

Halloween spooks up business

Blacksburg police are anticipating a large number of calls this weekend, since Halloween is on a Friday

by Noelle Landers
Staff Writer

With Halloween falling on a Friday this year and the home game against the University of Miami the following day, the holiday weekend is expected to be a hectic event.

Blacksburg merchants and police are working to make sure festivities are not only fun for everyone, but safe as well.

For vendors carrying costumes, this is an especially good time of year.

"It's the number one part of the year," said Steve Layman, owner of Party Central.

"The last day (before Halloween) is pretty hectic, but fun though — it's added to the business greatly," he said.

Party Central carries Halloween costumes from early August until Nov. 1 and orders costumes specifically catered to college students. Party Central started carrying costumes in 1997 and it's been an overall positive experience, bringing in more sales in the last two days before Halloween than the entire month of July, Layman said.

Business has not been as fruitful for Partyrama's Dungeon costume shop. The Dungeon carries Halloween costumes of all types and specializes in

See HALLOWEEN, page 2



ELEANOR HOPSON/SPS

Partyrama's Dungeon costume shop in Downtown Blacksburg is one of the area stores hoping to see a boom in business from both Halloween and the Miami game this weekend.

Locations of ABC stores under fire

by Jared Turner
News Assistant

The Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control is taking steps to relocate two of its stores after complaints from a church and a high school.

George Mason High School in Falls Church and Walnut Grove Presbyterian Church in Bristol voiced disapproval about the location of ABC stores located within sight of the disgruntled parties.

Whitney Miller, public relations specialist for the Virginia ABC Department's central office in Richmond, said ABC board members are feverishly negotiating alternative locations for the ABC stores under scrutiny.

"The board has decided to explore a more in-depth policy concerning its store locations," she said. "This is a priority."

"Site selection is complicated," Miller said about potential alternative locations for the ABC stores. "They will look for other suitable locations in the area."

ABC Chairman Vernon Danielson told the Washington Post why the ABC department is changing its policy.

"We want to locate our stores in places that aren't going to cause problems for churches, schools, substance abuse centers, day care centers and playgrounds," he said.

Miller said while the church and school have voiced strong opinions about the store's location, they appear to be in the minority.

"There's been positive feedback from Bristol citizens about the store's location," she said. Miller also said there have been public requests for more ABC Stores in Falls Church.

The ABC Store in Falls Church goes "above and beyond" to ensure high school students do not fall prey to substance abuse, Miller said. While there are ABC stores in Blacksburg, Christiansburg and Radford, Blacksburg Town Attorney Kathleen Dooley said she is unaware of any complaints about the location of ABC stores in this area.

Heather Browning, who works for the town of Blacksburg, said to her knowledge there have been no complaints about the ABC store in Blacksburg.

"At a town level, we haven't been discussing it," she said.

Becky Gettings, a department spokesperson for ABC, told the Associated Press the relocation of ABC stores might take some time because the department will have to find new sites and negotiate new leases. She said it is uncertain if the new policy will affect other ABC stores in Virginia.

Tech faculty, staff ready for pay raise

All classified salaried staff that received positive feedback on performance reviews will receive the 2.25 percent pay raise

by Erin Zlomek
News Assistant

Virginia Tech employees will be receiving a government-appropriated pay raise for the first time in three years. The 2.25 percent raise will be effective at the end of November, effective for the 2003-04 school year.

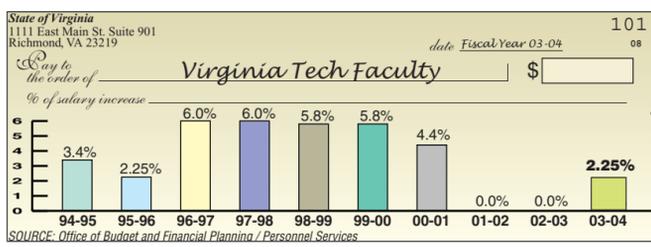
"The state of Virginia just made a budget priority," said University Spokesman Larry Hincker, of the

General Assembly's February 2003 decision.

For a six year period Virginia universities received a steady pay increase allocated by the Commonwealth. Because of the 9/11 attacks and other economic setbacks, there was no pay increase for three years; this is the first since that time.

The raise will be across the board for all classified salaried staff who received positive feedback on their end-of-the-year performance reviews. Classified staff includes office support, administrative assistance, housekeeping, custodians, food services, Tech police, electricians and plumbers.

"Suffice it to say it applies to those who keep this place going," said Mark Owczarski, director of news and information.



CHRIS HEUBERGER

Administrative faculty will also be receiving a 2.25 percent raise across the board assuming they received positive feedback on their end-of-the-year performance reviews.

"Senior level administrators, directors, vice-presidents and (positions) of that nature are considered administrative faculty," Owczarski said. Athletics

coaches also fall into this category.

As for the remaining faculty, teachers and researchers, a 2.25 percent merit pool will be given to their individual departments. This method is administered so the pay raises can be distributed by achievement.

See PAY, page 2

Ticket distribution options discussed at forum

by Tiffany Hoffman
Managing Editor

About 30 students without tickets to the Miami game met last night in Torgerson Hall for answers from the Office of Student Life and Advocacy about why the Miami ticket sales were so chaotic.

