

Poet's corner



TED MARTELLO/SPPS

Poets gathered last night to present their work at More Than Coffee in downtown Blacksburg.

Faculty jobs available online

PeopleAdmin offers online applications helping ensure a quicker response and less paperwork

by Erin Zlomek
News Assistant

Virginia Tech will be implementing a new online process for hiring faculty positions, effective in mid-November.

The program, PeopleAdmin, created by a company of the same name, will offer online applications in addition to the traditional paper application.

"(PeopleAdmin will) provide a more streamline process, reduce a lot of paper flow and get responses out quicker," said Rosie Higdon, senior manager for personnel services.

"It is an application management system."

Higdon said the program will drastically cut down on paperwork within the university.

"Internally, there are six equal opportunity forms to be completed for each applicant; if we (hire) online, there will be zero," Higdon

said. "Applicants can also easily attach their vitae or resume."

The program allows for a quicker approval process as well.

Kelly Oaks, equity manager in the office of equal opportunity, said traditional applications must go through a hiring manager and then to a dean or senior manager before ever arriving in her office. Once she receives the application, turn around time for a response is usually 48 hours.

"We feel we can definitely cut that time in half, if not more," Oaks said.

Tech has still not decided to make the online system the only outlet used for hiring.

"We are certainly moving in a different direction, but we are not eliminating the (paper application) entirely at this point," Higdon said.

The Internet-accessible application is predicted to better accommodate candidates who do not live near the Tech campus. In the past, out-of-state applicants were forced to over-night all

See **FACULTY**, page 2

Computer to rank No. 3

by Aaron Blackwell
Associate News Editor

Statistics on Virginia Tech's new supercomputer will be released next week at "Supercomputing 2003," a conference to be held in Phoenix, Ariz.

Preliminary results, however, show Tech's computer ranks third in the world, said Mike Heffner, a graduate student in computer science.

While preliminary numbers on the project were released, official statistics on the computer will not be made public until the conference, said Lynn Nystrom, director of

news and external relations for the department of engineering.

The conference, starting tomorrow, gives organizations the chance to get together and exchange ideas.

"Bringing together scientists, engineers, researchers, educators, programmers, system administrators and managers, SC2003 in Phoenix will demonstrate how these developments are sparking new ideas and new industries, as well as rekindling older ones," according to the "Supercomputing 2003" Web site.

"The conference features the latest scientific and technical innovations from around the world, while its SC Global events will showcase achievements in the

arts and sciences among dozens of remote locations."

Tech's supercomputer contains 10.28 teraflops of performance which can perform over 10 trillion operations per second, Nystrom said.

While the computer is already ranked globally, it will still be under development for a while longer, Heffner said.

Once the computer is operational, a variety of programs will use it.

The supercomputer won't be used for any specific projects until next semester,

See **COMPUTER**, page 2

Team wins regional contest

The programming team took first place in regionals and will be in the international competition in Prague

by Ellen Biltz
News Assistant

A Virginia Tech programming team took first place in the Association for Computing Machinery Mid-Atlantic regional contest Saturday.

The competition was held in nine different locations — Tech competed at the Radford University site.

The team will advance to internationals in March.

The three students on the winning team are computer science majors Kevin Ferguson, Joe Gleason and

Greg Grothaus.

The international competition will be held in Prague, Czech Republic. The two universities accompanying Tech at internationals are Duke University and Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania.

According to Netta Benton from public relations for computer science, a North American winner will be declared at that time.

The contest lasted five hours. All of the nine sites run at the same time and are judged by the same people.

"At the beginning, they give you seven or eight programming problems," said Gleason, a junior.

"You try to get as many as you can and the tie-breaker depends on how much time you use."

Tech's team correctly completed six of the given prob-

lems. They beat Duke in a timed tiebreaker.

Coached by Sallie Henry, the Mid-Atlantic regional director, students go through a complex process to become members of Tech's team.

"We have tryouts with between 35 and 75 people each year," Henry said. "Each person is on a computer and they do four to five problems. The top 18 out of the group are chosen."

The team's first four practices are used to break up into the five competing groups. Henry said the smaller groups are chosen based on a variety of things.

"There is practice five hours every Saturday, just like the competition," Gleason said.

The team also does homework as well as an extra one-

ACM Mid-Atlantic Programming Contest	
TEAM	CITATION
Virginia Tech Va Tech 1	First Place
Duke University cadread	Second Place
Virginia Tech Va Tech 2	Third Place
Duke University wimami	Fourth Place
Virginia Tech Va Tech 3	Fifth Place
Shippensburg Shippensburg Red	Sixth Place
Johns Hopkins 11 guys	Seventh Place
Lafayette College GHA_HUN_IND	Eighth Place
UVA UVA - 1	Ninth Place
Wilkes University Wilkes Blue	Tenth Place

CHRIS HEUBERGER

hour meeting each week to have discussion.

According to Benton, most

See **CONTEST**, page 2

Forum addresses Patriot Act

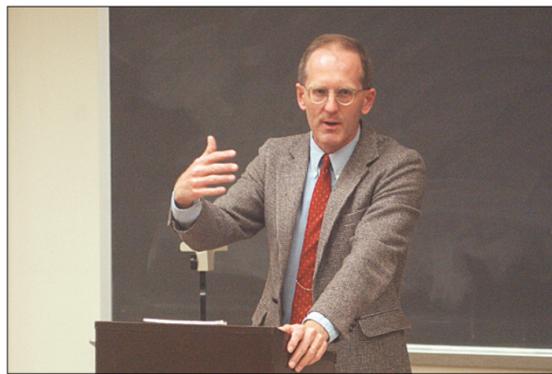
The Patriot Act was passed in 2001 and gives government increased access of private information

by Eric Beidel
Associate News Editor

Students and area residents gathered in Pamplin Hall last night to discuss the controversial U.S.A. Patriot Act and its far-reaching jurisdiction.

The forum was led by Wayne Moore, an associate professor in political science, and was sponsored by the American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia Tech.

Moore fielded questions as to the constitutionality of the act, which was passed Oct. 26,



AL FAYEZ/SPPS

Associate political science professor Wayne Moore led the discussion about the controversies surrounding the act.

2001.

The Patriot Act has several provisions that make it easier for the federal government to obtain information on citizens

and non-citizens alike.

"A lot of what the Patriot Act has to do with is gathering information. One way to fight terrorism is to gather infor-

mation on terrorism," Moore said.

The Fourth Amendment is the main obstacle in gathering information and at the center of the Patriot Act debate, he said.

The Fourth Amendment prohibits unreasonable search and seizure. Moore said, during times of war and crisis, the definition of "unreasonable" expands.

"After Sept. 11, powers expanded because the government felt a need for domestic defense and security," he said.

The act allows, among other practices, for "sneak and peek searches" in which officials may search homes or businesses without notifying the owner for a certain amount of days or even weeks.

See **FORUM**, page 3

Penn State buys download privileges

The university will pay for students to download songs from Napster to prevent possible lawsuits from the RIAA against students

by Jared Turner
News Assistant

Pennsylvania State University has teamed up with online music service Napster in an unprecedented step to prevent college students from illegally downloading music off the Internet.

On the first day of the spring semester, 18,000 Penn State students will be able to freely download music from Napster as part of a pilot program the university plans to make accessible to the whole student body next

fall.

