

Campus laden with building projects

by Eric Beidel
News Assistant

While budget cuts seem to have forced some academic programs underground for the time being, construction around the Virginia Tech campus is sprouting up at every turn, with 10 projects currently underway at a cost around \$160 million.

"This is about as aggressive as I've seen construction in my 7-and-a-half years here at Tech," said Bruce Ferguson of the capital design and construction department of Virginia Tech. "It's a time of tremendous growth for the university."

Ferguson is the project manager for several of the ongoing construction projects, including

the new multipurpose livestock arena being built in the farm fields between Southgate Drive and Prices Fork Road.

Construction cost for the approximately 49,000-square-foot arena is around \$2.2 million, while the total project cost is expected to be over \$3 million, Ferguson said.

The arena will include a livestock pavilion plus two classrooms and office space as well, said Ferguson.

"It's a multipurpose teaching livestock arena," said Dan Eversole, associate professor in the department of animal and poultry science. "Teaching will have first preference."

Eversole said they may enact a fee structure system where outside groups holding horse, cattle or even dog shows could use the arena.

He said the project is 20 years in the making and only got off the ground when the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences began fundraising to cover half of the cost.

"There was an agreement that if we raised half of the funds, the state would match it, and that's what really pushed this thing over," said Eversole.

Originally slated to be finished this February, heavy rains in May have pushed the completion date to the first of April 2004, Ferguson said.

"It was pretty much a mud hole out there in May and June. Only in the last few weeks have we seen things start to sprout up above ground," he said.



DAVE FRANUSICH/SPPS

A new alumni center and hotel is being constructed where the golf course used to be. The new facilities will be slightly larger than Donaldson Brown.



DAVE FRANUSICH/SPPS

The multipurpose livestock arena will cost over \$3 million. It will be located between Southgate Drive and Prices Fork Road.

"We should see a lot of good things happen to this facility in the next month." With the ground having had a chance to recover, Eversole anticipates construction will pick up pace.

The completion date was also moved back for the new \$43.5 million alumni hall, hotel and conference center going up on what once was part of the Tech golf course.

The center is expected to be complete in May 2005, two months later than originally planned, said Jim McCoy, director of the capital design and construction department.

"This was a difficult one to deal with," McCoy said. "It has some weather issues, but we're trying to make up time in some fashion."

The center is being completely paid for by private funds. No

state appropriations are being used, though the center is being constructed on state property, said Tom Tillar, vice president of the Alumni Association.

The 193,000-square-foot center will house a slightly larger hotel than Donaldson Brown and a conference facility several times larger than previously available, Tillar said.

"The facilities will be attractive to both civic and private groups in the community, not just alumni," Tillar said. "It will be of use to all of those things that occur in Donaldson Brown, but with much more space. The ballroom, for instance, can accommodate up to 800 people."

The new alumni facilities will also have a real economic benefit, Tillar said, giving alumni a home of their own as well as attracting more of the visiting

conference and football crowds due to the larger hotel.

Career Services also hopes to attract more people in the form of employers and students when they move from Henderson Hall to their new facility being built at the corner of Washington Street and West Campus Drive, said Donna Cassell Ratcliffe, director of Career Services.

The \$4.6 million and almost 22,000-square-foot facility also saw delays because of wet weather. The project is currently about five or six weeks behind schedule, Ratcliffe said.

McCoy said the project was expected to be finished in April, but most likely will not see completion until May 2004.

"It will bring a lot more traffic to that corner of the campus

See **BUILDING**, page 2

Education majors eliminated Changes advised by state

by Tiffany Hoffman
Managing Editor

With the start of a new school year comes the end of undergraduate education programs in the department of teaching and learning.

"In big research-based institutions, the trend has been more research and more content," said John Burton, department chair of teaching and learning.

Twelve years ago, Tech began its first steps in the conceptual plan to phase out undergraduate teaching

majors and reserve teaching solely for graduate school.

At the time it was started, there were nearly 800 undergraduate education majors, but now those who wish to go into teaching must complete a major in a specific field outside of the classroom focus.

The last three undergraduate education majors to be eliminated from the teaching and learning department were the physical education programs, effective last year, and the career and technical education and the technology in secondary education

majors, effective this year.

Those who are already in the program will be permitted to finish, but no new students will be accepted into these programs.

Though the plan for this has been gradual, Burton said the budget cuts set the ball rolling for the end.

"We can't keep bleeding across programs to make them all mediocre," said Burton. "The budget cuts gave immediate reasons to act."

See **STATE**, page 3

ECE programs modified

by Tiffany Hoffman
Managing Editor

With the crippling effects of the budget crisis looming, and the state's modified education requirements affecting change, early childhood education will no longer be offered as an undergraduate degree.

"We're taking our last group of students this year and the faculty is sorry about this," said Fred Piercy, department chair of human development. "I feel we are one of the most competitive majors, but it's one of those budget cut casualties."

With the recent budget crisis, two of the five early childhood development professors took early retirement and the ECE was left lacking the resources to offer the proper courses.

"When the crunch hit, it made it obvious how difficult it'd be to offer ECE," Piercy said.

Unlike programs like physical education in the teaching and learning department, ECE will not be phased out completely, but will focus solely on students at the graduate level. However, like programs in the department of teaching and learning, ECE programs will continue to be offered to undergraduates until they cycle through.