"We go to class here, we're Hokies and if we don't get our demands satisfied, that's ridiculous," said Sumeet Bagai, Speaker of the House for the Student Government Association and a sophomore business management major.

Tom Brown, interim director of the Office of Student Life and Advocacy, said a group of students, athletics and university office members met two years ago to discuss the most efficient way to distribute student tickets. Up to that point, there was no system and students camping out got out of hand, he said.

"It could be a good time if it was organized and orderly, but this was not," he said. "This was a mess. The rules were made up and they were changed."

After witnessing the chaos of this system, the group decided a lottery system would be most effective.

"It went really well last year," he said. "This season, things went really well, but come Miami, we couldn't accommodate everyone. We ran out of supplies and

couldn't even put wristbands on all the students by 8:15 (a.m.)."

Approximately 17,000 tickets are reserved for students at each game, Brown said. For the Miami game, there were 17,721. Of those tickets, 5,486 were student season tickets and 1,500 were for guests. That left 10,735 tickets for the 15,933 students who have athletic cards.

"The students have the impression they pay the fee and they have a ticket, but it's spelled out in the guidebook that it's not a guarantee," Brown said.

For an hour, the students at the forum discussed solutions to the problem and asked questions about why the system is not changed to something more promising.

"I think they should distribute the allotment of student tickets first," said Anthony Crenshaw, a second year graduate student in higher education and student affairs. "It's important to reiterate the commitment to students who pay their athletic fee."

Other audience members said the guest tickets should not be subtracted from the number of student tickets while still others suggested making scalping illegal to reduce the buying and then reselling of guest and student tickets.

"Our athletic department is the best or second best in the state," said Allen Bradley, an SGA representative and a senior industrial systems engineering major. "We should have a voice strong

enough for people to listen."

Brown said he thought season tickets were the best solution overall.

However, Ashley Jenks, a transfer student and a sophomore merchandising management major, said she was denied the purchase of season tickets because transfer students and freshmen are not given that option.

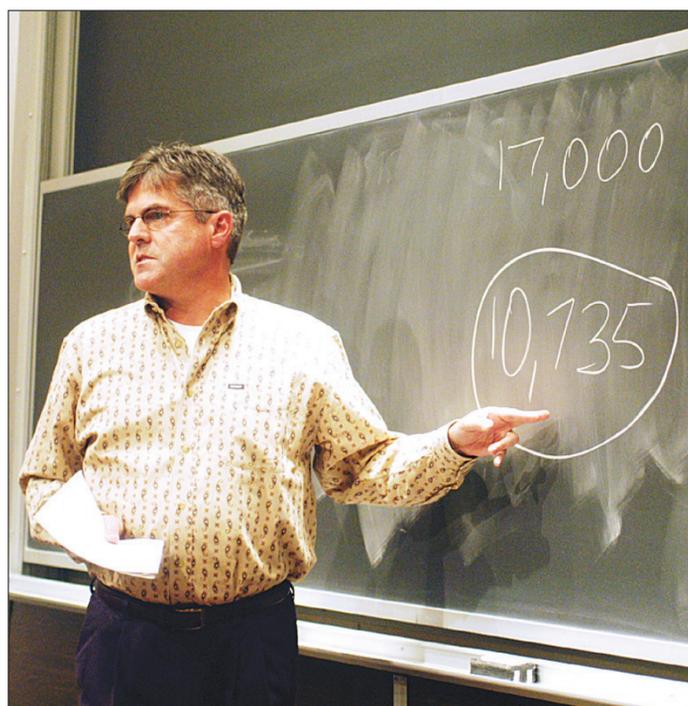
"I was going to order tickets and they wouldn't let me," she said. "If it comes down to it, guests can scalp tickets where we shouldn't have to."

Brown said selling guest tickets after selling student tickets is an option that will be considered when another group convenes to discuss the problems in the spring. However, he said there is a possibility the athletics department may consider converting to an e-lottery system.

"I think the athletics department running an e-lottery is a great idea," he said. "At a place like Virginia Tech, surely there is someone who will know how to do that."

Though both the SGA and the Office of Student Life and Advocacy extended an invitation to the athletics department to attend the forum, no one from the department came.

Following the forum, the SGA said anyone with questions for the athletics department could e-mail them and they would contact the athletics department for a response.



ANNABELLE OMBAC/SPS

Tom Brown, interim director of the Office of Student Life and Advocacy, explained the logistics of ticket distribution to a forum held by the SGA.

News in Brief

Pedestrian hit by car on North Main Street

STAFF — The Blacksburg Police Department responded yesterday to an accident involving a pedestrian and a vehicle on North Main Street near Prices Fork Road.

Sgt. C.S. Jones with the Blacksburg Police Department said the pedestrian, Kenneth Shrewsberry, 24, of Blacksburg, walked across the street in front of a 1998 Ford driven by Christina Miller of Blacksburg and was hit. The accident occurred around noon.

Shrewsberry was taken to Montgomery Regional Hospital with minor injuries and was released after treatment, Jones said. The vehicle was going about 25 miles per hour.

