

## Hilton to manage Tech hotels

▪ The hotel chain will run the new Inn at Virginia Tech and the Skelton Conference Center

by Aaron Blackwell  
Associate News Editor

Virginia Tech's relationship with Hilton Hotels Corporation will soon expand to manage The Inn at Virginia Tech and The Skelton Conference Center, as well as the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center.

"This is a great thing because Hilton has decades of experience in running fine hotels," said Susan Felker, information officer for outreach communications.

Hilton already manages the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center for the Virginia Tech Foundation.

"We are extremely delighted to have Hilton management agree to add to the management of Hotel Roanoke," said Thomas Tillar, vice president for alumni relations.

Hilton's management of the on-campus hotels and centers will offer the same high level of service and will benefit from the reputation of Hotel Roanoke, Tillar said.

Having both hotels under the same management will allow for better efficiency, Felker said.

"Bringing the university's hotel operations together under a single Hilton management team will certainly create great synergies, efficiencies and improved performance for both properties," said Gary Walton, area



IMAGE COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

The Inn at Virginia Tech and the Skelton Conference Center, as shown in this drawing, will be located where the Tech golf course now is. Hilton Hotels will run both centers.

vice president for Hilton and general manager of the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center, in a press release.

The Inn at Virginia Tech and The Skelton Conference Center are scheduled to open in May

**"Bringing the university's hotel operations together under a single Hilton management team will certainly create ... improved performance."**

Gary Walton  
GM, Hotel Roanoke

2005. Upon completion, the staff from Donaldson Brown will move to the new facility located on the corner of West Campus Drive and Duckpond Drive, Felker said.

The agreement begins Oct. 1 — years before construction is completed on the new building — to prepare for future operations at that location, Felker said.

The Holtzman Alumni Center will also be housed in the new facility, Tillar said. The

center will have a museum, library and auditorium, as well as offices and meeting rooms for alumni officials, Tillar said. There will also be a grand hall for larger events such as class reunions.

The Inn at Virginia Tech and The Skelton Conference Center will offer much more space for conferences than Donaldson Brown has, Tillar said.

The new building will be double the size of Donaldson Brown, mostly in conference space. The center will have 147 hotel rooms, much more parking and a three-meal-a-day restaurant, he said.

The new hotel will not be in direct competition with other hotels in the area, but rather will stimulate the local economy, Felker said. The center's large size will bring more people to the area who will visit local restaurants and stores.

Donaldson Brown will be converted into graduate housing following the debut of the new facility, Felker said.



DAVE FRANUSICH/SPPS

Construction for the two buildings will be completed in May 2005.

## Profs get \$1 million research grant

by Erin Zlomek  
News Assistant

A group of five Virginia Tech professors has been awarded a \$1.07 million grant from the National Science Foundation to conduct research concerning underground construction.

The four-year grant, titled "Adaptive and Real-Time Geologic Mapping" will be awarded to professors Marte Gutierrez, Matthew Mauldon and Joseph Dove of the civil and environmental engineering department, professor Doug Bowman of the computer science department and professor Erik Westman of the mining and mineral engineering department.

"This is one of the biggest grants I know of in underground construction," Gutierrez said. "Hopefully Virginia Tech will be in the forefront for this research."

Underground excavations are used for both civil and military purposes. Gutierrez and his team said they hope to develop information-technology tools such as virtual reality, digital imaging, computational models and data management.

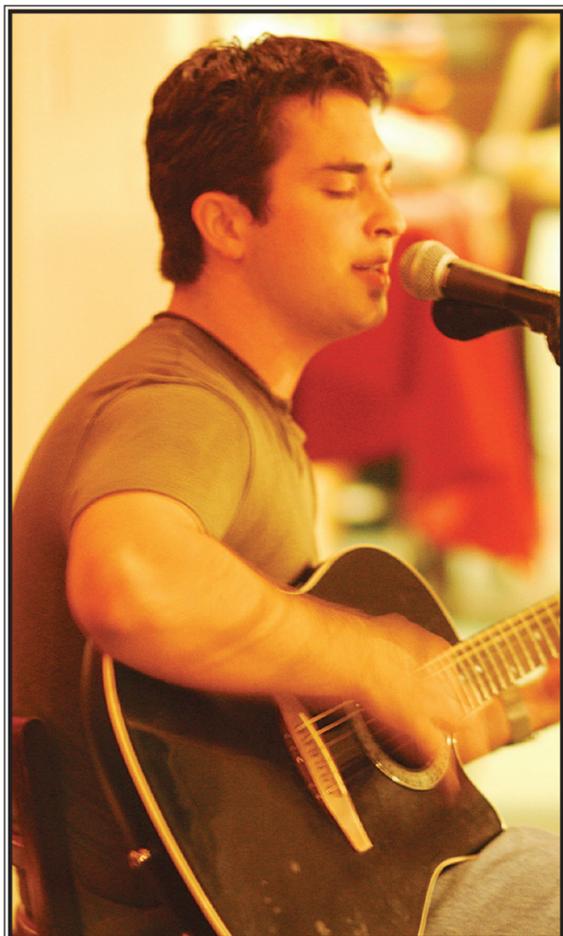
"We want to show the potential of these tools by applying them to various field sites, as well as applying them to other tunnel and excavation projects in the future," Gutierrez said. "They will reduce cost and make underground construction more efficient."

The disposal of nuclear waste often requires the use of underground excavations. Gutierrez and his team have received permission to visit Yucca Mountain, a nuclear disposal site in Nevada. The group of five professors will also be working at a local site in Virginia.

Westman found the local mine where the team can conduct most of their research. He will use topography to conduct a CAT scan of the actual tunnel face; this will help determine what types of rock are in front of the tunnel face before excavation begins. It will then be Bowman's job to turn Westman's CAT scan into a virtual reality experience.

See GRANT, page 2

## Strumming a tune



ERICA WIBLE/SPPS

Freshman Josh Arrington played guitar last night at an open mic night at Deet's Place. The event was sponsored by the Virginia Tech Union.

## Budget cuts hurt AmeriCorps

▪ The volunteer organization lost a \$100-million appropriation that would have provided for 22,000 new volunteers

by Eric Beidel  
Associate News Editor

Thousands of student volunteers across the nation depend on their work with the service organization AmeriCorps to help pay their way through school and cover student loan costs. However, cuts in government funding have changed the landscape of volunteerism and AmeriCorps organizations.

Congress recently declined to include a \$100-million emergency appropriation for AmeriCorps in a spending bill for the current fiscal year.

The \$100 million would have supported 22,000 new volunteers, said AmeriCorps spokesman Sandy Scott.

President George Bush and other supporters want AmeriCorps to expand. This fall, Bush and the U.S. Congress are expected to push legislation to bring the number of participants in AmeriCorps to 75,000 next year.

"President Bush is a strong supporter of AmeriCorps," Scott said.

"He has proposed to increase the number of volunteers by 50 percent, which would be the largest increase we've ever had."

But the 2004 fiscal year begins Oct. 1 and AmeriCorps organizations locally and nationally are feeling the effects of the lack of funding for 2003.

Not only did AmeriCorps lose out on the \$100 million appropriation, but Scott

said grant funding was down 30 percent and an enrollment cap of 50,000 was placed on the program.

"There are programs that won't be funded and people who won't be able to serve, and we regret that," he said.

Ayana Conway and her Charlottesville organization Weed and Seed were hoping to receive a planning grant from AmeriCorps for a mentoring program but things fell through.

Conway said they put in an application to AmeriCorps to become a fully funded organization but received a reply that AmeriCorps would only be able to give Weed and Seed one-third of what they needed.

"They offered \$57,000, which is a \$67,000 cut," she said. "We had to turn down the grant. We won't have an AmeriCorps program."

Weed and Seed was hoping to host four volunteers with the grant from AmeriCorps, but now they won't have any, Conway said.

Stacy McLoughlin, service learning coordinator for Washington and Lee University, said two programs at the university are awaiting word as to their funding status with AmeriCorps.

McLoughlin said they won't know if their programs will be fully funded by AmeriCorps until January.

"We're hoping we get AmeriCorps funding," she said.

"We are keeping our fingers crossed until January."

Laura Toni graduated from Virginia Tech in 2003 and moved to Boston to become an AmeriCorps member with City Year Boston, an AmeriCorps organization that does work in inner-city areas.

She is involved in a 10-month program that also has been affected by the cuts in

AmeriCorps' funding, she said.

"City Year Boston got the most funding out of all the City Year programs," Toni said. "But the cuts still have affected us personally."

Last year, City Year Boston had 160 corps member volunteers. This number is down to 100 this year because of the cuts in funding, Toni said.

Full-time AmeriCorps volunteers like Toni receive an education award of \$4,725 after 1,700 hours of service. Most use this money to pay tuition or to pay off student loans after graduation.

Toni said she will use her award for the latter.

"I think it's crucial that more funding be provided for AmeriCorps," Toni said. "I know that a lot of students depend on those awards and being able to join up with the program to help with the problems our society faces."

The majority of AmeriCorps volunteers are between the ages of 18 and 26, Scott said, and many of them are just out of high school or college, or still in college.

Not only do they receive the education award but if they work full-time for a year, they receive a living allowance of \$9,300 as well, he said.

Additional funding for 2004 would help AmeriCorps provide these awards to more volunteers who provide their services to needy communities across the country, Scott said.

"There is clearly a need and demand for AmeriCorps volunteers," he said. "What's lacking now is the funding."

Scott said AmeriCorps is hopeful that Congress will move forward with President Bush's proposal.

"More funding in the 2004 budget will help with the cuts from last year," he said.

## News in Brief

### Va. man admits to stealing Peruvian artifacts

ALEXANDRIA (AP) — An Arlington man pleaded guilty Wednesday in U.S. District Court to the illegal sale of 29 ancient South American artifacts.

Taddeo Barchitta, 74, faces up to two years in prison and a maximum \$250,000 fine when he is sentenced Dec. 12.

In May, undercover agents from the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement purchased 29 artifacts from Barchitta for \$150,000. The Smithsonian authenticated 23 of the items as pre-Columbian artifacts, some dating to 100 A.D., some of which may have come from the Sipan region of Peru.

