

6 students arrested on drug charges

by Aaron Blackwell
Associate News Editor

Six Virginia Tech students were arrested over the weekend, and each was charged with possession of marijuana.

Three Tech students were arrested and charged Saturday evening after being stopped on Wall Street for a traffic infraction, said Lt. Wendell Flinchum of the Tech Police Department.

Andrew Chester was driving at the time and Kaamil Khan and Ryan Bernier were passengers, Flinchum said.

Sunday afternoon three more Tech students were arrested and charged after a drug violation in O'Shaughnessy Hall. Elias Stephens, David Goldenweig and Lauren Campion were involved in this incident, Flinchum said.

All six received summonses to appear in court and were released, he said.

Both cases involved small amounts of marijuana.

Flinchum said these cases are routine for Tech police.

The maximum penalty for possession of marijuana includes a \$2,500 fine or a 12-month jail sentence if convicted, said Pat McCall, deputy clerk for Montgomery General District Court.

First offenses will usually go through the Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program, which educates people about drug and alcohol abuse and safe driving.

Those with first offenses that are convicted will likely lose their license for six months and face a fine, McCall said.

SpongeBob, Jeddis fill Oak Lane

■ The Greek community offered a safe spot for children to trick-or-treat last night and provided haunted houses and games

by Erin Zlomek
News Assistant

Hundreds of children interacted with the Greek community for the annual Oak Lane Trick-Or-Treat last night.

The Panhellenic and Inter-Fraternity Council worked together to provide Halloween games, haunted houses and candy for the entertainment of disguised youths.

"This is a really important event for us because all of the organizations get to work together as opposed to working on our own individual philanthropies," said Delta Gamma member Nicole Sacco, a junior political science and international studies double major.

"We get to spend time with each other and work on a common goal."

About 170 Greeks chaperoned trick-or-treaters throughout Oak Lane, while three different houses offered games.

"We just want to make this a good place for kids to go to," said Zach Franz, a member of Sigma Chi and a junior marketing major. "It's a big circle, it's easy for parents to bring (their kids) here."

The members of Sigma Chi and Pi Kappa Phi each converted their buildings into haunted houses.

"It's basically a little maze for kids to walk through; they've got live sounds and people jumping out here and there," said Pi Kappa Phi member Roy Loso, a



CHRISTINA O CONNOR/SPPS

Six-year-old Dwight Brady, dressed as SpongeBob SquarePants, fishes for candy at the annual Oak Lane Trick-Or-Treat. Many Greek houses featured events for children, including games and haunted houses.

sophomore mechanical engineering major.

Loso said his fraternity began preparations at 4 p.m. for the night's festivities.

Franz said his organization also spent hours working to prepare their house.

"I loved (haunted houses) when I was a kid," Franz said. "I feel as though I should return the favor."

Approximately 3,000 children were given invitations to the event. Groups of trick-or-treat-

ers were taken around in 15-minute increments to prevent overcrowding.

"Last year we had tons of kids come through — this year is the same thing," Franz said.

Some organizations received money for the event from the Greek council, others got funding from Student Programs, and almost all of them made contributions from their own budgets.

"We took money out of our own pot, just to go the extra mile," Sacco said.

While the entire event was planned by the Panhellenic and Inter-Fraternity Council, delegates from individual houses organized within their chapters.

Sacco said she saw many familiar adult faces.

"We see a lot of faces from around Virginia Tech," Sacco said. "A lot of faculty came out with their children."

The houses of Oak Lane have also put on an Easter egg hunt in the past, as well Thanksgiving and Christmas food drives.

"I loved (haunted houses) when I was a kid. I feel as though I should return the favor."

Zach Franz
Sigma Chi

Tech, student raise disability awareness

by Tiffany Hoffman
Managing Editor

Sophomore mathematics major Teresa Maher is being recognized with a national award for excellence, despite an impending learning disability. This will bring Virginia Tech into the spotlight of disability awareness and excellence for the second day in a row.



MaHer

The Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic organization presents \$6,000 to three different high school seniors every year for excelling in scholarship, leadership, enterprise and service. Though Maher graduated from Blacksburg High School in 2002, the ceremony for her achievement will be held tonight in Philadelphia.

"It's highly competitive," said Morgan Roth, vice president of public affairs for RFB&D. "Students

must maintain a high GPA, show involvement in the community and demonstrate leadership, and Teresa just nailed it."

