

Family holds service for student

■ Tech student Chad Vignola, a sophomore business major and member of Phi Kappa Tau fraternity, was found dead Monday in his hometown of Culpeper

ST AFF — The family of a Virginia Tech sophomore who died earlier this week is holding a memorial service at their Culpeper home today.

Chad Franco Vignola, 20, was found dead Monday in Culpeper.

When the Collegiate Times asked for access to an incident report, Culpeper County Sheriff Lee Hart said a preliminary report could not be released because the incident involved self-inflicted injuries.

Vignola was in Blacksburg as late as Sunday evening, according to Tom Brown, interim director of student life and advocacy.

Vignola and a friend apparently drove from Blacksburg to Culpeper between late Sunday and early Monday when Vignola was found, Brown said.

No information was available about the friend accompanying Vignola.

An investigation is ongoing. Vignola was a business major and a member of Phi Kappa Tau fraternity.

Brown met with members of the fraternity Monday evening and they said Vignola is held in high regard.

"They speak so highly of him," he said. Donations can be made in Vignola's name to the Phi Kappa Tau Foundation at 5221 Morning Sun Rd., Oxford, OH 45056.

Donations will go toward a memorial educational grant.

Bill may alter admission policies

■ Senate Democrats proposed the bill to keep track of the race and economic status of applicants

by **Tiffany Hoffman**
Managing Editor

In an effort to even the odds of college admissions, the Senate democrats have gone beyond affirmative action and have proposed a bill requiring colleges to report the race and economic

status of all students accepted for early decision and as legacies.

"With a lot of schools, there is a substantial difference with legacies," said Karen Torgersen, director of admissions. "But at Virginia Tech, that's not true."

Sen. John Edwards, a Democratic presidential candidate, told the Wall Street Journal the disclosure of this information will reveal the racial and social class breakdown of accepted students. He said it will encourage colleges to balance out any tendencies to favor upper

class white males.

"When we look at our freshman class, while we do have minorities that are legacies, there are much less and that's because of what the university looked like 20 or 30 years ago," Torgersen said.

Legacies at Tech are decided based on parents, grandparents, great-grandparents and siblings of the prospective student.

"There are 80,000 living alumni and every single one has a member of the family who wants to go to Virginia Tech," Torgersen said. "So

Enrollment Statistics		
		
Enrolled	4,900	3,101
Legacies	1,115 (23%)	909 (29%)
Early Enrollment	1,000 (18%)	408 (13%)

SOURCE: Virginia Tech and UVA Office of Admissions

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no, we can't use legacies as a huge factor." Torgersen said 1,115 of the students who enrolled this year were legacies. "If in the final run a student were legacies."

See **BILL**, page 3

Earth overshadows moon in eclipse

■ The total lunar eclipse will occur Saturday night at 8:06 p.m. and will last until 10:04 p.m.

by **Ellen Biltz**
News Assistant

There will be something different to look at in the sky Saturday night around 8 p.m. when a lunar eclipse will be in full affect.

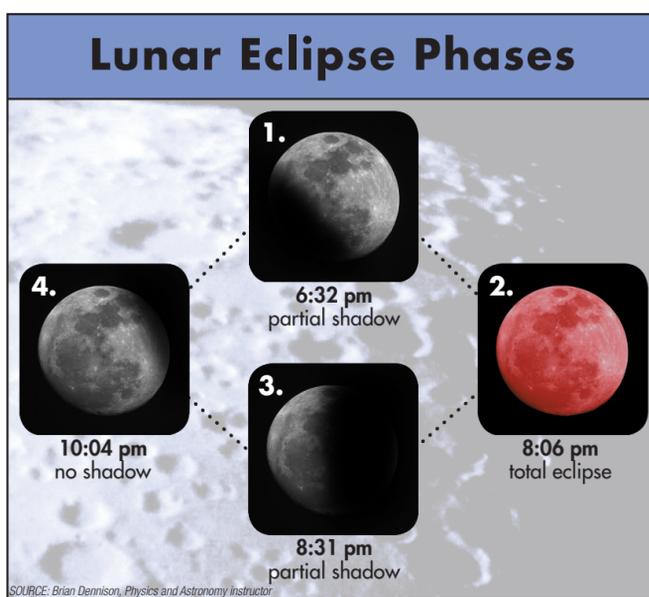
"The moon will have just risen when the eclipse starts," said physics and astronomy instructor Brian Dennison. "It will begin in the east and move across the sky."

The moon will hit the phase of total lunar eclipse at 8:06 p.m. and will remain completely shadowed until 8:31.

"The moon will look considerably darker and a little reddish during the total eclipse," Dennison said.

This year is fairly average for the amount of lunar eclipses visible from earth.

"There are usually a couple a year, but they're not always observable from this area," Dennison said.



SOURCE: Brian Dennison, Physics and Astronomy instructor

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Depending on the time of day and which part of the earth has visibility of the moon, some regions of earth can see an eclipse while others cannot.

The eclipse will be clearly visible by the naked eye.

"Using a telescope doesn't really help," said John Simonetti, an associ-

ate professor of astronomy in the physics department. "I'm just going to peak out at the sky on Saturday."

Magnification of the event is simply because the moon is so large and the color change is so subtle.

A lunar eclipse occurs during the moon's normal orbit around the earth. The ability of a lunar eclipse to make the night special comes from the timing of orbit.

The sun shining light onto a completely visible moon is what we see as the typical semi-monthly full moon, but the rarity of an eclipse comes from the complete shadow of the Earth blocking all sunlight to the moon's surface.

"When there is a full moon, the sun is to our back," Dennison said. "The moon tends to pass to either side of the earth."

The moon will complete its lunar eclipse at 10:04 p.m. At this point it will pass back through partial eclipse and the moon will be seen as it would on a normal night.

"I am asking my astronomy lab to watch it on their own," Dennison said. "I gave them an alternate assignment,

See **ECLIPSE**, page 3

Spreading the word



ANABELLE OMBAC/SPPS

Members of the Carpet Bag Theatre Company performed "Swopera" last night in Haymarket Theatre. See the full story on page 6.

Colleges rethink credit system

■ Several schools are considering switching to a new system where students may work at their own pace

by **Jared Turner**
News Assistant

After serving as the cornerstone of academic life for almost a century, the credit hour system on which students graduate and faculty members are paid has come under scrutiny.

The Institute of Higher Education Policy conducted a 30-month study, beginning in January 2001, of the use and alternatives to the credit hour system used by

almost all colleges and universities nationwide, including Virginia Tech.

Critics of the system, including Jane Wellman, senior associate at the institute, and Thomas Ehrlich, senior scholar at the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, argue for the complete overhaul of the credit hour system, citing its inability to measure student learning.

Those in favor of doing away with the system also say it is at odds with modern teaching methods as more students are taking online courses, outside the traditional classroom setting.

Opponents of the credit hour system say a competency-based education is the best alternative.

This system does away with the traditional semester and allows stu-

dents to work at their own pace on the curriculum they choose.

One college in Florida already uses the competency-based system.

"Students here don't fulfill credit hours in any traditional sense," said Jake Hartvigsen, director of public affairs at New College of Florida.

"We have a contract system where students meet with faculty and discuss acceptable completion of each course."

Under this system, each student meets with a faculty member to plan goals and educational activities for a semester.

At the end of the semester, the professor for each class prepares a narrative evaluation of the student's performance.

The evaluation indicates satisfac-

See **CREDIT**, page 2

Number of double majors increasing

by **Christina Peña**
News Assistant

Despite having larger loans and a longer stay in college, students continue to pursue double majors.

The numbers of students with a double major has increased over the years all over the country. The University of California at Davis reports a 50 percent increase in the number of students with at least two majors over the past five years.

"(A double major) will set me apart from others when applying for a job in the real world," said

Megan Oliver, freshman university studies major at Virginia Tech. Oliver plans to change her major to a biology and leadership double major.

"I am considering a career in pharmaceuticals and biology would be very useful for that. I am already in the leadership program, and I think it would look good on a resume. A lot of universities don't offer it, so it's not very common."

