

Tech plans supercomputer

▪ Tech is teaming with Apple, Cisco, Liebert and Mellanox Technologies to develop a supercomputer of national prominence

by **Bryan Nieder**
News Assistant

A \$5.2 million supercomputer project including 1,100 computers is tentatively scheduled to begin shipments of its components to Virginia Tech this weekend.

The supercomputer cluster will be composed of Macintosh G5 computers, weighing 35 pounds each, said Jason Lockhart, director of the College of Engineering's High Performance Computing and Technology Innovation.

Moving 19.25 tons of machinery will require 15 to 20 volunteers beginning Sunday to help unload and set up the project. Volunteers will work in shifts and the process is expected to take about six days total.

Initially, the Corporate Research Center will house the computer cluster with plans for it to move to a building dedicated to the Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science at Tech's Computing Center.

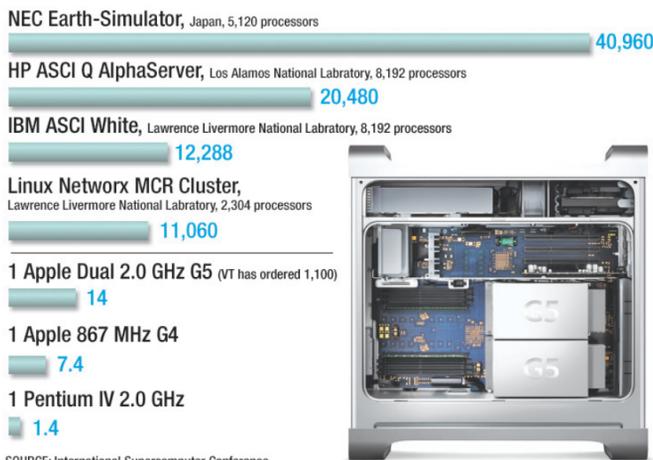
Tech teamed with Apple Computer, Cisco, Liebert and Mellanox Technologies in developing the project.

Liebert, a division of Emerson Network Power, contributed the cooling system because the machinery would otherwise overheat under normal air-conditioned circumstances.

Mellanox provided the primary communication fabrics, drivers, cards and switches for the project, while Cisco's secondary communication fabrics

Processing Power

■ Virginia Tech's new cluster of 1,100 Apple G5's may soon join the list of the most powerful supercomputers in the world. The following is a sampling of these machines in comparison to computers that may be on your desk. Numbers are measured in **gigaflops**, where a gigaflop is one-billion floating point operations per second.



SOURCE: International Supercomputer Conference



A.J. MANDRACCHIA

to interconnect the computers were employed.

"Virginia Tech's idea was to develop a supercomputer of national prominence based upon a homegrown cluster," said Hassan Aref, dean of the college of engineering and former chief scientist at the San Diego Supercomputer Center.

He said G5 computers were chosen because of their high-speed memory and 64-bit processors.

Although the computers are expected

to arrive this weekend, it is unknown when the supercomputer will be fully operational.

"Right now it is a sea of logistics, but I believe they hope they'll have a better idea at the end of this month," said Lynn Nystrom, director of news and external relations for the department of engineering.

Nystrom said the amount of memory

See **TECH**, page 2

Study shows cars outnumber drivers

by **Tiffany Hoffman**
Managing Editor

Though the population has spiked higher than ever, more cars and trucks are rolling off the assembly line than there are licensed drivers to drive them.

According to the Transportation Department's latest national survey, there are 191 million drivers and 204 million registered vehicles sitting in homeowners' garages.

Only 8 percent of the nation's population is now without cars.

"There is a lot more ownership now," said Robert Lang, director of Virginia Tech's Metropolitan Institute, which researches regional growth. "There is a very small percentage left who don't own cars — either they can't afford it or it's a lifestyle choice."

To meet the demands of the population, manufacturers are making cars at an increased rate while more cars are lasting longer than they once did.

With advanced rust-proofing technologies, cars are no longer rotting before the engines wear out, Lang said.

Instead of junking cars after 100,000 miles, some people are driving their cars for more than 200,000 miles.

More than 8 percent of licensed drivers own more than one vehicle.

"We've reached saturation with driving one car for more miles than in the past," Lang said.

In addition to hyper-saturation of ownership, people are driving more

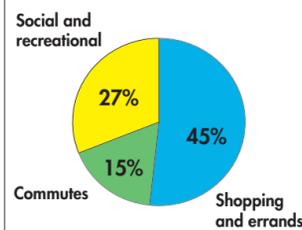
places than they once did. "People are taking longer commutes and spending more time in cars," Lang said.

"People are living in places where

See **CARS**, page 3

Transportation Statistics

Daily Trip Purposes



91% of commuters use personal vehicles. There are 204 million personal vehicles and 191 million licensed drivers.



SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation
CHRIS HEUBERGER

Record number of new cadets enroll

by **Eric Beidel**
News Assistant

If the Virginia Tech campus seems to be more populated by cadets this year, it's because it is.