The service will be paid for with a portion of the \$160 information technology fee students pay each year.

Penn State Spokesman Tysen Kendig said the university is making this move in light of a warning from Congress for colleges to crack down on students' illegal downloading habits.

"This is the first major step in curbing the problem," Kendig said. "We are expecting it over time to revolutionize the way millions of students listen to music over the Internet."

Kendig said Penn State President Graham Spanier has taken a leading role in finding a legal alternative to downloading.

Penn State Assistant Vice President of University Relations Bill Mahon said speculation is that around 16 percent of all illegally downloaded music in any given year is done by college students.

While Penn State does not directly

monitor the downloading habits of students, Mahon said, the university pays close attention to the number of e-mails students send and receive each week.

If the number of e-mails a student would normally send, the student will be notified he might be in violation of the law, Mahon said.

Mahon said the university's alternative to illegal downloading has garnered positive feedback from leaders in the music industry.

"The president of the Recording Industry Association of America and the president of the Motion Picture Association of America have praised this initiative," Mahon said.

A legal way to download free music sounds appealing to Michael Givens, a senior English major at Virginia Tech.

See **DOWNLOAD**, page 3

U.S. working under new campaign in Iraq

by Bassem Mroue
Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Japan put off a decision Thursday on sending troops to Iraq, a day after the deadliest attack on coalition forces since the war, and South Korea capped its contribution at 3,000 soldiers — new setbacks to U.S. hopes for easing the pressure on its forces.

U.S. troops pounded suspected guerrilla targets in the capital for a second straight night under a new "get-tough" campaign against the insurgency. And the top American administrator, L. Paul Bremer, headed back to Baghdad after two days of White House talks with orders that Iraqis should take more responsibility for governing.

On the eve of a visit to Tokyo by Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, Japan decided the time isn't right to send its forces to Iraq, indicating its deployment might be delayed until next year.

Japan had hoped to send troops to Iraq to help rebuild the country by the end of 2003, but chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuo Fukuda backed off, saying Iraq is still too unstable.

"Japan has said it wants to think about the timing" of its deployment, national security adviser Condoleezza Rice said in Washington. "We understand that."

South Korea also decided to limit its contribution to 3,000 troops, President Roh Moo-hyun announced.

See **IRAQ**, page 3

News in Brief

Money owed to American Indians put on delay

WASHINGTON (AP) — An accounting of money owed to hundreds of thousands of American Indians was put on hold Thursday as an appeals court considers whether recent action by Congress can overturn a federal judge's order.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit issued the stay so attorneys for the government and American Indians suing the Interior Department can file briefs on the effect of the congressional action.

In September, U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth ordered the Interior Department to conduct a thorough investigation into money that was supposed to be paid to Indians for oil, gas, timber and grazing activities on their land for more than a century.

Study: Teenagers smoking less

ATLANTA (AP) — Smoking among U.S. high school students has declined by more than one-fifth since 2000 but has not budged among middle-schoolers, according to a study released Thursday.

Nearly one out of four high school students, 23 percent, said they had smoked tobacco in the preceding month — a drop from 28 percent the last time the survey was conducted, two years earlier.

About 13 percent of middle

school students said they had smoked, about the same as in the previous survey.

Dean proposes education plan

HANOVER, N.H. (AP) — Democratic presidential hopeful Howard Dean on Thursday offered a plan to provide college students with \$10,000 a year in federal financial aid as part of his \$7.1 billion higher education program.

Arguing that President Bush's tax cuts have resulted in cuts in Pell grants and other financial help, Dean proposed that students be entitled to \$10,000 for post-secondary schooling, whether at a traditional college or university or in high-skills training.

Kerry dismisses staff departures

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — Democratic presidential hopeful John Kerry on Thursday shrugged off the dismissal of his campaign manager and the subsequent departure of two senior staffers, saying his campaign "will be better off moving ahead with people who want to be there."

In an interview with The Associated Press, Kerry said the firing of campaign manager Jim Jordan on Sunday was proof of his ability to make tough decisions. Within days of Jordan's dismissal, Kerry's press secretary and deputy finance director quit.

Contest: Students travel to Prague next

Continued from page 1

students who participate in the ACM contests receive some school credit, but the students at Tech do not.

"I think it's too bad that the students don't get credit," Henry said.

There will be 72 teams competing in the spring — 26 of these come from the United States.

"In the past years, Virginia Tech has always done well," Henry said.

The world is broken up into regions in which teams compete.

The top three universities from the Mid-Atlantic region will be going to the contest in

Prague. "Our biggest (U.S.) competition comes from Harvard, California Institute of Technology and Berkeley," Henry said.

Tech has been participating with the ACM competition since it was developed 24 years ago. Henry has been coaching since 1982 and has previously won the award for making the most appearances at internationals.

Henry said, because Tech has been so involved and has done so well, they have an excellent reputation.

"It's great PR for the university," she said.

"Our biggest (U.S.) competition comes from Harvard, California Institute of Technology and Berkeley."

Sallie Henry
regional director

Computer: Unit is third fastest in world

Continued from page 1

Heffner said. Bioninformatics, physics simulations and visualization projects are just a few of the areas that will use the computer, he said.

Along with the added computing power, the project will also bring in more research money to the university as well as more professors and students, Heffner said.

"The project will hopefully bring in a lot more grants ... and bring in more staff and students," he said.

The supercomputer may

also allow for other funds through the National Science Foundation's program called The Cyberinfrastructure Funds.

It provides \$100 million to groups like Tech that have supercomputers supported by the NSF.

The project's total cost will be spread across five years through a cost-sharing program through various academic departments, as well as

information systems and provost's office, Nystrom said.

The project costs \$5.2 million and includes 1,100 computers.

"The project will hopefully bring in a lot more grants ... and bring in more staff and students."

Mike Heffner
graduate student,
computer science

Faculty: Tech looking to use new technology

Continued from page 1

materials.

"With this system, (all applicants) will be able to electronically access information anywhere," Higdon said. "When you have an out-of-state search committee, (this system) makes it much easier to conduct business."

Tech decided to use an

online process to hire faculty after seeing continued success in using the same operation for hiring classified staff.

Higdon said the university was looking to further advance and use this technology.

PeopleAdmin was selected as the program to use when many companies offering

similar software made presentations to Tech staff over a year ago.

For the remainder of the fall semester and midway into spring, select departments will pilot PeopleAdmin before the decision is made to use the program campus wide.

Tech is jumping on the bandwagon of Virginia schools already using PeopleAdmin.

James Madison University, Virginia Commonwealth University and The College of William and Mary have already implemented the program.

"The vendor is really trying to target universities — that is the niche they are going for," Higdon said.

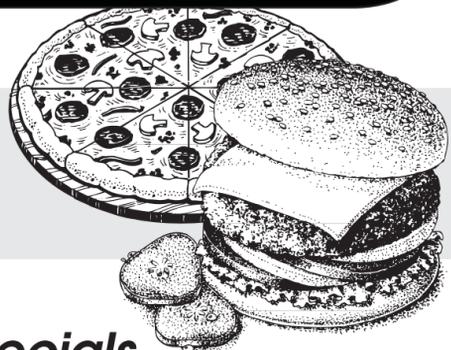
The University of Virginia is considering making the switch as well.

