

Black alumni group upset by Frank Beamer's actions

■ There has been no response to the group and the university says none is intended because the incident is not an 'actionable offense'

by **Christina Peña**
News Assistant

A group called the Ad Hoc Committee of the Virginia Tech Black Alumni Network sent a complaint to the media last Friday concerning last week's football game, when head coach Frank

Beamer hit Ernest Wilford on his helmet.

The complaint compared the incident at the game to a professor hitting a student in a classroom.

"We cannot imagine that university administration would remain silent if a professor struck a student in the classroom," said the members of the committee in a statement to President Steger.

"And the university should not remain silent when a coach assaults a player during a school-sanctioned sporting event."

University officials, however, believe no comparison between the two could

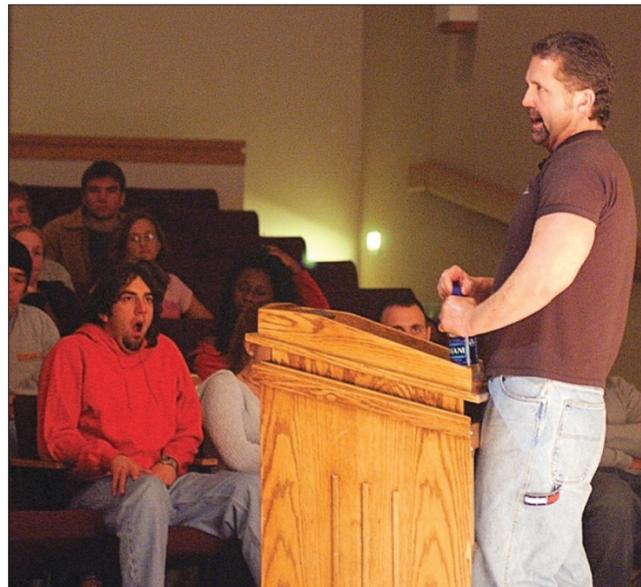
be made.

"It is absurd to equate a tap on the helmet to assault and abuse," said Larry Hincker, university spokesman.

While the statement issued by the committee expressed respect for Beamer and his work with the football program, they said they hoped the university administration would release a statement reprimanding Beamer for his actions and reassuring the community that the university will not tolerate abuse of students and athletes.

"At a time when major college pro-

See **ALUMNI**, page 2



ANDREW FULLER/SPPS

Actor and stuntman Kane Hodder played Jason in four "Friday the 13th" movies and shared his experiences in Squires Colonial last night.

Jason actor adds dialogue to clips

by **Phil Comey**
Associate Features Editor

There was no mask, big machete, or creepy music, but there were a lot of laughs.

Kane Hodder, who played Jason in four of the "Friday the 13th" films, came to talk and show his movie clips at Squires Colonial Hall, last night.

Students came to see the horror movie icon and meet the person that scared them in their childhood dreams.

"He used to scare me pretty bad when I was a little kid," said Souli Thong, a freshman University Studies major.

Soon into the show, however, Hodder proved he wasn't there to scare as he made the audience laugh with his voice-over commentary of some "Friday the 13th" clips.

"You never hear Jason talk, so when I show these video clips, I'm pretty much going to tell you what he is thinking," Hodder said.

One clip showed Jason cutting through the side of a tent in the

woods with his machete.

"Well, I couldn't really find the front door, so I just decided to come through this way," Hodder said.

Other clips shown included some of his stunts and acting roles in movies not as well known as "Friday the 13th."

One clip showed the stuntman playing various ninjas fighting and dying within the movie, "American Ninja 2: The Confrontation."

Born in Auburn, Calif., the actor said he began his profession as a stuntman by pulling pranks in high school, including hanging off a balcony to scare his friends.

"I realized later in life, hey, some people will pay good money for this type of stuff," Hodder said.

For some die-hard fans, seeing Hodder also provided a chance to see rarely seen footage of the "Friday the 13th" movies, which offer more violent versions of the original film.

"I've been a Jason fan since '81. I've always wanted to see the uned-

See **JASON**, page 2



ROBERT DRAKE/SPPS

Approximately 130 people gathered on the Drillfield on Friday to spell out 'VT Women' for the cover of the Women's Center's calendar. Because of low participation, the organization spelled out each letter of 'women' individually.

'VT Women' event draws 130

by **Erin Zlomek**
News Assistant

The Women's Center and their supporters occupied the Drillfield on Friday, in an effort to spell out "VT WOMEN" for a photograph taken atop Burruss Hall.

The picture will cover the center's "Cool Women of Virginia Tech 2004 Calendar," which will be sold in honor of the Women's Center's 10th anniversary.

"The calendar is a celebration of women here at Tech," said Women's

Center Counseling and Advocacy Coordinator Christine Dennis.

Women's Center Volunteer Coordinator Penny Cook said she wanted this photo to be a statement made by the university to help the Center support its 10 years on campus and as a way to recognize the various ways women are involved at Tech.

Original plans for the picture were altered when a smaller crowd than expected turned out for the photo.

Approximately 130 people showed up to spell out "VT."

In order to make up for a lack of bodies, a series of separate pictures were taken to spell out WOMEN. The final image will be edited to produce the original desired effect.

Cook said extensive advertising efforts went into recruiting people for the picture.

Flyers, an e-mail listserv and personal invitations to student organizations were all issued to bring in as many bodies as possible.

"I really thought a lot more people

See **WOMEN**, page 2

Up in smoke



BYRON KENNERLY/SPPS

Tech's Department of Environmental, Health and Safety Services set fire to a simulated residence hall room to raise awareness for fire prevention month.

Memorial held for Dietrick employee killed in fire

by **Eric Beidel**
Associate News Editor

Employees and family members gathered yesterday in Dietrick Dining Hall to remember a fellow employee who died Thursday after his trailer burned down.

Steven Cook, 31, an employee at Dietrick Express, died at the University of Virginia Medical Center from burns received in a fire that occurred early Saturday morning.

Cook and Duane Duncan, 39, also an employee at Express and Cook's roommate, were airlifted to the UVA Burn Center following the fire.

Duncan was in serious condition as of Monday evening, according to a hospital spokesperson.

The fire completely incinerated the trailer in Clayton Estates, said Lt. Bruce Bradbery of the Blacksburg Police Department.

The cause of the fire was ruled accidental, Bradbery said.

Cook apparently fell asleep with a lit cigarette around 5:30 a.m., said Denny Luz, assistant manager of the Express.

Duncan left the trailer to warn a neighbor before returning in an attempt to save Cook, Luz said.

See **FIRE**, page 3

NLCF addresses controversial issues

■ The Christian group has been addressing topics such as homosexuality, other religions and the environment since Oct. 12 in a series they call 'The Hate People'

by **Ryan Ferris**
Staff Writer

New Life Christian Fellowship has been addressing many topics since Oct. 12 in a series of services called, "The Hate People."

In each of the past three services, NLCF Pastors Jim Pace and Chris Backert have examined the Christian perspective on a number of topics, including other religions, homosexuality and the environment. The next, and last, event in this series will explore Christianity's attitude toward women.