Tech's Corps of Cadets brought in 300 fresh-

men this fall — the highest number since 1973 — said Maj. Gen. Jerrold Allen, commandant of cadets.

This year's freshman cadet class is up from 257 last year, which was the highest for the previous six years, Allen said.

The larger freshman class gives Tech the

most cadets on campus since 1969. This year there are 760 cadets, whereas last year the number was 724, Allen said.

Retention for freshmen cadets has also increased a total of 10 percent over the past five years to the point where 80 percent of cadets are retained after their first year, Allen said.

The rise in the number of cadets at Tech can be attributed to both matters of ideology and practicality.

Since Sept. 11 and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, there has been an increase in patriotism, Allen said, but a 40-percent increase in the amount of high school seniors contacted by the corps has also helped Tech attract cadets.

The corps increased its mailers this past year to high school seniors, putting emphasis on the ROTC and the programs here at Tech, said Capt. Donald White, assistant commandant of cadets for recruitment.

"We increased our search parameters and mailings to qualified students who met ROTC scholarship requirements," White said.

The fragile economy has many college students worried about job prospects, another reason for the increased number of cadets, White said.

"If they complete ROTC, their job situation is pretty much taken care of," he said.

Allen said 85 percent of the incoming cadets intend to join up with ROTC, and 80 percent are commissioned by some branch of the military when they graduate.

Several recruitment programs also help give Tech an edge in recruiting for the corps, White said, including allowing high school seniors and even juniors to follow cadets around campus.

"After they finish that, they usually have a very good idea of whether the corps is for them or not," he said. "This program has been a real success in getting people excited about the corps."

A lot of the recruitment process is essentially good customer service, said Lt. Col. Gary Jackson, who works in the undergraduate admissions office.

"I treat every applicant as if this is the best place for them, and we try to provide the best customer service," Jackson said.

This fall almost 1,200 freshmen applied to the corps at Tech and 782 received an offer of admission, Jackson said.

"We did not have that many applications in the past, which tells me a whole lot more are committing to Tech," he said.

"It says a lot about the popularity for our school."

The corps is becoming a bigger spot on the national map, thanks to the increased number of cadets, Jackson said.

See **ENROLL**, page 2



DAVE FRANUSICH/SPPS

Three hundred freshmen entered the Corps of Cadets this year setting a record high since 1973. Eighty-five percent of the incoming cadets intend to join ROTC.

100 death row inmates released

by **David Kravets**
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A federal appeals court threw out more than 100 death sentences in Arizona, Montana and Idaho on Tuesday because the inmates were sent to death row by judges instead of juries.

The case stems from a 2002 decision by the U.S. Supreme Court, in which the high court found that juries, not judges, must render death sentences. But the Supreme Court left unclear whether the new rules should apply retroactively to inmates awaiting execution.

In an 8-3 vote, the San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said all condemned inmates sentenced by a judge should have their sentences commuted to life in prison.

The ruling applies only to Arizona, Idaho and Montana, the only states in the 9th Circuit that have allowed judges to impose death sentences.

Two other states, Nebraska and Colorado, have also allowed judges to sentence inmates to death. But the federal appeals courts that oversee them have yet to rule on the issue.

The ruling affects approximately 3 percent of the 3,700 people on death row in the United States.

"By deciding that judges are not constitutionally permitted to decide whether defendants are eligible for the death penalty, the Supreme Court altered the fundamental bedrock principles applicable to capital murder trials," Circuit Judge Sidney Thomas wrote for the court.

Defense attorneys hailed the verdict. "This is fundamental justice," said Ken Murray, a federal public defender in Phoenix.

Murray and attorneys for Arizona estimated that the decision affects around 100 inmates on that state's death row alone.

The ruling is expected to reduce the death sentences of at least 15 condemned inmates in Idaho. Montana Assistant Attorney General Pamela Collins said state attorneys were reviewing the decision to determine whether its five condemned inmates would be affected.

"This may cause some chaos in the short term. I don't think this is going to hold up," Collins said.

"We are disappointed. We are going to appeal," said Kent Cattani, chief counsel for the Arizona Attorney General's office.

If the decision stands, Arizona and the other states might hold new penalty trials, convening juries to decide between life and death, said John Pressley Todd, a lawyer with the Arizona Attorney General's office.

He said the state was trying to determine exactly how many condemned inmates are affected by the ruling.

News in Brief

Motorist shoots, kills man over thrown tomatoes

MOUNT HOPE, Ohio (AP) — A motorist whose car was pelted with tomatoes as he passed a cornfield fired a shotgun into the field, killing a 23-year-old man, authorities said. Steven L. Keim was with about 10 others who were hiding in the field Monday night, throwing tomatoes and firing paintball guns at passing cars, the Holmes County Sheriff's office said.

According to the sheriff's department, after the car was struck with tomatoes, the driver stopped, got out and threatened to shoot whoever threw them.