STOCK MARKET REPORT — 11/13/2003 —			WEATHER	TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SATURDAY NIGHT	SUNDAY	MONDAY
DJIA	9837.94	▼ -10.89							
NASDAQ	1967.35	▼ -5.76		Mostly sunny. Breezy.	Partly cloudy	Mostly cloudy	Partly cloudy	Mostly cloudy	Mostly cloudy; chance of rain
S&P 500	1058.41	▼ -0.12		Highs: 40° - 45°	Lows: 30° - 35°	Highs: 40° - 45°	Lows: 35° - 40°	35°/50°	35°/50°

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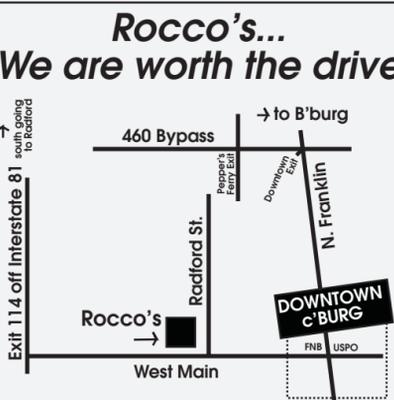
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Download: Napster working as free service

Continued from page 1

"I am very aware of the fact that students on and off campus download music and movies," Givens said. "It's just the thing to do."

Givens said a legal way to download music would likely be appealing to Tech students, but believes student technology fees should be used to pay for free Napster services only if the student agrees to the ethical implications of downloading.

"I think the technology option should be made available to students," Givens said. "But I think students should be given a choice."

Catherine Fletcher, a

junior international studies and French double major, disagrees with downloading altogether.

"I don't personally think getting this free stuff should be legal," she said.

"We are hoping and expecting other universities will follow our lead."

Tysen Kendig
spokesman, Penn State

University officials were unavailable for comment on whether Tech would ever consider implementing a way for students to download free music.

At the present time, Kendig said as many as a dozen other schools are looking into a similar downloading arrangement for their students.

"We are hoping and expecting other universities will follow our lead," Kendig said.

Forum: Speaker urges action

Continued from page 1

It also allows government officials to monitor an individual's e-mail correspondence and web-browsing habits, according to a brochure available at the forum.

"Most of us are not aware of the infringement of our rights this bill imposes," said Phyllis Albritton, a Blacksburg resident and member of the national ACLU.

The provisions within the 342 pages of the Patriot Act would not have passed if it weren't for an event like Sept. 11, said Raheel Khan, a junior accounting information systems major.

"The public looked to the leaders and said, 'Do something,'" Khan said. "We are looking back now and seeing that (the Patriot Act) encroaches on our rights."

The Patriot Act gave a broader definition of terrorism, which isn't unintentional, Moore said.

The act defines domestic terrorism as "any act that endangers human life that appears to be intended to intimidate citizens or impact government policy and that violates a state or federal criminal statute."

This definition puts American citizens, not just aliens, under scrutiny, Moore said.

"It's kind of like a case of sneaking the

elephant in under the tent," he said.

Not enough people understand how far the Patriot Act reaches, said Chris Dorsey, president of the ACLU at Tech and a senior electrical engineering major.

"This is a big issue and a very relevant issue. Forums like this give people a chance to become more educated about this," he said.

The Patriot Act will remain untouched as long as people keep quiet, Dorsey said.

Only when people voice opposition to the act will there be a less invasive way of fighting terrorism, he said.

"If enough people rise up against the act, politicians, in the interest of being reelected, will listen to those people," he said.

The Patriot Act and the subsequent controversy only shines more light on voter apathy, Albritton said.

"I hope this alerts people to the importance of voting and elections. Our vote is extremely important," she said.

Albritton said she is amazed by the amount of people who did not vote and still wonders how an act that affects so much of their lives can pass.

Forums like last night's not only bring into question the constitutionality of the Patriot Act, but whether it is unconstitutional to criticize such an act, Moore said.

Ala. court removes Justice Moore

by Kyle Wingfield
Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Chief Justice Roy Moore was removed from office Thursday for refusing to obey a federal court order to move his Ten Commandments monument from the rotunda of the state courthouse.

The Alabama Court of the Judiciary unanimously imposed the harshest penalty possible after a one-day trial in which Moore said his refusal was a moral and lawful acknowledgment of God. Prosecutors said Moore's defiance, left unchecked, would harm the judicial system.

Moore, a champion of religious conservatives, had been suspended since August but allowed to collect his \$170,000 annual salary. He was halfway through his six-year term.

Presiding Judge William Thompson said the nine-member court had no choice but to give the harshest punishment after Moore willfully and publicly ignored the federal court order. "The chief justice placed himself above the law," Thompson said.

"I have absolutely no regrets," Moore said afterward. "I'm very comfortable in the fact that I've done my job and upheld my oath."

He said he would consult with religious and political leaders before deciding what to do next. He could appeal to the Alabama Supreme Court. If his removal stands, Gov. Bob Riley would appoint a new chief justice to finish the term.

Moore served notice that he wants to continue his crusade for acknowledgement of God in government. "I will announce something in a few weeks that will alter the course of the country," he said, declining to elaborate.

Iraq: U.S. faces new setbacks

Continued from page 1

South Korea also ordered its 464 troops in southern Iraq to suspend operations outside coalition bases. Denmark also rejected a push by two Danish soldiers' unions to bolster its 410-member force by 100 more troops.

Many countries and agencies in Iraq, including Spain, the Netherlands, the United Nations and the international Red Cross, have been reconsidering their presence since they became targets.

The reassessments came a day after Wednesday's suicide truck bombing at a base for Italian forces in the southern city of Nasiriyah killed at least 32 people — 18 of them Italians, and wounded more than 80.

Officials said several of the wounded are not expected to survive.

Speaking to reporters Friday en route to Asia, Rumsfeld said countries that decide to participate in military operations in Iraq should do so only if they believe it is in their own interest.

"It's a dangerous country, it's a violent country," Rumsfeld said. "It's been a violent country for a long time and it very likely will be for a long time. Certainly people need to participate there with their eyes open."

Bremer headed back to Baghdad to work with Iraqis on developing a plan to speed up establishment of an Iraqi government.

In Washington, a senior U.S. official said the Bush adminis-

tration is proposing elections in the first half of next year and formation of a government before a constitution is written.

For months, the administration has insisted that Iraqi leaders write a constitution and hold elections before power shifts from U.S. occupiers to Iraqis. But on Thursday, Rice said the Iraqi Governing Council has resisted that American timeline.

"It is still important that the Iraqi people have a permanent constitution and elections for a permanent government. Nothing has changed," Rice said. "But what is also important is that we find ways to accelerate the transfer of power to the Iraqis — they are clamoring for it, they are, we believe, ready for it."

Racial slurs surface in sniper trial

by John Solomon
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A government chemist who testified in the Washington sniper case kept a "sloppy" office that raised concerns of contaminated evidence and has made numerous racially insensitive remarks, according to evidence the government has had for more than a decade.

The Virginia prosecutor handling the trial of sniper defendant John Muhammad said Thursday he wasn't aware of the information, obtained by The Associated Press, before he put government chemist Edward Bender on the witness stand last

week. "And I'm not aware of it today," Paul Ebert said.

