loose" and that he will lead the charge to get his teammates more focused.

"We have a very talented team," Arrington said. "And I think that sometimes you tend to laugh a little bit too much and have a little bit too much fun and not pay attention to being serious about handling your responsibilities. Sometimes it can get lost in that laughter."

"I told guys I'll take the lead role. I'm focused a whole lot more. We can't keep letting these games slide away from us. If we're going to lose the game, lose the game because the team was better than us that day — not because of mistakes we made."

Arrington said he was not referring to his trash-talk exchange last week with Tampa Bay's Warren Sapp, but more about his on-field preparation. Arrington admitted he sometimes has trouble sticking with his assignments if he feels he

can freelance and make a play elsewhere.

"It's hard sometimes," Arrington said. "The hard thing about it is when you think you have a tendency down on a team and you go off of the tendency — and it backfires on you. Sometimes it happens that way."

It is a week of change for the Redskins defense, which allowed four long touchdown drives in Sunday's 35-13 loss to the Bucs. A review of the tapes showed too many plays in which players simply did not know where to line up or where to go once the ball was snapped.

"The biggest thing is just trying to get more focused on assignments and alignments," defensive coordinator George Edward said.

To that end, Edwards has designed a simpler game plan for this week's game at Buffalo. The Redskins might also spend more time in a 3-4 formation as they try to find ways to improve a pass rush that has produced just

nine sacks in the first six games.

Bruce Smith's pursuit of the all-time sack record has slowed to a crawl. He has just 1 1/2 sacks — and the solo effort was a coverage sack — leaving him

1 1/2 behind Reggie White. The Redskins are considering resting the 40-year-old defensive end on expected running plays and giving Regan Upshaw more playing time.

Arrington also needs to be more involved in the pass rush. He led NFL linebackers with 11 sacks last year, but he has just one so far this season.

"A lot has been made to do about getting LaVar to the quarterback," Arrington said. "But there's a lot of attention that's being paid. As soon as they line up, that's the first thing they do — point at me. As soon as I move, it's 'There he is — Big!

Big! Big.' It's like two and three guys waiting."

"So I don't know if it's so much getting LaVar to the quarterback. LaVar's coming, but we all have to come hard."

Arrington might give the Bills a different look by taking more snaps at defensive end, something he didn't like when departed defensive coordinator Marvin Lewis tried it last year.

"It was just the manner in which it was conducted that bothered me," Arrington said. "Now I'm being put down to help. Last year, I was being put down there for other reasons."

Asked to elaborate, Arrington said: "I'm not going to get into that."

Meanwhile, the Redskins are also shuffling the defensive backfield.

Smoot, a starter since his rookie year in 2001, is going to miss one or two games after being diagnosed with a broken sternum.

Rashad Bauman will take Smoot's spot and make his first NFL start Sunday, with safety David Terrell expected to move over to Bauman's nickel back spot.



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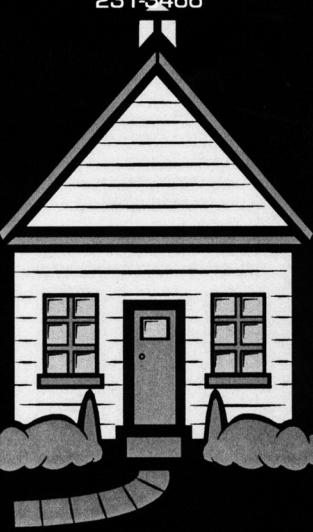
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Red Sox get 9-6 win with 7th inning rally, force Game 7

by Ronald Blum
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The resilient Boston Red Sox rallied just in time.

Trailing by two runs and nine outs from ending their season, they rebounded with a three-run seventh inning to beat the New York Yankees 9-6 Wednesday and set up a whopper of a Game 7.

David Ortiz tied it with a run-scoring single and Johnny Damon drove in the go-ahead run with a bases-loaded walk in the seventh inning that tied the AL championship series.

That brings the series down to one game Thursday night, and it has all the makings of a classic: Roger Clemens versus Pedro Martinez, the central characters who set off fireworks and fights during Game 3 at Fenway Park.

Slumping Nomar Garciaparra

had four hits, including a wind-blown triple that started the three-run seventh and atoned for an earlier error. Jason Varitek hit a third-inning homer off starter Andy Pettitte, and Trot Nixon added a two-run shot in the ninth off Gabe White as the Red Sox beat up New York for 16 hits and moved within one win of their first trip to the World Series since 1986.

New York and Boston will play for the 26th time Thursday — the most meetings ever between two teams in a season. It marks the first time the championship series in both leagues will go a full seven games in the same season.

Homers by Jason Giambi and Jorge Posada, and a two-run double by Alfonso Soriano staked New York to a 6-4 lead. But reliever Jose Contreras couldn't hold it.