"I don't think it will hurt the program, but I believe childhood development is an extremely important factor in being a teacher," said Andrew Stremmel, asso-

See **PROGRAMS**, page 2

Kappa Delta chapter wins national award

▪ The Epsilon Pi chapter won the national sorority's highest honor — the council chapter

by Aaron Blackwell
Associate News Editor

Virginia Tech's Epsilon Pi chapter of Kappa Delta sorority was named council chapter — the highest honor in the organization — this summer at its biennial national convention in Tuscon, Ariz.

"We were ecstatic," said Jaime Mancuso, house manager and social chair for KD.

Tech received this honor out of 126 chapters around the country.

"I feel honored to be a part of this chapter and to represent Virginia Tech," said KD's president, Amy Reinhard.

Most sisters were shocked to find out about being named council chapter.

"I think every sister would tell you that (her) jaw just dropped to the floor when (we) found out," said Kelley Schott, vice president of public relations for KD.

"You can acknowledge campus prestige and still never

expect to be ranked No. 1 nationally. It's unbelievable."

The organization was evaluated in many areas before the award was handed out.

They were judged in areas like community service, prominence on campus, scholarship and recruiting, Mancuso said.

National KD officials also received bimonthly reports and visited the chapter for further evaluation.

The chapter has been in existence for 25 years, and was largely chosen because of its growth over the years, Mancuso said.

"It was truly an honor to represent the Kappa Deltas at Virginia Tech," Reinhard said. "We have been working towards this award for the last 25 years and it is hard to believe we are now the number one chapter in the country."

Since becoming council chapter, KD has received significant attention from other chapters.

They have been asking Tech's chapter for ways to improve, Mancuso said.

"People really look up to us now," Mancuso said.

As an additional honor, the national president will visit Tech's campus some

See **AWARD**, page 4

No 30-minute guarantee



BYRON KENNERLY/SPPS

Lines stretched across the Pritchard-Ambler Johnson field to Dietrick Dining Hall for a free pizza taste testing. Local pizzarias provided pizza for the event.

News in Brief

School bus accident injures 16 in Illinois

VANDALIA, Ill. (AP) — A school bus veered off a rural road and overturned in a steep ravine Wednesday, injuring 15 students and the driver, authorities said.

Montgomery County Sheriff Jim Vazzi said the road, about 60 miles northeast of St. Louis, had recently been repaved and a guardrail had not yet been replaced.

Vazzi said the ravine is steep, and rescue workers had to use ropes to get to the bus, which plunged about 15 feet.

Three students were airlifted to a hospital in Springfield, and the rest were taken by ambulance to nearby hospitals, Vazzi said.

Lynch honorably discharged

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — Jessica Lynch, the former prisoner of war who became a national hero when special forces rescued her from an Iraqi hospital, has been honorably discharged from the U.S. Army, her lawyer said Wednesday.

"As of the now, she is not a member of the military anymore," Stephen Goodwin of Charleston said.

The medical discharge clears the way for Lynch to pursue possible book or movie deals about her ordeal, Goodwin said. Though she has not spoken publicly about her time in Iraq, Lynch has said through a spokesman that she plans to tell her story in a book to be pub-

lished by the end of the year.

Man pleads guilty to firing shots

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Gov. Gray Davis signed some of the nation's most sweeping financial privacy legislation Wednesday, allowing California consumers to block banks, insurance companies and other institutions from sharing their personal information.

The bill-signing ceremony at the Pacific Stock Exchange allowed Davis to grab a piece of the spotlight amid the frenzy of political maneuvering in the effort to remove him from office.

The privacy legislation has been one of the showpiece acts that the Democrat hopes will resonate with voters in advance of the Oct. 7 recall election.

Sorority members guilty of hazing

WEST WINDSOR, N.J. (AP) — Investigators looking for what caused this month's massive blackout have compiled data from as early as eight hours preceding the start of the outage but will need weeks to analyze the information, energy officials said Wednesday.

Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham spoke after meeting with the North American Electric Reliability Council to discuss the group's role in the investigation of the Aug. 14 blackout. A task force made up of U.S. and Canadian representatives, led by Abraham and Herb Dhaliwal, the minister of Natural Resources Canada, is leading the probe.

Building: 10 projects currently underway

Continued from page 1

and employers will be thrilled," she said. Once completed, Ratcliffe said the new location will provide Career Services with more visibility and convenience for many students.

The new facility will offer space for employer information sessions, previously held in Squires Student Center or at an area hotel, Ratcliffe said.

"Companies will be excited to be in a top-notch building. Right now we are on the top floor of an old building going nowhere," Ratcliffe said. "It will be much more of a professional environment."

Among other projects currently under construction is a \$5.3 million dairy science facility, which will include a free-stall barn, milking parlor and milk room, as well as a research barn.

Near the Duck Pond, an 85,000-square-foot chemistry/physics building will provide more study spaces, teaching labs and faculty offices.

Two more buildings dedicated to bioinformatics with a combined expected project cost of around \$40 million are scheduled to be completed this November and in August 2004, McCoy said. These buildings are being built near the veterinary college at Washington Street and Duck Pond Drive.