Backert, who spoke at Sunday's service and will speak again this weekend, said there are many misconceptions about what it means to be a Christian.

"A lot of people will say, 'I don't want to be a Christian because that means I'm going to become arrogant or bigoted or a bad person,'" Backert said. "And that's really far from it."

Backert said Pace's talk on homosexuality particularly resonated with students. Pace said he believes Christians should respond to the gay community even if they disagree about whether or not it is God's will.

"God is not picking on one particular group of people," Pace said.

As students filed into Squires Colonial Hall for Sunday's environmental event, they were surprised to discover newspapers, plastic soda bottles and cardboard scraps littering the aisles and the floor surrounding the stage. Near the end of the service, during a song, a group of students wearing blaze-orange vests entered and began sweeping up the trash to illustrate the importance of environmental awareness.

During the service, Backert talked about vegetarianism

See **NLCF**, page 3

News in Brief

Two teens fatally shot in Richmond

RICHMOND (AP) — Two teenagers were fatally shot in seemingly unrelated incidents in a span of 24 hours, police said.

Sixteen-year-old Travell Terry of Highland Springs was shot and killed on a busy street in north Richmond Sunday afternoon. Another youth, whose name was not released, was wounded in the leg. He was being treated at VCU Medical Center, police said.

The other teenager who was killed, 15-year-old Martel Morrow of Richmond, was shot Saturday night on a street in the city's East End.

Va. altering policy on liquor stores

RICHMOND (AP) — Virginia will consider the proximity of schools, churches and other establishments when deciding where to locate its state-run liquor stores and will seek input from the community, officials said.

Previously, the Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage and Control only had to consider market factors — such as household income in a particular area and the profit potential of an outlet — before opening an ABC store.

States challenge EPA rules

WASHINGTON (AP) — Twelve states and several Northeast cities sued the

Environmental Protection Agency on Monday to try to block the Bush administration's changes to the Clean Air Act.

EPA's new rule makes it easier to upgrade utilities, refineries and other industrial facilities without installing additional pollution controls.

The rule, which was proposed last December and signed by EPA's administrator in August, was made final on Monday.

Case of starved boys investigated

COLLINGSWOOD, N.J. (AP) — State officials were investigating whether a case worker ignored evidence that four malnourished boys were being starved by their adoptive parents to determine if criminal charges should be filed, the governor said Monday.

The boys' adoptive parents were arrested Friday and were being held on four counts of aggravated assault and 14 counts of child endangerment.

School suspends toddler for biting

HAMPTON (AP) — A 2-year-old child was suspended from an elementary school where he receives speech therapy after officials said he bit another child twice in two days.

Cathy Crowther said she received a letter on Oct. 14 saying that her son, Beau, bit another child at Tucker-Capps Elementary School, and that disciplinary action would be taken if the problem persisted.

Jason: Actor shows unedited film tapes

Continued from page 1

ited footage that I've heard he bring when he speaks," said Virginia Tech alumni George Probst. Hodder showed one clip of Jason crushing someone's skull, with the original version showing nothing more than a trickle of blood.

However, the unedited version offered a gory footage that audiences in the theater didn't get to see.

"I wish the film quality on this clip was better, that way

you could see the eyeball fly out of his skull," Hodder said.

Throughout the show, the actor made fun of himself pointing out the lower ends of his acting repertoire.

"I played a character in a show called 'She Spy,' which you could probably consider the lower version of 'VIP.'"

Hodder also addressed the decision by the makers of "Freddy vs. Jason" to use someone else to play Jason, and expressed his discontent.

"It's insulting to me and

insulting to fans to act like no one cares who plays Jason," Hodder said.

The stuntman also told the audience that even though doing the stunts were fun for him, sometimes, they were a bit more dangerous than he expected.

"They said the roof that was gonna collapse on me was made of 10 percent Balsa wood, but when it fell, it felt like a lot more than that," Hodder said.

One stunt done by Hodder

proved particularly dangerous, and injured him seriously.

"I was burned over 40 percent of my body doing a fire stunt in one movie," Hodder said.

The actor said he wants to continue scaring audiences and hopes to play Michael Myers in the next Halloween movie.

Aside from the character Jason, the stuntman has played minor roles in films such as "Daredevil," and has done stunts for movies like "Gone with the Wind."

Alumni: University is sticking to statement

Continued from page 1

grams are under public scrutiny for the way athletes are exploited merely for their athletic ability, we believe that this is an opportunity for the university administration to demonstrate its commitment to maintaining a healthy environment for student athletes to reach their athletic and academic potential free of exploitation or abuse," the statement said.

The university, however, is sticking to its previous statement issued last week that there was no "actionable offense" committed by Beamer during last week's game.

"The statement from the president and athletics department still stands," Hincker said.

Tom Tillar, vice president for alumni relations, said the Black Alumni Network consists of active leaders among black

alumni.

"They are an official group of black alumni who are developing alumni programs for black alumni across the nation," he said. "It is an official group."

However, the statement mentioned only one member, Brian Roberts, from the organization, and the statement was signed as the "Concerned Members of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Virginia Tech Black Alumni Network." No other members were mentioned or listed as contacts.

Hincker said no response to the organization from the university has been made and one is not expected. Roberts said he hopes a response will come soon and action will be taken reprimanding Beamer.

"The university is not a place where athletes and students should fear they could be struck," Roberts said.

Women: Men also in attendance

Continued from page 1

would show up," said Rachel Mikulas, a junior engineering science mechanics major.

"But I think an edited version of the photo will do just as well."

Those making appearances included members of the LGBTA, campus police, Women's Center volunteers, the Asian American student union and the Hokie Bird, among others.

Some students said they simply showed up to support the involvement of women on campus.

"Women are a minority here at Tech," Mikulas said.

"The stigma is still out there that men are allowed to do certain jobs women can't. We have to keep promoting."

Mikulas said she was pleased to see members of the male community out as well.

"I think it's good that men are out here saying in an open way they support equal rights," she said.

The finished calendar will be sold by the Women's Center to cover production costs only.

The Office Managers Development Group, the five women of the Tech police, Theta Nu Psi, Sigma Psi Zeta and women in dining services will all be showcased in the calendar.

"It is a representation of all the women on campus, students, staff and faculty," Cook said.

"Each month we are going to feature a group of women and their many roles here at Tech."

STOCK MARKET REPORT — 10/27/2003 —		WEATHER		TODAY	TONIGHT	WEDNESDAY	WEDNESDAY NIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
DJIA	9608.16 ▲ 25.70	WEATHER	 Mostly sunny, becoming cloudy Highs: 56° - 60°	 Cloudy Lows: 35° - 40°	 Partly cloudy, breezy Highs: 55° - 62°	 Partly cloudy Lows: 40° - 45°	 Partly cloudy 40°/66°	 Partly cloudy 42°/63°	
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NLCF: Group stresses environment

Continued from page 1

and population control, stressing the necessity of a scriptural view of the environment.

In addition to sermons, the services featured video clips and a live band.