### W.Va capitol shut down for safety

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — Concerns about the stability of a 2-ton chandelier in the West Virginia Capitol prompted officials Wednesday to close the first-Rotunda, a basement cafeteria and several offices.

The chandelier, which hangs above the Rotunda, was lowered for this week's Southern Governors' Association meeting. Maintenance workers were raising the chandelier Wednesday morning when it unexpectedly shifted, acting Administration Secretary Tom Susman said.

Susman said there was a "95 percent chance" that nothing was wrong with the chandelier, but state officials were taking

no chances.

### Mosquito-bourne illness kills man

RICHMOND (AP) — A Gloucester County man in his 70s has died from eastern equine encephalitis, the first death of the year from a mosquito-borne disease in Virginia, state health officials said.

The man, whom health officials would not identify, contracted the disease Aug. 26 and died Sept. 15, said Reuben Varghese, health director for the Three Rivers Health District.

The death is the only EEE case reported this year in Virginia. Eight cases have been reported nationwide and four have resulted in deaths.

### Man convicted in rest stop murder

BROCKTON, Mass. (AP) - A fast-food cook was convicted of murder Wednesday in the stabbing of a woman at the highway rest stop where he worked.

Paul Leahy, 40, also was found guilty of armed robbery and kidnapping and faces life in prison without parole.

The defense presented no witnesses but disputed that the slaying of Alexandra Zapp last July was premeditated.

Zapp, 30, a sailing instructor and charity fund-raiser, was driving home to Newport, R.I., after a cruise in Boston Harbor when she stopped at the Bridgewater rest area. An off-duty state trooper who heard thuds and a muffled scream through a wall found Zapp's body and Leahy.

## Possible espionage case expands

WASHINGTON (AP) — A military probe of possible security violations at the U.S. prison camp for terrorism suspects is expanding after the arrests of two members of the military, with a third military member under investigation, Pentagon officials said Wednesday.

The cases have raised concern in the Defense Department about security at the base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, said Gen. Peter Pace, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"We don't presume that the two we know about is all there is to it," Pace told reporters Wednesday morning.

An Air Force translator and a Muslim Army chaplain at the prison camp have been arrested in the security probe.

Senior Airman Ahmad I. al-Halabi is behind bars at a California Air Force base, facing

32 criminal charges. The most serious — espionage and aiding the enemy — could carry the death penalty.

Pentagon officials said a broader investigation into possible security breaches at the Guantanamo Bay facility in Cuba was continuing. One suspect, a member of the Navy, is under investigation but has not been arrested, Pentagon officials said Wednesday.

Military authorities accuse al-Halabi, 24, of sending e-mail with information about the prisoners at Guantanamo Bay "to unauthorized person or persons whom he, the accused, knew to be the enemy." The Air Force documents detailing the charges do not say who "the enemy" is.

Al-Halabi also is accused of planning to give classified information about the prisoners as well as more than 180 writ-

ten messages from detainees to a person who would then go to Syria.

A military attorney representing al-Halabi, Air Force Maj. James E. Key III, denied the charges.

Al-Halabi had been quickly promoted in the Air Force ranks and was named Airman of the Year at his base, Key said Wednesday.

Al-Halabi worked for nine months as an Arabic language translator at Guantanamo Bay, a job that ended shortly before his July 23 arrest as he arrived in Jacksonville, Fla., on a flight from the prison camp.

When he was arrested, al-Halabi was carrying two handwritten notes from detainees that al-Halabi intended to turn over to someone traveling to Syria, the charging documents say.

## Grant: Studies focus below ground

Continued from page 1

"This will give us a three-dimensional image, instead of only being able to see just the rock face," Westman said. "It will kind of be like Alice in Wonderland, where you can shrink right down and walk around the tunnel before it is even built." This feature will be beneficial for safety purposes, particularly the detection of falling rocks.

"There continue to be casualties (in underground construction)," Gutierrez said. A virtual reality image can help to eliminate this problem, he said.

Underground excavation may also be a valuable tool in the wake of a rising world population.

Many cities around the world have used underground areas to control traffic.

"The Big Dig tunnel project in Boston is a good example of using underground space to avoid overcrowding on the surface," Gutierrez said.

Five Ph.D. students will accompany the professors in their research. Gutierrez is also working to receive supplement grants so undergraduate students may become involved in the project as well.

## Clinton denies talk of campaign

WASHINGTON (AP) — New York Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton said Wednesday that the re-election of President Bush would be "an overwhelming setback for our country" as she denied talk that she was secretly promoting the candidacy of Democrat Wesley Clark.

Amid speculation about her political intentions concerning the crowded field of Democrats seeking the party's nomination, Clinton said she and her husband, former President Clinton, "are not supporting or endorsing any candidate" at this stage in the primary process.

"I am convinced totally that four more years of this administration, unaccountable, no

election at the end, would be an overwhelming setback for our country and I will do everything I can to elect whoever emerges from this process. That's my goal," Clinton said at a breakfast meeting with reporters.

Clinton was asked about speculation that she and her husband may be using Clark's latecomer candidacy as a stalking horse for her own presidential bid.

She dismissed the idea as "an absurd feat of imagination, I guess one could say."

Clinton criticized Bush on several issues, from the environment to job losses to the U.S. led war against Iraq, and said he may be the only president to cut taxes while taking up a war.

"I view that as incredibly irresponsible," the Democrat said. "I am just bewildered by this administration's priorities and values."

She cited examples of what she said was a "larger pattern" of missteps by the Bush administration, including the Environmental Protection Agency's handling of air safety issues after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, inadequate funding for homeland security and Labor Department efforts to change overtime rules. Democrats argue that the latter move would deny overtime pay to millions of American workers.

"That just boggles the mind," Clinton said.

STOCK MARKET REPORT — 9/24/2003 —		WEATHER		TODAY	TONIGHT	FRIDAY	FRIDAY NIGHT	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
DJIA	9425.51 ▼ -150.53	WEATHER							
NASDAQ	1843.70 ▼ -58.02		Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy, slight chance of showers	Partly cloudy with chance of rain	Partly cloudy with chance of rain	Mostly cloudy	Partly cloudy	
S&P 500	1009.38 ▼ -19.65		Highs: 73°-78°	Lows: 52°-57°	Highs: 70°-76°	Lows: 50°-55°	50°/70°	60°/70°	

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## BH Career Fair To Do List

- Mark your calendars - Thursday, September 25
- Get your resumé ready - post copy on Career Services - attend resume workshop - print plenty of copies
- Know which employers are attending - pick up a company profile book in Pamplin 1046 - go to Business Horizons website to search companies by your major
- Get your suit pressed - the dress is business/interview attire

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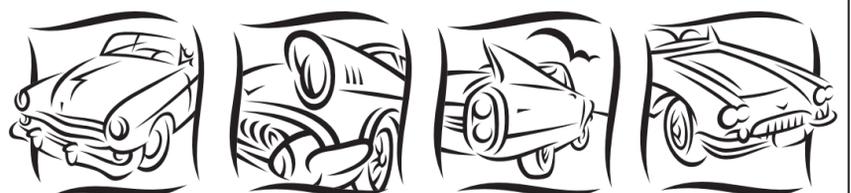
5:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

at the Depot at Dietrick and Shultz Dining Center

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Grilled Sirloin Strip Steak        | Garden Fresh Salad Bar                             |
| Peel and Eat Shrimp                | Assorted Breads                                    |
| Breast of Chicken with Lemon Sauce | Apple Cheese Pie                                   |
| Broccoli Spears au Gratin          | Strawberry Shortcake                               |
| Corn on the Cob                    | Chocolate Cake w/White Icing and Raspberry Filling |
| Giant Baked Potato Bar             |  |
| Orzo Pilaf                         |  |

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## Judge rules against do-not-call list

▪ The ruling said the FCC, not the FTC, could operate a list of people who object to telephone solicitations

by **Jennifer Brown**  
Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — A federal judge has ruled that the Federal Trade Commission overstepped its authority in creating the national "do-not-call" list against telemarketers.

The ruling came in a lawsuit brought by telemarketers who challenged the list of 50 million people who submitted their telephone numbers and said they do not want to receive business solicitation calls.

The immediate impact of Tuesday's ruling U.S. District Judge Lee R. West was not clear. He did not immediately issue an order directing an action by the FTC.

The list was to go into effect Oct. 1.

The judge said the main issue in the case was "whether the FTC had the authority to promulgate a national do-not-call registry. The court finds it did not."

West said the 1994 Telemarketing and Consumer Fraud and Abuse Prevention Act gave the Federal Communications Commission, not the FTC, the authority to operate a national database of people who object to receiving telephone solicitations.

The FTC, however, said the Omnibus Appropriations Act, signed by President Bush this past February, authorizes it to "implement and enforce the do-not-call provisions of the Telemarketing Sales Rule."

"This decision is clearly incorrect," FTC Chairman Timothy Muris said Wednesday. "We will seek every recourse to give American consumers a choice to stop unwanted telemarket-

ing calls." House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Billy Tauzin, R-La., and Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich., said Wednesday they were confident the ruling would be overturned.

"Contrary to the court's decision, we firmly believe Congress gave the FTC authority to implement the national do-not-call list," they said in a joint statement. "We will continue to monitor the situation and will take whatever legislative action is necessary to ensure consumers can stop intrusive calls from unwanted telemarketers."

Direct Marketing Association, one of the plaintiffs, said it was happy with the ruling, even though it "acknowledges the wishes of millions of U.S. consumers who have expressed their preferences not to receive telephone-marketing solicitations — as evidenced by the millions of phone numbers registered on the FTC list."

Calls to the FTC were not immediately returned Wednesday.

The telemarketing industry estimates that the do-not-call list could cut its business in half, costing it up to \$50 billion in sales each year.

Telemarketers would have to check the list every three months to see who doesn't want to be called. Those who call listed people could be fined up to \$11,000 for each violation.

The suit was filed by U.S. Security, Chartered Benefit Services Inc., Global Contact Services Inc., InfoCision Management Corp. and Direct Marketing Association Inc.

