

## Low faculty pay concerns Tech

▪ The board of visitors approved a plan to improve faculty salaries, and retain and attract quality professors to the university

by **Aaron Blackwell**  
Associate News Editor

Recent budget reductions have cut faculty salaries and caused Virginia Tech to lag behind peer institutions in terms of faculty pay.

Salaries from bottom to top are in the 20th percentile of similar universities, said university spokesman, Larry Hincker.

As a result, the university has had problems retaining faculty.

"We have lost faculty to other universities because they got a better deal," said Diane Zahm, president of Tech's faculty senate.

Recruiting and retaining quality faculty will ensure quality programs, Hincker said.

"The faculty are the heart of our university," he said.

The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia routinely benchmarks various areas, including salaries, Hincker said.

Tech is benchmarked against other universities, including Penn State University, Purdue University and Michigan State University, he said.

Faculty salaries are paid through student tuition as well as money provided by the state. However, after recent tuition increases to recover lost state funding, legislators have prevented schools from implementing further increases.

The Tech Board of Visitors, which sets faculty salaries, has approved a plan to restructure the pay scale hoping to move salaries into the 60th percentile of peer institutions.

This plan will rely heavily on state funding, Hincker said. However, the prognosis for increased state funding is uncertain at this time.

"Overall the plan is good," Zahm said. "I think the board has the faculty's interests in mind."

The proposal will also address other problems with the current pay scale, such as faculty rank.

Right now there are new people earning as

much or more than people that have been here for years, Zahm said.

Tech, along with other state universities, dealt with salary issues in the early '90s, although this time is worse, Hincker said.

"I've never seen us quite this low," he said.

At that time, the university was dealing with similar circumstances — including a loss of state funding — but there was a big push for more money from the state to alleviate that problem, Hincker said.

Right now it is uncertain what the state will do.

The Faculty Senate of Virginia, made up of representatives of multiple colleges and universities in the state, is reviewing the issue soon, Zahm said.

Hincker said that Tech's goal is not to have the highest paid faculty in the country, but to be able to attract quality teachers to the university.

"It really is the faculty that creates the quality of our university," he said.

"To have the best faculty we must pay them competitively."

*"It really is the faculty that creates the quality of our university. To have the best faculty we must pay them competitively."*

**Larry Hincker**  
university spokesman

## Orange Effect 2003 logo unveiled

▪ T-shirts will go on sale Friday for this year's Orange Effect, which will be held for the Texas A&M game

by **Eric Beidel**  
News Assistant

Around 2:30 p.m. yesterday a truckload of T-shirts arrived at the Student Government Association office in Squires Student Center. Moments later, the Hokie Bird arrived and stretched a triple-extra large orange shirt around his robust frame, becoming the first to officially don a new "Orange Effect 2003" T-shirt.

"Only because they couldn't get a 5-XL shirt here by today," said Pat Colleran, director of development for the SGA and a junior accounting major.

The Hokie Bird strutted from the SGA office to the Pylons above War Memorial Chapel in his new "Orange Effect 2003" shirt, greeting fellow Hokies and posing for photographs.

By the time they go on sale Friday, Colleran said there would be over 4,000 "Orange Effect 2003" shirts available with the new slogan, "Get out of our Lane."

Shirts will be available Friday for \$5 at the SGA office in 321 Squires on a first come, first serve basis, said Puraj Patel, vice president of the SGA and a junior business information technology major.



The Hokie Bird showed off the new Orange Effect T-shirt yesterday at the Pylons above War Memorial Chapel. In the inset, Kristen Burton, Orange Effect director for the SGA, models the logo on the back of the shirt.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ROBERT DRAKE/SPPS

After last year's enormous sales, Patel said he believes the 4,000 plus shirts would be enough to accommodate everyone.

The shirts will continue to be sold Sept. 8-12 and again from Sept. 15-17, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at West End Market, the Drillfield and McBride Hall, said

Casey Heughan, a director of SGA's Orange Effect committee and a senior communication major.

Members of SGA will also be selling the shirts at the Texas A&M game on Sept. 18, she said.

The purpose of "Orange Effect 2003" is not fundraising, but to pro-

mote Hokie pride in Lane Stadium, Patel said.