A swirling 25 mph wind floated

napkins across the field all game, and the conditions made it difficult for fielders on both teams, spinning line drives into twisting gappers.

"It's all over the place," Giambi said after batting practice.

Boston, the top offense in the major leagues during the regular season, had been hitting just .230 in the playoffs and hadn't scored more than five runs in 10 postseason games.

But the Red Sox remembered back to the first round, when they fell behind Oakland 0-2 before winning three in a row to advance.

Contreras relieved Pettitte to start the sixth and struck out the side, but his pitches got up in the seventh and he wound up the loser.

Garciaparra, who didn't get his first postseason RBI until Tuesday, hit a deep drive to center leading

off the inning, and the ball gusted over Bernie Williams for a triple. Garciaparra came home when the wind sent left fielder Hideki Matsui's throw to third sailing on a hop into the seats for an error.

Manny Ramirez hit a similar shot over Williams for a double, took third on a wild pitch and scored the tying run when Ortiz smashed a single off first base.

Felix Heredia relieved with one out and two on, threw a wild pitch that moved up the runners, then threw a called third strike past Nixon.

After an intentional walk to Varitek, Heredia walked Damon on four pitches — two of them close — forcing in the go-ahead run. Heredia then fanned Todd Walker.

Alan Embree, who struck out Giambi to help escape a big jam in the fifth, got the win. Scott Williamson, Boston's sixth pitcher,

got three outs for his third save of the series.

Following the Game 3 fight at Fenway Park, security was increased as the series returned to Yankee Stadium. Two dozen police officers were in Monument Park, behind the bullpens, at start of the game. Fans greeted Ramirez, a central party in Saturday's confrontations, with the loudest boos.

Giambi's first postseason homer for the Yankees, the third of his career, put New York ahead in the first.

Pettitte breezed through two innings but got in trouble in the third, when Varitek led off with a long homer to left — his fourth of the postseason.

A walk to Damon and a single by Walker put two men on for Garciaparra, who grounded to the hole at shortstop. But Derek Jeter made a fine backhanded pickup

and threw to third for the force. Pettitte then walked Ramirez on four pitches and Ortiz lined a single just over a leaping Jeter, driving in two runs. Kevin Millar lofted a soft single to center for 4-1 lead.

But Boston starter John Burkett, a 38-year-old who relies on offspeed pitches, couldn't get through the fourth. Posada and Matsui singled to put runners on the corners, and Nick Johnson hit a long liner to the right-center gap. The ball seemed to be held up by the wind and hopped over the wall for an RBI ground-rule double.

Aaron Boone grounded out sharply to shortstop on the next pitch to drive in Matsui and pull the Yankees within a run. Karim Garcia bounded the next pitch to shortstop, but Garciaparra let the ball bounce out of his glove for an error.

Tampa's Sapp fined \$50,000 by NFL

The All-Pro defensive end was shocked by the fine he received for bumping into an official against the Redskins

by Fred Goodall
Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — The NFL fined Tampa Bay defensive lineman Warren Sapp \$50,000 on Tuesday for mistreating officials and threatened him with a suspension if his behavior doesn't improve.

The six-time Pro Bowl selection called the action "unbelievable" and said he feels the league is trying to make an example of him.

"That's all this is about," Sapp said in a telephone interview. "In my nine years in this league, no one's been fined for verbally abusing officials. It's unprecedented."

Sapp hasn't decided if he'll appeal.

"Who do I appeal to?" the All-Pro tackle asked. "We're already at the highest level, the commissioner's office."

NFL director of game operations Peter Hadhazy issued the fine after reviewing Sapp's conduct in three games. Hadhazy said any further misconduct will result in a suspension of at least one game.

Before last Sunday's game against Washington, Sapp bumped into an official as he entered the field during pregame warmups.

"There was absolutely no need for you to do so," Hadhazy stated in a letter to Sapp. "To the contrary, it is apparent that you deliberately made contact with the official. ... This misconduct occurred even though you had been strongly advised by the Buccaneers' management only days before to refrain from taking actions during the pregame warmups that were disruptive to your opponents, disrespectful to the game officials, and in violation of league rules regarding unsportsmanlike conduct."

Sapp said he "barely brushed" the official, who turned in his direction to begin moving up the sideline.

"It wasn't intentional. I tried to avoid him," Sapp said.

"The ref didn't think anything of it because he knew — just like I knew — that I didn't try to bump him."

In two earlier games this year, the NFL said Sapp used excessive abusive language to officials.

"Your continuing disrespectful and intimidating conduct has no place in the game," Hadhazy wrote.

"You have repeatedly abused game officials and ignored their directions and authority in at least three of the Buccaneers' games this season."

Sapp disputed that claim, too.

"They're going to fine me for something that happened a month ago," Sapp said.

"If I verbally abused somebody so bad, you would think there would have been a warning or something. I just want to see the report and what I supposedly said."

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