Roth said several hundred students apply for the grant and a group of high-stake holders in the organization make the final decision.

"We bring in the stake holders so they get to see firsthand how RFB&D impacts students," Roth said. "Everybody comes out ahead."

MaHer said she used RFB&D mostly when she was in elementary school to help her get used to reading novels.

"They helped me expand my vocabulary and become a better reader," she said. "It wasn't that I was a slower reader, I just had to get used to reading the words. My mind thinks more mathematically and logically."

However, MaHer said she has almost outgrown the disability and has not needed to use the disability resources since she entered college.

The RFB&D was founded 55 years ago to serve veterans from World War II who were blinded during combat

and wanted to finish their education, but then had no means to read their textbooks.

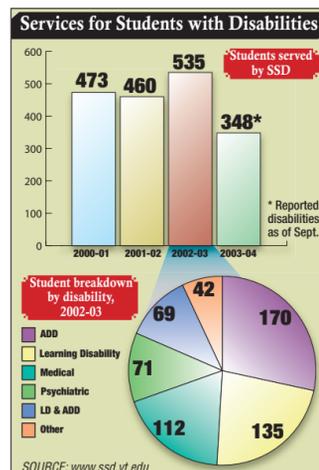
"The (organization) went from serving a handful of blinded college students to 126,000 students of all ages from kindergarten through grad school with a range of all learning disabilities," Roth said.

The organization has 93,000 titles on CD and cassette tapes for those who cannot read the stories or hold up the books. More than 5,000 institutions, including Tech have a membership with the group.

Mary Roop, office manager of the services for students with disabilities said the university has used RFB&D for many years, in addition to a variety of other resources based on the needs of applicants. As of September, Roop said 348 students had registered for the services.

"I don't know if it's the web or that more professors are aware of us, but we do have more referrals than we used to see," Roop said.

Because of its efforts to actively recruit people with disabilities, the university was presented the



Disability-Friendly Business Award yesterday by the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services.

"When you're chosen for the disability award, you are nominated

See **DISABILITY**, page 2

Police offer balcony safety tips

by Bryan Nieder
News Assistant

The recent wave of balcony accidents has sparked local law enforcement to send out an e-mail with measures students should take to prevent future occurrences.

Promoting a safe environment for Virginia Tech and the local community, the Virginia Tech and Blacksburg Police Departments and the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office sent the email to the Tech community, which was also published in the New River Current.

Lt. J.G. Frazier of the Blacksburg Police Department said the message of safety is a community wide effort with the goal of increasing awareness of the incidents.

"We are trying to bring it out where everyone's aware of it," Frazier said.

The e-mail follows incidents involving a total of 10 people falling from balconies or windows.

Keara Murphy, a senior hospitality and tourism management major, said her fall from a third floor balcony at The Chase apartments on Oct. 3 resulted in an incredible recovery.

Murphy was attempting to climb from her neighbor's third floor balcony to her own in an effort to enter her locked apartment, she said.

In the process, she fell 30

See **SAFETY**, page 2

New pill helps women fight discomfort

■ The birth control pill, recently approved by the FDA, will reduce female cycles to four times per year

by Ellen Biltz
News Assistant

For many women, the menstrual cycle is the most dreaded time of the month, but because of a new birth control, period-created stress

will decrease to four times a year. Seasonale is used not only to stop pregnancy, but also to mandate the cycle of your period.

Rite-Aid pharmacist Darren Jones said the effectiveness of Seasonale is the same as other forms of birth control already on the market today.

"I think it will be one of the more popular forms of birth control," Jones said. "Being what it is

used for, to decrease periods, really helps."

"I think (Seasonale) will be one of the more popular forms of birth control."

Darren Jones
pharmacist

approval by the Food and Drug

Administration in early September. Seasonale comes in packs of 84 pills with seven placebo pills, whereas most birth control packs contain 21 pills. This is the cause for the reduction of periods within the menstrual cycle. The Seasonale packs are sold in a three-month supply.

"They cost about the same as other types (of birth control)," Jones said. "(Rite-Aid) has them priced at \$119.99 for a three-month supply."