However, some education critics are worried some students can get too involved in having multiple majors, possibly missing out on extracur-

ricular activities or elective classes.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology banned a triple majors in 2000, and Johns Hopkins University's administrators encourage their students not to load up on majors, said John Bader, assistant dean for academic advising.

In the Pamplin College of Business, administrators have not seen an increase in double majors but rather an increase in minors, said Norrine Bailey Spencer, associate dean of undergraduate programs and dean of business.

"Students like to distin-

guish themselves from the average by having something special like an internship, double majors or a study abroad experience," Spencer said. "If a resume shows you did something above average, it improves your credentials. You look thoughtful and ambitious about the opportunities available at college."

There are many reasons, however, a student would pursue a double major such as parental influence or the lagging economy and job market. "In some cases a (double major)

See **MAJORS**, page 2

News in Brief

Experts: Rifle was used in sniper shootings

VIRGINIA BEACH (AP) — The rifle found in sniper suspect John Allen Muhammad's car was the weapon used to kill eight people and wound three during last year's sniper attacks, a ballistics expert testified Thursday.

Walter A. Dandridge Jr. of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives said he examined microscopic markings left on fired bullets, bullet fragments and casings taken from shooting victims or crime scenes. Such markings are unique to each individual weapon, he said.

Bush pardons 4, 11 now excused

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush has granted pardons to four people convicted of relatively minor offenses, bringing to 11 the number whose offenses he has excused since taking office.

The Justice Department announced Thursday that pardons were granted to people from Nevada, Florida, Wisconsin and British Columbia, Canada. Complete details of the cases were not immediately available.

Bush's previous pardons were announced two days before Christmas last year.

Calif. wildfires under control

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The Southern California wildfires have been vanquished, but the second-guessing is in full swing.

Politicians and residents have a lot of questions about how the wildfires managed to do so much damage, scorching more than 740,000 acres, burning about 3,600 homes and killing 22 people.

They were the most destructive wildfires to ever hit California.

In hard-hit San Diego County, they want to know whether a lack of coordination and equipment hindered the firefighting effort and prevented communities from being saved. President Bush, Gov. Gray Davis and a 1932 state law have all come under criticism.

Man opens fire at trucking company

WEST CHESTER, Ohio (AP) — A man with two handguns opened fire Thursday at a trucking company, killing two employees and wounding three, then fled in a van, authorities said. Police later arrested a former employee of the company at a truck stop 50 miles away in Indiana.

Indiana State Police identified the man arrested as Tom West, who, according to West Chester police, had worked for the trucking company until 2001 and had been named a suspect in the shootings.

West had not been charged as of Thursday morning. Authorities said his appearance matched the suspect's description down to the green jacket he was wearing.

Drive may answer some women's needs

■ Pi Kappa Alpha has set a goal to collect 200 phones for domestic abuse victims

by Aaron Blackwell
Associate News Editor

The Virginia Tech chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha is collecting old cell phones and chargers to give to victims of domestic violence.

"There are women that are

being abused and (cell phones) can help get them out of that situation," said Matt Bloss, a senior mechanical engineering major and sergeant of arms for Pike.

Students can donate today from 9 to 5 in front of Newman Library and by McBryde 100.

This is the first time Pike has held such a drive, but they would like to make it an annual program, Bloss said.

"It's definitely a noteworthy cause to keep on doing," said

Patrick Lovely, a sophomore mechanical engineering major and member of Pike.

Because this is the first time Pike is holding this kind of drive, many people aren't aware of it, Bloss said. He said he hopes more people become aware of this and will be able to donate at future drives.

"We need a big showing (today)," Lovely said. Pike has a goal of getting around 200 phones, Bloss said.

Even though these phones

don't have plans, they can still be used to call the police in an emergency, Bloss said.

Christine Dennis, counseling and education coordinator for the Tech Women's Center, praised the group for getting involved.

"I think it's wonderful when groups get involved in issues like this," Dennis said.

After Pike collects the phones, they will be distributed to women in the community who are in need of them, Bloss said.

Credit: System unlikely to change

Continued from page 1

tory or unsatisfactory completion of the course while letter grades are not awarded.

"Students are not learning for the grade," Hartvigsen said. "(This system) enhances interaction between students and faculty and encourages independent thought and learning and broadens students' perspectives."

With this plan, students can individually tailor their courses to get what they want out of them, Hartvigsen said.

Hartvigsen said because New College is a small school with only about 700 students, their system works better than it may at a larger school with several thousand students.

For Tech, the likelihood of

ever overhauling the credit system is remote.

"I don't see us giving it consideration," said David Ford, vice provost of academic affairs, about the possibility of Tech ever embracing a competency-based education program.

Such a program would particularly complicate matters for students wishing to transfer from a university operating on a credit hour system to a university on the competency-based system, Ford said.

Despite its critics, the credit hour system is unlikely to undergo wholesale changes, requiring a major overhaul of the U.S. college structure.

"There would have to be a universal willingness to operate in this fashion," Ford said.

Majors: Education may be too narrow

Continued from page 1

could improve your chances at greater employment. If a student majored in computer science and English, and an employer is looking for good communication skills, then it would help to have some additional background to combine with your computer science skills," said Donna Ratcliffe, director of career services.

Education critics, though, have also questioned the quality of a double-major education. Some believe having two majors could narrow a student's educational focus.

"Despite the distribution and core-curriculum requirements of many liberal-arts colleges, multiple majors may lead to an overly narrow education," said Todd Quinto,

professor at Tufts University in Massachusetts.

Other critics believe a double major would expand a student's field of knowledge.

"I think it would broaden them by having two areas of expertise. They would be more broadly educated, because they understand a whole field," Spencer said.

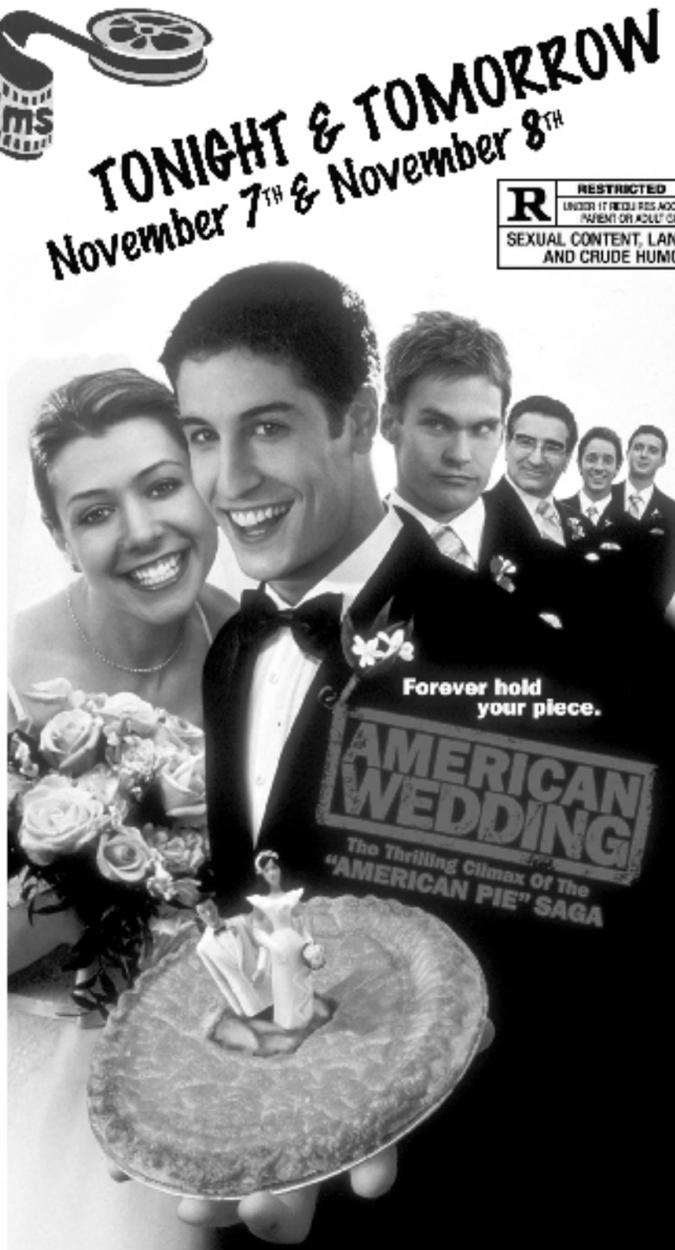
Correction

In Thursday's issue of the Collegiate Times, "stepping" was incorrectly referred to as "step dancing."

