

## Charges filed in deadly fall

▪ The residents of Solar Haus were charged for not acquiring a permit prior to a September party

by **Jared Turner**  
News Assistant

Three residents of the Solar Haus were charged with a misdemeanor for failing to obtain a proper permit.

The charge was in response to an accident in September when a Virginia Tech sophomore was killed and six other people were injured after they fell from a third-story window.

Solar Haus roommates Ashley Pack, Lenore Oliphant and Clint Parson were charged for violating a Blacksburg town ordinance requiring a permit before hosting a public event where there is dancing and an admissions fee is charged. The fourth roommate faces no charges, because he was not involved in planning the event. The misdemeanor charge carries a maximum fine of \$500.

Blacksburg town spokesperson Heather Browning said a permit to host the concert would not have been granted even if the residents had requested it because public dances are not allowed in residential areas.

To be granted a permit to host such an event, Browning said permit applicants must undergo a background check and a zoning review must be done of the prospective event location.

"We have an application process in place

that allows us to do a thorough review of the event," she said.

"If the address is determined to be in a residential zoning district, it wouldn't be allowed for public use," Browning said.

Instead of holding public dances or concerts in residential areas, Browning said students should go other places where they can dance without breaking the law.

"Students can go downtown to public dance halls that are approved in the zoning ordinance," she said.

Browning said legal limitations are likely a reason why more instances of similar behavior are not reported.

"We can't enter a private residence without first having a complaint or witnessing an (illegal) act taking place," she said.

Solar Haus owner Homer Hurst said he did not approve of the events that occurred the night of the incident but was unaware residents have to obtain a permit before hosting a public dance.

"It wasn't supposed to be a dance," he said. "I assumed there wouldn't be dancing at these concerts, but there was."

"I was never approached about a permit," Hurst said.

To prevent future incidents of similar nature, Hurst said he does not intend to allow public dances or concerts at Solar Haus.

"We've notified everyone in the building that concerts or the equivalent thereof are no longer permitted," Hurst said. "We've canceled the privilege of having concerts and our man-



BYRON KENNERLY/SPPS

**Seven students fell from this third-floor window at the Solar Haus.**

ager has notified everyone in the building there would be no more."

Hurst, who said Solar Haus has housed

See **FALLS**, page 4

## Reporters may face honor court

by **Christina Peña**  
News Assistant

Even though the Cavalier Daily is an independent newspaper, the University of Virginia's Honor Committee may investigate the plagiarism incidents committed by two of its student journalists, said Carey Mignerey, honor committee chair and fourth year government major.

"It's under our jurisdiction, but I cannot confirm or deny the cases being dismissed by the committee," Mignerey said.

The Cavalier Daily also stated its writers should be held accountable to the university community for their reports in their code of ethics.

The code of ethics, however, only stated the newspaper encourages their writers

to observe their standards.

"The Cavalier Daily will make every attempt possible to prevent violations of these standards, and will encourage their observance by all members," as stated in the code of ethics.

But, if the case does go before the Honor Committee for plagiarism, it could also be investigated for cheating or stealing, Mignerey said.

"Situations for any intentional act of cheating or stealing is cause for dismissal from the university," Mignerey said.

Students who commit honor offenses have the option of making a "conscientious retraction," in which they denounce their actions in order to avoid expulsion. In this case, the Honor

See **HONOR**, page 3

## Groups plan food drives

by **Melissa Ballagh**  
Staaff Writer

Students and organizations across campus are working to ensure that needy families enjoy the holidays. Among the holiday donation drives are Hokies for the Hungry and Newman Library's Holiday Donation Drive.

Sponsored by the Marching Virginians, Hokies for the Hungry will collect canned goods from fans coming to the football game against Boston College. Donation drop-offs will be placed at each corner of Lane Stadium as well as the Marching Virginian's practice field at the corner of Southgate Drive and Spring Road.

Virginia Tech alumna Karen McNew, co-anchor for WLSL News Channel 10, will serve as honorary chairperson. The Marching Virginians set a goal of 65,115

See **FOOD**, page 4

## Bus line may link Tech to Roanoke

by **Aaron Blackwell**  
Associate News Editor

Blacksburg Town Council will decide Tuesday whether or not to approve a bus line linking Blacksburg to Roanoke.

The Blacksburg, Christiansburg and Montgomery County Metropolitan Planning Organization sent a recommendation to Blacksburg to approve the new bus service, said Gary Huff, Blacksburg town manager.

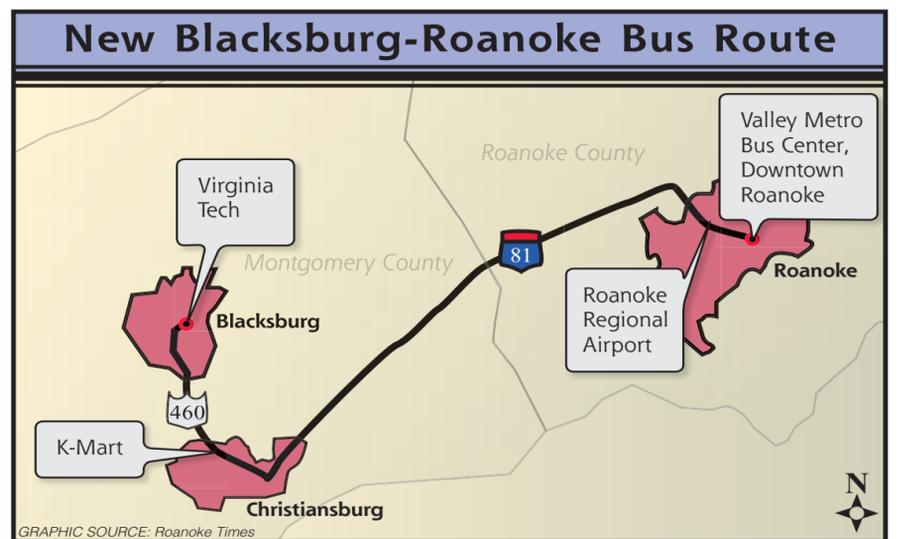
The council will vote on the recommendation as well as several other conditions from the MPO. These conditions include: not having Blacksburg Transit responsible for supporting the service, allowing the line to use the Squires bus stop and having quarterly reports provided to the MPO, he said.

Valley Metro, which runs a bus service in Roanoke, Vinton and Salem, will also run the new line. Service is scheduled to begin early next summer on a demonstration grant from federal and state funds — covering all costs for the first two years of operation, said David Morgan, Greater Roanoke Transit Company general manager. Costs for fiscal year 2004-2005 will be approximately \$250,000, he said.

The first two years will be a test phase for the service, with many localities, including Blacksburg, judging how effective the service is, Huff said.

"(Blacksburg) will help evaluate whether the demonstration grant is going to be successful," he said.

The first two years will determine whether the service would become a permanent means of trans-



GRAPHIC SOURCE: Roanoke Times

CHRIS HEUBERGER

portation. "The demonstration grant will determine whether there is a need there or not," Morgan said.

Many people think the service could be very beneficial to the Virginia Tech community in particular.

"If it comes to fruition, it will have a very positive impact on Virginia Tech students and faculty,"

said Suzanne Ducker, alternative transportation manager in the Tech Office of Transportation. "One of the biggest advantages would be the connection to the airport."

See **BUS**, page 4

## Nation still mourns, remembers death of Kennedy

### Tech professor compiles vignettes

▪ For four days, the nation stopped in front of the TV to watch what would happen next

by **Tiffany Hoffman**  
Managing Editor

After 40 years of conspiracy theories and speculation, President John F. Kennedy still maintains the legacy of one of the best presidents in history.

"It's interesting, 40 years later he's still hanging in there," said Dan Fleming, Virginia Tech professor emeritus and author of "Ask What You Can Do For Your Country." "After taking all

those hits and books, he still comes up in the top polls of presidents. In fact, it's sort of unfair, but kind of fascinating."

On Nov. 22, 1963, Kennedy was assassinated while riding in a motorcade in Dallas, Texas. For four days, the nation froze in front of TV screens and watched in shock and terror as Lee Harvey Oswald was killed and Kennedy was buried.