Jones said, although the birth control comes in different packaging, the

See **WOMEN**, page 2

News in Brief

Administration debates changing soldier assignment

WASHINGTON (AP) — American forces might have to cut the number of intelligence officers searching for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq and reassign them to a search for the culprits behind a wave of deadly attacks.

Defense and intelligence officials said Wednesday the idea has been debated by senior administration officials for several weeks, during which attacks against U.S. troops, international organizations and Iraqis have spiraled up to an average of nearly three dozen a day.

“Terri’s Law” challenged in Fla.

CLEARWATER, Fla. (AP) — The husband of a severely brain-damaged woman on Wednesday challenged the legality of a hastily passed state law empowering Gov. Jeb Bush to keep her alive.

In a court filing, attorneys for Michael Schiao contended that the law violates Terri Schiavo’s right to privacy and the separation of power provisions of the Florida Constitution.

The statute, dubbed “Terri’s Law” by Florida lawmakers, gave Bush the authority to order Terri Schiavo’s feeding tube be reinserted Oct. 21.

Storm disrupts airline industry

DENVER (AP) — The most powerful geomagnetic storm possible walloped the Earth early Wednesday, knocking out some airline communications but apparently causing no large power outages or other major problems.

The storm, the most disruptive to hit Earth since 1989, was unleashed by the fourth-most powerful solar flare ever seen, NASA said. The cloud of charged particles hurled from the sun posed a threat to electric utilities and high frequency radio communications.

‘Race war’ prophet pleads guilty

BALTIMORE (AP) — A 61-year-old man who stockpiled ammunition and told police a race war was coming pleaded guilty Wednesday to misdemeanor weapons charges, saying he had been demonized by the media and could never expect a fair trial.

Lovell Wheeler spent nearly four months in jail after police seized gunpowder, guns and ammunition from his home. He was unrepentant Wednesday, telling Judge Lynn K. Stewart that he had been arrested on a warrant “bogus as a two-dollar bill” by “jack-booted thugs.”

11 Russian coal miners rescued

NOVOSHAKHTINSK, Russia (AP) — Blinking in the sunlight they hadn’t seen in a week, 11 of 13 coal miners who were trapped in a deep shaft in southern Russia were brought to the surface alive Wednesday. One said the men didn’t have long to live when help arrived.

One of the other two miners remained missing late Thursday and the last was found dead, apparently crushed against mine walls by the waters that rushed in from an underground lake and trapped the men last Thursday.

School project worries parents

SAN DIMAS, Calif. (AP) — Several parents recently have been wondering how come their children know so much about the cost of illegal drugs.

Blame it on a classroom project. Students at Lone Hill Middle School were assigned imaginary careers and salaries and told to figure out how much various drug habits would cost them.

“Samantha came home Wednesday and told us she’s addicted to marijuana and has a \$300 drug habit,” said one parent, Diana Mitchell. “My husband and I were both stunned.”

Firefighter dies in Calif. wildfire

LAKE ARROWHEAD, Calif. (AP) — Firefighters struggled desperately Wednesday to save emptied-out resort towns in Southern California’s San Bernardino Mountains as 200-foot walls of flame engulfed dead and dried-out trees. In San Diego County, the state’s largest fire claimed another victim when a firefighting crew was overcome by flames, killing one and injuring three. It marked the first firefighter death since the series of blazes began last week and brought the total number of dead to 18.

The hot, dry Santa Ana winds from the desert that had been whipping the fires into raging infernos eased, only to give way to stiff breezes off the ocean that pushed the flames up the canyon walls around evacuated resort towns like Lake Arrowhead and Big Bear, east of Los Angeles.

By early afternoon, homes were burning in the mountain community of CedarPines Park.

“There’s fire on so many fronts, it’s not even manageable at this point,” said Chris Cade, a fire prevention technician with the U.S. Forest Service, as he watched a pillar of smoke he estimated at 9,000 feet rise into a hazy sky thick with ash.

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Disability: Tech given excellence award

Continued from page 1

by another organization,” said Mark Owczarski, director of news and information. “We were nominated by the Montgomery County school board.”

The criteria for the award includes an ability to accommodate for disabilities, work with programs that encourage accessibility for students or an effort to hire people with disabilities.

“Virginia Tech really does all three,” Owczarski said. “One of the core values of Virginia

Tech is the encouragement of diversity. People often think of diversity as gender, color, sexual preferences, but a big part of it is diversity of abilities.”