"Whatever shirts we've bought, we have to sell to cover our costs," Patel said. "We want people to see the stadium covered in orange on ESPN

See **ORANGE**, page 3

## SGA pushes student voting

▪ Voter registration forms and absentee ballots will be available to students who buy Orange Effect T-shirts from the SGA this year

by **Tiffany Hoffman**  
Managing Editor

The Virginia Tech Student Government Association has set a goal to have 8,000 more college students go to the polls this year.

"Getting students to vote will be the most important thing SGA will do this year because of the political power that it will give us to speak for the students on a state level," said Brant Snyder, SGA president and junior finance major.

To help kick off the importance of voting, the SGA will be handing out absentee ballot applications at the Orange Effect tables around campus. The SGA will then mail both the absentee applications and ballots to the state board of elections.

"We'll front all the costs so students won't have to spend a dime," Snyder said.

With the recent budget cuts and loss of university employees, SGA vice president and junior business information technology major, Puraj Patel said he thinks the voter registration will raise a lot of student support.

"At the state level, students are not very well represented," Patel said. "The legislature needs to know what students are thinking and they need to know that (students) care about higher education."

In December and January, student representatives will visit each legislator in Virginia to let them know what is going on at Tech and to tell them the number of voters Tech is contributing to each district.

"Every single legislator in Virginia — every single delegate — will be visited over Christmas break by students educated in what's happening in the budget and how many educators have been cut," Snyder said. "We're very interested in students' (best) interests and the best way we can (support) that is to get to the state level and loosen up the purse strings."

Patel said the SGA is focusing primarily on achieving state recognition to promote state-level changes in the interest of education.

Blacksburg Mayor Roger Hedgepeth said most students who vote at the university are registered in their hometowns. However, last year when a student ran for mayor, he said there was more interest in local government than in previous years.

"I think young people should definitely take an interest in government at all levels,"

See **VOTING**, page 2

## U.S. plans greater role for U.N. in Iraq

by **Scott Lindlow**  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States is circulating a proposed resolution to assign a larger role to the United Nations in peacemaking in Iraq and to outline a "political horizon" for the country's transition to a constitutional democracy, Secretary of State Colin Powell said Wednesday.

At a hastily arranged news conference, Powell said peacekeeping troops, most of which are supplied by the United States, would be placed under a unified command with U.S. commanders in charge.

"Certainly the United States will continue to play a dominant role," Powell said. "But a dominant role does not mean the only role."

Nonetheless, in turning to the United Nations, as demanded by many other governments and mem-

bers of Congress, the Bush administration is modifying its strategy in Iraq.

Powell said the United Nations "has brought great skill to nation-building."

In response to a question, he said the move was not motivated by the continuing loss of U.S. troops in Iraq.

Powell said U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte was circulating a draft resolution on Wednesday and Thursday to other U.N. ambassadors and that he planned to rally support with telephone calls to foreign ministers.

He said he had already been in touch with British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw and foreign ministers Igor Ivanov of Russia, Joschka Fischer of Germany and Dominique de Villepin of France.

See **IRAQ**, page 2

## J. Crew sale returns to Squires

by **Aaron Blackwell**  
Associate News Editor

The Virginia Tech Student Government Association's latest event hopes to raise money, and let the student body become better dressed at the same time.

AJ. Crew warehouse sale is being held today and tomorrow from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. in Squires Commonwealth Ballroom.

Proceeds from the sale will fund various events the SGA is planning for the student body this year, said SGA President Brant Snyder, a junior finance major.

The sale is entirely J. Crew merchandise, including pants, jackets, shirts and shoes for both men and women, he said. The merchandise has also been discounted.

"It's kind of like an outlet

See **SALE**, page 3



ELEANOR HOPSON/SPPS

Students flocked to the Squires Commonwealth Ballroom this morning in search of bargains at the SGA's J.Crew warehouse sale.

## News in Brief

### Judge orders psych exam for accused killer

DETROIT (AP) — A judge Wednesday ordered a psychological exam for a man accused of fatally shooting three of his children and seriously wounding another.

Anthony Bailey's attorney asked for the exam, saying his client has not been able to help with his defense and does not appear to understand that his children are dead.

"There was a psychological slide on the part of my client in the last few months," attorney David Cripps said after the hearing.