Hotel worker killed in robbery

TROY, Mich. (AP) — A hotel worker was shot to death and a guest wounded early Tuesday in an apparent robbery at the hotel, police said.

The two were found about 1:30 a.m. at the Troy Holiday Inn in this Detroit suburb. They were identified only as a 35-year-old hotel employee from Wayne County and a 28-year-old guest from Cedar Park, Texas. The robber or robbers disabled the hotel's surveillance system, Zavislak said.

Purchase marks state milestone

RICHMOND (AP) — With the click of a computer mouse,

Gov. Mark Warner made a purchase Tuesday that put Virginia's electronic procurement program over the \$1 billion mark. The purchase represented nearly 155,000 orders since eVA was launched two years ago. More than 4 million products are posted on eVA by 13,300 private vendors. The products are available to more than 400 government agencies and institutions.

Products range from fuel, vehicles and maintenance services to office supplies.

Train strikes, kills man in Va.

BOONES MILL, Va. (AP) — A Callaway man died when he was struck by a train early Tuesday, state police said.

Christopher Michael Coe, 25, died at about 12:40 a.m. at a Norfolk Southern bridge just east of Boones Mill. The engineer told police he tried to stop when he rounded a bend and saw Coe lying between the rails in front of the bridge.

Coe's bicycle also was lying on the tracks, state police Sgt. Tom Foster said.

ACLU seeks camera data

RICHMOND (AP) — The American Civil Liberties Union is seeking records on Virginia Beach's facial-recognition cameras to determine the effectiveness of the crime-fighting technology in the resort city. The Freedom of Information Act request seeks locations, accuracy rates and camera contents.

Enroll: Goal is 1,000 cadets

Continued from page 1

"I think it says a lot that more and more students are coming here instead of the academies," he said.

While the corps has found itself growing rapidly over the past few years, Allen said the goal is to have 1,000 cadets on

the Tech campus. To reach this goal, he said the corps would need to bring in 325 freshman cadets, which may take them about four years.

Allen said he expects the excellent retention trend of the last few freshman classes to continue, which says a lot about the character and

quality of the cadets coming to Tech.

"Some people think they can just walk onto campus and be a cadet, and then they realize it's not so easy," he said.

"But the vast majority remain committed to the program and I'm proud of them."

Arafat threatened with expulsion

by Karin Laub
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Yasser Arafat must "disappear from the stage of history," Israel's defense minister said Tuesday, adding that the Palestinian leader's fate may be decided before the end of the year.

Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz issued the warning as Arafat and his Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas remained locked in a bitter power struggle. Abbas is increasingly unpopular at home and could be ousted.

In newspaper ads Tuesday, nearly 200 Palestinian legislators, academics and writers appealed to both men to resolve their differences, saying the deadlock was hurting Palestinian interests. "We call on you to stop all actions that may open the door to foreign interference," the ad read.

Leaders of the ruling Fatah movement met Tuesday, but failed to find a compromise. Mediators were to keep shuttling between the two leaders who are no longer on speaking

terms. Officials close to Abbas denied reports that he has threatened to resign and leave the Palestinian areas.

Palestinian security chief Mohammed Dahlan suggested the tensions defied a permanent solution.

He told the Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera that there might be a temporary compromise, "until the next crisis, in a week, a month, three months, who knows?"

Also Tuesday, a Palestinian man was killed by army fire at a West Bank checkpoint, the Israeli military said. It said the man got out of a car and drew a handgun, trying to shoot soldiers who opened fire and killed him.

A passenger in the car was taken for questioning, the army said.

An 11-year-old Palestinian

girl died Tuesday of injuries sustained last week in an Israeli missile strike in Gaza City.

Mofaz said there will be no letup in the campaign. " Hamas is in distress because of our activity, but we will not stop the pressure until the terror infrastructure is dismantled."

" Hamas is in distress because of our activity, but we will not stop the pressure until the terror infrastructure is dismantled."

Shaul Mofaz
Israeli defense minister

harmed. He said pilots have also diverted missiles at the last minute because they feared civilians could be hurt. The missiles are usually fired into crowded Gaza City streets, in several cases when the militants' car was forced to slow in a traffic jam.

2 guards may testify against Malvo

by Matthew Barakat
Associated Press

FAIRFAX — The judge in the capital murder trial of Lee Boyd Malvo will allow the testimony of two prison guards who say the sniper suspect bragged to them about committing several of the shootings.

Defense lawyers had sought to suppress the testimony of Maryland prison guards Joseph Stracke and Wayne Davis, contending that Malvo had already invoked his right to remain silent by the time he had spoken with the guards.

But Circuit Judge Jane Marum Roush ruled Tuesday that the testimony can be heard at trial.

"Although Malvo was in custody, and the prison guards were law-enforcement officers, Malvo initiated the conversations, and the guards did nothing deliberately to elicit any incriminating statements," Roush wrote.

