

Fall graduation date changed

Undergraduate fall commencement will be Friday, Dec. 19, instead of the following day, partly because of budget restraints

by Eric Beidel
Associate News Editor

Virginia Tech will hold both undergraduate and graduate fall commencement ceremonies Friday, Dec. 19, repeating the same-day commencement practice

first used last spring. The undergraduate ceremony will be held at 11 a.m. and will be followed by the graduate ceremony at 3 p.m.

Both will be held in Cassell Coliseum. Previously, the graduate ceremony has been held Friday evening and the undergraduate ceremony Saturday morning.

Many factors led to the change in schedule, including the tightening budget, said Ed Henneke, chair of the university commencement committee.

"Our discussions came to a

head last fall," he said. "Because of the budget cuts, we almost ended up canceling fall commencement."

The university had been flirting with the idea of a one-day commencement for a while before first trying it out last spring, he said.

"We felt a need to do it for spring because of space. There just wasn't enough space to house all the ceremonies," Henneke said.

Things went smoothly for the spring commencement, so it will become a fixed practice for spring,

said Dan Taylor, director of ushers for commencement.

"It had a real nice feel to it," Taylor said.

"The sun was going down, the lights were on in the stadium and it highlighted the ceremony more than daylight even could."

More than space issues, work issues influenced the change to a one-day commencement for this fall, Henneke said.

"It's really to give time to the 200 to 300 people who work behind the scenes at the ceremonies," he said.

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McDaniel recalls tragic night, fall

Daryl McDaniel was one of seven people who fell from a third-floor window at a concert Sunday night

by Tiffany Hoffman
Managing Editor

Daryl Thomas McDaniel, who was injured in a fall at the Solar Haus on Sunday night, said if the Solar Haus continues to have performances, he will still attend.

"Some of my favorite bands had played there and I liked it a lot," said McDaniel, a freshman at Radford. "You can't blame anybody (for Sunday's incident)."

Lenore Oliphant, a senior animal science major at Tech who has lived at the Solar Haus for two years, said the residents are uncertain about having any future shows.

"I would like to think this isn't the end of Solar Haus shows — it's important to us," she said. "But we haven't really discussed it too much."

McDaniel said he remembers almost everything that happened during the show Sunday night and said he was one of the last of seven college-age males to fall from the third-story window.

"It was the kind of thing you see on a movie," he said. "You see people hit on the window, but he fell on the concrete next to Daniel James Martin, a Virginia Tech sophomore economics major who died as a result of the accident. McDaniel said he sustained a gash in his head, a fractured thumb, stitches in his right arm and elbow and extensive bruising all over his body from the fall."



McDaniel

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RAFT center joins national hotline

by Erin Zlomek
News Assistant

The RAFT Crisis Center — a program of New River Valley Community Services — officially became part of the National Hopeline Network on Wednesday. The transition allows residents of Southwest Virginia to receive help quickly by dialing 1-800-SUICIDE if they or someone they know is having thoughts of suicide.

Previously, local residents dialing the 1-800-SUICIDE number were connected to a crisis center in Arlington before they were transferred to RAFT, where immediate help could be provided.

"With the old way, a real emergency would take around 15 or 20 minutes to get the right kind of help," said Nathan Reed, RAFT crisis hotline manager. "Now it will only take about 10 minutes, and every minute counts with this type of intervention."

When an imminent call comes in, the call is linked to RAFT's Emergency Service Commissions, known as ACCESS.

"ACCESS is a group of social workers and psychologists who work with the police department and rescue squad," Reed said. "(Members of ACCESS) will meet the person face to face if they need to."

In the past, RAFT could be directly contacted by dialing 961-8400. This procedure was not as popular, since the number was not easily recognizable.



ROBERT DRAKE/SPPS

Tech junior Candice Colón (right) and Radford junior Heather Davis take calls at the RAFT Crisis Center in Blacksburg. The center has joined a national network of hotlines which helps callers with problems.

See RAFT, page 2

President approves \$30 billion terror bill

by Deb Riechmann
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush said the \$30 billion spending bill he signed Wednesday — the first ever for the new Homeland Security Department — will help America protect its soil from terrorist threats.

"On Sept. 11, 2001, enemies of freedom made our country a battleground," he said. "Their method is the mass murder of the innocent and their goal is to make all Americans live in fear."

"And yet our nation refuses to live in fear," he said. "The best way to overcome fear and to frustrate the plans of our enemies is to be prepared and resolute at home and take the offensive abroad."

Bush went to the department's headquarters to sign the bill at a ceremony under a blue banner reading, "Protecting the Homeland."

The bill that Congress sent to Bush was about \$1 billion above what the president requested. It includes some \$4.2 billion for first-responder programs, \$9 billion for bor-

See TERROR, page 3

Tele-Works expanding alert system

The Blacksburg company is working on a state-wide version of their Blacksburg Alert system

by Bryan Nieder
News Assistant

A local e-services company in Blacksburg, Tele-Works Inc., may be the intermediary in Virginia utilizing the first statewide extension network with a first-responder system in the country.

The proposed statewide network would set up 120 first-responder nodes across the state which would be hooked up to a system backbone probably out of Richmond.

This would allow the extensions to inform Virginians of individualized information. The system would be an update of the existing extension network in Virginia.

"You can customize information for what you want when you want," said Chris Schellhammer, president of Tele-Works.

Blacksburg Alert, a first-responder system that Tele-Works helped develop, allows citizens to create an account and specify what information and through what outlet that person wishes to receive information.

Schellhammer said Blacksburg Alert is simply how the town branded a first-responder system.

The existing Virginia extension network uses a 56K modem, which is too slow when time is a factor in notifying citizens of emergency situations, said Timothy Mack, assistant dean for information technology.

A verbal proposal to state legislators from a partnership including Tele-Works and Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station has been made to upgrade the system to a T1 modem.

The proposal also allows for the installation of first-responder systems at all of the extension locations.

The first year of work for the project would cost an estimated \$4 million and could be in operation within nine months of governmental approval, Mack said.

Locally, the system may also be used for services such as paying water bills or parking tickets. Schellhammer said Blacksburg Public Works is investigating its uses for the Blacksburg Transit buses.

He said BT riders could receive information about bus delays via outlets like cell phones or e-mail and BT employees could internally correspond.

Statewide, the first-responder system, in conjunction with the extension network, could warn a large population of a terrorist attack as well as serve as an educational tool for agencies through the dissemination



COURTESY OF TELE-WORKS

The Tele-Works office, located next to Gumby's Pizza, tests computers and servers before they are shipped to customers across the country.

See ALERT, page 3

News in Brief

Va. man charged in child porn case surrenders

FAIRFAX (AP) — A girls soccer coach suspected of videotaping children and adults at a Pennsylvania nudist camp surrendered to authorities on child porn charges.

Ralph D. Shieler, 61, of Fairfax County, surrendered to police Tuesday to face three counts of producing child pornography.

Police in South Beaver Township in Pennsylvania were notified in early September by members of White Thorn Lodge, a nudist camp, that a man in a van was videotaping people. The nudist colony was conducting a volleyball tournament at the time.

Cracker Barrel sued in Miss.

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Eleven blacks have filed a federal discrimination lawsuit against Cracker Barrel, alleging they received poor service compared to whites at some of the chain's restaurants in Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama.

A Cracker Barrel spokeswoman said the lawsuit was unfounded and part of a campaign to discredit the Lebanon, Tenn.-based company.

The lawsuit claims the plaintiffs were subjected to unreasonable wait times for seating, were passed over for tables in favor of white customers and were eventually seated in segregated areas at restaurants in Jackson, Vicksburg,

Brookhaven, Hammond, La., and Oxford, Ala.

