

Crowded classroom a fire violation

■ University officials said there were no safety violations or health risks, and changes are underway

by **Aaron Blackwell**
Associate News Editor

A state fire marshal's report concluded that Virginia Tech violated state fire regulations when more students were in a classroom than technically permitted.

This was only a technical viola-

tion, said Larry Hincker, university spokesman. There was no safety violation and no danger to students, he said. When the inspectors came, Hincker said the classroom was not over maximum occupancy, but there was potential for it to surpass the limitation if all students had been present.

"University officials are as concerned as anyone with classroom safety," Hincker said.

Fire marshal officials were alerted to the condition by a report in The Roanoke Times on Sept. 4, which had a picture of students sitting

in an aisle, said Tamra Talmadge-Anderson, public relations director for the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development.

"We never base an investigation solely on a picture," Talmadge-Anderson said. "But the picture of students sitting in the aisle did prompt concern."

The university has already taken steps to remedy the situation. A new section of nations and nationalities, the class shown in the Roanoke Times photograph, has been added to ease crowding

concerns, Hincker said.

Tech will have 30 days to come up with other ways of alleviating crowding issues, Talmadge-Anderson said.

"We will be working with (Tech) to remedy the situation as soon as possible," she said.

The picture that ran in The Roanoke Times may not have completely portrayed the situation, Hincker said.

There were seats available when the picture was taken, Hincker said.

See **FIRE**, page 2

VBI named as hub for research

■ The institute will join 15 other universities to research infectious diseases and threats from bioterrorism

by **Amy Mortensen**
Staff Writer

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced last Thursday that the Virginia Bioinformatics Institute at Virginia Tech will serve as the genomics and bioinformatics core of a 15-university collaboration project to research infectious diseases and potential bioterrorism threats.

VBI's inclusion in the project makes Tech part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' five-year, \$42 million grant project to establish a mid-Atlantic Regional Center of Excellence for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases. The University of Maryland leads the 15-university collaboration, also including the University of Virginia, Georgetown University and Johns Hopkins University.

"VBI and other Virginia Tech researchers are pleased to bring genomics and bioinformatics resources to this comprehensive team of scientists that will launch

See **VBI**, page 2

Abortion activists stir up controversy

by **Tiffany Hoffman**
Managing Editor

A pro-life group overstepped university policy and stirred mixed emotion on the Drillfield yesterday during an anti-abortion demonstration. They displayed gory posters of aborted fetuses and passed out fliers to those who passed.

"Our goal is strictly the truth — it's not a lie," said Ronald Brock, a pro-life activist. "It's pictures, it's facts — universities are supposed to be a place of truth. Instead, (students) are being fed lies."

"People with security say we have no right to have these signs on campus, but they're lying ... We're not dealing with disrupting classrooms, we're dealing with public sidewalks

— they're misusing the authority they've been entrusted with."

Virginia Tech Police Chief Debra Duncan said the group came onto campus grounds without the proper authorization from events planning and had no clearance to display posters on the grounds or to pass out literature about their cause.

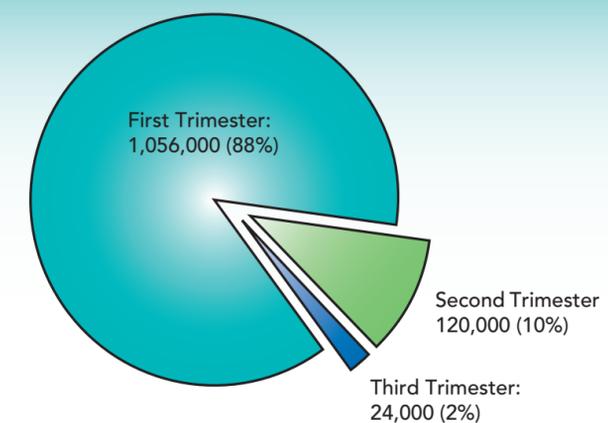
"What they're wanting is attention and they're getting attention by having the police on the scene," she said. "People were upset about the signs and the messages. We got a lot of calls from the community."

According to the Center for Disease Control, approximately 1.2 million preborn babies are killed because of an abortion each year in

See **ABORTION**, page 3

Abortion Statistics in the United States

Approximately 1.2 million abortions are performed each year



SOURCE: Center for Disease Control

CHRIS HEUBERGER/SPPS

Ultimate dorm room storms Drillfield

by **Eric Beidel**
News Assistant

A traveling electronics promotion set up shop on the Drillfield on Monday and Tuesday, giving students a look at the newest in video games and other technologies.

ThunderDorm, which is in its second year, made Virginia Tech stop number six on a 20-school tour.

"It's a way for companies to reach college kids," said tour manager Colin Cadogan. "There are no sales involved, just free promotion."

Some of the company sponsors of ThunderDorm include Ikea, Hewlett Packard and Maxim.

The tent that handled the most student traffic was the Dell and Audio Technologies, Incorporated tent, featuring a video game kiosk and the newest Dell computers.

Each of the Dell computers in the

tent contained an ATI Radeon 9800 Pro graphics accelerator, which gives video game graphics unbelievable quality, said event specialist Mike VanLenten.

"It's a chance for kids to come in and try the newest of games on these computers where the graphics are just amazing," VanLenten said.

The Dell tent also provided a looped demo of the upcoming Half-Life II video game and a lounge where students could relax and watch a little television.

As students walked around checking out the promotions in the tents, they could also visit what ThunderDorm calls the Ultimate Dorm Room, set up in the trailer of a truck.

The mock dorm room includes the latest in electronics in every facet, including television and computers.

Students at each school are entering into a drawing to win all of the

See **DORM**, page 3



ROBERT DRAKE/SPPS

Tom Pearce, a junior biology major, throws a football at a target at the ThunderDorm tent on the Drillfield yesterday.



GLENN CARTAXO/SPPS

Seven Hager (right), the editor of High Times magazine, and Robert Stutman, former head of the DEA office in New York, debated over the legalization of marijuana last night in Squires Student Center.

Debate aims to smoke out truth

■ The pros and cons of marijuana usage were debated last night in Squires Student Center

by **Phillip Comey**
Associate Features Editor

The debate about legalizing marijuana burnt up the Commonwealth Ballroom in Squires last night.

Steven Hager, editor of High Times, debated for the legalization of marijuana.

In contrast to Hager's jean jacket and long hair, Robert Stutman, former head of the DEA office in New York, supported the continuation of illegalization.

"Bob needs to get high,"

Hager said.

Comments like "He wants to take up" and "I'm here to support the feds" could be heard from the anxious crowd as Hager prepared his opening arguments.

Hager began with five key points about medicine, health care systems, hemp, prison systems and petroleum chemicals.