Homer Hickam, an alumnus of Tech and author of "Rocket Boys," was in his senior year at Tech in the industrial engineering department when Kennedy was killed.

"I was between classes, back at Brodie Hall, when

See **AUTHOR**, page 3

### Skipper cannon named for Kennedy, cadets

▪ The cannon was first used four days after Kennedy's death, and used to be on the field for Virginia Tech football games

by **Tiffany Hoffman**  
Managing Editor

"People were crying in the streets, churches were filled and Catholics took it particularly hard," said Dan Fleming, author of the John F. Kennedy tribute, "Ask What You Can Do For Your Country." "Most young people were devastated — they'd never experienced anything like it and, of course, everything was shut down."

For four days after Nov. 22, 1963 everyone around the world was glued to a television, Fleming said. Many schools, businesses and football games were shut down for days.

However, the Thursday after Kennedy was killed, 26,000 people gathered in Victory Stadium in Roanoke to witness the annual Thanksgiving Day rivalry game between Virginia Tech and Virginia Military Institute.

This was where Tech's cannon, Skipper, made its first appearance.

"They say you could see the shockwave move up the stands," said Col. Rock Roszak, a Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets officer. "It even knocked a VMI player to the ground."

In 1962, Ben "Butch" Harper, a cadet in A Squadron, had the idea to make a Civil War-style cannon to match the one VMI fired for its touchdowns, said Homer Hickam, class of 1964 alumnus and author of "Rocket Boys." "(The Tech cadets) liked what VMI did, so (they) decided to do it bigger and better," Roszak said.

Hickam said the cadets used brass from his father's West Virginia mine to mold the cannon and then used his ideas from his rocket-boy days to test ammunition.

"We filled plastic mustard bottles with gun powder and

stuck cherry bomb fuses in them," Hickam said. "We dragged the Skipper out on the golf course, tossed a spewing bottle down the barrel and stood back. It worked wonderfully."

Hickam said he and Harper decided to nickname the cannon "Skipper" because of its dual significance.

"President Kennedy had once been the skipper of a PT boat," Hickam said. "But 'skipper' was also Virginia Tech slang for a cadet senior who wore no stripes, i.e., a private. Senior privates traditionally were unconventional and were prone to raising a little hell.

Ben's face lit up and I knew we'd

See **SKIPPER**, page 4



PHOTO COURTESY CORP OF CADETS, ILLUSTRATION BY ELEANOR HOPSON

## News in Brief

### Bush, Blair project unity on Iraq, terrorism

LONDON (AP) — With tens of thousands of anti-war protesters mobilizing for a march on Parliament, President Bush and Prime Minister Tony Blair discussed the war on terrorism Thursday just hours after bombs killed more than a dozen people in Turkey.

The blasts shattered the British consulate and the London-based HSBC bank in downtown Istanbul. Blair's foreign secretary, Jack Straw, branded the attacks "appalling acts of terrorism" just before the two leaders met here.

The attacks were sure to refocus attention on the continuing danger of terrorism at a time when both Bush and Blair are warning against complacency.

including the bomber.

### Truck bombs hit bank, kill 25

ISTANBUL (AP) — Trucks packed with explosives blew up at a London-based bank and the British consulate Thursday, killing at least 26 people and wounding nearly 450.

Security forces were put on the highest alert after the blasts at the high-rise headquarters of the HSBC bank and the British consulate occurred five minutes apart at about 11 a.m.

Among the dead was British Consul-General Roger Short, the Anatolia news agency quoted U.S. Ambassador Eric Edelman saying.

The blasts followed a pair of synagogue bombings Saturday that killed 23 people, plus the two bombers.

### Suicide bomber kills 3 in Iraq

KIRKUK, Iraq (AP) — A suicide truck bomb exploded at the office of a U.S.-allied Kurdish political party in this northern oil center Thursday, killing three bystanders and wounding about 30, including children, police said.

It was the second car-bombing in as many days against Iraqis cooperating with the U.S.-led occupation. Elsewhere, a pro-U.S. politician was assassinated in the southern city of Basra, his party said Thursday.

Earlier, Mayor Abdul Rahman Mustapha said five people died in the attack, but police revised that toll to four,

### Jackson en route to face warrant

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP) — Michael Jackson left Nevada on Thursday en route to California, where he faces an arrest warrant alleging multiple counts of child molestation.

Jackson left North Las Vegas Airport aboard a leased jet late Thursday morning heading for Santa Barbara Municipal Airport, according to an employee of XtraJet, a Santa Monica leasing company.

The jet carrying Jackson, his family and a bodyguard was expected to land within the hour at the airport, located in Goleta.

## Weather center expects average snowfall

Blacksburg receives almost 25 inches of snow each year and this winter is predicted to be the same

by Aaron Blackwell  
Associate News Editor

Blacksburg residents can expect an average winter this year, with conditions being similar to those of last year.

The Climate Prediction Center in Washington D.C. said there were equal chances of above or below normal conditions, said William Perry, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

While some may consider last year's winter rather harsh, Perry said it was typical for the

area.

"I think we had pretty much normal snowfall," he said.

Blacksburg normally receives 23 to 25 inches of snow per year, Perry said.

The winter of 2001-2002 was not as harsh because the area was under an El Niño pattern which kept moisture confined to the south, he said.

The pattern became more neutral last year, however, and those same conditions continue to prevail, he said.

**"Hokie fans sticking around for the ... football game can expect drier and milder conditions with temperatures in the upper 60s to lower 70s."**

The Prediction Center released projections for the whole country.

The southern portion of the

United States, including areas like Texas, Oklahoma and the Pacific Northwest are expected to receive above-normal rainfall, while southern California and Florida are projected to be drier than usual, Perry said.

Those living in the desert southwest, the plains and the Pacific coast can expect warmer than average temperatures, he said.

So far this fall, Blacksburg has been spared from winter weather.

This is because high pressure has been anchored to the south and is bringing in warmer temperatures. The blasts of cold

and windy weather have been relatively short-lived, Perry said.

Southwest Virginia has experienced flooding over the past few days because of torrential downpours. While Blacksburg was spared the brunt of the system, receiving only 1.2 inches of rain, areas in western North Carolina received up to nine inches, Perry said.

Since the New River flows up from the south, areas like Radford had to deal with the river overflowing its banks. The river crested at 19.8 feet, almost six feet above flood stage, he said.

Hokie fans sticking around for the Virginia Tech and Boston College football game can expect drier and milder conditions with temperatures in the upper 60s to lower 70s, Perry said.

## Work study assigned in relation to careers

by Ellen Biltz  
News Assistant

Work study is an option on which many students rely to pay for expenses throughout college.

Carrie Miller, enrollment services coordinator for the financial aid department, said work study is a federal first aid program.

"Work study is based on financial need of the student," said Stephanie Babyak of public affairs at the federal student aid office.

Virginia Tech has provided

915 students with work study so far this year to help them with the expenditures of college. Miller says she expects about 1,100 students will have held jobs through work study by the end of the 2003-2004 year.

The Federal Student Aid program encourages schools to make work study community service-related to

**"Work study is based on financial need of the student."**

Stephanie Babyak  
public affairs,  
federal student aid office

the student's course of study. For a student to be able to have a job through work study, they must be awarded it through federal financial aid. When a student requests financial aid, they are notified as to whether or not work study is an option.

"Not every school participates in work study," Babyak said. Miller said the amount of

students participating in work study has stayed fairly consistent for the past three years. Although numbers tend to be the same, there are factors influencing how many students get work study. The number of jobs and money offered through financial aid can vary year to year within the university.

"You have to remember to think about what actual funding allocation was," Miller said.

In the 2001-2002 school year, 1,093 students held work study jobs, while in 2002-2003, 1,338

See **WORK**, page 3

STOCK MARKET REPORT — 11/20/2003 —		WEATHER		TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SATURDAY NIGHT	SUNDAY	MONDAY
DJIA	9619.42 ▼ -71.04	SUNNY	☀	Sunny Highs: 60°-66°	☾	☀	☾	☀	☁
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S&P 500	1033.65 ▼ -8.79								
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# JFK: Tech prof wrote JFK book

Continued from page 1

a freshman cadet told me that the President had been shot," Hickam said. "Like everyone else in Squadron A, I headed for our day room television set to find out what had actually happened. We all packed in there ... watching, listening and trying to make some sense out of what had happened. It's been 40 years now and I still haven't made any sense out of it."