A similar lawsuit is pending in Denver, where the trade group American Teleservices Association and two telemarketing companies sued in January to keep the FTC from starting the do-not-call program.

## Anthrax widow sues for \$50 mil.

by **Jill Barton**  
Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — The widow of a photo editor killed in the nation's first anthrax attack in 2001 sued the federal government on Wednesday, alleging that lax security at an Army lab caused his death. Maureen Stevens is seeking more than \$50 million in what is believed to be the first lawsuit to attempt to hold the government accountable for producing and mishandling the deadly strain.

Robert Stevens, an editor for The Sun tabloid, is believed to have contracted the disease from a tainted letter sent to the Boca Raton headquarters of American Media Inc.

Anthrax also was sent through the mail to media outlets in New York and a congressional building in Washington, killing four people and sickening more than a dozen. No one has been charged in the attacks.

The Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases at Fort Detrick, Md., is the primary custodian of the strain of anthrax found in envelopes sent to the victims.

Stevens' attorney, Richard Schuler, said she hopes to force the government to press its investigation and provide answers to the victims' families. An Army spokesman declined comment on the lawsuit.

A postal worker who survived the anthrax attack also has sued, but his claim targets postal officials at Washington's Brentwood facility. Leroy Richmond is asking for \$100 million, alleging postal managers endangered his life by waiting too long to close the facility after anthrax was discovered.

## Iraq returns to OPEC talks

by **Bruce Stanley**  
Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — Iraq joined its 10 fellow OPEC members for talks on oil production Wednesday for the first time since the toppling of Saddam Hussein.

Oil minister Ibrahim Bahr al-Uloum said Iraq plans to remain a member of OPEC, dismissing any suggestions that the U.S.-occupied country would withdraw from the producers' group it helped found.

Iraq's role in OPEC has for months been the subject of debate, with some U.S. officials suggesting it drop out of the cartel to avoid the constraints of export quotas that would one day apply to its slowly recovering oil output.

"Iraq should play an active role in achieving the objectives of this organization with

the minister said.

Iraq will rely on assistance from international companies to help it develop its enormous oil resources, he added. Iraq has the world's second-largest proven reserves of crude oil.

It aims to increase production to between 3.5 million barrels to 4 million barrels a day by the end of 2005, and to pump about 6 million barrels of crude daily by the end of the decade, he said.

"We are planing to use our oil wealth in the most useful way for the welfare of our people and country," he said.

Al-Uloum has spoken favorably in the past about privatizing Iraq's state-run oil industry. However, he seemed to back off from that position, telling reporters that privatization was "a good idea for the downstream," or distribution and retail part of the business.

Iraqis are fiercely proud of their oil wealth and have long been suspicious of foreign companies that want to help explore for and develop Iraq's oil deposits.

Earlier fears that Iraq might quickly restore its prewar output and flood the market with

crude have all but disappeared. Sabotage of Iraq's oil pipelines continues to hamper its exports, and Iraq's recovery is taking much longer than expected.

Iraqi delegates returned to the table for this week's meetings on OPEC's output strategy after Venezuela backed down from its opposition to Iraq's full participation.

Venezuela's reversal cleared the way for the OPEC to focus on the details of assessing global supply and demand for crude during the coming winter.

OPEC's members were to meet again later Wednesday in a formal session to ratify an

agreement on oil output. OPEC supplies about a third of the world's crude.

Venezuela had argued that Iraq should not attend the group's formal meeting because its interim government has not been recognized by the United Nations. Al-Uloum, backed by OPEC's other members, maintained his country had a right to participate as a full voting member.

Venezuelan Oil Minister Rafael Ramirez said he would respect the consensus of his fellow OPEC members, though he would register an objection.

"We also will attend the meeting, because we don't want to provoke a crisis within OPEC," Ramirez told reporters.

Iraq also hadn't participated in OPEC quota agreements since the United Nations imposed sanctions in 1990 to punish Baghdad for invading Kuwait.

Iraq's presence was seen as a sign of growing international acceptance of its interim government.

Earlier, OPEC representatives conferred over breakfast with delegates from six non-OPEC producers, including Russia and Mexico. OPEC is seeking a commitment of cooperation from independent producers to help keep oil prices stable as an imbalance between supply and demand looms early next year, OPEC Secretary-General Alvaro Silva said after the meeting.

Despite a recent slide in crude prices and OPEC's forecast of a buildup in oil inventories this autumn, the cartel's members seemed to agree that they should hold oil output steady for the next few months. OPEC should meet again in December to consider cutting production ahead of an expected seasonal downturn in spring demand, Kuwait's Oil Minister Sheik Ahmed Fahd al-Ahmed Al-Sabah said earlier.

Silva predicted OPEC would hold its output ceiling steady at 25.4 million barrels a day for the rest of the year.

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**YOUR FUTURE HOUSING CONNECTION**



# Firefighters union bypasses Gephardt

Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry was endorsed by the national union of firefighters

by Leigh Strope  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Presidential hopeful John Kerry won the backing of firefighters Wednesday, the first national union endorsement to go to a Democrat other than Dick Gephardt.

The International Association of Fire Fighters' endorsement gives a boost to Kerry's struggling campaign, which has been overshadowed by front-runner Howard Dean and now Wesley Clark.

Firefighters have become almost a symbol of American patriotism, immortalized first in a tragic photo after the Oklahoma City bombing, and then later in descriptions of their heroic efforts after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

"Every American understands what you do for our country," Kerry said at Wednesday's announcement.

"Every American is grateful to you for the sacrifices you make and the ways in which you make us stronger. And today, you have made me stronger — not politically but personally."

But politically, the endorsement does help the

Massachusetts senator. Aside from the public affection for firefighters, the union is one of the more conservative in the AFL-CIO, and its backing could help negate the Northeastern liberal label often attached to Kerry.

About 44 percent of the 240,000 U.S. members the union claims are registered Republicans, 37 percent are Democrats and the rest are independents, union President Harold Schaitberger said.

The affirmation also takes a bit of steam from Gephardt, who accepted his 14th national union endorsement Wednesday, from the Laborers' International Union of North America. Gephardt is seeking a laborwide endorsement from the AFL-CIO.

The firefighters' union president said the labor group likes Kerry's record as a decorated Vietnam War veteran; his political, legal and legislative experience; his sense of humor; and his personal interests in athletics and Harley-Davidson motorcycles.

The union also wanted to support a candidate who can beat President Bush next year.

"Our view is that Dick Gephardt is not the candidate who has that best chance," Schaitberger said.

After a disappointing showing in fund raising, Gephardt's third-quarter results, out Sept. 30, will be an indication of whether he can secure the coveted AFL-CIO endorsement.

# Mexico proposes U.S. tequila restrictions

The proposal would require all U.S.-sold tequila to be bottled south of the border

by Martin Crutsinger  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Tequila lovers of America, your favorite beverage may be under attack. Or at least it may have trouble getting here from Mexico.

The U.S. liquor industry is crying foul over a proposed Mexican government regulation that would require all tequila sold in the United States to be bottled in Mexico.

Boosted by the popularity of tequila shots and margaritas, tequila has been the fastest growing liquor in America in recent years, with sales nearly doubling over the past decade.

Of the tequila consumed in the United States, 83 percent is shipped in bulk from Mexico

and then bottled in U.S. plants. Under the proposed Mexican regulation, all bulk shipments would be banned and the tequila would have to be bottled in Mexico before it was shipped to the United States.

The Distilled Spirits Council of the United States complained Wednesday that this rule, if allowed to take effect, would raise costs for consumers and threaten jobs in U.S. bottling plants.

"This proposal could have a grave effect on consumers worldwide through higher prices, fewer choices and the significant potential for serious product shortages," said council president Peter Cressy.

He said the proposed regulation would violate rules of the World Trade Organization and commitments made by Mexico when it joined the United States and Canada in the North American Free Trade Agreement in 1994.

The rule, being proposed

by the Mexican Bureau of Standards, is scheduled to be formally published for public comment in October and could go into effect in January. As written now, bulk shipments would be allowed to continue for one year to allow companies to modify their distribution networks.

Mexican supporters of the proposed change argue that it will allow for better monitoring of tequila quality.

But Frank Coleman, a spokesman for the Distilled Spirits Council, said that protecting the quality of tequila shipped in bulk has not been a problem. He said the existing standards are strictly monitored by Mexico's Tequila Regulatory Council.

Coleman said U.S. bottling plants for tequila were operating in four states — California, Arkansas, Missouri and Kentucky. Cuervo, the most popular brand of tequila sold in the United States, is distributed by Diageo North America, headquartered in Stamford, Conn.

The dispute over shipping regulations for tequila is the latest in a series of trade fights between the United States and Mexico.

Sen. Charles Grassley, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, complained during a hearing of his committee on Tuesday that U.S. farmers were being harmed by Mexico's efforts to protect their own farmers from U.S. competition.

# Two injured in Minnesota school shooting

by Craig Gustafson  
Associated Press

COLD SPRING, Minn. — A freshman opened fire at a central Minnesota high school Wednesday, killing one student and critically wounding a second, authorities said.

The suspect was taken into custody after the late morning shooting at Rocori High School.

Police Chief Phil Jones said "there was chaos" as police arrived at the school. One of the students was shot in the

school's weight room and the other was shot in the gym.

One of the wounded boys died and the other was critically injured, Stearns County Sheriff John Sanner said.

"There were kids crying, and it was really quiet," Jamie Toddingham, a junior, told KSTP-TV. "We were sitting at a window where we could see cops everywhere."

"I was just thinking about, it could've been me."

Jones said the investigation was still under way, but that it appeared a well-respected, vet-

eran teacher and coach talked the suspect into surrendering a small-caliber gun. When police arrived, the boy was in the custody of the school's staff in an administrative office, he said.

Authorities would not identify the two students who were shot except to say they were a senior and a freshman.

Mike Austreng, editor of the weekly Cold Spring Record, said he saw one wounded student airlifted from the school.

"We can see groups of students being taken out of the

building," Austreng said from the scene. "Most of them are running with their hands up in the air, or walking with their hands up in the air."

Cold Spring is about 60 miles northwest of Minneapolis-St. Paul. The school district's name, Rocori, comes from the first two letters of the communities it serves: Rockville, Cold Spring and Richmond.