Stracke and Davis stunned observers during a July 24 pretrial hearing with details of their discussions with Malvo.

The guards testified that Malvo told them he shot 13-year-old Iran Brown, of Bowie, Md., to rattle Montgomery County, Md., police Chief Charles Moose, who led the sniper investigation.

STOCK MARKET REPORT — 9/3/2003 —		WEATHER		TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	THURSDAY NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
DJIA	9523.27 ▲ 107.45	WEATHER		Rain likely Highs: 75°-80°					
NASDAQ	1841.48 ▲ 31.03		Rain likely Lows: 60°-65°	Partly cloudy with chance of showers Highs: 75°-80°	Mostly cloudy with chance of showers Lows: 60°-65°	Partly sunny with chance of showers 60°/75°	Mostly clear 60°/75°		
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Tech: 1,100 units ordered

Continued from page 1

is still being determined and will not fully be known until it is completely functional.

The supercomputer will help with Terascale computing, which involves problems too large to be solved by an individual computer.

Nystrom said interdisciplinary research within the colleges of engineering and science and the veterinary school will greatly benefit from the supercomputer with projects such as nanoscale electronics and biomedical studies benefiting.

"Virginia Tech will have one of the top-ranked supercomputing facilities in the world, supporting significant big science research," said Glenda Scales, assistant dean of computing and distance learning, in a press release.

For the supercomputer to break the top five supercomputers in the world, it would have to possess 10 teraflops of memory.

Nystrom said the hope from Tech researchers is the supercomputer will bring more grant money for research like a supercomputer in Japan is doing, which recently received over \$100 million dollars.

"It is anticipated that Tech will realize at least a five to one return on this investment in terms of annual research grant and contract activity," Scales said.

ODU 'Maglev' project on track

NORFOLK (AP) — Old Dominion University is poised to spend \$2 million to get the nation's first magnetic levitation train back on track.

The federal money is intended to jump-start the stalled project, but it's not enough to get the train and stations ready for public use. That would require about \$5 million more, ODU officials said, an amount that they're already lobbying Congress to provide.

The \$2 million, however, should be enough to fix the problems with the train and get it running smoothly at 40 mph as a demonstration project, said Robert L. Fenning, ODU's vice president for administration and finance.

The magnetic levitation project — maglev for short — came to a halt last fall when development problems ate up the train's \$14 million budget.

For nearly one year, the blue-and-white vehicle has stood idle on an elevated track next to the college's tennis courts. Maglev uses electromagnets to make the vehicle float about half an inch above an elevated track.

To carry students, about \$5 million more is needed to complete the three stations along the 3,200-foot guideway, make modifications to the track and vehicle, and conduct lengthy testing to certify its safety for public use. "We're moving as briskly toward our ultimate goal as we can," said Robert L. Ash, ODU's interim vice president for research. "We can't ignore our commitment to our students and faculty."

ODU, which previously only served as host for the American Maglev project, has now involved its engineering faculty in finding solutions and will open a Maglev Technology

Development Center on campus to advance the technology.

"It's all heading in the right direction, it's just going a little more deliberately than we had hoped," Ash said.

American Maglev Inc., Lockheed Martin Corp. and ODU, partners in the project, have developed new computer controls and sensors they say should offer a smoother ride than the bumpy test runs.

"We need to get it to a place where it's commercially viable," Ash said. "We need to get the system to operate with the speed and ride quality that would make this an attractive transportation option."

ODU's train is not the only maglev project to hit snags. The opening of a \$1 billion German-built high-speed, 19-mile maglev system in Shanghai, China, has been delayed until next year because of technical issues.

Hinckley requests visit with parents

by Jonathan Salant
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — John Hinckley Jr., who shot President Reagan 22 years ago, will have a chance this fall to persuade a federal judge to allow him to visit his parents in Virginia without being accompanied by psychiatric hospital staff.

Hinckley, 48, has been a patient at St. Elizabeths Hospital in Washington since his acquittal by reason of insanity in the shooting of Reagan and three others outside a Washington hotel in March 1981. Hinckley said he shot the president to impress actress Jodie Foster.

U.S. District Judge Paul Friedman on Tuesday set either

Nov. 3 or Nov. 17 for the start of hearings on whether Hinckley should be allowed to have unsupervised visits with his parents. The date will depend on when two government-appointed doctors who have examined Hinckley can testify.

Friedman said the hearing could be earlier if another case, unrelated to Hinckley's, were to be settled before it goes to trial.

Lawyer Barry Levine made the request in March that Hinckley be allowed 10 unsupervised visits with his parents at their home in the Williamsburg, Va., area. Five would be overnight trips.

With Hinckley and his parents in the courtroom, Levine said Tuesday that five doctors had examined his client, and all

concluded that "Mr. Hinckley, if released, will not be a danger to himself and others."

The government has opposed Hinckley's request for unsupervised visits, citing a "history of deception and violence." The U.S. attorney's office for the District of Columbia had no comment after Tuesday's hearing.