The Collegiate Times regrets this error.

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— 11/06/2003 —			
DJIA	9856.97	▲	36.14
NASDAQ	1976.37	▲	17.00
S&P 500	1058.05	▲	6.24

WEATHER	TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SATURDAY NIGHT	SUNDAY	MONDAY
	 Mostly cloudy Highs: 53°-57°	 Partly cloudy Lows: 30°-34°	 Partly cloudy Highs: 47°-52°	 Mostly clear Lows: 28°-32°	 Mostly sunny 35°/50°	 Mostly cloudy 40°/55°



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Bill: Proposal may threaten funds

Continued from page 1

dent is truly on the border, the final things we are looking at are leadership, legacy and anything above and beyond academics," Torgersen said. "It's a tiny influence in the admissions process."

According to institutional statistics at the University of Virginia, 408 students — 13 percent of the current freshman class — are legacies. At UVa, legacies are considered to be any applicant who had a parent who attended the university.

Democratic Sen. Edward Kennedy proposed the bill and included the fact schools not complying with the requirement could lose eligibility for federal financial aid.

Alex Wilkins, an admissions counselor at Washington and Lee University, said he did not think the school would be heavily affected by the potential threat of the bill because of the heavy dependency on donors, grants and other self-sustaining funds the university relies on.

W&L currently has an early decision program requiring students to clearly state their intent to attend the university and withdraw applications from all other schools if they are accepted. However, no one at the school was available for

further comment about the issue.

Of the 4,900 students who enrolled as freshmen this year at Tech, approximately 1,000 were accepted early decision, Torgersen said. At UVa, 909 of the 3,101 enrolled students were early decision applicants.

"There probably are fewer minorities in the early decision pool, but since only (about) 20 percent are accepted early decision, it doesn't really reflect what the class looks like at the end," Torgersen said.

“There probably are fewer minorities in the early decision pool, but ... it doesn't really reflect what the class looks like in the end.”

Karen Torgersen
director of admissions,
Virginia Tech

However, there are schools bringing in 50 percent in early decision and are using legacies in a significant fashion." Torgersen said there is no difference between the standards used to admit students early and those used at the time of regular admissions. Though Torgersen said she understood the purpose behind the proposal, she did not agree with government involvement.

"You're getting into governing how universities do business," she said. "I don't see a problem with this information being reported, but I don't see it as the responsibility of Congress to mandate it."

Democratic Sen. George Allen and Republican Sen. John Warner have yet to review the bill and were therefore unable to comment.

U.S. will reduce presence in Iraq

by Robert Burns
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon announced plans Thursday to send 85,000 Army and Marine combat forces to Iraq and 43,000 National Guard and Reserve support troops have been alerted that they may be sent as well.

The moves are part of a rotation plan that assumes Iraqis will be capable of contributing enough to the battle against the anti-occupation insurgency that the number of American troops in Iraq can be reduced from 131,600 today to 105,000 by May, senior officials said.

In an added twist, the Army announced that soldiers in every unit designated for deployment to Iraq next year — whether active-duty or reserve — will be prohibited from leaving the service during a period beginning 90 days before they go to 90 days after they return.

That measure, known in the military as "stop-loss," does not apply to the Marine Corps, which said it will dispatch about 20,000 Marines to replace the Army's 82nd Airborne Division in western Iraq, including the Fallujah area where anti-occupation violence has been strongest.

Lt. Gen. Jan C. Huly, deputy commandant of the Marine Corps for plans and operations, told a news conference that the

Marines would spend seven months in Iraq, then be replaced by another 20,000-Marine contingent for seven months. They will come from the 1st Marine Division, based at Camp Pendleton, Calif., which helped spearhead the invasion of Iraq last spring.

The Army will send the equivalent of three combat divisions to replace the four there now.

The 1st Infantry Division will go from Germany, the 1st Cavalry Division from Fort Hood, Texas, a brigade of the 2nd Infantry Division from Fort Lewis, Wash., and a brigade from the 25th Infantry Division. National Guard infantry brigades will be attached to both the 1st Infantry and 1st Cavalry.

Eclipse: Clear sky expected Saturday

Continued from page 1

but I think this one is definitely preferable."

According to the National Weather Service, Saturday evening is expected to be mostly clear and should continue through Sunday morning.

"It looks like we'll be able to see it pretty clearly," Simonetti said.

One quality of a lunar eclipse is the minimal sunlight you see during the totality. Dennison said the only reason for any light being visible is the reflection of sunlight in the atmosphere.

He said the minimal light can be compared to a sunset and the reflection you see at that time of the night.

"The reason you see red in a lunar eclipse is because that is the color reflected through the atmosphere," Simonetti said. "The blue light is scattered so you can't see it."

Another kind of eclipse, tending to be more rare, is a solar eclipse. Just as a lunar eclipse occurs by a shadow cast over the moon during nighttime, a solar eclipse happens during the day.

"A solar eclipse requires that you travel within about a 60 mile area to see the total eclipse," Dennison said. "This is why it is typically said to be rarer. People are more likely to see a lunar eclipse than a solar one."

Bush pushes democratic reforms

by Deb Riechmann
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush called Thursday for democratic reforms in the Middle East, saying that "freedom can be the future of every nation."

Bush said the stakes were particularly high in Iraq, where a U.S.-led coalition toppled Saddam Hussein's rule.

"The failure of Iraqi democracy would embolden terrorists around the world," the president said.

Later, at a White House ceremony, Bush signed an \$87.5 billion package approved by Congress for Iraq and Afghanistan, calling the money a financial commitment by the United States to the global war to defeat

terrorism.

"With this act of Congress, no enemy or friend can doubt that America has the resources and the will to see this war through to victory," Bush said.

During his earlier speech, Bush said the United States and other nations shared blame for the lack of democratic freedoms in the Middle East.

"Sixty years of Western nations excusing and accommodating the lack of freedom in the Middle East did nothing to make us safe because in the long run stability cannot be

purchased at the expense of liberty," Bush said.

The president spoke to the National Endowment for Democracy, a group that gains around the world, on the same day that he was signing an \$87.5 billion package approved by Congress for military and reconstruction operations in

Iraq and Afghanistan. Bush said the Middle East was at a turning point and that "the global wave of democracy has barely reached the Arab states."

“The failure of Iraqi democracy would embolden terrorists around the world.”

George W. Bush
president, United States

UVa pledge doused with vinegar, urine

CHARLOTTESVILLE — A University of Virginia student reported that he and other students were doused with vinegar and urine as part of a fraternity pledge ritual, and said he decided to tell authorities because he was tired of the abuse.

The 19-year-old Delta Sigma Phi pledge also reported that his apartment was vandalized, Charlottesville police Lt. Gary Pleasants said. Physical altercations also took place there, but

the man did not give details, police said.

"His arms were shaking" after arriving home to his ransacked apartment, according to a police report. "His body was wet and smelled of vinegar and urine. He said that he was a pledge of a fraternity."

The student complained of "increasingly violent and disgusting hazing rituals including dousing the pledges with vinegar, urine and other substances," the report said.

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Last Matrix is hardly a revolution

Jason Bayer

With the possibility of offending anyone who bought their tickets the first day they were available or watched both previous movies immediately before going to see the third, I bring you my review of "The Matrix Revolutions."

The movie begins where the second leaves off, with Neo (Keanu Reeves) in a coma and Zion facing the pressure of the machines that are drilling into their city. Neo is somehow trapped in a sort of purgatory between the matrix and the human world. Without giving much away, a major part of the movie takes place in Zion while Neo spends most of the movie thinking and eventually finding his path.

Let's examine the facts: "The Matrix" (the original) was awesome. Why was it awesome? Because it had a novel idea, ground breaking special effects, and fight scenes that left most other action movies to shame.

