

New data network underway

by **Ellen Biltz**
News Assistant

Virginia Tech has always prided itself in having innovative advancements above and beyond the competition, and recently the university invested \$5 million to be a founding member in the construction of the National LambdaRail.

With the vast growth in technology the world is experiencing today, the university has to strive harder each year to accomplish goals and put into effect the new connections needed for research.

"The network facilities provided by NLR are critical because billions of dollars of cyber info structure rely on them," said Jeff Crowder, project director.

The main focus for the NLR is to introduce a new national optical network for big science and network research. They will do this by constructing nodes, or connection facilities, for the fast-paced network in regions throughout the country.

"This network just has insanely high capacity," Crowder said.

The money the university put forward is directly being used to start the Mid-Atlantic Terascale Partnership. This partnership includes all participating research institutions within Maryland, Virginia and Washington D.C.

Each university or company will be asked to pay Tech \$500,000 to compensate for the original investment.

"MATP focuses on building info structure to include all participants," Crowder said.

Other universities that, like Tech, have been founding members for their regions are Duke University and Georgia Tech.

Both schools are competitive in research projects, making it even more imperative for Tech to have the best new technology, Crowder said.

The node that will be used for the MATP will be located in Washington D.C. The construction will be completed by January 2004.

Tech, as well as the other institutions in the region, will be connected and functional by July 2004.

Top administrator to step down

by **Eric Beidel**
Associate News Editor

Come summer 2004, Virginia Tech will replace top administrator Minnis Ridenour, executive vice president and chief operating officer, who will step down after more than 29 years at the university.

"I'd be hard pressed to find anyone who had a greater impact on the university than Minnis," said Raymond Smoot, vice president for administration and treasurer.



Ridenour

Ridenour will be missed because of his work with funding and other financial issues at the university, Smoot said.

"I've worked with Minnis since 1975 and can't think of anyone who made a greater contribution to the financial situation here at Tech," Smoot said. "He did excellent work, particularly at the state level to address funding issues."

Ridenour and Smoot worked together to develop a relationship between Tech and the city of Roanoke, resulting in the renovation of the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center.

Ridenour said he is proud of many projects that saw his involvement over the years, including the equipment trust fund, which

brought hundreds of millions of dollars in scientific equipment to the university.

"I am very fortunate to have been part of many projects over the years," he said. "Even during difficult budget times, we still were able to see substantial growth for the university."

In 2001, Ridenour's work earned him the Distinguished Business Officer Award, the highest honor given by the National Association of College and University Business Officers.

Ridenour first came to Tech in 1974 as the university's budget director and chief business officer. He was promoted to executive vice president in 1987 and to his current position in 2001.

The university has begun a nation-

wide search for a replacement, said Provost Mark McNamee.

"We are doing a full national search," he said. "People both inside and outside of the university can put in for this position."

The search will end in summer 2004, but Ridenour's duties will continue for almost two years.

He said he has agreed to be available to work with the new executive vice president for awhile before fully retiring, but he will not be involved in the hiring process.

He will also continue helping with major initiatives such as private fundraising, he said.

Once completely retired, Ridenour said he will do more

See **TOP**, page 2

Tech endowment sees positive return

■ Nearly 3,000 students and 200 professors benefit from the \$15 million provided by the endowment each year

by **Tiffany Hoffman**
Managing Editor

Endowments at Virginia Tech earned a 3.3 percent return for fiscal year 2003 — the first increase the Tech Foundation has seen in three years.

"The stock market in general has had a much better year than previous years," said Raymond Smoot, executive vice president of the Virginia Tech Foundation.

The endowments provide about \$15 million for the university each year and are primarily used for scholarships and professorships.

"For the university to be truly excellent, there needs to be significant

(contributions) from the private sector," said Larry Hincker, university spokesman.

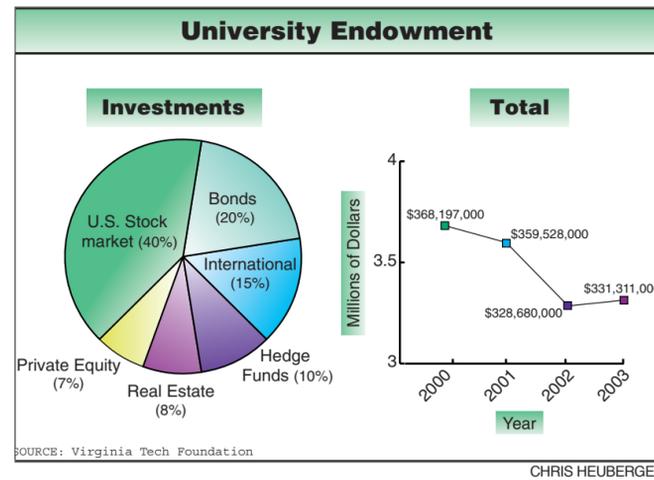
Substantial monetary, land and stock contributions are all entered into the investment market and the profit is then used for the university's benefit. This way, Hincker said, the money is there in perpetuity.

As of June 30, the investments were worth approximately \$331 million — \$35 million below its highest value of \$368 million in 2000. The Foundation receives about \$14 million each year from patrons.

Smoot said he expected the earnings to continue to increase again in upcoming years.

"The university is getting more aggressive getting private contributions for the endowments," he said. "I suspect it will more than double when the next capital campaign takes place."

Hincker said the university is currently in the process of putting the campaign together by talking to key donors to help set the stage for other



opportunities.

Approximately 3,000 students and 200 faculty benefit from the endowment earnings each year. The money is distributed in six areas of interest

— 40 percent is in the U.S. stock market, 15 percent is in the international stock market, 20 percent is in bonds,

See **FUNDS**, page 3

Pieing a Pi Beta Phi



ERIC CONNOLLY/SPPS

Nannette Jimenez, left, a senior early childhood education major, and Jen Witte, a senior marketing major participated in Pie a Phi Thursday night downtown in front of Top of the Stairs.

ADAPT to battle drugs, alcohol

■ The Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Team is beginning its first semester at Tech

by **Ellen Biltz**
News Assistant

Alcohol and drug abuse are issues affecting college campuses all over the nation, and Virginia Tech recently instituted a program to promote aware-

ness to students with abuse problems.

ADAPT, or the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Team, is starting its first semester at the university.

"We design and put on programs for organizations like residence halls, sororities or any other organization that may request us," said Tara McCartney, ADAPT graduate assistant.

These programs will not only promote awareness, but also give teens a chance to interact

with one another on issues they face every day.

This fall, the prevention team will be meeting once a week to plan activities. These activities consist mostly of programs and other community involvement. The team will officially begin its activities in the spring.

"I am very excited about ADAPT," said Francis Keene, assistant director of judicial affairs. "The group of students we have selected is fantastic."

See **ADAPT**, page 2

Groups work to promote exercise, healthier habits for students

by **Alexandra Michael**
Staff Writer

Whether they call it the "freshman 15" or "love handles," most students know the difficulties of finding time to exercise and eat healthy foods in college.

But according to an Ohio State University study, time is not as important as encouragement when it comes to a healthy lifestyle.

Students who have support from their friends and family are more likely to continue to exercise regularly. Inactive college graduates are less likely to engage in physical activity than those who exercised regularly throughout school, the Ohio State researchers said. However, health concerns aren't the only reasons students are heading to the gym.

"It makes you healthier and gives you a good break during the day," said Carrie McElveen, a senior political science and communication major.

Thirty Virginia Tech students are going the distance to promote fitness this year with a 2400-mile "Step by Step to Hollywood" program sponsored by the Student Dietetic Association.

"Many fitness events on campus are single-day events, while this is promoting a long-term commitment to fitness," said Heidi Lail, the fitness chair of the club and a senior human nutrition, foods and exercise major.

Over the course of the school year, each member will walk 10 miles or more a month to collect points.

The person with the most points at the end of the year will win a prize. To encourage members to participate, the club is planning group walks on the Huckleberry Trail.

Students also found the closeness of on-campus facilities encourages them to workout.

"It being right next door pushes me," said Atitaya Pratoomtong, a sophomore international studies major.

Tech's Department of Recreational Sports is also trying to encourage students to stay active through a "Swim the New River" challenge.

Even those who don't want to attend a class can play basketball or find something to do that is both good exercise and fun.