In defense of legalization, Hager explained marijuana has the potential to be a great medicine for glaucoma and multiple sclerosis as well as other diseases.

"It has the ability to give people sight who are blind and people who are paralyzed to walk," he said.

Hager furthered his argument by discussing hemp and how it can be used to make paper and clothes.

To refute Hager's argument,

Stutman began by rejecting marijuana as a safe substance by explaining that marijuana is five times more carcinogenic than cigarettes.

"A doctor telling you to smoke marijuana is not looking out for your health," he said.

Stutman attacked other Hager arguments claiming it does cause dependency, or addiction, and can lead to automobile accidents.

At times, however, Stutman's stance on certain issues shocked the crowd.

"I think throwing people in jail for drug use is stupid," Stutman said.

Students met Stutman's argument with considerable approval and admiration.

"I think Bob had a lot of guts," said

See **DEBATE**, page 3

News in Brief

Man charged with killing Williams' half sister

COMPTON, Calif. (AP) — A felon with ties to a street gang was charged Tuesday with murdering the half sister of tennis stars Serena and Venus Williams.

Aaron Michael Hammer appeared briefly in Superior Court but Judge John J. Cheroske postponed his arraignment to Sept. 23 at the request of the defense. He remained held without bail.

Hammer, 24, of Compton, is accused of shooting Yetunde Price, 31, in the chest as she sat in a sport utility vehicle early Sunday.

Suspect arrested in Sweden killing

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Swedish police arrested a suspect Tuesday night in the killing of Foreign Minister Anna Lindh, a spokesman told The Associated Press.

The suspect was captured in a restaurant near a soccer stadium in Solna, a suburb of the capital Stockholm, said police spokeswoman Stina Wessling. The man was not identified.

The arrest came after police put out a nationwide alert in a bid to track down the suspect.

Va. bishop retires after 29 years

RICHMOND (AP) — Tuesday the Pope accepted the resignation of Bishop Walter F. Sullivan

and named Cardinal William H. Keeler archbishop of Baltimore, apostolic administrator of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Richmond.

Sullivan, a leading progressive in the American church during his 29 years as head of the Richmond Diocese, submitted his letter of resignation to Pope John Paul II in June. Sullivan's resignation was accepted for reasons of age. He turned 75, the normal retirement age for bishops, on June 10.

UVa gay fraternity may start by 2004

CHARLOTTESVILLE (AP) — By the end of the year, 22-year-old Anthony Whitten hopes to persuade 20 men to join the University of Virginia's first gay fraternity, a group he wants to transform into one of the South's few nationally affiliated collegiate gay brotherhoods.

The group calls itself Out on Rugby, a reference to a neighborhood street lined with brick frat houses off the campus of this traditional school, where male students still wear ties to football games and women were not even admitted into most academic programs until 1970.

About 30 percent of the current student body is affiliated with a fraternity or sorority. For Whitten, Out on Rugby fills a gap in a Greek system that he says traditionally has been perceived as "heterosexist," and uncomfortable for gay men. The new group creates a community not only for them, but for what he calls "progressive" straight men who aren't fazed by others' sexual orientations.

Fire: Crowding tends to fix itself, officials say

Continued from page 1

Some students chose to sit on stairs possibly because they were tardy and didn't want to interrupt class to get to a chair, he said.

Any crowding conditions that exist tend to fix themselves before the last day to add or drop a class, Hincker said. Enrollment in classes is very fluid in the early part of the semester and there will be significant attrition until student schedules are set.

Hincker said the university officials would work closely with the registrar's office as well as faculty to alleviate problems with crowding.

"We will be conducting our own review to be sure we don't have any similar situations," Hincker said.

Because of the recent budget cuts, class sections have been cut and the number of students in classes has increased.

The reality is that the university has crowded classrooms, Hincker said. There are going to be isolated incidents where there are more students than seats.

Hincker said that this topic is something that everyone should be concerned with.

"It all begins with money," he said.

VBI: Professor given \$1 million grant

Continued from page 1

a multi-pronged attack to combat infectious diseases, including potential bioterrorism threats," VBI Director Bruno Sobral told the Associated Press.

VBI was chosen to be part of the mid-Atlantic RCE for a variety of reasons, including its possession of critical supercomputing abilities and informatics software platforms to connect the participating universities.

As part of the collaboration, VBI will research several diseases including anthrax, tularemia, hemorrhagic fever and smallpox.

The institute will also study public health response on programs such as needle-free immunization.

"The institute's entire mission is to focus on infectious disease research, so it's a natural synergy to work on bioterrorism with the entire consortium," said Neysa Call, head of public relations and outreach at VBI.

A Tech professor was also one of the few researchers to be individually funded by the RCE grant.

Thomas J. Inzana, a professor of bacteriology in the college of veterinary science's center for molecular medicine and infectious diseases, was granted almost \$1 million to fund his research on the disease tularemia. Inzana and his research team will be using the grant money to do research to develop a vaccine for the disease — a naturally occurring, class

A biological agent officials worry could be aerosolized and used as a bioterrorism weapon, Inzana said.

The mid-Atlantic RCE is one of eight regional centers of excellence to be established across the country as part of a strategic plan for biodefense research.

The focus of the centers will be improving and developing new defenses against the threat of bioterrorism and emerging and re-emerging diseases.

Virginians brace for hurricane

■ Virginia Beach officials put out a local declaration of emergency and plan to open shelters for victims Wednesday

by Sonja Barisic
Associated Press

NORFOLK — Coastal residents boarded up windows Tuesday and contemplated leaving to avoid weakening but still dangerous Hurricane Isabel, while the military moved ships, planes and people out of southeast Virginia.

On tiny, low-lying Tangier Island in the Chesapeake Bay, Wallace Pruitt was busy storing chairs, swings and other outdoor furniture at the bed-and-breakfast he runs with his wife, Shirley.

"I don't usually get too excited about something like this, but this one has so much force I've been preparing for two days," said Pruitt, 63.

Forecasters said Isabel appeared to be on a

course to hit Thursday on the North Carolina coast and move northward through eastern Virginia.

Virginia Beach-based religious broadcaster Pat Robertson asked his Christian Broadcasting Network viewers to pray with him so that God would put a "wall of protection" around the city and the East Coast.

"In the name of Jesus, we reach out our hand in faith and we command that storm to cease its forward motion to the north and to turn and to go out into the sea," Robertson prayed on "The 700 Club."

Virginia Beach officials issued a local declaration of emergency and planned to open a limited number of shelters late Wednesday. Residents and business owners on Chincoteague Island on Virginia's Eastern Shore boarded up or taped windows as some residents prepared to leave voluntarily.