Construction has also started on a \$24.8 million agriculture and natural resources



DAVE FRANUSICH/SPPS

Career Services will move from Henderson Hall to a new building at the corner of Washington Street and West Campus Drive.

research facility near Tech's Ag Quad, expected to be completed in August 2005, said McCoy.

Not only are new buildings being erected, but existing ones are receiving facelifts as well. Over \$5 million of renovations to Williams Hall are almost complete and classrooms are now open, McCoy said.

The psychology department will

make the building their new home when they move in as expected Sept. 19.

There are six more projects at Tech currently in the design phase, meaning construction crews will not be slowing down anytime soon.

"By far, this is the busiest construction that has been in the 8-year timeframe I've been here at Tech," McCoy said.

Programs: Budget a factor in decisions

Continued from page 1

ciate professor in the department of human development. "We track students within the family, community and societal context — we won't have that available anymore."

Right now, students in the ECE program are getting early, diverse opportunities to be with

children that will no longer be offered, Stremmel said.

"They can get a sense of what it is to be in the classroom," he said. "Now it's a shift from focusing on child development to focusing on math, science and English."

On the other hand, Stremmel said the new modifications will allow students to have more time

to decide what they want to do and be more content oriented. The graduate program will also accommodate more students with other majors as a result of the changes.

"They get the content but lose some of the critical information and being with children," Stremmel said.

The procedures follow the

steps advised by the state, Stremmel said, but the faculty was forced to make the decisions primarily as a response to the budget crisis. As a result, the human development department now offers only one major.

"We're disappointed we had to make that decision, but we can't do everything with less resources."

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State: Graduate program still strong

Continued from page 1

Unlike most education programs, physical education was hardest hit when they were informed last spring that their program would be completely phased out.

After the class of 2006 graduates, the program will no longer exist.

"At its best we had a thriving masters program and doctorate program . . . probably one of the best in the state," said Jim Krouscas, assistant professor of the Health and PE program area.

"I was very disappointed," he said. "Any time you start eliminating programs, it takes away options and opportunities for students."

Having no tenured professor remaining in the department and given the budget crisis, Krouscas said he thought physical education was one of the less difficult programs to cut. And though it was disappointing, Krouscas said he was encouraged by the way the university carried out its plan.

"I think the university did a great job assisting those already in the major," he said. "Given the fiscal situation of the university, I'm proud of my department and the way the university handled it. It's a matter of re-allocating resources to help the university reach its goal of being a top 30 institution."

The teaching and learning department has made many sacrifices to phase out the undergraduate education majors, but Burton said he thinks the change will be a positive one. Peers of Tech, such as the University of Virginia

and Virginia Commonwealth University, have been working without undergraduate education majors for several years.

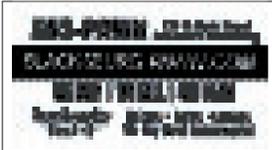
"We had to give a little up, but not compared to what we gain," he said. "We're not even wounded."

The education programs will no longer be offered at a freshman level, said Burton, but many of the programs will remain as graduate classes. Having older, more mature students will lead to better teachers, he said.

"Ideally, more field experience is good, but to have a solid (content-based) background is very important," Burton said.

"At its best we had a thriving masters program and doctorate program . . . probably one of the best in the state."

Jim Krouscas
assistant professor, Health and PE program area



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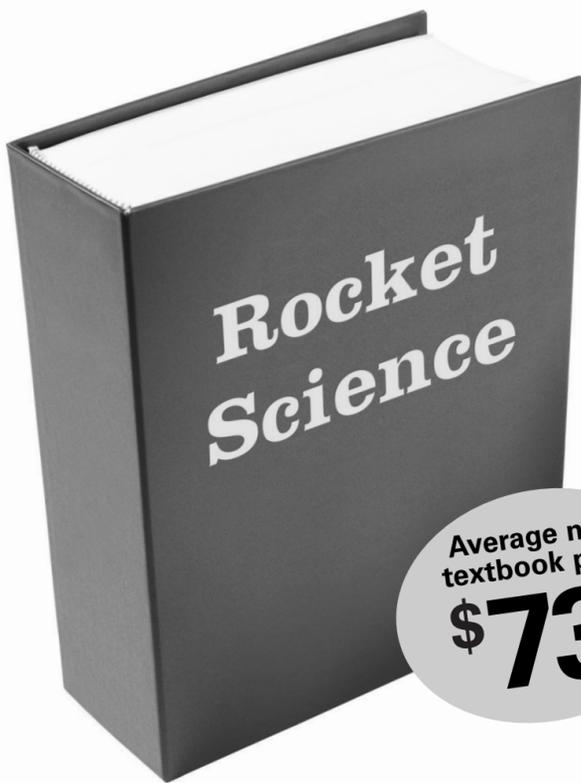
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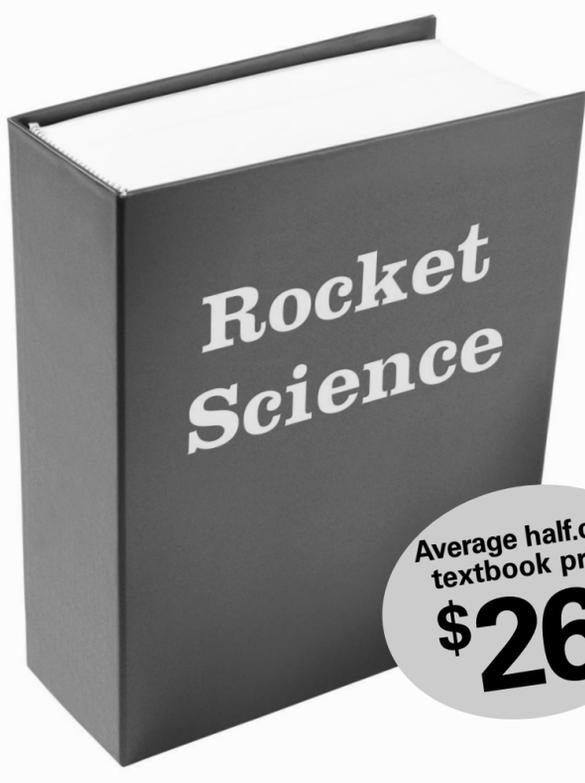
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Monument moved from Alabama court