Mohammad's attorneys declined comment. A lawyer for the other sniper defendant, Lee Boyd Malvo, said he too was unaware of the information. Malvo prosecutor Robert Horan said he also was unaware of the information and was uncertain if he would call Bender to testify.

The government and prosecutors are required under a Supreme Court ruling known as Brady v. Maryland to provide defendants with all "material" information affecting their case, including derogatory information that could impact the credibility of prosecution witnesses.



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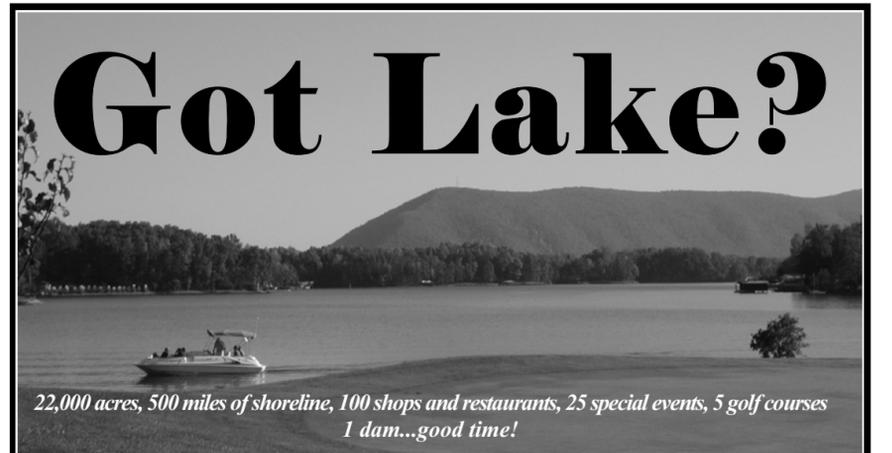
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Convicted spy loses latest appeals

by Anne Gearan
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A federal judge on Thursday rejected convicted spy Jonathan Pollard's latest attempt to fight his life sentence for selling military secrets to Israel.

U.S. District Judge Thomas Hogan, chief judge of the District Court, also noted in a blunt order that Pollard seemed to have little hope of winning a presidential pardon.

Hogan's ruling means Pollard will remain in a federal prison and that his lawyers will not win access to sensitive government documents they hoped would help free their client.

Hogan dismissed Pollard's claim that previous lawyers did not do all they could to help him avoid or appeal his life sentence. "Mr. Pollard has couched his claims in alleged violations of constitutional rights, such as ineffective assistance of counsel, but closer inquiry reveals these

alleged violations to be merely procedural in nature," Hogan wrote.

The judge also denied the request of Pollard's new lawyers to see five classified documents they say influenced another federal judge to impose the surprise life term in 1987. Among those documents is a declaration from then-Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger outlining the security damage from Pollard.

Pollard's new lawyers have argued they need to see the

items to rebut government arguments against any new appeal or against a request for clemency.

"Mr. Pollard and his attorneys have offered no new justification for this court to determine that any of them have a 'need to know,'" what the documents contain, Hogan wrote.

"He has presented no credible evidence that the current president is any more willing to grant him clemency than the previous three presidents who declined to do so."

Miami prepares for free-trade protests

by Rachel La Corte
Associated Press

MIAMI — Thousands of protesters were expected on the streets of Miami to protest free trade talks, and while most promised peaceful dissent, police prepared for the small, determined groups they say just want to wreak havoc.

As the Internet buzzes with everything from protesters' travel plans to a practice session for still walkers, police were training for those who may take a less Gandhian approach to the streets.

More than 40 law enforcement agencies have spent months preparing for potential trouble at the Free Trade Area of Americas meeting that starts Sunday and runs through next Friday.

Police have assigned thousands of officers to response teams, staged mock protests, readied water cannons, and plan to construct a security fence around the hotel where trade talks will be conducted.

Trade ministers from 34 countries will discuss creating a free trade area that will cover the Western Hemisphere, except Cuba. Many opponents believe free trade agreements mean a loss of American jobs to developing nations where labor is cheaper, a widening gap between the rich and poor, and the undermining of environmental regulations.

Authorities don't want Miami to become another Seattle, where a World Trade Organization meeting in 1999 ended with little accomplished in trade talks and five days of riots that tarnished that city's image and left \$3 million in damages. Protesters say they want to focus on the issues, not the spurts of violence that may come from individuals, and hope to repeat what they consider

a successful outcome in Seattle and subsequent trade meetings where negotiations have faltered amid vocal opposition.

"Seattle was a moment of a great victory," said L.A. Kauffman, national mobilizing coordinator for New York-based United for Peace and Justice. "Thousands of people came together to challenge the WTO and talks have never really gotten back on track."

Richard Mills, spokesman for U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick, said a public forum Wednesday would allow protesters to bring their concerns directly to the trade ministers.

"It's in our interest to listen and try to address concerns because we ultimately have to build a coalition to approve whatever trade agreement we have in Congress," Mills said.

In North Miami Beach, two "suspected anarchists" who broke into a Starbucks coffee shop were

arrested. Police say the men, who were not identified, had a garden hose and gasoline cans in their truck. Near downtown Miami, three people involved in organizing protests from a warehouse were arrested for allegedly loitering, resisting arrest or carrying a concealed knife.

Miami police spokeswoman Herminia Salas-Jacobson said many of the groups headed to South Florida were "coming to exercise their civil rights. We understand that." Authorities were most concerned about small groups.

"When you have a small group that has no other goal than to destroy property or to hurt people or to disrupt an event ... that small group could be a serious issue," she said.

"When you have a small group that has no other goal than to destroy property or to hurt people or to disrupt an event ... that small group could be a serious issue."

Herminia Salas-Jacobson
spokeswoman, Miami police

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Get it in writing, or not at all

John Robertson

I'm impressed with all of you. I'm getting more reports that you're becoming, as a group, more politically aware.

I'm also hearing more of you are aware of your civil rights. So far, so good.

Now, I'd like to give you the ability to be smarter than most of the other college students in the United States just by following one piece of advice: never make a contract over the phone.

The season of consumer spending is upon us and consumers are making purchases over the phone more often.

This is how telemarketers earn billions of dollars for their clients. This is also how a large number of trusting citizens are duped into paying for something they never bargained for.

Think about how you might go about proving you made a contract for goods or services over the phone.

Did you get the name of the telemarketer or representative? Chances are good you didn't write it down. Even if you did, most representatives won't give you more than a first name — and it might not even be a real name.

Now try finding the same person just using a first name, considering some companies hire thousands of telemarketers in the United States and other countries alike.

Perhaps you could use phone records to prove you called them. If you called a toll-free number, it means the charge won't show up on your phone bill.

This is especially problematic for my clients who attempt to prove they signed up for a particular

long-distance phone service.

The phone company is in charge of the records and if you're trying to prove they breached a contract, how willing do you suppose they'll be to hand over evidence to help you prove it?

Say you were smart enough to write down the date and time you placed the call and the name of the representative.

Much to your surprise, you receive bills for additional charges never mentioned by the representative when you made the purchase.