"There's always a lot of pick-up games and the courts are nice," said Jesse Gorin, a freshman university studies major.

News in Brief

Criminal record found for Del. candidate

DUBLIN, Va. (AP) — A candidate for the 6th District House of Delegates seat was convicted in 1989 of making a threatening telephone call to his estranged wife.

Records in the Pulaski County Circuit Court clerk's office show Morgan Morris was convicted of making a threatening call to his then-wife, The Roanoke Times reported Thursday. In her complaint, Lisa D. Morris said he told her he was armed and threatened to kill her and her boyfriend. Morris, a Republican, is challenging two-term Del. Benny Keister, D-Pulaski County.

Ala. budgets to cause layoffs

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Alabama's Legislature gave final approval Thursday to austere budgets that will cause layoffs of some state employees and leave most public school children without new textbooks.

In the wake of a Sept. 9 state-wide vote rejecting new taxes, the House gave final approval to a \$1.2 billion General Fund budget that cuts funding to most state agencies by 18 percent.

Woman extradited in identity case

LEBANON, Ind. (AP) — A woman accused of impersonat-

ing a couple's missing daughter was extradited to Indiana on Thursday and charged with identity deception.

A judge entered an innocent plea for Donna Lynette Walker, 35, and scheduled a pretrial hearing for Dec. 10. She was appointed an attorney, who was not present at the hearing.

Man convicted for murdering child

OLATHE, Kan. (AP) — The adoptive father and baby sitter of a 9-year-old boy who died after being wrapped from head-to-toe in duct tape were convicted Thursday of murder and child abuse.

Prosecutors said the boy was being punished for stealing cookies Dec. 29 when he was wrapped in duct tape with only his nose uncovered. He was left overnight, and suffocated on his own vomit.

U.S. Levi Strauss plants close

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Levi Strauss & Co. will close its last manufacturing plants in the United States and Canada, eliminating nearly 2,000 jobs, the struggling jeans maker said Thursday. The company will close two sewing and finishing plants in San Antonio by year's end and lay off 800 workers. It will also shutter its three remaining plants north of the border that employ 1,180 people. The company will contract with foreign plants to make up for the closings.

ADAPT: Twelve students recruited

Continued from page 1

They are going to be providing fellow students with fun, interactive and informational programs on alcohol and drug abuse issues at (Tech)."

ADAPT has been in place at several other schools in Virginia already, including Radford University and the University of Virginia.

The program is currently recruiting students to become

members.

Keene said students have been notified if they were selected, but none had responded as of Thursday.

Twelve students from the campus were selected after the interview process this week.

These students must maintain a 2.5 GPA and successfully complete the interview process and a nine-hour training session where the students will become nationally certified as

peer educators.

"They will learn all of Tech's policies concerning alcohol and tobacco issues," McCartney said.

"ADAPT is important because it has students talking to one another about alcohol and drug abuse issues," Keene said.

"They can talk about what it is like to be a student at Tech and how alcohol affects students."

Top: Ridenour difficult to replace

Continued from page 1

work with non-profit and government organizations, as well as join his wife in volunteer work in the community and with the United Methodist Church.

"I could not have done the job I've hopefully done without the involvement and support of my wife and children," he said.

Though it will be difficult to replace Ridenour, Smoot said the new executive vice president will have to possess the same kind of work ethic and attitude.

"Anyone who serves in a position at this level needs to have a vision of where the university is going and Minnis had that," Smoot said.

"I suspect the next person will build on that vision."

Above all, McNamee said Ridenour will be remembered for his humility and devotion.

"Minnis is one of the most unselfish people I've ever met," McNamee said.

"He wakes up every morning thinking about what he can do for Virginia Tech."

Earthquake rattles Japan

by Eric Talmadge
Associated Press

TOKYO — A strong quake with a magnitude of 8 rocked the northern Japan island of Hokkaido early Friday, injuring more than 160 people, knocking out power, derailing a train and touching off an industrial fire.

Public broadcaster NHK reported that at least 164 people were hurt, including at least two seriously, in the quake, mostly by falling objects in their homes. It blacked out 16,000 homes and capsized fishing boats.

The quake struck at 4:50 a.m. and was centered in the Pacific, about 60 miles off Hokkaido's eastern shore. The U.S. Geological Survey in Golden, Colo., said the temblor had a preliminary magnitude of 8.

An earthquake of that magnitude is capable of causing tremendous damage.

A powerful aftershock of magnitude 7 followed shortly after 6 a.m., the U.S. Geological

Survey said from Golden, Colo. Another aftershock was reported at 8 a.m. Its magnitude was not immediately known.

Japan's Central Meteorological Agency initially estimated the quake's magnitude at 7.8, but later revised that to 8.0.

The government warned local residents to avoid coastal areas due to the possibility of tsunami, or ocean waves caused by seismic activity. The meteorological agency said tsunami as high as 3 feet had hit the city of Kushiro.

The quake was focused off Hokkaido's eastern shore. It was strong enough to rock buildings on the island and shake books and other objects off shelves.

NHK reported that most of the injuries were caused by falling shelves and other toppled objects. One 70-year-old woman suffered a broken leg while trying to leave her house through a window, it said.

A fire started at an industrial plant in the city of Tomakomai,

but no workers were reported injured, said Hokkaido prefectural police official Kuniyoshi Omori.

NHK showed giant flames and black plumes of smoke pouring from the site, which police said belonged to Idemitsu Co. Streams of water were aimed at the flames.

Omori said one person was injured when a local train carrying about 39 passengers derailed. Kushiro airport was closed temporarily after part of a roof caved in, and several roads were blocked by landslides, NHK said.

Hiroaki Tanaka, a Kushiro fire department official, said 50 people were treated there for bruises and broken bones. Hokkaido government official Hiroyuki Nakao said 31 people were injured, two of them seriously, in towns outside Kushiro.

He said the number was certain to increase as many areas had not yet reported damages.

STOCK MARKET REPORT — 9/25/2003 —			WEATHER						
DJIA	9343.96	▼ -81.55	TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SATURDAY NIGHT	SUNDAY	MONDAY	
NASDAQ	1817.24	▼ -26.46							
S&P 500	1003.27	▼ -6.11	Partly sunny; chance of showers	Partly cloudy; chance of showers	Partly sunny	Mostly cloudy	Partly sunny and cooler	Mostly clear	
			Highs: 73° - 78°	Lows: 52° - 57°	Highs: 73° - 78°	Lows: 50° - 55°	50°/65°	50°/65°	



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Funds: VTF shifts from stock market

Continued from page 1

10 percent is in hedge funds, 8 percent is in real estate and 7 percent is in private equity, namely venture capital, Smoot said. Because of current trends, he said there is now a shift away from the emphasis of stock markets.

"There is a belief the U.S. stock market is overvalued and the returns will be higher in things like hedge funds, real estate and venture equity," Smoot said.

In the late 1990s, Smoot said the university received 10 to 15 percent of their total value in earnings and should theoretically be earning an average of 9 percent each year. In fiscal year 2002, the university returned minus 5.8 percent and in 2001, a minus of 4.1 percent.

Though it won't make a significant difference in the \$750 million budget, Hincker said the increase, though small, will help address the budget crisis that has confronted Tech for the past few years.

"People don't give money and make substantial contributions because the state's not doing its job," he said.

"They make contributions because they want to see people soar and have opportunities."

Retired general attacks Bush in campaign debate

by Ron Fournier
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Retired Gen. Wesley Clark emphatically presented his credentials as a Democrat on Thursday and attacked President Bush in campaign debate as "a man who recklessly cut taxes, who recklessly took us into war in Iraq."

Asked in the debate's opening moments about favorable comments he made about Bush as recently as 2001, Clark did not disavow them.

Instead, he said he is pro-choice, pro-affirmative action, pro-environment and pro-health, adding "that's why I am proud to be a Democrat."

In a further slap at Bush's Iraq policy, the former supreme NATO commander said the United States should "engage with allies, be a good player in the international community, should use force only as a last resort."

Clark took his place alongside the other nine contenders scarce-

ly a week after joining the race — and rival Howard Dean passed up an opportunity to criticize the former general's recent political conversion.