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — A Ten Commandments monument that became a lightning rod in a legal storm over issues of church and state was rolled from the rotunda of the Alabama Judicial Building on Wednesday as protesters kneeled, prayed and chanted "Put it back!"

Suspended Chief Justice Roy Moore, who installed the marker two years ago, promised a full appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. But to the dismay of scores of supporters on a weeklong vigil outside the front doors, the 5,280-pound monu-

ment was lifted from its site and rolled by a work crew to a back room.

Building manager Graham George said the monument was in "a private storage area," declining to elaborate or say if the public would be able to see it. He said officials had considered removing the monument's two engraved tablets from the block-like bottom, but decided against it because of concerns the marker could be damaged.

"It is a sad day in our country when the moral foundation of our laws and the acknowledg-

ment of God has to be hidden from public view to appease a federal judge," Moore said in a statement.

His attorney, Phillip Jauregui, said the case is "far from over," with an appeal to be filed with the U.S. Supreme Court.

U.S. District Judge Myron Thompson of Montgomery, who ruled last year that the monument violates the constitution's ban on government endorsement of a religious doctrine, has scheduled a Friday conference call to determine if the state is now in compliance with his

order.

His ruling said the marker could be in a private place in the building but not the highly visible site in the rotunda directly across from the entrance.

"This is a tremendous victory for the rule of law and respect for religious diversity," said the Rev. Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State. "Perhaps Roy Moore will soon leave the bench and move into the pulpit, which he seems better suited for."



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAPPA DELTA
Amy Reinhard (left), Kappa Delta president and Susan Kay Beesley, regional chapter director, pictured with the award.

Award: Other accolades received

Continued from page 1

time in the near future, she said.

The sorority received other accolades including honorable mention for the Panhellenic award, academic excellence, and girl scout and membership quota awards.

However, this is not the first time the chapter has been recognized by national officials.

KD has been chosen as a merit chapter for the past 4 years which recognizes it as being in the top 10 percent of KD chapters in the country.

Four members attended the conference June 25-29 which gave them the opportunity to meet members from all over the country.

A trophy in the form of a crystal bowl was given to the sisters at the convention.

7 dead in Chicago warehouse shooting

CHICAGO (AP) — A man who had been fired from an auto parts warehouse six months ago came back with a gun Wednesday and killed six employees in a rampage through a maze of engine blocks and 55-gallon drums before being shot to death by police.

Salvador Tapia died in a gun battle he waged with police inside and outside of the building, hiding behind a

container as he fired off rounds from his semiautomatic pistol, authorities said.

"He got up, he had the gun, they ordered him to drop the gun, he refused to drop the gun. That's when the officer shot him," acting Police Superintendent Phil Cline said.

"We saw a guy shooting at police officers outside the building and saw people running around like crazy," said Al Martinez, who owns a business a half-block away. "We came and saw all the cops running, hiding behind cars."

Tapia, 36, lost his job Windy City Core Supply about six months ago for causing trouble at work and frequently showing up late or not at all, Cline said. He said Tapia had an extensive arrest record.

Cline said when police arrived shortly after 8:30 a.m., they tried to get in the building but were driven back by gunfire. He said when an assault team entered the building they had trouble maneuvering through all the auto parts.

He said four people died at the scene. Tapia and two others were taken to hospitals and died there.

"From the scene it appears that he went throughout the supply warehouse shooting them," said Cline.

"They weren't all in one section."

Tapia also tied one man's hands behind his back, but the employee escaped unharmed, Cline said.

Pamela George was cooking at the Dox Grill across the street when a warehouse worker ran in, looking for a phone.

"He said someone was in there shooting. He was really scared, like a chicken with its head cut off," she said.

She said police arrived and evacuated the restaurant within five minutes. All buildings within a block of the auto parts and supply store were evacuated.

It was the nation's deadliest workplace shooting since July 8, when Doug Williams shot 14 co-workers, killing six, at a Lockheed Martin aircraft parts plant in Meridian, Miss., before taking his own life.

In the Chicago area, William D. Baker, 66, killed four people and himself at a Navistar International engine plant in suburban Melrose Park in February 2001.

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Editorial NATIONAL ISSUE

Freedoms protect private education

Virginia Military Institute and the Citadel, once all-male schools, have become co-ed after legal action and the influence of state funding.