This may be because there is a written contract drafted by the seller you agreed to follow when you made the purchase over the phone. At least, that's what the company will say. You'll have to prove otherwise.

Don't they record those calls? Maybe, and maybe not. You'd still have to subpoena the evidence from the company, meaning you've started the frustrating and costly process of litigation.

Chances are good it will cost you more to go to court than the value of the goods or services you purchased. These companies know litigation isn't a good option for you.

Really, the only safe and certain way to prove the terms of any contract is to get them in writing and to have those terms signed by authorized representatives of the company. Most companies don't do this, for whatever reason.

Contracting takes time, and they want your money now, before you have a chance to get scared away by a fine-print legal document.

If no one gave out personal information over the phone, such as a home address, credit card information or Social Security number, people would make it

“The reason telemarketers keep calling is because people will contract over the phone.”

nearly impossible for telemarketers to stay in business.

The reason telemarketers keep calling is because people will contract over the phone. They make a lot of money doing this. If politicians were serious about stopping telemarketing, they'd insist no contract made over the phone would be valid until both parties signed a written contract, printed in clear, legible type. (For the future politicians among you, consider sponsoring this bill!)

If you always insist for anyone who contacts you to put the agreement in writing, or if you ask to review the contract before agreeing to purchase anything, you will present a difficult target to unscrupulous salespeople.

Never sign a document you don't understand, however.

Written terms will typically trump any oral promises made, if the dispute ends up in court.

Carefully read every contract before you sign or agree to it. Get a confirmation number and a receipt for every purchase.

Keep copies of everything for your records. Never contract over the phone.

Taking these simple steps will save you money.

You are now smarter than most college students in the country, but you knew this already.

John Robertson is the director of legal services at Virginia Tech.

Letter to the Editor

There is no need for a moratorium

In the Thursday editorial (“Appeals Process Must Change,” Nov. 13), it was argued that the 21-day rule, which dictates court jurisdiction and appeals for convicted defendants, ought to be removed.

I respectfully disagree. The basis for this argument is the recently released report from the American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia criticizing the state's death penalty.

The skewed findings called for a moratorium — a veiled step toward the ultimate goal of abolition.

Virginia's strict court rules do

not violate human rights. Rather, they rightfully force defense lawyers and convicted murderers to play all of their appellate cards in a timely manner, not piece them out over years and decades.

Is this a conspiracy to execute the innocent?

Hardly. It helps ensure punishment occurs before the crime scene fades into distant history.

Your suggestion that current Virginia death row inmates should be given group amnesty through a moratorium is roundless.

Every case is judged on individual merits, not as a group.

Additionally, they have undoubtedly committed some of the most horrific crimes imaginable.

I invite you to see their records at the website: <http://www.vuac.org/capital/>.

Rush Wickes
alumnus, '99

War in Iraq may be this century's Vietnam

Kate Lynch

Although there are many differences between the war the United States fought in Vietnam and the war we are now fighting in Iraq, the same question remains: have we put ourselves in an inescapable position to leave as quickly as originally predicted?

The United States' do-it-alone policy is coming around to kick us in the butt. We had no support from the rest of the world when we first started the war, but proceeded anyway.

Now we are faced with unanticipated difficulty that is draining our resources and there is still no support from outside the United States.

The Bush administration hopes to solicit troop support from many countries including Turkey, India, Pakistan and South Korea, but all are uncommitted.

Instead it is expected that thousands of National Guard and Reserve troops will be called to join the 130,000 others already in Iraq within the next few weeks.

Just last May, President George Bush declared the major hostilities in Iraq were over; however, his statement is belied by the fact more soldiers have died after the declaration than before it during the actual war.

The war in Iraq was intended to uncover and destroy the weapons of mass destruction.

No such weapons were discovered so the focus changed to

“Have we stumbled into prolonged guerilla warfare reminiscent of the Vietnam quagmire?”

rebuild the country and establish a democratic government.

But these efforts are taking longer than the Bush administration planned and our troops are forced to stay until the job is done.

However, with the persistent attacks by insurgent forces and the lack of popular Iraqi support for the Americans, how long will it take?

It seems the Bush administration had a concise plan for taking over Iraq, but a similar plan for establishing the peace and reconstructing a war-torn nation and bringing the U.S. soldiers home does not exist.

There seems to be no end in sight, considering Congress approved Bush's request for an \$87 billion war package to fund the American efforts.

Have we stumbled into prolonged guerilla warfare reminiscent of the Vietnam quagmire?

How many more billions of dollars will we be spending in Iraq? Will the president have enough soldiers to do the job or will he even consider reinstating the draft?

Kate Lynch is the opinions editor for the Collegiate Times.



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Features

'Elf' combines humor, holiday spirit

Jason Bayer

Ok, so maybe it is a tad early to be putting up Christmas lights or playing the Mariah Carey Christmas CD, but who doesn't like holiday cheer?

Or better yet, who doesn't like to laugh? If you really don't like either of these things, then "Elf" is not for you.

Otherwise, it's a definite

holiday must-see.

Director Jon Favreau, who wrote, produced and starred in the 1996 cult classic "Swingers," does an outstanding job with this holiday film. "Elf" immediately ascends the Christmas movie list ladder — perhaps not to the heights of "A Christmas Story" or "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" — but it's up there.

The film follows the story of Buddy (Will Ferrell) who

is a human raised in the North Pole by elves after he crawls into Santa's bag in an orphanage.

When Buddy overhears he is really a human, he sets out on a journey to find his biological father.

His father Walter (James Caan) is a big-shot publisher who has lost his Christmas spirit; not knowing how to deal with his long-lost son, he tries to get him back out of his life.

Hilarity ensues as Buddy attempts to bring Christmas cheer to both his father and the rest of New York.

Two things make this a great movie rather than just an average movie.

First, it tells a story about Santa Claus that is not childish or sappy — two major pitfalls for Christmas movies. The second is Will Ferrell.

Ferrell shows he can carry a movie in his first-ever lead role, as he carries the first half of the movie almost single-handedly.

Just as the movie gives the feeling it might not amount to much more than Ferrell's antics, which is not necessarily a bad thing, (1998's "A Night at the Roxbury"), it turns into a really good Christmas movie exhibiting a new twist to the story of Santa Claus.

It still manages to give off the warm feeling of "A Miracle on 34th Street" and "Ernest Saves Christmas."

The direction of Favreau results in a movie keeping itself light by not getting too deep into any one plot line, like Buddy's quest to crack his father's hard exterior and bring him back his Christmas cheer.

But rather, he dabbles in a few different subplots keeping the movie flowing nicely.

One is having a store manager who assumes Buddy is a worker at the store and Buddy happily obliging until



Elf
 Synopsis: Will Ferrell plays a man raised by elves who sets out to find his biological father.
 Cast: Will Ferrell, James Caan, Bob Newhart
 Director: Jon Favreau
 Running Time: 95 min.
 Rated PG for some mild rude humor and language
 Grade: B+

he confronts the department store Santa and exposes his real identity as not really being that of Santa Claus.

This misunderstanding gives birth to another subplot: Buddy's love interest, played by the very talented Zooey Deschanel.

Another facet is the relationship that develops between Buddy and his stepbrother, which is rather heartwarming and helps the audience accept Buddy as well.