Reagan's chief of staff, Joanne Drake, did not respond immediately to a request for comment Tuesday. But Reagan's daughter, Patti Davis, has said the family strongly opposes it.

Jim Brady, the former White House press secretary, who was shot with Reagan, has a long-standing policy against commenting on Hinckley, said spokesman Eric Howard.

Council denounces U.S. occupation

by Tarek Al-Issawi
Associated Press

NAJAF, Iraq — A member of the U.S.-picked governing council angrily denounced the American occupation in a eulogy for his slain brother before 400,000 Shiite mourners Tuesday, demanding U.S. troops leave Iraq and blaming them for lax security that led to the revered cleric's assassination.

Abdel-Aziz al-Hakim spoke in the holy city of Najaf at the funeral of his brother, Ayatollah Mohammad Baqir al-Hakim. Men clad in white robes and dark uniforms brandishing Kalashnikov rifles stood guard along the roof of the gold-domed Imam Ali mosque, where the cleric was killed Friday in a car bombing. Shortly before the funeral started, a car bomb exploded in central Baghdad outside police headquarters, killing one police officer and wounding up to 13 people, an

Iraqi police officer said. It was the latest attack apparently targeting Iraqis working with the U.S.-led occupation.

Also Tuesday, a Black Hawk helicopter crashed south of Baghdad, killing one U.S. soldier and injuring another in a "non-hostile" incident, said U.S. military spokesman Spc. Anthony Reinoso. The military also announced that two U.S. soldiers were killed Monday by a roadside bomb in southern Iraq. The deaths raised to 286 the number of American forces killed in the Iraq war. Of those, 148 died since President Bush declared an end to major fighting on May 1. Seventy soldiers have died in combat since Bush's declaration.

L. Paul Bremer, the U.S. civilian administrator for Iraq, who cut short his vacation because of the Najaf bombing, said Tuesday that coalition forces want to share responsibility for national security with Iraqis.

Kerry declares his interest in presidency

by Mike Glover
Associated Press

MOUNT PLEASANT, S.C. — John Kerry, maintaining that "George Bush's vision does not live up to the America" the decorated war hero once defended, officially declared his candidacy for the Democratic presidential nomination Tuesday.

Using the aircraft carrier USS Yorktown as a backdrop, the Vietnam War veteran presented himself as the alternative to the Republican leader.

"In challenging times we need leadership that knows how to make America safer, that knows how to put America back to work," Kerry told the crowd. "The president has misled America and he has made our path more difficult as a result."

The four-term senator made his formal announcement after months of campaign-style appearances and debates with fellow Democratic presidential hopefuls.

"I reject George Bush's radical new vision of a government that comforts the comfortable at the expense of ordinary

Americans," Kerry said. "George Bush's vision does not live up to the America I enlisted in the Navy to defend."

John Forbes Kerry has an Ivy League education, commander of a small Navy craft during wartime and Massachusetts senator.

Yesterday's Crossword Answers

K	I	P	M	A	C	W	H	I	N	E
E	M	U	I	V	E	H	E	R	O	N
B	A	R	S	O	R	C	E	R	E	R
A	G	E	S	W	E	A	T			
B	E	E	P	A	S	P	B	O	Y	S
				A	L	L	S	O	R	B
P	H	O	N	E	D	A	I	S	Y	
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I	D	E	A	E	V	A	L	A	Z	Y
				K	N	I	F	E	D	E
S	O	R	E	N	S	T	A	M	M	B
O	L	I	V	E	U	R	I	T	A	R
B	E	D	E	W	S	I	T	T	A	N

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Cars: Mass transit encouraged for commuters

Continued from page 1

going home means getting in the car. The really booming parts of the country require driving."

Mass transit has been vital in many large cities and is being considered for increased expansion through the country.

However, this will not necessarily eliminate the number of increased vehicles.

"You can have a case where there's an increase in mass transit and car mileage," Lang

said. "You can have a heavy demand of buses and a lot of people still using cars."

Federal legislation required a greater percentage in investments for transit, Lang said. Last year, Northern Virginia voted not to increase sales tax .05 percent for funding toward mass transit.

However, Lang said he foresees the Metro expanding to Dulles Airport and Tyson's Corner within the next few years.

"In a lot of cases, the Metro is spreading out at low densi-

ties," Lang said.

"Greater Washington is dozens of counties which means a greater number of commuters."

The Metro in Washington, D.C. is designed to keep commuters from having to drive on the Washington beltway.

But, according to the Bureau of Transportation, only 15 percent of daily trips are for commutes while 45 percent are for shopping and errands and 27 percent are for social and recreational uses.

"Most people on the road

are living their life, using the city and using the region," Lang said.

Penny Mills, assistant director of parking services, said despite the national increase of vehicles, there are about the same number of students commuting to campus as in previous years.

Though parking services encourages students to ride their bicycles or use the BT, she said there is plenty of parking on campus for all the cars registered on campus.