"As we can determine, there was no high speed involved," Jones said.

Shrewsberry did not cross at a crosswalk and walked across four lanes of traffic, Jones said.

No charges have been filed at this time.

President Bush's nomination of Leavitt to head the 18,000-employee agency was helped by the Utah Republican's three terms as governor, during which he forged personal relationships with many Senate Democrats, some of them former governors.

17 killed in West Coast fires

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Firefighters beat back flames that had threatened hundreds of homes Tuesday in northwest Los Angeles, but to the south, a fire official said his exhausted crews were being pulled off the lines even if it means more homes will burn.

Amid one of the most destructive and deadly wildfire outbreaks in California history, two major blazes were threatening to merge and destroy more homes in San Diego County. Even so, some firefighters were being pulled off lines there to rest.

American deported from China early

BEIJING (AP) — Citing his "repentant behavior," China deported a Chinese-born American citizen convicted of obtaining state secrets and put him on a plane to the United States on Monday, less than two years before his prison sentence expires.

Fong Fuming, 68, a naturalized American and a business consultant from West Orange, N.J., had been on a list of 13 prisoners that the U.S. government identified to China as priority cases.

Halloween: Area police preparing for holiday activities

Continued from page 1

wigs and prosthetics. This year they aren't as well stocked as usual because of the decline in sales in the past few years.

"This might be our last year. Halloween is not as big of a deal as it used to be," said Rance Edwards, sales associate for the Dungeon.

However, sales have been a bit better this year, partly owing to the Friday night timing of Halloween and also because of the parties a home football game usually brings, Edwards said.

For those who do not want to buy a costume for Halloween, D'Rose Florist offers a wide variety of costumes to rent.

D'Rose started carrying costumes in 1993 in a separate costume shop in Radford, but eventually moved the business to the florist shop because of its popularity. The florist shop is converted into a costume shop for the entire month of October, with good results.

"Halloween is our second biggest holiday," said Bill Altizer, manager of D'Rose. "Our first is Valentine's (Day) obviously because we are a florist, but Halloween even beats out Mother's Day."

Ninety percent of D'Rose's customers are college students, and rentals seem to be the biggest sales, Altizer said.

"We do about 600 rentals and

maybe 100 purchases a year," he said.

Altizer said Tech students are great customers and take care of the costumes better than other students.

"We'd rather rent to Tech students than to Radford students," he said. "They've ruined several of our rentals over the years."

"It's gonna be crazy, or at least, it should be," said Tara Crist, a sophomore psychology major.

The Blacksburg Police Department has made special considerations for this Halloween, having extra staff available for Halloween night through the next day's game.

"We get a lot of calls for service on Halloween and the fact that it falls on a weekend this year has us anticipating additional call volume," said Don Goodman, accreditation lieutenant for the Blacksburg Police Department.

Prince to meet with butler to discuss book

LONDON (AP) — Prince William will meet his mother's former butler, Paul Burrell, to discuss the royal family's anger over revelations Burrell's new book makes about Princess Diana and her in-laws, William's office said Tuesday.

It's likely to be an emotionally charged get-together.

Last week William urged his mother's one-time confidant to stop revealing family secrets and said Diana would have been "mortified" by Burrell's actions.

Clarence House, the London home of William, his younger brother Prince Harry and father Prince Charles, confirmed William would see Burrell.

An official said the meeting would be "completely private" and declined to say when or where it would be held.

Senate confirms new EPA chief

(AP) — Environmental Protection Agency after Senate Democrats sharply critical of the Bush administration backed down in the face of an overwhelming Republican show of force.

The lopsided 88-8 vote did not reflect the intense efforts by some Democrats to hold up the nomination as they attacked the Bush administration's environmental decisions.

Pay: Last raise prior to '00-'01 school year

Continued from page 1

"There is flexibility provided in that pool of money," Owczarski said.

Department heads, deans and in some cases, faculty committees, make merit-based pay raise recommendations on behalf of teachers and researchers. Final approval for these raises is given by the dean of the university.

Though some teacher pay increases may fall below 2.25 percent and others above, there is still room for those faculty members to receive a bonus drawn from their department's own operating budget.

"When you have outstanding teaching faculties it becomes very competitive to keep them," Owczarski said.

The General Assembly

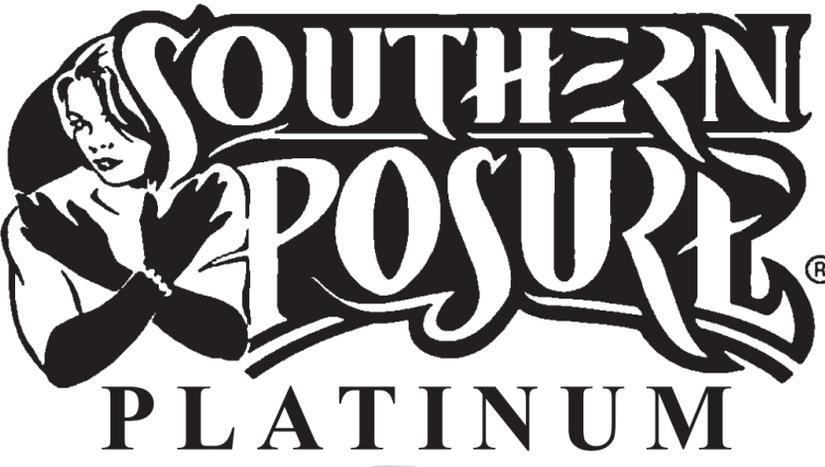
appeared to be in agreement when its goal became getting all state university faculty salaries to rank in the 60th percentile. Owczarski said most salaries at Virginia state universities fall below those of their peer institutions.