"I love storms, and people are just freaking out," said Carol Patton, manager of Don's Seafood Restaurant. "They're panicking, saying we're going to get it really bad. I've never seen the town boarded up like it is today."

STOCK MARKET REPORT — 9/16/2003 —		WEATHER	TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	THURSDAY NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY					
DJIA	9567.34 ▲ 118.53			Sunny Highs: 73° - 78°		Partly cloudy Lows: 52° - 57°		Cloudy; rain likely Highs: 70° - 75°		Rain; heavy at times Lows: 65° - 70°		Showers likely 55°/75°	
NASDAQ	1887.25 ▲ 41.55												
S&P 500	1029.32 ▲ 14.51												

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Abortion: Police intervene at gathering

Continued from page 1

America. Eighty-eight percent of those are killed in the first trimester, 120,000 are killed in the second stages of pregnancy and 24,000 are killed in the last three months of the woman's pregnancy, said the CDC.

Two trucks circled the Drillfield showing pictures of aborted fetuses, the Ten Commandments and a Sept. 11 image of the World Trade Center. Duncan said they were allowed to drive around as long as they did not impede traffic.

Brock said the group chose to display the trade towers on the truck to compare the devastation

of the Sept. 11 attacks to the number of babies killed by Americans each day.

"About 2,900 people were killed on Sept. 11," he said. "In America, we murder 4,400 innocent children each day. Does anybody care?"

"Girls around here are getting abortions and there are scars they'll live with for the rest of their lives. One day, they'll have to deal with 'I murdered my baby.'"

The Life and Liberty Ministries group consisted of about 20 people including children as young as 10. They heard both praise and ridicule for their efforts.

"I saw one student walk up

to one of the young boys and shake his hand," Brock said. "Another woman walked by and wasn't very polite. Her attitude was as bad as some of the vulgar students."

For 20 minutes while the truck was parked in front of War Memorial Hall, several students made obscene gestures toward the vehicle and a few screamed profanity.

"Ya'll are sick motherfuckers! Get the fuck out of here!" shouted one student.

Eric Lutjen, a freshman music education major, made a poster reading "No issue is as simple as black and white — there's always gray" and stood facing one of the vehicles.

"They're free to speak against abortion and I'm free to speak (and say) there's more than killing involved," he said. "In general, I'm opposed to abortion ... but it might be a necessary evil."

Brock said the group had received mixed responses from the public, but they were not too deterred by the vulgarity.

"It's persecution," Brock said. "But if your faith is not costing you, then you're not doing (what's right)."

"I'm ashamed of the moral world we'll turn over to (the next generation) — I am ashamed. But we care enough to tell them they'll go to hell if they don't change."

Debate: Weed rumors addressed

Continued from page 1

George Menett, a junior marketing major.

To the amusement of the crowd, the High Times editor said that Stutman should not be considered an expert on the situation because he had not smoked marijuana himself.

To remedy the situation, Hager invited Stutman to the annual cannabis cup where marijuana is smoked and graded by judges from around the world.

However, Hager took a more serious tone in his closing statement. "If you think being stoned everyday all the time is cool, you are part of the problem," he said.

Stutman closed his argument with a quote from Jack Custo.

"We need all our senses to enjoy the miracle that is life," he said.

As the debates came to an end, people lined up at micro-

phone stands to ask questions.

Questions were all directed at refuting Stutman's arguments and ranged from "Why isn't alcohol illegal as well?" to "Does pot really support terrorism?"

Responses were lengthy from the speakers who were prepared to present statistics and quotes from various authorities.

The event, hosted by the Virginia Tech Union, catered to a 500-person crowd as people poured in hunting for a seat.

The diversified crowd sported everything from khaki pants and button-up shirts, to dreadlocks and t-shirts adorned with Bob Marley.

Students' response to the debate was met with positive cheering and appreciative applause.

"I thought it was pretty informative and they both challenged each other," said Barrett Kemp, a freshman university studies major.

Study: 11 million have driven under influence

by Dee-Ann Durbin
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — An estimated 11 million Americans, including nearly one in five 21-year-olds, have driven while under the influence of illegal drugs, the government says.

The numbers announced Tuesday were especially high for college students. Eighteen percent of students surveyed said they drove while on drugs last year, compared with 14 percent of their peers who weren't in college.

John Walters, director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, said the statistics show a failure to convince driv-

ers that drugs impair driving as much as alcohol does. His office is kicking off an ad campaign to warn teens about driving while smoking marijuana.

"Marijuana is not the soft drug. Marijuana is not the casual rite of passage," Walters said at a news conference. "We have been sending the wrong message."

Walters said marijuana can affect concentration, perception, coordination and reaction time for up to 24 hours after smoking it.

Nineteen-year-old Theodore Stevens of New Jersey told reporters that he believed smoking pot and driving wasn't dangerous despite getting into four accidents in three years. He says he's lucky none of those inci-

dents caused serious injuries.

"Sometimes I believed it increased my driving performance," said Stevens, who has been in drug treatment for four months after being charged with possession of marijuana, cocaine and heroin. Stevens began smoking pot when he was 14.

The report, compiled by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, used 2002 data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health. The survey questioned 68,000 people.

Researchers then extrapolated the percentages to the population as a whole. A federal statistician said the margin of error was plus or minus 4.5 percentage points.

Dorm: Location gives event high traffic

Continued from page 1

contents in the Ultimate Dorm Room. The winner will be announced at the end of ThunderDorm's tour.

Other prizes they gave away included CD, DVD and MP3 players.

Cadogan said they choose the schools to visit based on previous tours and conducive locations. The Drillfield at Tech provided a perfect location at the center of campus foot traffic, he said.

Some students found the ThunderDorm promotion a much-needed break from

daily hassles.

Jamie Jones and Robert McGinnis strayed from the crowded Dell tent to a smaller tent where they challenged each other to a game of John Madden Football.

"I was going to come out yesterday, but they were just closing it down," said McGinnis, a sophomore hospitality and tourism management major.

"I decided to come back today when I heard what kinds of things they were giving away over the speaker."

Jones, a junior communication major,

accompanied McGinnis to check out ThunderDorm's setup, adding some variety to his day.

"Our minds don't have to be on work all the time," Jones said. "There are other things we can do."

McGinnis always makes sure to check out the Drillfield on his way to and from class so he can catch events like ThunderDorm's promotion and give himself a quick break.

"There's always something happening on the Drillfield that you can stop and look at," he said.

Edwards formally announces candidacy

by Nedra Pickler
Associated Press

ROBBINS, N.C. — Democrat John Edwards, the Southern moderate dogged by complaints that he's short on political experience, formally launched his candidacy for the presidency Tuesday, vowing to "be a champion for regular people every day."