In Fleming's book, he explored the experiences of 91 people and the lasting effects the president's death left on their lives. Among his collection are expressions from Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, John Glenn, leading members of the civil rights movement and also James Robertson, a Tech alumni distinguished professor.

At the time of Kennedy's death, however, Robertson was executive director of the U.S. Civil War Centennial Commission in Washington, D.C.

On Friday night, upon word of Kennedy's death, Robertson was called to investigate the way Lincoln had been laid in state in the East room and was put in charge of preparing the room for the arrival of the president's body.

"It was pouring rain," Robertson said. "It had started to rain just after the news bulletin in Washington. It was just dark and gloomy and I think the shock had passed and the grief and mourning had come. There was so much confusion in the White House and really no leader in Washington. The

White House was just headless, in a sense."

Robertson said he worked with a crew of carpenters to prepare the room like the first lady had requested, and draped black bunting on the walls and windows. Robertson said he left the White House around 3 a.m., just as the Pontiac hearse carrying the slain president, drove through the north-west gate.

"It's not often, fortunately, Americans have to pass through the death of a president," Robertson said.

"Suddenly, the bright sun was gone and the future looked gloomy."

Fleming said one of the most interesting aspects surrounding Kennedy's assassination was the tremendous regard the world held for him.

"The United States Kennedy represented was young, dashing and romantic all over the world," Fleming said. "Only in China were they celebrating he was killed. In Ireland, if you go over now, there are still two pictures hanging all over — the pope and Kennedy."

When Kennedy was in office, Fleming said his greatest contribution was the push for public service. Upon his death, his legacy continued and civil rights bills were finally passed.

"All major civil rights bills were passed under LBJ and there's no doubt in my mind the reason they were passed was that Kennedy was assassinated," Fleming said. "His death led to a great breakthrough in civil rights."

Another interesting turn-around following the assassination was the number of people who claimed they had voted for him. The Kennedy/Nixon race was one of the closest in history, however, after his death, polls reported Kennedy carried over 60 percent of the vote.

"Even though people disliked him, they respected him as a symbol," Fleming said. "Being killed in office gave him a great deal of credit beyond what he'd accomplished. He was finding himself, growing strong and

probably at his peak when he was killed."

In decades to come, Fleming said Kennedy's death, Pearl Harbor and Sept. 11 will be the most memorable events of the 20th century.

"These events will crease the memory forever for anybody that saw (them)," Fleming said. "I think they'll hold on because of the visual, traumatic nature of the events."

**"All major civil rights bills were passed under LBJ and there's no doubt in my mind the reason they were passed was that Kennedy was assassinated."**

**Dan Fleming**  
professor emeritus, author

# Honor: Editors not investigated

Continued from page 1

Committee would view these individuals as recommitted to the honor system, according to the Honor Committee's website.

A stigma of this policy, though, is the student must make this confession before others suspect them of an offense.

Justin Bernick, editor in chief of the Cavalier Daily, said he has no role in the possible Honor Committee investigation of Tonya Dawson and Demetra Karamanos.

"I am the president of a corporation that's not affiliated with the university. Anybody on staff is also a student, but I don't oversee their role as a student. So it is not a concern for me," Bernick said.

Bernick said the plagiarized stories were read and checked through a chain of command — this is their normal procedure for all stories. The writer reads through the story with

two section editors and then the managing editor also reads the article. The editor in chief finally checks the article for libelous material.

None of the articles were suspected of plagiarized material, Bernick said.

Under their code of ethics, the editors who reviewed the plagiarized articles could be accused of having a "lack of thoroughness," since they did not catch any of the plagiarized sections in the articles before they were printed.

Bernick did not find any cause for this consideration.

"(There is) definitely not (an investigation into our editors). There is a certain level of trust

placed in our reporters and if they violate that trust, you cannot hold the editors responsible," Bernick said.

"There is no way that they can check every source, so they did a thorough job of editing and there was no way of knowing if (the articles) were plagiarized."

Mignerey said the Honor Committee investigates about 50 to 70 cases per year, and most of them deal with academic plagiarism.

Its jurisdiction extends into Charlottesville and Albemarle County — anywhere where people identify themselves as UVa students, Mignerey said. The entire process of an investigation and trial takes about six weeks.

**"There is a certain level of trust placed in our reporters and if they violate that trust, you cannot hold the editors responsible."**

**Justin Bernick**  
editor in chief,  
Cavalier Daily

# Work: More money in 2002-03

Continued from page 2

positions were filled. While job numbers may have risen, there was more money provided in the 2002-2003 school year.

Tech is one of many universities nation-wide using work study to assist students with financial need. Babyak said \$1,218 million is available this year to students around the country through work study.

"Any department can post a

(work study) position," Miller said.

Some students are not given the option of taking on a work study job through financial aid, but those students are still allowed to work on campus.

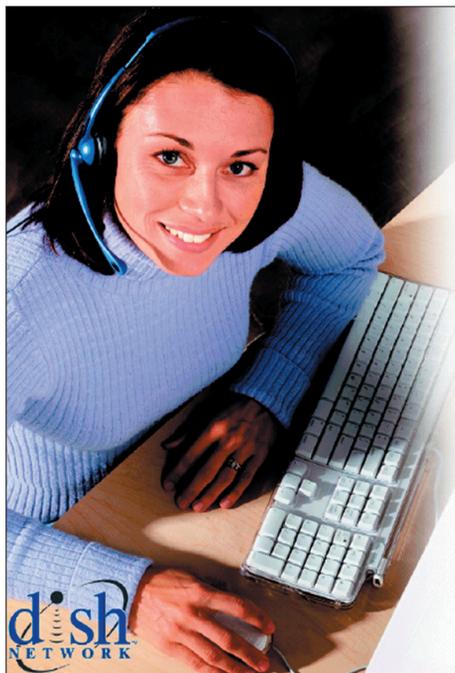
"When a department posts a position, they can list it as work study, student wage or either," Miller said.

Student wage positions can be filled by any Tech student looking for a job. If a student

wage position is open on campus, the department with the job posting pays all of the salary to the student.

"Work study is a 25-75 (ratio) for federal-school share," Babyak said. This means that for departments posting work study jobs, only 25 percent of the student's salary is paid by the school.

"That's why work study is better for the departments as well as the students," Miller said.



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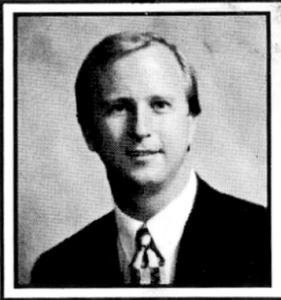
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# Skipper: Cannon still fired

Continued from page 1

finally found our cannon's name."

Even though Skipper is rarely seen, Roszak said it can still be heard for every touchdown made in Lane Stadium.

"When I was a cadet, Skipper was on the south end firing on the field," Roszak said. "It'd be nice if we could find some way to bring her back in the stadium all the time."

In honor of the 40th anniversary of both Skipper's creation and Kennedy's assassination, Skipper was brought onto the field for this year's football game against the University

of Miami.

"The Skipper represents far more than the cadet corps or our athletic teams," Hickam said. "It represents the spirit of our great school and its entire student body. We get an idea in our head and we just go out and do it and don't sit back and ask someone else to do it for us."

Hickam said Tech's most recent example of this dedica-

tion is the development of the super computer.

"Most universities, frankly, would have moaned and groaned to the government to please buy them a super computer," he said. "And then they would have sat back and waited for the gift — but not the Hokies! We came up with a way to build our own. That's the spirit of the Skipper."

*"(The Skipper) represents the spirit of our great school and its entire student body."*

**Homer Hickam**  
alumnus, author

# Food: Drive is annual tradition

Continued from page 1

cans — the equivalent of a single donation from every fan.

