

Tech grads face uncertain job market

■ Employment rates for Tech grads are better than the national average for 20 to 24 year olds

by **Melissa Ballagh**
Staff Writer

With current unemployment rates, graduating students will have to work harder to find jobs.

The class of 2002 reported an unemployment rate of 7.3 percent.

Though Career Services has not yet surveyed the class of 2003, assistant director Carol Robinson said there were more students who had not found jobs by graduation than there were the year before. Robinson said many of those students have probably found jobs by now.

"I haven't seen any indication that they haven't found jobs over the summer,"

Robinson said.

When comparing Virginia Tech's averages to the national unemployment rates, students and recent graduates may have hope of beating the job market.

The Department of Labor reported a 9.6 percent unemployment rate among 20 to 24 year olds in 2002.

If the class of 2003 found jobs over the summer, Tech graduates could do better than the 10.3 percent unemployment average for 20 to 24 year olds reported in August 2003.

The rate of Tech graduates seeking jobs is even better than it has been in the past.

Though greater than the 4.7 percent rate among the class of 2001, the latest numbers are still better than the high of 19.4 reported by the class of 2000, according to post-graduate surveys.

Robinson said the economy prevents companies from predicting in September how many college graduates they can employ by June. Many companies wait until a job

opens before they fill it.

"A company doesn't want to go out and look and hire somebody if they don't have to. It costs them money," Robinson said.

Director of Career Services Donna Cassell Ratcliffe said she has noticed a change, though. Ratcliffe said she has started to hear more from companies interested in doing on-campus interviews or participating in career fairs.

Seniors and recent graduates just have to know where

and when to look for job openings. Most do not use all of the resources available to them, Ratcliffe said.

"Fewer students have taken advantage of Career Services," Ratcliffe said.

In some cases, the lack of response has caused students to lose valuable opportunities. Ratcliffe said some companies have stopped conducting on-campus interviews because they do not get adequate stu-

See **GRADS**, page 2

Muslim speaker enlightens students

by **Ellen Biltz**
News Assistant

The Muslim Student Association of Virginia Tech hosted a speaker last night to inform non-Muslim students about the truths of their religion.

Brother Fadel Soliman gave a presentation on Islam and Muslim beliefs.

"The main focus of my speeches are to educate people about the truth of the most beautiful thing in my life, the Muslim religion," Soliman said.

Raised in Egypt, Soliman was born into the Islam faith, but said he really started practicing the religion at about the age of 21. Since the 9/11 attacks, he has traveled about twice a week to give lectures.

"We try to have at least one speaker each semester," said MSA president Ahmed Sidky. "Most (lectures) are targeted toward non-Muslims like the one tonight."

Soliman said it didn't anger him that people made generalizations of the Muslim faith, but instead made him feel bad for them.

"All people need to do is go to a lecture to learn a little," Soliman said. "I was denied boarding a plane one day after 9/11 because they saw my notes on Islam and the name Allah for a lecture I was giving. This just makes me feel sorry for them."

See **SPEAKER**, page 3



Soliman

Simulated room to go up in smoke

■ A residence hall room will be set on fire as part of fire prevention month to demonstrate fire dangers in the typical room

by **Lyndsey Marchman**
Staff Writer

Knowing how quickly a fire spreads can save a life and to help students appreciate just how hazardous fires can be, Virginia Tech is sponsoring the burning of a replicated residence hall room.

Today at noon, a simulated residence hall room constructed on the lawn between Pritchard Hall and Ambler Johnston Hall will go up in flames.

The demonstration is being set by Tech's Department of Environmental, Health and Safety Services as a part of fire prevention month to raise awareness among students of the dangers of fires in residence halls.

"I think that it is a good idea to give students a realistic idea of how quickly a fire spreads and just how many naturally combustible

items we have in our rooms," said Gail Kirby, associate director of Residence Life.

According to Fire Safety Engineer Sandra Kulik, the main goal of this event is to heighten the awareness of students and to illustrate how fast fires spread, so that students understand the importance of getting out of the building when a fire alarm goes off.

"This event will give students a good hands-on demonstration (of a fire) because many have probably never seen a real fire," said Clark Mitchell, Fire Protection Inspector. "We are hoping that if students can see the fire, they will have a better understanding of the dangers."

There will also be a film crew present Friday to tape the demonstration. The footage will be included in a fire safety video the university is hoping to create.

"We are trying to produce a Virginia Tech-specific fire safety video that will be used to train residence hall staff and possibly students of what to do in an emergency," Kirby said.

According to the Blacksburg Fire Department run logs, in 2002 there were only nine fires in

See **ROOM**, page 2



ELEANOR HOPSON/SPPS

This residence hall room will be set ablaze today to make students aware of the fire dangers in their rooms.

Environmental graduate program offered

by **Aaron Blackwell**
Associate News Editor

The College of Natural Resources is offering a new graduate student seminar dealing with vegetation control and restoration along Tom's Creek.

The area they are studying is the Heritage Community Park and Natural Area, formerly known as Brown Farm.

Carola Haas, associate professor of fisheries and wildlife sciences, is leading the course called the Riparian Planting Case Study consisting of five graduate students.

This opportunity offers students experience in real-world situations, she said.

"I hope they learn that real world problems are very complex, but I don't want them to be discouraged," Haas said.

The area along this section of Tom's Creek contains plant species that are not native, said Bruce Hull, professor of forestry. Hull, who is serving as a resource to those working on the project, said grasses for grazing cattle and other exotic plant species live in the area.

Haas' course is designed to inform officials about the problems of

exotic plants and vegetation control through student research, Haas said.

Haas said that she thinks the program will let students see the human aspect of such a project and not just the scientific part.

"This helps students see the connection of their work to the community," she said.

Further improvements include having a more diverse habitat, more shade to cool the stream to improve habitats in the water and to provide more soil stability, said Lee Skabelund, research professor of landscape architecture and head of the restoration project.

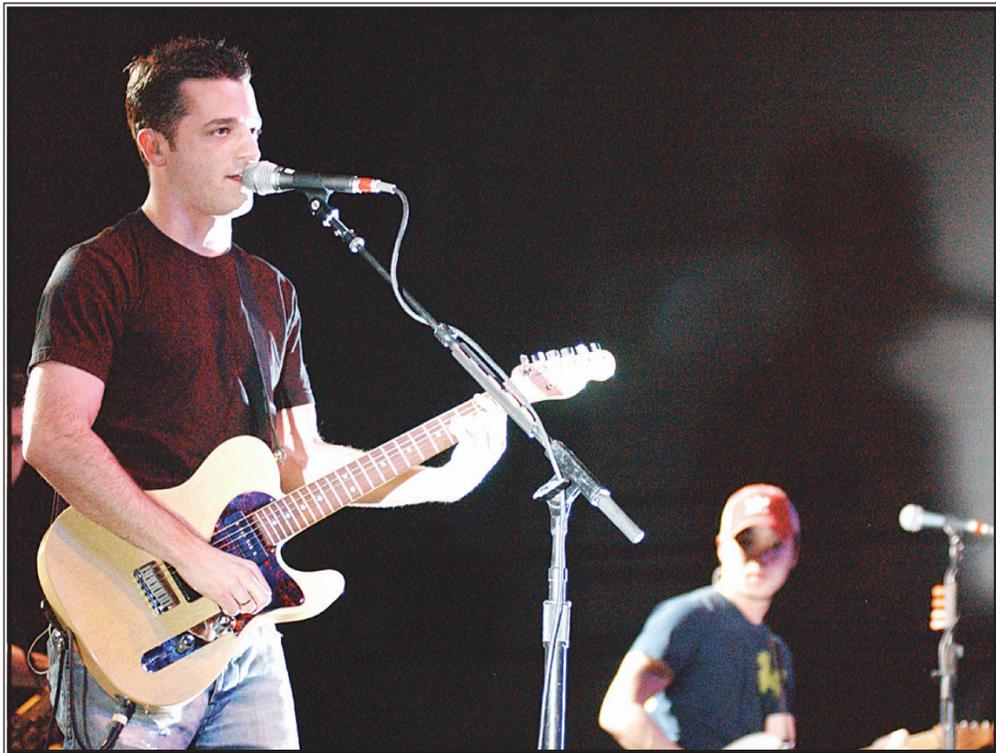
Skabelund's students will evaluate the information Haas' students obtain and then write a proposal on the project, Skabelund said.