The district enrolls nearly 2,700 students in elementary, middle and high schools. District officials said students would be sent home early.

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## Editorial NATIONAL ISSUE

### “Do not call” registry Constitutional

How many times has the phone rang during dinner, while you are sleeping or, worst of all, during “The Simpsons?” How many times was the party on the other line from some an telemarketing agency? It seems telemarketers have always found the perfect times to make their calls to inconvenience you and those you live with. As the computer age made it easier for telemarketers to swamp household phone lines, public advocacy groups and the government, specifically the Federal Trade Commission, began to address concern about the increased telemarketing activity. The FTC was empowered by the U.S. Congress to address the situation and developed a registry for those who wish to have their phone number restricted from telemarketers. This list, known as the “do not call” registry, received praise from the public, but met resistance from the telemarketing industry.

The industry took the FTC to court over the registry. The U.S. District Court in Oklahoma decided in favor of the plaintiff on the grounds the registry violated the rights granted by the First and Fifth Amendments to the Constitution.

The Fifth Amendment provides due process of law for Americans, but where was the process flawed in providing a means to avoid unwanted phone conversations?

Due process demands the FTC to get authorization from Congress to make the registry effective, and the FTC got just that. The House Committee on Energy and Commerce provided the authorization and the telemarketing industry is failing to recognize this as a proper adherence to due process.

Not only is the industry abusing due process to protect revenues, but they are also manipulating the First Amendment. As federal judge Stanley Sporkin wrote in the case of Turner Broadcasting v. FCC, “They have come to court not because their freedom of speech is seriously threatened, but because their profits are; to dress up their complaints in First Amendment garb demeans the principles for which the First Amendment stands and the protections it was designed to afford.” Furthermore, the industry does not have the right to have the public listen to their solicitation. Though freedom of speech is paramount for a society and the marketplace of ideas, the First Amendment does not grant the right to have people listen. In fact, it is an infringement of privacy for a government to limit a household’s ability to protect its phone lines from those who are willing to solicit through telemarketing. Given the misconstrued and manipulated complaints of the telemarketing industry, the public is deserving of a means of protecting their right to privacy.

## Adderall abuse creates inequality amongst students in the classroom

Scott Gayzik

He knew it was coming, but did nothing about it. Friday night was the four-keg party, Saturday was the big game and Sunday was the even bigger game.

However, around 11 p.m. Sunday, panic set in when he realized he hadn’t studied at all for his test Monday morning.

A couple of years ago, this student might have downed a cup or two of coffee, crammed as best as he could and taken his chances. But there’s no reason for that coffee anymore, and his procrastination won’t hurt him now that Adderall is so easy to come by.

Adderall is an amphetamine routinely prescribed to individuals who suffer from attention deficit disorder or attention deficit hyperactive disorder.

The drug is intended to allow people with these disorders to concentrate without becoming distracted.

However the student in our hypothetical scenario doesn’t have ADD. Instead, he landed a few pills from his friend who has a prescription and is using Adderall to circumvent his procrastination and improve his grade.

The fact is that the illegal use of prescription drugs as a study aid is on the rise.

It is a disturbing and unethical trend that should be condemned in the strongest possible terms by the university and student body.

The magnitude of this problem may be underestimated because many students are hesitant to admit they use amphetamines as study aids and it is nearly impossible to track the usage of the drug.

Given the soaring numbers of young men and women with prescriptions for psychostimulants in this country, few can question their accessibility on campus.

In a study performed by the

University of Wisconsin and reported in a Johns Hopkins newsletter, one in five students said they had used Adderall or a similar drug illegally. It is a disturbing and unethical trend that should be condemned in the strongest possible terms by the university and the student body.

Because Adderall is perceived as safe and because there seem to be few consequences of taking it before studying, many shrug their shoulders and ask, “why not?”

But this solution is far from harmless.

Unless you are a pharmacist, you do not have the right to give out prescription drugs to the masses. In other words it is flat out illegal to dole out those extra pills during exam times.

And while they may be viewed as completely benign, these drugs are amphetaminesamphetamines — chemical cousins to drugs like cocaine and speed.

Finally, for those who are using Adderall or Ritalin to study, if you need a drug to make the material interesting enough to learn, then perhaps you should consider changing majors.

ADD and ADHD are legitimate health problems effecting thousands of individuals and this column is not meant to refute the value of these drugs in helping people overcome these disorders.

However, On the other hand, a normal person using Adderall as a means of absorbing mass quantities of material in a short time is tantamount to cheating. (connect these two paragraphs because they support the same argument)

Here’s another hypothetical situation: two students of equal intelligence who do not have without ADD are studying for the same test. Both study for the same amount of time and at the end of the day one scores 20 points higher than the other does.

The difference is student A took an Adderall before he started preparing for the test and enjoyed 10 hours of unbreakable unbroken

“...if you need a drug to make the material interesting enough to learn, then perhaps you should consider changing majors.”

concentration, even in the presence of his peers Student B was not immune to the normal attention lapses accompanying long hours of studying and, as a consequence, his grade suffered. Student A broke the law and was rewarded with a better grade.

There is no gray area here; this is an unethical practice.

As in any competitive environment, a level playing field is essential. Student athletes are subject to drug tests because, if left unchecked, the presence of performance-enhancing drugs would destroy the integrity of college sports.

With the rise of illegal use of psychostimulants like Adderall, we are now forced to confront this exact same issue in academics.

The problem should be combated through stiffer penalties for offenders, more education on what the drugs do and most importantly by mandating more responsible administration administration of prescriptions.

Additionally, those with prescriptions for these drugs should be aware they could help resolve this issue by simply saying no to their friends’ solicitations.

If the trend continues, we may some day be forced to take the same measures in the classroom as are taken on the field.

If you think testing students for drugs is preposterous, so do I, but then again nobody ever imagined the equivalent to academic steroidssteroids going around campus.

Scott Gayzik is a regular columnist for the Collegiate Times.

## Letters to the Editor

### Abortion law addresses inhumanity

In the column “Women’s right to choose protected by privacy and confidentiality,” (CT, Sept. 23) the author rightly reports the Sept. 17 passage of a bill by the U.S. Senate “on the ever-eyebrow-raising topic of abortion.” However, she does not give the details of this bill. Specifically, the bill attempts to ban the late-term procedure of dilation and extraction, known colloquially as partial-birth abortion.

The author wonders why we cannot leave the issue of abortion alone, especially in light of the 1973 Supreme Court decision permitting abortion on demand. Perhaps the details of D&E will not only explain why the procedure has been called into question, but also shed light on the broader issue of why abortion still raises eyebrows.

D&E involves dilation of the cervix and the baby is pulled before being delivered in the breech position while the head alone remains in the birth canal. The base of the skull is then immediately punctured and the brain removed by suction before full delivery of the child.

The reason this issue has been so thorny is its obvious inhumanity. The fetus pulled from its mother is not simply a mass of tissue — he or she has arms, legs, gender, etc. — the miniature in every way of a newborn infant.

D&E highlights why the abortion issue will not just go away and continues to prick our consciences: we are constantly confronted by the question of whether or not pre-born babies are fully human. If not, then no rationalization for abortion is necessary, but if the unborn are human persons, then no justification for abortion is possible.

If abortion kills a human being it is

quite plainly homicide. Thus issues of privacy, choice or even reproductive rights become secondary to whether or not abortion is the slaughter of the innocents.

Jonathan D. Sides  
senior, biochemistry

### Actions not representative of all Hokie fans

In response to the letters complaining about examples of childish behavior on the part of Virginia Tech fans, I feel the need to remind all Aggie fans of an incident millions saw on a nationally televised game. One of the mature and classy Texas A&M cadets felt it would be fun to poke a female Southern Methodist University cheerleader with his sword (before he was thrown down by a male SMU cheerleader). Is this the kind of respect the Aggies show towards their opponents?

Now, I could claim this incident is proof that the entire student body and fan base of Texas A&M, especially the cadets, are violent and prone to assaulting women, not to mention “they can’t be trusted past your eyesight,” but that would be idiotic. I won’t judge an entire group of people based on the childish antics of a cowardly imbecile.

To the two A&M fans who wrote about how awful Tech fans are, I offer this bit of advice: grow up. It is unfortunate you didn’t have a more pleasant visit to Blacksburg, but the minor incidents you experienced are no reason to judge an entire university. Football fans are prone to being rude and insulting towards fans of the opposing team. That’s life.

Brian P. Keeley  
alumnus, Class of 1999



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# Sniper victim families cope one year later

by **Stephen Manning**  
Associated Press

ROCKVILLE, Md. — Marion Lewis used to turn the question over in his mind during his daily commute past the cemetery where his daughter is buried.

It is the same question Rupinder Oberoi wrestled with as he recovered from a bullet wound that turned his colon into ribbons and bruised his liver.

Victoria Snider struggled with it, too, trying to comprehend why someone would target her brother for death.

"Why was it our loved ones?" she said of the Washington-area sniper shootings last fall that killed her brother, James "Sonny" Buchanan Jr. She said that is "the hardest thing for all the victims to accept."

The sniper shootings nearly a year ago appeared to be a ghoulish game of chance. Thirteen people were gunned down doing everyday things. Ten people were killed.

For the families of the victims and the few who survived, the past year has been about trying to heal. Many say the pain is still raw, and increases as the shooting anniversaries and the trials of suspects John Allen Muhammad and Lee Boyd Malvo draw near. Muhammad's trial is scheduled Oct. 14, Malvo's for Nov. 10.

Some of the family members and survivors have become advocates, fighting for new laws banning weapons such as the Bushmaster rifle allegedly used in the shootings. Some have sued the maker of the gun and the store it came from. Others mourn quietly, closely guarding

their privacy.

Marion Lewis remembers trying to persuade his daughter, Lori Ann Lewis-Rivera, not to leave Idaho for a nanny job in Washington. He said he wishes she had listened to him.

Lewis-Rivera had gone to a gas station and was cleaning out her minivan when she was shot Oct. 3.

Her 4-year-old daughter does not understand why her mother is gone, and her husband is devastated, struggling to keep his landscaping job while raising his daughter alone.