Owczarski said approximately 85 different businesses have received the award and the hope is to have it eventually extended to all businesses.

“The point is to make access readily available,” he said. “It says wonderful things about Virginia Tech and the community here. This is something that is important to Virginia Tech and it’s nice to be recognized for that notoriety.”

Safety: Police heighten holiday security

Continued from page 1

feet.

“My neurosurgeon couldn’t believe I didn’t have more injuries,” Murphy said.

She said her recovery is miraculous, considering the height of her fall, and has been told that she should be 100 percent in six months.

Murphy broke a bone in her lower back and bruised part of her brain as a result of the fall.

“They said usually people have more brain injuries,” Murphy said. “It’s all about the way you fall.”

According to the e-mail, pre-

ventative measures for avoiding incidents like these include avoiding unfamiliar groups,

discouraging excessive high-risk drinking and using good common sense.

Debra Duncan, police chief for the Tech police department, said even though these incidents were accidents, they could have been avoided, especially if drugs and alcohol were taken out of the mix.

“Usually when there is alcohol involved, you do things you may not do otherwise,” Duncan said.

With the upcoming weekend’s Halloween and football events, Duncan said the Tech police presence will quadruple from the normal number of 40 officers.

She said the police are not on the lookout to just arrest people, but are primarily

concerned with making sure nobody gets hurt.

On Sept. 28, seven people fell from a window during a concert at the Solar Haus.

Sophomore Daniel Martin died and six others were hospitalized. Jason Kontkanen of Manassas Park was the last to be released.

Devin Welch and Elisabeth McFadyen fell from a third floor balcony in the Hunter’s Ridge apartment complex on Oct. 10.

Welch was released several weeks ago. McFadyen is in good condition at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital.

Women: Seasonale has negative side effects

Continued from page 1

same rules apply when taking Seasonale as to most other birth control pills.

“If you miss a pill, take two the next day,” Jones said. “If you miss three days in a row, move on without taking any that you missed.”

The side effects are also very similar to those of other pills.

These include, but are not limited to, dizziness, headache, insomnia, nausea and vaginal discomfort.

“One of the biggest (side effects) of this drug is the increases risk of heart problems of smokers,” Jones said.

Because Seasonale is a drug to reduce the quantity of periods per year, the pill can cause another undesired side effect.

“I’ve heard there may be as much bleeding in that one month as if it had built up from the months before,” Harer said.

Schiffert Health Center plans to prescribe the pill after more knowledge has been gathered regarding side effects and usage.

Harer said the concept of the decreased quantities of periods per year is not a new concept, just a new marketing tool.

“Women have been taking pills straight through for a while now, it’s the same

thing,” Harer said.

Because of the amounts of estrogen in Seasonale, breakthrough bleeding can also occur.

There are a variety of drugs that can decrease the effectiveness of Seasonale. These drugs include antibiotics, seizure medications, HIV medications and the herb, St. John’s Wart.

“Most people don’t know to be careful with St. John’s Wart, but it really can be a problem,” Jones said.

“The medications that effect your body with Seasonale are pretty much the same as other (birth control) pills.”

STOCK MARKET REPORT — 10/29/2003 —	WEATHER	TODAY	TONIGHT	FRIDAY	FRIDAY NIGHT	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
DJIA 9774.53 ▲ 26.22	 Mainly sunny Highs: 65° - 70°	 Clear skies Lows: 39° - 43°	 Scattered clouds Highs: 69° - 74°	 Partly cloudy Lows: 40° - 44°	 Mostly sunny 75°/42°	 Mostly sunny 78°/51°	
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SEC must bring accountability to mutual and hedge funds

Nick Pascale

Among the corporate scandals involving Tyco, WorldCom and Enron, to name a few, Wall Street and the Securities and Exchange Commission have their hands full with corrupt, unethical mutual and hedge fund managers.

The recent headlines have been bashing the fund manager and employees that have been taking part in "market timing" and "zone timing."

By letting the funds get away with trading after markets close, and exploiting the arbitrage opportunities available because of foreign markets, the shareholders in these funds have found themselves to be the losers.

Clearly the practice only benefits fund managers and their circles of friends, so why hasn't the SEC done something to regulate this behavior?

The problem is they still rely on ethics to guide fund managers. If the recent trend of corporate greed and the public's demands for more accountability are any indication, then the SEC should turn to regulation and legislation for the answer.