Forestry, soils and wetlands classes at Virginia Tech are also conducting fieldwork along Tom's Creek, Haas said. They will also discuss the restoration.

The original plan was to plant new shrubs and trees this spring, but because of the new sewer system to be located near Tom's Creek, planting may not begin until the following spring, Skabelund said.

See **PROGRAM**, page 3

Ad-OAR-ed by many



TED MARTELLO/SPPS

Of A Revolution played to a sold-out crowd last night in Burruss Hall Auditorium. For a review of the show, visit www.collegiatetimes.com.

Conference teaches leadership skills

■ The Pamplin Leadership Conference will feature Ingersoll-Rand, General Electric, Lowe's and NVR-Ryan Homes

by **Christina Peña**
News Assistant

A select group of students will get the chance to learn more about leadership from the work-world perspective at the 5th Annual Pamplin Student Leadership Conference on Saturday at the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center.

"Students will be able to develop leadership skills and hopefully they will take what they learned from the conference and apply it to what they are involved in," said Matt McClure, president of the Pamplin Leadership Development team and a senior accounting and finance double major.

All interested students had to apply with an essay and resume to be accepted for participation

in the event. The deadline was in September.

Ingersoll-Rand, General Electric, Lowe's and NVR-Ryan Homes will sponsor four workshops at the conference about creativity, team building, motivation and networking, respectively. These workshops have been interactive in the past and will revolve around ideas of leadership.

"Every year the conference gets better and higher caliber students to attend," McClure said.

President Charles Steger and Norrine Spencer, associate dean of Student Programs and dean of business, will give a welcoming speech. The guest speaker this year will be Bill Snizek, alumni distinguished professor and dean of human resources and education.

"When talking to professors at other business schools, I have found that the Pamplin Leadership program is very well known and admired — it was the first undergraduate leadership program," Snizek said. "But what's more impressive is that so many Fortune

See **CONFERENCE**, page 2

News in Brief

Senate approves pay increase for itself

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate voted itself a pay raise for the fifth straight year, boosting the annual salary to about \$158,000 in 2004.

The House also agreed last month to accept an increase in the annual cost-of-living allowance, which gives all members of Congress a boost of about 2.2 percent in their take-home pay starting in January.

Sen. Russell Feingold, D-Wis., who every year stands up against pay increases, said that with the economy still weak and many Americans finding it hard to make ends meet, it was "the wrong time for Congress to give itself a pay hike."

Concorde set for final flights

LONDON (AP) — British Airways checked in its last fare-paying Concorde passengers Thursday, a day before scheduled supersonic service ends for good.

Both Thursday's London-New York flight and Friday's final trans-Atlantic return are expected to be full, but Friday's passengers will all be invited guests of the airline, including actress Joan Collins and Concorde frequent flyer Sir David Frost.

Israel to build 300 new homes

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel

disclosed plans Thursday to build nearly 300 homes in West Bank settlements, despite a freeze on construction required by a U.S.-backed peace plan. Palestinians condemned the project and urged the United States to intervene.

An associate of Yasser Arafat, meanwhile, said the Palestinian leader was unnerved by an army raid near his compound this week.

Donor conference for Iraq opens

MADRID, Spain (AP) — U.S. and Iraqi officials pleaded for billions to rebuild Iraq at a donors conference that opened Thursday with warnings that they might not get all they need right away. Despite the approval last week of a U.N. resolution setting out Iraq's future course, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan acknowledged that lingering divisions over Washington's role in running the country might deter some donors.

Tricycle-riding crook arrested

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — A gunman who allegedly tried to hijack a car was apparently no better at driving it than he was at maneuvering his original vehicle: a tricycle.

He also wasn't very handy with the gun.

Oswaldo Valenciano, 24, was arrested Tuesday and will be booked at the Marion County Jail on felony charges, Lt. Dan Cary said.

Grads: Jobs found through connections

Continued from page 1

dent interest.

Students are also unaware of the importance of networking, she said. According to the post-graduation survey, almost half of the class of 2002 found jobs through networking.

Job seekers can then get help in such areas as resume writing and interview critiques. To ensure a job in a specific field, the help can provide students the opportunity to develop an outstanding resume and excellent interviewing skills needed to place them above other job candidates.

By contacting people in their field, students and recent graduates also hear about job openings that are not posted in the

newspaper or on the Internet. "They need to bounce ideas and strategy off someone else," Robinson said.

When searching, students also need to be aware of challenges arising on the job market. Advisors say the unemployment rate is only one concern students should consider. "They need to be aware of job search resources regardless of what the market is,"

Catherine Copeland
assistant director,
Career Services

"(Graduates) need to be aware of job search resources regardless of what the market is."

said Catherine Copeland, an assistant director for Career Services.

Ratcliffe said students should not worry if they do not necessarily get the job they want.

In most cases, a different job provides a chance to explore opportunities.

Room: Prevention key to fire safety

Continued from page 1

residence halls, and the school has had a good record for this semester.

"I think that so far this year, Virginia Tech has done a good job with their inspections," said Wayne Garst, fire code official of the Blacksburg Fire Department. "There have been a lot fewer violations by students because the university is working hard to raise awareness at the school."

According to Gavin Worley, a volunteer firefighter and a freshman general engineering major, prevention and aware-

ness are the keys to fire safety.

"The best form of prevention is awareness, and we are hoping to make students aware of the dangers by burning this dorm," Worley said.

Several organizations around campus have worked to make this demonstration possible including the Office of Student Programs, the Blacksburg Fire Department and student volunteers.

"We are being co-sponsored by Heavener Hardware, who donated \$1600 worth of building supplies, and none of this would have been possible without the help of the ROTC students, who built the structure for us," Mitchell said.

"I think that so far this year, Virginia Tech has done a good job with their inspections. There have been a lot fewer violations by students."

Wayne Garst
fire code official

Conference: Event fully student-planned

Continued from page 1

500 companies take out ads in the program. The fact that they think enough of the program to put their money where their mouth is speaks volumes about the types of people in the program and the high regard that they are held in the business and government

communities."

The event used to be held in Squires Student Center but was changed last year to Donaldson Brown to give the event a more professional feel, McClure said.

Lunch will also be catered by Donaldson Brown to all participants and sponsors.

The conference is completely planned by the stu-

dent-run Pamplin Leadership Development Team, which funded the conference by contributions from the sponsors and other businesses. Applications for next year's Pamplin Leadership Development Team will be available at the conference.

"Learning about leadership will give insight and be

a catalyst to freshmen and seniors alike to see how important leadership is," said Todd Helton, member of the Pamplin Leadership Development Team and a senior management major. "Leadership will always be important and this serves as a bridge from academia to the work-world aspect of leadership."

STOCK MARKET REPORT — 10/23/2003 —			WEATHER	TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SATURDAY NIGHT	SUNDAY	MONDAY
DJIA	9613.13	▲ 14.98							
NASDAQ	1885.51	▼ -12.56		Mostly sunny	Mostly clear	Partly sunny	Partly cloudy	Mostly cloudy; chance of rain	Rain likely
S&P 500	1033.77	▲ 3.41		Highs: 50°-55°	Lows: 30°-35°	Highs: 60°-65°	Lows: 40°-45°	45°/60°	50°/65°

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from

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Illegal Wal-Mart workers arrested

by **Suzanne Gamboa**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal officials arrested more than 300 illegal workers at 61 Wal-Mart stores across the country early Thursday morning and searched the office of one of the retail chain's corporate executives, a federal official said.

Several law enforcement sources who spoke on condition of anonymity said the investigation grew out of earlier probes of Wal-Mart cleaning crew contractors in 1998 and 2001. Based on recordings of meetings and conversations among Wal-Mart executives, managers and contractors, the law enforcement officials said "various immigration violations had continued to occur with direct knowledge by

the Wal-Mart corporation."