Now in its seventh year, Hokies for the Hungry has raised an average of six thousand cans as well as many monetary donations during its past drives. Shelby Cole, administrative assistant to the Marching Virginians' director, said they hope to raise even more Saturday.

"If they bring several (cans), then that's really going to make a difference," Cole said.

The Marching Virginians started the food drive as a way to give back to the community. Public Relations Officer Laura Mullins said the band's members have grown to enjoy the annual tradition.

"Everybody actually does look forward to (the drive) every year," Mullins said.

The Montgomery County Christmas Store is also receiving donations from groups such as the Panhellenic Council, the Wesley Foundation, Circle K and the department of communication. The Christmas Store

uses the donations in boxes of food handed out to the 1,150 families who are eligible based on federal guidelines and other considerations. The boxes include foods such as fruit, canned vegetables, Bisquick and soup.

"Without (food drives), we'd have a real hard time providing food for all the families we serve," said Christmas Store food coordinator Joan Cliff.

The money donated to the Montgomery County Christmas Store is used to buy brand new items. In addition to a box of food, needy families get new household items, clothes for every family member and a toy for each child.

The second drive this fall, Newman Library's Holiday Donation Drive, is working to collect donations of food items as well as clothing like gloves and hats. Anyone who wishes to donate can bring items to the collection boxes located in the library lobby and in front of the circulation reserve desk.

The food and clothing drive, which started Monday, continues until Dec. 18. All donations

will go to the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program.

MCEAP will distribute all donated items to needy families in the area. While donations are intended for Christmas, circulation and reserve supervisor Mary Lucado said Newman might give some of the donations for Christmas as well.

"If we get enough donations, we'll make two trips," Lucado said.

MCEAP also receives donations from other groups around campus. MCEAP Operations Officer Melanie Collins said student groups like the Honor Society, Block and Bridle Club and various fraternities and sororities have raised food or clothing donations for MCEAP.

"It's a very big help because there are so many families we help every year," Collins said.

In addition to providing food and clothing, MCEAP helps families deal with monetary problems. Collins said MCEAP spent 131,000 dollars in financial assistance for needy households to pay rents or mortgages.

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## Fall: Safety awareness on rise

Continued from page 1

residents since 1955, said he was devastated to hear about the fatal incident. "This is the most devastating experience I've had as a landlord," he said.

Browning said the accident has caused students to show an increased interest in public safety. "This accident has really raised the sense of awareness about public safety and makes you cognitive about your surroundings," she said. "One of the things we're trying to do as a town is to educate the community and student body about public safety."

Browning also said she believes the maximum penalty fee of \$500 is not enough for incidents like the one at the Solar Haus concert.

"We hope to lobby the General Assembly for stronger fines for these kinds of violations," she said.

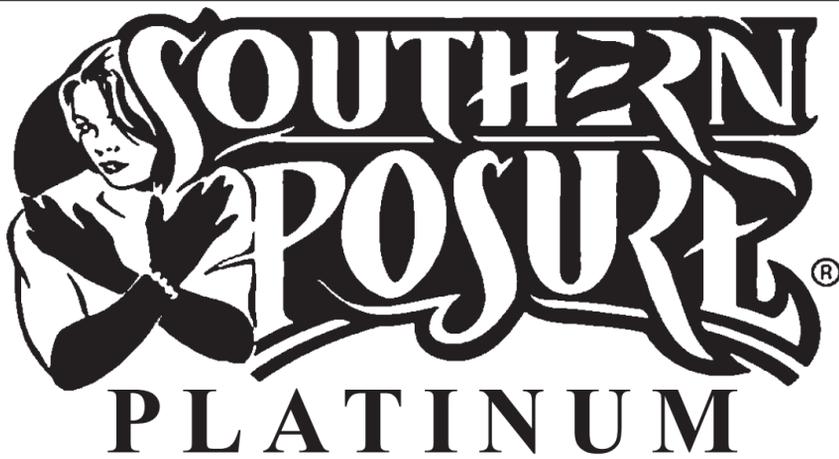
## Bus: Route may benefit community

Continued from page 1

Ducker said having access to the airport would benefit those students who live far away, and would prevent people from having to park their cars at the airport for days at a time.

"It would hopefully provide an alternative method of transportation for people to go to work," Huff said. He said individuals who work in Roanoke and live in Blacksburg, or vice versa, would find the new service helpful.

The service will have stops in the New River Valley at Tech's Squires Student Center, at the K-Mart in Christiansburg and the park-and-ride lot at exit 118 on Interstate 81. Stops in Roanoke will include Roanoke Regional Airport and the Valley Metro Bus Center, Morgan said. Hours of operation will be 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 5 a.m. to 1:30 a.m. Friday and Saturday, with no service on Sundays. A one-way fare will cost \$3, Morgan said.



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## Democrats use negative spin on war, attempt to steal office

Rob Rowland

The author of the article "Real people disagree with war" (CT, Nov. 20), levels caustic criticism against conservative supporters of American efforts in Iraq who cite no statistics in presenting their arguments. He then goes on to list some seemingly random numbers purported to be Iraqi civilian death counts.

Regrettably and unprofessionally, the author does not cite his sources. I presume he has not personally assembled these figures, but instead lifted them from a random Web blog. With this said, the author's choice to at once lambaste an editorial piece he disagrees with for lack of statistical support, and at the same time offer unverified and uncited facts culled from obviously biased private web sites is untenable and wrecks of amateurish spin.

Facts and statistics do very little to advance an argument when they are taken out of context and are presented with the intention of misleading one's audience. I need turn no further than the author of "Real people disagree with war" to prove my point.

The second of his facts I take issue with is his assertion the war in Iraq and the Vietnam conflict are similar. To back his point, the author quotes the Reuters news service as saying "The U.S. death toll in Iraq has surpassed the number of American soldiers killed during the first three years of the Vietnam War."

He neglects to mention on the date chosen by Reuters as the start of American involvement in Vietnam, Dec. 11, 1961, 400 U.S. soldiers were deployed. According to the Media Research Center's Web site, during these first three years only 17,000 U.S. troops — mostly military advisors — were deployed. There are currently 130,000 U.S. troops in Iraq.

According to the same Reuters article, as of Nov. 13, "U.S. combat deaths totaled 270 for Iraq and 28 for other battle zones, including Afghanistan." This stands in stark contrast to staggering casualties of the Vietnam conflict, at the height of which the President signed 500 or more death notices each week. In 1965, 16,869 American troops gave their lives.

The Media Research Center, an organization dedicated to pointing out biased and shoddy journalism, calls the creative liberties taken by Reuters with dates and math to draw their comparison "ridiculous." It is hard to disagree when the facts are known.

In presenting these figures I do not mean to minimize or trivialize the terrible human price paid in either conflict. However, I think it is necessary to note how the facts vaunted by yesterday's

columnist may be used to build false and asinine arguments.

But really, my primary objection to yesterday's column is the author really constructs no argument at all. Instead, he revels in the same perverse glee many leftists take in American setbacks.

What does he propose to solve an obviously difficult situation? The "war and occupation ... must end soon." This sort of talk is the left's ideological rebuttal to the old suggestion that we "just nuke 'em," and is just as welcome and at home in serious public discourse on matters of foreign affairs.

America and the coalition in Iraq are not going anywhere in the imminent future, and if they were to leave suddenly, as yesterday's columnist seems to desire, disorder and chaos would fill the vacuum. How many more deaths would follow?

This constitutes the perverse irony presented by many on the left. They point to the suffering experienced by our troops and by innocent civilians on the other side and then two paragraphs later, make a case for a hasty retreat without so much as a word for the damage and irreparable harm that would follow the act.

It is blatantly political. Every setback suffered in the Middle East is greeted by leftists with unrepentant joy, carefully masked as true concern for American interests.

The Democratic presidential candidates seem to be taking a more reasoned and fair approach to viable alternate plans of action in the Middle East, but many partisans can scarcely contain their joy when negative headlines appear in the newspapers. Why else would they try to manufacture the most negative numbers possible?

If we must talk about what constitutes a "real American," let us first say what is un-American. Though the first amendment to our constitution secures for posterity the right to free speech, it is disgusting to cheer on American casualties or to revel in economic setbacks.