FBI investigated by Justice Dept.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department is investigating whether FBI agents involved in espionage and terrorism cases may have moonlighted by forming private companies and using informants and subjects of inquiries to benefit their personal business.

The allegations, according to court documents reviewed by The Associated Press, include that agents' and intelligence figures' private companies were involved in business deals in China and the Middle East about the same time the FBI was investigating Chinese efforts to acquire sensitive technology.

Administrator taken hostage

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — A young man with a shotgun took an administrator hostage at a high school Wednesday and was shot by police who found the two struggling over the weapon.

Mario Rodriguez, 19, was in critical but stable condition after being shot in the shoulder.

The Rio Cazadero High administrator, whose name was not released, was in good condition with a leg injury. Though police initially said he was shot, either by police or the gunman, sheriff's Sgt. Lou Fatur said the administrator may have injured his leg in a struggle with Rodriguez.

Date: Changes impact local hotels

Continued from page 1

"It gives them a chance to get things done in between the ceremonies."

Henneke said the closeness of the ceremonies to the holidays also influenced the decision to change for fall.

While the budget cuts initiated the idea for the change, Taylor said he expects the same-day fall commencement, like spring, will become the standard practice.

"There aren't tremendous monetary savings," he said. "When all is said and done, I think it's really just a better system."

Area hotels said they have seen changes in reservations because of the change, but not a loss of business.

Melanie Clement, general manager of the Four Points Sheraton in Blacksburg, said people are canceling their Saturday reservations, but only to add a Thursday reservation.

"Normally, we are sold out Friday and Saturday," she said. "This year, Friday is remaining sold out, but we are seeing a lot more activity on Thursday. The bookings are

more spread out." The same trend is expected to occur at AmeriSuites, said General Manager Jeremy Allen.

"We haven't seen much change yet," he said. "But we are assuming people will be going to a Thursday and Friday reservation. A couple of people have done that already."

Peggy Sheehan, who will be graduating in December with a degree in food science and technology, said the rescheduling has forced her and her family to change their plans for the ceremony.

"Having the commencement ceremony Friday instead of Saturday is a big inconvenience," she said. "Now my family has to take off time from work in order to make it to the ceremony."

"Having the commencement ceremony Friday ... is a big inconvenience. Now my family has to take off time from work in order to make it to the ceremony."

Peggy Sheenan
December graduate

RAFT: Center has about 70 volunteers

Continued from page 1

"Over time, people will recognize the 1-800-SUICIDE number, and from now on (the RAFT Crisis Center) is where that call will come," Reed said.

RAFT can still be reached at its previous number, but Reed said he hopes the familiarity of the 1-800 number will better assist those in need.

RAFT is the fourth center in Virginia to become part of the National Hopeline Network (centers in Arlington, Virginia Beach and Lynchburg are already members), and it is the 144th center in North America to become part of the network.

"The National Hopeline Network has been around for a decade," Reed said. "We are just now getting that service in this part of Virginia."

In order to become part of the Network, RAFT had to receive national certification from the American Association

of Suicidology. The AAS sets a standard for crisis centers across Canada and the United States to ensure they offer every type of service to help someone who is suicidal. It was Reed — whose background is in suicidology and psychology — who pushed for the AAS certification.

However, it is to the New River Valley Community Services Reed attributes his success.

"We have about 70 volunteers; many are students at Virginia Tech and Radford and some are just normal community members," Reed said. "Our volunteers are our strongest asset."

Jennifer Sions, a volunteer and sophomore human services major at Tech, said she is proud to be part of RAFT's team.

"I just think that RAFT offers a great service," Sions said. "Volunteering at the center) has been a very valuable use of my time for the past year."

Clarification

It was reported in Wednesday's Collegiate Times that four rush banners were taken and three recovered. After checking police records again, Curtis Cook, an investigator with Tech police, said five banners were taken and four were recovered. The four recovered belonged to the Sigma Nu, Phi Gamma Delta, Pi Lambda Phi and Lambda Chi Alpha fraternities.

Alpha Kappa Psi, a business fraternity, had a banner stolen from Pamplin Hall, said Courtney Danto, vice president of marketing. Cook said this incident is unrelated to the other four banners taken.

The Collegiate Times regrets this error.

STOCK MARKET REPORT		WEATHER						
— 10/01/2003 —		TODAY	TONIGHT	FRIDAY	FRIDAY NIGHT	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	
DJIA	9469.20 ▲ 194.14							
NASDAQ	1832.25 ▲ 45.31	Mostly sunny	Mostly clear with frost after midnight	Mostly sunny, frost in the morning	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy, chance of showers	Mostly cloudy, chance of showers	
S&P 500	1018.22 ▲ 22.25	Highs: 55°-60°	Lows: 27°-33°	Highs: 55°-60°	Lows: 40°-45°	45°/65°	40°/55°	

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Terror: Senate passes bill 93-1

Continued from page 1

der protection and \$5.2 billion for the Transportation Security Agency and the Federal Air Marshal Program.

Recalling the attacks two years ago, Bush said the nation does not live in the past but still grieves over the thousands of victims.

"We will do everything in our power to prevent another attack on the American people," the president said. "And wherever America's enemies plot and plan, we'll find them and we will bring them to justice."

The House passed the bill 417-8. Despite the overwhelming vote, House Democrats complained that the administration was shortchanging domestic security while it was seeking \$87 billion in emergency money for military and rebuilding efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Senate passed the bill, 93-1, on a voice vote. Only Sen. Ernest Hollings, D-S.C., who

said the measure lacked sufficient funds for ports, voted no. The one-sided vote illustrated lawmakers' reluctance to vote against a bill for domestic security.

Before the final vote, Democrats unsuccessfully tried to boost spending for emergency responders, ports and other areas. Republicans, citing budget pressures, beat them back.

The bill finances an administration plan to check databases for information on foreigners entering the country, and includes funds Bush wanted for acquisition of antidotes to counter bioterrorism.

The \$4.2 billion for first-responder programs goes to state and local governments, with \$750 million for cities thought to face high threats of terror attacks. In two votes that divided senators from rural and urban states, the Senate refused to bolster the funds for high-threat areas.

Suspected spies may have hurt terror war

■ One official said that any damage done by the Guantanamo Bay workers would be minimal

by Matt Kelley
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The arrests of three Guantanamo Bay workers have triggered an urgent military investigation to determine whether suspected espionage may have damaged the U.S. war on terror.

Among the questions facing military investigators doing damage assessment: Did al-Qaida and Taliban suspects at the high-security U.S. prison camp in Cuba pass messages to other terrorists still at large? If classified information was compromised, how much was leaked and to whom? Were any of the suspects working together? And are there more?

Interrogations that involved the accused men will be scrutinized for possible biases, military officials say. Some of the sessions were taped, and those tapes will be reviewed to see if translators omitted or changed what the prisoners said, or passed mes-

sages to the inmates. Records of other sessions will be reviewed for similar clues.

Prisoners are questioned repeatedly by different interrogation teams, so records from different sessions can be compared to see if the prisoners tell different things to different questioners, officials said.

One intelligence official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said any damage done would be minimal because the prisoners had been grilled for up to a year or more before the accused men started working at Guantanamo Bay.

Yet in the past, military officials have justified holding prisoners indefinitely by saying it has taken months or years to get some to give useful information.

Most important in the investigation may be the question of whether the alleged espionage is a sign that al-Qaida is actively trying to penetrate one of the most important U.S. military bases in the terror war, said former CIA and Army Special Forces operative Michael Vickers.