The band, led by Cory Mansfield of the church on campus, performed a variety of inspirational songs, to which students and community members eagerly clapped and sang along.

"We try to do a lot of creative stuff, because we believe God gives us five senses," Backert said. "And we want

to try to use as many of those senses as we can to make scripture relevant and come alive."

To spread the word about "The Hate People" events, NLCF created bright red postcards bearing controversial images and mailed them to dormitories and apartments in Blacksburg.

NLCF, which Backert describes as a community of people who are trying to follow Jesus, holds weekly gatherings in Colonial Hall at 10:30 a.m. and 7:07 p.m.

"We are trying to be a blessing," Backert said.

Fire: Co-workers reflect on Cook's humor

Continued from page 1

Duncan received third-degree burns to 50 percent of his body, mostly from the waist up.

He contracted pneumonia and slipped back into a coma yesterday, Luz said.

Cook received worse than third-degree burns on over 90 percent of his body and had his lungs completely seared, he said.

Cook brought an uplifting sense of humor and hard work ethic to the Express for over two years, Luz said. He and Duncan both worked the late night shift at the Express from 6 p.m. to 2:30 a.m.

"We're understaffed and it's a small area so the job is very stressful, but Steve and Duane always kept things lively," Luz said. "Steve was a crackup."

Yesterday, candles were lit and songs were played in the dining area in Dietrick.

"Go Rest High on That Mountain" by Vince Gill was played.

A few co-workers also took the chance to speak fondly of Cook, including Martha Smith, who worked with Duncan and Cook over the course of the last year.

Smith read a poem she wrote called "A Moment in Time" in honor of Cook. In it, she alluded to Cook's off-color pranks and the dirty jokes he would tell in the kitchen.

"Steve was a sweet person," she said. "At times, he and Duane were the highlight of my day."

Luz said some nights Cook handled the grill all by him-

"We're understaffed and (The Express) is a small area so the job is very stressful, but Steve and Duane always kept things lively. Steve was a crackup."

Denny Luz
assistant manager,
Dietrick Express

self, serving the 1,600 to 2,000 students who came through the Express each night.

"He was my main cook," he said. "He could and did run that place by himself many nights. I can't say enough about Steve and Duane. They were both excellent employees."

Ariel Lotz, Dietrick Hall office specialist, said both men made the night shift at the Express run as smoothly as possible, providing humor when things got tough.

"They were night owls and they were very well-loved by all the employees," she said. "They were the backbone of the Express."

A service for Cook will be held today. He will be buried Wednesday, Luz said.

Calif. wildfires kill 13, destroy 900 homes

■ The wildfires are driving across Southern California putting thousands of people in danger, sparking the worst death toll since 1991

by **Seth Hettena**
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The hot Santa Ana wind driving wildfires across parts of Southern California eased Monday but officials warned that there was still a threat from the flames that had devoured entire neighborhoods and killed at least 13 people.

Gov. Gray Davis announced he was activating the National Guard, calling on more resources from neighboring states and predicted the cost of the fires would be in the billions.

More than 900 homes had been destroyed and an estimated 30,000 others were still in danger, officials said.

The blazes scattered from the Mexican border to the suburbs of Los Angeles had triggered a harrowing flight to safety for thousands of residents, along with hospital patients and prison inmates.

"I was grabbing wet towels. Fire was at our feet. It was blazing over our heads and burning everywhere," said Lisza Pontes, 43, recounting her Sunday morning escape from

a fire in San Diego County.

The death toll was the state's worst since the 1991 fire in the Oakland hills of Alameda County that killed 25 and destroyed more than 3,200 homes and apartments.

Many of those who died had waited until the last minute to flee, Sheriff Bill Kolender said Monday. "When you are asked to leave, do it immediately. Do not wait," he said at a news conference.

Airline travel was disrupted, major highways were blocked and some schools were closed. Monday night's pro football game between the Chargers and Dolphins was shifted from San Diego to Arizona.

At least one of the fires was believed to be a result of arson. "That's an evil move. What kind of fun is that, to put so many lives in danger," said Steven Herrera, 41, of Pinecrest.

Authorities said the fierce Santa Ana wind appeared to be easing. The National Weather Service canceled wind advisories in Los Angeles and Ventura counties, and Los Angeles Fire Chief William Bamattre said fire crews were taking advantage of the change to go on the attack.

Gusts of up to 45 mph still were possible in canyons. San Diego City Fire Chief Jeff Bowman said he was concerned that three fires that incinerated 460 homes and 150,000 acres in the surrounding county would merge into a super fire.

The Santa Ana wind season usually

stretches from September through February, with October often the strongest. The rainy season could start any time but heavier rainfall is not likely until January.

The blazes had charred more than 400,000 acres, or 625 square miles — more than half the size of the state of Rhode Island — of dense, dry brush and trees. More than 7,000 firefighters battled the spreading flames.

To the south, two deaths were blamed on forest fires near Mexico's port city of Ensenada, about 50 miles south of Tijuana, authorities said Monday. Officials said 10 houses were destroyed and 290 people were evacuated.

In San Bernardino County, a blaze called the Old Fire, which had destroyed more than 400 homes, torched 25 more when it jumped a road and moved into the heavily forested town of Crestline, fire information officer Candace Vialpando of the U.S. Forest Service said Monday.

Shortly before 6 a.m. Monday, an 80,000-acre blaze in suburban Simi Valley, 35 miles northwest of Los Angeles, jumped a highway and came within yards of several homes before firefighters began to get the upper hand. Schools in the city of 110,000 people were closed Monday because of the fire, which already had destroyed six homes.

Nine people had been killed by the 100,000-acre Cedar Fire in San Diego County. About 260 homes, ranging from modest to expensive, were destroyed.

String of car bombs strike Baghdad

by **Charles Hanley**
Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Suicide bombers struck the Red Cross headquarters and three police stations across Baghdad on Monday, killing about 40 people and injuring more than 200 in a coordinated terror spree that stunned the Iraqi capital on the first day of the Islamic holy month of fasting, Ramadan.

The string of car bombings was the bloodiest attack yet in the city of 5 million by insurgents targeting the American-led occupation and those perceived as working with it.

President Bush said U.S. progress in Iraq is making insurgents more "desperate" and fueling attacks. Sitting next to civilian U.S. Iraqi administrator L. Paul Bremer in the Oval Office, Bush said he remains "even more determined to work with the Iraqi people" to restore peace and civility to the wartorn nation.

Defense officials said they believe loyalists of fallen Iraqi President Saddam Hussein were responsible for the wave of bombings. At the Pentagon, officials described the two days

of violence as a significant spike in attacks that showed some level of coordination.

One American soldier was killed in one of the police station attacks and six U.S. troops were wounded, the military said. Iraqi police Brig. Gen. Ahmed Ibrahim, the deputy interior minister, put the Iraqi death toll at 34.

The bombings came hours after clashes around Baghdad killed three U.S. soldiers overnight, and a day after insurgents hit a hotel full of U.S. occupation officials with a barrage of rockets, killing a U.S. colonel and wounding 18 other people. U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz was in the hotel, but was unhurt.