"It's up to the voters in the Democratic Party to determine," he said. Dean, the former Vermont governor whose campaign has surprised the political pundits, quickly pivoted to other issues.

"The biggest issue in this campaign is the question of patriotism and democracy. I'm tired of (Attorney General) John Ashcroft and (Vice President) Dick Cheney ... lay claim to the American flag."

The event at Pace University was sponsored by the Democratic Party and billed as a clash over

economic issues. NBC's Brian Williams served as moderator for the two-hour debate.

The Democrats quickly began jabbing one another, exposing differences over tax cut policy.

Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts criticized Dean for favoring a repeal of all of Bush's tax cuts to finance health care expansion and other programs. It is "absolutely wrong" to propose eliminating all cuts, said Kerry, who favors scaling back tax cuts for the wealthy while maintaining them for lower and middle income Americans.

Dean picked up that challenge quickly.

"This is exactly why the budget is so far out of balance.

Washington politicians promising everything," he said. "We cannot win as Democrats" that way, he chastised his fellow New Englander.

"Tell the truth," he prodded Kerry. Dean said that among the rivals, only he and Sen. Bob Graham of Florida — also a former governor — had ever balanced budgets. With Graham's campaign in financial trouble, that remark amounted to an appeal to the Floridians' supporters to give his own economic credentials a look.

Asked about Bush's request for \$87 billion in increased funding for Iraq and Afghanistan, only Rep. Dennis Kucinich of Ohio and Al Sharpton said flatly they would oppose the funds.

Sen. Joe Lieberman of Connecticut said, "we have no choice but to finance this program" to protect 140,000 American troops in Iraq and bring them home.

Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina said, "I would vote for

what is necessary to support the troops."

Rep. Dick Gephardt of Missouri said Congress needs more information from the administration before voting on Bush's request and said it can't be assumed that Republicans would vote for the request.

In a jab at Bush, he added, "It's incomprehensible to me that he can go to the UN" seeking help from other nations and "come away empty-handed."

Asked whether they would pledge not to raise taxes, Graham and Lieberman both declined.

Clark, who has only just begun sketching out a domestic agenda, said he was determined to attack the ballooning federal deficit. He said he was prepared to "put all government programs on the table, including the military programs."

Asked his own view about Bush's request for \$87 billion in funds for Iraq, he sought to turn his relative political inexperience into an asset.

Number of marijuana crops at record high

by Jeffrey Collins
Associated Press

YORK, S.C. — Every itch of his chigger bites reminds investigator Rayford Ervin Jr. why 2003 has been a banner year for the illicit marijuana crop in the pastures of rural York County.

What's been good for the pests — bountiful spring and summer rains after years of drought — has also been good for people who grow pot deep in the fields that back up to bustling Charlotte, N.C.

"To grow marijuana, you've got

to have sunlight, water, fertilizer and what we call tender loving care," said Ervin, part of a York County task force that has so far this year seized 8,400 pot plants with a street value of more than \$21 million.

Those numbers shatter previous yearly records — and there's still a few months left in the growing season.

From Maine to West Virginia to South Carolina, police are reporting bumper marijuana crops in some areas.

Good growing weather was cited as part of the reason why

West Virginia authorities have already seized double the amount of marijuana found last year. Authorities seized about 30,000 marijuana plants just in July, which was nearly equal to the amount of marijuana taken from fields in all of 2002. For the year, about 70,000 plants have been taken from what officials call "West Virginia's No. 1 cash crop."

"We've always been notorious for growing a lot of marijuana," said State Police spokesman Sgt. Jay Powers. "That's why we try so hard to get rid of it."

But the frequent summer

downpours have proved to be too much of a good thing for some growers. South Carolina agents haven't seen a dramatic jump in seized marijuana plants statewide and some have reported crops stunted by too much rain.

So far this year, South Carolina's State Law Enforcement Division has counted nearly 13,000 marijuana plants seized across the state. There is still enough time in the growing season to surpass the 2002 peak of about 25,000 plants, but the numbers likely will not approach the 45,000 plants found in 1992.

Possible terrorist retracts plea

by Matthew Barakat
Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA — An alleged would-be al-Qaida terrorist who pleaded guilty to attempting to blow up the Brooklyn Bridge is seeking to withdraw his plea.

Iyman Faris, 34, formerly of Columbus, Ohio, entered his guilty plea in June and was to have been sentenced Friday. The sentencing was postponed Tuesday, with no new date set. He faced up to 20 years in prison and a \$500,000 fine.

In a defense motion filed Thursday, his lawyer, Frederick Sinclair, said, "Mr. Faris has stated to counsel he wishes to withdraw his plea of guilty for reasons not yet fully explained to counsel by Mr. Faris."

In the motion, Sinclair wrote that he has not yet received a final mental health evaluation of Faris and that Faris may have been hospitalized in Columbus for an attempted suicide.

"Therefore the mental state of Mr. Faris at the time he entered the plea of guilty has not yet been determined," Sinclair wrote. A call to the lawyer was not immediately returned.

Faris pleaded guilty to providing sleeping bags, cell phones and cash to al-Qaida.

Gunman identity in old murder still questioned

by Jim Patterson
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — An attorney for a man accused of shooting a country music chart researcher to death in 1989 told jurors Thursday that several people could have committed the crime, a claim

dismissed in their closing argument.

Defense attorney Ross Anderson said in closing arguments that the prosecution relied on "innuendo and speculation" when arguing that Richard D'Antonio killed Kevin Hughes, a

former co-worker at Cash Box magazine who planned to reveal that its charts were corrupt.

"What we don't know beyond a reasonable doubt, ladies and gentlemen, is if Richard D'Antonio was the gunman on March 9. I don't know it, they don't know it, and that, ladies and gentlemen, is reasonable doubt," Anderson said.

Hughes, 23, was shot by a masked gunman who also wounded country singer Sammy Sadler out-

side a recording studio on Nashville's Music Row.

D'Antonio "chased him, shot him and then put two bullets in his head to make sure," prosecutor Tom Thurman told the jury. "It's time for justice after 14 years for Kevin Hughes."

Among possible perpetrators listed by Anderson was prosecution witness Steve Daniel of Flintstone, Ga.

Daniel testified Wednesday that he sold D'Antonio a gun the day of the slaying and they shot it behind his house before D'Antonio headed back

to Nashville. A firearms expert testified that a bullet found on Daniel's property matched the three bullets recovered from the murder scene.

"Unequivocally, without a doubt, only one man owned the gun that was used to commit these crimes," said Anderson, who didn't call any defense witnesses during two days of testimony in the trial.

Thurman told the jury the defense was "grasping at straws" because Daniel had no reason to kill Hughes.

House members aim to get \$15 million for tobacco farmers

by Nancy Zuckerbrod
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House members from tobacco-growing states launched a bid Wednesday to get \$15 billion in assistance for tobacco farmers, but the plan faces resistance from anti-smoking groups who want more oversight of the cigarette industry.

Nearly 40 tobacco-state lawmakers endorsed the farmer-assistance bill introduced Wednesday by Reps. Ernie Fletcher, R-Ky., and Mike McIntyre, D-N.C.

It would pay growers to stop selling tobacco under a federal program that sets price and production controls. Farmers could still grow tobacco, but they wouldn't get the government-

guaranteed prices for it.

The legislation requires cigarette manufacturers to pay for the plan. Philip Morris USA is the only major cigarette maker to endorse that idea.

Health groups previously said they favored legislation to help tobacco farmers, who have experienced cuts in the amount of tobacco they can grow under the federal program. However, the health groups said they couldn't support the bill introduced Wednesday.

Vince Willmore, a spokesman for the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, said the groups were disappointed the bill didn't give the Food and Drug Administration authority to regulate tobacco products.

"The public health com-

munity feels like it's made a commitment to support them (tobacco farmers). We don't feel like we've gotten the same commitment from tobacco-state lawmakers to support a strong FDA bill that protects the public health," Willmore said.

At a minimum, the groups want a firm commitment from House members to support legislation being developed in the Senate that would give the FDA broad new powers to oversee tobacco products, Willmore said.

The Senate health committee was scheduled to consider legislation Thursday that would give FDA authority to regulate tobacco products, but the meeting was canceled due to the death Wednesday of former New Hampshire Gov. Hugh Gregg.