Though shareholders want to buy into funds that are run by ethical managers, there is little the public can do to investigate market timing.

The founder of Vanguard Group Inc., one of the country's largest funds, is calling on the SEC to change the structure of the industry in order to bring

“By letting the funds get away with trading after markets close, and exploiting the arbitrage opportunities available because of foreign markets, the shareholders in these funds have found themselves to be the losers.”

accountability.

John Bogle, founder of Vanguard Group Inc., told the Wall Street Journal, "It can be resolved only by implementing reforms in fund structure that create a governance model that puts the shareholders in the driver's seat."

Bogle has the right idea, now it is the SEC's chance to take his advice and get the investors behind the wheel.

The structural changes must include enclosure and accountability through regulation and legislation. Funds that benefit the managers through timing and draw that benefit from investors will soon find themselves with a marketing nightmare. Who would buy into a fund that times the markets?

Someone who wants to see their money shrink as managers manipulate the closing bell.

Nick Pascale is the opinions editor for the Collegiate Times.

Bryant's accuser should face equal coverage

Jim Kennedy

For the past several weeks, we've been bombarded with media coverage of the events leading to the Kobe Bryant sexual assault trial. Granted, I am getting tired of it, but I am a minion of "SportsCenter." Many controversial issues have sprung from this case, none more important than victim's rights.

Should the courts or the public be able to access information on the victim? Can they know her name, education history or previous arrests? Yes, I believe so.

Victim's rights have become pigeonholed in recent sexual assault trials.

This can be attributed to the growing number of accusers who have made up incidents and put innocent men on trial.

Eugene Kanin, a sociologist from Purdue University, spent 10 years examining the rape reports of a small metropolitan town. He found that of 109 alleged incidents, 45 of them were false accusations (41 percent).

Three main factors were the motivation behind these false claims: revenge, a desire for attention and

the need for an alibi.

This means that in four of 10 sexual assault cases, the man is the victim, albeit in a different way. Yet, the accused name is omnipresent in the media and in many households. No one cares about any facts that could prove him innocent.

Last time I checked, he's innocent until proven guilty. It sounds like we have a double standard on our hands.

The Eagle County Sheriff's Office held a pretty large press conference when they announced charges would be filed against Bryant. They even held a press conference to state they were thinking about pressing charges the week beforehand. If they are going to name the accused, name the accuser.

Or, don't name either.

The legal system seems to be behind the curve again. You can't really blame them, but America has evolved. The media is everywhere now. I don't expect the judicial system to change that quickly, but we can expect the media to report fairly on pending cases and the courts to cooperate with them.

I am not trying to cheapen legitimate claims of rape, by any means. All I'm saying is we ought to even the legal playing field. If they can

pinpoint every detail about Bryant, how is the accuser's position any different?

It does not have to be advertised but the information needs to be accessible and allowable for the defense.

What's even more mind-boggling to me is the prosecution trying to hide everything about the life of Bryant's accuser. This includes her previous sexual experiences. It's been said she had relations with three other men in the days leading up to the incident, as recent as the night before.

Yet, the prosecution seems to think this is not pertinent to the case at hand. I don't think it gets much more pertinent than that.

We need to extend accountability to the accusers as well as the accused. I fully agree any real victim should not have to be subjected to any more pain or embarrassment.

But if they are given that status before the verdict, we are assuming every defendant is guilty.

That is a dangerous precedent that can be pushed onto any form of criminal or civil activity. I'm not quite ready for that.

Jim Kennedy is a regular columnist for the Collegiate Times.

Multinational corporations need to take responsibility

Kate Lynch

Multinational corporations need to start taking responsibility for the way their actions affect not only the environment but also the people of the countries they conquer.

Facing the possibility of correcting its destructible behavior in Ecuador is the U.S. petroleum giant ChevronTexaco.

Because of the company's careless drilling, nearly 2.5 million acres of rainforest were destroyed.

Between 1971 and 1991, Texaco extracted more than 1.5 billion barrels of oil from the Ecuadorian Amazon.

During those 20 years of drilling, Texaco poisoned the homeland of nearly 500,000 indigenous people who live in the area, simply because the company cut costs.

Taking advantage of weak environmental standards at the time, Texaco disposed of wastewater into some 350 open pits instead of reinserting the water deep underground.