"We feel helpless when we see this," a distraught Iraqi doctor said at the devastated Red Cross offices. The Red Cross said 12 Iraqis were killed at its office, including two employees.

Baghdad's al Baya'a police station in the al-Doura neighborhood saw the most deaths, reportedly 15 including the American. Since Bush declared an end to major combat in Iraq on May 1, 113 U.S. soldiers have been killed by hostile fire.

Cousin: Muhammad searched for bullets

■ The sniper suspect's cousin said he was looking for rifle bullets prior to the shootings in D.C.

by **Sonja Barisic**
Associated Press

VIRGINIA BEACH — A cousin of sniper suspect John Allen Muhammad testified Monday that Muhammad was looking for rifle bullets during a visit to Baton Rouge, La., that preceded last year's sniper spree.

Charlene Anderson, a first cousin of Muhammad and a police officer at Southern University in Baton Rouge, testified that she allowed Muhammad and fellow sniper suspect Lee Boyd Malvo to stay in her home for a few days in late summer 2002. She said she eventually asked them to leave because she was uncomfortable with Malvo's presence.

"I felt very uneasy about Malvo. I just had a bad feeling about him," said Anderson, who said she did not express

her concerns to Muhammad.

Anderson said that while Muhammad was there he told her he was on a special undercover operation to recover plastic explosives that had disappeared from the military and that Malvo was "a highly trained" person accompanying him on the mission.

Muhammad showed her a rifle, which he kept locked in a large duffel bag, and asked Anderson if she knew where he could buy bullets for the rifle. She said she told him that she did not know.

Anderson said her cousin, who used to call her "Toots" when they grew up together in Baton Rouge, looked and acted oddly.

"He didn't look well dressed and clean like he normally did," Anderson said.

Court began Monday with testimony from a woman who said she saw Malvo at the scene of a fatal shooting in Baton Rouge.

Tina Leonard of Baton Rouge said she is certain she saw Malvo standing over the body of Hong Im Ballenger, who was fatally shot Sept. 23 outside a beauty store she managed.

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Features

Fraternity event goes to the dogs

by Ashley Crockett
Associate Features Editor

Dog days aren't just for summer anymore.

On Thursday, Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity began its three-day philanthropy event, Dog Days.

In conjunction with the Humane Society of Montgomery County, the brothers of Alpha Sigma Phi hosted a Pet-A-Thon outside Owens Food Court from 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Thursday.

"At our national convention, some of our executive council members heard of this type of project used as a fundraiser and we entertained the idea for several semesters," said Jon Yobs, a senior business information and technology major and project coordinator for the event.

Participants paid \$2 to pet and play with dogs from the HSMC.

"The Humane Society is always in need of funding," said Chris Brandewie, first vice president for the HSMC. "We don't get any support from the government or county and we are a no-kill shelter."

Aside from the Pet-A-Thon, the fraternity held a bachelor auction at Top of the Stairs on Friday and a chili cook-off Saturday.

"We've always talked about doing a bachelor auction," Yobs said. "The opportunity popped up this semester, so we figured we'd give it a try."

"The chili cook-off idea came up during a committee meeting, and we jumped right on it. All three events went very well, and we're in the process of planning next year's Dog Days to be even better and more successful."

The fraternity's goal was to raise \$2,000 to donate to the HSMC.

"Ironically, we collected just over \$2,000 through both the Pet-A-Thon and our bachelor auction," Yobs said.

This is the first year Alpha Sigma Phi has held a philanthropy event for a local cause.

"It's always nice to send a check to a national fund, but even though they appreciate the donation, a few thousand bucks is just a drop in the bucket," Yobs said.

"The HSMC is a truly worthy cause, and we are proud to make this donation to them."

Alpha Sigma Phi President John Bergeson, a senior electrical engineering major, also liked the idea of helping a local cause.

"By helping the HSMC, we are hoping to build a strong, lasting relationship where we can continue to make a difference and where we can continue to see the positive changes that our relationship provides for the animals at the humane society," Bergeson said.

The fraternity attributes the event's success to the generosity of Virginia Tech students and the popularity of the event itself, and said they are pleased



ANNABELLE OMBAC/SPPS

Alpha Sigma Phi brothers, along with the Humane Society of Montgomery County, raised over \$2,000 for a local shelter.

with the results of the charitable affair.

"We were able to surpass our goal of \$2,000 because of the generous nature of the students here at Virginia Tech,"

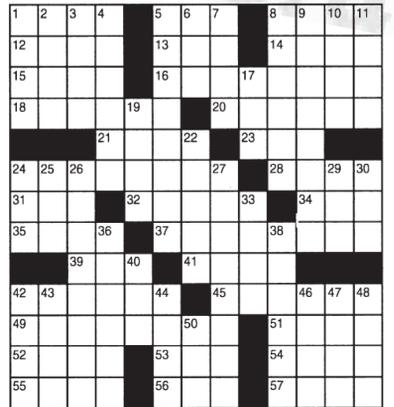
Bergeson said.

"Bringing the dogs out in the public eye really helped people see exactly who and what their money would be supporting."

Today's Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Hoover Dam lake
- 5 "Hogwash!"
- 8 Bouquet
- 12 - Domini
- 13 Work with Sarah McLachlan song
- 15 Catcher's aid
- 16 St. Patrick's Day emblem
- 18 Proclamations
- 20 Imbibes
- 21 Pledge
- 23 - Francisco
- 24 Hair-care products
- 28 Succor
- 31 Young seal
- 32 Dalmatian's decorations
- 34 Meadow
- 35 "It shouldn't happen to -"
- 37 Scene of great disorder
- 39 Spanish 17-Down
- 41 Vicinity
- 42 New York prison
- 45 Leash
- 49 Humiliating
- 51 Stallion's companion
- 52 Rose of baseball
- 53 Exist
- 54 Shakespeare's river



- 10 Ailing man
- 11 Tibetan beasts
- 17 Nuptial address
- 19 Reveille's opposite
- 22 Uproarious commotion
- 24 Resort
- 25 Paul Newman movie
- 26 Religion renouncer
- 27 Taken aback
- 29 Appomattox VIP
- 30 - de deux
- 33 Captain Hook's hench-
- 36 Makes dirty savior
- 38 Gotham City's expert
- 40 Expert
- 42 Venomous vipers
- 43 Quaker address
- 44 From a distance
- 46 Possess
- 47 Cupid's alter ego
- 48 Broadway hit
- 50 Swiss canton

Look for this week's solution in Wednesday's CT!

311 appeals to fans old and new at James Madison concert

Eliot Kriviski

Before there was Linkin Park, before there was Limp Bizkit, there was 311. Before there was Fred Durst, there was SA Martinez. Before there was Chester Bennington, there was Nick Hexum.

Most college-age American youths can think back to a happier time, when the prospect of wearing skater shoes and baggy pants was still just coming into fashion, and mixing rock and rap was a failed experiment of the early '90s.