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French researchers first to clone rats

▪ Scientists managed to duplicate male and female rats and bred them together to make healthy offspring

by **Paul Recer**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — While people all over the world try to get rid of rats, researchers in France have cloned them.

The scientists overcame a quirk in rat physiology to produce genetic duplicates for use in medical research.

Led by researchers at the National Institute of Agronomy Research at Joy en Josas, France, scientists cloned both male and female rats and then mated them to produce normal, healthy pups. A report on the study appears Friday in Science magazine.

Experts hailed the achievement as an important advance in medical research because laboratory rats with special genetic changes can be developed and used to test drugs and other therapies to benefit human patients.

While wild rats worldwide are considered vermin because they carry disease and can spoil food supplies, white laboratory rats are among the most frequently used animal models for human disease research. Genetically manipulated laboratory rodents are highly prized by scientists because they provide a unique opportunity to probe biological processes unable to be studied in humans.

To clone the animals, the researchers had to expose rat eggs to an inhibitor protein halting activation of the eggs. Previous attempts had failed because the eggs mature so rapidly the experimenters don't have time to manipulate the nucleus.

By halting the activation, scientists could remove DNA from the eggs and replace it with DNA from a mature rat cell, a technique called Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer.

Alexandre Fraichard, chief executive officer of a French biotechnology company, genOway, and a co-author of the study, said the researchers first produced two male rat pups. In a second round of cloning, they got two female pups. The pairs were later mated and produced normal, healthy young.

Fraichard said the researchers first removed the nucleus from eggs taken from female rats. Into these eggs, the scientists inserted DNA removed from mature cells extracted from rat embryos. This resulted in 129 live embryos able to progress to the two-cell stage, a very early point in development.

The embryos were then divided and 64 were placed into the womb of one female rat and 65 into another. From this, one of the females gave birth to three male pups, one later dying. The two survivors were genetically identical to the donor cells from the original rat embryos.

Fraichard said the technique was repeated and this time produced two healthy females.

'Secondhand Lions' a second-rate film

Jason Bayer

It's always entertaining to watch two older, established actors in more comedic roles than the ones that helped them rise to fame. Robert Duvall and Michael Caine are certainly no exception, as they pump this slow-moving family film with the only fuel keeping it going.

Writer/director Tim McCanlies has had his experience with family films, having written "The Iron Giant" and engineered the concept for television's "Smallville." He makes a good effort with a great concept, but falls a bit short with the story here.

Walter (Haley Joel Osment) has an irresponsible mother who apparently does not feel she can take care of him unless she has a

boyfriend. The only answer for her, obviously, is to have Walter stay with her two rich, eccentric uncles, with the ulterior motive of sending him in to find their money.

Just how eccentric Garth (Caine) and Hub (Duvall) are is shown immediately after Walter and his mother arrive, as they are trying to catch a catfish in a lake by firing shotguns at it from three feet out. The story evolves as expected with Walter making slow progress in cracking their hard exterior and becoming a new member in their family.

I understand Walter is supposed to be an adolescent boy, insinuating he should be awkward, but Haley Joel Osment's awkwardness exceeds the role. I won't go as far as to say Osment should look forward to starring in "Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star 2" just yet, but perhaps he should go the Elijah Wood path and at least stay out of mainstream films for a couple years until his voice stops cracking.

That's just a suggestion, but I suppose if I were making a couple million dollars to make this movie instead of considerably less to review it, I might take the offer as well. He doesn't necessarily ruin the film but he does distract from it.

Duvall and Caine are clearly the highlights of the film. Their characters have strong opposing personalities, but they are a good blend and play off each other well. Their antics range from flying planes under bridges to confuse police officers to just sitting on the porch and firing their shotguns at the numerous salesmen that come by.

The story shifts a bit when Walter per-

suares them to listen to what the salesmen have to offer and, consequently, Garth and Hub start buying more and more exotic things to play with. Almost everything they buy or do brings laughter to the audience simply because it is usually unexpected and crazy, as in the time they buy a lion for the purpose of having a lion hunt.

A main part of the movie is Garth's telling of Hub's younger days story to Walter. The story is extremely far-fetched and explains how they got all their money by outwitting a sheik who had a vendetta against Hub. The story actually adds to the overall humor of the film, but again bad acting in the smaller roles proves to be distracting and therefore takes away from the film.

The main flaw with the film is it focuses mainly on developing Garth and Hub's personalities and relationships instead of the relationship between the two of them and Walter which should be the essence of the film.

The film is done well and Caine and Duvall's characters are well developed and played, but overall it leaves the audience wanting something more. With the plot moving as slowly as it does, even great performances by the leading men have a hard time saving the movie from script errors.

"Secondhand Lions" might be worth seeing, but the best bet is to wait until it comes to a second-rate video store. "Secondhand Lions" is playing at New River Valley Mall.

Jason Bayer writes movie reviews for the Collegiate Times.



Secondhand Lions

»Synopsis: A shy teenage boy is sent to live with his rich, eccentric uncles for a summer and eventually wins them over.

»Cast: Robert Duvall, Michael Caine, Haley Joel Osment

»Director: Tim McCanlies

»Running Time: 109 min.

Rated PG for thematic material, language and action violence.

Rating: B-

Keller Williams touring through Lexington

by **Alice Husak**
Staff Writer

Folksinger and songwriter Keller Williams performs tonight at the historic Theater at Lime Kiln in Lexington.

The theater is known for its unique and intimate envi-

ronment.

Admired by fans of all genres, Williams is known for his mastery of the 10-string guitar, clean tenor vocals and that relaxed Jimmy Buffet attitude.

Aside from conversing with his audience while on stage, Williams' use of loop effects and a specially designed mouth flugel, present a truly unique experience for concert-goers of all kinds.

His stage antics include backflips, break dancing, special effects and improvisational lyrics, making for an entertaining show.

Small venues such as the Theater at Lime Kiln are ideal to witness this one-of-a-kind act.

Though referred to as a one-

man band, eight guitars keep him company, and audiences are treated to the sounds of layered guitars, bass, synthesizers, organs and percussion instruments, all accompanied by Williams' full voice.

He is also known to modify a 12-string guitar into the more familiar 10-string.

By doing this, he produces the deepest sound an acoustic guitar can bear, usually made available only through use of a subwoofer.

Normally performing about 200 shows a year, Williams incorporates witty and catchy choruses into his original mix of bluegrass, rock and reggae music.

Songs played in concerts usually include the fast-paced "Chillin Like a Villian" or

the fan favorite "Freeker by the Speaker," where the energetic storyteller describes such things as "a rave girl with a lollipop binky and a face full of metal."

Melodies such as "Kidney in a Cooler" incorporate several twanging acoustic guitars strumming along to choruses of "perpendicular teeth" and his wishes for a "double-decker-double-wide."

The Theater at Lime Kiln is celebrating its 20-year anniversary and has hosted many concerts, plays and other stage acts.

Reservation tickets can be purchased for \$20 and lawn seats can be bought for \$18 online.

Visit www.theateratlimekiln.com for more information.

Looking for 'Office Space'



ANNABELLE OMBAC/SPPS

Rebekah Murray and Lisa Farnham, senior marketing majors, attend the 21st annual Business Horizons Career Fair in Squires Commonwealth Ballroom, Thursday.

Dave Matthews Band offers free jazz, funk concert in Central Park

by **Madison J. Gray**
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Dave Matthews Band kept tens of thousands of fans on their feet at a free concert in Central Park as part of a fundraiser for music programs in the nation's largest public school system.

The concert was sponsored by America Online, who has held other fundraisers and donated \$1 million to New York City schools. AOL handed out 70,000 free tickets before the concert through its website and on the streets.

With its brand of funk, jazz and worldbeat fusion, the band entertained the crowd with hits like "Where are You Going" and "Two Step." The concert Wednesday followed in the tradition of Diana Ross, Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel, Barbra Stresiani and Garth Brooks, who also

performed for free at the park.

The band opened with "Don't Drink the Water," a top-10 hit in 1998. The group has released a dozen albums and has had 10 top-10 singles.

"So nice to run into you in the park here, the greatest park in the world, and the greatest city in world," Matthews said to wild applause.

For Joe Bruno, 18, of Brick, N.J., Wednesday's concert marked his 28th time seeing the band — and his 13th time this year.