Then a rush of excitement came when the possibility of making a trilogy was announced. Not as much excitement as when George Lucas announced he would be making three more Star Wars movies, but The Matrix geek base did not have as many years to develop as the Star Wars geek base did (which I say with the utmost respect being a huge Star Wars geek myself).

Then, earlier this year, "The Matrix Reloaded" came out. It was so-so. Why was it so-so? Because by making two more movies, the Wachowski brothers had to expand the plot into something grander, but they did by spending too much time

outside of the matrix and developing the subplot of Zion (no one can tell me the ten-minute cave rave could not have used a bit more editing) and the relationship between Neo and Trinity.

However, the movie is very arguably saved by its incredible fight scenes (with the fight between Neo and Agent Smith in the park being the best of the trilogy).

Now we come to the present time and the release of "The Matrix Revolutions." With the second installment leaving the audience with too many questions to think about, this movie had a unique opportunity to excel in the way those questions were answered.

The movie responds favorably with one of the greatest endings to a movie I've seen, which brings the Biblical allegory full circle. However, it takes a long and winding path to that beautiful ending, and that path spends most of its time traversing through Zion and Neo and Trinity's relationship, the two things about "Reloaded" that leaves a bad taste in your mouth (the latter basically because we have to watch Keanu Reeves actually try to act). There are only two real fight scenes that take place in the matrix.

The first happens at the beginning of the movie, which gives hope to the resurrection of the trilogy, but the scene is relatively short and is not followed until the final battle between Neo and Agent Smith that everyone knows is coming. This leaves a lot of relatively boring Zion time in between.

I understand that the movie is deeply rooted in religion (and a great number of religions in that) and that the first movie is about birth and new



Matrix: Revolutions

» **Synopsis:** As The Machines prepare to invade Zion, Neo and his companions must face new dangers and the final showdown with Agent Smith for the fate of humanity.

» **Cast:** Keanu Reeves, Laurence Fishburne, Carrie-Anne Moss, Hugo Weaving

» **Director:** Andy and Larry Wachowski

» **Running Time:** 129 min.

Rated R for sci-fi violence and brief sexual content

Grade: C+

beginnings, the second is to teach us about life and the choices we make, and the third about death and ends (which is continually hammered into your brain with the tagline, "Every beginning has an end.") The problem lies in these facts: you can watch the first movie and even if you have no knowledge of the religious connotations, you can enjoy the movie for the aforementioned qualities. You can watch the second movie and tune out a lot of the philosophical jargon if you choose to and simply enjoy the eye candy fight scenes. By the third movie, the lack of those fight scenes and the thickness they lay the philosophy on makes it tough for anyone that does not (a) know anything about religion or (b) like to think really enjoy this movie.

If you are a deep thinker, you will probably enjoy "Revolutions."

If you just liked the original because it was a good action movie and are expecting similar, you probably won't.

Jason Bayer writes movie reviews for the Collegiate Times.

Highlights of Asian culture to be celebrated Saturday

■ Saturday's cultural showcase with include dancing, live bands, traditional clothing and other aspects of Asian culture

by **Natalie Tongrungs**
Staff Writer

The Asian American Student Union's annual culture show, showcasing dances, martial arts and music from different Asian cultures, will be held at the Donaldson Brown Auditorium tomorrow.

This year's theme is the AASU Remix. "The underlying thing is just trying to unite our different cultures because we seem like we're set apart from each other," said AASU show coordinator Cheryl Chang, a senior industrial systems engineering major. "The show brings in a lot of different cultures and diversity and that's what remix means."

There will be 12 acts performing at the show, Chang said. "This year I'm trying to make it more cultural and it's going to be more informative."

Performers see the performance as a great way to introduce Asian culture to the community in a variety of ways.

"As a Vietnamese person, I think it's important to show people what is the Vietnamese culture through music, fashion and dancing," said Lan-Chi Than, a sophomore finance and international studies major.

"We are dancing to a real Vietnamese song and the dancers wear an ao dai, which is a traditional dress," said Than.

The AASU is the governing body for Asian-American student organizations at Virginia Tech.

According to the AASU website, the organizations under the AASU are the Chinese American Society, Filipino American Student Association, Alpha Kappa Delta Phi, Korean American Student Association, Sigma Psi Zeta, Society of Indian Americans and the Vietnamese Student Association.

In addition to the organizations listed above, other special acts will be performing in the show such as the all Asian band MSG.

"We're doing some originals and a cover," said MSG lead singer and guitarist David Thong, a senior economics major. "People should come because we're displaying traditional and modern culture and our band will cover the modern."

"Asian culture is one that is very intricate and detailed and its beauty is not often portrayed to Americans the way it should be," Kimsawatde said.

"In a place where culture may not be easy to come across, being in a cultural show reinforces traditions and ideas that were left at home," said Manisha Gupta, sophomore finance and international studies major. "It keeps us saturated."

"People should come out to the show because it's the Asian community at Virginia Tech showing their cultural backgrounds in eye-catching dances and acts," said the President of Vietnamese Student Association Hieu Pham, a junior business information systems and marketing major.

"Those of non-Asian ethnicity have lots to gain from coming out to the cultural show because it's a learning experience of the major cultures of Asia."

The show begins at 6 p.m. and it is free and open to the public.

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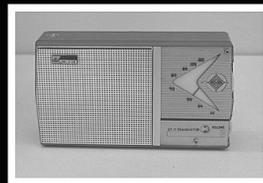
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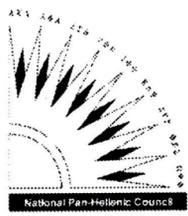
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PDA should be kissed goodbye

Bryan Nieder

Should sex be legal in public?
Probably — if you are pretty.
Should mouth sex be legal in public?

This is where the true debate comes into the public forum. Perhaps, I should use the euphemistic term “kissing,” but the fact remains public displays of affection, or PDA, have invaded our campus and visual path and should be shunned as an acceptable practice.

Maybe a stint of warm days ushering in less clothing and tanning sunrays are to blame for the sexual awakening. Maybe it is drugs in schools. I’m no scientist, but I’m sure television has something to do with it.

The whole PDA issue first begins in middle school, when the principal comes down on the students for pecks on the cheek in front of pre-algebra class, claiming, “kissing has no place in the hallways and has nothing to do with mathematics.”

This, of course, is obvious because everyone knows it is taboo to kiss in the hall and any math major knows how little action is associated with their subject.

However, apparently the no-PDA policy is not working, as every 16-year-old kid in America has participated in a menage a trois at some point in his or her young life.

Virginia Tech students carry on this PDA tradition, as authority figures step to the wayside and hormones continue spawning in the veins.

Tech sporting events do not help the situation.

I hardly feel it is appropriate or relevant to chant a “stick it in” mantra as the football team inches toward scoring a touchdown.

This only provokes PDA proponents and the gyrating motions accompanying the cheer only heighten the sexuality of a game full of 400-pound sweaty, hairy men.

At one game, a couple seated a few rows ahead of me began staring into one

another’s eyes with, not love, but lust!

Third and goal, which means bring in the Jenna Jameson soundtrack because someone is going to score. Some rely on groups like the B-52s or Lionel Ritchie to croon “their song,” but this pair decided the Tech marching band had the tune to match their tastes.

The male got that look in his eye and curled his lips, mouthing “wa oh, wa oh” as the graphic ending to the line crescendos, his waist followed suit in a move which suggested he was trying to crush a rogue fly that had landed on the girlfriend’s belt buckle.

Do not misunderstand this to mean PDA is not acceptable in all facets of life.

I turn on the television and can see Ashton and Demi making out — quality PDA. They publicly display their affection because they know it is quality, so much they do it in front of Bruce and the kids. Even Demi’s daughters are aware of the hotness of their mom’s PDA.

However, Blacksburg PDA includes two parties usually neither very attractive nor famous.

Having a mustache and hiking boots does not imply the PDA session is mature or going to take the action to new heights — it implies vomiting and a kick to ones genitals to relieve the pain of having to view it.