Or at least many people thought so, until five guys from Omaha, Neb., came out with their first major record label release in 1994, simply

titled 311.

It wouldn't take long for a few hit singles and widely successful follow-up albums to secure 311 a place in the world of rock, with their mix of heavy guitar riffs, reggae rhythms and vocals that ranged from rapid fire hip-hop to melodic croons.

Although the band's most recent releases have shifted direction musically, and unfortunately are seeing lackluster sales, one thing about 311 still remains constant after nearly 10 years: they can put on a damn fun show.

As part of a tour hitting college campuses and other venues all over the United States, 311 played Friday at James Madison University, with Alien Ant Farm.

The only real letdown of the night was the performance of Alien Ant Farm, or rather, the audience's reaction to the band. Less than half the seats were filled and the mosh pit could barely even be called a mosh ditch.

Although, it must be said Alien Ant Farm is a band for a different type of audience, and their new album, Truant, hasn't had nearly as much playtime or quality singles as did the band's earlier album, ANThology, did. Yet, the crowd wasn't into digging the beautiful acoustic version of "Attitude," but instead waited impatiently for the familiar singles, such as "Movies." The crowd that night was waiting for 311, and they wouldn't be satisfied until they saw them.

When 311 did finally appear, the crowd — from the nose-bleed seats to the edge of the pit — was filled with people who jumped to their feet, ready to get rocked out.

The crowd grew livid in a way few bands can ever see. When people crowd-surf at a concert, you know either the band has a really good fan base, or they're doing something right.

When the band can get people to crowd-surf on the first song, you know that both qualities apply.

Unlike most established bands that wait until later in the show to play their older and more popular songs, 311 kept a pretty good ratio of old to new songs throughout the show, a few old tracks here

and then a few new tracks there. Although the one questionable thing throughout the show was the playing of "Drugstore Cowgirl," one of their most popular songs, as second in the play list for the night.

311 also had a few other treats for the audience: in the middle of one of the band's songs, drummer Chad Sexton began an extended drum solo, which was all well and good.

Yet, what made it even better was when the rest of the band members formed their own drum line onstage.

For about five minutes — a snare drum and cymbal apiece — the band gave a semi-synchronized show, with the beat getting faster and faster, and some band members gradually dropping out.

It was one part drum line,

one part knockout and a huge blast for the audience.

The rest of the band's antics were relatively tame, except for the second-to-last song, when vocalist and guitarist Nick Hexum, ripping off his shirt, climbed one of the speaker towers, and dove into the crowd while still holding on to the mike.

The audience was surprisingly cooperative and threw Hexum back to the stage, where he finished the song and the band's set for the evening.

It was a nostalgic night, coming somewhat close to the rock concerts of previous years, with just a bit of slam dancing, some crowd-surfing, lots of synchronized hand swaying and plenty of fun.

Eliot Kriviski is the features editor for the Collegiate Times.

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Editorial UNIVERSITY ISSUE

Beamer's actions understandable

For student athletes, the locker room, the sidelines and the football field are a different environment than the classroom. The failure to identify this difference by some has left football head coach Frank Beamer spending the past week issuing apologies to media and the community at large for striking Hokie wide receiver Ernest Wilford on the helmet.

One such example of this failure to identify the difference between classroom and football field is the complaint from the Ad Hoc Committee of the Virginia Tech Black Alumni Network in regards to the incident. The Committee wrote President Steger a letter expressing concern over actions Beamer took "in apparent anger" requesting he be reprimanded by the administration.

Apparent anger? Clearly it was anger Beamer was trying to express to his players, and if that means a smack to the helmet, then so be it. To compare Beamer's actions and emotions to a professor striking a student in the classroom is comparing apples and oranges. It is like asking if a professor would smack a student on the butt after the student gets an A. Very unlikely.

Division I football is not played in your buddy's backyard. Players don't get Juicy Juice box drinks and orange wedges at half time. Their moms don't pull up in minivans and sport-utility vehicles to take them home after the game.

Rather, they are competing on a demanding level beyond our grasp. When things go wrong and a coach has to get players back in the game or get their attention, the coach should show emotion, even if it results in what happened Wednesday night.

Football is a contact sport, even on the si deline.

Parents, not video game are to blame

Garrett Gero

A tragedy occurred this past summer when two young boys randomly fired on vehicles driving on an interstate. What caused these boys to commit such a terrible act? If you are to believe Miami lawyers, the culprit is a video game.

The families of the victims filed a multi-million dollar lawsuit against the retailer, marketer and designer of the video game "Grand Theft Auto III." But is this game the real reason the boys decided to kill? I don't think so.

Make no mistake, the game is violent. The game puts the player in the role of a criminal performing tasks for various organized crime factions. The tasks are what you would expect from crime organizations, and normally the player is required to kill anyone who puts the current mission in jeopardy.

Players, however, are not limited to just completing tasks. They are free to do whatever they want in the virtual city, from stealing cars to going on killing sprees.

"Grand Theft Auto III" is most certainly a violent game, but that's not the point. The game has an M rating from the Entertainment Software Rating Board, which is the video game equivalent to an R-rated movie.

Games like "Grand Theft Auto III" are intended for players at least 17 years old.

The game has been out for two years now, which would mean the 14- and 16-year-old boys who decided to go on this rampage might have

been as young as 12 and 14 when they first played it.

So, suddenly Wal-Mart, Sony and the designers of "Grand Theft Auto III" are now responsible for raising our children? Better targets for this lawsuit might be the parents who lack the common sense to screen what their children play.

Attacks on video games and violence are not uncommon, but it seems to be very unfair at times.

After reading about this lawsuit in the article, "Game may be linked to random shootings" (CT, Oct. 22), I turned to the front page. One of the articles had a picture of a fire from last year's riots at West Virginia University.

The focus of the article was Virginia Tech fans would be wearing less Tech clothing at the game last Wednesday.

You will not see anyone fault football for causing the pictured riot. And you will never hear about people suing WVU.

But football, like most other sports, causes violence from time to time. There are soccer riots in Europe and riots over football like the one that occurred last year.

Certain aspects of sports need to be eliminated to keep people safe. Scores should not be recorded, and no winner or loser will be declared, as that seems to cause the most problems.

Where are the lawyers when you need them? Sports are a serious threat to society. They encourage violence and property damage on a large scale.

Of course, this is absurd as well, but it uses similar logic. Why should sports be attacked for causing vio-

"So, suddenly Wal-Mart, Sony and the designers of 'Grand Theft Auto III' are now responsible for raising our children? Better targets for this lawsuit might be the parents who lack the common sense to screen what their children play."

lence? The problem lies only in a few isolated incidents.