"I wouldn't say we're on the bottom, but we are below what we need to be," Owczarski said.

OWCZARSKI said it is imperative for the state to continue to allocate money for these pay raises so Virginia schools stay competitive with other universities. However, he cannot guarantee such.

"There is no way to predict the financial future of the Commonwealth," Owczarski said. "Whether or not we (can continue to raise salaries), there is just no way of knowing."

STOCK MARKET REPORT — 10/28/2003 —			WEATHER						
DJIA	9748.31	▲ 140.15							
NASDAQ	1932.26	▲ 49.35	Partly cloudy	Cloudy	Mostly sunny	Mostly clear	Mostly clear	Mostly clear	
S&P 500	1046.79	▲ 15.66	Highs: 56°-60°	Lows: 33°-38°	Highs: 60°-65°	Lows: 39°-44°	49°/69°	44°/72°	



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Editorial NATIONAL ISSUE

Gays have a right to adoption

Debate over adoption by gay parents has been an important issue since the current controversy over same-sex marriages.

According to a survey by the Donaldson Adoption Institute, 60 percent of the nation's adoption agencies are now accepting applications from gays and lesbians, showing more equality in the system.

However, opposition and resistance are still prevalent especially from church-affiliated agencies.

Although 60 percent seems promising for many couples wanting to adopt, the survey failed to mention the number of children actually adopted by gay or lesbian parents. In many agencies, the birth mother is able to state her preference on whether or not her child is placed with a homosexual couple.

The fact this is even a consideration seems negligible. Why can a mother who is unable to care for her own child put stipulations on where her child can be placed?

While in most states it is becoming easier for homosexuals to adopt, many states still have legislation against gay adoptions. Florida, for example, is the only state explicitly banning adoption by any gay person; Mississippi bans adoption by gay couples, and Utah forbids adoption by any unmarried couple, including gay couples.

Florida officials say the state has a right to legislate its moral disapproval of homosexuality and its belief that children need a married mother and father. Apparently, living in a foster home is a better option than living with two loving parents.

The most successful homosexual adoptions occur mainly through public, private and secular or Jewish and Lutheran-affiliated adoption agencies.

Other agencies still view a child being raised by a homosexual couple as unstable, putting gay-rights ahead of children's best interests.

These agencies need to realize leaving a child in a foster home — as opposed to a home where his/her needs can be met — is putting bias ahead of a child's best interest.

With so many children being raised in unstable homes by capricious and unfit parents, excluding a part of the suitable population of possible parents is not a good idea. Many children today are raised in single-parent households, and even more are raised by divorced parents — receiving parenting from only one of them.

How then, are these situations acceptable, and yet two same-sex parents are viewed as undesirable?

People being evaluated for adoption should be judged by what they can provide for the child, not on their sexual connotation.

Russian economy requires autonomy

Nick Pascale

Turmoil in Russia has been a thing of the past, present and seems to be certain in the future. The transition to a democratic, open, free-market society has been the experiment of the century, second only to Russia's last experiment — communism.

This transition has been another chapter in the state's struggle with internal turmoil. The Russian economy is no stranger to the effects of this transitional turmoil; one example is the government defaulting on its foreign debt in 1998.

However, the credit rating agency, Moody's, has recently scored Russia's bond rating as investment grade. Though other credit agencies are reluctant to give Russia the same favorable vote of confidence, it is a sign the Russian economy is on the move.

Other encouraging signs include steady growth in national income since 1998 and hard currency inflows from sales of Russia's oil reserves.

Chevron Texaco and Exxon Mobil were in the works of completing an \$11 billion deal with Russian oil companies that would have supplied much-needed capital investment and attracted more foreign investment and domestic stability. It must be a sign of brighter days for Russians, with new opportunities to improve their investment environment.

Or is it?

If Russia is to remain stable and

provide a safe place for investment, both foreign and abroad, then power struggles between the Putin government and the country's extremely wealthy, referred to as oligarchs, must come to an end.

Some of these oligarchs worked diligently after the fall of communism to assume mass wealth during liquidation of government property and began to buy up shares of industries like media and oil — oil being as politically sensitive as media ownership.

So sensitive that Russian President Vladimir Putin has driven out some oligarchs and had Russia's wealthiest oil oligarch, Mikhail Khodorkovsky, arrested. Arrested only because he was becoming politically powerful and was in an industry still dominated by government monopolies.

Khodorkovsky's arrest was not only a blow to the democratic transparency of understood growth in Russia could only be the product of a stable investment environment, and the means of creating stability was with Russia but also to the momentum of the Russian economy. Khodorkovsky transparency and minimal government involvement in business.