The wastewater flowed from these dirt pits into rivers and streams that feed into the Amazon River.

The people and animals living in the area are then exposed to contaminated drinking water, which causes cancer and other sicknesses.

Now, after observing the unnecessary deaths of farm animals and people, 30,000 Ecuadoreans are fighting back. ChevronTexaco is now on trial in Ecuador in a lawsuit filed on behalf of

“It is time for companies that ruin the lives of the poor and pay no regard to a rapidly deteriorating environment to pay up.”

the victims.

This case could set the important precedent that foreign courts can hold multinational corporations financially responsible for environmental damage in their country.

In 2001, Texaco merged with Chevron, forming the second largest energy company in the world. Now ChevronTexaco has the legal and ethical responsibility to clean up the mess that Texaco left in Ecuador — that mess estimating at around \$1 billion.

If the court rules in favor of the plaintiffs, the oil industry would be forced to comply to the best technical practices when they drill in the developing world, just as they do in first world nations.

This would also propel more effort to terminate oil production in environmental areas that need protection.

It is time for companies that ruin the lives of the poor and pay no regard to a rapidly deteriorating environment to pay up.

Kate Lynch is the editorial assistant for the Collegiate Times.

Letters to the Editor

Pedestrians must practice caution too

Walking to and from classes, dining halls and their residence halls, the Virginia Tech students on campus have two general things in common: They are Hokies and they are pedestrians.

I would like to express my frustrations with the pedestrians on this campus with this simple letter. I, too, am a Hokie. I, too, walk to my classes. I am also a Blacksburg motorist.

It was while driving that I first noticed my frustrations with pedestrians, especially those who are crossing the street.

For the most part, pedestrians, possessing full knowledge of their right of way, love to exercise their privilege and, in some cases, exploit it. Too many times I have been driving and oblivious pedestrians, who have been nursed their whole lives to believe that drivers will stop for them in a crosswalk, cross without even looking.

I become even more frustrated when this happens at night or on the Drillfield during the day when parked cars blind the views of drivers. Pedestrians need to understand these obstacles that drivers face and look both ways before they cross any road. Someone is going to get killed.

My last frustration is the lack of common courtesy shown to driv-

ers, especially outside of McBryde when a class is dismissed. All too often I observe the silent but obvious statement, "Screw you, I have the right of way."

The other day I stopped a student on the crosswalk who had stepped out in front of a car that was trying to sneak through a brief opening in the crowd. I told him that if he had just waited five more seconds, the driver could have kept on going (and not slam on his brakes in the middle of the crosswalk) and not had to wait for another 10 minutes.

Please understand that motorists have places to be just as well as us pedestrians do.

I wish I could see a little more roadside courtesy between pedestrian and driver. If we all give a little more or maybe sacrifice our right of way just once a day, maybe we could make Tech a little friendlier and a little safer, too.

Scott Bliss
sophomore, BIT

Reaction to coach's actions unwarranted

I can't believe people have a problem with Frank Beamer's actions on the sidelines of the West Virginia University game ("Black alumni group upset by Frank Beamer's actions," CT, Oct. 28). There was absolutely nothing wrong with it. Beamer is the coach.

That means he is in charge of the team.

He can do whatever he wants to them, provided he doesn't physically injure them. Just like any sport or organization, there's a hierarchy of power and Beamer's at the top.

On the field and in practice the players are like Beamer's children. And just like it's ok to smack your own kid when he or she acts up, it's ok for Beamer to smack the players.

It's not like he could have hurt him physically with that tap on the helmet, anyway. So that means any damage done would have to be emotional.

And if Wilford was hurt emotionally by his coach yelling at him and slapping his helmet, he does not belong on the football field. Life is pain, get used to it.

I'm a little disappointed that Beamer apologized for it. Like I said, the players belong to him for the time they're on the field. He can do what he wants.

But what disappoints me more is that so many people got worked up about it, like it was some big deal. I was shocked to hear that people would care about something so small. I wouldn't care if the fans had just left it alone.

But, instead, you all had to make a big deal about it and put it all over the papers. Beamer should be allowed to come around and slap all of you on the heads too, just for being dumb.