The workers, members of cleaning crews that the company hired through contractors, were arrested as they finished their night shifts at stores in 21 states. All were in the country illegally, according to Garrison Courtney, a spokesman with Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc., based in Bentonville, Ark., is the world's largest retailer.

Wal-Mart spokeswoman Mona Williams said the company got wind of the raids when store managers started calling headquarters Thursday morning.

"They arrested a number of members of the floor cleaning crews. They are (employed by) outside contractors; they're not

Wal-Mart associates," Williams said.

She said the company uses more than 100 third-party contractors for cleaning services in more than 700 stores in the United States. "We require each of these contractors to use only legal workers," she said.

Many of the workers said they were Eastern European and a few were of other ethnicities, Courtney said.

The arrests stem from a November 1998 investigation done in conjunction with the Pennsylvania attorney general's office. That investigation also targeted contractors and sub-contractors used by Wal-Mart to clean stores.

Employers are required to check forms known as I-9's, filled out by every new

employee, and keep the forms for a specified period of time. An employer can face civil and criminal penalties for knowingly hiring illegal immigrants or failing to comply with the I-9 regulations.

Courtney also said officials searched the office of one of Wal-Mart's executives. Williams could not say whether agents conducted a search at the headquarters and said she did not know of any other Wal-Mart administrative offices where searches may have occurred.

"We are currently trying to understand the scope and detail of the investigation. We are talking to (ICE) and are committed to cooperating with them," Williams said. She was unsure how many contractors might be involved.

Speaker: Tenets of faith presented

Continued from page 1

According to the presentation, 20 percent of the world is Islam. Twenty percent of the world is also Chinese.

"Everyone knows something about the Chinese, shouldn't everyone know about Islam," Soliman asked.

Matt Nilson, a freshman political science major, said he found the speech informative.

"I think if you're going to be effective in a job like I want to do, you have to understand something before you can make a law of it," Nilson said.

Soliman presented the audience with an equation to understand the basics of the religion: M+5+6=Muslim. The 'M' signifies the meaning, plus the five deeds plus the six beliefs needed to be an active Muslim participant.

"The linguistic meaning of the word Muslim is surrender, purity and peace," Soliman said. "If any person fully surrenders himself to Allah, he will live in peace and harmony."

The five deeds spoken about included: testimony; performing prayer five times a day; fasting Ramadan, or the giving up of food, drinking and sex from dawn until dusk; pilgrimage; and financial obligation to the religion.

The six beliefs are Allah, his Angels, Messengers, Scriptures, Judgment Day, and Divine Destiny.

Soliman noted that the main messengers of Allah are Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad, Muhammad being the last one and the only one not part of the Christian religion as well. Although Jesus

is thought of highly in the religion, he is simply looked at as an influential figure.

"(Muslims) do not believe any of (the messengers) are the Son of God," Soliman said.

A large part of the Muslim scripture is a book called the "Qura'n." The messenger Muhammad introduced the scripture to the religion. Soliman gave instances of the Qura'n and its mention of modern science such as the orbit of planets in the universe and advancements in Embryology dated within the twentieth century. "This proves the Qura'n is the work of God," he said.

In reference to the Muslim belief of divine destiny, Soliman spoke about the ability of people to stay relatively free from worry.

"A Muslim can get angry and a Muslim can get sad, but never depressed," he said. "Just don't worry, (Allah) already knows."

The pure Islam beliefs give women equality. This includes in society, in the workplace and in law.

"Women are only unequal in specific countries that hold that tradition," Soliman said.

Women are also not required to take the name of their husband.

"(My wife) never took my name and she will never take my name. Women should be keeping their identity," he said.

Some audience members found the speech rather informative.

"(The speech) clarified much of my ignorance about the religion and taught me things I didn't know," Nilson said.

Bryant prosecutors accused of orchestrating media leaks

by **Jon Sarche**
Associated Press

DENVER — Prosecutors in the Kobe Bryant sexual assault case on Thursday angrily accused defense attorneys of leaking sealed details to the media and asked a judge to consider punishing the defense team.

In a court filing, District Attorney Mark Hurlbert said retired state District Judge William Jones learned of sealed information from defense attorney Hal Haddon and gave it to a reporter for the New York Daily News, which ran a story quoting Jones on Oct. 11.

The details — that another man's semen was found in underwear worn by Bryant's accuser — had not yet been brought up in Bryant's preliminary hearing, which ended Oct. 15.

Hurlbert also cited the defense's repeated use of the accuser's name during the hearing and its questioning of the woman's sex history, which is normally kept secret under Colorado's rape shield law.

"In the past two weeks, the defense has been on a campaign to get information in the public domain that has been specifically prohibited by the court," Hurlbert wrote.

Bush thanks Australia for help in war on terrorism

by **Tom Raum**
Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia — Heckled inside and outside Australia's Parliament, President Bush offered a pointed answer to those who say the war with Iraq wasn't worth fighting.

"Who can possibly think that the world would be better off with Saddam Hussein still in power?" Bush asked Wednesday as he wrapped up a six-nation lobbying campaign to reinvigorate the war on terrorism among Asian and Pacific allies.

Bush told a divided Parliament that the war in Iraq was right and inevitable, but that Americans and Australians "still have decisive days ahead" and that the broader war on terror could be long and drawn out. With thousands of anti-war demonstrators protesting outside the building and two hecklers jeering him from within, Bush thanked the government of Prime Minister John Howard for its help in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

"America, Australia and other nations acted in Iraq to remove a grave and gathering danger, instead of wishing and

waiting while a tragedy drew closer," Bush said near the end of an eight-day overseas trip.

Before heading for Hawaii Thursday, Bush observed a ceremony in which soldiers placed a wreath on Australia's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to honor Sgt. Andrew Russell, an Australian soldier who was the first casualty among U.S. allies in Afghanistan.

Bush also met privately with Australian soldiers who fought in Iraq and in Afghanistan, before Howard escorted Bush to the bottom step of Air Force One for the 10-hour flight to Hawaii.

Report: U.S.-funded troops didn't protect downed plane

by **Ken Guggenheim**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Colombian troops trained and armed by the United States under a counternarcotics program failed to clear guerrillas before a U.S. plane fumigating coca crops was shot down last month, a government investigation found.

It also said troops were not close enough to respond once the plane was attacked.

State Department officials who sent the planes on the fatal mission Sept. 21 were unaware of intelligence showing a heavy guerrilla presence in the area, according to a summary obtained by The Associated Press of the report's final draft.

The former head of the department's aviation program, John McLaughlin, cited the report in requesting a congressional investigation of the counternarcotics bureau, which oversees the spraying program.

"Aircrew lives are being put at risk without making use of all available protective measures," McLaughlin said in an Oct. 9 letter to the House Government Reform Committee. McLaughlin retired Oct. 3.

McLaughlin said in his letter that after an American contractor's plane crashed Feb. 13 in guerrilla-controlled territory, rescue helicopters were kept on the ground with engines running for at least 15 minutes.

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Features

Expectations of feel-good film sink in 'Mystic River'

Jason Bayer

High expectations often lead to disappointment. Combine the all-star cast of Sean Penn, Tim Robbins and Kevin Bacon with direction from Clint Eastwood and you expect nothing less than amazing. Depending on what you expect, you may or may not get it.

If you're expecting great performances, you get it. If you are expecting great direction, you get it.

If you are expecting a feel-good movie you can't wait to buy, you don't get it. The movie has an inherently depressing feeling and there are some aspects of the movie making you wonder why there was not a bit more editing.

However, the movie does achieve its main goal of evoking emotion while telling a unique story.

Jimmy (Penn), Dave (Robbins) and Sean (Bacon) were childhood friends. Years later, when a 19-year-old girl is

murdered, they are reunited, but for very different reasons. Jimmy is the father of the girl, Sean is the detective investigating the case and Dave eventually becomes a suspect when he is unable to explain random cuts on his hands and blood found in his car.

All three have a dark, strange connection to each other based on Dave having been abducted for four days when they were young, an event that has seemed to affect both Jimmy and Sean as much as it did him. This connection becomes a constant theme throughout the movie.

The plot continues to get thicker as both Sean and Jimmy seem to get closer to finding the murderer — each planning on doing very different things when they find him.