The advocacy of laissez-faire policies has led him to be arrested and has given Russia an example of what not to do in order to create an economy investors are confident about.

Since the arrest, suspicions and fears abound that the Russian judiciary is at the mercy of the Putin inner circle. These suspicions might entice investors to wonder how stable the govern-

“The prescription for Russia includes open oil pipelines from government control, an independent judiciary and a leader who respects those who are creating a stable market economy — not one who arrests them.”

ment is and how accurate the Moody's rating reflects the current situation.

Economy and politics are one in the same, but in order for Russia to become a stable democracy it must address improprieties causing the government to not only undermine democracy but undermine market economies.

Having the government in Moscow manipulate the potential growth investment in Russia, for the sake of muting potential political rivals, is a sign of neither stable government or economy.

The prescription for Russia includes open oil pipelines not under government control, an independent judiciary and a leader who respects those who are creating a stable market economy — not one who arrests them.

Nick Pascale is the opinions editor for the Collegiate Times.

Letters to the Editor

Beamer must be reprimanded for his actions

In response to the editorial "Beamer's actions understandable" (CT, Oct. 28), I completely disagree with the author's statements defending Frank Beamer's hitting Ernest Wilford during the game against West Virginia University.

By hitting Wilford, Beamer showed he has no respect for Virginia Tech's football players.

It does not matter how angry the coach gets; he has absolutely no right to hit the football players.

If Wilford had hit Beamer out of anger, he would have been suspended from the game at the very least.

Worst case scenario, he would have been kicked off the team, possibly sanctioned by the university and faced legal action.

Football players are reprimanded any time they violate the team's rules about sportsman-like conduct.

Beamer, as our head coach, should be a constant positive example for the team.

The university should not tolerate Beamer's disrespectful and belittling action.

A simple letter reprimanding him is not too much to ask.

Football is only a contact sport on the field, according to the rules of the game.

CharLia Cross
graduate student, English

Tasteless shirts only embarrass Hokies

I saw a shirt that is going to be sold at the University of Miami game. The shirt states in bold print "F*** Miami." Unfortunately, they actually print the F-word on the shirt.

I feel this is a bad trend for Hokie fans, especially after I saw another shirt in University Sportswear in downtown Blacksburg.

On the back of the shirt is the quote from the Syracuse University quarterback about how he hates to lose at Lane Stadium because the fans think they play too. The front of the shirt says, "I'm a walk-on."

With the problems we had with the crowds at West Virginia University and the way their fans acted after the game, it seems to me the walk-on shirt conveys the spirit of the Hokies much better than the Miami shirt.

Please Hokies, let's make our program proud. Don't embarrass Hokies everywhere by wearing a shirt with curse words on it — BE A WALK-ON!

John Tuttle
alumnus, class of '83

Beamer's actions completely understandable

I am writing in response to the editorial "Beamer's actions under-

standable," (CT, Oct. 28) about the Ad Hoc Committee of the Virginia Tech Black Alumni Network's complaint about Frank Beamer's actions in Wednesday night's loss to West Virginia University.

I fully support Beamer's actions, and I think it is disgusting anybody would take advantage of this issue to try and raise a racial argument or to in any way discredit Beamer.

He did what he did because most of the team did not even show up in Morgantown, and he was trying to get them fired up.

Ok, so he got caught up in the moment and made a poor decision. He is only human.

There was no evidence to support the claim that Beamer's actions were in any way race-related.

Half the players on the field could have been in Ernest Wilford's place.

The incident has been compared to a teacher striking a student in a classroom, but this is a totally ludicrous assessment.

The football field is not a classroom, and the players are not aver-

age students.

When they are on the field, the players are fighting to represent the university on a national stage and the stakes are high.

The only complaint someone can actually support is the fact if Beamer was going to give Wilford a smack on the head, then he should have done the same to the other nine-tenths of the team sleepwalking that night.

Beamer's actions were completely understandable.

He did not do anything potentially injuring to Wilford, and it is a shame this issue has been so blown out of proportion.

Football players take hits most of us can't even imagine, and yet a tiny tap on the helmet has drawn all this attention.

Yes, it was out of character for Beamer, but he has apologized, and Wilford has accepted the apology.

The discussion should end there.

Jeff Wood
junior, communication

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Letters should not exceed 300 words.
Columns are between 700 and 900 words.

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HOKIE HALLOWEEN!

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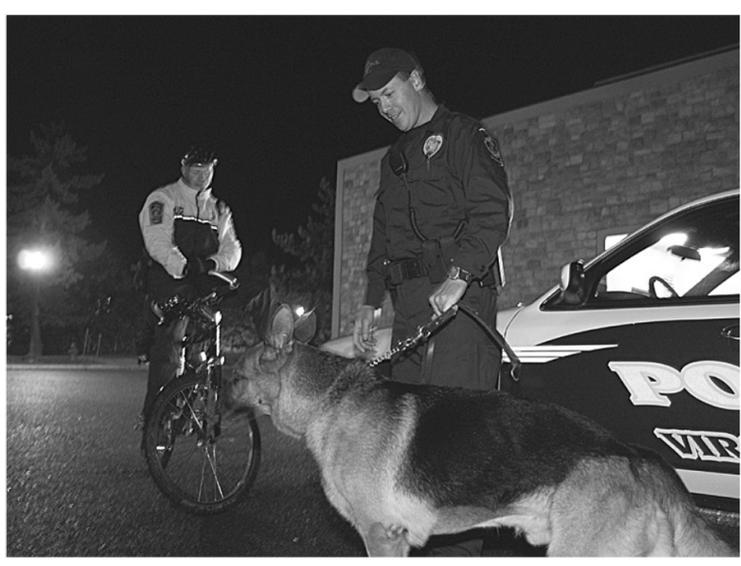
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Story by Eric Beidel
Photos by Jesse Panneton