The North Carolina senator, who made millions as a trial attorney before entering politics five years ago, highlighted his blue collar roots by staging his announcement at the Robbins, N.C., textile mill where his father worked for 36 years.

A young John Edwards once had a job there, mopping beneath looms in the weave room.

Edwards used the speech to assail President Bush's record, offer his own biography and address some of the criticism he has faced as a first-term senator.

"I haven't spent most of my life in politics, but I've spent enough time in Washington to know how much we need to change it," Edwards told the crowd.

The next stop on the official kickoff was Columbia, S.C., a must-win state in Edwards' strategy to reach the White House.

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IN THEATRES SEPTEMBER 19

U.S.: Iraq militants crossing Syrian border

WASHINGTON (AP) — Syria is allowing militants to cross its border into Iraq to kill U.S. soldiers and is aggressively seeking to acquire and develop chemical, biological and nuclear weapons, a senior Bush administration official said Tuesday.

In addition, he said Syria continues to support organizations the United States lists as terrorist groups.

John Bolton, undersecretary of state for arms control, told a House hearing the United States was trying to change Syria's behavior through diplomatic means and urged lawmakers to let the effort run its course before passing trade restrictions and other measures.

After testifying to the House International Relations Committee's panel on the Middle East and Central Asia, Bolton left for Moscow, where he is to talk with the Russians about proliferation of nuclear technology in Iran, State Department deputy spokesman Adam Ereli said.

Secretary of State Colin Powell said Monday in Kuwait that Syria was not cooperating with U.S. demands to end support for the Iranian-backed Hezbollah group, which Washington labels a terrorist organization, and to withdraw its troops from Lebanon. He warned Congress would adopt the legislation if Syrian President Bashar Assad did not act.

Senate approves measures to undo FCC regulations

by David Ho
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate approved a resolution Tuesday to repeal media ownership rules critics say could lead to a wave of mergers and ultimately stifle diversity and local viewpoints in news and entertainment.

Defying a White House veto threat, the Senate voted 55-40 to undo changes to Federal Communications Commission regulations governing ownership of newspapers and television and radio stations. Those rules already have been placed on hold by a federal appeals court.

"We have to ensure that the marketplace of ideas is not dominated by a few conglomerates at the expense of our

citizens and our democracy," Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., said before the vote.

Opponents have chosen an unusual legislative path to try to overturn the rules. To succeed, the resolution — called a "congressional veto" — needs majority approval in the Senate and House as well as President Bush's signature. If Bush vetoed the resolution, it would take a two-thirds majority in the House and Senate to override.

Bush spokesman Scott McClellan pointed out that Tuesday's vote wasn't large enough to override a veto.

"We think that the rules that the FCC came up with more accurately reflect the changing media landscape and the current state of network station ownership while guarding against undue concentration in the

McClellan said. "So we think the FCC did its job."

A congressional veto has been used successfully only once before. In 2001, the Republican-controlled Congress and White House used it to repeal workplace safety regulations issued during the Clinton administration.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., opposed the resolution as too broad and said its prospects of succeeding are "minimal at best."

"This action would invalidate both good and bad," McCain said. He has said he supports more specific legislation that restores limits on national TV station ownership.

FCC Chairman Michael Powell said the resolution "would bring no clarity to media regulation, only chaos."

"This is a harm the FCC's new media rules were designed to avoid," Powell said in a statement after the vote. He said the resolution would undo tighter restrictions on radio ownership, the one change that did not relax regulations.

Rep. Billy Tauzin, R-La., chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee and a supporter of the new rules, said he would "vigorously resist any attempts to revisit these issues this year."

In June, the Republican-dominated FCC voted 3-2 along party lines to ease decades-old ownership restrictions. The changes included allowing a single company to own TV stations reaching nearly half the nation's viewers and broadcast stations and a newspaper in the same area.

Appeals court to look at recall election ruling

by David Kravets
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A federal appeals court said Tuesday it will consider whether to re-examine its three-judge panel's postponement of the California recall election.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals asked California election officials and recall proponents to file briefs by Wednesday afternoon on whether they want all 11 judges on the appeals court to rehear the case.

For now, the election on whether Gov. Gray Davis should be recalled remains on hold, under Monday's decision by the three-judge panel.

The move could keep the U.S. Supreme Court out of the fray of California's recall politics for the time being, experts said. On controversial cases, the court has been known to rehear three-judge panel decisions with 11 judges.

"This probably means that the Supreme Court will not inter-

vene until the appeals court says what it is going to do," said Rory Little, a Hastings College of the Law professor who closely follows the appeals court.

The three-judge panel had ruled Monday that six counties' planned use of punch-card ballots in the Oct. 7 vote — the same kind used in the contested 2000 presidential election in Florida — would disenfranchise thousands of Californians.

The court did not set a new date for the recall, but backed a suggestion from the American Civil Liberties Union that balloting be held during the March 2 presidential primary.

By that time, the six counties, including Los Angeles, will have replaced the machines under a court order stemming from separate litigation.

California's top elections official had planned to announce Tuesday afternoon whether he would appeal Monday's ruling, which outraged recall supporters.

Colombian army chief to join search for kidnapped foreigners

by Margarita Martinez
Associated Press

SIERRANEVADADESANTAMARTA, Colombia — The commander of the Colombian army flew over jungle-covered mountains Tuesday, heading up a massive search for eight foreign backpackers who were kidnapped by rebels.

Gen. Carlos Ospina also visited an Indian village tucked in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta mountains where residents told him they saw the tourists — four Israelis, two Britons, a German and a Spaniard — and their captors on Saturday afternoon.

The army invited journalists, including a team from The Associated Press, to accompany Ospina.

"This could take a long time," Ospina said in the village of Don Diego after flying in a helicopter over the jagged mountain tops and river-filled valleys of the Sierra Nevada.

Colombian troops backed by helicopters have been unable to find the eight foreigners who were kidnapped before dawn Friday from rustic cabins in the archaeological ruins of Ciudad

Perdida, or the Lost City.

Rebels from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, were suspected in the largest mass kidnapping of foreigners in Colombia in almost a quarter-century.

But the rebel group late Tuesday denied involvement. The FARC has quickly admitted its involvement in other high-profile kidnapping cases.

Ospina said authorities had not discarded the possibility that members of the National Liberation Army, a smaller leftist rebel group, were responsible.

The reports from the Arhuacos Indians in Don Diego were the first proof that the kidnapers were heading south of the Lost City — likely toward rebel hideouts, officials said.

Christopher Henderson, father of British hostage Mark Henderson, said Tuesday he was confident his son could endure the ordeal.