"They're my favorite band by far," he said. "It's all happy, it's all friendly and unlike other concerts there are different kinds of people here, and nobody's fighting."

The money given by AOL is the second major private donation to the city's public school system in the past two weeks. Microsoft Corporation chairman Bill Gates donated \$51.2 million last week to develop 67 new high schools.



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To defeat Bush, Democrats need something new in 2004

Jim Kennedy

Remember when you were eight years old? You know, playing on the playground, calling people foolish names, initiating mindless insults?

I'm sure we all wish we could go back to those days of debauchery, but we're just too mature now. Sometimes I wonder if I'll ever be able to relive those times...

Welcome, my friends, to the Democratic Party. Whether it is a press conference, rally or debate, the presidential nominees never cease to amaze me.

Instead of creating thoughtful, new approaches to our nation's issues, they just slam our president. Every campaign is permeated with negativism and pessimism.

If you haven't had a chance to see a debate yet, make sure you watch one — they're hilarious.

Throughout the past year, America has watched the nominees take cheap shots at President Bush's policies and character.

One would think they would be followed by an idea to improve the state of our nation or at least substantiate the insults. Instead, an awkward cheer from brainwashed aides follows.

Not only are these attacks groundless, they are childish as well.

"We have a Pinocchio president!" exclaimed Senator Bob Graham of Florida. "The President's nose keeps growing!"

Brilliant, Bob, simply brilliant.

I'll be the first to admit our economy is sub-par at the moment.

As President Bush inherited the economic misuses of the latter part of the Clinton administration, Bush's economic policies will also need time to take effect.

So far, the best — and only — idea has been the President's tax cuts. The trickle-down theory is the most efficient way for money to be circulated: the best fix for any bear economy.

The Democratic candidates all agree on one thing: repeal the tax cuts. What to do from there? Your guess is as good as mine.

Howard Dean wants universal health-care. This is not feasible for a country as large as ours.

Dennis Kucinich wants to create a massive public works system that creates jobs, but does not accomplish anything

"No matter who gets the nomination, he or she better start showing new ideas that would make Americans vote against the status quo."

worthwhile for the nation. Kucinich is no Franklin Roosevelt. The last thing we need is a big government further meddling in our lives. I promise I am capable of spending my own money and I hope the rest of you are too.

On a slightly more optimistic note, Gen. Wesley Clark has finally confirmed speculation and will join the election foray. If I had a gun to my head — and refused asylum in Canada — I would vote to give Clark the Democratic nomination.

He's been in the race for a couple weeks and is already ahead of the other candidates in the polls.

Either way, he seems the only nominee suitable to be our nation's leader. He hasn't taken many positions yet, but he is relatively moderate. I would think a former NATO Supreme Allied Commander and Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient has the leadership to be President.

On the flip side, he's not experienced in the political arena and has a history of butting heads with civilian leaders. It's not an easy jump from the military to the presidency, but he's the lesser of ten evils.

If there is one candidate who always scores high on the unintentional comedy scale, it has to be Al Sharpton. I could write five pages on Sharpton's candidacy, but that's one Pandora's box I'm not opening.

No matter who gets the nomination, he or she better start showing new ideas that would make Americans vote against the status quo.

If I had to pick between quarrelling middle-aged men and women basking in negativism, or a man who led our nation through one of its most trying times, I smell re-election.

Stay tuned until November 2004.

Jim Kennedy is a regular columnist for the Collegiate Times.

Rape statistics mislead general public

Kris Hassinger

"One in four women will be sexually assaulted."

It can be heard in the chants during "Take Back the Night." It is written on posters, protest buttons, flyers and is included in awareness workshops, seminars and on brochures handed out to freshmen. College professors and high school teachers alike state it as if it were gospel.

But what is the origin of this statistic? What is the hard evidence behind this intuitively outrageous number? My suspicions were aroused when I noticed marked inconsistencies: some institutions said one in four women are sexually assaulted before 18, some said one in four during a lifetime and yet others even claimed it was one in four while enrolled at college. So I decided to look into the matter and was amazed at what turned up.

Mary Koss conducted a survey including 3,000 women from college campuses across the United States during 1987. She found of the women surveyed, 15.4 percent had been forced to engage in and 12.1 percent had experienced an attempt to force engagement in sexual intercourse.

This means 27.5 percent reported since the age of 14 they had experienced a rape or attempted rape. Activists took the number and ran with it, never questioning the results.

To her credit, Koss did try to make the questionnaire reflect incidents that would be considered sexual assault under the current law. However, the law in her home state of Arizona is fuzzy at best when dealing with alcohol and rape. It states if either partner consumes alcohol, legal consent to sex cannot be given and potential for rape is present.

Pretty ambiguous to say the least,

especially considering the vast number of sexual encounters involving some level of alcohol consumption. Any woman who ever had the experience of sharing alcohol, having sex with a man and later regretting it for any reason could answer yes to this question.

By counting "yes" answers to this as affirmative evidence, Koss was able to reach the conclusion that a total of 27.5 percent of the respondents had been victims of rape or attempted rape. If the question were thrown out of the survey, the results quickly jump from one in four to one in nine.

Another vague question asks if the woman had ever been coerced into sex, but without any violence or threat of violence. I think it would be hard to find any relationship where one partner was not in the mood but eventually gave in to their partner's wishes. Imagine if this excuse were used for other things: "I'm not at fault for underage drinking, officer, my friends talked me into it!"

Only about a quarter of those Koss classified as victims in the survey labeled what happened to them as rape. In other words, those taking the survey did not consider themselves as victims, but those giving the survey certainly did. About half described the incidents as "miscommunication," and 42 percent of those counted as victims went on to have sex again with the very same men who had allegedly raped them.

To put things into perspective, Matt Sanders, assistant director of the Oasis Center for sexual assault and relationship violence, said one in six men will be sexually assaulted in his lifetime if the same criterion is used.

A number of other studies have been done before and since the Koss survey. For example, Duke researcher Linda George found the number to be one in 17, while professor Mary Gordon of the University of Washington found only one in 50 women had been raped.

Closer to home, the 1995 Virginia State Council of Higher Education Report found six percent of college women reported giving into sex because of physical threats or the inability to resist. Despite these and various other surveys throughout the country, the one in four figure is the only one ever cited. I have to admit chanting "one in 17" does not have the same ring to it.

In an effort to put to rest the debate over earlier surveys, the U.S. National Institute of Justice compiled statistics from two studies from college students across the nation. The first used very graphic and behavior specific questions about sexual situations the students had encountered. The second survey focused on what the victims perceived as crimes.

It should be noted the surveys only pertained to the past seven months, not over a lifetime. Using the results of the first survey, 1.7 percent of female college students reported being raped, and 1.1 percent were victims of attempted rape. The second survey had quite different results: .16 percent reported being raped, while .18 percent dealt with attempted rape. Far from settling the matter, the government's survey is more useful at showing how different methodologies garner different results.

In no way am I condoning the behavior of rape or sexual assault; it is undoubtedly an issue at Virginia Tech as well as other colleges across the nation.

However, I believe the problem is bad enough to preclude any exaggerated statistics such as "one in four."

I only wish organizations would report findings accurately and not resort to scare tactics. Using data that only conforms to one narrow, preconceived belief is dishonest and a disservice to both men and women alike.

Kris Hassinger is a regular columnist for the Collegiate Times.

Letter to the Editor

GM showcase advertises social irresponsibility

What message would Virginia Tech be sending if it let Marlboro put up a billboard on the busiest part of campus?

It did the moral equivalent in allowing General Motors to park its despicable Hummer H2 in front of Squires Student Center on Wednesday.

This car gets 10 miles to the gallon and emits three times as much global warming pollution as the average car.

Its bulk is a threat to other drivers, both in reducing road visibility and in increasing accident fatalities. It is the world's most socially irresponsible consumer vehicle and it was showcased on campus.

The guilty parties are the Student Engineers' Council, the College of Engineering and the permit department in the Office of Transportation. In conjunction with the Engineering Expo, they acceded to participant GM's request to park the H2 on university

property.

The request had nothing to do with recruiting engineers; they had a booth for that indoors. It was an advertisement, plain and simple, and its location on university property implied an endorsement by Tech.