Top, a speeding vehicle is pulled over by a pursuing officer. Below, officers Byron Gates and Keith Weaver prepare to go separate ways after a long night.

For two weeks, Virginia Tech Police Department patrol officers work the daylight shift. They rise early and report to work at their Sterrett Facilities Complex headquarters by 7 a.m. They deal with heavy automobile traffic, as well as heavy foot traffic.

Students and faculty hurry all over campus to meetings and classes, and everyone seems to be caught up in their own personal agenda. Officers can stand and look across the Drillfield and clearly see the activity occurring on the other side.

After two weeks, the sun goes down and the lights come on.

The officers who patrolled the naturally lit campus of the daylight shift now roll over to the night shift.

They report to work around dinnertime and traffic is not as predictable, as some faculty stay after hours to work in their offices, and students head to their dorms, downtown or off to various parts of the campus for some extra hours of study.

Roll call for the night shift is at 7 p.m. Afterward, officers check their automobiles and begin both mobile and foot patrol around the campus — a completely different place at night — said patrol officer Morgan Millirons.

Day and night shifts are com-

pletely different experiences, and while the campus is significantly less well lit at night, Millirons said there is just as much to be observed.

"You can see many more things in the night than in the day," he said.

"A lot of activity on a college campus takes place after dark." Millirons, who has been with Tech police for seven years, said officers do a minimum of four hours foot patrol a night. They usually end up walking six or seven hours by the end of most shifts.

During this time, officers cover the entire campus either alone or with a partner and encounter everything from routine happenings to the outrageous.

"I've seen quite a bit," Millirons said. "Some of it is strange and some of it is just expected. There are a lot of things that college kids will do."

Sgt. James Ramsey has seen a lot of what college kids will do during his 31 years with the Tech police, including everything from people walking around wearing nothing to the male student who claims to be looking for the men's restroom in an all-female residence hall at five in the morning.

Ramsey said officers will gravitate toward the center of the campus when the bars downtown begin to close, not so much to make arrests, but to make themselves visible as a deterrent. Officers come across many interesting activities during this juncture of the night shift.

"Once there was a gentleman walking with two females and wearing just his boxer shorts," Ramsey said. "One of the girls kept pulling his shorts down until eventually he took them off and put them on his head and continued walking."

Officer Mason Boggess is a relative newcomer to Tech police and said although it's a given that Blacksburg nightlife plays such a huge part in the night shift, there are concerns other than the expected alcohol-related incidents.

Part of the duties of an officer on the night shift is to patrol the north side of the campus, containing the majority of the academic buildings. While this section of the campus is much more serene than the residential area late at night and in the early morning, it still sees its share of incidents, Boggess said.

Theft and larceny, as well as vandalism, are the most prominent issues facing the academic portion of the campus during the night shift, the officers said.

All of the academic buildings on campus have specific times at which they are to be locked and part of walking foot patrol is to check the buildings after hours for any suspicious activity, Ramsey said.

Sometimes there are students and faculty working in labs after hours, but often the officers walk through the seemingly empty buildings alone

and every sound is magnified, Lt. Joseph Albert said.

In his 18 years with Tech police, Albert said he still hasn't become completely accustomed to the things that go bump in the night.

"You talk about scary, being in some of those buildings at that time and hearing the floors all creaking — it still gets to me," he said.

Despite the apparent abandoned feel of some of the buildings, there is still plenty happening in buildings like Torgersen, Derring and McBryde Halls well after hours — and sometimes officers encounter incidents as strange as anything the more lively parts of the campus could provide.

Boggess, who is in his second year with Tech police, said he and other officers were once called to an academic building to force a recently laid-off faculty member to leave the building. The man was distraught and refused to leave without the computer he had used during his employment, which did not belong to him but to the department.

"We had to make him go," Boggess said. "He went from being upset to angry to crying to apologizing to mad all over again."

Officers have their preferences in regards to shifts. For Boggess, the night shift is where it's at, hands down. He doesn't have to wake up early and he enjoys the increased interaction between the members of

the campus community and the police officers occurring at night, he said.

"I hate the daylight shift, but only because I don't like to get out of bed in the morning," he said. "Plus, at night the students aren't busy going to classes and they're doing more fun things. One of the best parts about the night shift is going through the dorms and talking with the students. People are much more available for that type of thing at night."

Some of the more innocent late night activities for students include taking a stroll and going for jogs. There are people out walking and running all night long, Millirons said.