Also, having Bob Newhart play Papa Elf, Buddy's adopted father in the North Pole, is a nice bonus.

In a world full of such holiday misfires as, "The Santa Clause 2" and "Jingle All the Way," "Elf" gives us a breath of fresh Christmas air.

With Will Ferrell leading the way and a strong holiday finish, this film truly is the best new holiday movie in a decade.

As stated before, it may be a bit early for most people to get into the holiday spirit just yet, but consider the tunes of Mariah Carey's Christmas album done and another viewing of "Elf" on the way.

Jason Bayer writes movie reviews for the Collegiate Times.

Play adds modern twist to 'Hamlet'

Jessica Pritchard

The Virginia Tech Department of Theatre Arts put on their first production of "Hamlet, Prince of Denmark" last night. It was a full house, with the age group ranging from college students to grandparents.

The actors took a classic Shakespeare play, and added an interesting twist to it to create a plot with which the audience could truly relate.

"Having it performed in current setting helps you connect with the play," said Michael Roberts, a sophomore finance major.

The play incorporates original Shakespeare language, yet the characters perform in modern clothing. "It's a unique take," said Red Miller, a sophomore computer science major.

One of the most impressive aspects of the play is that the plot stayed very accurate to the original script, which is a tough thing to do when performing Shakespeare.

"They haven't deviated from the script at all," said Akilah Chopfield, a sophomore communication major.

The setting is simple, yet incredibly effective because the focus is on the actual characters and plot, not so much on the backdrop. "Hamlet" is rather dark, with a few scenes that supply comic relief, but the understated stage décor really plays into the deeper meaning of the play.

The music is also subtle, but adds to the mysteriousness of the plot. There were a number of occasions when I got chills when all of the simple components of the play came together at certain climatic points.

Hamlet, played by Adam Breske, is absolutely amazing. I have seen a number of versions of this play, but his portrayal of

Hamlet surpasses them all. He truly creates the emotion and mood in each scene. He gets his anger, frustration, happiness, and humor across to the audience with so much strength that almost everyone watching can feel them in their bones. He truly is phenomenal.

The major weakness I saw was in the lack of male characters. Although the females who played male characters did a fine job, it's difficult for the audience to interpret male characters played by females.

"It doesn't seem like there's a large draw of males to try out for the plays," said Sean Kelly, a sophomore English major.

All in all, the play was extremely well done. It may be a little difficult to follow simply because it's Shakespeare and, although they do a great job with sticking with the original script, the show would be never-ending if certain scenes weren't dropped.

If you're not really into Shakespeare, or if you lack patience, this more than likely isn't the play for you. It can be dry at times, not because of the actors, but because of the nature of the play. Also, it's three-hours in length, so brace yourself.

"It's not for dates," said Bert Schlegl, a sophomore political science major. However, it really is a play that can be enjoyed by most.

"It's beneficial for everyone to see a Shakespeare play," Roberts said. For those interested in attending, there are a number of shows going on in the next two weeks. The dates include Nov. 14-16 and Nov. 18-21. The shows begin at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$6 for students, and can be purchased at the Squires ticket office. The show last night was sold-out, so I don't wait until the last minute to buy a ticket.

Jessica Pritchard is a staff writer for the Collegiate Times.

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Limbaugh to resume hosting show

Rush Limbaugh has been off the air since Oct. 10, when he acknowledged he abused painkillers

by Jill Barton Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — Rush Limbaugh will return to his radio talk show Monday after completing a five-week treatment program for his addiction to painkillers, his brother said Wednesday.

David Limbaugh made the announcement to Internet personality Matt Drudge, who was sitting in Wednesday for the conservative commentator.

Limbaugh left the air Oct. 10 after acknowledging that he had been abusing prescription

painkillers.

Limbaugh plans to resume his regular schedule, hosting his three-hour show on weekdays for his audience of 20 million, his brother said.

"He's obviously champing at the bit to get back to doing what he does best," David Limbaugh said.

Rush Limbaugh said last month that he was checking himself into a treatment center to "once and for all break the hold this highly addictive medication has on me."

His brother said the host successfully completed the first phase of his treatment.

He did not say what the next step is.

Limbaugh's admission to drug addiction came several days after the National Enquirer ran a story that quoted his maid as saying she was his drug connection.

She said Limbaugh had

abused OxyContin and other drugs.

A law enforcement source in Palm Beach County, where Limbaugh owns a \$24 million oceanfront mansion, said Wednesday that an investigation into Limbaugh's drug use by the state attorney's office continues.

Limbaugh said last month he had been asked to "limit my public comments until this investigation is complete."

His attorney, Roy Black, would not comment Wednesday on the investigation.

Limbaugh's drug admission came less than two weeks after he quit as a pro football commentator with ESPN.

He left after creating a furor by saying that he believed the Philadelphia Eagles' Donovan McNabb was overrated because the media wanted to see a black quarterback succeed.

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Sports

Gagne receives NL Cy Young

by **Ronald Blum**
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Eric Gagne was almost as perfect in NL Cy Young Award voting as he was on the mound.

The relief pitcher who converted all 55 of his save chances this year received 28 of 32 first-place votes and 146 points to win the honor Thursday from the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

It was just the ninth time a reliever won a Cy Young, the first in the NL since San Diego's Mark Davis in 1989.

"We haven't seen a lot of relievers win that award, so I was a little worried," Gagne said during a telephone conference call.

San Francisco's Jason Schmidt was second with two first-place votes and 73 points. Chicago's Mark Prior got the other first-place votes and was third with 60 points.

Gagne, a 27-year-old right-hander, was 2-3 with a 1.20 ERA and had 137 strikeouts and 20 walks in 82 1-3 innings. He was converted from a starter to a reliever after the 2001 season and had 52 saves in 2002.

"I knew I had the mental attitude to be a closer, it was just a matter of doing it in the major leagues," Gagne said. "As a starter, you have to be more relaxed, you have to control your emotions more."

He is the only pitcher to reach 50 saves in more than one season and has converted 62 consecutive save chances since failing to hold a lead against Arizona on Aug. 26, 2002.

Kobe Bryant back in court

■ The L.A. Laker superstar made his first appearance before his accuser and the presiding judge

by **Jon Sarche**
Associated Press

EAGLE, Colo. — With his accuser's family looking on, Kobe Bryant made his first appearance before the judge who will preside over his sexual assault trial Thursday and put off a formal plea.

The parents of the 19-year-old woman were in the courtroom for the brief procedural hearing, along with two brothers and a cousin, prosecution spokeswoman Krista Flannigan said.

It was the first time the family members have attended a court hearing in the case, she said. The family left the courthouse without speaking with reporters.

During the 12-minute hearing, Judge Terry Ruckriegle set a pretrial hearing for Dec. 19 and another for Jan. 23 to settle various motions, including whether records from a rape crisis center should be given to the defense.

The defense waived Bryant's rights to be advised of the sexual assault charge against him and the penalty he faces if convicted — four years to life in prison and 20 years to life on probation. Bryant's \$25,000 bail was left unchanged.

"We have decided to follow the court's usual procedure and not enter a plea as of today," defense attorney Pamela Mackey said. "I fully advised my client of the charge against him and the possible penalty."

The Los Angeles Lakers' guard, who arrived in Colorado after playing a home game Wednesday night, sat quietly as Mackey answered routine questions from the judge about scheduling.