I’d rather watch Wolf Blitzer PDA-it-up with Bea Arthur than be subjected to heavy petting from some unknown clods.

As we go to a technical school, perhaps students should treat their public love as such.

Robotically shaking hands, walking shoulder to shoulder, with no hand holding or kissing until behind closed doors.

Only rich, famous people or very attractive people should be allowed to display affection publicly.

I will continue to stay indoors with the shades drawn.

Bryan Nieder is the editorial assistant for the Collegiate Times.

Binge drinking problem exaggerated

Kris Hassinger

Henry Wechsler, a professor at Harvard University, coined America’s current definition of binge drinking — five beers in one sitting for a male or four for a female. This ridiculous notion has led the public to view college students as out of control drunks.

Concerned parents and lawmakers have pushed for the funding of anti-alcohol campaigns across campuses nationwide. However, it has been shown repeatedly that trying to get people to join most of us, just doesn’t work. You can’t solve a problem that is merely a figment of someone’s imagination.

Laurence Goldman, dean of students at Oxford University, says in Western Europe, student drinking is treated as a normal part of student life, not as a problem.

“We treat our students as adults who run their own lives. It’s not our place to ban drinking ... It would likely have the wrong results if we tried.”

British universities say they don’t have the same definition of bingeing that Americans do. The reason for this is not because the British drink less; on the contrary, they put us to shame. However, they have different criteria for what is considered bingeing.

It is defined along the lines of the physicians’ definition: an extended period of time (at least two days) during which a person repeatedly becomes intoxicated and gives up his or her usual activities and obligations in order to become intoxicated.

Surely five beers would not be sufficient to accomplish such a feat.

Other European definitions of binge drinking also contrast greatly with America’s. A recent Swedish study, for example, defines a binge as the consumption of half a bottle of spirits or two bottles of wine on the same occasion. Similarly, a study in Italy found consuming an average of eight drinks a day was considered normal drinking, not bingeing.

A study of estimated blood alcohol concentrations of so-called binge drinkers using a survey of 500 young adults ages 18-24 revealed 63 percent of the bingers did not reach a BAC of .10 percent or higher and 48 percent did not reach a BAC of .08 percent or higher. In other words, almost half of those binge drinkers were still able to legally drive.

As The New York Times observed, such bingers might very well have no measurable blood alcohol content, because the typical college social event lasts about six or seven hours, according to their research.

In light of all this, perhaps the five-beer mark should not be considered bingeing, but rather the point at which people become entertaining.

It is unlikely the current definition will fall out of favor any time soon. Many researchers have a vested interest in inflating the extent of binge drinking. Stories of drinking epidemics make dramatic headlines selling more publications.

In addition, they cause the author to be showered with publicity and swell the budgets of alcohol awareness and prevention groups. Reporting 44 percent of college students binge gives Wechsler press attention, TV appearances and highly paid speaking engagements.

Imagine the disinterest if he used the physicians’ definition of bingeing and reported one-half of one percent

of students were “bingers”.

Another motive for inflating drinking statistics is to garner large sums of money from the government in order to do research on this so-called epidemic. For example, Texas Tech was recently given a grant from the National Institutes of Health to study the role of social networks in the development of heavy drinking.

Two years and \$87,076 later they came up with their astonishing finding: people who spend time with heavy drinkers are more likely to drink. Money well spent.

It is unethical to artificially inflate statistics in this way.

Furthermore, it is ridiculous to try and push diversity and affirmative action measures on universities based on the surveys and arbitrary statistics created by some Harvard crackpot.

Because of the damage caused by exaggerating the extent of heavy drinking, 21 higher education associations have called for a stop to the inappropriate use of the term binge. The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism has consistently rejected Henry Wechsler’s misleading definition of binge, as does the federal government’s Higher Education Center on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse.

Scare tactics such as these are actually counter-productive; it turns out the most effective way to reduce alcohol abuse is simply to tell the truth and make sure young people understand the facts.

Like it or not, alcohol is one of the cornerstones of Blacksburg’s economy. Let’s all do our part and head to hte pub for a pint.

Kris Hassinger is a regular columnist for the Collegiate Times.

Letters to the Editor

Noise: more than ear pollution

Noise is any unwanted and uncontrolled sound. A quiet, peaceful life is the goal of millions who have their lives disrupted, irritated and even destroyed by aggressive people who enjoy making disturbingly loud noise.

People have little control over what goes into their ears and cannot turn off someone else’s music or ear-splitting motorcycle noise that can sometimes be heard for over a mile.

Many people today seem to enjoy amplified music and actively pursue sending their sound into the public domain.

They spend thousands of dollars on equipment and do not care what effect it has on others. They see it as their right. I think the atmosphere is the common property of everyone and no one has a right to inject their noise into the common domain any more than smoke pollution can be allowed.

I have noticed many arguments and hostilities are generated by noise complaints. This noise-generated hostility commonly erupts into violence and occasionally murder.

Police all over the world are continually involved in millions of conflicts caused by noise in every area of the world. Noise is a major social problem that can be minimized by effective law enforcement and, better yet, common courtesy.

I restate: people who make noise are aggressive people with little regard for the happiness and quality of life of those around them.

Chris Hale
senior, economic

Television stigma unfounded

When I purchased the television I was not buying a false idol or a symbol; I was buying a medium for conveying any type of information I choose.

There is no inherently greater value gained from printed media opposed to visual or audible forms. In fact, a printed description of an event or object is often a much poorer means of communication than an image; though cliché, a picture is worth a thousand words.

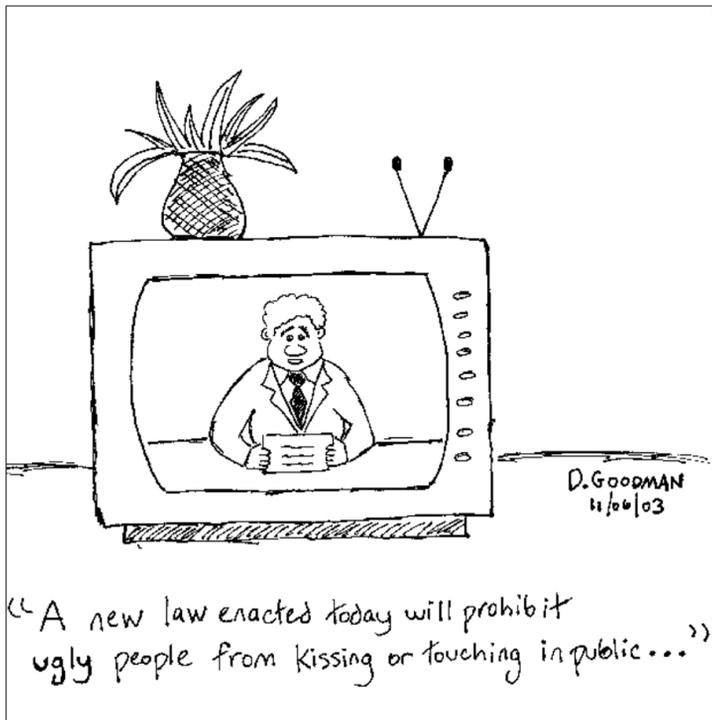
By focusing on only the negative aspects of available programming one misses the wealth of educational and intellectually challenging programs and movies also available. One could just as easily condemn print as trivial by merely using supermarket tabloids and romance novels as examples of the craft.

The notion that printed media at its core is anything more than entertainment is also absurd. Reading for some sort of self-actualization alone is non-existent. We read fiction as entertainment; we read non-fiction because of some interest in the subject at hand, not merely to gain knowledge.

The works of Shakespeare and James Joyce, though challenging and stimulating, are nothing more than entertainment and an alternate reality dramatized as much as the most contrived reality show on television.

So dangerous and vulgar by much of the elite in the time period. Such condemnation of a means of communication is merely the modern day expression of the same type of elitism.

Brian Scott
graduate student, wood science and forest products



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Squires hosts first "Swopera" at Tech

■ The Carpet Bag Theatre Company brought a mix of theatrics and modern poetry to the stage

by Eliot Kriviski
Features Editor

It wasn't slam poetry, and it certainly wasn't an opera. It was the Carpet Bag Theatre Company's melding of traditional theatrics and contemporary rhyming into a hybrid of dramatic energy known as "Swopera," or "Spoken Word Opera."