This nation is great enough to allow the marketplace of ideas to sort truth from fiction and manufactured facts. The bottom line is, no one will strip citizenship from people who spout the nonsense proclaimed in "Real people disagree with war," but time and public debate will show such prattle to be the shameless product of opportunism that it is.

If the Democrats think they can win back the presidency by selling a vision of the American economy and the Iraqi theatre going to hell in a hand-basket, they are in for a surprise. "Real Americans" in the "red states" are not buying it.

Rob Rowland is a regular columnist for the Collegiate Times.

## Thanksgiving's history important

Bryan Nieder

With Thanksgiving just a week away, I feel it is time to look at some of the changes the holiday has gone through and the various manners in which people celebrate it in an effort to increase appreciation for the Fall Classic.

I think the Native Americans were good sports with the whole English colonialism thing. Thanksgiving is a great way to celebrate the meal that sealed the consensual deal of the Pilgrims settling the great house of America and the Indians receiving a sweet bachelor pad in the laundry room of North Dakota.

Do not bemoan the inequities too much because, with further thought, in present day terms it would be a lot less convenient to live in a society where Native Americans dominated the Pilgrims.

Try throwing names like Sacajawea and Abedabun on a teacher's roster and see how many minutes are wasted from our children's learning with awkward pronunciation stumblings. John Smith is just easier.

With history not resting in this alternate universe, Native Americans celebrating Thanksgiving is like Robyn Givens celebrating the first meal she had with Mike Tyson — all's well that ends well.

A bit of essential history on the holiday's origins and changes will give readers a better idea about what Thanksgiving truly means.

The day set aside for the act of giving thanks was originally set by George Washington, who proclaimed Nov. 26 a day of thanksgiving. It became a celebrated day by

lazy workers — including teamsters — and gluttonous fathers when Lincoln declared it to be a national holiday, but moved it to the fourth Thursday in November.

Back then, Americans had a lot to be thankful for with the Civil War and lack of indoor plumbing being celebrated realities.

Pulling a Marty McFly and driving to the thankful times of the Great Depression, history buffs will know that Franklin Roosevelt shook up the holiday one more time. In a power move to compensate for a miniscule national budget, he declared Thanksgiving would be celebrated one week earlier because he wanted to extend the Christmas shopping season.

Finally, the reality of Thanksgiving came to the forefront of the American mindset — Thanksgiving is simply a holiday for people to have a meal, which will energize the pre-Christmas shopping spree.

This is why the response from Jewish and Muslim people to the question of whether they celebrate Thanksgiving is unanimous — of course not!

What do they need a big meal for? Lighting candles takes little energy, especially when Judaic followers lazily light them in a fashion that ensures usually just a few candles in one night — it's time to get physical, Judaism!

Ramadan ends in early December, which obviously eliminates fasting Muslims from the gluttonous holiday. Many Americans rejoice — more turkey for me! For those Roosevelt-haters — perhaps too numerous to count — take heart in the fact that the holiday was moved back to the fourth Thursday of November after

two years, and "Rosy" will not be making any brash, presidential decrees anytime soon.

To the setback of United Nations Day in October, Thanksgiving with all of its changes continues to be a hallmark holiday for the fall.

Americans celebrate it with family and food, but don't be too hasty in the assumption that turkey is the main entree everywhere.

Cubans, Dominicans and even the citizens of the coveted 51st state of Puerto Rico celebrate the holiday, according to Isla — a mail-order catalog that polled Latinos about Thanksgiving traditions.

In Cuba, families report eating roasted pork and singing traditional Cuban poetry while decorating for Christmas.

The travesty of the U.S. embargo is seen most clearly in this instance, with families clearly not able to enjoy turkey or superior American poetry in their celebration. Good luck having a nice Thanksgiving or merry Christmas little Elian Gonzalez.

It's late November, and the pageantry of food and the football is in the air. I hope everyone has a safe holiday week and remembers two things to make the holidays swell for everyone:

One, Americans are better than the hapless Canadians, who celebrate the holiday on October 13, which further attests to the poser Canucks failed attempt to steal someone else's culture.

Two, if you see Cubans, hand them a turkey and a "Power of Pride" bumper decal so they may share in this rich holiday tradition.

Bryan Nieder is the editorial assistant for the Collegiate Times.

## Equality for all includes marriage

Michael Sutphin

In response to yesterday's column, "Time for marriage and government to divorce" (CT, Nov. 20), I would like to point out that although the author has a valid point about marriage, his approach and use of negative stereotypes trivializes the issue.

He says, "It's time to end the debate about marriage once and for all. Then we can all breathe a sigh of relief, without worrying about slipping into stupid protests full of hissing voices or shouted hallelujahs."

Sure, there should be a separation of church and state, and one way to address the issue of gay marriage is to rename the institution all together. Every couple, same- or opposite-sex, could enter a legal contract we could call, say, a civil union.

This way, religious types would not be offended by so-called militant homosexuals who want to impede on their sacred institution of marriage. And lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people would be appeased because they would have the same rights as heterosexuals.

The Netherlands, for example, adopted this tactic, and it seems to be working there.

This isn't, however, the best approach for the United States. For one, marriage in this country is

already divided. We have civil marriage, where both individual state governments and the federal government recognize over 1000 rights, benefits, privileges and protections that come with it. We also have religious marriage, in which religious groups are already given the sole decision to marry or not to marry gay and lesbian couples.

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender lobby is not fighting for inclusion in religious marriage. It is, however, fighting for civil marriage equality. The Supreme Court of Massachusetts tried to make this clear Wednesday when it explained, "Simply put, the government creates civil marriage. In Massachusetts, civil marriage is, and since pre-Colonial days has been, precisely what its name implies: a wholly secular institution. No religious ceremony has ever been required to validate a Massachusetts marriage."

What the Massachusetts high court did was entirely warranted — if not late. There is no argument against civil marriage equality for LGBT people in which the arguer is not either ignorant or downright bigoted. And to say homosexuals should simply stop whining about their problems is to say we should just let discrimination continue. Silence is never the answer to a problem.

Margaret Cho, the famous bisex-

ual comedian, beautifully explained the situation yesterday. She compared our present debate over gay marriage to previous forms of discrimination, and pointed out that the heterosexual mainstream has adopted a great deal from gay culture, like television shows, hairstyles and even a fashion sense.

"It's like when whites stole rock and roll from blacks in the 50s, and all the kids were dancing to Little Richie, 'We love your music, but please don't drink from that water fountain,'" she said.

The same applies to marriage. We live in a country that touts freedom and equality for all as the cornerstone of our national beliefs, but we don't afford something so basic as the right to marry who we love to a large and visible segment of our population.

Trivializing the issue will not work and trying to shut up the LGBT community with weak jabs playing on hateful and outdated stereotypes does more harm than good.

This is one of the major social issues of our time and it affects millions of Americans. Please, no matter which side you stand on the issue of gay marriage, take your position with respect and consideration for others.

Michael Sutphin is a sophomore communication major.



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The Collegiate Times, a division of the Educational Media Company at Virginia Tech, was established in 1903 by and for the students of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. The Collegiate Times is published every Tuesday through Friday of the academic year except during exams and vacations. The Collegiate Times receives no funding from the university.

The Collegiate Times can be found online at <www.collegiatetimes.com>.

Except where noted, all photographs were taken by the Student Publications Photo Staff. The Collegiate Times is located in 363 Squires Student Center, Blacksburg, Va. 24061. (540) 231-9860. Fax (540) 231-5057.

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## Features



TED MARTELLO/SPPS

Rock band One Week, with members Brad Keppler, Kevin Lichtfuss, and drummer Brian Ecclesine were tops among geek bands.

# Greeks top geeks in battle of bands

by Philip Comey  
Associate Features Editor

A close judging call between two acts ended the battle of the bands Wednesday night at the Greeks vs. Geeks show held at Baylee's.

The show, sponsored by Virginia Tech's literary magazine Silhouette, featured six bands representing both fraternity bands and non-fraternity bands.

Though all acts clearly had their fans, the band One Week and the solo act of Troy Schultz stuck out as crowd pleasers and caught the judges' eyes.