"Some people go to bed at 10 p.m., but that's when a lot of the campus comes alive. Twenty-four hours a day people are doing things all across the campus," he said.

It's not suspicious to see anyone at any time on the Tech campus and when the night shift comes to its end at 7 a.m., Millirons and company have experienced both the good and bad of nighttime campus activity, as well as the expected attention-grabbing antics of college students.

"I have charged people for trespassing, being intoxicated and vandalism," he said, pausing and chuckling. "And yes, every once in a while you get a streaker."

Eric Beidel is the associate news editor for the Collegiate Times.

Yesterday's Crossword Answers

M	E	A	D	B	A	H	P	O	S	Y	
A	N	N	O	U	S	E	A	D	I	A	
M	I	T	T	S	H	A	M	R	O	C	K
E	D	I	C	T	S	D	R	I	N	K	S
		O	A	T	H	S	A	N			
S	H	A	M	P	O	O	S	H	E	L	P
P	U	P	S	P	O	T	S	L	E	A	
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		S	R	A	A	R	E	A			
A	T	T	I	C	A	T	E	T	H	E	R
S	H	A	M	E	F	U	L	M	A	R	E
P	E	T	E	A	R	E	A	V	O	N	
S	E	E	S	R	I	D	N	E	S	T	



Above, Geof Allen takes down information from a driver's license.



Right, officers chat while being debriefed about the night's assignments.

Below, officers get a chance to relax and grab dinner in between shifts while watching TV.



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Sports

Spurs, Lakers look to tame wild West



Kumar Malhotra
Hardwood Classic

The NBA should just cancel the NBA Finals this year. Who ever wins the West is the NBA's best team — the East doesn't stand a chance. With the top five teams in the West stacking their rosters in the offseason, it's a shame that only one of them has a chance to play for the ring. Here is a look at the ridiculously talented Western Conference.

San Antonio Spurs - contender

No one gives the defending champs any respect.

Wasn't it just a few months ago that the Spurs ran through the playoffs en route to their second championship in five years? Tim Duncan was absolutely dominating throughout the playoffs, capping his second straight MVP season with a near quadruple-double in the last game of the finals.

Point guard Tony Parker played with a poise and confidence well beyond his 20 years leading the Spurs to the championship in only his second year in the league.

Rookie shooting guard Manu Ginobili was a spark off the bench, providing many memorable highlights and proved he was ready to contribute.

A year later, the Spurs have to be considered the favorite to take the ring again this year, shouldn't they? Yes, for one reason — Tim Duncan.

He proved last year that he is the most fundamentally sound player in the league. He can shoot, dribble, pass, rebound, block shots, park cars and even sell hot dogs in the stands. No one in the league can stop him one-on-one.

The only way to dethrone the Spurs is to double and triple team the Big Fundamental and make his teammates beat you. Last year, they had plenty of guys who could knock down open shots, but many of them (Steve Kerr and Stephan Jackson) have moved on. The additions of Ron Mercer, Robert Horry and Hedo Turkoglu give the Spurs three versatile players who can play a variety of positions. If new center Rasha Nesterovic is half as good as David Robinson was in his prime the Spurs are in good

shape. The Spurs should make it back to the conference finals.

Los Angeles Lakers - contender

The Lakers were not only embarrassed by the Spurs in the conference semifinals last year, they were exposed.

Weakness #1 — Power forward, a must have in the West when the road to the finals goes through likes of Duncan, Chris Webber and Kevin Garnett.

Weakness #2 — Point guard, getting lit up by Minnesota's Troy Hudson in the first round was a bad sign; Tony Parker's performance in the second round just sealed the verdict.

Losing forces one to reflect and Lakers GM Mitch Kupchak did just that. His solution — add Hall of Famers Gary Payton and Karl Malone to the two you already have and poof, the Lake Show is airing again.

But it wouldn't be a true Hollywood story without a twist. If Kobe's rape trial wasn't a distraction enough, they latest episode in the ongoing saga between him and Shaq should prove to be. Now the real question out of LA, is not whether or not the "Dream Team" can share the ball but whether or not Kobe and Shaq can coexist.

Look for GP and Karl, two seasoned veterans and class guys, to step up and try to mend the fractured relationship between the two stars. On the court, Payton gives them a floor general as well as a solid defensive point that they have lacked in years past. Malone, even at 40, can hold his own and is a significant upgrade from last year.

If Kobe can stay out of jail, Shaq stays healthy and all four superstars "play nice," the Lakers are a lock for the finals. If the verbal jousting between Kobe and Shaq continues, then L.A.'s championship hopes may be on hold for another year.

Dallas Mavericks - contender

Expect to see the Mavs hang 150 points on someone this season. With five players who averaged 17.7 points a game or higher last year, don't be shocked if it happens a few times.

Forget about defense and rebounding, the Mavs will just outscore you.

As absurd as it sounds, that has to be the logic behind owner Mark Cuban's offseason moves.

After an impressive run in last year's playoffs, Dallas was beaten in the Western conference finals, by a tough, physical San Antonio team. With a solid core group of scorers (Steve Nash, Dirk Nowitzki and Michael Finley), it would have made sense for the Mavs to go out and add a physical player to anchor the defense.