"It has more symbolic significance rather than the damaging impact of the information," said Vickers, now an analyst at the independent Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments.

"Depending on where the information went, the implications on the larger organization — that they're active and not defeated — are more important."

The latest arrest came Monday, when federal agents apprehended translator Ahmed F. Mehalba when he arrived in Boston from his native Egypt. Mehalba, who worked for government contractor Titan Corp., is charged with lying to federal agents when he denied a compact disc he was carrying contained secret information from Guantanamo Bay.

Another Arabic translator, Air Force Senior Airman Ahmad I. al-Halabi, is charged with espionage and aiding the enemy, accused of trying to pass Guantanamo Bay secrets to Syria and an unidentified enemy. A Muslim chaplain, Army Capt. Yousef Yee, has been arrested but not charged.

About 660 terrorist suspects are being held at the base, most of them Muslims who do not speak English. A team to investigate security procedures and make recommendations arrived at Guantanamo Bay this week.

Mehalba and al-Halabi say they are innocent. Defense officials say others also are under investigation, including a member of the Navy.

The information al-Halabi

is accused of taking includes photos and maps of the base, details of flights to and from Guantanamo Bay and more than 180 letters or messages from prisoners.

Investigators will try to determine if any messages from the detainees were passed to the outside world. Even innocent-sounding messages such as, "Hi, Mom," could be code for ordering an attack, intelligence experts say.

Another possibility is that the accused men allowed the prisoners to communicate among themselves. That could help stiffen resistance. So could giving the prisoners unauthorized treats — and al-Halabi is accused of giving the prisoners baklava pastries.

"Interrogation is a carefully controlled environment. Essentially, all you have is psychological control," Vickers said. "That needs to be managed rather carefully by the interrogation team."

Military interrogators have worked hard to create a sense of isolation among the prisoners, rewarding those who cooperate and punishing those who do not. More cooperative prisoners can be moved to cells where they get more amenities such as books and time to exercise.

Fall: 5 students released from hospital

Continued from page 1

"The last thing I thought of that night was 'Oh, there's a window.' I got up quick because I wanted to get away," McDaniel said. "My friends helped me

up, sat me down and covered my head with towels. They tried to keep me calm."

Oliphant said the first response of the residents was to dial 911 and help the victims. "Our first thought was 'Oh God, our friends are on the ground' and it's been at the top of our minds since," she said. "Our thoughts and prayers are with everybody who was involved in this tragic accident."

Oliphant said she and the other residents have been to both Montgomery Regional Hospital and Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital to visit those who were injured.

"I knew them all," she said. "They're part of the community."

The only person McDaniel said he knew who fell out of the window was Don Principe, a junior at Radford. McDaniel

said Principe injured his leg in the fall, but was not hospitalized and, until recently, was not publicly listed as a victim. McDaniel said he had just met Martin that night.

"We were going to go out to eat after the show," he said. "One minute I met him and the next minute he was on the ground dead right next to me."

"The doctor said I'm very fortunate and I believe it too — I'm very thankful to be alive."

McDaniel was released from Montgomery Regional Hospital Monday.

Oliphant said Tech student Thomas David Upton, a freshman engineering major, and Blue Ridge Community College student Richard Adam Spires were released Wednesday from Montgomery Regional Hospital. Joshua Lyle Martin, of Pearisburg, was released either late Sunday night or early Monday morning, she said.

A Carilion spokesman said 21-year-old Jason Michael Kontkanen was still in critical condition Wednesday night.

"One minute I met (Daniel Martin) and the next minute he was on the ground dead right next to me."

Daryl McDaniel
student who fell from window at Solar Haus

Alert: Company founder a Tech graduate

Continued from page 1

tion of training manuals.

"A lot of what the extension network is is education for life-long learners," Mack said.

Tele-Works currently

employs 25 staff members, with about 10 workers who are graduates of Virginia Tech.

Schellhammer said the company actively recruits Tech students with internships and job offerings.

The founder of the company was a Tech graduate and he recruited Tech engineers in the beginning stages of the corporation, Schellhammer said.

He said finding employees was problematic in the late 80's

and early 90's but the Blacksburg area began attracting people.

"In our earlier years, (recruiting) was a problem, but people are moving back here for quality of life purposes," he said.

Va. man gets 40 years in parents' murder

by Lisa Goddard
Associated Press

FAIRFAX — A young man who fatally shot his adoptive parents inside their suburban home was sentenced to 40 years in prison Wednesday.

Relatives and friends were teary eyed as Joshua P. Cooke, 20, learned his fate in Fairfax County Circuit Court. In June, Cooke pleaded guilty to two counts of first-degree murder for the Feb. 17 shootings in the family's Oakton home.

"I've asked the Lord to forgive and I accept the consequence of my actions. I wish I could turn back time," Cooke told the court before sentencing. "Every day I see that Monday night and I feel terrible about what happened to my parents."

Cooke was sentenced to 32 years for each of the two murder counts. That time will be served concurrently. He also got another eight years on weapons charges.

Cooke was 19 when bought a shotgun at a sporting goods store Feb. 15. Two days later, he executed his father, Paul Cooke, who was on the phone with his teenage daughter when he was shot. The young woman listened helplessly from Pennsylvania as she heard her mother, Margaret Ruffin Cooke, say, "Josh, you

wouldn't." That was followed by popping sounds. Joshua Cooke later hung up on his sister as she pleaded to talk with her parents.

The case gathered considerable attention when defense lawyers filed a motion claiming Cooke believed he was living in the virtual reality of the science fiction film "The Matrix." Cooke later entered a guilty plea.

At Wednesday's hearing, his lawyer brought up violent films and video games.

Rachel Fierro told the court her client frequently watched "The Matrix" and played the video game "Grand Theft Auto 3" — sometimes up to six hours at a time. Fierro said she was not trying to prove that violent movies and games alone caused Cooke to murder his parents, but wanted to show they were factors in his aggression.

University of Michigan professor Brad Bushman testified that studies show violent films strongly increase aggression in college-age students. Bushman cited "Karate Kid 3" as an example.

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Features

Outkast album houses some hits, misses

Phil Comey

True Outkast fans should be used to the often-changed sound of this Atlanta talent, but separating the two artists seems to be asking a lot.

The sixth effort of the Atlanta-based rap duo, released last month, is a double disc, with each member having primarily his own work on his respective disc.

The group is best known for their hugely successful albums "Aquemina" and "Stankonia," featuring party favorites, "Bombs over Baghdad" and "Rosa Parks."

This review was by no means easy. Largely in part because there were so many tracks to sift through (about 39, including a few interludes).

But, also because the ever-changing sound of Outkast makes it difficult to compare their past works to this album.

To begin, the daring move to separate their skills has me feeling quite mixed up and for this I will address each album individually.

Big Boi, known for his perfectly articulated, rapid-fire lyrics, strikes that familiar Outkast cord once again with his album "Speakerboxxx."

The album sports 20 tracks and sounds more along typical Outkast lines than Andre's does.

Each song on Big Boi's album attempts to hit a new theme as well as sound and on each song his calculated rhyme style rings out.

"Ghettofunk," the album's first track, goes from breakneck speed to a slow jam on a note and stresses Outkast's edgy hip-hop sound.

The single "The Way You Move" has a bass line that will make anybody anxious get on the dance floor.

Also, dirty south fans who count on Outkast for at least a few rugged beats with

gansta rap lyrics will not be disappointed with tracks like "Tomb of the Boom," featuring Ludacris and "Last Call," featuring Slimm Calhoun.

Though Big Boi's album could be played through at any party, tracks like "Unhappy" remind listeners that Outkast is still not afraid to hit that melancholy note, reminiscent of "Da Art of Story Tellin" on their third album.