Lewis-Rivera has been on her parents' minds even more lately, as the anniversary of her death approaches.

"You just don't know what to say and do to help each other," said Jo Lewis, Lewis-Rivera's mother. "You just hold onto and comfort each other."

Oberoi has tried to rebuild his life after the shootings. He moved to New York, opened a gas station and tries not to think much about last Sept. 14, when he was hit by a .223-caliber rifle bullet as he stood outside a liquor store where he worked.

Oberoi has been subpoenaed by prosecutors but said he will not testify if he does not have to. He said he wants to sink back into anonymity. "I've moved past it," he said.

Snider still struggles with the death of her brother, shot while he mowed the lawn of a car dealership.

Her brother's family and friends have founded Sonny's Kids, a foundation that provides scholarships to needy students. He had devoted much of his time to the Boys and Girls Club.

# Intoxication claimed as murder defense

■ A woman accused in her mother's slaying used involuntary intoxication as a homicide explanation

by **Chris Kahn**  
Associated Press

ROANOKE — A woman accused of beating her 83-year-old mother to death was intoxicated at the time by prescription antidepressants and shouldn't be held criminally responsible, defense lawyers argued Wednesday in state court.

Cindy Gail Countess, 49, pleaded innocent to one count of first-degree murder in the fatal bludgeoning of Edna Dooley. She doesn't even remember what happened the morning her mother was found bleeding on the bathroom floor, defense lawyer Anna Bagwell said.

During opening statements, Bagwell did not dispute prosecutors claims that Countess beat and stomped Dooley to death. Instead, Bagwell said she hoped to show Judge Clifford R. Weckstein "how a woman might kill her beloved mother under the influence of intoxicating substances."

Bagwell said medical experts will show that the drugs Countess was taking created "unexpected results at

unexpected times." After the hearing, Bagwell would not name the medication Countess was taking. The involuntary intoxication defense is a rarity in Virginia and extremely hard to prove, said William Hassan, a Fairfax lawyer who successfully used the defense several years ago.

It stems from a 1923 Virginia Supreme Court ruling that says someone can be considered involuntarily intoxicated if impaired by trickery or physician error.

"You have to show that you followed the physician's instructions to the letter, and still you reached a level of insanity," Hassan said.

“If I had done something to my mother, I wasn't in the right mind.”

**Cindy Gail Countess**  
Accused of slaying mother

In court Wednesday, Countess sat silently

between defense lawyers in a navy blazer, her graying brown hair combed away from her eyes. She glanced at the audience with a sad, strained look as police told the judge how they found Dooley dead on the bathroom floor.

Prosecutor Alice Ekirch said that the morning of the murder, Dooley's blood was found on her daughter's socks and shoes.

Roanoke Police Officer M.L. Pendleton said when he began taking pictures of the house and gathering evidence, Countess told him "if she had done something to her mother, she wasn't in the right mind," he said.

# Virus cripples visa-checking computers

by **Ted Bridis**  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A virus seriously disrupted computer systems at the State Department, including the database for checking every visa applicant for terrorist or criminal history. The outage left the U.S. government unable to issue visas worldwide for nine hours.

Effects of the virus crippled the department's Consular Lookout and Support System, known as CLASS, which contains more than 15 million records from the FBI, the State Department and U.S. immigration, drug-enforcement and intelligence agencies.

Among the names are those of at least 78,000 suspected terrorists.

State Department spokesman Stuart Patt said the "Welchia" virus did not affect any data on the name-checking system, and the agency's classified computer network was not affected. Service to some consular offices in Asia was restored within 11 hours.

Welchia is an aggressive infection unleashed last month that exploits a software flaw in recent versions of Microsoft Corp.'s Windows software.

"To prevent the worm from spreading to our worldwide network, we closed off the department's intranet unclassified system," Patt said. "The visa name-check is part of that."

Patt said Wednesday that any backlog of applicants waiting to be checked against the system had already cleared. "There will be possibly some people whose visas will be delayed for a few hours or maybe by a day," he said.

In an internal message sent late Tuesday to embassies and consular offices worldwide, officials cautioned that "CLASS is down due to a virus found in the system." There was no backup system immediately available, and officials said they could not predict how long the outage might last.

Hours later, a terse update was sent worldwide: "CLASS is up." A spokeswoman for the U.S. embassy in Seoul, Maureen Cormack, said it was a "short outage" and "not a major problem." She said interviews for visa applicants continued during the outage but decisions were delayed until the system was back up.

The State Department issues roughly 7 million visas annually, Patt said. Every applicant is checked against the names in the CLASS database, and the department's automated systems are designed to not even print a visa until such a check is completed.

As an engineer in the U.S. Air Force, there's no telling what you'll work on. (Seriously, we can't tell you.)

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Features

# O.A.R. set to rock Burruss Hall

■ Only 200 tickets remain for the Oct. 23 concert at Burruss Hall Auditorium; tickets cost \$15 for Tech students

Stephanie Stultz

It has been quite a revolution for the members of the island-vibe, roots-rock jam band O.A.R. (Of a Revolution). Virginia Tech will host the reggae jam group on their "In Between Now and Then" tour in Burruss Hall Auditorium Thursday, Oct. 23. "We booked them a while ago, actually. It was the first concert we booked this past summer," said Jason Shanks, Virginia Tech Union concerts director. "I think we're lucky to have them playing at Tech because after speaking with other colleges, we discovered they are presently a very hot commodity."

Tickets went on sale yesterday at 10:00 a.m. in the University Unions and Student Activities office of Squires Student Center.

"We're happy to see a good turn out," said Jacie Roberts, director of VTU alternative sounds and a junior communication major. "It's what we anticipated."

Admission is \$15 dollars for Tech students and \$20 dollars for non-students. Doors will open at 7:00 p.m.

O.A.R. produces a sound targeting and relating to many students. Their much-anticipated show will have students looking forward to enjoying good music.

"O.A.R. always puts on a great show. It's always upbeat and full of energy," Shanks said. They have a grassroots, acoustic, island vibe about them that everyone really seems to enjoy. They sing a lot of songs about subjects any college student can relate to."

Starting out as a jam band at Ohio State University in 1998, they have moved on to play at outdoor festivals and various college campuses in front of sold-out crowds.

O.A.R. seems to attract the college-age folks with their catchy love songs, drinking tunes and soul-searching ideas. Combining Marc Roberge's vocals, Richard On's guitar skills, Jerry DePizzo's saxophone and Chris Culos on percussion generate upbeat, danceable melodies that have given them a

superbly devoted fan base.

Lead singer Marc Roberge is able to keep the dedicated crowd entertained, as he is known for making up 30-40 percent of his lyrics on the spot in between already familiar verses. All the same, the intrigued group sings along to his likable impromptu lyrics.

Fans cheer as he talks about world issues and life in general while his band smiles and makes up background beats.

Targeting college students, the band has been able to sell over 300,000 records by both word of mouth and the Internet. They actually produced "The Wanderer," an independently released album in drummer Chris Culos's basement.

Nevertheless, the band's astounding underground success was enough to catch the attention of Lava Records, who signed them last February. Releasing their first major-label disc, "In Between Now and Then," the band is sure to follow in the footsteps of similar artists, including Phish, Dispatch and Dave Matthews Band.

Following shows at West Virginia University and Marshall University, Tech

will be ecstatic to show the band support and a good time on their tour to several universities.

"I saw them last year at UVa, but I'm positive they'll put on a much better show for the Hokies," said Amanda German, a junior. "Even if they're not your favorite band, they're great to see live."

Touring with special guests Michael Franti and Spearhead, O.A.R. is sure to put on a memorable performance. The opening group, Michael Franti and Spearhead is a hip-hop group quite similar to The Common.

Spearhead's first hit album "Home," was one of the first times the rap community touched the subject of HIV and AIDS. Spearhead was able to tour with artists such as Ben Harper, Brand New Heavies and The Fugees. The band will be opening for O.A.R. throughout their tour to add an out-of-the-ordinary variety to the show.

Stephanie Stultz is a staff writer for the Collegiate Times.



TED MARTELLO/SPPS

Students gathered in line as early as 8 a.m. yesterday to buy tickets for the O.A.R. concert that will be in Burruss Hall Auditorium on Oct. 23.

# Test-tube baby, now 21, meets first doctor

by Bipasha Ray  
Associated Press

BOSTON — Elizabeth Jordan Carr grew up reading and rereading a letter her first doctor wrote to her the day she was born, telling her in spite of her unusual conception—in a petri dish—she was a normal human being.

That four-page letter, she says, got her through the tough times of feeling insecure.

On Tuesday, for the first time since her birth, America's first test-tube baby met the doctor who cared for her after she was born 21 years ago in Norfolk, Va.

"She was perfect. She did everything exactly right. She was pink, she cried at the right time," Dr. Fred Wirth, 62, said. "When I wrapped her up in a blanket, she relaxed, her eyes opened up and I was the first person she saw."

He also determined how people perceived the nation's first test-tube baby, Carr said, by proclaiming her healthy and normal at the first news conference, while the nation watched eagerly at a time when such medical technology was new and scary.

Tuesday's meeting, at Simmons College where Carr is now a senior majoring in communications, came after years of missed calls, lost e-mails and phone tag. Carr only knew Wirth from a television image of a masked doctor carrying her as a newborn down the hallway, "holding me like a football."

That, and his handwritten words to her.

"That letter was a comfort. When you're an awkward teenager, wearing braces, probably overweight at some point, it was a nice thing to have—to have someone other than your

parents tell you that you're a normal human being," she said.

Earlier this year, when Carr was a reporting intern at The Virginian-Pilot in Norfolk, she, with the help of a colleague and the in-house library, began trying to track down Wirth.

They found a website for Wirth's company and Carr sent him an e-mail in May.

"Twenty-one years ago, he held me like a football and declared I was a beautiful baby," she wrote. "I would like so much to contact him and talk to him to thank him for the beautiful letter he wrote me 21 years ago that I have read so many times on the days where things seemed tough."