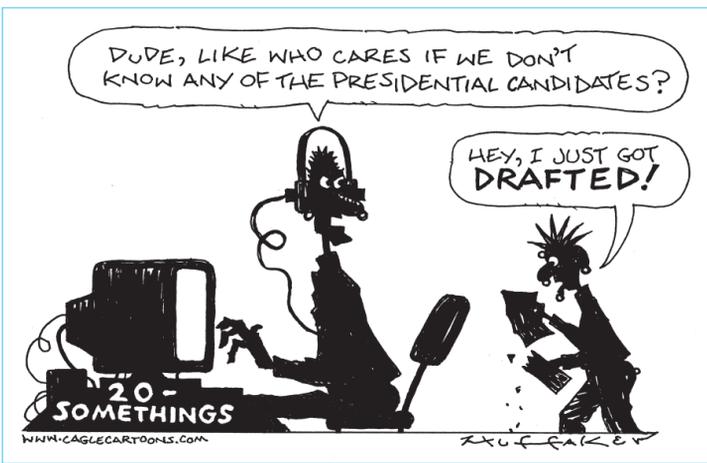
People need to put the blame where it's properly due. Video games do not kill people. They do not quietly suggest we drop the controller and go on a homicidal rampage.

The ESRB was installed for a purpose. Parents cannot blame anyone else if they didn't follow the warning.

The game is intended for 17-year-olds at the youngest. If an underage person gets drunk and misbehaves, do you blame the beer companies? Parents need to be more proactive when it comes to raising children and stop pointing fingers at something or someone else.

The rest of us do not want to lose video games, football or anything else because a select few are irresponsible.

Garrett Gero is a regular columnist for the Collegiate Times.



Letters to the Editor

Real Americans question the government

I take exception to the column "Criticism of war in Iraq puts American soldiers in danger" (CT, Oct. 24). According to the author, "the reason guerilla-style resistance continues is that Iraqi fighters have faith that with each condemning headline American public support inches closer to the breaking point."

In the typical fashion of most of the apologists for President George W. Bush's administration, the author blames liberals, Ted Kennedy and the "liberal media," also known as The New York Times editorial page, for the mounting death toll in Iraq.

The author apparently believes it is wrong to question the appropriation of \$87 billion dollars for Iraqi reconstruction, to question the effectiveness of the war in Iraq or to even offer alternative solutions for bringing the conflict to a successful conclusion. The author seems to believe it is wrong for liberals, or anyone for that matter, to

disagree with the president's foreign policy in public.

The author's criticism of open debate and respectful dissent is appalling. It becomes clearer with the death of each soldier in Iraq that Americans need to question their leaders, including the president.

It is obvious Bush has oversold the case for war in Iraq: no weapons of mass destruction have been found and Iraq never presented an imminent threat to America's freedom and safety.

Yet the author considers those who dare to question the administration's Iraq policy to be nothing short of traitors.

Regardless of whether or not the Iraqi war was justified, it appears our soldiers will be fighting and dying there for some time. Americans have the right to demand accountability from our elected officials — the right to expect our president to have a realistic exit strategy that fosters both freedom for Iraq and brings our troops home as soon as possible. The author should respect the free speech of all Americans, not just those who agree with the president.

Real Americans have no need to

wave the bloody shirt and impugn the patriotism of their political opponents.

Andrew Schlueter
freshman, history

War critics help protect American liberties

Soldiers die every day in Iraq. If the killing continues, America may have to leave the country. Not because the terrorists have won, but because America should not pursue action where American soldiers are dying daily for an effort that will probably do little to protect American security.

The merits and motives of Iraq, like any political decision, should always be questioned and investigated because democracy relies on information.

Many believe that as politicians challenge President George W. Bush and as the New York Times publishes the success of terrorists, a stronger incentive is built for hard-line terror-

ists to attempt more killings against soldiers. Therefore, some believe people should immediately support the war, Bush and American troops and prepare for a long stay in Iraq; anyone who does otherwise is just as dangerous as the enemy.

This includes newspapers that publish stories of the war's failures and politicians who try to attract votes by challenging the current administration.

When a lack of support is seen as "criminal," a new era of McCarthyism is born. Anyone who disagrees with the war is identified as an enemy responsible for the deaths of soldiers in Iraq.

This silence of dissent is a threat to freedom of speech. It is perfectly practical for someone to support the troops and not the war. Society should not confuse this distinction and realize anyone who questions the situation in Iraq is doing so to further intellectual debate, to possibly save lives and to protect our liberties.

Politicians who challenge Bush do not want American soldiers to die; instead, they want to provide a choice for the public in the upcoming elections.

Newspapers that publish depressing stories on the current situation are not doing so because they want to provide incentives to terrorists, but because they have a duty to report the hard truth. Forcing mandatory support among Americans for the war in Iraq would require America to look the other way from the reality of the current situation and to practice wishful ignorance.

Forcing America to support a war will ultimately mean terrorists have won. When freedom of speech is postponed in the name of the war on terrorism, the war becomes ironic, contradictory and more harmful than beneficial.

If we do not want the lives of American soldiers to end in vain, we must hold on to our values of freedom and not be afraid to question the government. When America fights a country with no weapons of mass destruction in the name of Sept. 11, even though no links between Al Qaeda and Saddam Hussein have been found, then too many questions remain that should not be repressed.

Devin Stone
freshman, economics

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Sports

Nets will hold off Pistons to continue Eastern reign



Kumar Malhotra
Hardwood Classic

The 2003 NBA season starts today, and man, am I excited. After a long and busy offseason where many of league's top players and coaches found new homes, it's time to see which moves were worthwhile.

Here is a look at what to expect out of the teams in the East, where nine of the 15 teams have new coaches and two All Stars from a year ago are now out West. I have separated the top playoff-bound teams into the following categories:

Contenders: Teams likely to win the conference — and get smacked by the West in the finals;

Pretenders: Teams who have a shot to make a deep playoff run, but not enough juice to get to the finals; and

Offenders: One and done — thanks for coming to the playoffs, enjoy the offseason.

New Jersey Nets - Contenders

The talk of the playoffs last year was not concerning the play of All Star point guard Jason Kidd, but where he would play next season. Would he join Tim Duncan in San Antonio? Would he head back to where it all started in Dallas?

He wouldn't possibly return to Jersey after getting spanked in the finals two years in a row, would he?

Enter Alonzo Mourning, the beleaguered former All Star and future Hall of Famer who sat out all of last season with a kidney disorder. Looking to get the ring that has eluded him for years in Miami, 'Zo inked a four-year, \$20 million deal with the Nets in mid-July. A day later, Kidd agreed to a six-year, \$99 million contract extension and the Nets, once again, were the best team in the East.

The addition of 'Zo gives them a legitimate big man, who can score in the half court as well as fill up the middle on defense. If he can stay healthy throughout the 82-game marathon of a regular season, the Nets are a lock to get back into the finals.

Detroit Pistons - Contenders

How do you get 50 wins during the regular season, home-court advantage throughout the playoffs then proceed to barely squeak by your first- and second-round opponents before getting swept in the Conference finals? Apparently, General Manager Joe Dumars didn't like the answer former coach Rick

Carlisle gave for this question and replaced him with Sixers' head coach Larry Brown.

Brown inherits a defensively gifted (87.7 average points allowed in 2003, No. 1 in NBA), yet offensively challenged (91.4 points per game, No. 26) team that had trouble scoring against the Nets in last year's Conference finals.