The second disc, "The Love Below" is the album put out by the more eccentric Andre 3000.

Known for clever lyrics and creative delivery, Andre pushes the envelope on this album with his fusion of blues, techno, hip-hop and other genres.

To open the disc, Andre makes it clear this will not be typical hip-hop-oriented Outkast as he sings out a jazz tune on his first track.

By the time the listener has reached track 14, it is obvious Andre's love for all types of music has penetrated his songwriting.

The love-themed album by Dre is hard to criticize as a musical entity. The beats are innovative, the melodies are uplifting and it's musically different from the mainstream.

But where is the rhyming?

How many of us can give up those verses he so eloquently split, such as "I love who you are/I love who you ain't/you're so Anne Frank/Let's hit the attic to hide out for about two weeks."

Tracks like "Happy Valentines Day" and "A day in the Life of Andre Benjamin" do serve up little portions of Andre-rhyming nostalgia.

I suppose it's unfair to deny Andre's exploration of other avenues, considering he plays everything from keyboard to saxophone on his tracks.

But if you waited for three years for this album like I did, you were thirsty for that Andre rap style.

But things are not all bad in Andre land.

R&B fans will be able to kick back and just loop tracks like "Prototype," where a smooth rhythm accompanies Andre's echoed vocals.

Also "Take Off Your Cool," featuring Nora Jones, will have guitarists and singers saying, "Oh, I guess I do like rap."

Also many songs prove to be more ear-friendly on the third or fourth listen. For example, on the first released single "Hey ya!" I literally said out loud "What the hell is this?"

But now when it comes on, I can't help but sing out the catchy chorus.

However, there are a few downright misses on Andre's album. For example, "Behold a lady," may tempt some of you to test out the CD as a frisbee.

Aside from a chorus or verse here and there, the two members avoid to collaborate on each others' track.

In the end, the double disc separation of these incredible talents proves to be a shame.

Though I respect the ever-changing attitude of Outkast, in the end, both of the artists' products suffered.

The fact is, Big Boi's album lacks only in the absence of Andre, who completely contrasts the style of Big Boi, refreshing the listener at every verse's turn.

With Andre's album, hip-hop has been left in the dust for a blues, jazz and R&B fusion that leaves hip hoppers confused and wishing another collaboration by the duo would emerge soon.

But, if you choose to listen to this album, take your time. It's too much to absorb at once and it will seem to be an overdone musical blend of sounds.

But, for me, individual tracks eventually began to create their own style and enjoyment, triggering the head-bobbing.

As my final thought, I would recommend buying this album, if anything, just for Big Boi's album, and some may really enjoy the creative tumble that Andre took.

Phil Comey is the associate features editor for the Collegiate Times.

Exhibit highlights lost Va. communities

■ A Virginia Tech alumna visited over 2,200 communities and photographed 548 of them for the exhibit

by Megan Rowe
Staff Writer

Throughout October, Virginia Tech students will have the opportunity to view local history.

The Community Design Assistance Center, a component of the college of architecture and urban studies, is sponsoring The Lost Communities of Virginia exhibit, a black-and-white photographic exhibit of once prosperous communities that have declined physically and economically.

Kirsten Sparenborg, a graduate from the college of architecture and urban studies, began working on the project in 1999. She visited 2,200 communities over a period of five months, photographed 548 of them and eventually chose 32 to be featured in a photographic book entitled "The Lost Communities of Virginia."

To be considered a lost community, the area had to have once enjoyed economic and social prosperity and had to show effects of physical decline. Many of the photographs were of weathered, abandoned businesses or houses.

"The community must still have people around who can tell its history and buildings remaining to show its history," said Terri Fisher, an architecture intern at CDAC.

Fisher said the communities also represented different industries significant in the settlement of Virginia, such as mining, coal and railroads.

Sparenborg visited the communities to interview residents and take photographs. After developing the photos, she selected 10-20 of each community to appear in her upcoming book.

"The book itself, when it's completed, will include the photographs, historical information and interviews with residents," Fisher said.

The Lost Communities of Virginia exhibit began in fall 2002 and consists of 23 photographs of 15 of the communities featured in the book.

"The photographs are kind of a sampling of some of the communities," Fisher said.

The first showing was at the Virginia Foundation for Humanities, a non-profit organization located in Charlottesville that develops and supports research and education in humanities fields. The exhibit was also in Cowgill Hall last fall.

Elizabeth Gilboy, director of CDAC, said she expected "The Lost Communities of Virginia" to be published in the next one or two years.

"If someone gave us the money, it could be as early as six months," she said.

The book and exhibit are funded by the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in Fine Arts, an organization that awards grants for architecture projects, and the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities.

Sparenborg said she hopes to reach a wide range of people with her book and exhibit.

"It could be the people in these particular communities ... or people who are interested in looking at and on some level experiencing what life was like in a small community many years ago," Gilboy said.

A brochure of a motorcycle tour guide of the Blue Ridge Area to the Lost Communities of Virginia is also being published. The brochure will highlight roads so visitors can drive through the communities and learn their history and will also include locations for lodging, gas and food.

"It's just kind of a back-road, meandering trip," Fisher said.

The Lost Communities of Virginia exhibit will be on display in the Wallace Hall gallery through October 17.

“The book itself, when it's completed, will include photographs, historical information and interviews with residents.”

Terri Fisher
CDAC intern

Tienes e-mail: AOL targets Spanish speakers

by Anick Jesdanun
Associated Press

NEW YORK — America Online launches a service Wednesday for the burgeoning market of U.S. households where Spanish is mostly or exclusively spoken.

In addition to the familiar "you've got mail" greeting, the AOL Latino service is wholly in Spanish, down to the instructions on installing CDs.

The U.S. Hispanic population, the country's largest minority group, has grown over the past two years at nearly four times the rate of the overall population. Latinos are also catching up to whites and Asians online.

Online information outlets have responded.

Yahoo! Inc. already has a "Yahoo! En Espanol" site with news, maps and even

greeting cards in Spanish, while Microsoft Corp.'s MSN has acquired the Spanish-language Yupi portal. Both companies also offer instant-messaging software and Web-based e-mail in Spanish.

AOL's service goes further, offering a complete package — including software to connect, send e-mail and browse the Web in Spanish and a toll-free number for Spanish customer support.

Spanish-language products from Microsoft and other companies are typically difficult or impossible to obtain in the United States.

"The Internet experience today is very much in English," said Charlene Li, analyst at Forrester Research. "If you are a predominantly Spanish speaker, AOL Latino really serves that market."

According to a U.S. Commerce Department study last year, only 14 percent of Hispanics

in Spanish-only households were online compared with 38 percent in bilingual and English-dominant households.

AOL already has some 2.3 million Latino subscribers in the United States but they tend to be English speakers.

"Now it's time for the second phase," said David Wellisch, general manager for AOL Latino. "Language has acted as a barrier that we are now ready to resolve."

The Commerce study shows Hispanics still trailing whites and Asians online, though their growth rate is higher. A more recent study from Pew Internet and American Life Project has Latinos just a few percentage points behind whites; that survey, however, was conducted in English.

Latinos face the same barriers that blacks do, including lower income and education as a group, but they must also contend with language and cultural hurdles, analysts say.

National Geographic starts reality show

by Janice Rhoshale Littlejohn
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Russell family likes comfort, like, for instance, their three-bedroom, three-bathroom suburban home in Birmingham, Ala., a packed refrigerator with an automatic ice machine, central air conditioning and, when mom doesn't feel like cooking, fast food restaurants.