The winner, Troy Schultz, represented the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity and entertained the crowd using only his vocals and a guitar. Schultz, who said it was his first live performance, sang some original works and covered songs like "Rodeo Clown" by Jack Johnson.

Three "celebrity" judges voted on their favorite act, judging on things like band energy and range of songs.

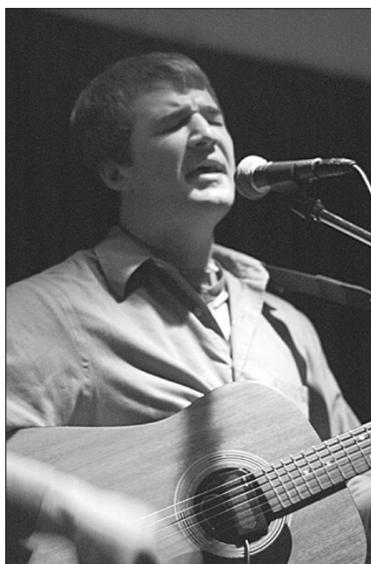
Among the judges was the music director for WUVT, Zy Bobbitt, who expressed his difficulty in choosing a winner.

"This is the ninth one of these types of contests I have judged, and this has definitely been one of the closest calls," Bobbitt said.

The overall runner-up and winner out of the geek bands, One Week, performed its brand of rock and threw the crowd into a frenzy as fans and listeners engaged in moshing in the crowded bar.

"There was a lot of energy in their performance and they kept the crowd going," said Rachel Samsky, a junior graphic design major.

Other acts included Community Dinner, a four-man ensemble who began the show, moving the crowd with its original brand of



ERIC CONNOLLY/SPPS

Troy Schultz won the battle with his original acoustic rock songs.

acoustic, bluegrass music.

Some crowd members began to dance, while others simply nodded their heads to the sound of the band's string instruments, including an upright bass.

Also representing the geek bands was soloist Dean Entrekin, although he did not take too kindly to the reference.

"I don't appreciate being called a geek," Entrekin said.

Dean amused the crowd with his brief cover of the Coors Light commercial that salutes the

wingman and also played covers like "Long December" by the Counting Crows. He closed out his set to cheers as he ended with a cover of "All Along the Watchtower."

Replacing the greek band Four and a High Chair, who had a band member fall ill, was the geek act Mixmaster Death and Rainman.

They received a moderate reaction from the crowd with their original beats played from a computer, and their somewhat vulgar rap lyrics.

To close the show was the Greek band Clinch who, earlier in the night, had played a show at Top of the Stairs.

Though the crowd had dwindled after the three-hour show, Clinch kept the crowd moving with a cover of "Say it Ain't So" by Weezer and original songs.

Eric Hauser, Silhouette special events coordinator, was pleased with the number of people who came to the show.

"I'm real happy to see how many people came out, it's been a good turnout," Hauser said.

The crowd members wore attire ranged from Abercrombie shirts and wool coats, to dreadlocks, expressed their thoughts about the variety of acts.

"There is definitely a different collaboration of bands and something for everybody," said Scott Horne, a sophomore marketing major, expressing his thoughts about the variety of acts.

Other show attendees talked about the talent of the show.

"I was pleasantly surprised by the talent that I saw in the Virginia Tech community," said Gabe Robey, a senior marketing major.

The winner of the show was awarded with a free meal from Baylee's and a Silhouette T-shirt.

# Jennifer on Sunday to play BC tailgate

by Nicole Smith  
Staff Writer

Here are two reasons to stay in Blacksburg this weekend instead of going home early for Thanksgiving break: the last home football game of the year, Virginia Tech's last game in the Big East, and a tailgate party with live music.

Steamthingie Tailgaters have been hosting pregame parties during the football season at Tech since 1993. Saturday, the band Jennifer On Sunday will be performing live from 1 p.m. until right before kick-off at 3:30 p.m. in the parking lot between Wallace and Litton Reaves Halls, courtesy of the tailgaters.

The band, founded five years ago, consists of three guys who met at Tech in the mid-90s who play modern rock/alternative music.

The members include lead singer and guitarist 1997 Tech graduate Jim Hodson, bassist and back-up Dan Wilson and drummer and back-up vocalist Eric Frost, a 1996 Tech graduate.

All three members work full-time when they are not performing with the band or writing songs.

Hodson works as a technical writer for the Discovery Channel. Wilson, who attended Tech but later transferred to VCU to complete a music degree, works for Nasdaq. Frost works in advertising for DC United, the major league soccer team in Washington, D.C.

JOS has performed in Blacksburg several times at places such as Top of the Stairs and Baylee's, Frost said.

The band has a good fan base at Tech and was asked to perform for Steamthingie Tailgaters last year before the University of Pittsburgh game in Blacksburg, Hodson said.

"I was introduced to the drummer, Eric, at a happy hour," said Jim Nabti, Steamthingie Tailgaters' coordinator. "We just started having live bands last year ... (Jennifer on Sunday) sort of started the whole thing."

The band played at the Syracuse University game this year at Tech and was asked to come back this weekend, Hodson said.

Steamthingie Tailgaters, a group of 12 Hokie fans, usually have about 200 people join them before the game,

Nabti said.

As early as 8 a.m., the group begins to set up their equipment with generators, satellite television sets, food and beer, Nabti said.

The Tech police are notified prior to the tailgating party when Steamthingie Tailgaters will be having a live band performance, Nabti said. As long as the group follows the laws in accordance to noise violation rules, there is not a problem having a band at the event.

"Typically, people are good about not stealing things," Nabti said. "We have the satellite TV set up for some who never go into the stadium. They can kind of watch our stuff too."

The tailgaters have barbecue grills with cook-offs among themselves, with some cooks even bringing wild game to grill, such as deer, Nabti said.

Two years ago, someone even brought a hot tub for people to use, Nabti said.

Steamthingie Tailgaters also hosted the Baltimore band, The Dangertones, a few weeks ago prior to the University of Miami game. Nabti said he hopes to have more bands next year.

The band has released two full-length albums, Seizure and Paper Covers Rock, and one EP, Think Big, since they formed.

Last month, Jennifer on Sunday performed at RFK stadium during the pregame event before a DC United game.

"That was awesome just to be associated with RFK when other bands have been there, like U2," Frost said.

The band has gotten exposure through DC101, a rock radio station in D.C., and through MTV's "Undressed" program.

Some of the pressures that come with being in a band include learning how the music industry works and balancing time, a job, social life and the music, said Jason Howell, the band's manager.

"They've always booked the shows themselves at Tech," Howell said. "They are professional."

Frost suggests that anyone who wants to enter the music industry should learn about it first.

"You're not gonna get any younger," Frost said. "Just work it."

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# Lyric seeking performers for downtown New Year's bash

by **Brandon Morgan**  
Associate Features Editor

On New Year's Eve, the Lyric Theatre in Downtown Blacksburg will be filled with a variety of performers who will demonstrate their talent at the Kickin' Off the New Year Community Performance Showcase.

This year's community showcase will be sponsored by the YMCA, the Downtown Merchants and the Lyric Theatre will host various performances including poets, musicians, actors, dancers, directors, performance artists or any other individual or group with something to share.

The goal of this event is to bring the Blacksburg community together. Students as well as local residents are welcome to participate and attend the event. The YMCA hopes to achieve this unity with a showcase of talent among the community.

"A healthy community is one that can (embrace) its diversity and celebrate itself," said Shannon Turner, artistic director and emcee for the showcase. "A showcase is an ideal opportunity to do both."

The success of the show depends on how the community can come together.

"The more mix between

campus and community we can make it more successful in my mind," Turner said.

The showcase offers an opportunity for new performers to get their names out to the community.

It's important for new performers to showcase their talent to the community, said Turner. Performers have gotten other gigs because of this, she said.

The showcase not only brings the community together, but brings the performers together as well.

Performers who have participated in previous shows have gotten together and performed at other gigs like the YMCA Crafts Fair, Turner said.

The showcase is not a comparison of talent and will not hold a competition between performers.

"It would be hard to compare all the different performers," Turner said. We want to create a celebratory atmosphere rather than a competition, she said.