Through the joint efforts of a few organizations on campus, from the Black Student Alliance to the Office of Multicultural Affairs, the Carpet Bag Theatre Company brought its collective talents in the form of "Swopera" last night to an almost filled Haymarket Theatre in Squires Student Center.

Yet, what brought many students to the show last night was not only the renown of the Theater Company for its socially-charged themes and original performances, but also mere curiosity. A few students admitted that apart from the unorthodox title, not many knew what the show would be about, only knowing that it would be a practice in a different type of art form.

"I want to see the whole slam poetry experience," said Laura Devlin, a junior interdisciplinary studies major. "(These) artists have passion, and that's what I love to see."

Devlin also said that she was interested in seeing what social topics and issues that the troupe would present in the show.

The narrative of "Swopera" centered on a group of people who live in an undesignated 'hood' of America. The family has inherited not only a family restaurant that was once the cultural center of its community during the civil rights movement,

but also the dream and disillusionment of the people who once lived that dream as they try to pass on that same feeling to the next generation. The show dealt with the difficulty that comes from trying to connect one generation to the next, the old unwilling to admit they have become old, and the young hesitant to take the reigns of the future.

The actual format of the play was hard to describe. The cast at some points engaged in traditional theatrical drama, only to jump into hip-hop/soul musical numbers, all the while conversing in the poetic language of slam poetry.

The uncanny yet compelling mixture of genres made an

impression upon many students.

"(The actors') energy held my attention the whole time," said Brad McCullough, a freshman engineering major. McCullough also said how the actors expressed themselves helped make a connection to the audience and get their point across.

Other audience members thought that the mix of theatrical styles was a necessary component for the company to bring their topics and race and society home.

Cristin Coles, a senior sociology major and president of the BSA, thought that the company did a good job with bringing its message of social and racial issues in a different way.

She was also pleased to see that a youth group from the Dumas Theatre Company from Roanoke was present in the audience.

"I think it's great to see the younger kids here, I'm not sure what kind of theatre they've already been exposed to, but just like a college audience, it's good to broaden their horizons," Coles said.

The Carpet Bag Theatre Company is a non-profit, professional theatre company that picks a diverse group of actors, writers, and musicians to create and perform original shows, from regular plays to musicals.

Yet to Takiyah Amin, a third year masters student in theatres administration, it was Company's creation method that made her confident in the actors' ability to connect with the audience.

"(They) create meaningful artwork with the community, Amin said.

"They present stories and other people's lives, which makes it more real."

"I want to see the whole slam poetry experience. (These) artists have passion, and that's what I love to see."

Laura Devlin
junior, interdisciplinary studies major

Tech prepares for worldwide contest

by Jessica Pritchard
Staff Writer

This Saturday, Radford University will host the Association for Computing Machinery International Collegiate Programming Contest. Teams from all over the world will participate in this contest to essentially solve a semester's worth of computer programming in one afternoon.

This year, Virginia Tech is sending five teams to compete, where each team is simply called, "Virginia Tech Team 1-5."

"We know exactly what to expect in terms of the problems and format, but it is still a very competitive event and the competition from other schools is always improving from year to year," said Greg Grothaus, a first year Master's student in computer science.

"Two things take up the bulk of the time: breaking down a problem into pieces that are small enough to keep in your head, and debugging code once you've written it," said Kevin Ferguson, a senior math major.

Tech has placed first or second over the last 20 years, and in the last 10 years they have placed predominantly first.

"We plan on Virginia Tech Team 1 winning this year," said Sallie Henry, coach of Tech's five teams.

"We are asked to participate in international contests almost every year," Henry said.

In order to be eligible for the international contests, each team must place first or second in its region. There are a total of 30 regions world-wide. Each team is made up of three students, generally two undergraduates and one graduate, led by their coach. They are given anywhere from six to eight programming problems to complete in a matter of five hours on only one computer. Not only are the problems geared towards programming knowledge, but they encourage

originality and the ability to work with your team.

This contest is one of the most renowned programming contests in the world. The competition draws the cream of the crop amongst computer geniuses. "(The competition) is very exciting," said Joe Gleason, a junior computer science major. "It is really the highlight of my semester. I like the fact that I can compete on the level of the best programming students that the region or even the world has. In short, I love it."

"If you know you're good at something — anything at all — you want to learn just how good you are. Am I just above average, or am I world class? We know we're good, but how good? Time to find out," Gleason said.

One of the sponsors of this contest is IBM; hence they get first dibs on those students who really excel in each tournament.

"Having been involved with Virginia Tech's team for a few years now, I can definitely say that it is a bonus when talking with employers," Grothaus said. "Not only does being involved in something like this show personal talent, it also demonstrates that you are truly interested in the subject you are studying."

Although Tech has formed a great reputation as one of the outstanding teams involved, very few students on campus are aware of their accomplishments.

"Most people at Tech have never heard of this competition. I find this odd since we usually do very well in the region. I would expect the Computer Science Department to publicize it more and use it as a selling point for Tech," Gleason said.

Hopefully Tech will host one of the contests in the near future, especially if the teams do well at this year's competition.

Tech will have to keep its fingers crossed for the 2004 World Finals are being held this spring in Prague, Czech Republic.



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The actors portrayed various themes, such as the struggle of different generations trying to understand each other.

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CMAAs honor deceased Cash

by John Gerome
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Johnny Cash wasn't wild about the video for his rendition of the song "Hurt" the first time he saw it, said his daughter, Kathy Cash.

"He wasn't sure he liked it at first, then he kept watching it and he said, 'You know, that is a good video,'" she said of her late father.

Cash won the Country Music Association's video of the year award Wednesday night for "Hurt." He also won single of the year for the song and album of the year, giving him his first CMA award since 1969 and tying him with Alan Jackson for most wins during the night.

Jackson won three awards, including vocal event of the year for his hit duet with Jimmy Buffett, "It's Five O'Clock Somewhere." Jackson also won male vocalist of the year and entertainer of the year, giving

him 16 career CMA awards. Vince Gill, who hosted the show, holds the record with 18.

"Thank you, Alan Jackson, I'm glad I can help your struggling career," Buffett said. "It was about 31 years ago I came to this town to pursue my musical madness. I never won anything for anything and it's great to do it here."

"Thank you, Jimmy. No problem," Jackson said.

Martina McBride got the nod for female vocalist of the year over Dolly Parton, Patty Loveless, Alison Krauss and Terri Clark.

"I'm so honored to be in this category," McBride said. "Dolly Parton, my God, she's my female vocalist of the year every year."

Toby Keith led all nominees with seven but was shut out. Keith was nominated for best entertainer, male vocalist, and album of the year for "Unleashed." "Beer For My Horses," a collaboration with

Willie Nelson, was nominated for best song, single, music video and vocal event.

Keith, whose other hits include "I Wanna Talk About Me," "Who's Your Daddy," and "Courtesy of the Red, White & Blue," has long been a popular choice for nominations. But despite his multi-platinum sales success, he's won only one CMA award, male vocalist of the year in 2001.

The Dixie Chicks also were shut out. The group was nominated for vocal group and album of the year for "Home."

Cash, who died Sept. 12 at age 71 of complications from diabetes, won all but one award he was nominated for: vocal event of the year.

"It's amazing my father had such a life that he could expose himself and still never lose his dignity and his charm," said Cash's son John Carter Cash, who accepted the awards with Kathy Cash.

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Sports

Tech looks to tame the Panthers

by Rajan Nanavati
Sports Editor

Talk about a roller-coaster three weeks. Virginia Tech fans went from booking flights and purchasing tickets in New Orleans for the Sugar Bowl to complete mourning after Tech lost to West Virginia University, to sharing visions of going to either the Orange or Fiesta Bowls after convincingly defeating the previously second-ranked Miami Hurricanes last Saturday evening.

If the law of "what goes up must come down" really holds true, then the Hokies should be on high alert for their contest this Saturday when they take on the University of Pittsburgh Panthers.