Defensively, the Pistons should have no trouble duplicating last year's performance, especially with the frontline addition of Elden Campbell, who gives them a solid 7-footer to watch reigning Defensive Player of the Year Ben Wallace's back.

Offensively, look for Brown to institute a system similar to what he ran in Philly with Allen Iverson — one that will take advantage of Richard Hamilton's scoring ability, as he led the team with 19.7 points a game in 2003.

Then of course you have second overall pick Darko Milicic, who is hyped to be the Serbian Kevin Garnett. Though it may be too early for the KG comparisons, this 18-year-old definitely has the potential to become the best rookie not named LeBron or Carmelo.

The Pistons should get

back to the Conference finals — hopefully they bring some offense with them.

Philadelphia 76ers - Pretender

The Larry Brown era has come to an end in Philly. Brown's former assistant of six years, Randy Ayers, takes over as head coach, and thus far has the backing of Allen Iverson and company.

The biggest change in the land of cheesesteak however, comes in the form of Glenn Robinson, the new "Robin" to AI's "Batman." With a career scoring average of 20.8, it's obvious that the Big Dog has offense down, it's just his defense — or lack thereof — that is suspect. Without a true center watching his back (Derrick Coleman is good, but not a center), Mr. Robinson might get exposed. That means newly acquired center Marc Jackson will have to step up.

How well Iverson and Robinson coexist on offense will determine how far the Sixers get. AI knows he can't do it by himself, but the Big Dog will have to prove himself, and the first step is to shake his tail-feather on defense. Sixers get to the second round.

Orlando Magic - Pretenders

Up three games to one in last year's first-round playoff series against the No. 1 Pistons, it looked like Tracy McGrady would finally lead the Magic to the second round of the playoffs. Then the meltdown happened.

Eastern Conference Projected Finish

Atlantic Division	Central Division
1. New Jersey Nets	1. Detroit Pistons
2. Philadelphia 76ers	2. New Orleans Hornets
3. Orlando Magic	3. Indiana Pacers
4. Boston Celtics	4. Chicago Bulls
5. Washington Wizards	5. Toronto Raptors
6. Miami Heat	6. Cleveland Cavaliers
7. New York Knicks	7. Atlanta Hawks
	8. Milwaukee Bucks

JONATHAN DE GUZMAN

Orlando lost its next three games by an average of 20.3 points and the Pistons took the series.

With a long offseason to reflect on their unbelievable collapse, the Magic identified the source of their problem — T-Mac's sore lower back, a problem common to any player forced to

carry an entire franchise on his shoulders. To appease their ailing superstar, O-town went out and signed Juwan Howard to a five-year, \$28 million deal. They also added speedy point guard Tyronn Lue, who replaced the

See EASTERN, page 8

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Fighting Irish spoil weekend for Hokies

STAFF — After defeating Radford University 5-1 in the annual "Battle for the New River Rock" on Wednesday night, the Virginia Tech men's soccer team's hopes of taking over first place in the Big East were dashed by the University of Notre Dame on Saturday night.

In an overtime thriller, the No. 18-ranked Hokies were defeated 2-1 by the Fighting Irish, ranked at No. 15. Tech fell to 11-4-1 (5-3-0 Big East) while the Irish improved to 10-3-3 (5-3-1 Big East).

The regulation goals were scored early in the first 11 minutes. Notre Dame struck first. It was almost an own goal as a series of deflections off Hokie defenders opened the door for a goal by Notre Dame's Justin Detter.

Tech answered quickly with Ben Nason's move around his defender, which resulted in a lob to a charging Scott Spangler,

men's soccer

VT ND

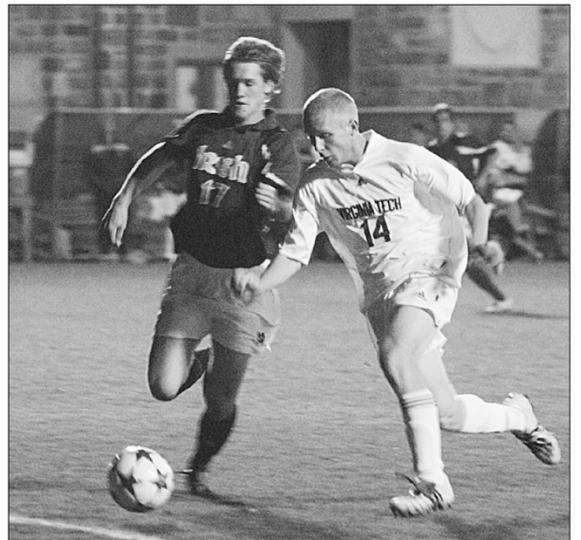
1 - 2

who scored his fifth goal of the season.

Hokie goalkeeper Chase Harrison had several diving saves that kept Tech in the game. He ended the night with nine saves, eight of which were in the second half. The only blip was at 96:01 in overtime. Harrison came out to the top of the box to chase a ball, but was beat to it by Detter who lobbed the ball into the net for the game-winning score.

The Fighting Irish kept Harrison busy all night, outshooting the Hokies 16-11.

Tech is now fourth in the Big East behind St. John's University, Rutgers University and Notre Dame.



JAMES LANG/SPPS

Freshman Ben Nason (No. 14) had an assist on the only goal Tech scored against Notre Dame on Saturday.

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COLLEGIATETIMES

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M T W Th F

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* Chili Challenge moved to Fall Semester due to Dietrick renovation in the spring.

During the week of November 3-7, eat a bowl of chili every day during lunch and earn an "I Survived the Chili Challenge" t-shirt!

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Tech drops in national rankings

STAFF — Virginia Tech fans waited five long days to find out where their Hokies would end up after a dramatic football weekend.

The updated rankings released Monday placed Tech at No. 11 in the ESPN/Coaches poll, No. 10 in the Associated Press poll and unranked among the Bowl Championship Series contenders.

Last week, the Hokies were ranked No. 3 in all of the polls, the highest Tech reached since their No. 3 ranking last season.

Tech has not surpassed the third spot since they made an appearance in the national championship game in the 1999-2000 season.

Last Wednesday's 28-7 loss to West Virginia made the severe drop imminent for Tech faithful around the country.

The University of Southern California came up with a big win this weekend to move themselves up to No. 3 in the Associated Press poll, passing the Georgia Bulldogs, who narrowly escaped with a victory over University of Alabama at Birmingham 16-13.

Michigan State's close victory over Minnesota on Saturday

put them ahead of Tech in all of the polls. Their in-state game versus the University of Michigan (who sits one place behind Tech in all of the polls) will determine the remaining future of their season.

The top 15 in the Associated Press poll features four teams from the Big Ten, three teams from the Big 12, two teams from the Big East, Pac-10 and SEC and one team from the ACC and CUSA.

The upcoming weekend features six games where Top 25 teams are playing each other. Top-ranked University of Oklahoma takes on No. 13 Oklahoma State, which upset the Sooner's chance for a national championship last season.