The YMCA welcomes all types of talent and would only turn down auditions inappropriate for families. Logistical reasons would also prevent someone from performing.

For example, if the performer needs a piano, YMCA would have to turn them down because the Lyric Theatre doesn't have a piano on stage and YMCA

doesn't have the resources to bring in a piano for the act, Turner said.

Some groups have already confirmed their slot for the showcase. Snax, a middle school rock and roll band returning from last year's showcase, will perform. The Renaissance Music Academy and some poets will also be displaying their talent.

This is the third year the YMCA and Downtown Merchants have sponsored the community performance showcase. In previous years, the showcase took place during the summer. The YMCA decided to host the show on New Year's Eve to create an upbeat and entertaining atmosphere.

"There was a wide range of talent," said John Greene, Squires Ticket Office manager. "I'm happy to see this going to happen this year because it's a good atmosphere for it. It's upbeat entertainment."

Tickets will go on sale in early December and will be available at the YMCA's Lancaster house on Washington Street, the YMCA Thrift Shop on South Main Street, Fringe Benefit and at the Lyric Theatre.

Auditions for the showcase will take place Saturday, Dec. 6 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Lyric Theatre. Call 231-6860 or e-mail showcase@vt.edu to reserve a time slot.

Presenting the winner of the Tech Bookstore 'What's a Hokie?' contest...

Some folks say, sit, or wonder,  
How one came across this blunder.  
Between a bird, and a word, screaming  
fans, and a team,  
Orange/Maroon addicts-living a dream.  
Over the speakers one hears the gobblers of gobblers,  
Outbursts of Tech fans-screams and hollers.  
"Hokie Hokie Hokie High!"  
But, what's a Hokie? How'd it arise?  
We punt, pass, block, run and strut,  
Stay on the bandwagon in times of rut.  
A Tech fans true and won't deny,  
Cheering until their voice runs dry.  
These roars that erupt from stadium, Lane,  
In sun, sleet, snow, wind and rain.  
Still, what is this word Tech prides itself with?  
How'd it come about? What's the myth?  
Maybe it's an acronym that's been long lost,  
Or a shout from a fan-a little sauced.  
Why a turkey of all birds?  
Next to the eagle it looks absurd,  
Long neck, brown feathers, corpulent body,  
Little head that's all weathered, wrinkled and knobby.  
Listen my friends, looks can be deceiving.  
I will tell you why if you keep on reading.  
The turkey was almost our national bird.  
Its not untrue, I give you my word.  
So maybe it was inspired by this,  
Pride and brains over looks, if you get my jist  
The turkey is a noble creature  
And with this pride we wear and feature,  
Our beloved bird to us dear,  
On Tech sweat shirts and Hokie gear.  
So what's a Hokie? No one knows..  
The greater the fib, the longer your nose.  
One need not know what a Hokie be,  
Some things are better left a mystery.



For winning the "What's a Hokie?" contest, Tech student Kimberly Berkey and a friend have won a trip to Cancun for spring break.

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# CT Sports Picks

■ All's fair in love and football.

This is week twelve of the 2003 CT sports picks. Check out [www.collegiatetimes.com](http://www.collegiatetimes.com) for more of the staff's sports picks—including those on staff whose picks failed to make the cut this week.

 <b>Adam Abramson</b> Associate Sports Editor	 <b>Aaron Blackwell</b> Associate News Editor	 <b>Robert Drake</b> Photo Editor	 <b>Zoe Mathias</b> Copy Editor	 <b>Tiffany Hoffman</b> Managing Editor	 <b>A.J. Mandracchia</b> Managing Editor of Design	 <b>Kumar Malhotra</b> Sports Editor	 <b>Tim Howlett</b> Layout Designer	 <b>Rajan Nanavati</b> Sports Editor	 <b>Lauren Angelucci</b> Copy Editor	 <b>Jana Renn</b> Sports Assistant	 <b>Bryan Nieder</b> News Assistant
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NFL												
Washington @ Miami Carolina @ Dallas Seattle @ Baltimore New Orleans @ Philly San Fran @ Green Bay Jacksonville @ NY Jets Pittsburgh @ Cleveland Cincinnati @ San Diego Oakland @ Kansas City Indianapolis @ Buffalo	Miami Dallas Baltimore Philadelphia Green Bay NY Jets Pittsburgh Cincinnati Kansas City Indianapolis	Miami Dallas Seattle Philadelphia Green Bay NY Jets Pittsburgh Cincinnati Kansas City Indianapolis	Miami Carolina Seattle Philadelphia Green Bay NY Jets Cleveland Cincinnati Kansas City Indianapolis	Washington Carolina Baltimore New Orleans Green Bay NY Jets Cleveland San Diego Oakland Buffalo	Miami Carolina Seattle Philadelphia Green Bay NY Jets Cleveland Cincinnati Kansas City Indianapolis	Miami Dallas Baltimore Philadelphia Green Bay NY Jets Pittsburgh Cincinnati Kansas City Indianapolis	Miami Carolina Baltimore Philadelphia Green Bay NY Jets Pittsburgh Cincinnati Kansas City Indianapolis	Miami Dallas Baltimore Philadelphia Green Bay NY Jets Cleveland San Diego Kansas City Buffalo	Washington Carolina Seattle Philadelphia Green Bay NY Jets Pittsburgh San Diego Kansas City Indianapolis	Miami Carolina Seattle Philadelphia Green Bay Jacksonville Cleveland Cincinnati Kansas City Indianapolis	Miami Dallas Baltimore Philadelphia Green Bay NY Jets Cleveland Cincinnati Kansas City Indianapolis	Miami Dallas Seattle Philadelphia San Fran Jacksonville Pittsburgh Cincinnati Oakland Indianapolis

NCAA												
BC @ Virginia Tech Ohio St. @ Michigan Wash St @ Washington LSU @ Ole Miss Iowa @ Wisconsin Missouri @ Kansas St. Maryland @ NC State Alabama @ Auburn WVU @ Syracuse	Virginia Tech Michigan Wash. St. LSU Iowa Kansas St. NC State Auburn WVU	Virginia Tech Michigan Wash. St. LSU Iowa Kansas St. NC State Auburn WVU	Virginia Tech Michigan Wash. St. LSU Iowa Kansas St. NC State Auburn WVU	Virginia Tech Michigan Wash. St. LSU Wisconsin Missouri NC State Auburn WVU	Virginia Tech Ohio State Wash. St. LSU Iowa Kansas St. NC State Auburn WVU	Virginia Tech Ohio State Wash. St. LSU Iowa Kansas St. NC State Auburn WVU	Virginia Tech Michigan Wash. St. LSU Wisconsin Kansas St. NC State Auburn WVU	Virginia Tech Michigan Wash. St. Ole Miss Iowa Kansas St. NC State Auburn Syracuse	Virginia Tech Michigan Wash. St. LSU Iowa Kansas St. NC State Auburn WVU	Virginia Tech Ohio State Wash. St. LSU Wisconsin Missouri NC State Auburn WVU	Virginia Tech Michigan Wash. St. LSU Wisconsin Kansas St. NC State Auburn WVU	Virginia Tech Michigan Wash. St. LSU Iowa Kansas St. Maryland Alabama Syracuse
<b>Game of the Week</b> Clemson @ Men's Soccer	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	Clemson	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech
<b>Overall Record</b>	<b>140-80</b>	<b>138-82</b>	<b>136-84</b>	<b>135-85</b>	<b>134-86</b>	<b>133-87</b>	<b>132-88</b>	<b>132-88</b>	<b>131-89</b>	<b>130-90</b>	<b>130-90</b>	<b>130-90</b>
<b>Last Week</b>	<b>12-8</b>	<b>16-4</b>	<b>14-6</b>	<b>13-7</b>	<b>16-4</b>	<b>14-6</b>	<b>14-6</b>	<b>14-6</b>	<b>13-7</b>	<b>15-5</b>	<b>13-7</b>	<b>13-7</b>
<b>Comments</b>	Good luck soccer. Dietrick does it again. I hate Ohio State. Have a safe break.	Dear Professors, Thanks for all the work over break. Your friend, Aaron	Hope everyone has a great holiday. Be interested in seeing how A&A are doing in SP next week	Welcome back Lauren! Happy Thanksgiving everyone. Toby Keith, here I come!	No comment, creative juices all run dry — on vacation. I plead the fifth.	Whoa... 5 more CT's left; holla, Broyl!	Say it ain't so Jacko! Hold on to your soap.	I can't believe the Mets traded Darryl Strawberry.	Newspaper, radio, now TV — I'm just flat out Big Tymers. But (that's) how we do it where I'm from.	I know you missed me, Rajan.	Thanksgiving Day Rematch: '92 Dolphins beat Cowboys on Leon Lett blunder. This year: No Lett but same result. Go 'Phins	I love you blonde Blair (and holiday turkey). I hope to marry you some day (holiday turkey).