So why would they trade all these middle-class amenities for a sweltering mud hut in Lungu, Ghana with no electricity, no plumbing and no golden arches for thousands of miles?

"It just sounded like it would be a blast," said Lynne Russell, who, with husband Scott and their two children, signed up for one of the cross-cultural adventures on the National Geographic Channel's "Worlds Apart." The 13-episode series premieres 8 p.m. EDT Monday.

Each week, one American family spends 10 days with a local household in a remote third world village, participating in their customs, rituals and livelihoods.

"We thought, wouldn't it be amusing if we took a whole family and all of a sudden their neighborhood was totally different," said Glenda Hersh, the series' co-executive producer.

"(If) you take away some of

the best things we're familiar with and project them into an environment that is culturally distinct and interesting, you're going to put them through both a psychological and emotional journey that's going to give them an appreciation of what really matters and what's important," said Steven Weinstock, partner.

Lynne Russell said she jumped at the chance for what seemed the vacation of a lifetime, but acknowledged "I had no idea of what we would be going into. Even what I imagined was not exactly what we encountered." The Russells' journey to northwestern Ghana is featured in the series' premiere episode.

For the first few days, the Russells had to adjust to the culture shock of living in a primitive village with extreme poverty, unappetizing food, rudimentary toilet facilities, horrendous smells and harsh terrain.

"The pen for the livestock — the cows, the goats, the chickens and all of that — was about 15 feet from our room," recalled Scott Russell, a financial planner. "Where they cooked was no more than three or four feet from the livestock. It all hit me, it was really kind of a shock."

"Essentially these families are cultural explorers," said Andrew Wilk, executive vice president of programming and production of the Washington D.C.-based National Geographic Channel.

"On the face of it, it might seem like, 'Oh, what a great romantic cultural idea for me

and my family,' but in essence, this is real cultural diversity," he continued. "Watching these various individuals going through their own personal catharsis ... it's pretty amazing television."

One reality that didn't sit well for the feminist-minded American women in the series was the gender bias inherent in many third world cultures: The women do the bulk of the work — the cooking, cleaning and child rearing — while the men have the luxuries of free time.

"There was definitely a division," said insurance agent Deborah Johnson-Noble.

She, husband Daryle and their two children recently returned to their middle-class digs in St. Louis from an excursion in Mongolia.

"I had never physically worked that hard in my life," said Deborah. "I worked eight and nine hours, and I was still supposed to cook dinner for my family and he's just sitting there because he can't help."

Daryle Noble giggled. "Actually I enjoyed that," said the veteran policeman. "We should have that custom here."

As blacks in an Asiatic territory, the Nobles said racial differences were, surprisingly, a non-issue.

"I don't think they looked at us as being African-Americans. I just think they looked at us as being Americans," Deborah said.

In most episodes, the racial differences between the visiting and host families are obvious but more apparent are the universal bonds that the two families share.

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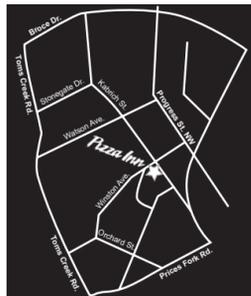
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Number of candidates could hurt Democrats election hopes

Garrett Gero

Retired Gen. Wesley Clark, after much urging, has entered the presidential race. Now the number of candidates for the Democrats has risen to 10 — but is that a good thing?

The runners include newcomer Clark, along with Carol Moseley Braun, Howard Dean, John Edwards, Dick Gephardt, Bob Graham, John Kerry, Dennis Kucinich, Joe Lieberman and Al Sharpton. While such a large number of highly publicized candidates might initially seem good, in the end it could have very painful results for the Democratic Party.

Polls have shown many Americans can't name all of the Democratic candidates running in 2004. And a lot of Americans are naming people who aren't even running for President. This means many Americans might vote for Bush rather than deal with the Democratic primaries.

This could also lead to fighting inside the party. While the current voice of the candidates is unified and focused to be anti-Bush, eventually the 10 will have to fight it out in primaries.

This could lead to a very brutal war amongst democrats in the 2004 primaries.

If the democrats do not stay unified, they could face a big mess of mudslinging and attacks within the party. Such a political fight could lose voters to Bush in November 2004.

On the other hand, by keeping the same anti-Bush stance throughout 2004, the party will leave voters with little insight into the candidates' views on the issues. Only voters who don't like Bush to begin with would really be attracted by such a strategy.

The rest of American voters are going to expect a little more in terms of the issues. Leaving the public in the dark will not earn the Democrats many votes.

Currently the media is focusing on the Bush element of the democratic debates, so the party's first objective should be to stop focusing on Bush and start speaking more about the issues.

The end result is a balancing act. With so many candidates, it's easy for them to all start fighting in an attempt to gain public attention.

But the people would see lots of mudslinging in the primaries and a negative primary that wouldn't garner as many votes.

But by agreeing with each other, the individual candidates will not stand out and cannot focus what separates them from the rest. So this campaign will be a test of how well the candidates can promote themselves without becoming engaged in a bitter primary.

What the Democrats need to do is to take the focus off Bush and try to get the media to focus more on the views of the candidates. The candidates themselves must avoid engaging in a political brawl and instead concentrate on their own views rather than the views of their fellow democrats.

It will be much more appealing to have 10 candidates simply tell the people what they will do as President than have 10 candidates fighting over why the other nine candidates aren't fit to be President.

The Democrats are being very aggressive as they try to take the White House, but a growing number of candidates can be both a blessing and a curse. While it means a large variety of ideas for citizens to see and think about, it also can mean a lot of chaos inside the party — not good when it comes to deciding who is best for the job.

This upcoming year shall be very interesting to watch as Clark and his nine allies and opponents race against Bush for the White House.

Garrett Gero is a regular columnist for the Collegiate Times.

Marshall acting as responsible delegate

Rob Rowland

The author the "Sex Talk Live" has right to express content of their choice" (CT, Sept. 30) took issue with the letter written by Bob Marshall of the Virginia House of Delegates to Virginia Tech President Charles Steger. The author characterizes the memorandum as an effort to "stifle the voice of students" and it calls for Steger to either censor or cancel the program. The letter, in fact, does none of these things.

Marshall is only pursuing the interests of his constituents and asking exactly the sort of questions all state institutions and programs should be held to in this period of budget shortfalls and cutbacks.

The real question posed by this controversy has less to do with an assault on First Amendment freedoms, and more to do with politics and the role of government. The commonwealth of Virginia has an unquestionable interest in providing an excellent education to its students, including opportunities for those pursuing careers in broadcast media.

That the state and the peoples' elected representatives have an interest in promoting a free exchange of ideas, especially as they relate to disease prevention and public health concerns, is likewise beyond reproach.

What is much less clear is just what role state money should play in the expression of ideas and in the creation of entertainment programs with which some parents and taxpayers take offense.

If there truly a question of censoring free speech, those con-

stituents who forwarded their complaints to Marshall could best be advised not to listen to the speech they find offensive. In this case, they have a natural right to question not only their desire to watch programs such as "Sex Talk Live," but also whether they are willing to foot the bill.

I did not attend the taping of the program or view its broadcast. I imagine it was not terribly risqué, at least not judged by the norms of our generation.

I doubt many of the people who called Marshall to complain watched it either.

While it is easy to grab onto the sensational aspects of the story, the actual content of the program is not important. Programming of a sexual nature — though admittedly less educational in its aims — is available 24 hours a day on basic cable. The difference is that Spike TV is not given free use of a public institution's facilities or an annual stipend from funds augmented by taxpayer money.