"He's in good physical shape, and was in fine spirits when I spoke to him about two weeks ago," Henderson said in Britain. "He is well capable of looking after himself."

Despite the dangers, other

foreign backpackers eagerly awaited their chance to visit the Lost City, a pre-Columbian ruin located in the folds of the snow-capped mountains, a three-day walk from the nearest road.

Michael Hall, a 24-year-old from London who has spent the last five weeks traveling through Mexico and Guatemala, said the presence of so many government soldiers in the search mission would mean the rebels will keep a low profile.

Yesterday's Crossword Answers

CAD	ACT	GEESE
OLE	BRO	INLAW
BIN	COWARD	DICE
OBI	DWELL	
LIMB	ELL	SLIP
	ADD	YAKIMA
SAUCE		DIPPY
OXFORD	BOB	
LEON	OHO	SIZE
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Black History Month
Steering Committee Meetings
Thursday, September 18, 4-5 PM, BCC**
Thursday, October 2, 4-6 PM, BCC
Thursday, October 16, 4-6 PM, BCC
Thursday, October 30, 4-6 PM, BCC
Thursday, November 6, 4-6 PM, BCC
Thursday, November 13, 4-6 PM, BCC
Thursday, December 4, 4-6 PM, BCC

All meetings are held in either the:
*Multicultural Center (MCC), Room 140, Squires Student Center or
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Editorial NATIONAL TISSUE

Miranda rights needed for justice

"You have the right to remain silent..." and everything that follows, is a commonly heard spiel on popular cop and law shows. Although, it is a climactic point for many dramas, it is also a necessary part of the law enforcement process that should not be abolished. Whether to require police officers to use the Miranda ruling as the point which the record begins and can be used in the courts, will be under review by the Supreme Court.

Interrogators have used many tactics to get a confession from those in custody. Some obtain confessions before the warning of the Miranda rule, thus having that confession or any other vital evidence thrown out during a case.

Officers say that they sometimes put off reciting the Miranda warning, in the hopes of getting a suspect to divulge critical information, then the Miranda warning is recited. Critics say people don't realize that information confessed before their rights are read is inadmissible in court, thereby repeating the incriminating statements later, when it does count.

Most people would assume that everyone understands their rights and having to read them is just a formality that causes guilty people to walk free. However, even though the average person understands his or her rights, there is always an exception.

People from other countries and those without sufficient education may not understand their rights. The duty of lawmakers and law enforcers is to protect the exception. The Miranda rule was established and initiated for a reason. It may seem like old hat for some, but it is a necessary warning that should not be abolished in order to protect people's rights.



Common courtesies extend to Virginia Tech campus as well

Rob Rowland

Students at Virginia Tech often appeal to this forum to communicate their grievances and indignation at the policies and actions of the university and its governing bodies.

This marketplace for the exchange of ideas cannot be overvalued. The university community as a whole benefits when problems are made visible to the many, and suggestions for their redress are offered. In the coming years budget shortfalls and the constraints on services and programs will only serve to sharpen the appeals for redress appearing here.

My concern is the tone of many of these letters. They have been of entitlement and privilege. "What can Tech do for me?" they seem to ask. The obvious answer to this unspoken query is to question what we as students do for Tech.

I do not seek to question student involvement. Student organizations go to tremendous lengths to give back to the university and the surrounding community.

I do, however, seek to point out — outside of organized, social efforts to do good, individual efforts at civility and simple courtesy seem lacking.

My complaint is many students treat the school and the grounds as if they had been purchased for their personal use. Every day I see the evidence of an unmotivated, even spoiled student body that takes being here at Tech for granted. I invite you to visit any classroom on campus — I try to show up to at least one each week — so you can observe its condition firsthand.

The vast majority of the desks have been defaced with graffiti. Crude pictures of cannabis plants and vaguely

surrealist drawings of floating breasts adorn each worktop as though some art school dropout with some simple tastes in recreational activities had made sure not to offend anyone by depriving them their own personal masterpiece.

Try to use a public restroom on campus sometime without stepping in someone else's urine. What sort of bad day forces someone into such a foul mood that he is unwilling or unable to keep his pee in the pot? At least in most cases there is some inspiring wisdom in the form of vandalism scrawled on the wall with a Sharpie.

Ironically, I observed our school motto, Ut Prosim, immortalized in this fashion in a stall last year. Carpe diem, jerkface.

Even a walk to class on a beautiful fall day fails to provide relief from signs of selfishness and indifference to others. Drivers ignore the presence of pedestrians in the crosswalk and trash lies in the flowerbeds, scant feet from trashcans.

More irritating still are those individuals so vulgar as to see nothing wrong with spitting on the sidewalk. If dropping a nice loogie in a public thoroughfare does not proclaim, "I could not possibly care less about anyone else right now," I don't know what does.

What boggles my mind is each of us — in choosing to accept an invitation to study here at Tech — has kept another interested student out. There are people who want to come here but cannot. It seems to be the epitome of arrogance to deprive another of a singular life experience of such value and then to literally spit on it.

I have news gang: most of us won't be graduating on time because we won't get the classes we need. Can we at least suffer through the additional

"If dropping a nice loogie in a public thoroughfare does not proclaim 'I could not possibly care less about anyone else right now,' I don't know what does."

time here at Tech without our collective shoes smelling like urine?

Not every problem and complaint with campus life has a root in official policy. We, the students, control the quality of life here much more than I think most of us realize. Express to others that it is unacceptable to destroy property, or to act rudely.

My appeal is simple. To those guilty parties I say this: have some pride. Have some pride in the fact you were chosen to be here and you are a part of something larger than yourself. When you see the Pylons and the names of past students who made the greatest sacrifice inscribed on them, be thankful you have a chance to be here.

I do not want to get too heavy here, but attending Tech is a privilege. Showing some courtesy to your fellow students by treating the campus and those who share it with you will go far to improve our common collegiate experience.

Treat the facilities with respect, and politely ask anyone in the act of expressing himself to the tune of a sharpie magic marker and a poem about the joys of magic mushrooms on the desk next to yours to do the same.

Rob Rowland is a junior political science and psychology double major.

Multiple sources needed to make well-informed decision on issues

Branden Sacks

With the passing remembrance of Sept. 11, I think it wise to reflect on the past to understand where we, as Americans, are today and why.

Since Sept. 11, our country has seen little peace and tranquility and many Americans are at a point of concern. When will it stop? Why must we go on? Why are we there?

Hearing these questions and concerns is perfectly normal during a time of war, but this is no ordinary war, and this is not a time for normal questions or concerns.

The goal is clear. The mission is obvious. And if it is not to you, as an American, then you should put a little more time into thinking instead of speaking.

Many people who are against President George Bush or are anti-war speak without thinking. These are the people who had their mind made up before it ever even happened.