There is a very human feeling about this movie. Each character carries a considerable amount of emotional baggage and reacts in very realistic ways to the tragedy that has befallen them.

Jimmy, as the father, reacts as any father would: with revenge. The audi-

ence has no choice but to feel for him after losing his daughter, but a closer look at his shady past leads to mixing feelings of irritation with those feelings of sympathy.

After Dave becomes a suspect in the murder, it becomes hard to tell if he shied away from the tragedy because of his emotional imbalance or because he is filled with feelings of regret. He even has trouble expressing his feelings to his wife, who becomes instrumental in the plot after it becomes apparent she isn't convinced of Dave's role in the murder.

Sean has no choice but to remain emotionally uninvolved but shows he is more subtly attached by continually trying to discredit his partner's (Lawrence Fishburne) allegations of Dave being the prime suspect.

There is an interesting amount of symmetry about the three main characters in the movie, though some of it just becomes tedious, as opposed to expanding the story. Each man has a connection to the other two because of

Dave's childhood incident and each has a connection to the murder that is the focus of the plot.

Each has a wife with psychotic characteristics (with Sean's leading the way by frequently calling him but refusing to say anything). And they each feel as though they are somehow responsible for the emotional problems experienced by the other two.

Much of determining whether a crime thriller is a good movie or not depends on how the investigation concludes.

The overall wrap-up of this one proves to be unique in the genre, but at the same time the overall close to the movie leaves the audience wondering why certain scenes are left in. The problem lies not in the presentation of the film, but in trying to determine the message put out by its interesting ending.

It is not easy to criticize a movie combining brilliant performances with a unique plot.

The performances by Penn and Robbins alone are really worth the price



Mystic River

» **Synopsis:** When a nine-year-old girl is murdered, three childhood friends are brought back together for very different reasons.

» **Cast:** Sean Penn, Tim Robbins, Kevin Bacon

» **Director:** Clint Eastwood

» **Running Time:** 137 min.

Rated R for language and violence.

Grade: B-

of admission and easily keep "Mystic River" flowing, yet many audience members will be hard-pressed to gather up the will for a repeat visit.

Jason Bayer writes movie reviews for the Collegiate Times.

Nude senior citizen calendar riles county

by Donnie Johnston
Associated Press

FREDERICKSBURG — Rappahannock County Deputy Sheriff Robbie Fincham was dispatched to Grand View Avenue to investigate a noise complaint Sept 3 at 7:30 a.m.

Fincham quickly found the source for the call, a Harley-Davidson roaring up and down the rural back road in Tiger Valley, a few miles south of Little Washington.

The motorcycle didn't shock the rookie officer who had started work only the day before, but the man operating the bike did. Fifty-four-year-old Peter Kreyling, a county building contractor, was buck naked — except for his shoes.

Fincham stopped the motorcyclist, took a moment to size up the situation and then calmly asked Kreyling, "Where's your helmet?" Fincham would soon find out Kreyling was

involved in a photo shoot for a calendar being put together to raise money for a new track at Rappahannock County High School.

The calendar remains the hottest topic in this rural and picturesque county. From Chester Gap to Harris Hollow to the F.T. Valley, folks are waiting to see more than a dozen local men, some as old as 80, parading around — tastefully, of course — in their birthday suits.

Cathy Kreyling, Peter Kreyling's wife, spearheaded the calendar project and hopes to make enough for a down payment on a \$250,000 track. The Rappahannock County School Board wants no part of the fundraiser. Superintendent Bob Chappell said "the names RCHS Track, RCHS Athletics, the Rappahannock County Public Schools or any indirect reference to our schools or school facilities" could not be used on the calendar.

Poet shares 'Summer' with Blacksburg

by Nicole Smith
Staff Writer

Bookstore employees scrambled to find extra chairs as the crowds of students and faculty gathered at the Volume Two Bookstore last night to meet poet Robert Dana, author of his most recent book of poems, "Summer."

At least 75 people attended the reading and book signing to meet Dana.

The Boston native has won several awards for his poetry and is well known for his writings in the state of Iowa where he currently lives. He recently retired after 40 years as Poet-in-Residence at Cornell College. Dana has been writing poetry for almost 50 years and has published 10 books of poetry and two books of prose.

Katherine Soniat, associate English professor and friend of Dana, introduced the speaker by describing him as a "beach bum."

She told the audience that Dana's summer and beach poems would warm everyone.

"Hello Stranger - Beach Poems" is one of Dana's most popular books.

Dana entertained the audience by reading several of his favorite poems and those poems that are most often requested by audiences. He paused briefly between readings and described anything that he thought would be unfamiliar to the audience, usually historically related. It was a step back in history for some and a bit

of new information for others.

"You know that frogs are disappearing due to mites," Dana said. "The world is out of balance." This was just one of many phrases that he told the audience before he read a certain poem.

With that said, Dana began reading his first poem entitled Summer. As he read, images of summer seemed to surround the audience.

"Everything that concerns me in the world is in this poem ... If you don't like this first poem, don't buy the book," Dana said.

Other selections that Dana read included a poem with Dana's own made-up words. "Little Story" is a representation of what many poets love to do with their own writings.

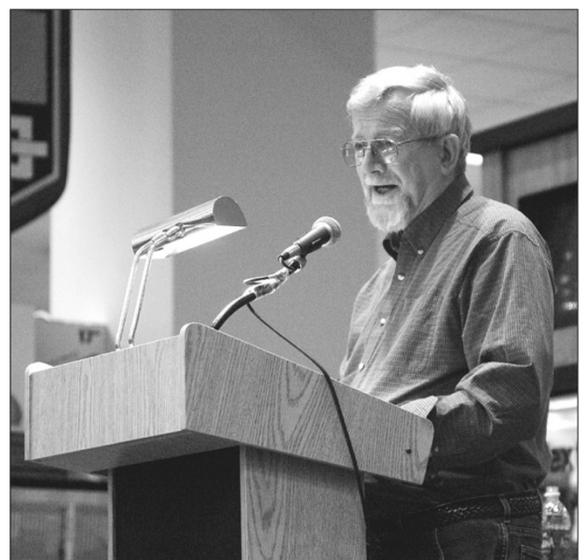
"If you're a poet or a writer and you're not contributing to the language, you're not doing your job, in my opinion," Dana said.

At a time when Blacksburg seems to forget that there is an autumn season and the weather is much more winter-like, Dana came through with a poem to accompany the weather.

"Late October Rainy Days" is a poem filled with vivid descriptions of the trees and changing leaves as Dana observed them in Iowa.

Dana sometimes drew the audience to laughter in between readings with his stories about writing poems, traveling abroad and other situations.

"I spent six weeks in Stockholm, (Sweden), home of the Nobel Prize," Dana said.



ELEANOR HOPSON/SPPS

Robert Dana visited Volume Two Bookstore last night to host a reading and book signing for his newest book of poems.

"I didn't get it ... I went to the hall where they awarded it. I sort of tried out the chairs."

Many of Dana's poems deal with the end of the world and other darker subjects.

"If the world is gonna end, it's gonna end on a perfect day ... when you're looking forward to that gin and tonic or cold beer," Dana said. "Every day I live, I live forever ... you're damn lucky to have it."

Dana said that he wanted to be a writer ever since he was a student at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. This interest

began, he said, because he wanted to be like Ernest Hemingway, and then he realized that he was better at poetry. His new book of poems, "The Morning of the Red Admirals," is due out next March. It is divided into three parts with an essay as the middle section to join together the other two sections of poetry.

Dana advised college student writers to be patient. He said that most poets mature in their mid-30s. "It takes a long time," Dana said. "Gradually I could hear myself ... and I never looked back."

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Editorial NATIONAL ISSUE

Hampton president violates free press

University presidents usually stand up for their students and support student organizations. However, this is not the case at Hampton University. On Wednesday, the student-run newspaper, Script, was confiscated by the administration and prohibited from being distributed. What could the paper have possibly run that was so offensive that the administration prevented distribution?