At the heart of Marshall's letter regarding the 'Sex Talk Live' program, filmed on Tech campus Sept. 24, are seven questions. While his tone is clearly one of displeasure, Marshall makes no demands on Steger except to answer his queries in a timely manner.

Chief among these questions is to what extent public money was used to produce the show and if the sex toy prizes awarded for the best fake orgasm were purchased with state funds.

If they were, I would want to know. As a tax and tuition payer, I do not want to help pay for someone's new toy.

As a voter, I am glad our elected representatives are spending the

necessary effort to safeguard our collective pocketbook. Virginia is facing a budget crunch and it is imperative for all funds available to the state to be spent responsibly.

Jarett Henshaw, co-host of the program, made an unfortunate statement to the Collegiate Times on Sept. 25 that was ambiguous about the origin of the funds used to purchase prizes for a fake orgasm competition. On reading the statement, a casual reader would naturally assume Tech funds were used for this purpose from Henshaw's statement. The event took place within campus facilities.

VTVT's equipment was obviously purchased in part with state funding. It was only natural taxpayers would take notice and, in turn, ask their representatives for an explanation.

It is unclear what will happen next. The independent status of EMCVT and the third party origin of the sex toy prizes may constitute a satisfactory explanation for Marshall and his constituents. On the other hand, President Steger in his reply left open the possibility of some changes in the relationship between the university and student media organizations.

No matter how this particular controversy plays out, the right and the duty of our elected representatives to monitor and safeguard the use of public funds deserves as much respect and protection as our love for our First Amendment freedoms. Both practices are necessary to our political processes. To state that a restrained and appropriate display of the former poses a credible threat to the latter is nonsensical.

Rob Rowland is a junior political science and psychology double major

Letter to the Editor

Drillfield belongs to the public

The author of "Students should expect a commercial-free Drillfield" (CT, Oct. 1) stated businesses promoting on the Drillfield were the "equivalent of allowing a business to set up in your backyard to sell you products." That statement would only be true if we, as students, were the ones paying for the land this university is built on.

Since that is not true, and since we are paying for our education and other school-related fees, we have no say in how the university uses the Drillfield.

Another important issue is, unlike the author's views, some students like to attend some of the promotions on the Drillfield. Just a few weeks ago students were able

to view companies promoting the "Ultimate Dorm."

With a large student body, you have to understand that different people are interested in different things.

That being said, the university doesn't have the right to deny the ability for organizations to promote on the Drillfield unless they view the organization as advocating something harmful to the student body.

Comparing our role in how organizations promote on the Drillfield to organizations advertising in our backyard is completely irrelevant. We own the land in our backyards and thus we can argue about who uses our land, but the state owns the land that our university sits on. And since the state has to keep the interest of the entire student body in mind, the university has the right to allow a diverse group of organizations to promote on their land.

Adrian Gregory
junior, BIT and accounting



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Sports

Easlick prepares to play in hometown

■ The Hokies starting fullback and New Jersey native, returns to his home state as a starter for the first time

by **Rajan Nanavati**
Sports Editor

Fullbacks live a life of servitude. Their main job is to make sure that they help keep whoever has the ball upright. If it means running full speed, head first into a 230-pound linebacker, so be it.

Occasionally they'll get a pass their way, once every two or three games. They might get one carry during the course of a 60-minute game if the offensive coaching staff wants to reward them for a hard week of practice, or if they want to catch the defense off guard.

Welcome to the life and times of Virginia Tech fullback Doug Easlick, perhaps one of the most important cogs on offense who may get the least recognition overall.

Sure, running backs like Kevin Jones, Cedric Humes and Mike Imoh get the yards, touchdowns and the recognition, but Easlick is the guy running ahead of them trying to steamroll linebackers and safeties that might be in the running back's path.

"It's nice blocking for those guys," Easlick said of Tech's corps of running backs. "They appreciate it. That's my job on this football team."

Week in, week out, he's used to going out on the field for the sole purpose of laying out a defender, but this week's contest against the Rutgers University Scarlet Knights holds even more importance to Easlick.

Easlick came to Blacksburg from Marlton, N.J., about 40 minutes south of Camden,

where Rutgers is located. The game essentially represents a homecoming for Easlick, as he returns back to his home state for the first time as a starter.

Along with the fact that 40 or 50 family members and friends will make the trip to Camden to watch Easlick play, the game holds a little more significance to Easlick on a personal level. When choosing colleges after high school, Rutgers did not recruit Easlick, and he instead wound up in Blacksburg.

"Coming out of high school I wasn't heavily recruited" Easlick said. "Rutgers didn't really recruit me too much — they recruited me for wrestling."

Easlick came to Tech after a family friend, former Tech player Ed Keefer, sent tapes to Tech running backs coach Billy Hite.

The staff obviously liked what they saw, and after originally arriving at Tech on a wrestling scholarship (he wrestled his freshman year), Easlick joined the football team as a preferred walk-on.

Being noticed for a crunching block at the line of scrimmage by only a handful of people, not many know that Easlick is a converted running back who used to carry the ball 25-30 times a game in high school, and even logged two games with 39 carries.

Last spring during Tech's pro-day, he clocked a 4.59 in the 40-yard dash. In comparison, there are wide receivers in the college game who run that speed.

Throw in the fact that he has soft hands, making him an excellent target coming out of the backfield on play-action

passes, and he is the prototype for the perfect fullback.

However, the Tech coaching staff, with talent galore on the offense, prefers to utilize Easlick for his blocking ability. He's technically listed among the running backs but he runs the ball so infrequently that quarterback Bryan Randall jokes anytime Easlick gets the ball in his hands it's a "trick play" in the offense.

"I play with (the offensive players and coaches) in practice, tell them to throw me the ball here and there" Easlick joked about lobbying for more offensive touches.

"But, I know what my position is. I know I'm not going to touch the ball more than three times (a game), if that. That's a lot if I touch it three times. But, when they call my number, I try to do the best I can."



ROBERT DRAKE/SPPS

Easlick creates space for his offense to work against an unsuspecting Central Florida player. On the season, he has four receptions for 38 yards and two rushes for 10 yards.

Petree adjusts to minor-league circuit

■ The crew chief who lead Dale Earnhardt's team to two Winston Cup championships, is trying to accomplish the same feat on the ARCA circuit

by **Paul Newberry**
Associated Press

TALLADEGA, Ala. - Andy Petree knows his way around victory lane at Talladega Superspeedway, so no one had to tell him where to go when his driver won the race.

Then again, this was a rather new experience.

Petree wasn't celebrating a NASCAR Winston Cup triumph. Instead, he was toasting victory in the minor-league ARCA series, where he's trying to rebuild his downsized team with a talented young driver in tow.

"I want to do it the right way this time," Petree said.

On the track, at least, he knows how to do it the right way.

Petree won two Winston Cup championships as Dale Earnhardt's crew chief and founded his own team in late 1996. Even though he had to get by on a shoestring budget, his cars still managed to win two races and start from the pole six times.

"We were the poster children for doing the most with the least," Petree said.

His first victory as a car owner came at the 2001 Talladega 500 with Bobby Hamilton. Later that year, Petree's other driver, Joe Nemechek, won at Rockingham.

The money began to dry up in 2002, forcing Petree to abandon one of his cars. By the time this season rolled around, a lack of dollars forced Petree to give up his Winston Cup dreams — at least for now.

"When the economy took a turn, we were one of the first ones affected," Petree said. "This thing can really beat you down. I was beat down last year, that's for sure."

But he's already plotting his comeback. Petree signed Paul Menard, a promising young driver with a strong racing heritage — his father is Indy-car owner John Menard.