All-male military institutes were a tradition in the South for years and some feel the values on which such schools were established have been diluted by the admittance of women.

One particular group of people says it feels betrayed and marginalized by the policy changes allowing women to enroll in all-male military institutes in the South. This group, led by VMI graduates, has interests in buying land in Shelbyville, Tenn. in hopes of reviving all-male military schools by establishing The Southern Military Institute.

The group plans to raise more than \$1.5 million dollars in the next 18 months to establish the institute and draw upon virtues and ideals associated with Robert E. Lee.

In the opposite corner is the Southern Poverty Law Center identifying the group and potential institution as exclusive and potentially racist.

The SMI supporters have answered both allegations by stating minority enrollment will be encouraged and the all-male environment is essential to the bonding needed at a military institute.

The freedoms this country extends to its citizenry should not fail to protect the opinions and preferred education of those who are invested in the establishment of SMI. Unlike VMI or the Citadel, SMI would be funded privately.

The private nature of the school would further establish the institution's right to be founded upon the values the investors believe are necessary for educating their sons. The courts cannot fail to protect the freedom to express ideas and to assemble them, regardless of the dissenting opinions of others.

Though its rights should be upheld, the school should be vigilant of the environment of learning it promotes.

It should be careful not to allow its beliefs to be misinterpreted by the students as a form of gender bias. It should make a comfortable environment for minority applicants. It should understand the possible negatives of an all-male environment when educating students who will eventually work in the real world with both women and men.

In all, the group should establish a school based on their beliefs to benefit society — not create negativity and graduates who are unable to handle an environment that includes women.

Social astigmatism not a side effect of plastic surgery

Kate Lynch

For men it is cut and dry: either she looks good or she doesn't. The real critics of a woman's physique are other women.

This being true, it is mostly women who notice when another female has had cosmetic surgery. This identification is usually followed by a disgusted look and an immediate gossip session with friends.

Why can't people just be content and secure with how their own body looks? It is a woman's prerogative to change or not to change something on her body. Most people would agree cosmetic surgery is too expensive and working with what is natural is better.

However, why should the thousands of young people who do partake in cosmetic surgery each year be frowned upon?

According to the American Society of Plastic Surgery, a quarter of the 7,403,609 people who have cosmetic surgery are young people between the ages of 18 and 34. The most popular surgeries are breast alterations and rhinoplasty, more commonly referred to as a nose job.

Many people say college-aged women are too young to be having body alterations, but why not? Now is the time in

anyone's life to feel confident and beautiful.

Other critics of plastic surgery accuse those who have the surgery of having low self-esteem. Isn't walking around embarrassed of a particular part of one's body indicative of low self-esteem?

What if someone is so dejected by a part of her body that living a normal life is impossible? If someone feels like changing a problem area on her body and a change would help her be more confident and content with herself and with life, why should anyone else have a problem with it?

Other people who censure cosmetic surgery complain many women go under the knife to impress the male population. While this is probably not the best reason to transform one's body, how is it any different than a women wearing items from Victoria's Secret or buying the best perfume?

Some may argue clothes and scents are very different than surgery considering the permanency of the latter; however, all these things are related — some women do it all for men, others do it for themselves. Whatever the reason, no one has a place to judge or ostracize the surgically altered.

Kate Lynch is the editorial assistant for the Collegiate Times.

Supreme Court helps campus move past diversity and answer other issues

Graham Currin

As a new academic year begins, I want to share a recent experience to help jumpstart the diversity debate.

This summer I had the amazing opportunity to attend the U.S. Supreme Court decisions on June 23.

It is the policy of the Supreme Court to not let anyone know what decisions will be handed down ahead of time so it came as a huge surprise when Justice Rehnquist began to rattle off the Grutter v. Bollinger case (02-241).

The University of Michigan Law School case served to determine the future of affirmative action in our schools and businesses.

At Virginia Tech, this issue has caused headaches for much of the faculty who were asked to audit their programs because a few powerful people suspected, or rather hoped, the decision would come down against affirmative action.

In the true spirit of Ut Prosim, I felt it my duty to report the Supreme Court not only ruled affirmative action to be constitutional, but went on to declare, "In addition to the expert studies and reports entered into evidence at trial, numerous studies show that student body diversity promotes learning outcomes, and better prepares students for an increasingly diverse workforce and society, and better prepares them as professionals."

These were the exact words of the

highest court of our land as I heard them read by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

I hope by passing them on verbatim, Tech's governing authorities will adopt a policy allowing its faculty and administrators to get back to the work of educating students rather than pursuing the shameful and infamous policies of the previous academic year.

The court said diversity is vital to achieving the best possible education, a more capable business place and a healthy society.

I hope this information will help those in positions of power at Tech in their future decision-making as their previous source concerning matters pertaining to affirmative action proved speculative at best and resulted in policies tying up faculty and administrators at a time when our university needed them to handle its real problems.

It is truly a shame when such a large university can be preoccupied by the petty political agendas of a few.

Often times the comments made on our campus about this issue are one-sided and filled with half-truths.

It is my wish as one of the only 200 individuals who heard the justices speak, to relay all sides of this information.

It is true on this same day the Supreme Court struck down race-based quotas or anything in effect creating a quota.