The line between recruiting and advertising is clear as day, but the Expo Chair could not explain to me why it was not drawn; his only response was GM hires lots of Tech students. That's commendable, but it should not buy campus advertising space for harmful products. Getting some of the country's brightest students is benefit enough to GM.

I come from Northern Virginia, a metropolitan area one rank above Dallas in the severity of its air pollution. Code red ozone days are common. We have elevated incidences of childhood asthma and respiratory disease in the elderly. And there is a straight line between monstrosities like the H2 and the environmental and health problems Northern Virginia faces.

Advertisements don't always come on billboards, but we should expect Tech to recognize them and keep them off university space — most of all when the product advertised harms the people of Virginia.

Elon Danziger
graduate student, architecture



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Sports

Hokies look to avoid potential upset from Connecticut

■ The University of Connecticut Huskies make their second ever trip to Blacksburg, after losing 52-10 two years ago

by **Rajan Nanavati**
Sports Editor

Ironically, the Virginia Tech football team may have done just as much for its national rankings by sitting at home and simply watching television last Saturday afternoon as they did by efficiently disposing of Texas A&M University eight days ago in the midst

of Hurricane Isabel.

Just 48 hours after the contest with the Aggies, three teams previously ranked ahead of Tech suffered defeats, catapulting the Hokies into the No. 5 ranking in both major polls.

With an up-and-coming team like the Huskies of the University of Connecticut coming into town this weekend, one of the key focuses for the Hokies is to avoid the same upset bug that plagued top-10 teams last weekend.

"Just sitting and watching those upsets, it made me think I don't want that to happen to us," said wide receiver Ernest Wilford. "We have to go out (Saturday) and execute on offense and defense."

Similar to teams like the University of Oregon and Marshall University, which upset previously No. 5- and No. 6-ranked University of Michigan and Kansas State University, respectively, the Huskies are an underrated team who has plenty of potent ammunition to go turkey hunting Saturday afternoon.

They are a far different team than the one that came into Lane Stadium and was shellacked 52-10 in the 2001 season-opener. Their recruiting classes have gotten better, and having pulled off victories over mid-level collegiate programs such as Iowa State and Indiana University, the team's confidence and talent level have increased greatly.

"They're starting to get good players in (their football program)," said linebacker Vegas Robinson. "Good things are starting to happen (there)."

The Huskies have won seven of their last eight outings and are lead by the nation's top rusher in Terry Caulley. After the four contests the

Huskies played this season, Caulley has averaged over 150 yards rushing per game and has already scored eight touchdowns. In addition, he has gained over 100 yards rushing in 10 of the Huskies last 14 contests.

Standing only five-foot-seven, he is a compact back with a great combination of speed and strength, and he excels at catching the football out of the backfield.

"It's not often you get to play against the top rushing back in the country," said head coach Frank Beamer.

"This guy is for real. I think he's one heck of a back. He does everything you'd want a (running) back to do."

The University of Connecticut will officially join the Big East Conference next season, as its football program is independent of conference affiliation.

Mainly known as a school with only a dominant men's basketball program, nothing would solidify the Huskies' football program in their new conference more than to come to Blacksburg and defeat the Hokies' football team, which is set to leave for the ACC.

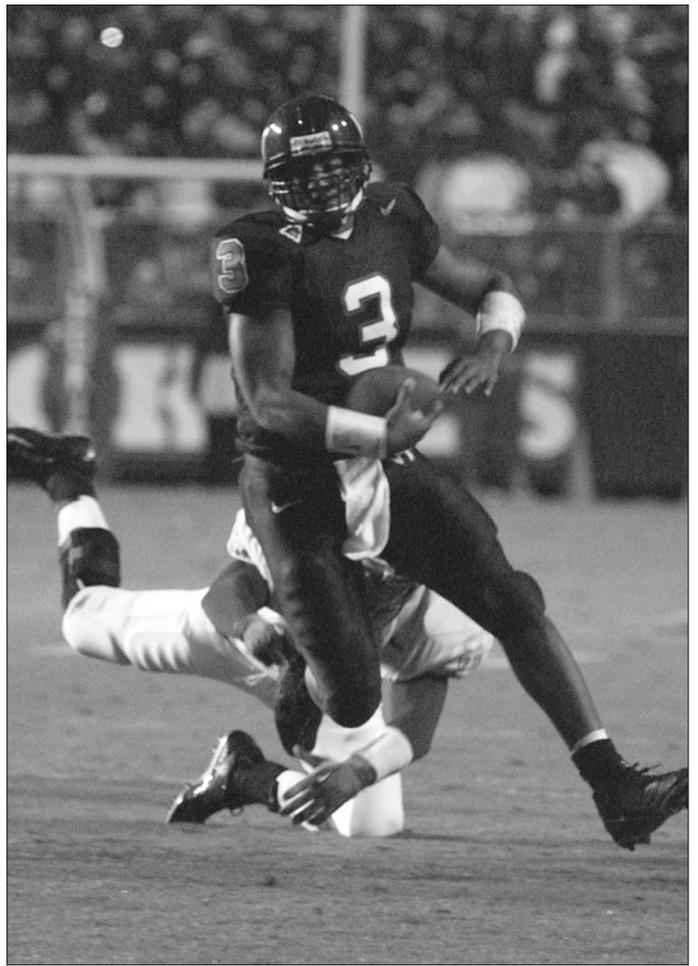
Tech's coaching staff has placed the team on high alert this weekend, making sure nobody on the squad overlooks the Huskies.

"We've got a really good football team coming in here Saturday," Beamer said. "We've got quite a challenge, particularly on defense."

The Hokies look to return to their successful offensive formula of a balanced attack, centralized around the running of tailback Kevin Jones.

Jones looks to have regained his Heisman candidate form, rushing for 188 yards in the victory over the Aggies.

Kickoff is set for noon Saturday.



ROBERT DRAKE/SPPS

Bryan Randall (3) looks to continue his balance of efficient passing and timely scrambles this Saturday against the University of Connecticut.

University of Connecticut leaders, at a glance

Passing:
Dan Orlavsky (93 of 156, 1,118 yards, 11 TD, 6 INT)

Rushing:
Terry Caulley (87 att, 601 yards, 7 TD)

Receiving:
Shaun Feldeisen (23 catch, 302 yds, 2 TD)
O'Neil Wilson (20 catch, 227 yds, 4 TD)

Michigan wins appeal to become eligible for 2004 postseason

■ The University of Michigan's basketball program became the first team to win an NCAA appeal

by **Larry Lage**
Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Michigan became the first school in five years to win an appeal with the NCAA.

The Wolverines will be eligible for postseason play in 2004 after winning an appeal of an NCAA ban that resulted from a booster's payment to players.

The decision to overturn the ban handed down in May was made by the NCAA's infractions appeals committee.

"I am thrilled for the young men on our team, and I believe

they truly deserve this opportunity," said Michigan coach Tommy Amaker on Thursday in a statement.

Michigan's successful appeal ends its seven-year saga involving former booster Ed Martin, who died earlier this year.

After pleading guilty to conspiracy to launder money in 2002, Martin told the federal government he lent \$616,000 to former Wolverines Chris Webber, Maurice Taylor, Robert Traylor and Louis Bullock.

The NCAA has said it was the largest financial scandal in its history.

According to the appeals committee's report, Michigan won its appeal for a number of reasons: the university was not a repeat rules violator; did not lack institutional control; did not commit academic fraud; did not gain a significant competitive advantage from the violations;

and Martin did not remain active in the program.

"The institution's extraordinary efforts transcended cooperation," the committee added in its report.

NCAA spokeswoman Kay Hawes said 10 programs have been banned from postseason play in consecutive years over the last decade.

Of those cases, seven were appealed, five were upheld and two were overturned in 1998, Hawes said, referring to sanctions against the basketball programs at Louisiana State and Louisville.

Amaker told Michigan's current players about the appeal

decision Wednesday night.

"We all just cheered, had smiles on our faces, jumped up and down and hugged each other," said senior Bernard Robinson.

Of the NCAA sanctions handed down in May, the ban on participation in the NCAA tournament and NIT was the only one Michigan appealed.

Other sanctions, including 3 1/2 years of probation and the loss of one scholarship in each of four seasons beginning in 2004-2005, remain in effect.