Petree set up a diverse, 18-race schedule to hasten his new driver's learning curve, including ARCA, NASCAR's Busch series, some truck events and even a Winston Cup road race at Watkins Glen.

"It's been difficult the last few years, but this is actually a great year for me personally," Petree said. "I'm working with a much smaller group, and I've got a great young driver. It's a lot more fun."

Last weekend, the Petree-Menard team won for the first time, capturing the ARCA race at Talladega. Their car had to start from the back of the field after failing to pass inspection during qualifying, but Menard worked his way through the field and took the checkered flag in the first superspeedway race of his career.

The plan is to move up to the Busch series full-time in 2004, run that for a couple of years, then move into the rough-and-tumble world of Winston Cup (actually Nextel Cup, the series' name beginning next season).

"From what I've seen of Paul, that should be enough experience," Petree said. "This was the first time he's ever been on a track like this, and he was out there doing Dale Earnhardt and Dale Jr. stuff. I'm really proud of him."

If Petree gets back to the big time, he'll change a few things.

First and foremost, there's got to be enough financial support to compete with the top teams. He's tired of getting by on less.

"Before, we were always losing our best guys to the other teams because we couldn't pay them enough," Petree said. "It was frustrating. We would find them, train them, then they were worth more than we could pay them."

The 23-year-old Menard has an earring in his left lobe, a soul patch under his bottom lip and a cool demeanor that serves him well at speeds approaching 200 mph.

He realizes the value of having a mentor such as Petree.

"Andy has so much experience," Menard said. "It just makes sense that we work together. I grew up watching both Indy cars and NASCAR, so I knew who he was. I've already learned so much from him."

Jonmaire kicks off junior season

by **Susan Suddarth and Clark Ruhland**
Staff Writers

As a freshman, Ken Jonmaire decided he wanted to play soccer for Virginia Tech.

"I decided I'll walk on, try out for the team and see how it goes, and it's been going pretty well so far," Jonmaire said.

Since then, this power forward junior has become one of the Hokies' best offensive weapons and is known for being dangerous in the air.

"I have a decent vertical and I'm pretty good at reading the ball so I just flick it on," he said.

Jonmaire, a civil engineering major, has one of the best work ethics in the league and his hard work and determination is evident on the field.

"There is always something to improve on," he said. "I need to work on my touch a little bit and receiving the ball. I've had a couple of chances that I didn't put away which I should have. I don't feel like the team has put a lot of pressure on me to be a leading scorer, but on our offense as a whole."

Jonmaire has been playing soccer since he was five years old. During high school, he lettered three years and was named third team all state and first team All-Western New York. He was the teams' leading goal scorer as well.

When he came to Tech and walked onto the Hokie team, he decided to become a little more structured in his play.

"I wasn't really structured," Jonmaire said. "I was running around, and it was run until you can't run anymore and hope something good happens. I didn't really know how to work with the team here. Now I have become more of a one-unit player."

During Jonmaire's first season with the team, he played in all 19 games, starting 12 of them.

He was fourth on the team with goals and helped the Hokies acquire their first Big East win ever with the game-winning goal against Syracuse.

"At the Syracuse game, I scored the game-winning goal and it was great because I am from near there so a lot of my friends and family were there," Jonmaire said. "It was great having people I knew there, and we played at night and the excitement was unbelievable."

In 2002, he started all 18 games and, with a team-leading 22 points, was ranked fifth in scoring in the Big East.

He scored eight goals, four of which were game winners, and had six assists.

He was named Big East Offensive Player of the Week twice, Soccer America Men's Team of the Week on Oct. 13 and was third-team All-South Atlantic Region selection.

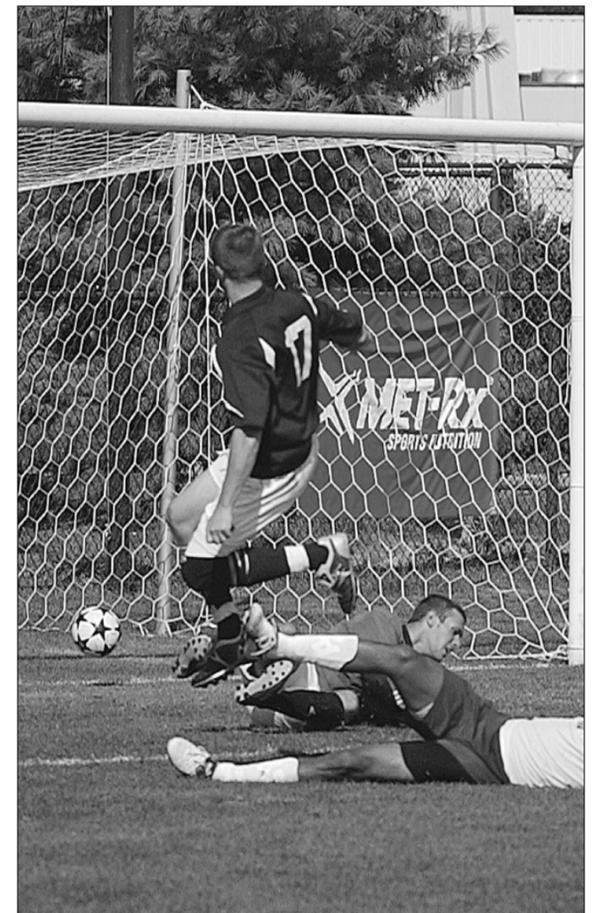
"It's a nice honor," he said, "like my work is actually paying off."

Now in his junior year, Jonmaire has scored three goals, one being a game-winner, and has had one assist. All this accumulated even though he missed the first three games of the season due to injury.

"This year has been a little frustrating because I've been injured," Jonmaire said. "I'm finally getting better. I have I.T. band tendonitis."

He said he's looking forward to the remaining season and is excited about the next four games.

"Any team can beat any team on any given day," Jonmaire said. "Hopefully we will be able to come out with some big wins. We have so much potential. (Tech head coach Oliver) Weiss really gets us together and makes us work as one team. He knows what he is doing and we do our best to give him the results he wants."

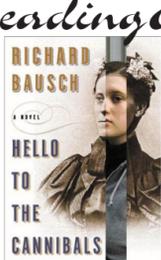


STAFF/SPPS

Jonmaire, showcasing his vertical jump on this shot on goal, is second on the team in scoring, with seven points in 2003.

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Tech swim team has successful intrasquad meet

■ The Hokies held their annual Maroon/Orange alumni meet last Saturday and 40 former team members were in attendance

by **Chris Bayne**
Staff Writer

Long before most students crawled out of bed Saturday morning, over 50 members of the Virginia Tech men's and women's swimming and diving teams were preparing for their second annual intrasquad Maroon/Orange & Alumni Meet.

The meet officially began at 8:30 a.m., but the team held a 7 a.m. practice before the competition.

The meet kicked off the team's alumni weekend, an event featuring nearly 40 alumni in attendance.

All alumni were encouraged to

compete with the teams during the meet.

Ned Skinner, who is beginning his sixth year as the Hokies' head coach, said he was impressed with the alumni attendance, and he thinks the meet was a good way to showcase the program.

"The team's following is getting bigger and bigger," Skinner said.

"We have some alumni here today from classes of the '60's and '70's. It's a good chance for all of us to interact, have some fun and build some camaraderie."

Saturday's meet was important because it was the first time the teams have had the opportunity to compete since beginning practice three weeks ago.

"With the season just two weeks

away, a meet like this really helps us know where we're at right now," Skinner said.

Both the men's and women's teams have high expectations for their final season in the Big East Conference.

Skinner said he believes the two teams have an excellent shot at the conference championship.

"If we have great meets on both (the men's and women's) sides, I think we'll be right there in the thick of things," he said.