"It just touched my heart to have her go to all this effort to reach me," said Wirth, who's now a neonatologist at the Reading Hospital and Medical Center in Pennsylvania. "I've saved hundreds of children's lives, and none of them have bothered to even call me. I'm overwhelmed."

At their meeting, Carr brought Wirth a signed copy of an infertility book where she wrote the foreword and a newspaper column she wrote about her life and connections to Virginia.

Wirth gave her a necklace bearing his company's logo—a round plate with the heads of a parent and child—and this month's issue of Time magazine, bearing a photo of a diapered Carr in a list of greatest innovations in the last 100 years.

Carr was born on Dec. 28, 1981, three years after the world's first test-tube baby, Louise Brown, was born in England. About a million test-tube babies have been born since.

Wirth says he always wondered what kind of a woman Carr had become.

# Makers of Kazaa sue RIAA

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Makers of the most popular online file-sharing network are suing entertainment companies for copyright infringement, alleging the companies used unauthorized versions of its software to snoop on users in their efforts to battle piracy.

Sharman Networks, the company behind the Kazaa file-sharing software, filed a federal lawsuit Monday, accusing the movie studios and the Recording Industry Association of America of using Kazaa Lite, a replica of its software without advertising, to get onto the network. Sharman claims its copyright was violated because Kazaa Lite is an unauthorized version of its free software.

Once on the network, the companies offered bogus versions of copyright music and movies and then sent online messages to users warning them they were breaking the law. Sharman claims those

moves violated terms for using its network.

The RIAA, who has battled the widespread sharing of music, called Sharman's "newfound admiration for the importance of copyright law" ironic and "self-serving."

Sharman's lawsuit also revives its previous allegation that Universal Music Group and Warner Music Group violated antitrust laws by stopping Sharman and its partner Altnet Inc. from distributing authorized copies of music and movies through Kazaa.

Last year the companies filed suit against Sharman, accusing it of providing free access to copyright music and films to millions of Internet users in the United States.

Sharman, in a countersuit, claimed movie and recording industries didn't understand the digital age and were monopolizing entertainment.

U.S. District Judge Stephen V. Wilson rejected those claims

in July but last week allowed Sharman to try again.

Universal Music Group and Warner Music Group declined to comment on Sharman's latest lawsuit.

Users can download Kazaa file-sharing software, hooking them up to a network where they can copy songs and movies without having to pay for them.

Earlier this month, recording companies sued 261 music fans, claiming they were illegally distributing hundreds of digital song files apiece over the Internet.

The industry trolled file-sharing networks such as Kazaa and downloaded song files from users' computers.

Once the industry determined a downloaded song file was a copyright work, they issued subpoenas to Internet access providers to find out who was behind the account used to log onto the file-sharing network.

# Scientists create next-gen paper

by Rick Callahan  
Associated Press

Scientists have created a new type of "electronic paper" that may one day enable books and newspapers to show full-color movies.

Tiny dots packed in columns and rows on the paper can change colors in just one one-hundredth of a second, fast enough that a whole array of these dots could display video images, said Robert A. Hayes, a scientist at Philips Research Laboratories in Eindhoven, the Netherlands.

Before the movies can begin, Hayes said researchers need to devise a system to control each dot's rapid changes.

He said the first products are three or four years away, and would probably have only one color at first.

The findings are reported in Thursday's issue of the journal Nature.

"You could see this leading to displays everywhere, the sides of trucks with live displays on them—like Times Square but moving," Robert Wisniew, senior manager of IBM Corp.'s Advanced Display Technology Laboratory in Yorktown Heights, N.Y. "Imagine the traffic accidents."

The electronic paper is not really paper at all, but electronics embedded in a flexible piece of plastic as thin as a sheet of paper. It would have to be connected to a power source, such as a cellphone or a handheld organizer.

The paper's display surface is four times brighter than reflective liquid-crystal displays, such as those seen on mobile phones and personal digital assistants, Hayes said.

The Philips researchers developed two kinds of electronic paper. In the first system, each dot in the experimental paper contains water with a single layer of colored oil, along with an underlying transparent elec-

trode and white foil.

The viewer sees the color of the oil, unless an electrical signal is applied that moves the oil aside. That reveals the white foil underneath.

The researchers have taken that system a step further by creating dots that contain two layers of colored oil. Each of these dots is divided into three compartments, each containing combinations of cyan, magenta or yellow oils.

Each compartment is covered by a colored filter. Its hue depends on the colors of the oils beneath. These compartments can be switched independently and are capable of displaying a variety of colors. That is achieved by varying which of the two colored oils in each compartment is pushed aside or left in place.

Hayes said this system can display a full palette of red, blue, green, cyan, magenta or yellow and black along with intermediate shades.

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# 'Sex Talk Live' gets rise out of crowd

■ Nearly 500 people attended VTTV's first audience-interactive 'Sex Talk Live' show

by **Tiffany Hoffman**  
Managing Editor

Questions about sexual positions, venereal diseases and masturbation were addressed last night in Squires Colonial Hall as VTTV's 'Sex Talk Live' was filmed in front of their first interactive audience.

"I love the show and I thought the live show would be even better," said Nathan Bryant, a freshman university studies major. "It was awesome."

Jarrett Henshaw and Vanessa Pricer, the co-hosts of the show, began the event with an interactive fake orgasm competition. Sex-position charades and a sexual relay were among the other games students could participate in for prizes.

"We came up with games to play and some worked better than others," said Henshaw, a senior communication major. "The fake orgasm competition was a big hit."

Everything from dildos and blow-up dolls to cosmetics and basketballs were handed out as gifts for students who participated.

"The gifts were cool," said Ryan Wosleger. "You'd get up, say something and they would give you something."

Henshaw said the organization invested \$250 in gift certificates, gave away 38 various sexual gifts and distributed 75 cosmetic bags and still almost

ran out of awards.

"We definitely need to get more prizes for next time," he said.

Henshaw said the group plans to have the next live show on November 12.

"The reason the show is so successful is because people get to be a part of the show," Henshaw said. "Tonight, people got to come, ask their questions and get on TV."

"It was a good opportunity for us to connect with our fans," he said.

Prior to the show, Henshaw said he was anxious about the

behavior of attendees, but knew there would be a wide array of questions — some serious and some for a joke.

"Our purpose is to provide entertainment," Henshaw said. "We enjoy getting the hypothetical and we know most questions on the show aren't real."

However, he said he was pleased with how things worked out at the live audience taping.

"It was surprising as to how many really good questions we got from the audience," he said. "The audience was much more interested in asking real questions when we were talking face

to face."

In addition to the games and traditional question and answer session, the show offered professional advice from a counselor at the Women's Center and knowledge about the white ribbon campaign from Theta Chi.

Henshaw said nearly 500 people attended the show.

Spanky's, Merle Norman Cosmetics and NERV restaurant and lounge sponsored the event.

VTTV is a division of the Educational Media Company at Virginia Tech, as is the Collegiate Times.



ROBERT DRAKE/SPPS

Freshman biology majors Angel Santiago and Katie Timp and freshman accounting major Joanna Quinn joined in the laughter that filled Squires Colonial Hall last night.

# Lawmakers at odds over Internet taxes

by **Mary Dalrymple**  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — State and federal lawmakers agree that Internet access should remain tax-free, but state officials said Wednesday a recently passed bill could have the unintentional effect of freeing the telecommunications industry from virtually all taxes.

The House last week passed legislation permanently banning taxes on Internet connections. The bill makes permanent a temporary freeze on the taxes, which will expire Nov. 1.

New language clarifies that all types of Internet access — from dial-up connections to high-speed DSL and cable modems — cannot be taxed.

The Multistate Tax Commission, an organization of state tax officials, said that language is too broad. They said it eventually could exempt the telecommunications industry from all state and local taxes as telecommunication companies gradually start using Internet technology to deliver all of their services.

The commission said the language could leave telecommunications businesses free from sales, excise, income and property taxes, and that states stand to lose between \$4 billion and \$9 billion a year by 2006.

"This came as quite a shock," said Jim McIntire, chairman of Washington state's House Finance Committee.

Lawmakers who wrote the bill said they look at the same words and see a different

meaning.

"I think they are discussing a problem that does not exist," said Rep. Melvin Watt, D-N.C. "It's hard for me to box with a shadow."

Watt and other members of the House Judiciary Committee added the language to ensure that consumers who use broadband get the same treatment as those who use slower, dial-up connections. They also wanted to give future technology equal footing with current means of access.

Watt said he shared the language with a number of state and local organizations and he remains open to new ideas. But so far, he said, no one has proposed better language.

The state and federal lawmakers do not question each others' motives. Both sides say Internet access must remain tax free to make the technology available to the most consumers for the best price.

They split over how telecommunications industry lawyers and courts will interpret the bill.

If courts decided to interpret the law to mean that services delivered through the Internet should be free of state and local taxes, the Multistate Tax Commission said consumers will lose.

"All those consumers are also taxpayers," said Dan Bucks, the commission's executive director.

He said consumers would see their income taxes, sales taxes or property taxes rise to make up the lost revenue.

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## Sports

# Williams leads experienced Tech defense

by **Rajan Nanavati**  
Sports Editor

Everyone has been taught to listen to our elders. After all, experience brings wisdom, and youth brings immaturity.

On a collegiate defense, if you're given the option of entrusting the main signal calls to a senior or a sophomore, of course the obvious choice is to give this responsibility to the senior.

This isn't the case, however, on the Virginia Tech defensive squad. On a unit featuring upperclassmen on every position but one, it's the lone sophomore free safety Jimmy Williams who takes on the responsibility of being the main signal caller.

"On this defense, the free safety is the quarterback," Williams said. "The whole defense respects me when I talk. I have to get the team ready."

Williams inherited the position from the departed stalwart Willie Pile, one of the brightest and most efficient players the Hokies have had in their secondary. His mental preparation and approach to the game were models for anyone to emulate if they desired success, and having witnessed this first hand as Pile's apprentice and heir-to-be, Williams tried to absorb as much as he could from Pile.

"That's just like when you're a little kid and you're looking up to your father," Williams said when referencing his learning process under Pile. "You do everything he does — the way he walks, the way he talks — that's what I tried to do. With him being able to teach me, I knew what to do and what not to do this year."