This is not about power. This is not about superiority. This is not about oil. This is not about winning elections. This is about peace — about ridding the world of evil, ridding the world of terrorists, who do not want to talk but only kill, and they are willing to sacrifice

themselves to do it.

This is a greater threat than any other. The United States is taking the action it has to face this threat head on, to stop and rid it of this world.

So do not think of this as "Bush vs. you" or any other special interest group. It is about the safety of your children and the safety of other country's children. So take the time to properly educate yourself on issues so your opinions are as well.

Now that there is an American presence in Iraq you need to read behind the lines. Don't read the headlines and take it as truth. Papers and news channels are in it for the ratings, not to educate the public. So educate yourself on the issues.

You are not a well-informed person by watching ten minutes of CNN. Instead, gather five to ten sources of information about the war against terrorism or in Iraq. Try to make them non-opinionated or equally so. Then analyze and theorize.

When this is done you will have filtered out the red tape and will better be able to have an opinion — an educated one. After doing this it is possible to conclude the days following Sept. 11 the leaders of our country narrowed down problems to two things.

One is al-Qaida itself. The other is its network throughout the world. They are both huge problems and are not something that is going to be solved overnight.

They are going to take a lot of time and resources.

After having filtered out the red tape, try to think about what it is the United States is really trying to accomplish. Think of how other countries interpret our actions.

Think of yourself as the head of an Islamic or Middle Eastern country or any country for that matter. You are now thinking if you harbor terrorists, fund their network or have anything to do with them, America, and I say this carefully, will take you over.

You have heard President Bush ask the rest of world, "Which side are you on?" He is attempting to draw a line. A line that defines who is good and who is evil. A country does not need to be democratic or believe in our system of government to be on the side of good, all a country has to be is against terrorism. Against the wishful murdering of innocent lives.

Our country did the best thing it could by going after al-Qaida in Afghanistan, which is where they were the strongest in number. That was the war in Afghanistan and it's not over there.

We then found a way to start breaking down the terrorist network throughout the world by picking a Middle Eastern country with known ties to terrorists and made a truthful red tape excuse to go in. We removed the terrorist-friendly regime

and are attempting to place a democracy within it. This will not be easy and may not be successful.

The point is that we, as Americans, are doing something to head off this evil and to protect the lives of our children, of our country and the rights of other countries. We stand and say people have the right to live in peace without fear of terrorism. These terrorists do not want to have a protest in Washington D.C. or speak on The Tonight Show. They want to kill us purely because they see us as an "evil" in this world.

I do not mean to say America is the best or to influence you to vote for President Bush just because he is the front person of this campaign. The point is something had to be done about terrorism in this world and the United States is doing something about it.

It may not be the best way and it certainly isn't the only way. But instead of yelling or complaining about what America is doing, why don't you spend some time thinking about the reasons behind our actions. Educate yourself on the political goals we are trying to achieve and maybe even come up with a better or different way.

People everywhere are quick to say it's wrong, but put yourself in the hot seat and ask.

What would I have done differently?

Would it have worked? How would I have best been able to achieve those goals? What would happen if I do nothing?

Keep in mind although it may seem like President Bush has The Price is Right version of a wheel of decisions and picks whatever one the arrow lands on, he has the nation's best resources at his disposal for information, strategic thinking and action.

America's actions are not determined by one man, but rather a composition of America's greatest thinkers and political strategists. Politics is an art form.

The action of a state can be interrupted into a statement, with a body, tone and meaning.

Politics is the way we act to achieve the words we want to say.

In this case our actions have been the war in Afghanistan and the American presence in Iraq.

And it is my hope, as other countries look upon America's actions, they interpret a statement, one coming from the mouth of our Statue of Liberty as she is shaking her fists, shouting to the rest of the world, "We are against terrorism and will not accept it nor anyone else who supports it!"

Branden Sacks is a junior international studies major.

COLLEGIATE TIMES

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Sports

Franchione leads Aggies into town

▪ This Thursday will be the first time Aggies coach Dennis Franchione competes against Virginia Tech

by **Rajan Nanavati**
Sports Editor

Ironically, Dennis Franchione may have to send a thank you card to the Virginia Tech football team for getting him the job in College Station, Texas.

Go back just one year, to the Hokies' third game of the 2002 season. Tech comes into College Station to play the Texas A&M Aggies in one of the loudest stadiums in the nation, Kyle Field.

The Aggies, then coached by a fixture at their university, head coach R. C. Slocum, had never lost a game to a non-Big 12 team at Kyle Field under Slocum's watch. You could consider the game the beginning of the end for Slocum.

Tech went into Kyle Field and came out 13-3 victors.

Slocum's Aggies would go 6-6, and despite having more wins than any other coach in the history of Texas A&M football, Slocum was asked to resign.

Enter Franchione, who left the Alabama Crimson Tide after just two seasons in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

After taking over the mess left by former Tide coach Mike Dubose (whose team had a 3-8 mark in his final season), Franchione led Alabama to a 10-3 regular season finish in 2002 after going 7-5 his first year.

Due to NCAA violations by Alabama's football program, the Tide could not compete last year or this year in a bowl game.

Franchione first gained national recognition by taking the Horned Frogs of Texas Christian University from a 1-10 mark prior to his arrival to 7-5 in his first season in 1998, including a bowl game victory over the University of Southern California.

For the next two seasons at TCU, Franchione guided the Horned Frogs to two consecutive Western Athletic Conference championships and two appearances in the Alabama Motor City Bowl.

After competing in many football games in the western half of the United States,

At a glance:
Dennis Franchione

Coaching Record

Texas A&M,
2-0 (2003)

Alabama,
17-8 (2001-2002)

Texas Christian University,
25-11 (1998-2000)

New Mexico,
33-36 (1992-1997)

Overall
77 wins, 55 losses (58.3%)

this will be the first road trip Franchione will make to Blacksburg, and it will be the first time he visits Lane Stadium and Worsham Field. While he does not have first hand experience of the rowdy Tech crowd juiced up by an appearance on national television, Franchione does have a sense of what to expect.

"I've heard great things about Virginia Tech's crowd and stadium, but I haven't experienced it first hand," Franchione said.

"I've been to some tough stadiums to play in — South

Carolina, Tennessee, Auburn — a lot of places where the crowd is certainly a factor. As players you have to understand, then to go in with the right focus. As a coach, you try to do the same things week in and week out to get your guys as ready to play as you can."

Franchione has never coached against Tech head coach Frank Beamer during his career, yet they are familiar with one another, having met on several occasions.

Franchione met the Hokie coach while he was the head coach at the University of New Mexico (1992-1997) at an annual coaching function held in Pebble Beach, Calif., and the two have remained in touch.