Police say Bailey shot the children Aug. 19 in their home, then set the house on fire to cover up the crime.

Eleven-year-old Sharnice Bailey, 3-year-old Ayana Bailey, and 1-year-old Lamar Bailey died at the scene.

### Suspect arrested for Blaster virus

Police in Romania on Wednesday arrested a 24-year-old man in connection with a computer-crippling Internet worm, according to a computer security company that aided police.

The company, Bucharest-based BitDefender, identified the man as Dan Dumitru Ciobanu, a 24-year-old graduate of the Technical University of Iasi, in northeastern Romania.

Police detained Ciobanu in connection with a modified and milder version of the Blaster

worm, said Patrick Vicol, a virus analyst at BitDefender. Dubbed MsBlast.F, it was unleashed on computers of the Technical University, Vicol said.

Last week, Minneapolis high school senior Jeffrey Parson, 18, was charged with letting loose a different variation of the Blaster worm.

### Valuable drawings discovered

LONDON (AP) — Experts on Wednesday described as "an absolutely incredible" find a collection of drawings and watercolors by Beatrix Potter, the creator of Peter Rabbit, with an estimated worth of nearly \$400,000.

The 23 illustrations by Potter came to light when they were valued by Clive Farahar, an expert who appeared on the popular television program, Antiques Roadshow.

### Baboon noses found in suitcase

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands — Around 2,000 baboon noses were found in an abandoned suitcase at Amsterdam airport after they started to stink, officials said Wednesday.

The noses were en route from Lagos to the United States, apparently intended for an immigrant market.

Baboons are protected under international law.

Their noses are used in traditional medicine in parts of Asia and Africa.

## Iraq: U.S. will maintain political, military control

Continued from page 1

"The initial reaction so far is positive," he said.

The postwar operation is costing the United States at least \$3.9 billion a month and has strained the American military, which has some 140,000 troops stationed there. The administration has struggled to attract broader international participation, and sees the new U.N. resolution as the way to make other nations more comfortable with contributing militarily and financially.

Some nations, including India, "felt like they needed additional authority from the U.N. to be able to participate," White House spokesman Scott McClellan said.

"So we said, 'We want to listen to your concerns, we want to work with you and we want to look at ways to encourage broader international participation,'" McClellan said.

He made plain that the United States intends to retain political and military control in Iraq.

"This is and continues to be something that is under the command of the United States military, working with our coalition," he said.

U.S. civilian administrator for Iraq, L. Paul Bremer, and the U.S.-led Coalition Provisional Authority are "overseeing our efforts in Iraq and they will continue to oversee our efforts in Iraq," McClellan said. "We want to encourage more countries to participate."

Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., warned that there must "be meaningful responsibility for each of these other countries."

"They're not going to assign combat troops to this effort under the command of an American general and not have any further role in Iraq," said Hagel, a member of Foreign Relations and Intelligence committees and one of the leading advocates for greater international role in Iraq. Hagel said he spoke with Powell Wednesday morning.

Hagel said the new resolution "would obviously indicate what additional responsibilities other nations would have, as well as the U.N. and Iraq."

It "would take away this perception, unfortunately, that is in the Middle East and around the world that this is an American mission in Iraq."

House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi of California called the effort toward a new resolution "a welcome admission that the current policy is not realistic and not sustainable."

After Powell and Negroponte complete their soundings, the administration will make a final decision on the text of a resolution, hoping to submit it to the Security Council before Bush speaks in three weeks to the U.N. General Assembly.

Bush authorized Powell to begin the negotiations during a meeting Tuesday at the White House.

## Voting: Mayor urges student voting

Continued from page 1

he said.

Patel said a good percentage of Tech students are from Blacksburg and will be registered locally. However, the emphasis of the drive is to get students to vote in their hometown districts to show a more widespread interest in student welfare.

"We have to look at the long-term issue," he said. "Focusing more at the entire state level

will, in turn, raise the level of awareness that students care in Blacksburg."

Hedgepeth said he thought it was important for students to express interest in the government but it was even more important to do research and keep up with current issues.

"Just being registered and interested is one thing," he said. "But you really have to do research and bone up on what's going on in the government."