However, before the Michigan cases, Tech had a system support-

"... We still have many challenges on our campus and hopefully now after this brief sidetrack we can return to facing them."

ing affirmative action and regarded quotas as illegal and now, after the decision, we still have the identical system.

The night of the decision I was able to meet Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg at a reception.

She wanted to remind us the court is not final because it is infallible, but is infallible because it is final.

Regarding the 5-4 decision, she said even when the court does not unanimously agree, "We (the Justices) all respect the decision the court reaches as final."

I think what Ginsburg was hinting at was in spite of their extreme difference of opinions, all of the justices respect one another completely and want what is best for the country and its people.

This is a lesson from which our community could benefit.

We still have many challenges on our campus and hopefully now after this brief sidetrack we can return to facing them.

Graham Currin is a senior communications and political science double major



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New club ready to set sail at Tech

■ The sailing club will be holding a meeting next week for students interested in getting out on the water

by **Julia Lupone**
Staff Writer

Can't wait until next summer when you can be back on the water?

You don't have to. Virginia Tech's newly established sailing club is recruiting new members.

Mike Nicoletti, president of the sailing club and a junior accounting and economics double major, has been working to put together the club since last fall and was able to gather prospective club members while taking classes in Blacksburg this summer.

He has been sailing since his freshman year of college at Christopher Newport University.

Since his transfer to Tech he said he was missed out on this opportunity.

"I totally miss sailing and competing," Nicoletti said.

With help from Demetri Telionis, faculty advisor for the sailing club and a professor of engineering mechanics, the club has been successfully formed.

He said one of the club's goals is to win by combined talent and strategy.

"We would like to promote a sport which combines open-air activities with requirements of athletic performance and great strategy to win by the rules," he said.

Telionis is the club's liaison to the Claytor Lake Sailing Club.

Claytor Lake is the location of both practices and races.

Telionis noted many sailors at Tech are unaware of the lake's accessibility.

"Many students sail and race boats and are not aware that there is a lot of sailing activity on Claytor Lake, a beautiful lake, only half an hour's drive from Tech," he said.

The Club will be sailing lasers and 420s for the most part and is working for donations in hopes of obtaining a fleet of five to 10 of each kind of boat, said Telionis.

Nicoletti hopes the club will soon be able to compete with other

colleges.

"I want to get this club to a collegiate competition level," he said.

The club is open to anyone and is looking for 20 to 30 members, Telionis said. "But there is room for more, he said."

Previous experience is not required — in fact, Nicoletti encourages this.

"It's fun to learn to sail, so I hope we get some people who have never sailed before," he said.

"That's how I started, and I love sailing now."

Telionis said the club will hold training sessions for any inexperienced sailors along with other special accommodations.

"We will break newcomers in by having them crew on bigger boats where more than two people can be easily accommodated," he said.

The club has scheduled three talks about sailing, including topics of boat rigging, sail performance, racing rules and racing tactics, Telionis said.

Telionis will hold the first meeting at 5 p.m. Tuesday, in Norris 205.

Telescopes on Earth all aimed at Mars

by **Dina Kraft**
Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Mars, the planet the ancients feared and revered as the Red One, the Fiery One or Death Star made its closest pass to Earth in 60,000 years Wednesday, glowing a pale orange in a moonless night sky.

Mars is usually about 140 million miles away from Earth, but on Wednesday its orbit brought it about 34.6 million miles away, reaching the closest point at 5:46 a.m. EDT. The planet will not be so close to Earth again until 2287.

Tertius Dormehl and his two children were among those waiting in the long lines wrapped around the parking lot of Johannesburg's planetarium to gaze through telescopes.

"It's stunning, so bright

that it's incredible. It gets your mind wandering to space travel — the ultimate adventure," said Dormehl, 40, a project manager at an information technology firm.

For the sharpest eye on Mars, there is no beating the orbiting Hubble Space Telescope, snapping dramatic close-ups of the planet as it passes.

"They are quite spectacular. You knew they were going to be good; seeing them is something else," said Michael Wolff, an astronomer with the Space Science Institute in Boulder, CO.

David Laney, head astronomer of the Cape Town Observatory, said the best vantage point was Tahiti but viewing would be spectacular anywhere. The good viewing will last for several days as Mars pulls away from Earth, astronomers say.

RIAA discloses online tracking information

by **Ted Bridis**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — This Wednesday the recording industry provided its most detailed glimpse to date into some of the detective-style techniques it has employed as part of its secretive campaign to cripple music piracy over the Internet.

The disclosures were included in court papers filed against a Brooklyn woman fighting efforts to identify her for allegedly sharing nearly 1,000 songs over the Internet. The recording industry disputed her defense, which claimed songs on her family's computer were from compact discs she had legally

purchased.

Using a surprisingly astute technical procedure, the Recording Industry Association of America examined song files on the woman's computer and traced their digital fingerprints back to the former Napster file-sharing service, which shut down in 2001 after a court ruled it violated copyright laws.

The RIAA, the trade group for the largest record labels, said it also found other hidden evidence inside the woman's music files suggesting the songs were recorded by other people and distributed across the Internet.

Comparing the Brooklyn woman to a shoplifter, the RIAA told U.S. Magistrate John M. Facciola that she was "not an innocent or accidental infringer" and described her lawyer's claims otherwise as "shockingly misleading." The RIAA papers were filed in Washington overnight Tuesday and made available by the

court Wednesday.