Second-ranked Miami comes to Blacksburg to take on the Hokies, and the third-ranked Trojans of USC play the sixth-ranked Washington State Cougars.

After all of the pivotal match-ups this weekend, college football fans around the nation should prepare to witness another drastic realignment in the polls going into the month of November.

NCAA FOOTBALL BCS TOP 15 RANKINGS

BCS	ESPN/USA TODAY	AP
1. Oklahoma (8-0)	1	1
2. Miami (7-0)	2	2
3. Florida State (7-1)	5	5
4. USC (7-1)	3	3
5. Georgia (7-1)	4	4
6. Ohio State (7-1)	7	8
7. LSU (7-1)	8	7
8. Washington St. (7-1)	6	6
9. Nebraska (7-1)	9	12
10. Michigan State (7-1)	10	9
11. Iowa (6-2)	14	13
12. TCU (8-0)	13	15
13. Michigan (7-2)	12	11
14. Oklahoma St. (7-1)	15	14
15. Tennessee (5-2)	18	19
---- Virginia Tech (6-1)	11	10

JONATHAN DE GUZMAN

Eastern: Bulls will make playoffs

Continued from page 6

New Orleans-bound Darrell Armstrong.

The addition of Howard gives Orlando another solid scoring option in the half court as well as help on the boards. The only problem — Howard plays the same position as second-year power forward Drew Gooden, who had an impressive rookie campaign. Will the addition of Howard stunt Gooden's growth? Could they play alongside one another? Is Howard enough to get the Magic over the hump? Chances are yes — T-Mac finally gets out of the first round, but don't expect much more.

New Orleans Hornets — Pretender

I still don't understand the logic behind firing head coach Paul Silas. Here is a man who led his team through the Bobby Phills tragedy, a move from Charlotte and countless injuries to his superstars, and you kick him to the curb? Shocking, considering the Hornets have made the playoffs the last three years. Even more shocking is his replacement — Tim Floyd, a man with a career coaching record of 49-190. Seems like the powers that be have been hanging out on Bourbon Street too much.

Whatever the logic, the Floyd era begins in the Big Easy and it will be interesting to see how the team adjusts. Aside from Floyd, the only other notable additions are Darrell Armstrong and Xavier rookie David West. Armstrong is a great spark off the bench and should take some of the load off Baron Davis. West, one of the only seniors in the draft, should be able to contribute immediately.

The key for the Hornets is avoiding the injury bug that often plagues them, especially All Star Jamal Mashburn, who's sore knee will keep him out the first two weeks of the season. If Mashburn and Davis can stay relatively healthy, the Bugs are

a lock for the second round of the playoffs. Otherwise, it might be one and done again this year.

Indiana Pacers — Offender

One man's trash is another man's treasure. As is the case with former Piston head coach Rick Carlisle, who was hired to replace Isiah Thomas in Indiana.

He inherits a talented but inconsistent Pacers team that traded away an All Star center (Brad Miller) for a perennial backup (Scot Pollard). While the move saved the Pacers from the dreaded luxury tax penalty, it may have serious long-term implications.

Indy will miss Miller's scoring ability, particularly his jump shooting which allowed All Star Jermaine O'Neal operate without a double team. Miller's replacement is known for his rebounding and defense — not his scoring.

Some one else on the Pacers will have to step up and be a threat on offense, so O'Neal has room to work. Indy makes the playoffs, but the second round might be a stretch.

Boston Celtics — Offender

Paul Pierce now has the same back problem that has afflicted Tracy McGrady for the last few seasons. With the departure of All Star Antoine Walker, Pierce is the only offensive threat the Celtics have. He is the only player on the Celtics roster to average more than 10 points a game last year.

Pierce has the talent to carry the team to the playoffs — they just don't have enough to make a deep run like they did two years ago. Newly acquired center Raef LaFrentz has the size and versatility to do well in the East. Newly rejuvenated forward Vin Baker has lost a ton of weight in the offseason and is apparently getting his game back. If either of these players has a break out season, the Celtics get to the second round. Otherwise, they barely make the playoffs and exit early.

Chicago Bulls — Offender

The Bulls haven't been in the playoffs since 1998 — MJ, Scottie and Phil's last go-round. That summer, the team was dismantled, the core members of the championship run went their separate ways and the Bulls returned to mediocrity.

Five years later, Pippen returns to finish his career in Chi-town and the Bulls return to the playoffs. A wonderful storybook ending, that actually may come true.

Pip joins a young and gifted Bulls team that has the tools to be competitive in a depleted Eastern conference.

The "Baby Bulls" (Eddy Curry and Tyson Chandler) are starting to develop and should be consistent contributors this season, their third in the league. Point guard Jamal Crawford will impress as a starter and veteran Jalen Rose can always be counted on. If Pip can share his wisdom and drive with this group, they should make a significant improvement on their 30-52 record of a year ago. Look for the Bulls to slide into that eighth and final playoff spot.

Grady Little fired as Red Sox manager

by Jimmy Golen
Associated Press

BOSTON — Red Sox manager Grady Little will not be back next year, paying the price for his decision to stick with Pedro Martinez in Game 7 of the American League championship series.

The Red Sox let Little go Monday, less than two weeks after Boston blew a chance to play in the World Series when its ace couldn't hold a lead against the New York Yankees.

The Florida Marlins beat the Yankees in the Series that wrapped up Saturday, ending baseball's embargo on major moves and freeing the Red Sox to cut Little loose.

Little's contract expires Friday, and the team decided not to exercise its 2004 option.

Team president Larry Lucchino said team officials notified Little of the decision in a telephone conversation Monday morning. "He took it very well," Lucchino said. "He was very gracious. There was no anger or raised voices. On the contrary, he thanked us for the opportunity he had been given to manage the Red Sox and to manage in the big leagues."

General manager Theo Epstein declined to discuss Little's possible successors, but Jim Fregosi, Bud Black, Glenn Hoffman, Charlie Manuel and Jerry Remy have been mentioned as candidates.

"We're going to take as long as necessary to find the right manager," Epstein said.

The Red Sox won 93 and 95 games in Little's two years as manager, reaching the playoffs this year for the first time since 1999. They lost the first two games against Oakland, then swept three straight to advance to the ALCS, and Little's job seemed secure.

The Yankees took a 3-2 lead in the Series as it headed back to New York, and Little seemed to be making all of the right moves.

He left struggling Nomar Garciaparra alone, and the shortstop snapped out of his slump with four hits in Game 6, helping force a seventh game. And, because Little chose not to use

Martinez on short rest, he had his ace available for the decisive game.

Boston staked Martinez to a 4-0 lead, and he led 5-2 in the eighth. Even after Little came out to talk to Martinez, he left him in rather than trust the lead to the bullpen that struggled all year before finding some consistency in the playoffs.

The Yankees tied it off Martinez in the eighth, then won the game and the series in the 11th on Aaron Boone's homer off Tim Wakefield.

"There's no reason to blame Grady," Martinez said. "Grady doesn't play the game, I do. If you want to judge me or curse me or whatever, I will swallow that, because I am responsible."

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