Apparently, it was because the paper decided to run a letter from the president on the third page instead of the requested front-page slot. What kind of message is the administration sending to young journalists as well as students? If you don't get your way, abuse your position of power. Hampton University President JoAnn Haysbert asked the students to reprint the issue with her letter on front, but they refused. In a university setting, or any learning institution, it is completely unethical to coerce anyone into compromising their beliefs for pure self-gain. Can a president be that egotistical to censor the entire paper just because her letter didn't receive front-page coverage?

When someone submits an article to a newspaper, one cannot dictate the place of that article. The position is based on newsworthiness, that which has the biggest impact on the greatest number of people. The paper decided to run the front-page story that would have reached parents and alumni in town for the university's homecoming week festivities. The story described the clean up of the school cafeteria after more than 100 health violations. The president's letter criticized the media coverage and explained the steps taken by the school to correct the sanitary violations.

The story the Hampton University student paper intended to run was a much better choice than a president's letter making excuses. Freedom of the press includes the right to decide the placement of stories in newspapers.

One would think a president of a university would understand the rights protected by the Ten Amendments in the Bill of Rights.

Criticism of war in Iraq puts American soldiers in danger

Rob Rowland

Saddam Hussein's favorite movie, assuming he has a DVD player in whatever hole in the ground he is currently inhabiting, is probably still "Black Hawk Down." The film depicts the 1993 urban conflict that led to the withdrawal of American forces from Somalia.

The theme of the film, at least as seized upon by Hussein, is that the American resolve to finish what it has started will fade if our troops are made to suffer casualties. Once U.S. and allied soldiers are removed from the invincibility provided to them by superior technology, he reportedly boasted that even strategically insignificant casualties must break the will of the American public and its leaders.

Anyone with any sense for the current patriotism and spirit of the American people knows this line of thinking is hopelessly flawed. We are still the same people who held our ground at Bunker Hill, and who went on to liberate both East and West after being dealt a savage blow at Pearl Harbor.

That tenacity and determination to endure hardships in order to secure future peace and prosperity is part of what makes us who we are. As more than a collection of individuals or mere alignment of states, the American nation does not quit.

And yet, weekly, more American soldiers die. Some of them will never marry or legally enjoy a beer or get the college education that motivated them to enlist.

It must be stated plainly the reason guerilla style resistance continues is that Iraqi fighters and their Islamic militant allies have faith that with each condemning headline American public support inches closer to the breaking point. Each column and editorial by my colleagues at the New York Times that rebukes and besmirches our progress in Iraq registers with the enemy as an acknowledgement of their successes.

Several prominent Democratic candidates for president have repeatedly attacked the present administration's policies on Iraq. What exactly they intend to offer as an alternative course is not as clear as their incessant complaints and criticisms.

They denigrate our leadership and offer little beyond a call to hand immediate control of civil authority to a United Nations still struggling to prove its efficacy.

Those candidates who continue to harp on the illegitimacy of the war and who advocate a wholly unrealistic 18-24 month timeframe for a democratic Iraq are doing nothing short of encouraging hard-line resistance fighters to kill Americans and cooperating Iraqis. They seem to offer, in sharp looking tables on their respective web pages, the promise that the worse reconstruction goes, the sooner we leave.

Token statements by candidates and other legislators about "supporting the troops" are useless. Attacking the legitimacy of their fight and questioning the ability and motives of their leadership is not support.

In the case of Massachusetts Senator Edward Kennedy's recent characterization of the war as "a fraud," the lack of support borders on criminal negligence.

This week, the Congress made noise to the effect that roughly \$10 billion in aid earmarked for improvements to Iraqi infrastructure might be issued as a loan instead of a grant. Though the White House has expressed confidence that the final \$87 billion package will not include IOUs which must be repaid, the dissent is obvious to the world.

Those nations who will attend next week's donor conference, where the United States will seek financial backing for the reconstruction of Iraq, will doubtlessly note the wavering sentiment for finishing the job we started. Resistance fighters in Iraq is another sign that their efforts are draining our will to enact real and lasting liberal change on that country.

Whether it is true or not, the appearance that America will waver or quit while under pressure is what feeds the bombings and attacks which continue to claim the lives of Americans and progressive Iraqis.

Cheap sound bites meant to demonize President Bush and attract voters are not worth American lives and disunity on Capitol Hill for the sake of partisan politics as usual risk the overall mission.

Rob Rowland is a regular columnist for the Collegiate Times.

Politicizing right to life or death despicable

Scott Gayzik

It's getting harder and harder to respect American politics.

Over the last few years, the seemingly endless stream of sex scandals, economic downturns, poorly planned wars and meathead governors have done their share to scrape the last bits of respectability from the depths of the American political barrel.

But just when you thought we hit rock bottom, leave it to the state of Florida to lower the bar.

This week in a sickening display of partisan politics and political opportunism, the state legislature and Governor Jeb Bush made a political circus of one family's personal struggle and stripped a comatose woman of her dignity in the process.

Thirteen years ago, Terri Schiavo's heart momentarily stopped beating. She has been brain dead ever since — unable to sustain life without the aid of machines. At the time of this tragic event, she was 26 years old and had not signed a living will.

Terri's husband, Michael, spent the following years searching for a way to revive his wife, going so far as exploring the possibility of implanting electrodes in her dormant brain to stimulate it.

After years of waiting and many consultations with neurologists, Schiavo turned to the courts to obtain legal permission to end his wife's life.

Despite Schiavo's testimony, the decision to cut the life support is what his wife would have wanted, her parents, Bob and Mary Schindler fought the prospect of euthanasia fiercely.

When a Florida appeals court upheld Mrs. Schiavo's right to die, her parents turned to the state legislature and found some very sympa-

thetic ears in Tallahassee.

Within days of the decision to cut Terri Schiavo's life support, Florida House of Representatives Speaker Johnnie Byrd began championing a bill written exclusively for Schiavo's case.

The bill, strongly backed by right-to-life supporters, would allow the governor to put a halt to euthanizing a patient who had not signed a living will authorizing such a procedure.

The bill was rushed through the state legislature and signed into law by Gov. Bush within 18 hours of being brought to the floor. With this law, Terri Schiavo was put back on life support.

In one day the majority-Republican state legislature and Republican governor overturned a decision the Florida state courts made after five years of careful consideration.

"I really hope we've done the right thing," said Senate President Jim King, fearing the lawmakers may have acted too quickly. "I keep thinking, 'What if Terri Schiavo didn't want this at all?' May God have mercy on us all."

Mrs. Schiavo's opinion on the matter will never be known, but the Florida legislature and Governor remain at fault.

They concocted a law previously non-existent for the sole purpose of overturning the courts ruling — making a mockery of our nation's system of checks and balances.

Was the new legislation — allowing the governor to pass a one-time stay to keep Mrs. Schiavo on life support — another victory for a state with such strong right-to-life backing?

This depends on whose life we're talking about.

Keep in mind, during the 13 years Terri Schiavo spent on life support, the state of Florida executed 33 people.

So are Florida's lawmakers saying

that while the comatose has a right to live, criminals do not? Why didn't Florida's state representatives and senators get up on their soapboxes and save those people's lives?

I don't want to turn this article into an argument for or against capital punishment, but advocating one life while terminating others is obviously hypocritical.

As if the terrible political precedent set in this case wasn't enough, remarkably it gets worse. House Speaker Byrd is also running for United States Senate.

By chance, the Schindler's appeal for help to the state government set the stage for the representative to court conservative votes for his campaign.

Not to miss the opportunity, Byrd and Governor Bush were seen this week with right-to-lifer's like Randall Terry, a prominent anti-abortion leader, rallying to "save Terri Schiavo."

No matter one's personal beliefs, politicizing Schiavo's right to life or death for personal gain is nothing more than a despicable act of grandstanding.

On Wednesday, Gov. Bush stated he is "not trying to play God" concerning the life of Schiavo. But I contend it is exactly what he did. The governor's statement is a fine example of how out of touch both he and his colleges are with reality.

Many neurology experts agree Terri Schiavo will remain in her vegetable state for the rest of her existence.

The only opinion that should matter regarding Schiavo's fate is her husband's, which was upheld by the state's judicial system.

Grave matters like the life of a spouse must be settled far away from politicians and special interest groups.