Attorneys on both sides told the judge they expected a trial to last two to three weeks. The judge said his staff would begin looking at potential dates.

Prosecutors and court officials had not expected Bryant to enter a plea until his arraignment, which hasn't been scheduled. After a formal plea, state law requires the trial must be scheduled within six months unless Bryant waives his right to a speedy trial.

Bryant is accused of raping the woman June 30 at a mountain resort near Edwards where she worked and he was a guest. Bryant, 25, says the two had consensual sex.

During the preliminary hearing last month, a sheriff's investigator testified the woman's blood was found on Bryant's T-shirt. The defense suggested the woman was promiscuous and the blood came from previous sexual activity.

Before the hearing began, about a dozen people rallied outside the courthouse in support of Bryant's accuser.

Sports Notes

Women's basketball: Hokies land two recruits for 2004-05 season

The Virginia Tech women's basketball team will be adding two new names to their 2004-2005 roster. Head coach Bonnie Henrickson announced the signing of Brittany Cook and Roshana Jackson to a national letter of intent.

Six-foot Cook, who will join the Hokies as a freshman, averaged 23.0 points, 10.0 rebounds and five blocks during her sophomore season at Mercer Christian Academy. Her freshman and sophomore season, she was named to the Class A all-state team, and she led her team to the West Virginia State Championship for two consecutive seasons. Cook, from Narrows, Va., plays AAU basketball for the Roanoke Stars and was named the Bluefield Telegraph Player of the Year. Jackson will enter next season as a junior, transferring from Hiwassee College in Tennessee. Jackson, a 6-foot forward from Norton, Va., averaged 12.0 points, 10.5 rebounds and three blocks last year.

She led Hiwassee to the quarterfinals of the national junior college tournament and was named the Group A Player of the Year by the Associated Press as a junior at Appalachia High School.

Cross country: Men's and women's teams head to Greenville, N.C.

The Virginia Tech men's and women's cross country teams travel to Greenville, N.C., this weekend for the NCAA Southeast Regional Championship.

The top two teams out of the more than 60 attending will automatically advance to the NCAA Championships, and the top four individuals who are not part of a qualifying team can qualify as individuals. To have a shot at a championship appearance, head coach Ben Thomas said he feels the women need to finish at least fourth, ahead of Duke University. Beating Duke should mean a top-25 ranking which will give Tech a place in the 31-team national field. The men's team will be looking to gain more experience for their young members, while veterans Michael Lawson and L.A. Snead work toward earning all-district honors.

For the women, Marlies Overbeeke and Jessica Morris look to repeat last year with all-district finishes.

The men's 10-kilometer race is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. while the women's six-kilometer race will start at 11 a.m.

Marion Jones, NFL stars testify before grand jury

by **Rob Gloster**
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Oakland Raiders running back Tyrone Wheatley hit a photographer outside a federal courthouse Thursday, hours prior to testifying before a grand jury probing a nutritional supplements lab.

Wheatley was one of five NFL players — including four Raiders — to appear Thursday before the panel. Others included former NFL defensive player of the year Dana Stubblefield and Kansas City Chiefs wide receiver Johnnie Morton.

Also appearing before the grand jury Thursday was Marion Jones, who won an unprecedented five track medals in the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

"I can't make any comment, you guys. I would if I could, but I can't," Jones said as she left the grand jury room following her afternoon appearance.

Wheatley threatened and cursed at a group of

photographers and TV cameramen outside the building, then raised his right fist and slapped photographer Noah Berger hard on the right wrist after Berger took a photo of him Thursday morning.

Berger, a freelance photographer on assignment for The Associated Press, said he was not hurt. He filed a report with the Federal Protective Service, but it was not clear whether Wheatley would be charged.

Wheatley, who appeared before the grand jury in the afternoon, declined to comment when asked repeatedly about the incident.

The five players — also including Raiders full-back Chris Hetherington and defensive tackle Chris Cooper — were the first non-track and field athletes to testify in the case.

Stubblefield, the NFL defensive player of the year in 1997 while with the San Francisco 49ers, declined to comment after his morning appearance. His attorney, Michael Armstrong, also refused to comment.



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CT Sports Picks

■ All's fair in love and football.

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



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NFL

Washington @ Carolina NY Giants @ Philly Atlanta @ New Orleans Houston @ Buffalo Arizona @ Cleveland NY Jets @ Indianapolis Green Bay @ Tampa Bay Minnesota @ Oakland Dallas @ New England Pittsburgh @ San Fran	Carolina Philadelphia New Orleans Buffalo Cleveland Indianapolis Tampa Bay Minnesota New England Pittsburgh	Carolina Philadelphia New Orleans Buffalo Cleveland Indianapolis Tampa Bay Minnesota New England San Fran	Washington NY Giants New Orleans Houston Arizona Indianapolis Tampa Bay Oakland New England San Fran	Carolina Philadelphia New Orleans Buffalo Cleveland Indianapolis Tampa Bay Minnesota New England San Fran	Washington Philadelphia New Orleans Buffalo Cleveland Indianapolis Tampa Bay Minnesota New England San Fran	Carolina Philadelphia New Orleans Buffalo Cleveland Indianapolis Green Bay Minnesota New England San Fran	Carolina Philadelphia New Orleans Buffalo Cleveland Indianapolis Tampa Bay Oakland New England San Fran	Carolina Philadelphia New Orleans Buffalo Cleveland Indianapolis Tampa Bay Minnesota Dallas Pittsburgh	Washington Philadelphia New Orleans Buffalo Cleveland Arizona NY Jets Green Bay Minnesota New England Pittsburgh	Washington Philadelphia New Orleans Buffalo Arizona Indianapolis Tampa Bay Oakland New England San Fran	Carolina Philadelphia Atlanta Buffalo Arizona Indianapolis Tampa Bay Oakland New England San Fran	Washington Philadelphia New Orleans Buffalo Cleveland Indianapolis Tampa Bay Minnesota Dallas San Fran
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NCAA