"We accepted full responsibility for the wrongdoing that occurred, and we felt that the loss of scholarships, extended proba-

"I am thrilled for the young men on our team, and I believe they truly deserve this opportunity."

Tommy Amaker
head coach, Michigan

tion, and other penalties imposed by the NCAA were an appropriately severe response to the violations," said President Mary Sue Coleman in a statement.

As grounds for the appeal, Michigan cited an NCAA bylaw that states, "An important consideration in imposing penalties is to provide fairness to uninvolved student-athletes, coaches ..."

Terry Don Phillips, chairman of the appeals committee and Clemson's athletic director, said as a matter of policy, no additional comments would be made regarding the decision.

Expectations for last season's Michigan team were low because of an apparent lack of talent and motivation. The Wolverines lost their first six games, but staged a remarkable turnaround by win-

ning 13 straight games for the first time since 1987-88.

Michigan finished with its best season in five years, going 17-13 overall and 10-6 in the Big Ten.

The 2003-04 Wolverines are expected to contend for an NCAA tournament berth.

Michigan officials hoped the penalties they imposed on their program in November 2002 would appease the NCAA.

Those penalties included a postseason ban for 2003; forfeiture of 112 regular season and tournament victories from five seasons, plus its victory in the 1992 NCAA semifinal; returning \$450,000 to the NCAA for money earned from the NCAA tournament during those years; and placing itself on two years' probation.

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Lady Hokies host Tech Invitational

■ The women's tennis team opens their fall competition this Saturday at the tennis center

by **Bennett Aikin**
Staff Writer

The Virginia Tech women's tennis team kicks off its fall schedule this weekend at home in the Tech Invitational Tournament.

The Hokies were slated to start their season last weekend at the William & Mary Invitational in Williamsburg, but the tournament was called off because of Hurricane Isabel.

This weekend's matches should provide the team with

a good opportunity to become more familiar with each other and the new coaching staff. It will be the first tournament under new head coach Terry Ann Zawacki-Woods, who came to Tech after serving as the head coach at Charlotte for the last three years.

This will also be the first tournament for assistant coach Kristen Stubbs on the coaching side of the team. Last season, Stubbs completed her senior season as captain of the Hokies.

Opening the season at home should help the team be more relaxed and give the two coaches the opportunity to evaluate where the program stands for the upcoming season.

"I hate to refer to this tournament as a warm up, because

the results count for the regular season and will effect our rankings in the spring," Zawacki-Woods said. "But we are going to use this tournament to help determine the level our players are at and to help us decide on doubles combinations. That in no way means that this tournament will be taken lightly. We need to go out there and play the best we can."

Other schools participating in this tournament include James Madison University, Radford University, East Tennessee State University, Wake Forest University, Marshall University and Winthrop University. Each of these teams are on the Hokies' regular season schedule in the spring. Hampton University was also set to participate in

the tournament, but its status is unclear at this time as its area is still affected by the damage and clean-up efforts stemming from last weekend's hurricane. Because of this uncertainty, the match-ups for the tournament are not yet available.

The tournament is set to start at 9 a.m. Friday and at 8 a.m. Saturday and Sunday.

The first day will have the Hokies participating in two singles matches and one doubles match. Saturday will continue with two doubles matches and one singles match, and Tech will conclude with one doubles and one singles match Sunday.

All matches will be held at the Burrows-Burleson Tennis Center on both the indoor and outdoor courts.

Men's tennis travels to Lexington, Ky.

by **Bennett Aikin**
Staff Writer

The Virginia Tech men's tennis team will hit the road this weekend for the Charles Fluit Invitational at the University of Kentucky in Lexington.

The invitational will be the Hokies' first tournament of the fall and it will be their only tournament until the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Tournaments in October and early November.

The weekend will provide Tech with the opportunity to get some practice against actual opponents and it will give the coaching staff a chance to evaluate its young team.

The Hokies are led this season by Andreas Lauand, their only returning senior. Lauand finished last season ranked No. 92 and opens this season with an impressive No. 57 ranking.

Also ranked on the men's team is the doubles combination of Lauand and teammate Stephane Rod, who will start the season as the No. 27 duo in the country.

The Hokies finished last season in the Big East Championship after losing to Notre Dame in the semifinals and claiming third. However,

Lauand went on to represent Tech at the 2003 NCAA Singles Championships.

Head coach Jim Thompson, who was named Big East Coach of the Year in the 2003 season, said he hopes the team can build off last year's success and improve with the young squad for the future.

"Lauand is playing some superb tennis right now and it should be fun to see how well he can play this season,"

Thompson said. "This tournament will be a warm up for us so we can get some matches in and be more ready for the upcoming season."

This season's team features five new players. Thompson said he is enthusiastic

about seeing the newcomers finally get some action in Kentucky. The younger team members will be a big part of Tech's tennis future, he said.

In addition to Kentucky, the hosting team, the tournament includes Eastern Kentucky, Southern Illinois, Moorehead State, Evansville and defending champions, Illinois. Kentucky's team features the No. 9 player in the country, while the Illinois squad features four players among the country's top 100. All together, eight of the best 100 players in the country will be present.

"This tournament will be a warm up for us so we can get some matches in and be more ready for the upcoming season."

Jim Thompson
Men's tennis coach

Receiver Boston suspended for Sunday

by **Bernie Wilson**
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Wide receiver David Boston was suspended without pay for one game by the San Diego Chargers on Thursday for behavior coach Marty Schottenheimer called unacceptable.

Schottenheimer was going to tell Boston of his suspension at a meeting Thursday morning, but the player didn't show up. The suspension, which will cost Boston \$32,353, came three days before the winless Chargers play at Oakland.

By early afternoon, no one in the organization had spoken with Boston, Schottenheimer said.

"There were a number of different circumstances that have taken place, and you all are aware of several of them," Schottenheimer said during a news conference. "It was time. I'm a tolerant guy, to a point."

Several problems involving Boston have come to light recently. He was involved in a shouting match with injured wide receiver Reche Caldwell in the locker room before Sunday's loss to Baltimore, and he had a run-in with strength coach Dave Redding on Tuesday.

The wide receiver, who signed a \$47 million contract in March, missed the home opener with a bruised heel and watched the game in street clothes. He was seen walking up a stadium tunnel toward the players' parking lot, talking on a cell phone, before the end of the 37-13 loss to Denver. He also declined to join his teammates in the locker room for Schottenheimer's postgame speech.

Schottenheimer alluded to Boston missing or being late to mandatory team activities. Boston participated only sporadically in the team's off-season workout program.

Boston, whose father is a respected

NFL official, was sent home from practice Wednesday after a meeting with Schottenheimer.

"We have certain standards that we set and we're going to have our people, coaches and players alike adhere to those policies and standards," Schottenheimer said. "The conduct is not acceptable. This doesn't make David Boston a bad person. I think he's a good person. But we do things differently here maybe than they do other places."

The Chargers (0-3) said they investigated Boston thoroughly before signing him as an unrestricted free agent from Arizona. The Cardinals had no interest in re-signing Boston.

"This particular conduct was not an issue in Arizona," Schottenheimer said. "I don't know exactly how the interaction went there. But I'm a hands-on person and I believe in certain things being done a certain way."

Couch to play over injured Holcomb

by **Tom Withers**
Associated Press

BEREA, Ohio — Tim Couch has been handed back his starting job — at least for one week.

Couch, demoted to a backup role after four seasons as Cleveland's No. 1 quarterback, will start Sunday against the Cincinnati Bengals, replacing the injured Kelly Holcomb.

"It's exciting," Couch said after practice Thursday. "I'm looking forward to a chance to get back out there and play again. Hopefully, everything goes well and we get a victory."

Holcomb broke his right fibula during the first quarter of Sunday's win at San Francisco. He also sprained his left ankle in the third quarter but refused to come out and rallied the Browns to a 13-12 win, throwing two touchdown passes in the fourth quarter.

On Wednesday, coach Butch

Davis said he would wait until after pregame warm-ups Sunday before deciding who would start at quarterback. However, Holcomb's injuries haven't responded as quickly as expected to round-the-clock treatments, prompting Davis to make the switch.