The coaching staff has high hopes for Williams because of the size and excellent athleticism he brings to the free safety position. He stands 6 feet 3 inches tall, towering over a majority of collegiate wide receivers, has very good speed and has the natural instincts of a cornerback.

In addition, unlike many other cornerbacks and free safeties, Williams loves to lay the lumber on any ball carriers around him. His predecessor Pile was always known as a big hitter and Williams has picked up where Pile left off.

Now that he's the starter, Williams is looking to shed the persona of a younger player who has to look up to everyone and grow into the role of a team leader and a playmaker.

He changed his number from 18 to 2 (after 1 and 5 were taken), knowing that the elite defensive backs such as Charles Woodson and Deion Sanders had single digit numbers in college. Not coincidentally, both of the previously mentioned corners also wore the number two. But Williams would like to assure people that, while he understands he's wearing the number of the often-maligned Tech corner Ronyell Whitaker, the two share a friendship and one common bond: they love to talk trash on the field.

Fellow defensive back DeAngelo Hall listed Williams as the top trash talker on the defense in a very short list.

"I try to be real vocal and intimidate the other team as much as I can," Williams said. "Really, it's just to amp our defense and myself up. If I'm out there and I'm not talking and I'm not communicating, then I don't think I can play as well as I can play."

Williams also changed his number as a sign from both himself and the coaching staff that he will be Tech's starting free safety as long as he keeps earning it. The original jersey number of 18 was given to Williams after the coaches contemplated switching him to offense. Knowing he played quarterback and wide receiver in

high school, the coaches thought they could use Williams better at receiver. However, Williams informed the coaches he would far prefer hitting opposing players than catching touchdown passes, so they kept him on defense.

As the newfound leader of one of the top defenses in the nation, Williams doesn't see himself as a "me-first" player, and prefers to let his play on the field do the talking. He's not afraid to dress-down a player who's not performing up to standards, as Pile would have. Fortunately, with the way the Tech defense has been playing, Williams hasn't needed to.

He said he realizes he's surrounded by the nation's premier talents and prospects, and he prefers to simply be mentioned among a great defense rather than receiving individual accolades.

With Hall receiving so much attention as a potential candidate for the Heisman and Jim Thorpe awards, Williams would one day love for the entire secondary unit to get national attention as well.

"If they're going to be looking at (Hall), why not us too?" Williams said. "(Our secondary is) trying to also get the spotlight like him. We're all trying to be in ESPN Magazine together as a unit."



ROBERT DRAKE/SPPS

**Williams (2) and a few of his defensive teammates converge on a UCF player. On the season, Williams ranks second on the team in total tackles with 23.**

# Sports flicks among all-time best movies



**Adam  
The Truth  
Abramson**

Everyone has their own system for rating movies, and it is rare you find two people with the same top 10 list.

Granted, there are several movies everyone should have in at least their top 20 list. These flicks include, in no specific order: The Godfather (Parts 1 and 2), The Usual Suspects, Gladiator, Shawshank Redemption, Top Gun and Dude, Where's My Car (okay, kidding about the last one).

But there are eons of great movies that are forgotten about once the credits roll up.

Forrest Gump, Reservoir Dogs and North by Northwest (although a classic, I guarantee many of you have never seen it).

But I feel a need to touch on a few of the

greatest, most under appreciated, sports movies of all time. These may be in some people's top 10 lists because they are just that good.

Before we break them down, I want to understand why girls don't accept sports movies like guys do. The rare girl appreciates sports movies such as the Rocky series (well, the first four), Field of Dreams, Rudy and The Program for what they and other movies like them are — classics. One of the great stereotypical (but true) myths of all time.

First, I want to talk about Swimfan. Perhaps the best sports movie ever produced, it mixes drama — alright, I'll stop.

He Got Game with Ray Allen and Denzel Washington is one of my favorite basketball movies of all time. There are many aspects that will never measure up to other basketball movies (i.e. Hoosiers, Teen Wolf — kidding again).

Spike Lee creates Jesus Shuttlesworth (played by Allen) who is just absolutely nasty on the court. The plot is amazing. Jake, his dad, is released from prison for murdering Jesus' mother, but the only stipulation is that he must

convince his son to go to the governor's alma matter (which is Big State, an ill name for a basketball school).

The Sandlot has to be one of the greatest feel-good movies of all time, and not just in the sporting world. If you haven't seen this movie, your parents might hate you because you were deprived of one of everyone's favorite childhood movies (okay, they may not hate you, but a strong disliking may have existed).

Say whatever you want, but I don't care. I still quote this movie like crazy. So if you try to make fun of me for it, I might respond with, "you bob for apples in the toilet, and you like it!"

I have to fight people all the time about Jerry McGuire because I say it is one my favorite movies of all time. I

could write an entire column on this movie because, to me, it is nearly flawless.

A story about the man with the coolest job ever who depends on a football

player that depends on him in return, all while we ride the roller coaster of his relationships adds up to be an instant classic.

Cuba Gooding Jr. takes the show playing Rod Tidwell who spouts out endless numbers of lines a good number of Americans love to quote to this date. If you don't think it is a sports movie — oh well, there is enough football in it for it to qualify.

These are just a few that are over looked. The beautiful thing about movies in general is they are worthy of discussion for hours and hours upon end.

Other overlooked sports movies are Mystery, Alaska (a great hockey flick), Bad News Bears, the Major League trilogy, Slap Shot, Cool Runnings and The Hurricane.

Naturally, not everybody will like all of the movies that have been named in this column, but if you don't go out and rent them, you will never know.

But when you do watch them and enjoy them, just remember who recommended you.

*Adam Abramson is an associate sports editor for the Collegiate Times.*

# Waltrip developing rep for trash talking

by **Keith Parsons**  
Associated Press

A brash newcomer came into NASCAR and annoyed the older, established drivers by winning races and gloating about it. The fans didn't care much for him, either, booing unmercifully at nearly every opportunity.

Kevin Harvick? Kurt Busch? Nah, it was Darrell Waltrip, ol' D.W., now an analyst for Fox's coverage of NASCAR and one of the most popular people in the garage.

It hardly started that way. "When he first came into the sport, he liked to talk," said Cale Yarborough, who

gave Waltrip the nickname "Jaws."

When Waltrip made his first Winston Cup start in 1972 at age 25, he was a lot like other rookies.

He drove a car he owned, worked long hours during the week just to make it to the next race, then spent a lot more time underneath the hood once he got to the track.

And he didn't have much success right away, needing three years to win his first race.

"I was a one-man show," Waltrip said. He also didn't lack any confidence.

"Everybody else until that time had come in and just worked their way into the

sport," seven-time Winston Cup champ Richard Petty said. "Darrell came in and threw up a sign that said, 'I'm Darrell Waltrip and I'm here.'"

"It didn't hurt anything. He'd just run his mouth, and to begin with, that was the only way he could get his name in the paper."

As long as Waltrip wasn't winning, he wasn't much of a bother to the veteran drivers. But he won two races in 1975 after joining DiGard Racing, then had a breakout season in 1977, winning six times.

His confidence grew with each victory, and he wasn't shy about sharing it with other people.

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# Cross-country grad returns for last run

■ The four-time team MVP returns to Blacksburg to pursue a graduate degree as well as utilize her last year of eligibility

by Bennett Aikin and Erica Hampton  
Staff Writers

The women's cross-country team has some big shoes to fill during its fall season — the team will be without Stacy Vidt for the first time in four years.

Vidt graduated last fall with a degree in Human Nutrition, Food and Exercise and is now enrolled as a graduate student at Virginia Tech. However, her career with the Hokies is not over. A stress fracture caused Vidt to miss a season of eligibility as an undergraduate, and now she has the chance to add to her accomplishments this spring by competing in a final outdoor track season.

From the moment Vidt stepped onto Tech's track, her presence has been felt.

Freshman year, she quickly established herself as a leader and guided Tech to a third-place finish in the Atlantic 10 championships with her team-best ninth-place performance.

In 2001, Vidt secured a 21<sup>st</sup>-place individual finish at the Big East championships, leading the Hokies to a sixth-place team finish. Her senior year was her culminating experience on the cross-country team, as she finished No. 19 in the 6K at the Southeast Regional championships. Vidt became the first Hokie in a dozen years to earn all-district honors and a place in the NCAA championships.

Placing fourth in the 10K and making All-Conference for the Big East were the two highlights of Vidt's senior season, she said. Her career highlights include breaking five minutes in the mile, being named All-Conference in the steeplechase and running a 2:13 split in the 800-

While earning these honors, Vidt also earned her degree in human nutrition, food and exercise. As a graduate student, she has a lot more responsibility and time dedication to her studies, she said.

When asked why she wanted to continue running in graduate school, Vidt said she wanted to take advantage of a good thing while the chance was still available to her.

"I had such a great cross-country season that I finished off with a trip to the national championship," she said. "I also had an outstanding outdoor season."

Like every collegiate athlete, Vidt has had to juggle both athletics and academics. Fortunately, she said, adjusting to graduate school is not as hard as she thought it would be. Vidt said she tries to work out with the team whenever possible, but she can do conditioning on her own when time constraints make it necessary.

Her schedule consists of running in the morning and after dinner and spending her extra time in the lab.

Alongside mastering sports and academics, Vidt has accomplished her ultimate goal — incorporating her faith into her running.

The turning point in her career was when she took a trip to Colorado with the Christian athletic group, Athletes In Action, she said.

"It taught me to incorporate my faith into my race, and it has made a big difference in my performances," Vidt said.

Vidt said she is looking forward to continuing her running career after college, and she plans to run in a marathon in the future.

In order to continue running after college, the level of passion for the sport has to be there, she said.

"If I didn't love it, I wouldn't still do it," she said.

For now, Vidt is concentrating on her last season as a Hokie. She said she predicts only good things to happen to the

track team this year, including a chance at nationals.

Vidt said not even the move to the ACC will stop Tech from being successful.

"The ACC is not a huge jump for us," she said. "We have competed against N.C. State and (the University of Virginia). I am sure that we will perform well in the ACC."