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Editorial NATIONAL ISSUE

Juries needed for accountability

More than 100 death row inmates were exonerated yesterday when a federal court of appeals court ruled that the Constitution was violated. The court, by a vote of 8-3, ruled that juries are required when handing down capital punishment. The decision will change the penalty of death for inmates in Arizona, Montana and Idaho.

In most states the jury is used to decide on capital punishment, and in others they use a hybrid system which incorporates jury and judge. This system is not only constitutional but necessary for the American system of justice.

In a system that comes under fire for bias and injustice due to differences in socioeconomic status, race, gender and religion, accountability is a must. The only way to establish that accountability is to remove the power to hand down capital punishment from one person, in particular a single judge. Rather, it is important to put the power in the hands of the jury.

The jury selection process is not perfect, but it is important to realize that the selection process is the best way of establishing an unbiased group of peers that will be able to administer justice fairly. Though bias and group think are possible, by having more than one person decide the punishment certainly reduces the chance judges could abuse their power or overlook aspects of the justice system.

Without juries deciding punishment, the Constitution is forgotten, and justice in America can not have the accountability necessary to provide fair and equal trial and punishment procedures.



Letters to the Editor

Open environment would allow Jesus to ride Blacksburg Transit

I too am a student living off campus, and I too have read the ads Campus Crusade for Christ has posted in the Blacksburg Transit buses. I have a few points to make in regard to the letter "Secular buses need in Blacksburg" (CT, Sept. 1).

Firstly, the BT is not managed by Virginia Tech, but is rather managed by the Town of Blacksburg.

Secondly, the offending ads are paid advertisements placed there by Cru, not by the BT. Therefore it is Cru preaching and not the BT.

Thirdly, to try and deny Cru its right to speak about beliefs on the basis of an open and educated environment is absurd. If anything it is in the name of education I believe any group has a right to speak about its beliefs.

Just last year I recall an advertisement for Islamic Awareness Week dedicated to educating the Tech student body. Similarly, Cru is advertising its meetings to attract those interested in learning more. If the advertising is offensive to you, just don't read the ads.

After all, the great thing about having a mind of your own is the ability to take information and decide whether or not you agree with it. However, Cru has a right to say what they want in its advertisements.

Remember the First Amendment, guaranteeing the right to free speech? The advertisement is a protected form of speech.

Also note the BT is not a Jesus mobile. Paid advertisements from an independent religious organization do not make the BT non-secular. It makes them capitalist.

Ian Peth
junior, computer science

Freedoms protect right to express religion in bus ads

This is a response to the letter "Secular buses needed in Blacksburg" (CT, Sept. 1).

I am not a religious person by any means. When I see one of the Campus Crusade for Christ's ads on a Blacksburg Transit bus, it doesn't make me indignant. It makes me reevaluate and reaffirm why I am not a religious person. I don't fault the religious people for thinking differently.

Converting people is as much a part of Cru's faith as praising Jesus. They are simply doing what is right for them. And they are doing it in advertising space they paid for.

The same freedom allowing one to write an erroneously opinionated letter to the editor allows Cru to purchase ad space.

For the second part of the letter, I can't believe anyone honestly thinks anti-war protesters don't "throw it in people's faces."

As I recall, last semester's editions of the Collegiate Times were filled with articles of anti-war demonstrations, student walk-outs and pictures of protesters on the corner of Main Street and College Avenue.

Are these methods less in-your-face than a sign on the bus?

We do have minds of our own for a reason. It's one thing to disagree with someone's opinions, but it's another thing to attack his/her right to express those opinions. Doing so subverts the very "open and edu-

cated environment" a university like Virginia Tech provides.

Freedom of thought and freedom of speech can only thrive where multiple opinions coexist.

Josh Adell
senior, computer science

Athletics department benefits campus and Blacksburg community

I find it interesting people who think the athletics department is ruining my alma mater never bother to investigate how money works at a state university.

The university's debt issues have nothing to do with the athletics department's ability to grow. If you have a problem with funding for academics, contact your state delegate or your senator, but don't blame the football program because it can afford to help its own cause.

The liberal approach of the haves vs. the have-nots is not the proper way to attack this very serious problem. It is an issue of state money and private donations — not of the athletics department hoarding money.

The athletics department actively petitions for donations; as an alumnus I have yet to be contacted by my college for a hand out to help academics.

If it weren't for the football program, Virginia Tech wouldn't be inundated with record numbers of applications, nor would it be growing in size. The very standards by which students are admitted have sky rocketed since I was a freshman in 1994 — the school is certainly growing in academic stature and has been in direct correlation with our success in athletics.

Furthermore, the football team is responsible for massive amounts of revenue, not only for themselves but for the university proper, as well as providing much-needed economic stimulus for the town of Blacksburg. The football team's success over the past decade has provided jobs, roads, stores, television revenue — the list goes on and on.