Scott Gayzik is a regular columnist for the Collegiate Times.

Letters to the Editor

There is no place like VAH-Tech

Would somebody please, please, please tell those fools in the ESPN commentator's box to stop calling us VAH-TECH? It grates on my ears every time I hear it.

I know of no one here in Blacksburg, or no Hokie fan for that matter, who uses the name to refer to this school.

Come on guys, it's VTech or VPI if you really want to go back to the roots.

VAH-TECH sounds like some Harvard man's inability to overcome his elitist drawl. Harvard elitists we are not!

Come on ESPN, get with the program and cut it out.

We're VTech and, Wednesday's

performance aside, proud of it.

Alex Coleman
sophomore,
history and economics

Hokies need support now more than ever

As I sit here staring at a 28-7 loss to West Virginia University, I realize all hopes of a Bourbon Street party are dashed.

However, I also realize this is when our beloved Hokies need us the most.

Last year we lost three straight after an emotional loss; this year needs to be different.

We need to rally around our team and support them for the remaining games.

Yes, we just lost a chance at the

Sugar Bowl, but at the same time we still have a great chance at another awesome road trip.

If Virginia Tech can win out in the Big East we will go to a major BCS bowl, still greatly benefiting us in many aspects.

So I'm asking all Tech students to continue to go to the rest of the home games and cheer even harder than we have been in previous games.

With our support, our nationally ranked program will win the Big East and go to one of four major bowl games.

In other words, pick your head up Hokies and help us finish strong this year.

It's not the end of the world; we will be there next year. Besides, I don't want my senior year to be a total disappointment. Go Hokies!

Matt DuBoise
senior, civil engineering

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Hasbro suing Ghettopoly creator

by Amy Forliti
Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — The company making the Monopoly board game has sued the man who created "Ghettopoly" — a knockoff featuring "playas" who build crack houses on Cheap Trick Avenue instead of hotels on Boardwalk.

The lawsuit by Hasbro Inc. seeks unspecified damages from David Chang, alleging he violated Hasbro's trademarks and copyrights and created "irreparable injury" to Hasbro's reputation.

It also wants the court to order Chang to stop producing and selling Ghettopoly.

"While the genuine Monopoly game has become

a wholesome and respected American icon ... the Ghettopoly knockoff has generated a firestorm of controversy for its highly offensive, racist content," said the filing Tuesday in Providence federal court.

Ghettopoly mimics Monopoly, except game pieces include a gun and marijuana leaf. In place of the "Mr. Monopoly" logo of a man with his arms outstretched, Ghettopoly uses a caricature of a black man holding a submachine gun and bottle of malt liquor.

The game drew outrage from minority leaders this month after it began selling at Urban Outfitters stores. The retail chain stopped its sales of the game, and Yahoo! and eBay notified

Chang they would halt online sales.

"I just can't believe they are doing that," Chang, 28, told The Associated Press. He said he intends to fight the lawsuit.

Chang, who said he is Asian, said he got the idea for the game while watching "MTV Cribs," a television show often features the homes of rap artists.

"I came up with something that has an urban edge," he said. "I didn't make the game to offend anybody."

Chang said he did not know how much money he has made off of Ghettopoly so far.

Hasbro, based in Pawtucket, is the parent company of Parker Brothers, which began producing Monopoly in 1935.

Humor in Robin Hood play appeals to all ages

Jessica Pritchard

The State Your Name Theatre Company, otherwise known as SYNTCo., put on their first production of the year last night, "The Legend of Robin Hood... Sort of," and it was a hit.

There were people of all ages in the audience, including a little girl behind me who I could hear laughing throughout the entire play.

"It was wicked funny," said Mike Stoupa, a freshman psychology major.

SYNTCo. takes a classic play that everyone knows and adds a wild twist with which everyone can relate.

"It's a hilarious twist on a classic," said Megan Seney, a freshman psychology major. The characters are set in a Medieval Environment, but they are constantly making references to the modern world and modern themes, which is partly why it's so entertaining.

It's one of those plays where the humor is so quirky and far-off that you can't

help but laugh.

The jokes, combined with the facial expressions of the characters, are honestly what make the play so great.

There are times when the characters don't need to say anything; their facial expressions say it all.

None of the characters are serious roles. They're all comedic. For instance, Robin Hood and The Sheriff of Nottingham are foils to one another, where you have Robin Hood seeking the princess, and The Sheriff seeking Robin Hood.

However, when you see Michael Schwartz, who plays Robin Hood, standing next to The Sheriff, played by Nick Bell, the irony is blatant, especially seeing how The Sheriff has a soft side to him, to say the least.

As a heads up, there are a few sexual jokes that are made throughout the play, but they are nothing extreme or vulgar.

What makes it so great is that little kids can watch it, and the raunchy jokes go right over their heads, yet the characters are so goofy that they enjoy it

as much as the adults.

If you're looking for something different and exciting to do this weekend, I would strongly recommend seeing this play.

I didn't stop laughing from the second the characters stepped on stage to the time they took their final bow, after switching their ending three different times until they found one that fit just right.

There are going to be three more shows in the Haymarket Theatre this weekend 7:30 p.m. tonight and 2:00 and 7:30 p.m.

Tickets may be purchased at the Squires Ticket Center or at the door. It's \$5 for students, \$3 for kids and \$7 for the general public.

"It's awesome-o-rific!" said Greg Sigmundsson, a junior HTM major.

You know when the play's director, Jesse Bogue, describes his own play as "Fantasmagorical" that it's a keeper.

Jessica Pritchard is a staff writer for the Collegiate Times.

Personal Kennedy photos published

by Deepti Hajela
Associated Press

NEW YORK — They were so historically valuable insurers couldn't even price them: 40,000 negatives of John F. Kennedy and his family taken by his personal photographer, Jacques Lowe.

Lowe kept the negatives secure for decades, finally depositing them in a bank vault at the World Trade Center.

When the towers fell on Sept. 11, 2001, just months after Lowe's death, the vault became part of the rubble.

Miraculously, the vault was found.

But it was empty when Lowe's daughter, Thomasina, went to claim it early last year.

"I was bewildered. I couldn't make sense of what I was seeing," she said. "I was grateful that my dad hadn't had to bear this; it would have

destroyed him."

But thanks to new technologies, Lowe's work was not completely gone.

"Remembering Jack: Intimate and Unseen Photographs of the Kennedys" was published this month, on the 40th anniversary of John F. Kennedy's death.

It is a book of images culled from existing prints and never-before-seen contact sheets.

Photographer Bob Adelman, a longtime friend of Lowe's, began working on a book of Lowe's work shortly after he died in May 2001.

Adelman went through all the contact sheets Lowe kept in his downtown Manhattan studio.

He planned to pick the images for the book from the contact sheets, then print them from the negatives stored in the safe. With the negatives gone, "I was pretty discouraged," Adelman said. But not deterred.

Adelman and Thomasina Lowe thought there might be another way — and they consulted technicians on whether good reproductions could be made from the small contact sheet images.

"It was a real shot in the dark," Lowe's daughter said. "We were really kind of hoping for the best."

What they got exceeded their expectations. Advances in printing and digital technology resulted in a slew of quality images with remarkable clarity.

The contact sheets themselves, some bearing the red pencil marks Jacques Lowe used to identify the images he planned to print, also have been included in the book.

Printing the entire sheet gives viewers the advantage of seeing images that came right before and after the shot selected by Lowe for printing; it has the effect of a movie reel.

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JESSE VON FANGE/SPPS

The State Your Name Theatre Company presented "The Legend of Robin Hood ... Sort of" last night in Haymarket Theatre. This is their first production of the year.

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Beyond Bourbon Street...

Sports



TED MARTELLO/SPPS

The WVU defense harassed Bryan Randall all day, forcing three interceptions and one fumble lost. He was sacked four times.

Penalties, turnovers kill Hokies

After being the least penalized team in the Big East this season, Tech committed 13 penalties for 116 yards

by Brent Anderson
Staff Writer

Call it what you want: an aberration, a hiccup or a glitch in the matrix. The bottom line is a different team in Virginia Tech uniforms showed up in Morgantown, W.Va. on Wednesday night.