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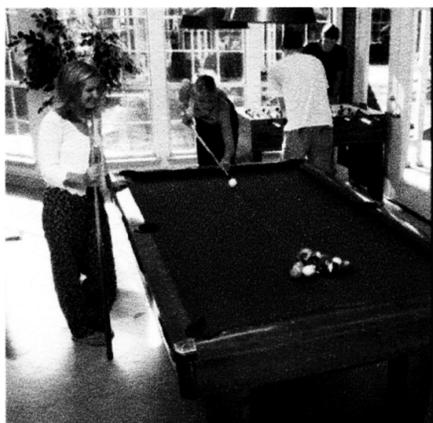
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# LAST GAME

# GAME



by rajan nanavati, sports editor

**J**ust eight months ago, nobody who walked on the Virginia Tech campus and had ties to the football program realized Tech would be playing their final season as a member of the Big East conference — the conference which gave them a stage for the team to display its prominence at a national level.

A whirlwind summer of conference jumping, political pressure and lawsuits being levied back and forth yielded the result of the University of Miami and Virginia Tech jumping ship from their Big East vessel, onto the deck of the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Visiting each of their old conference rivals this season, Tech's farewell tour of

the Big East ends in the friendly confines of Lane Stadium, when the Hokies host the Golden Eagles of Boston College in Tech's home finale for the 2003 season.

"I think the ACC is going to be a great league, maybe the best in the country," said head coach Frank Beamer. "I look forward to going to different stadiums and playing different teams, but I look back and we'll always be indebted to the Big East. I think we've been good for the Big East, and the Big East has been great for us."

Ironically, after being left out from the first round of expansion of the ACC despite being one of the original candidates to join the conference, Boston College accepted an ACC invitation to become the conference's 12th team in mid October.

The game between the two defecting programs bears significant implications for both teams conference rankings at the end of the season, and their post-season bowl aspirations as a result. A victory over the Hokies would give the Golden Eagles their seventh win of the season, giving them bowl eligibility, and perhaps a possible at-large bid over the Hokies should Boston College defeat Tech.

Should Tech win on Saturday night, and gain help by a few losses within the conference within the next two weeks, they can finish as the third-ranked team in the Big East and maintain the inside track in heading to a bowl game. With Miami having only one conference loss (coming at the hands of the Hokies), along with West Virginia and Pittsburgh holding head to head tiebreakers over

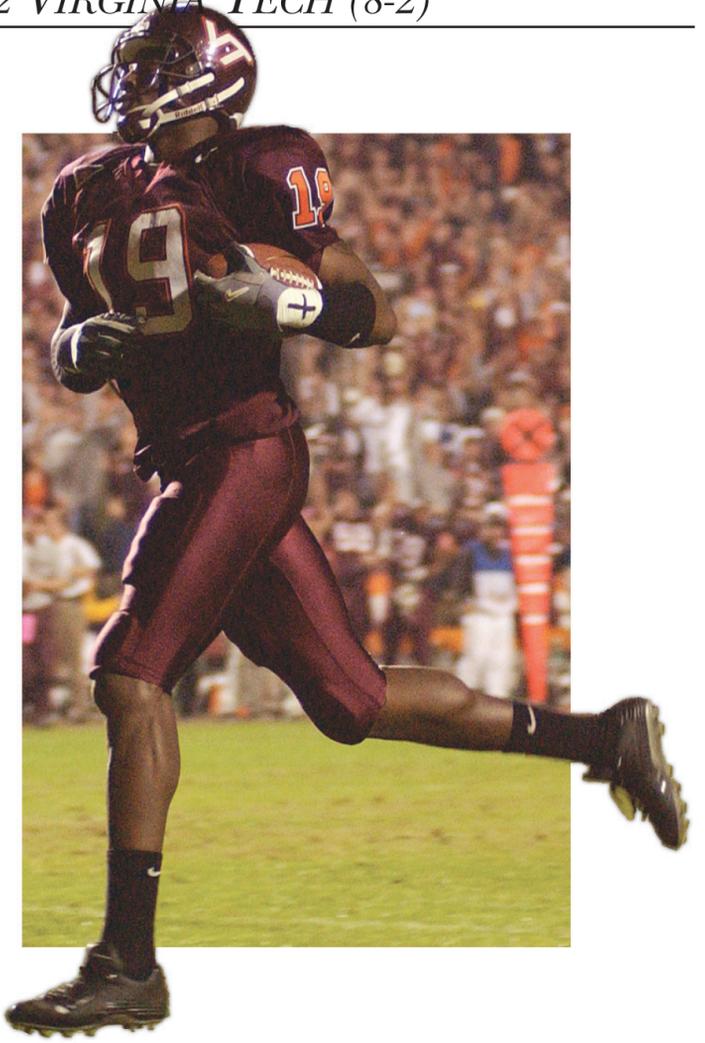
Tech, this game bears major importance to the Hokies if they want to be assured of a bowl invitation and not rely on an at-large bid.

"We're not going to worry a lot about that, we'll figure out that once (the season) is over," Beamer said about the potential bowl games in which the Hokies may play. "Let's get ready to go play, because that's what's important for our football team — that we play better than we did (against Temple)."

The season has another intriguing subplot between the two tailbacks in the game, the Golden Eagles Derrick Knight and Tech's Kevin Jones. Knight currently holds the lead in terms of total rushing yards in the conference, but does not have as many rushing yards per game as Jones. Jones trails Knight by nearly 150 yards, giving Jones the potential to finish as the leading rusher in both total yards and average yards per game. Jones has already gained eclipsed the century mark seven times this season, a Virginia Tech record, and has 1,254 yards rushing in 10 games.

"(Knight is) definitely a great running back, and he has great offensive line," said defensive end Nathaniel Adibi, who will also be playing in his last game as a member of the Hokies, despite suffering a fractured right thumb against Temple. "I think that's one thing that separates him from the other backs we've played against. He's a tough, fast, hard runner."

Being the last home game of the season, 14 seniors will be honored before the game during Senior Day celebrations on Worsham Field. Defensive



ROBERT DRAKE/SPPS

Ernest Wilford, Vegas Robinson and the rest of the senior class have gone 22-2 at Lane Stadium over the past four seasons.

members Adibi, Vegas Robinson, Cols Colas, Michael Crawford, Garnell Wilds and Jim Davis will be playing their last game in front of the Lane stadium faithful, along with offensive members Jake Grove, Ernest Wilford, Jacob Gibson, Doug Easlick, Keith Willis, Steve Canter, and Chris Shreve. Kicker Carter Warley and placeholder Robert Peaslee are also among the graduating class.

The last time the two teams met, Tech pulled out a 28-23 victory in Chestnut Hill, Mass. The Hokies have won eight of the 10 meetings the two teams have had since Virginia Tech became a member of the Big East, and they will hope to leave the conference on another high note.

The game will be nationally televised on ESPN, with kickoff scheduled for 3:30 p.m.

## KEYMATCHUP

### Kevin Jones

Junior  
10 games, 216 carries  
2nd in Big East rushing  
1,254 total yards  
5.8 yards rushing average  
15 touchdowns  
7 games with 100+ yds

VS.

### Derrick Knight

Senior  
11 games, 253 carries  
1st in Big East rushing  
1,402 total yards  
5.5 yards rushing average  
6 touchdowns  
7 games with 100+ yds



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