"We want to leave on a good note and be respectful to other teams, but we also want to leave as champions."

The Hokies have a number of key returning swimmers for the 2003 season.

On the men's team, junior

Kevin Furlong made the NCAA Championships last year. Senior Christian Lindberg is world-ranked in the 50-yard freestyle and has qualified for the Olympic trials.

Returning senior Jamie Spradlin and junior Katy Peterson look strong early on and will help anchor a competitive women's team.

"We're really excited about where we are headed right now," Skinner said.

Tech's swimming and diving programs are likely to become even stronger after the Hokies join the Atlantic Coast Conference next year.

"Affiliation with the ACC has already helped us with recruiting," Skinner said.

The Hokies will host their second intrasquad meet at 3 p.m. Oct. 10.

The first meet of the season is against The University of Louisville at 3 p.m. Oct. 12.

Both events will be held at War Memorial Pool.

McNabb: Too late for Rush's apology

by **Rob Maaddi**
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Donovan McNabb doesn't mind criticism of his performance. He's upset that Rush Limbaugh made his race an issue.

And the Philadelphia Eagles' quarterback says it's too late for an apology from the conservative commentator, who said the media has overrated McNabb because they want to see a black quarterback succeed.

"It's somewhat shocking to hear that on national TV from him," McNabb said Wednesday. "It's not something that I can sit here and say won't bother me."

Limbaugh insisted Wednesday he had "no racist intent whatsoever." In fact, the conservative commentator said he must have been right; otherwise, the comments would not have sparked such outrage.

Before McNabb led the Eagles to a 23-13 victory over the Buffalo Bills on Sunday, Limbaugh said on ESPN's pregame show that he didn't think McNabb was as good as perceived from the start.

"I think what we've had here is a little social concern in the NFL. The media has been very desirous that a black quarterback do well," Limbaugh said on "Sunday NFL Countdown." "There is a little hope invested in McNabb, and he got a lot of credit for the performance of this team that he didn't deserve. The defense carried this team."

Limbaugh did not back down during his syndicated radio talk show Wednesday.

"All this has become the tempest that it is because I must have been right about something," Limbaugh said. "If I wasn't right, there wouldn't be this cacophony of outrage that has sprung up in the sports writer community."

The NFL disclaimed any responsibility from Limbaugh's remarks.

"ESPN knew what it was getting when they hired Rush Limbaugh," league vice president Joe Browne said. "ESPN selects its on-air talent, not the NFL."

The Rev. Al Sharpton scheduled a news conference Thursday morning in front of ABC headquarters in New York. He said he would call for ESPN to fire Limbaugh and would call for a national boycott of the network this weekend if he isn't. ABC and ESPN are corporate cousins, both owned by Walt Disney Co.

"I'm going to call for ESPN to terminate Rush Limbaugh as we've seen other networks terminate people for racist remarks in the past," Sharpton said Wednesday night. "I'm shocked that we're at Wednesday and we have not seen an apology from Mr. Limbaugh. We cannot sit back in silence. That would be consent and we would have lost self-respect."

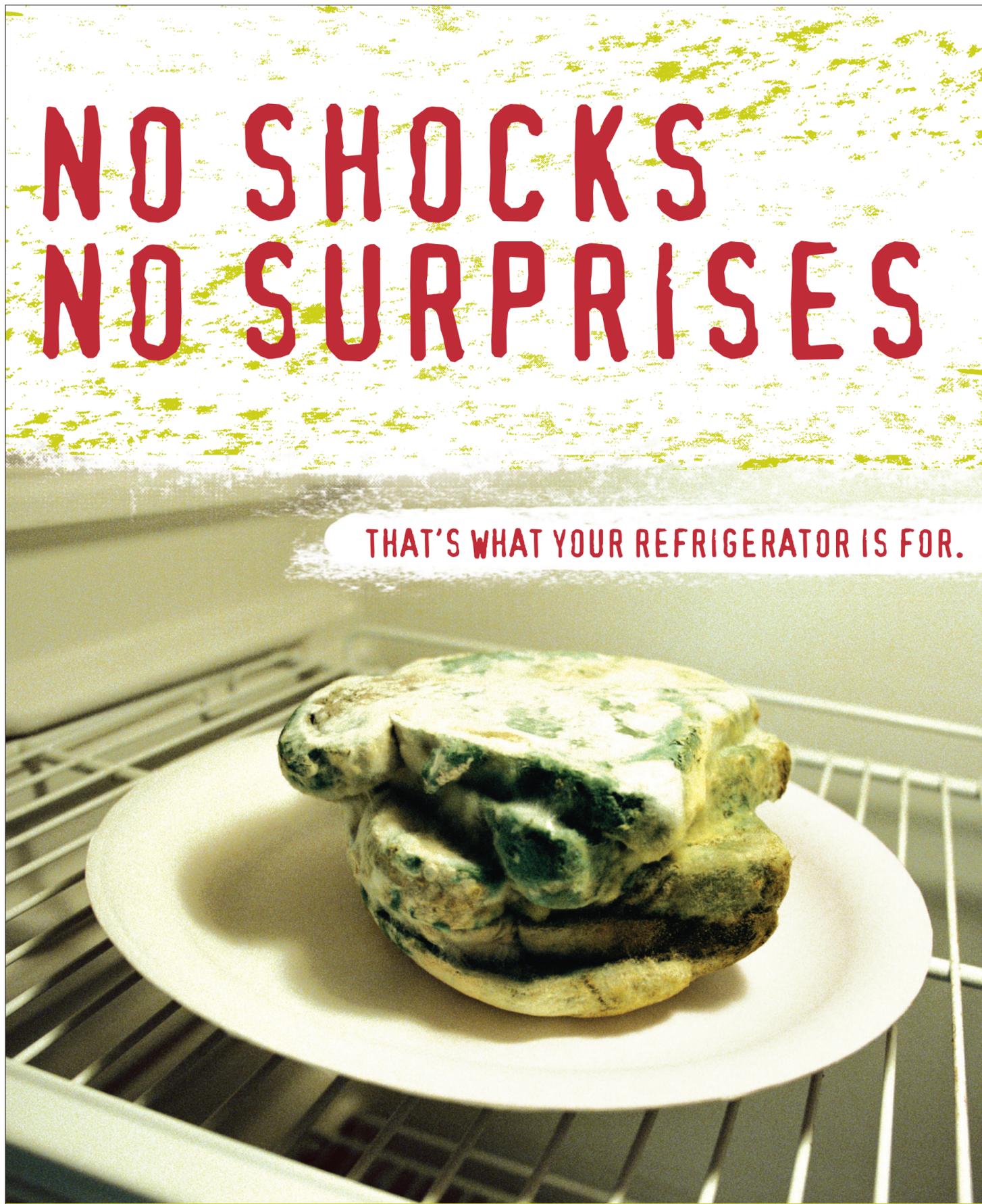
Chris Berman, who anchors the ESPN show, said he did not believe Limbaugh's tone or intent was malicious.

"As cut and dry as it seems in print, I didn't think so when it went by my ears," he said. "I probably should have looked to soften it. We're sorry we upset a guy who got off to a rough start."

McNabb said someone on the show should have taken on Limbaugh. Among the other panelists are former players Michael Irvin and Tom Jackson, both of whom are black.

"I'm not pointing at anyone but someone should have said it," McNabb said of the panelists, who also include former quarterback Steve Young. "I wouldn't have cared if it was the cameraman."

Limbaugh was scheduled to be in Philadelphia on Thursday to speak at a broadcast convention. McNabb said he wouldn't be welcome at the Eagles' practice.



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