Scott Stencil
junior, computer science

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Features

Coffee, music are perks at Open Mic Night

by **Stephanie Stultz**
Staff Writer

Students congregated in Deet's Place Wednesday night as the Alternative Sounds committee of the Virginia Tech Union presented Open Mic Night.

The members of the audience sat and enjoyed cups of coffee or bites of food while observing the array of talent performed by their fellow students.

There were approximately 70 people around to view the live music.

"Being only my second public performance, I was pretty nervous, but I had a lot of fun," said Terry Steffens, a freshman building construction major.

Steffens excited the crowd with his James Taylor and Jack Johnson covers. Most of the entertainers seemed to leave the

stage with smiles and self-satisfaction. The songs were split between originals and covers to add an enjoyable show of talents.

Chris Minton started the night with some original songs on his acoustic guitar. He then continued on to cover a Cat Stevens tune, which seemed to spark the crowd's approval. Josh Harrington followed him to play some of his own songs as well.

One of the more interesting acts included a performer playing a book to demonstrate rhythm. He was able to keep an upbeat tempo and sing along to produce a fascinating routine.

The crowd watched in amazement as the musicians expressed themselves in a variety of manners.

"Music is a form of expres-

sion," said Pam Divine, a junior communication major. "It's great to see how many talented musicians there are here in Blacksburg. For them to be able to come play in front of a crowd is wonderful."

WUVT, Virginia Tech's student-run radio station, was able to broadcast live from the event for the very first time. This was an added thrill for the new performers, as well as a great way to advertise and get future participants involved.

Open Mic Night hosts different musicians with various styles, but is also open to permitting other forms of expression and creativity.

"We put on the Open Mic Night in order to allow students to showcase their talents," Jacie Roberts, director of Alternative Sounds, said. "Although lately

it has been mostly musicians, we welcome diversity in the talents and invite anything from poetry readings to comedy acts."

Although Open Mic Night is just for a good time, it could also be a start to a musical career for different artists striving to make themselves known. Every opportunity is counted and appreciated by the entertainers.

The Open Mic Night is held the last Wednesday of every month with free admittance. Students may buy raffle tickets at the door for \$1. Some of the prizes last night included an All American Rejects CD and assorted hats.

The audience adored the free stickers, mouse pads and lighters given out at the door. All raffle ticket money went to the VTU in order to raise money for future events.



ANNABELLE OMBAC/SPPS

Kent Le and Jacob Bock of tripleside.net showcased their musical skills last night at Open Mic in Deet's Place.

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Personals

Thanks to my roommates and all the CT staff for an eventful 21st birthday.

~A.J.

Hey Double Down, Don't worry about last night's game, we'll eventually score a touch-down. Hang in there.

Jeremy

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Sports

Can Hokies forget West Virginia?

by Rajan Nanavati
Sports Editor

Last Wednesday night in Morgantown, W. Va., the entire nation tuned in to witness ESPN's broadcast of what turned out to be a good old-fashioned blowout when the West Virginia Mountaineers ran over the Virginia Tech Hokies 28-7.

The Mountaineers did everything the Hokies were known for doing: running the football effectively on offense, playing sound defense and special teams and forcing opportunistic turnovers. In essence, they gave the Hokies a taste of their own medicine, and when Tech could take no more, they forced another dose right down their throat.

Many argue that the loss should be seen as nothing more than a blip or a freak occurrence. After all, Virginia Tech had not been defeated in that convincing manner in nearly two years (see Pittsburgh, 2001). Considering the postseason aspirations this team had just before their abrupt halt, many feel Tech simply did not show up to play with the intensity of West Virginia and got beat on emotion, rather than talent or execution.

That this loss rattled Tech in ways that hardly anyone who currently walks this campus has ever seen. Averaging less than five penalties a game coming into the contest, Tech suffered a complete mental breakdown in terms of discipline and was penalized 13 times for 116 yards, more yards than the team gained rushing all night. The offense did not score a single point in the entire game — the first time that happened since 2001 when Tech was defeated 38-7 by the University of Pittsburgh. Perhaps the incident that summarized Tech's lack of composure for the entire evening was head coach Frank Beamer's slap on wide receiver Ernest Wilford's helmet during the second half out of frustration, a completely uncharacteristic move from a usually cool-mannered fatherly figure like Beamer.

"I think we tried, but I don't think mentally we were as sharp (as West Virginia)," Beamer said. "I really thought we had it with the (fumble return for a touchdown), it was just one of those games that didn't go right."