However, the football team is not responsible for providing extra monies to help a struggling state budget and its effect on Tech.

Further, concerning the stadium expansion, the Tech Athletic Fund will raise \$15 million for the project.

The athletics department plans to use debt service and a potential \$10 million naming rights fee (naming the complex for the person or company contributing the \$10 million) to pay for the remainder of the project.

I understand anyone connected to Tech, like myself, who feels frustration when classes and budgets are slashed and academics suffer. However, we should focus on who is responsible and why, rather than just looking at the growing pockets of the athletics department and blaming them for having more money than the academics department.

Of the 23 suites, 12 suites (23 seats in each) will be built between the towers, costing the customer \$65,000 a piece. Six north-wing suites (19 seats in each) go for \$55,000 a piece.

Four tower suites (35 seats in each) go for \$100,000 a piece, and one suite between the towers (29 seats) will cost \$100,000. For information on suites, go to <www.hokiesports.com>.

Welfare isn't going to save America and I certainly don't think it's going to help Tech either.

Matt Arden
alumnus '99, interdisciplinary studies
Atlanta, Ga.

Express yourself

The Collegiate Times is seeking a regular editorial cartoonist during the 2003-04 school year.

Interested candidates should stop by our office at 363 Squires to fill out an application and submit samples, or e-mail opinions@collegiatetimes.com.

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applicable, relationship to Virginia Tech (i.e. alumni, parent, etc.).
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Columns are between 700 and 900 words.

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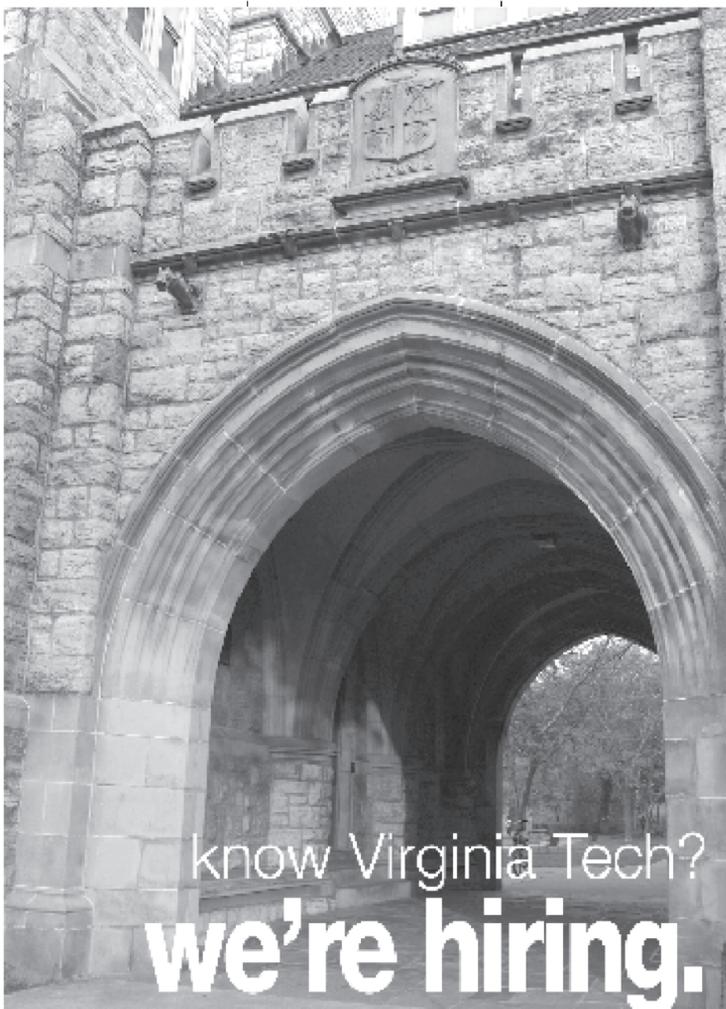
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Sports

Williams tops among fantasy backs



Adam
The Truth
Abramson

Plan your Saturday night accordingly. What I mean is, don't get too inebriated that you cannot get out of bed by 1 p.m. Sunday to turn on the opening NFL kickoffs that will be on CBS and Fox.

Actually, the festivities begin Thursday night. Therefore, your fantasy squads better be ready to roll within 24 hours.

Don't call this a guide to making fantasy picks because most leagues have already had their drafts (although mine kicks off at 4:50 p.m.).

Let's call this a guide to who you should have picked, if you didn't pick them when the time was right.

The common trend of a fantasy football draft is to draft running backs first, so we'll start there.

Ricky Williams is taking it to the house this year. He should

be everybody's first pick, in every draft — not Priest Holmes (even though he did jump over a dude last year and kicked him in the back, definitely a bruiser move).

Of course, LaDainian Tomlinson is going to keep putting up the numbers that allowed me to win my league last year — you can't go wrong with him.

Keep your eyes on William Green. I drafted him way too early, but he still caught fire at the end of the year and that will be rekindled in 2003.