"It's exciting. I'm looking forward to a chance to get back out there and play again. Hopefully everything goes well and we get a victory"

Tim Couch
Cleveland quarterback

"There's too much uncertainty," Davis said.

If he's healthy enough, Holcomb could be on the active roster as Couch's backup, Davis said, or perhaps dress as the third-stringer. The Browns are currently carrying just two quarterbacks on their 53-man roster.

Rookie Nate Hybl is on the practice squad and could be signed in time for Sunday's game.

Couch, a former No. 1 overall draft pick, lost his job before the season opener when Davis ended months of controversy by relying on a gut feeling to name Holcomb his starter.

Wie to play in this week's Safeway Classic

by **Anne Peterson**
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — While Annika Sorenstam is having the year of her career, Michelle Wie is busy launching hers.

The LPGA's present and future are both in Oregon this week for the LPGA Safeway Classic at Columbia Edgewater Country Club.

Sorenstam won this tournament last year but it seems like a lifetime ago. Since there have been two wins in majors, an appearance on the PGA Tour, and the recent Solheim Cup.

"I feel like I've been everywhere," Sorenstam said. "I've been to Asia, I've been on the

men's tour, and I've been playing Solheim. And then later in the year I'm going to play the Skins Game. I mean, the spectrum. I've been everywhere it seems like."

Wie, the long-driving 13-year-old phenom, is making her second trip to Oregon this year.

She also played in the U.S. Women's Open at Pumpkin Ridge Golf Club in nearby North Plains.

It also has been a busy year for the 6-footer from Hawaii. Including an appearance on the Canadian tour, Wie will have played in nine professional tournaments — with both men and women.

Wie is coming off an appear-

ance last weekend in the Nationwide Tour's Boise Open, where she missed the cut.

Her last trip to Oregon — for the Women's Open — was tumultuous. In addition to playing in a major under the international spotlight, Wie and her father got into a public dispute with LPGA Tour veteran Danielle Ammaccapane.

B.J. Wie, who was his daughter's caddie for the event, accused Ammaccapane of pushing his daughter on the green and then berating her in the scoring tent after their first round for a breach of golf etiquette.

B.J. Wie later retracted comments that Ammaccapane

pushed his daughter, saying he misunderstood his daughter's version of the events, but stood by other statements.

For the Open's final round, B.J. Wie decided not to be his daughter's caddie, citing the distractions of the week.

Michelle Wie said she had no hard feelings about the experience.

Last year Sorenstam shot a 17-under 199 on the 6,327-yard northeast Portland course in a one-shot victory over Kate Golden.

Sorenstam is coming off an emotional victory for Europe in the Solheim Cup at the Barseback Golf & Country Club in her native Sweden.

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CT Sports Picks

■ All's fair in love and football.

This is week four of the 2003 CT sports picks. Check out www.collegiatetimes.com for more of the staff's sports picks—including those on staff whose picks failed to make the cut this week.

Lauren Angelucci Copy Editor	Adam Abramson Associate Sports Editor	Zoe Mathias Copy Editor	Kumar Malhotra Sports Editor	Robert Drake Photo Editor	Aaron Blackwell Associate News Editor	Tiffany Hoffman Managing Editor	Kate Lynch Editorial Assistant	Nathan Jones Business Manager	Jeremy Doehnert Editor in Chief	Nick Pascale Opinions Editor	Eleanor Hopson Photo Editor

NFL												
New England @ Wash. San Fran @ Minnesota Philadelphia @ Buffalo Kansas City @ Baltimore Indy. @ New Orleans Tennessee @ Pittsburgh Jacksonville @ Houston Dallas @ NY Jets Atlanta @ Carolina Green Bay @ Chicago	Washington San Francisco Philadelphia Kansas City New Orleans Pittsburgh Houston Dallas Atlanta Green Bay	New England Minnesota Buffalo Kansas City Indianapolis Pittsburgh Houston Dallas Carolina Green Bay	Washington San Francisco Philadelphia Kansas City New Orleans Tennessee Houston Dallas Carolina Green Bay	Washington Minnesota Buffalo Kansas City New Orleans Tennessee Houston Dallas Carolina Green Bay	Washington San Francisco Buffalo Kansas City Indianapolis Pittsburgh Houston Dallas Carolina Green Bay	Washington Minnesota Buffalo Kansas City Indianapolis Pittsburgh Houston Dallas Carolina Green Bay	Washington Minnesota Philadelphia Kansas City Indianapolis Pittsburgh Houston NY Jets Carolina Green Bay	New England San Francisco Philadelphia Kansas City New Orleans Pittsburgh Houston NY Jets Atlanta Green Bay	New England San Francisco Philadelphia Buffalo Kansas City New Orleans Tennessee Jacksonville NY Jets Atlanta Green Bay	Washington San Francisco Buffalo Kansas City Indianapolis Pittsburgh Jacksonville Dallas Atlanta Green Bay	Washington San Francisco Buffalo Kansas City New Orleans Tennessee Jacksonville NY Jets Carolina Green Bay	Washington San Francisco Philadelphia Baltimore New Orleans Tennessee Houston NY Jets Atlanta Green Bay

NCAA												
UConn @ VA Tech Minnesota @ Penn St. Arkansas @ Alabama South Carolina @ Tenn. Notre Dame @ Purdue Arizona St. @ Oregon St. Wash. St. @ Oregon Pitt @ Texas A&M USC @ California	Virginia Tech Penn St. Alabama Tennessee Purdue Oregon St. Oregon Pittsburgh USC	Virginia Tech Minnesota Arkansas Tennessee Purdue Oregon St. Oregon Texas A&M USC	Virginia Tech Penn St. Alabama Tennessee Notre Dame Oregon St. Wash. St. Pittsburgh USC	Virginia Tech Minnesota Arkansas Tennessee Purdue Oregon St. Oregon Texas A&M USC	Virginia Tech Minnesota Arkansas Tennessee Notre Dame Oregon St. Oregon Texas A&M USC	Virginia Tech Minnesota Arkansas Tennessee Purdue Arizona St. Oregon Pittsburgh USC	Virginia Tech Minnesota Arkansas Tennessee Purdue Arizona St. Wash. St. Pittsburgh USC	Virginia Tech Penn St. Alabama South Carolina Purdue Arizona St. Oregon Pittsburgh USC	Virginia Tech Penn St. Arkansas Tennessee Purdue Oregon St. Wash. St. Texas A & M USC	Virginia Tech Minnesota Arkansas Tennessee Purdue Arizona St. Wash. St. Texas A&M USC	Virginia Tech Penn St. Arkansas Tennessee Purdue Oregon St. Oregon Texas A&M USC	Virginia Tech Penn St. Arkansas Tennessee Purdue Arizona St. Oregon Texas A&M USC
VT Game of the Week VT Men's Soccer vs. Rutgers	Va Tech	Va Tech	Va Tech	Rutgers	Rutgers	Rutgers	Va Tech	Va Tech	Va Tech	Va Tech	Va Tech	Va Tech
Overall Record Last Week	41-19 13-7	41-19 13-7	38-22 14-6	38-22 13-7	38-22 13-7	38-22 13-7	37-23 11-9	37-23 11-9	36-24 12-8	36-24 10-10	36-24 9-11	35-25 13-7
Comments	I know you're jealous Jeremy...	Mike Tyson called me and said my picks are "inpregnable" Big weekend for the Twin Cities.	Finally! This is where being "too knowledgeable" sucks, right Rajan? Maybe next week my friend.	Movin' on up George Jefferson style... Good luck in sin city, J-Roc. Be sure to hit up the Bunny Ranch.	Jumped 4 or so places, Adam will make a nice runner up. Tim, great advice, but your picks are terrible choices.	Why does the screen door fall off only when I open it?	Shhhhhh... Rajan and I are keepin' it on the DL. While the editor is away, the staff will play.	Where were my helpers?!	Ha Ha Rajan. One down, none to go on my list...	You think we'll be there by midnight? Baby, we'll be up five hundy by midnight. In Vegas, who cares about sports picks?	Anyone got a tissue? My goggles are foggin' up which is inhibiting my ability to make accurate picks.	Hopefully my wild guesses will get me somewhere again this week

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Personals
Jonny G,
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TINA,
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Tori -
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~ your Tinaface ~
Jeremy -
Don't lose your shirt in Vegas.
-A.J.

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