Tech has, of course, suffered losses before, and in some cases lopsided losses as well, but the manner in which this team suffered defeat in a season which bore realistic National Championship hopes may have a dramatic effect on the psyche of the program and its fans.

In his Tuesday afternoon press conference in front of the local media, coach Beamer looked perhaps the most uncomfortable, and even dejected, in recent memory. He joked about how his seasons

"We've definitely had a setback. It's certainly a flat challenge. I think most of our players will accept that challenge."

Frank Beamer
Tech head coach

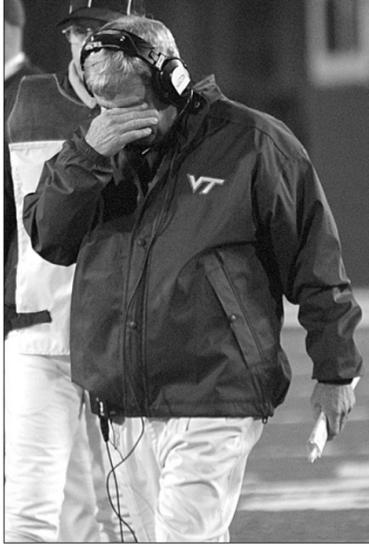
are like a golf game in which he birdies the top nine and bogies the back nine (referring to Tech's recent trend of stumbling during the second half of their season), but that may have been the only point of levity during the conference. Beamer admitted that the loss to the Mountaineers was among the toughest losses he's ever had to get over.

He looked extremely uncomfortable when having to address the issue of the Wilford slap, and briefly commented on it before quickly changing the subject. When asked about the mental state of the team and how they'll be able to respond to the thorough beating they took in West Virginia, Beamer displayed perhaps the least amount of confidence in the team's preparation that he has all season.

"I think we'll see (about the team's confidence level)," Beamer mentioned in a more casual tone than usual when referring to this subject.

"We've had a setback. It's certainly a flat challenge. I think most of our players will accept the challenge."

The players, conversely, seemed ready to get back into action and put the loss behind them. They all mentioned they had a stronger week of practice with a bit more intensity than during their comfortable



BERT GREEN/SPPS

Frank Beamer hides his dismay after Tech's collapse in Morgantown.

winning streak.

"I'm not worried, I believe (the West Virginia game) was a wake-up call for us more than anything," said Tech rover Michael Crawford, one of the senior members of the defense. "Everything seemed to be upbeat, I think it's more about being focused and letting that loss go."

"I think everyone's ready to go" said Tech center Jake Grove. "After a game like West Virginia, where we were so disappointed, I think everyone can't wait to get back on the field and prove to ourselves that we are capable of beating the top teams in the country. I think we're going to show a lot of things this week."

It is apparent that if the coach is the pulse of the team, this is a team in major need of a jump-start, and the game against the second-ranked Miami Hurricanes this Saturday can certainly provide it.

With Tech dropping out of the BCS standings after having previously enjoyed a No. 3 rank, this win can really resuscitate a program that may have suffered a severe blow.

Falcons, Reeves need Vick back on field

by Paul Newberry
Associated Press

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. — After watching his team get off to a miserable start without its best player, Atlanta Falcons coach Dan Reeves wants Michael Vick back on the field now.

No way, says Vick, who insists he won't come back until his broken leg is totally healed.

And, in the first firm timetable on his return, Vick said Wednesday he'd probably make his debut Dec. 7 against Carolina — much longer than the projected recovery period.

"I'm kind of frustrated," he said. "I thought I would be back a little earlier. But I don't have any control over the way my body feels. ... Right now, I can't do it. I honestly can't do it."

Reeves obviously feels different. He gave a totally unsolicited assessment of Vick's recovery after being asked a general question about how the Falcons (1-6) are holding up during a six-game losing streak.

"Mike needs to get back as soon as he possibly can," Reeves said Wednesday. "He talks about how he shouldn't come back, but I think he realizes, too, that you've got a small window of opportunity, and he's not getting better sitting on the sidelines."

Vick, a Pro Bowler in his first season as a starter, broke his right leg in an Aug. 16 exhibition game. At the time, doctors projected the recovery time at six to 10 weeks.

If Vick doesn't play until Dec. 7, his rehab will have lasted 16 weeks.

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