They met again when Beamer spoke at an event for the Alabama High School Association, a function Franchione also attended. Furthermore, the two coaches share the same agent.

"I'm going to call him 'Coach Fran,' (since) that's what they call him down there," Beamer said, regarding the relative difficulty in pronouncing the Aggies' coach's name.

"He's a good fella, a good coach and everywhere he's been, he's been successful. I don't think there's any questions about his qualifications."

Kings star Webber's sentencing deferred

▪ After being charged for lying to a grand jury about receiving illegal benefits, Webber's sentencing will not take place until 2005

by **David Goodman**
Associated Press

DETROIT — A federal judge Tuesday deferred for about two years the sentencing of Sacramento Kings star Chris Webber, who admitted lying to a grand jury about his dealings with a former University of Michigan basketball booster.

U.S. District Judge Nancy Edmunds instead ordered a provision to Webber's bond requiring him to volunteer at a six-week summer literacy program at Butzel Middle School in

Detroit in the summers of 2004 and 2005. Webber must work at least 150 hours each summer.

Edmunds deferred sentencing until August or September of 2005.

In July, Webber pleaded guilty to a lesser charge of criminal contempt a day before jury selection was to begin in his perjury trial.

Webber and his father, Mayce Webber Jr., were accused of lying about money authorities say the player received from ex-booster Ed Martin. The maximum penalty would have been five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

"I believe that Mr. Webber understands the seriousness of his offense, and that he is remorseful," Edmunds said at a brief hearing. But she said she was undecided whether to treat Webber's criminal contempt plea

as a felony or misdemeanor.

"I don't call this punishment," said Webber's attorney Steve Fishman after the hearing. "Chris is looking forward to participating."

Outside the federal courthouse, Webber apologized to his fans, thanked the judge and thanked the people of Detroit and Sacramento for their support. He said he maintains strong emotional ties to the University of Michigan despite the payment scandal.

"My heart bleeds maize and blue," he said. "They were the happiest days of my life."

Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard Convertino said the judge's decision was unprecedented but declined comment on it.

A day after Webber's plea, the charges against his father were dropped for "weak or inadmissible sufficient evidence," according to a court order.

In his plea, Webber admitted lying to the grand jury Aug. 2, 2000, in saying he did not recall giving money to Martin, who died earlier this year. Webber now acknowledges in 1994 he gave Martin about \$38,000 in cash as partial repayment for expenditures Martin made on his behalf.

Martin, who died in February at age 69, pleaded guilty in 2002 to conspiracy to launder money and told federal prosecutors he took gambling money, combined it with other funds and lent \$616,000 to Webber and three other Michigan players.

In November, Michigan imposed sanctions on itself, including a one-year postseason ban, and forfeited 112 regular-season and tournament victories from five seasons, including its victory in the 1992 NCAA semifinal.

"I believe that Mr. Webber understands the seriousness of his offense, and that he is remorseful."

Nancy Edmunds
U.S. District Court Judge

AOL Time Warner sells Hawks, Thrashers

▪ The son-in-law of Ted Turner is in the group paying \$250 million for the two Atlanta sports teams

by **Charles Odum**
Associated Press

ATLANTA — AOL Time Warner agreed to sell the Atlanta Hawks and Thrashers for \$250 million to a group that includes the son-in-law of former owner Ted Turner.

The company is getting rid of the NBA and NHL teams as part of an effort to pay down \$24 billion in debt.

Boston businessman Steve Belkin was introduced Tuesday as the leader of the investor group, 10 months after he lost a bid for an NBA franchise in North Carolina.

"During this year I've gone from an incredible low point to an incredible high point," Belkin said at a news conference. Belkin founded the Trans National Group, a marketing and investment company.

Baseball's Atlanta Braves, also owned by AOL Time Warner, are not part of the deal. The company had expressed interest in selling the team, but Terry McGuirk, vice chairman of subsidiary Turner Broadcasting, said the company was no longer actively looking for a buyer.

"As with any public company, anything is for sale," he said. "But I think there is a growing satisfaction with how the Braves are going."

Turner owned the three teams before Turner Broadcasting

merged with Time Warner, which in turn merged with America Online.

Besides Belkin, the investment group includes Turner's son-in-law, lawyer J. Rutherford Seydel; longtime Hawks executive Michael Gearon and his son, Michael Gearon Jr.; Edwin Peskowitz and Bruce Levenson, former minority owners of the NBA's Washington Bullets and the NHL's Washington Capitals; Washington businessman Todd Foreman; and M.B. "Bud" Sereteian, a member of the Hawks board of directors

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Barnhart leads soccer team to success

by Susan Suddarth
Staff Writer

Four years ago, Emily Barnhart started her college soccer career at Virginia Tech. As a freshman, she never imagined she would be playing at the level she is today.

It is now Barnhart's senior year, and Tech's women's soccer team chose the self-described team player as captain.

"I'm so proud that my team had the faith in me to choose me to help guide them," Barnhart said. "Since we are all working for the same goal their confidence in me helps me lead them."

Barnhart grew up in Columbus, Ohio, and has been playing soccer for 15 years, but she started playing competitively at the age of nine. During high school, she was honored with all-league and all-district awards, most valuable offensive player and she was named All-Central Catholic League four years in a row.

As a Hokie freshman, Barnhart started in 17 of the 18 games she played. She recorded five goals and five assists and led the Hokies with 15 total points scored. In her second year, Barnhart played in all 20 games, starting 14.

She tallied three goals and two assists. During her third season with Tech, Barnhart started all 18 games at offensive midfield. She scored a team-high seven goals and led the team again in assists with six. She also received honors as a Big East Academic All-Star. Less than a month into the 2003 season, Barnhart has contributed two goals for the Hokies, including one in the 3-0 victory against James Madison University.