This year's early pick bust will be Travis Henry. I know everyone else is saying the opposite, but I am just not a believer.

Michael Vick's injury made me want to cry, and I probably would have if I drafted him. He is going to own the fantasy leagues when he can play 16 weeks.

The 2003 quarterback will be Peyton Manning. Not only is he proven, but he has a killer wide receiver.

I think he will improve already diesel numbers if Edgerrin James can run efficiently this season.

Jeff Garcia will be viewed as a bust for fantasy owners because he won't put up the numbers he did last year, but that doesn't mean he still won't put up solid statistics.

Jake Plummer might be huge this year, so keep one eye on him if your opponent has him in the driver's seat the week he plays you.

Receivers are a funny thing in the fantasy world. Ridiculous threats on the field such as Marvin Harrison and Terrell Owens weren't in the top 15 in fantasy players last year, but they were the top two receivers on fantasy charts.

Charles Rogers is going to pan out to be a solid pickup, if you didn't draft him too early, and David Boston is going to be a good fit in San Diego if he is healthy.

As far as tight ends go, Todd Heap and Tony Gonzalez are premier for any fantasy roster.

Personally, I drafted Marcus Pollard in one of my leagues to go along with my second round pick of Peyton Manning. I hope this tandem will put up disastrous numbers as far as touchdowns are concerned.

Randy McMichael put up

pretty solid numbers in his rookie year for the Dolphins, and I think he will put up better numbers this year.

Kickers — yeah, they're kickers, but they're still important. Crazy Martin Gramatica bombed away for five field goals over 50 yards last season — very impressive. While David "Green" Akers knocked down 14 field goals that were between 30-39 yards. Use your own judgement.

In one of my leagues, I drafted the Tampa Bay defense pretty early.

They're good, and I hope they are the deciding factor in at least one or two weeks.

Philly and Green Bay proved to be solid picks last year and will be adequate this year. Buffalo and New England will also turn out to be solid acquisitions.

In regards to the fantasy world, "that's it and that's all man," as Lil' Sis would say.

There are tons of ins and outs to drafting a team that I didn't mention, but the time to draft is over, and the time to cheer has just begun.

Happy viewing, go Dolphins.

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

Sports Notes

Football: Many games sold out; tickets for JMU, BC still remain

The Virginia Tech Athletics Department announced Monday that 1,200 tickets are still available for Saturday's game against James Madison University. Game time is 1 p.m. and the tickets are \$33 each. The JMU game will not be televised. Tickets are also on sale for the Nov. 22 game against Boston College. Single-game tickets for the Texas A&M, Connecticut, Syracuse and Miami are sold out. Student tickets will still be made available at the designated times.

A limited number of premium-seat season tickets remain for sale for the 2003 season. Fifty-one Zone Club and 46 Goal Line Stands season ticket packages are available for \$243. The purchase includes a tax-deductible annual per seat gift to the Tech Athletic Fund. For more information or to purchase tickets, call the Tech Ticket Office at 1-800-VATECH-4.

Volleyball: Kupec named co-rookie of the week in Big East

Virginia Tech volleyball player Allie Kupec was named Big East Co-Rookie of the Week after the team's victory at the 2003 Hokie Classic. Kupec, a freshman from Columbia, Md., tallied 13 kills in her first collegiate start against Miami University. She also had a game-high five block assists and a .524 hitting percentage. After the three-match weekend, she totaled 26 kills, 13 total blocks, seven service aces, 11 digs and a .537 hitting percentage. The 6-foot-1-inch middle hitter was also named to the all-tournament team. Katherine Whitney from Seton Hall shared the Big East honor with Kupec.

Clarett suspended from Ohio State practice

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Ohio State coach Jim Tressel said Tuesday star running back Maurice Clarett will no longer practice with the team until questions about his eligibility are answered.

Tressel said the underlying reason for his abrupt reversal from 10 days ago was Clarett's suspension would be lengthy, causing him to miss much of the season.

"It appears to me — without having seen anything official or any black-and-white indications — that the suspension is going to be significant," Tressel said. "It's going to be long."

Last week, Tressel and athletics director Andy Geiger announced Clarett's suspension from the team.

However, they said he would be permitted to practice while the NCAA and an Ohio State panel looked into off-the-field NCAA violations and charges of academic fraud.

The sophomore tailback watched Saturday from the bench as the defending national champions defeated Washington 28-9.

Just before the game, Geiger said Clarett was suspended for "multiple games" because he misled investigators.

Ohio State officials are in the process of responding to several pages of the NCAA's allegations.

Clarett set Ohio State freshman records by rushing for 1,237 yards and scoring 18 touchdowns last season as the Buckeyes went 14-0.

He practiced with the team last week, wearing a Washington jersey and mimicking Huskies' running back Rich Alexis while running plays against Ohio State's first-team defense.

Tressel said he made the decision to hold Clarett out of practice after talking to the staff.

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