The Hokies were dominated and controlled in every aspect of the game as they suffered their first loss of the season in a 28-7 decision before 56,319 fans at Mountaineer Field.

After whipping the Syracuse Orangemen in convincing fashion Oct. 11, most people thought the Hokies would go into this game with great momentum and be seeking redemption for a 21-18 loss they suffered last year in Blacksburg. But penalties and turnovers were the crushing blows throughout the game, and nothing seemed to go Tech's way when they needed it to.

Averaging just over five penalties per game throughout the season, Tech was flagged a season high 13 times for 116 yards Wednesday night.

"I think they were hammering us," said Tech head coach Frank Beamer. "I thought we lost our poise. We've got some guys who are real competitors and they don't want to lose, but that's not the way to get it done either."

As if penalties weren't bad enough for the Hokies, they often came during critical moments. In West Virginia's first series of the game the Tech defense was penalized four times, allowing the Mountaineers to keep their drive alive and gain an early lead which they would never relinquish.

During the third quarter, when the game was still in reach with the Hokies down only 21-

"I thought we lost our poise. We've got some guys that are real competitors and they don't want to lose, but that's not the way to get it done either."

Frank Beamer
Virginia Tech head coach

7, the defense yet again committed three penalties for personal fouls or offside to allow WVU to keep the ball. The Mountaineers capitalized with a touchdown to make the score 28-7 and unofficially end the game.

Fumbles and turnovers were also abundant throughout the game.

Tech fumbled five times on botched snaps or run plays, but the only time they lost the ball proved costly. Quarterback Bryan Randall pitched the ball high to running back Kevin Jones on an option play and WVU recovered. The Mountaineers then proceeded on offense to score a touchdown.

"It was one of those things where you don't get off on the



TED MARTELLO/SPPS

Mountaineer running back Quincy Wilson had 178 yards on 33 attempts against the Tech defense. He also had a score.

right foot, and when things go bad, they really go bad," Randall said. "I just tip my hat to West Virginia because they came out ready to play."

While Randall threw three interceptions on the day — often times when the Hokies were driving down field and or were within range of a field goal — the offense itself never seemed to click and kick it into gear.

The Hokies were dominated at the line of scrimmage on both sides of the ball, yielding 264

yards rushing to WVU while only gaining 65 yards on the ground themselves.

While most Tech students will be cursing the football team either under their breath (or out loud), keep one thing in mind: the Hokies control their own destiny and are still in contention to win the Big East. Wednesday's game was just another indication of this college football season: anything can happen from week to week.

Tech's loss raises concerns for fans



Adam
The Truth
Abramson

The night started out great. Tech received a verbal commitment from George Bell (No. 9-ranked high school running back in the country) who pulled a semi-Kevin Jones commitment. Supposedly he came out in a red headband and undershirt because NC State was the other school gunning for him.

I got together with my fellow Hokies and we discussed all the usual things we talk about before any Virginia Tech game — recruiting, possibility of a national championship and Heisman hopefuls.

Then the first snap was botched and everything foiled from there.

Tech could not do anything right Wednesday, my stomach literally turned upside down as I was suddenly surrounded by

many angry people shouting many angry things.

The game just did not make sense. They could not run, throw, play special teams, tackle, cover the pass or the run, or execute 10 plays without committing a penalty.

Sometimes I try to think, "Okay, it is easy to speak about the troubles but it is another thing to actually be in their shoes," I said when Randall threw the interception while looking for DeAngelo Hall and when the option turned into a shoddy pitch and West Virginia took over on the next play.

Every time Tech started a new drive I couldn't help but think, "This is where the game's momentum will change," and every time West Virginia had the ball I would think, "Our defense will force a turnover." We had done it in the six games prior.

It just never happened. I couldn't watch the last eight minutes of the game. I instead watched the Marlins take game four of the World Series, something of a more positive note.

I was disturbed by a lot of things that happened Wednesday night. The Hokies did not play disciplined football for more than two minutes at a time.

Thirteen penalties for 116 yards are numbers more grave than nightmares I could have about Tech getting shellacked. How many personal fouls were there? They played like goons.

Tech only converted 30 percent of their third downs, a clear sign they could not control the clock or put together a good drive for 60 minutes of football.

Where in the hell was the run that night? Tech has a Heisman candidate and they gave him the ball a total of 11 times? That's absurd, and something should be said about it.

All day in class yesterday I heard people talk about how

"The game just did not make sense. (Tech) could not run, throw, play special teams, tackle, cover the pass or the run, or execute 10 plays without committing a penalty."

the Hokies couldn't run the ball. I don't want to hear that because it is very untrue. Tech is a running football team, and could have been last night if they would have handed the ball off to the

running backs more.

Both Jones and Humes ran the ball a combined 14 times, but averaged five yards per carry. This says to me that if Tech runs the ball two times, we get a first down. Did one of the coaches not see this?

This was a clear resemblance of Mike Martz not handing the ball off to Marshall Faulk; I just could not believe my eyes.

Our display of defense last night looked like a "demolition derby" as my roommate put it. I could not agree more. I don't know if they do something different in West Virginia but it was as if their limbs were made of titanium when the Mountaineers threw a stiff-arm.

I am going to take the coach's side when he knocked Ernest Wilford on the head. It is his job to take command of his players and maybe last night that was his form of it, ugly as it was.

It is a shame Tech's hopes for a national title went down the drain last night to a team they should have been immensely better than.

let the **weekends** last forever

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BERT GREEN/SPPS

Tech tailback Kevin Jones (25) provided one bright spot during Tech's loss, averaging over five yards a carry despite West Virginia's efforts to stop him.

Fickle Tech fans should realize season is not over



Rajan
Hollywood
Nanavati

The season is over. Lets pack up shop. Disband the football team. Turn Lane Stadium into a parking lot, it has no further use other than being utilized by the excess drivers plaguing this campus. Fire Frank Beamer, he's obviously lost his abilities. Cancel the move to the ACC, the football team isn't going anywhere except back to class.

Why? Didn't you hear the news? Virginia Tech lost a game. One game. I mean, what's the point of cheering for Tech now — they're not going undefeated. Who cares about football? Sell your Miami ticket as fast as you possibly can, it's become more worthless than the Russian ruble.

If you can't figure it out right now, I'm being sarcastic. But sadly, as I walked around campus today observing students with their heads hung low like it was a funeral parlor, these same comments were being grumbled among many collective breaths, and they didn't share my humorous view towards all of this. I'm not really sure why our fans are so spoiled and so turncoat.

Most people attending this school right now weren't even here when this team last went undefeated (1999), and even during that season we lost the national championship game. Why does everyone think the season is over just because we lost one game?

Please, don't bring that monumental argument I heard about a half dozen times when people IM'd me at 8 a.m. yesterday morning, still seething from the

loss: "they're overrated."

How dare you. You same fans were the ones beating your chests about our football team's greatness while taking free donuts from the basketball team at insanely early hours of the morning while waiting in line for tickets to watch the Miami game. After one loss, you're not just jumping off the bandwagon; you're denying the bandwagon even existed? Shameful.

Wednesday night was just plain painful. The football team didn't just get beat from start to finish — with the exception of Kevin Jones, Cedric Humes, and Cols Colas, the team flat out didn't make the trip to Morgantown. That was simply another team in Tech's uniforms.

It was pathetic, perhaps the worst loss I have witnessed since Pittsburgh whooped Tech's collective asses two years ago; at least in that game, the one return for a touchdown didn't come from a lateral from a runner who was down (admit it: Robinson never made the lateral legally, he was down). As far as I'm concerned, Tech got shut out Wednesday.

However, the real Tech fans, the true few who still remain are still ready for Miami. The fans (I consider myself one of them) want Miami. I wish I had a shirt that says "Bring on Miami," because as ridiculous as it may have looked after what happened, I would have worn it. I thought Tech could beat Miami Wednesday morning, and as little sense as this makes, I'm sure the Hokies can beat Miami next weekend.

Everyone points to our four game slide last season and thinks that history is itching to repeat. I've heard people refer to it as "Tech tradition" — right, it happens one year since you've been here, and it's tradition now? Give

me a break.