Virginia Tech @ Temple NC State @ FSU Texas Tech @ Texas Pitt @ West Virginia LSU @ Alabama Auburn @ Georgia Kansas St. @ Nebraska Purdue @ Ohio St. Mich. St. @ Wisconsin	Virginia Tech FSU Texas Pittsburgh LSU Georgia Kansas State Purdue Michigan St.	Virginia Tech FSU Texas Pittsburgh LSU Georgia Nebraska Ohio State Michigan St.	Virginia Tech FSU Texas Pittsburgh LSU Georgia Nebraska Ohio State Wisconsin	Virginia Tech FSU Texas West Virginia LSU Georgia Kansas State Ohio State Michigan St.	Virginia Tech FSU Texas West Virginia LSU Georgia Kansas State Ohio State Michigan St.	Virginia Tech FSU Texas Pittsburgh LSU Georgia Nebraska Ohio State Wisconsin	Virginia Tech NC State Texas West Virginia LSU Georgia Kansas State Purdue Michigan St.	Virginia Tech FSU Texas West Virginia LSU Georgia Kansas State Ohio State Michigan St.	Virginia Tech NC State Texas West Virginia LSU Georgia Nebraska Ohio State Michigan St.	Virginia Tech FSU Texas West Virginia LSU Georgia Nebraska Ohio State Wisconsin	Virginia Tech FSU Texas Pittsburgh Alabama Georgia Kansas State Purdue Wisconsin	Virginia Tech FSU Texas Pittsburgh LSU Georgia Nebraska Ohio State Michigan St.
Game of the Week VT Volleyball @ Miami	Virginia Tech	Miami	Virginia Tech	Miami	Virginia Tech	Miami	Virginia Tech	Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami	Virginia Tech
Overall Record	128-72	122-78	122-78	122-78	119-81	118-82	118-82	118-82	118-82	117-83	117-83	116-84
Last Week	10-10	13-7	12-8	12-8	11-9	12-8	11-9	11-9	11-9	14-6	8-12	11-9
Comments	Rough outing last weekend. Quan football made up for it though. I pick our team to win no matter what, sport or opponent. Unlike Jana.	Time to take another step toward first place. I'm not defending champ for nothing. Watchout Adam	Lauren, I miss you—please come out of the minors! Rajan—you're the worst partner ever.	I'm a lot better at this than Emily Davis ever was. Emily where have you been? Bring me some cake.	Holla, J. Shoutouts to Ryan, Brian, and Doug.	Countdown 'til Turkey time begins.	Last trip up to Rockytown to play the Huxtables. I think the Cos could start at QB for them. FREE OJ!	The electric slide continues. Hopefully, I'll still be in the majors next week. I got nothin' else to say.	'Skins to .500, I can feel it 3 more weeks 'til Hollywood leaves the building...	Chad Johnson, Bengals WR: "We will beat the Chiefs." Me: "I will beat Adam in sports picks."	In the spirit of it being week "Double Down" I'm gonna pull me a Fredo.	I may as well have written "Rajan" at the top.

VIEWER'S CHOICE
Tonight & Tomorrow
November 14th & November 15th

Cabin Fever Matchstick Men Open Range Seabiscuit Tomb Raider 2 Uptown Girls

Matchstick Men
NICOLAS CAGE SAM ROCKWELL ALISON LOHMAN
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Personals
Dear Missy, Carolyn and Jason -- I hope your mouse gets dead. Love, AJ

Bug, sorry for being a jerk. Love, Me

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President Asks Americans to Thank God

The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God. . . . No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out (America's great blessings). They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, . . . to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, . . . fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquillity and Union.

A. Lincoln
October 3, 1863



We, the undersigned faculty, retired faculty, and staff encourage you to join us in thanking our Lord and Savior this Thanksgiving season.

Leon Alley Biological Systems Engineering	Shelia Collins Engineering Science and Mechanics	David Kenyon Agricultural and Applied Economics	Cliff T. Ragsdale Business Information Technology	Ray Stell Communications Network Services
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For further information please contact cff@vt.edu



Hokies head to Philly to prey on Temple in

A Fowl Matchup

■ The Hokies and Owls will square off in a Big East Conference game Saturday at 1 p.m.

by **Rajan Nanavati**
Sports Editor

Who knew the Virginia Tech schedule offered religious sanctuary for a Hokie football team in need of a spiritual revelation?

Visiting the more pious side of the Keystone State after tasting defeat just six days ago, the Hokies will take on the Temple University Owls (1-8) this Saturday afternoon, marking their fourth straight contest against a Big East opponent.

While the game between the two teams is nowhere near the marquee match-up Tech had when they played the University of Miami and the University of Pittsburgh, the game represents another stepping stone in what has been an up-and-down season so far for the Hokies.

After losing two Big East games in their last three outings, the Hokies desperately need to close out the season with a win against the Owls and Boston College the following week if they are to make any kind of push for a higher-profile, post-season bowl bid. As of right now, Pitt, West Virginia University and Miami

all ranked ahead of the Hokies in the Big East Conference standings.

However, the Hokies should not catch themselves looking ahead of Temple and toward any long-distance goals.

This is the same Temple University football team that pulled off one of the greatest upsets in the history of college football when they beat the Hokies 28-24 in 1998.

The win kept the team's football program alive when the university was ready to disband it, until the victory.

The Owls are guided by sixth-year head coach Bobby Wallace, who has had a tough time keeping Temple competitive in an improving Big East conference.

"(Temple has) had a hard time staying consistent, but the circumstances around them haven't been consistent."

Frank Beamer
Tech head coach

The Owls have yet to win a conference game this season, going 0-4 so far against in-conference foes despite not having played Tech, Pitt or West Virginia on the year. The Owls did

fall victim to the wrath of then-No. 2 Hurricanes who defeated Temple 52-14.

"The whole thing is deceiving," said Tech head coach Frank Beamer regarding the difficulties Temple has faced this season.

"When you look at them and what you expect to see of a one-win football game, it's totally opposite. Their (play-



JESSE PANNETON/SPPS

Bryan Randall completed 13 of 20 passes for 146 yards and a score in a 20-10 victory over Temple last season.

ers) are playing hard, (and you see some talent. They've had a hard time staying consistent, but the circumstances around them haven't been consistent."

The last time Tech and Temple played each other, in the friendly confines of Lane Stadium last season, Tech eked out a 20-10 victory.

The Hokies turned the ball over four times in the game, including two interceptions by quarterback Bryan Randall.

Despite having one of the worst rushing defenses in the nation, the Owls held the duo of Lee Suggs and Kevin Jones to under 150 yards rushing combined, and held Tech under 200 yards rushing.

However, Tech has owned the better part of the series, defeating the Owls 13 out of the past 16 meetings.

One positive spot for the Hokies will be the homecoming of Heisman-hopeful running back Kevin Jones of Tech, who grew up in Chester, Pa. and attended Cardinal O'Hara High School.

After spurning local powerhouse Penn State University to attend Tech as one of the highest-ranked recruits in the nation, Jones' visit to Philadelphia represents his career coming together in full circle.

He made his first career start against the Owls, and proved to the nation as a freshman, he would be force to be reckoned with on the collegiate level by running for 155 yards and scoring a touchdown on 20 carries.

Kickoff is set for 1:00 p.m. and will be played in brand new Lincoln Financial Field, the second time Tech will be playing in the stadium of a professional team.

Last week Tech visited Heinz Field, which the Panthers share with the Pittsburgh Steelers, and Temple University has the same arrangements with the Philadelphia Eagles.

"We're taking a lot of fans up there, and that's going to be great," Beamer said. "We're playing in a heck of a stadium, so we look forward to that."



JESSE PANNETON/SPPS

Last year Tech's defense shot down the Owls' offense, allowing only 39 rushing yards and forcing three interceptions.



JESSE PANNETON/SPPS

Kevin Jones was held under 100 yards last season against a Temple defense that ranked No. 12 against the run.

OFFENSIVE SEASON LEADERS

VT **Passing**

 Bryan Randall	89 for 143 1,081 yards 9 TD 7 INT	 Mike McGann	123 for 235 1,405 yards 5 TD 6 INT
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VT **Rushing**

 Kevin Jones	118 rushes 1,104 yards 14 TD	 Makonne Fenton	77 rushes 340 yards 2 TD
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VT **Receiving**

 Ernest Wilford	34 catches 522 yards 2 TD	 Zamir Cobb	59 catches 699 yards 4 TD
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