Unable to woo a defensive guy (Alonso Mourning), a tough guy (Karl Malone) or even a big guy (Michael Olowokandi) Cuban had to change his strategy.

He went in the opposite direction and decided to add more offense. In mid-August he orchestrated an eight-player deal that essentially sent Nick Van Exel and company to the Warriors for Antawn Jamison, Danny Fortson, Chris Mills and Jiri Welsch.

Last week, Cuban struck again, sending center Raef LaFrentz, Mills, Welsch and a first round pick to the Celtics for Antoine Walker and Tony Delk.

Wow, a starting lineup of Nash, Finley, Nowitzki, Jamison and Walker would definitely light it up and cause many matchup problems for opponents. Can you imagine Shaq having to chase Dirk around screens?

As impressive as their offseason was, the Mavericks failed to address their core problems — defense and toughness.

Do they have enough offensive firepower to get to the Finals? Probably. Can they do it without a true defensive presence? Maybe. Will they be fun to watch? Count on it.

Sacramento Kings - contender

After a memorable, gutty and intense seven game Western Conference finals with the Lakers two years ago, the Kings were crowned as the next best thing in the NBA. They were expected storm through the 2002-03 season and claim the title with ease.

Everything was going according to plan until Game 2 of the second round playoff series against the Mavs, when All Star

forward Chris Webber landed awkwardly on his knee. The fall, which didn't look that serious on the replays, turned out to be devastating — Webber tore the meniscus in his left knee. The injury would require off-season surgery and CWebb was done for the year. So were the Kings, who eventually lost the series in seven games.

The addition of Brad Miller gives the Kings another All Star post player who will do the dirty work. Expect him to put up solid numbers early in the season, since Webber's knee will keep him out until December.

On paper, the Kings are still the most talented, well-rounded team in the league. Sharpshooter Peja Stojakovic will lead the team offensively in CWebb's absence and Doug Christie will shut down anyone on D. The key for the Kings, however, is the play of Mike Bibby, who had an off year last season. He can regain the form that allowed him to dominate the playoffs in 2002, Sacto will do some damage. If not, the media will be scrambling to crown some other team as the league's next best thing.

Minnesota T'wolves - pretender

After their seventh consecutive first round playoff exit last year, the team went out and did the right thing. They put talent around KG, giving him two more scoring options in Sam Cassell and Latrell Sprewell. They signed Michael Olowokandi to replace Rasha Nesterovic, who dashed to San Antonio. Finally, it looked like the T'wolves were ready to make some noise in the stacked western conference.

Unfortunately, the rest of the West took a page out of Minnesota's book and stacked their teams as well, trumping all of the T'wolves' moves.

There is no question that Minnesota has talent, I just don't think they have enough to compete with the aforementioned teams. If they can finish in the top four in the west and get home court advantage for the first round, they might have a chance of ending their streak. Otherwise, it will be eight straight early exits for KG and company.

Phoenix Suns - pretender

The suns have a great core of young stars in Stephon Marbury, Shawn Marion and Amare Stoudemire, and would probably make the conference finals, if they were in the East.

Unfortunately, they play in

Projected Western Conference Finish

Midwest Division	Pacific Division
1. Dallas Mavericks	1. Los Angeles Lakers
2. San Antonio Spurs	2. Sacramento Kings
3. Minnesota Timberwolves	3. Phoenix Suns
4. Houston Rockets	4. Portland Trailblazers
5. Memphis Grizzlies	5. Seattle Supersonics
6. Denver Nuggets	6. Los Angeles Clippers
7. Utah Jazz	7. Golden State Warriors

an extremely talented western conference and as good as they are, the Suns don't have enough to make a deep playoff run.

That's not to say that they're pushovers — just ask the Spurs who needed six games to dispose of those pesky boys from Phoenix in last year's playoffs. They could catch someone sleeping in the first round.

Portland Trailblazer - offender

The Jailblazers, I mean Treeblazers, I mean that team from Portland is an interesting collection of guys. Whether it's fighting with each other in practice, fighting with officials, or getting caught trying to sneak an ounce of weed onto a plane, you never know what this wild and wacky bunch will do.

No longer are the Blazers the most talented team in the league. They have some players — Rasheed Wallace is a headcase, but talented, Bonzi Wells is a great scorer and Zach Randolph is waiting to explode — but they aren't nearly as talented as they were in years past.

Look for the Blazers to grab

one of the last playoff spots and make the series interesting. They just don't have the basketball IQ to make a series playoff run.

Houston Rockets - offender

New head coach Jeff Van Gundy brings a new attitude to a young, talented team that has not made the playoffs in four years. Van Gundy wants Yao Ming to have a bigger role this season and will run the offense through the second-year center.

He even brought in Patrick Ewing to help Ming develop his post game. That means All Star Steve Francis won't have the green light like he did in years past.

How well the Rockets buy into the Van Gundy system will determine how well they do. On paper they have the talent to make the playoffs, but the team has not changed much from a year ago. If Ming can improve on his solid rookie campaign and Francis adjusts to his new role, Houston is a lock for the playoffs.

Kumar Malhotra is the sports editor for the Collegiate Times.

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