Miami is still a shell of the team they were the last two seasons, when Tech nearly knocked them off twice with teams that weren't as good as the Tech team is now. Pittsburgh can score on anyone, but the problem is they don't know how to stop anyone either.

I know from personal conversation, DeAngelo Hall is waiting for the chance to cover Larry Fitzgerald.

Do you not realize that if Tech beats Miami and Pittsburgh, we're in the driver's seat to go to the Orange or Fiesta (also known as BCS) bowls? So what if your hotel room reservations for January are no longer useful (trust me, I ran into at least a half dozen people after the game who said they had already reserved rooms to watch the Sugar Bowl), there are other games besides the national championship.

If Tech beats Miami and Pittsburgh, victories over Temple and Boston College (the home finale of the season) should fall in place. That mean's they're Big East champions, and we're guaranteed a spot in a BCS bowl.

Think about this: after Tech lost Wednesday night, there are only four teams in the nation who do not have a loss, and two of them have a snowball's chance in hell of making a BCS bowl.

If someone like USC, Florida State or Georgia drops another game (all of which very well could happen), and Tech knocks off Miami, they could still end up in the national championship.

Oklahoma is not losing this season, so everyone is fighting for the right to play them. Hokie fans just have to realize that even if Tech doesn't get that opportunity, there's more to Tech football than getting drunk on Bourbon Street.

No actions taken against coach Beamer for sideline altercation

STAFF — The Virginia Tech athletics department released a statement Thursday afternoon stating that there will be no actions taken against Tech head coach Frank Beamer regarding an incident where a verbal exchange on the sidelines between he and receiver Ernest Wilford ended with Beamer slapping Wilford on the top of his helmet.

"The administration and I agree that this single incident is not reflective of how Frank has conducted business throughout his coaching career," said Tech director of athletics Jim Weaver. "I know that following the game he apologized to Ernest and that the apology was accepted and remains so."

Beamer also shared his sentiments that the action was made in the heat of battle, and expressed deep regret for his actions.

"I very much regret my actions. There is no one I respect more in my football program than Ernest Wilford" Beamer said.

"I should have shown him better respect. It came at a very frustrating time for all of us, but that still does not excuse my actions."

Wilford said he accepts the

apology, and hopes to put the incident behind the two of them and the team after the prepare for the Hokies next game against the University of Miami on Nov. 1.

"I respect him as a man, I respect him as a coach. Now it's time to move on and regroup" Wilford said.

The actions came in the wake of Tech's first loss of the season, a 28-7 contest Wednesday night against Big East rival West Virginia.

"I very much regret my actions. There is no one I respect more in my football program than Ernest Wilford. I should have shown him better respect."

Frank Beamer
Tech head coach

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Mere:
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Mister Wolff,
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JP -
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CT Sports Picks

■ All's fair in love and football.

This is week eight of the 2003 CT sports picks. Check out www.collegiatetimes.com for more of the staff's sports picks—including those on staff whose picks failed to make the cut this week.

											
Adam Abramson Associate Sports Editor	Zoe Mathias Copy Editor	Aaron Blackwell Associate News Editor	Robert Drake Photo Editor	Kumar Malhotra Sports Editor	Bryan Nieder News Assistant	Jeremy Doehnert Editor in Chief	Lauren Angelucci Copy Editor	Rajan Nanavati Sports Editor	Tiffany Hoffman Managing Editor	A.J. Mandracchia Managing Editor of Design	Jana Renn Sports Assistant

NFL												
Dallas @ Tampa Bay Denver @ Baltimore NY Giants @ Minnesota Carolina @ New Orleans Cleveland @ New Eng. Detroit @ Chicago Seattle @ Cincinnati St. Louis @ Pittsburgh Buffalo @ Kansas City Miami @ San Diego	Tampa Bay Baltimore Minnesota Carolina New England Detroit Seattle St. Louis Kansas City Miami	Tampa Bay Baltimore Minnesota New Orleans New England Detroit Seattle Pittsburgh Kansas City Miami	Tampa Bay Denver Minnesota Carolina New England Chicago Seattle St. Louis Kansas City Miami	Tampa Bay Denver Minnesota Carolina New England Detroit Seattle St. Louis Kansas City Miami	Tampa Bay Baltimore Minnesota Carolina New England Detroit Seattle Pittsburgh Kansas City Miami	Tampa Bay Denver Minnesota Carolina New England Chicago Seattle St. Louis Kansas City Miami	Tampa Bay Denver NY Giants Carolina New England Detroit Seattle St. Louis Buffalo Miami	Tampa Bay Denver Minnesota Carolina Cleveland Detroit Seattle Pittsburgh Kansas City Miami	Tampa Bay Denver Minnesota Carolina New England Chicago Seattle St. Louis Kansas City Miami	Tampa Bay Denver Minnesota Carolina New England Chicago Seattle St. Louis Kansas City Miami	Tampa Bay Baltimore Minnesota Carolina New England Chicago Seattle St. Louis Kansas City Miami	Tampa Bay Baltimore Minnesota Carolina New England Chicago Seattle St. Louis Kansas City Miami
NCAA												
Purdue @ Michigan Tennessee @ Alabama Auburn @ LSU Arkansas @ Mississippi OK. St. @ Texas A&M USC @ Washington Texas Tech @ Missouri Notre Dame @ BC N. Ill. @ Bowling Green	Michigan Tennessee LSU Arkansas Oklahoma St. USC Texas Tech Boston College Bowling Green	Michigan Alabama LSU Arkansas Texas A&M USC Texas Tech Notre Dame Northern Ill.	Michigan Tennessee LSU Arkansas Texas A&M USC Texas Tech Notre Dame Northern Ill.	Purdue Tennessee LSU Mississippi Texas A&M USC Missouri Notre Dame Northern Ill.	Michigan Tennessee LSU Arkansas Oklahoma St. USC Texas Tech Boston College Bowling Green	Purdue Tennessee LSU Arkansas Oklahoma St. Washington Missouri Boston College Northern Ill.	Michigan Tennessee Auburn Arkansas Oklahoma St. USC Texas Tech Boston College Bowling Green	Michigan Tennessee LSU Mississippi Oklahoma St. USC Missouri Notre Dame Northern Ill.	Michigan Alabama Auburn Arkansas Oklahoma St. USC Texas Tech Boston College Northern Ill.	Purdue Tennessee LSU Mississippi Oklahoma St. USC Missouri Notre Dame Northern Ill.	Michigan Tennessee LSU Mississippi Oklahoma St. USC Texas Tech Boston College Northern Ill.	Michigan Tennessee LSU Mississippi Oklahoma St. USC Texas Tech Notre Dame Northern Ill.
Game of the Week World Series: Game 6 Marlins @ Yankees	Marlins	Yankees	Yankees	Yankees	Yankees	Yankees	Yankees	Yankees	Yankees	Marlins	Yankees	Yankees
Overall Record Last Week	90-50 10-10	88-52 13-7	88-52 12-8	85-55 12-8	85-55 9-11	84-56 13-7	84-56 12-8	84-56 7-13	83-57 11-9	83-57 11-9	82-58 11-9	81-59 13-7
Comments	Last weekend let me down like VT did. Props to Quan for winning the tourney on the gridiron. I wanna rock...	I'm in New Orleans and I could care less about sports picks this week. Happy Birthday A-ron!	Yes, I moved up. Consistency is key folks. How is it down there, Tiff?	I keep on climbing, others keep on falling. We shall see how well my pics are with out "T", my good luck charm.	Bye Week = No loos for Skins Gotta make amends for my horrible outing last week...DH im comin fo' ya	What's better than a K.C. pun: "You're the chief team in my life!?" A steamy Cleveland Browns slogan.	Double Down football, kinda like the Bucs. Lots of D, no offense.	Way to represent copy 3!	Shout out to PSCI's flag football team and our suffocating, tenacious D... How about them apples, German Club?	Testin' my own luck with advice from no one. Especially Rajan. And Aaron. Cuz they suck.	Holla, J. I didn't pick the Yankees because you told me to.	I'm back in the bigs!! Watch out, Adam.

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