Throughout her years here, Vidt has left her mark on the Tech record books. She was named team MVP all four years on the cross-country team. Her team records include the 6K, the indoor mile and her participation in the 4x800, 4x1500 and the distance-medley relay teams. These records, in addition to her outstanding 10K, have made Vidt one of the most productive runners at Tech in recent years.

Vidt is striving for more award-winning performances in the 2004 season and achieving a personal goal of becoming the Big East champion in the 10K.



COURTESY OF HOKIESPORTS INFO  
**The Hokies will benefit from Vidt's skill and talent for one more season.**

# Pre-teen hoops phenom prepares for varsity ball

by Matthew Barakat  
Associated Press

DUMFRIES — One year ago, a recruiting service named 11-year-old Kendall Marshall the nation's best sixth-grade basketball player.

Now 12, Kendall has since added to his accomplishments: a year of high school varsity basketball at Evangel Christian school, in which he led the team in assists and was second in scoring, and a second consecutive national AAU title.

One might worry that the accolades heaped upon Kendall would give him a swelled head. But even the briefest of conversations with Kendall erases that doubt. He addresses adults with "sir" or "ma'am," he talks about college instead of the NBA, and perhaps most impressive, he prefers passing the ball to shooting.

"I just like getting the ball to my teammates when they're open," Kendall said.

His AAU coach, Lou Wilson, said, "You can pretty much spot a true point guard at any level. He's the one that gets joy out of controlling the tempo, making smart, heady decisions. ... With Kendall, nothing shocks you about his athletic ability. What catches your eye is his natural feel for the game."

The ranking by the recruiting publication Hoop Scoop has brought attention to Kendall, with Sports Illustrated and numerous other publications writing about him. But those who know Kendall say he has handled it well.

"I don't know how many young men his age could handle the pressure he's been subjected to and not let it get to his head, but it's not gone to his head," said Rick Moore, the athletic director at Evangel Christian. "He's just a very humble, very polite young man."

Kendall's father, Dennis

Marshall, said he was first on "cloud nine" when he learned about the ranking, but he soon realized that some negative attention flowed from it as well.

"The kids he plays against want him to prove it every day," Dennis Marshall said.

"Any time you have anybody who's good at something, there will be other people who don't like it, and Kendall's faced some of that."

Kendall said he didn't know what to think about the ranking, but that he realized quickly that the best thing to do was to downplay it.

"It's just somebody else's opinion," he said.

The man who rated Kendall No. 1, Clark Francis of Hoop Scoop, also downplayed the rankings at such a young age.

"The rankings are as accurate as they can be ... but it's awfully early to be talking about guys that young," Francis said. "It's a nice honor for him, but I'd take it with a grain of salt."

Still, many of the sixth-graders listed by Francis have panned out, including Stephon Marbury. But Francis said you really learn about players once they reach ninth grade and begin to compete against top varsity players.

Francis said it seems like Kendall has so far handled well the pressure that was placed on him by the high ranking, which is a good sign.

"I've met him several times. He handles himself pretty well, seems like he has a good sense of parental direction," Francis said.

Kendall's private school has about 130 pupils in grades 6-12. The school has a policy of allowing sixth-graders to compete on varsity, and it has happened on occasion in sports like soccer or baseball, where a large roster is needed.



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# Parlow, Wambach a tall order to defend

by Barry Wilner  
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Mia Hamm is missing one thing fellow forwards Cindy Parlow and Abby Wambach possess: height.

That height — both Parlow and Wambach are 5-foot-11 — has become a huge asset for the United States.

"It's a lot of fun to play with them," Hamm said, "and we know when we serve in there high, they're going to be getting the ball."

Heading into Thursday's game with

Nigeria and then Sunday's match against North Korea, the Americans know the height advantage could make a big difference. Parlow scored on a header in the opening 3-1 victory over Sweden, as did Shannon Boxx, who is 5-8, taller than every teammate except Parlow, Wambach and the goalkeepers.

While Sweden was able to alter its lineup and use some taller defenders, neither of the next two foes have that kind of depth.

So look for lots of crosses and corner kicks and passes in the air. And look for one of the 5-11 Americans to be getting a head on some of those balls.

"We need to keep a powerful, fearless, aggressive and athletic style," coach April Heinrichs said Tuesday while her players relaxed during an off day from practice. "I believe our technical players can solve tight touches in little space."

While Heinrichs hinted there could be a change or two in the starting lineup — other than Cat Reddick replacing injured Brandi Chastain on defense — don't expect the coach to disrupt the tall duo up front. The Nigerians, known for a physical brand of soccer that sometimes borders on brutal, won't easily contend with the size matchup.

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# Iverson likely to finish his career in Philadelphia

by Dan Gelston  
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — The lights dimmed as the video scoreboard started playing Allen Iverson's career highlights.

There he was being announced as Philadelphia's No. 1 draft pick, and later holding his MVP award. There he was celebrating victories, acting silly off the court and hugging former coach Larry Brown.

The memories showed what makes Iverson so valuable and why the Sixers couldn't afford to lose him. Now, they won't have to worry about that.

Iverson signed a four-year contract extension with the 76ers on Wednesday that will keep the three-time NBA scoring champion with them through the 2008-09 season.

"I always wanted to be a Sixer. I always wanted to finish my career as a Sixer," Iverson said as the deal was announced at a special event for season ticket-holders at the Wachovia Center.

Terms were not announced, but a team source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Tuesday the extension would pay Iverson \$76.7 million over the four years.

"Allen said he always wanted to be a Philadelphia 76er and, with this contract, we're telling him we always want him here as well," team president Billy King said.

Iverson has one year plus an option remaining on his current deal, which will pay him more than \$28 million over the next two years. The extension begins in 2005-06.

Iverson is entering the final year of a six-year, \$71 million contract, including an option year, that he signed after the 1997-98 season.

Iverson and King signed the contract in front of nearly 200 wildly cheering fans. Iverson will be 33 when the deal expires and it means he will be the longest-tenured Sixer in team history.

King said negotiations moved quickly this summer with Iverson's agent, Leon

Rose. Iverson said he never thought about exploring free agency and wanted the deal done now so it wouldn't be a distraction during the season.

"You all didn't have a chance to make a big circus about it," Iverson joked with reporters.

Iverson, wearing Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Donovan McNabb's No. 5 jersey, repeatedly credited the fans for making him feel comfortable in Philadelphia.

"You've always embraced me through my ups and downs," he said.

Iverson averaged 27.6 points last season, helping Philadelphia finish 48-34 and advance to the second round of the playoffs. He was the NBA's MVP in 2000-01, when he led the 76ers to the Eastern Conference championship for the first time since 1983.

Iverson liked the direction of the team and credited King with making the moves that will keep them contenders. Philadelphia re-signed forwards Kenny Thomas and Derrick Coleman, signed free

agent forward/center Amal McCaskill and traded for forward Glenn "Big Dog" Robinson and center Marc Jackson.

"This is the most excited I've been since I've been in the league," Iverson said. "This team is better than the team I went to the finals with, on paper."

In seven seasons, Iverson is averaging 27.0 points and 5.6 assists. This summer, he helped the U.S. team qualify for next year's Olympics.

Iverson had a contentious relationship with Brown, who left to coach the Detroit Pistons after last season. It was so bad that Iverson was nearly traded to Detroit in the summer of 2000.

Iverson, however, was quick to credit Brown.

"I honestly think Coach Brown is the best coach in the world," Iverson said. "He supported me. We had our ups and downs, but, without him, I may not have been able to sign this contract."

Iverson gets along well with new coach Randy Ayers, who was Brown's assistant.

## Olympic medalists failed drug tests

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) - Twenty-four American athletes who won Olympic medals from 1988 to 2000 previously tested positive for banned drugs, U.S. Olympic officials said Wednesday.

They insisted, however, that the cases were handled properly without any cover-ups.

The U.S. Olympic Committee was to report the cases to the IOC on Thursday as part of a review of its drug-testing program from 1985 to 2000, spokesman Darryl Seibel said.

"The report will clearly indicate that there was no cover-up and these cases were adjudicated with the applicable rules at the time," Seibel told The Associated Press.

Seibel said the "vast majority" of the 24 cases involved stimulants in the ephedrine class or similar substances. He declined to identify the athletes or sports involved.

Some of the positive tests occurred years before the athletes won Olympic medals, according to U.S. officials. The punishment at the time for positive ephedrine tests was a warning or three-month suspension.

Confirmation of the 24 cases, first reported by the Los Angeles Times, came on the same day the IOC said it couldn't take action in the alleged doping case involving U.S. sprinter Jerome Young.

The International Olympic Committee and the World Anti-Doping Agency have been investigating accusations Young tested positive for nandrolone in 1999 but was cleared on appeal by U.S. officials. He went on to win a gold medal in Sydney as part of the 1,600-meter relay team.

WADA chairman Dick Pound has pushed for the gold medals to be stripped from Young and the rest of the relay team.

"No legal action can be taken at this point by the IOC," said IOC director general Francois Carrard, part of the four-member investigative panel. "The IOC can only contemplate legal action if the matter is reconsidered by the IAAF."

The IAAF said it, too, was powerless to act unless Young comes forward and admits to the positive test.

IAAF anti-doping chief Arne Ljungqvist said his federation is bound by a ruling in January from the Swiss-based Court of Arbitration for Sport, which said USA Track & Field did not have to divulge details of 13 positive cases from 1996-2000.

"We can not ask USATF to submit any information since this is what CAS decided," Ljungqvist told the AP. However, he added that if the athlete comes forward, "then we would have a new situation."

Young, who won gold in the 400 meters and 1,600-meter relay at last month's World Championships, has said he never committed a doping offense.

The USOC said it would cooperate.

"We will provide the IOC with as much information as possible to answer their questions and bring closure to these important issues," Seibel said.

The investigative panel was formed after the accusations against Young were reported by the Los Angeles Times. The case was never disclosed by U.S. officials.

Carrard said the panel did not speak to Young or any other outside witnesses.

The IAAF repeatedly demanded that USA Track & Field disclose the names of athletes who were cleared of doping offenses before the Sydney Olympics.

USATF refused, citing confidentiality rules, and the dispute went to the arbitration court.

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