The Panthers are ranked 21st in the nation, but actually sit in first place in the Big East standings, since they have not lost a single game in conference play this season.

"I think the major thing with us right now is getting past (the

victory over the Hurricanes) and getting on (to the Pittsburgh game)," said Virginia Tech head coach Frank Beamer. "There's a lot riding on (this game)."

With the possible BCS bowl berth at stake in early November, ESPN Gameday will be broadcast from Pittsburgh, representing the game as the marquee match up of the week.

The Panthers offense is among the most potent in the Big East, but presents a much different challenge than the one Miami gave Tech's defense. Pittsburgh quarterback Rod Rutherford ranks as the top passing quarterback in the conference over Miami's Brock Berlin.

The Pittsburgh receivers are much bigger and not quite as fast as the diminutive speedsters of Miami's receiving corps, but they will certainly present problems for a fast but relatively vertically-challenged Tech secondary.

However, the biggest challenge Tech will face from the Panthers will be trying to stop

or even contain Panthers wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald, touted as a Heisman trophy candidate and the best wide receiver in college football. At 6'3 and 250 lbs, Fitzgerald has out-muscled opposing secondaries en route to catching 16 touchdown passes in just eight games this season.

Analysts and opposing players around the country have already touted Fitzgerald as the best player in the nation, even though he is just a sophomore.

The task of covering Fitzgerald and the rest of the Panthers wide receivers will be made that much more difficult because of cornerback DeAngelo Hall's suspension for the first half of this Saturday's game. Hall was suspended because of an on-field altercation he had in the Hokies' victory over the University of Miami. Cornerbacks Eric Green and Vincent Fuller will start for the Hokies, who plan to use free safety Jimmy Williams at cornerback as well, along with getting redshirt freshman Brian McPherson some playing time.

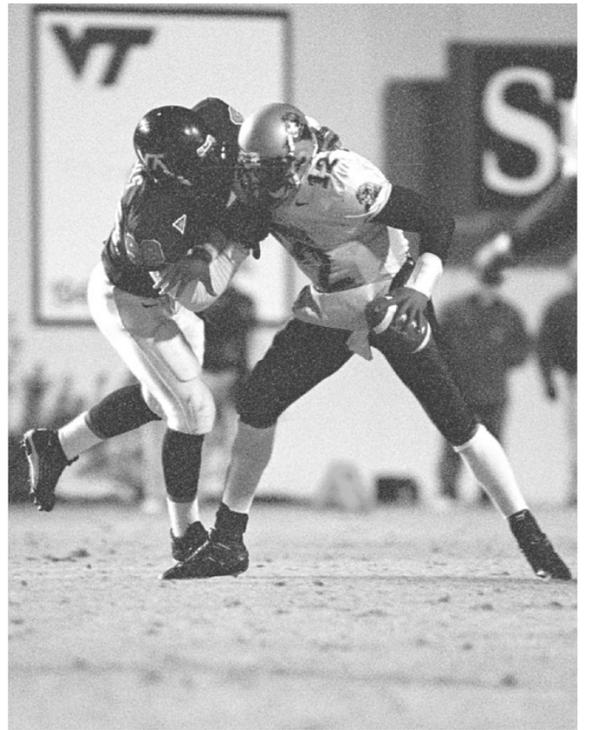
"We're going everywhere (Fitzgerald) is," Beamer joked about covering Fitzgerald. "Hopefully the guy that's supposed to be with him will be right there."

Like last year, Tech comes into the game with a few key injuries. Linebacker Mikal Baaqee will be limited at linebacker as he suffers from a shoulder injury. Tight end Keith Willis will also probably not play because of an ankle injury. Receiver Chris Shreve and defensive end Darryl Tapp both come into the game banged up, but should be ready to go for the game.

Regarding the question on the minds of many Tec fans, quarterback Bryan Randall, coming off two sub par performances, will be the starter against the Panthers.

The amount of playing time Marcus Vick will receive will be an in-game decision based upon Randall's play.

Kickoff is set for 7:45 p.m., and the game will be nationally televised on ESPN.



STAFF/SPPS

Defensive end Cols Colas (99) and the Tech defensive line must put pressure on Pitt quarterback Rod Rutherford.

Hokie pride means soccer support too, not just football

Jana Renn

Last weekend, many of us Virginia Tech students spent our Sunday recovering from a wild weekend that included upsetting the Miami Hurricanes in Lane Stadium.

Many of us dedicated most of our Saturday evening to the Hokies by showing our support during "The Walk," creating an atmosphere in the stadium sure to damage eardrums and celebrating the huge win downtown.

Well, our football team is away this Saturday, so we shouldn't need as much recovery time Sunday. Therefore, we will all have the energy to go out and support another top 25 team we have on campus.

Yes, the Hokie men's soccer team plays a quarterfinal game of the Big East Championships against Providence at 1 p.m. Sunday at the Tech Soccer Stadium.

Our soccer team is having an amazing season and they deserve just as much support from us as the football team does. Head coach Oliver Weiss' Hokies are ranked No. 2 in the Big East and No. 23 in the country for their excellent play.

Last Saturday marked the first time our football team has knocked off a top 10 team in years. However, our soccer team has knocked off two top 10 teams this season in Rutgers and St. John's.

The exciting win over St. John's took place right here at Tech, but did you attend?

As much as I hate to admit it, I wasn't there. In fact, the only soccer game I've taken in this year was Tuesday night's 7-1 bashing of Liberty.

After watching Tuesday's game, I'm upset with myself for not taking the time to support our team all season.

Much like our football team, these guys put their whole hearts out on the field. They don't get nearly enough recognition for it, but they do it anyway

because they love the game.

How many of you have heard of Bobby O'Brien? I'm sure if I asked the same question about Kevin Jones or DeAngelo Hall, I'd get a much different response.

Well, O'Brien has scored 10 goals this season for Tech. To put this into perspective, the team as a whole has scored 45. Yes, O'Brien has scored almost one-fourth of the entire team's goals this season. I would say that's pretty impressive for an athlete in any sport.

The way the team goes about winning is also amazing. Their focus on the field, even when they're losing, is much greater than any team I've ever seen play. These guys never give up, and it makes them fun to watch.

I know my rant makes me sound like the world's greatest soccer fan, but I'm not. I've never really even liked the sport.

However, when a bunch of guys who are good at what they do go out and

play at the level our team plays at, it's hard not to like them or the sport they're playing.

Plus, for all you ladies out there that may not know anything about soccer, the way our team looks in their uniforms is reason enough to go watch, if you catch my drift.

If you aren't convinced yet, maybe you need to know the games are free. That's right; you can go watch these talented athletes play for no cost at all. You might even walk away with a poster or a free T-shirt.

So, for all of you out there who claim to be true Hokie fans, join me in proving this claim.

Go out and cheer on the men's soccer team Sunday and show Weiss' boys you care about them just as much as you do Frank Beamer's boys. Maybe our support can lead them to a Big East title.

Jana Renn is the sports assistant for the Collegiate Times.

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Men's soccer team begins post-season play on Sunday

■ The Virginia Tech men's soccer team will look to win its first conference championship this weekend

by Nick Vranas
Staff Writer

After completing their best regular season in Big East Conference history, the No. 23 Virginia Tech men's soccer team is looking to capture the Big East Tournament championship.

The Hokies return to the eight-team tournament for the first time since 2001 after finishing second out of 13 teams and going 7-3 in conference play.

Tech will face the seventh-seeded Providence College Friars at 1 p.m. Sunday at the Tech Soccer Stadium for the quarterfinals. The game will be a rematch of the final Big East

regular season game for the Hokies, in which they defeated the Friars 1-0 thanks to a Bobby O'Brien penalty kick more than halfway through the second half.

That game was the exclamation point on a great season for a Hokie team that has had a huge impact on the Tech soccer program, said head coach Oliver Weiss.

"This is great for the program, especially since this is our last year in the Big East," Weiss said. "Being on our way out and proving that we're competitive in one of the top two or three conferences is big and it proves that (Tech soccer) is for real."

The Hokies come into the postseason on a hot streak. They've won three straight games and six out of their last seven games, including a victory over now No. 4 in the nation and Big East top seed St. John's University.