"(The music industry's latest argument) was merely a smoke-screen to divert attention" stated the woman's lawyer, Daniel N. Ballard, of Sacramento, CA.

The intent was to divert attention from the related issue of whether her Internet provider, Verizon Internet Services Inc., must turn over her identity under a copyright subpoena.

"You cannot bypass people's constitutional rights to privacy, due process and anonymous association to identify an alleged infringer," Ballard said.

Ballard has asked the court to delay any ruling for two weeks

while he prepares detailed arguments, and he noted that his client — identified only as nycfashiongirl — has already removed the file-sharing software from her family's computer.

The RIAA accused nycfashiongirl of offering more than 900 songs by the Rolling Stones, U2, Michael Jackson and others for illegal download along with 200 other computer files including at least one full-length movie, "Pretty Woman."

The RIAA's latest court papers describe in unprecedented detail some sophisticated forensic techniques used by its investigators.

"You cannot bypass people's constitutional rights to privacy, due process and anonymous association to identify an alleged infringer."

Daniel Ballard
defendant's lawyer

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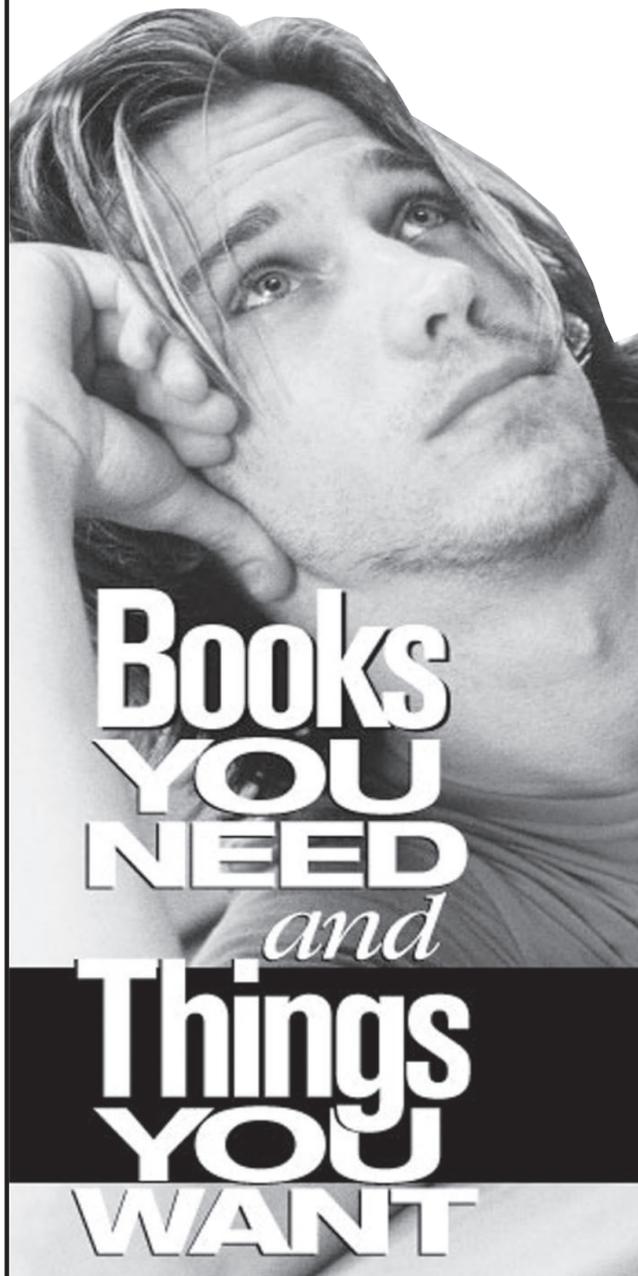
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(what, you haven't? it's tuesday, september 2nd at 7:00 p.m. in squires colonial hall)

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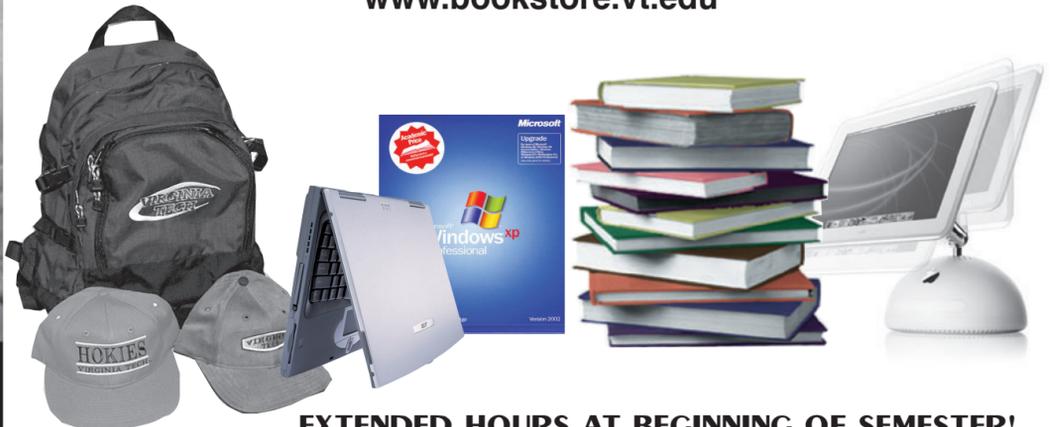
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Little guys not ready for the big leagues