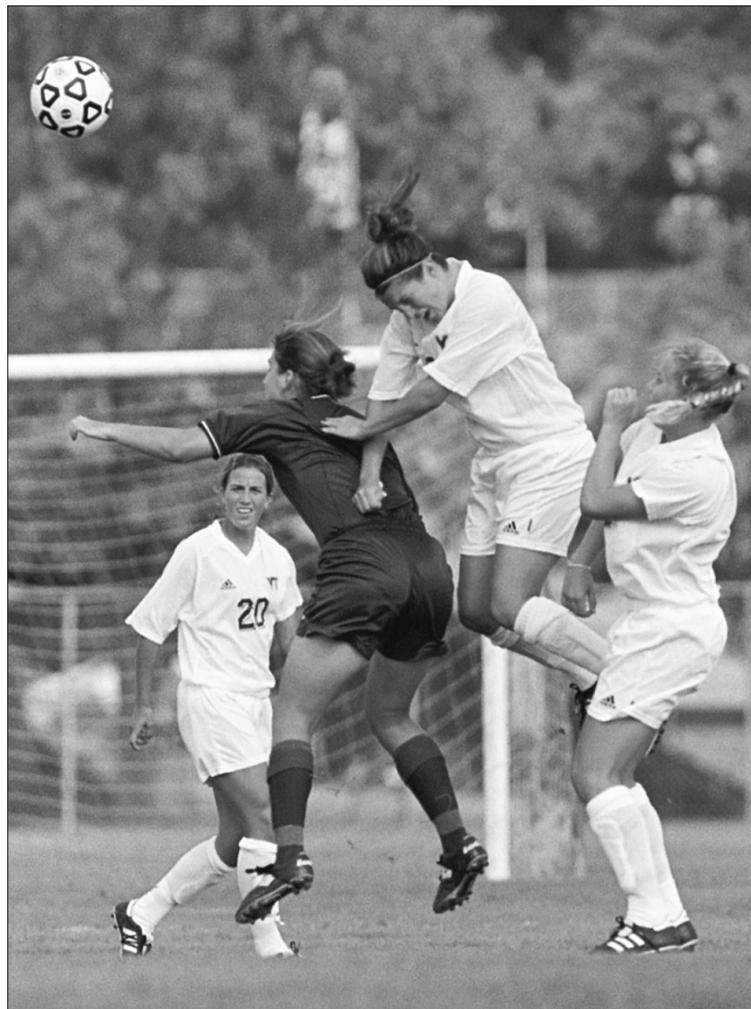
"Beating JMU was a really big accomplishment for our team," she said. "It's the first time we've beat them in ten years, but I think the team's biggest accomplishment is still yet to come."

Barnhart added her second goal during Tech's match against American University to put the Hokies within one of the Eagles. During overtime, she had a game-winning assist to Jessica Myers.

One major change in Barnhart's soccer career at Tech has been the addition of new head coach Kelly Cagle. Cagle has been a real improvement for the girls program, Barnhart said.

"I appreciate her style of coaching because our practices now have a professional environment," Barnhart said. "She pushes us as individuals and tries to prepare us mentally and physically for the games."

Although her senior year has started successfully, Barnhart is just as concerned with the success of her teammates.



STAFF/SPPS

Women's soccer player Emily Barnhart was selected as a team captain for her senior year by her teammates. She accounted for 15 points last season.

"Being my senior year, my success will come from my team's success," Barnhart said. "This season isn't about my personal achievements. This year I think my team and myself were presented with an unbelievable opportunity to excel, and if I can help the team realize their potential then I feel I will have had a successful senior year."

Barnhart said she is really excited about the rest of the season, and she encourages many fans to come out and watch the girls play.

"We are coming together, we have energy this year, we have pride and we have heart,"

she said. "It's the hours the team puts in everyday that people don't see that is going to make us good."

As a finance major, Barnhart plans to pursue a job in pharmaceuticals.

"I want to find a job I can have the same passion for that I have for soccer," she said.

Barnhart said she has been very happy with her college experience both on and off the field. She said she hopes the training she has received will make her a stronger person, not only during the big game, but also for the years ahead.

Weaver: Isabel likely won't change A&M game status

by Rajan Nanavati
Sports Editor

Virginia Tech Athletics Director Jim Weaver released a statement to the media yesterday afternoon assuring the fans and spectators of Tech that the game is not likely to be postponed as a result of Hurricane Isabel, based upon the latest projections of the hurricane's path.

Weaver stated the university has established a three-person committee of the associate vice president of facilities, the campus police chief and the associate athletics director of internal affairs, who have been monitoring the path of the hurricane since early Monday morning.

The committee's main task has been to help coordinate with Weaver and ESPN scheduler Dave Brown as to whether or not the weather would permit safe conditions for the game to be played. Weaver felt under the current projections, a scenario in which the game will be postponed is not likely, but has not been completely ruled out.

"Obviously if there's imminent danger in the Blacksburg area, we'll make the right decision and postpone the game," Weaver said.

"We would ideally like to make a postponement decision before Texas A&M would leave College Station (Texas). They are scheduled to leave at 1 p.m. CDT Wednesday. (A pre-departure cancellation) might not be possible."

As of the projections made Tuesday afternoon, the weather forecast calls for scattered showers continuing into Friday morning and no significant wind gusts are forecast within a 100-mile radius.

Weaver has also helped coordinate this game with Bill Burn, Texas A&M athletics director, and has maintained the chief concern for cancellation or postponement of this game revolves around the members of the Texas A&M and Tech football teams, as well as the fans in attendance.

"Another night or two of lodging (for the Aggies) to play a game in this area would be the lesser of all evils," Weaver said. "We're not going to put anybody's life in jeopardy."

Hurricane Isabel had been downgraded to a level two hurricane by Tuesday afternoon, a drastic shift from the level five peak it had reached just 24 hours before. There is a chance Isabel could once again pick up strength when approaching the Atlantic coast, but the athletics staff of both universities have their fingers crossed the weather will not cause any harm during the game.

In what seems to be a very unlikely scenario, if the weather is too inclement or unsafe for the game to be played Thursday evening, the game will be shifted to Saturday afternoon. An alternate kickoff time had not been decided, as Weaver's staff remains confident the game can still be played Thursday night.

If postponement to Saturday is necessary, Tech and Texas A&M will coordinate with ESPN as to when would be an optimal time to telecast the game.

Weaver also stated there is very little if any chance the game will be cancelled altogether, as it was in August 2000 due to a lightning strike in the parking lot.

"The game will likely not be cancelled," Weaver said. "If there is imminent danger to Blacksburg, that would be an issue to postpone the game."



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Storm cancels NASCAR events

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — The expected path of Hurricane Isabel has prompted NASCAR to cancel the on-track activities at Dover International Speedway scheduled for Thursday and Friday.

Cancellations include qualifying for both the Winston Cup and Busch series, as well as the Busch North Series race, none of which will be rescheduled.

The 43-car fields for the Winston Cup and Busch races will be determined by owner championship points, the same as any normal rain situation.

That means Matt Kenseth and Dale Earnhardt Jr. will be at the front of the field in Sunday's MBNA America 400 Cup.

The Busch cars will get an early morning one-hour practice on Saturday, followed by a 75-minute practice session for the Winston Cup cars.

A one-hour final practice for the Cup cars will follow Saturday's 200-mile Busch Series race, which will be run as scheduled, beginning at 1 p.m.

Sunday's schedule remains intact and culminates with the 1 p.m. start of the Winston Cup race, which will be televised live on NBC.

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