"Playing great at the end of the year and playing your best

going into tournament play is really what every team aims for," Weiss said. "We should be feeling confident and that we can play with any team we face."

If the Hokies can get past the familiar faces of the Friars, they will go to Storrs, Conn., to face the winner of the match between third-seeded Notre Dame and the sixth-seeded Connecticut Huskies in the semi-finals. Tech lost to both the Fighting Irish and the Huskies at home this year.

"Although I would have liked to have more time between games against Providence, I give us a good chance," Weiss said. "However, if we don't bring our 'A' game we will lose

to anyone in the Big East."

Even if the Hokies don't win the Big East Tournament, an at-large bid for the NCAA tournament is still very much a possibility.

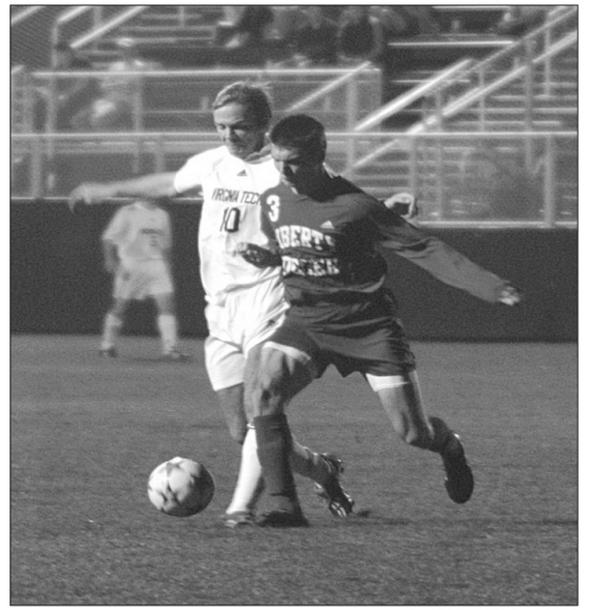
"Based on our strength of schedule, we could be in the tournament already."

However, we don't want to depend on that," Weiss said.

"We just need to win and not have to worry about getting an at-large berth. However, we

do want to see the dominant teams in the minor conferences win their automatic bids."

If the Hokies were to make the NCAA tournament, it would be the first time in Tech soccer history.



ALLISON JARNIGAN/SPSS

Tech midfielder Peer Rogge (10) will help lead the men's soccer team in post season play.

"This is great for the program, especially since this is our last year in the Big East."

Oliver Weiss
Men's Soccer head coach

Steroid probe taps Montgomery

by Rob Gloster
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The world's fastest man, Tim Montgomery, appeared Thursday before a grand jury investigating a lab supplying some top athletes with nutritional supplements.

Federal officials have refused to discuss the scope of the grand jury's proceedings. Two sources familiar with the probe told The Associated Press this week that the grand jury is focusing on drug use by athletes as well as possible tax evasion by the lab, BALCO.

Montgomery, the world record-holder for the 100 meters, was among the latest track and field star to appear before the panel. U.S. sprinter Chryste Gaines, a 1996 Olympic relay gold medalist, also went before the grand jury Thursday,

and U.S. shot putter Kevin Toth and 1,500-meter runner Regina Jacobs were among those who testified last week.

Dozens of other athletes, including baseball's Barry Bonds and Jason Giambi, boxer Shane Mosley and several NFL players, also have been subpoenaed.

All have been customers of the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative. An attorney for BALCO founder Victor Conte said his client is the target of the grand jury probe.

Montgomery, 28, who set the world record of 9.78 seconds in 2002 and is the boyfriend of Olympic sprinting champion Marion Jones, did not comment Thursday.

His agent, Charlie Wells, also was there and declined to comment.

An appearance before the grand jury, or being subpoenaed

to testify, does not mean an athlete is a target of the probe.

BALCO also is at the center of an investigation by anti-doping agencies into the newly discovered steroid THG.

An unidentified coach who turned in a syringe containing THG said he got the substance from Conte, a charge he denies.

At least five athletes already have tested positive for THG, including Jacobs, Toth and European sprinter Dwain Chambers.

One of the sources who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity said the grand jury is "looking at at least five different drugs — steroids, hormones, THG, modafinil, EPO."

Conte and his attorneys did not respond to an e-mail seeking comment.

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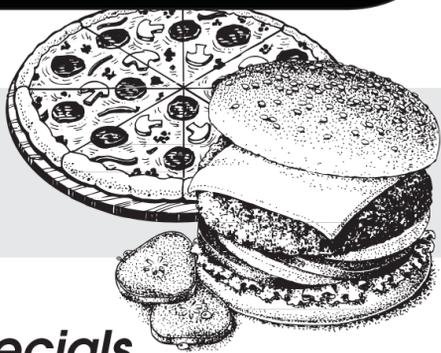
Meredith, I'm sorry I teased you with the "life" of Angela Chase and Jordan Catalano, but I do have to say that Jared Leto's eyes were worth it all! Future bondings: Finding Nemo (FABIO!?), Anne of Avonlea and Old School! More Skittles will be necessary. ~ Cathers

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CT Sports Picks

■ All's fair in love and football.

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NCAA

Virginia Tech @ Pitt. Texas A&M @ Okla. Mich. St. @ Ohio St. Tennessee @ Miami Mississippi @ Auburn Texas @ Oklahoma St. S. Carolina @ Arkansas UCLA @ Wash. State WVU @ Boston College	Virginia Tech Oklahoma Ohio State Miami Auburn Texas Arkansas UCLA West Virginia	Virginia Tech Oklahoma Ohio State Miami Auburn Texas Arkansas Wash. State West Virginia	Virginia Tech Oklahoma Michigan St. Miami Mississippi Texas Arkansas Wash. State Boston Coll.	Virginia Tech Oklahoma Michigan St. Miami Mississippi Texas Arkansas Wash. State Boston Coll.	Virginia Tech Oklahoma Ohio St. Miami Auburn Texas Arkansas Wash. State West Virginia	Virginia Tech Oklahoma Ohio St. Miami Auburn Texas S. Carolina Wash. State West Virginia	Virginia Tech Oklahoma Michigan St. Miami Auburn Okla. State Arkansas Wash. State West Virginia	Virginia Tech Oklahoma Ohio St. Miami Auburn Okla. State Arkansas Wash. State West Virginia	Virginia Tech Oklahoma Ohio St. Miami Auburn Okla. State Arkansas Wash. State Boston Coll.	Virginia Tech Oklahoma Ohio State Miami Mississippi Okla. State Arkansas Wash. State West Virginia	Virginia Tech Oklahoma Ohio St. Miami Auburn Okla. State Arkansas Wash. State Boston Coll.	Virginia Tech Oklahoma Michigan St. Miami Auburn Okla. State Arkansas Wash. State Boston Coll.	Virginia Tech Oklahoma Michigan St. Miami Auburn Okla. State Arkansas Wash. State Boston Coll.
Game of the Week Providence @ Men's Soccer	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech
Overall Record Last Week	118-62 13-7	110-70 11-9	109-71 13-7	109-71 13-7	109-71 13-7	108-72 11-9	107-73 13-7	107-73 12-8	107-73 10-10	106-74 8-12	105-65 11-9	105-65 9-11	
Comments	Congrats men's soccer Football: I'm proud, do it again	Syracuse and Miami down...one more pay-back game left! Storming the field was awesome, minus the dogs in the end zone.	What's the deal with football? You don't use your feet! I got the magic schtick.	Alright men's soccer, you've screwed me every other week, don't let me down now!!	Sorry to leave you behind Rajan- I'm moving on up!	Off in Dallas - be back Sunday!	I got worms.	Shout out to the #1 team in the Co-Rec B League, Team PSCI..... Fitzgerald can't carry Kevin Jones' jock!	Don't even get me started on the Redskins... VA Tech, didn't see that one coming last week...	Aaron, I moved farther down this week, but mark my words, I won't be under you long.	Thanks Rajan for basically doing my picks	Yeeehaaaaw! I'm in Dallas, not caring about sports picks. Go Hokies!	

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