Jana Renn
MD's Finest

For me, one of the highlights of late summer has always been watching the Little League World Series. Yes, I know it may seem odd for a girl in her third year of college to delight in watching young boys play baseball, but the series has always held a special place in my heart. It all started back in 1986, when, as an almost three-year-old girl, I went along with my family to South Williamsport, Pa., to watch my cousins play baseball. Sure, I had no idea then what it meant to the boys to proudly don the East

jerseys or what it meant to the small town of Brunswick, Md., to be represented so positively on an international forefront. All I knew at the time was that if I ate all my dinner at the hotel restaurant, I would receive a wooden nickel to be exchanged for candy and sliding down the hill behind the outfield fence at Lamade Stadium was a lot of fun. As I got older, though, I began to realize what an honor it was for them to play at Williamsport and how unique it was for my cousin to have pitched a perfect game there. It may have only been a consolation game but going perfect in any game is special. Years ago, the young boys of summer were thankful just to make it to the series and get the chance to play at Lamade. They showed

sportsmanship when they won and were just as courteous when they lost. Playing by the rules and showing respect were two of the main themes in the series. However, it seems to me all this has changed. Now, every series has at least one player who thinks he is God's gift to baseball or a coach who screams at his players like they are in boot camp. Rule breaking has also become more prevalent. It has come to the point where every player's background must be thoroughly checked to make sure he is eligible to play. The media also treats these boys like major leaguers by interviewing them constantly and singling them out for making errors or

Jana Renn is a sports assistant for the Collegiate Times.

Sports Notes

Men's basketball: Senior guard Carlos Dixon to have foot surgery

Virginia Tech guard Carlos Dixon is scheduled to have surgery Thursday afternoon on his left foot after suffering a re-fracture during the summer. Dixon, a senior from Salisbury, N.C., is expected to miss six to eight weeks of the basketball team's preseason conditioning program. The injury originally occurred last season in a game at Miami on Feb. 11. Tech's team orthopedic surgeon Marc Siegel will perform the surgery at Montgomery Regional Hospital. The Hokies begin practice for the 2003-04 season Sat. Oct. 18.

Hokie Sports: Athletic department to host sportsmanship summit

The Virginia Tech Athletics Department will host a sportsmanship summit Thursday night to promote its new "Hokies Respect" campaign. The summit, highlighted by Grant Teaff, will help the sportsmanship awareness program encourage positive fan conduct at all Tech sporting events. Teaff, former legendary Baylor University football coach and current executive director of the American Football Coaches Association, will meet with members of the Hokie athletic community. Those attending include the football team and Tech student leaders such as the Corps of Cadets. Radford University, Roanoke College, and area high schools have been invited to the event. The Summit is open to the public, is free of charge and will take place at 8 p.m. Thursday in Cassell Coliseum.

Pacers fire head coach Thomas after three tumultuous seasons

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Larry Bird insisted he took his new job with an open mind about the future of coach Isiah Thomas. The Indiana Pacers' president of basketball operations needed only seven weeks to come to a decision. Bird wasted little time in making his first major move, firing Thomas on Wednesday and immediately targeting former assistant Rick Carlisle as his successor.

"I just had a gut feeling this wasn't going to work," Bird said of a surprise move that came only two months before the start of the season. Bird said he didn't feel comfortable with the Pacers' direction after a second-half swoon that knocked them out of first place in the Eastern Conference and into third. Bird also said there were other problems with Thomas, who was with the U.S. men's basketball

team at the Olympic qualifying tournament in Puerto Rico earlier this week. Thomas returned to Indianapolis on Wednesday. "I spoke to him one day in a meeting, and I talked to him one day on the phone. The communication wasn't really there," Bird said. Carlisle and Bird's relationship dates to the 1980s when the two were teammates with the Boston Celtics. Carlisle also was an assistant for Bird from

1997-2000, but was passed over by current Pacers CEO Donnie Walsh in favor of Thomas. Carlisle spent the past two seasons as coach of the Detroit Pistons before being fired in May. Carlisle spoke with Bird on Tuesday night and said he was interested. "He's my first choice," Bird said. Bird said he would have fired Thomas even if Carlisle was not available.

Numerous phone messages were left for Thomas and Carlisle. Bird and Thomas were contentious rivals from their days of leading the Boston Celtics and Detroit Pistons to NBA titles in the 1980s. When he was hired July 11, Bird walked off the podium at a news conference and shook hands with Thomas — but neither smiled. The Pacers were 131-115 in the

regular season under Thomas, making the playoffs all three seasons but never advancing past the first round. Speculation swirled toward the end of the season that Thomas would not be back for the final year of his four-year contract. Walsh, however, said Thomas would return, though they wouldn't discuss an extension. Walsh said on Wednesday he agreed with Bird on the decision to fire Thomas.



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Pick up tomorrow's Collegiate Times for the annual Virginia Tech Hokies football preview. Get comprehensive coverage of all your favorite players, including quarterback Bryan Randall, in one place, as well as an interview with Frank Beamer.

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