## Ridge: Mexican IDs have security problems

WASHINGTON (AP) — Businesses and cities that accept identification cards issued by Mexico to its citizens in the United States do so at their own risk because the documents are not fraud-proof, Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said Wednesday.

The Mexican IDs are under review by a White House-led panel to determine if they pose a security risk and whether the cards should be accepted as proper identification.

Known as the "matricula consular," the card is issued by Mexico's consulates in the United States and shows the date of birth, a current photograph and the address of the card holder. Many of the cards have been issued to Mexicans living in the United States, including illegal immigrants.

Dozens of financial institutions accept the cards for photo identification when their holders open bank accounts. Cardholders also have been able to use them to turn on utilities, check out library books, get drivers licenses or other basic services in some communities and states.

"There seems to be some mayors and financial institutions that are accepting it. For the time being, they do at their peril," Ridge said in an interview with The Associated Press.

He said the documents are easily tampered with and falsified. The Mexican government has made the cards more secure and has said it is continuing to improve the cards' security. But the FBI said in a recent report that the cards remain vulnerable to fraud.

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DJIA	9568.46 ▲ 45.19							
NASDAQ	1852.90 ▲ 11.42		Mostly cloudy with chance of showers	Mostly cloudy with chance of t-storms	Partly sunny	Mostly clear	Partly sunny	Clear
S&P 500	1026.27 ▲ 4.28		Highs: 73°-78°	Lows: 55°-59°	Highs: 70°-76°	Lows: 52°-57°	55°/75°	60°/75°

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# Warner seeks state funding for schools

■ The Virginia governor wants to fully fund the Virginia Standards of Quality programs

by **Karin Laub**  
Associated Press

RICHMOND (AP) — Gov. Mark R. Warner on Wednesday committed to fully funding Virginia's Standards of Quality for public schools in the budget he will submit in December.

Warner said his new spending blueprint will provide for the estimated \$525 million needed to meet the state's share of the minimum academic program requirements for local public schools from kindergarten through high school.

"This is to maintain the baseline of public education," Warner said in a speech outlining broad principles but few details of his "Education for a Lifetime" proposal at Virginia Commonwealth University.

"Our commitment to the overdue revisions of the SOQs will eventually mean more reading specialists for kids who are having problems, better prepared teachers, enhanced school safety and better use of technology in the classroom," Warner said.

Virginia's Constitution requires localities to meet their share of SOQs, which are set by the State Board of Education, but the Constitution also allows the General Assembly to revise the standards, thereby funding

it at whatever level it deems fit.

Over the past three years, the Legislature's own studies have shown that the state is falling hundreds of millions of dollars short annually to meet the SOQ requirements.

Warner also said he will "begin the process" of phasing in millions of dollars more in revised standards proposed by the state school board, which could increase the cost by about \$200 million more at a time when state revenues are lagging.

The governor avoided linking full SOQ funding to a tax increase and said that many provisions of his program would rely on federal money or be "self-financing."

"We're saying that in terms of revisions, we're going to try to make a start, but we're going to have to see how the budget plays out," Warner said in interviews after his speech. The actual new spending needs, he said, would only be in the tens of millions of dollars.

"It means we're going to continue to find ways to save money. It means we're going to look at streamlining other parts of state government. It's going to continue to mean looking at what happens with Congress and are we going to get relief on issues like transportation and Medicaid," said Warner, a Democrat.

Reaction from the Legislature's ruling Republicans from warm tributes to cautious skepticism.

House Speaker William J. Howell said he'd have to more closely assess Warner's SOQ

funding proposals.

"I can't say I'm opposed to it. We'll have to see where he finds the money. If he puts it in his budget, he'll have to find some way to balance it on the other side through cuts. He's looking at another tough budget year, so it's good that he's not too far-reaching," Howell said.

Senate Education and Health Committee Chairman Russell H. Potts, R-Winchester, commended Warner "for thinking big and staying true to our goals for public education."

"We have a situation where until we get everything on the table with tax restructuring, who knows how much we can put toward education, but are we failures if we don't get \$550 million for the SOQs but we get, say, \$267 million? No, I don't think so," Potts said.

Virginia Education Association president Jean Bankos said her organization, the state's largest teachers organization, would support what will become a major legislative initiative for the governor.

"It's not a matter of getting what we don't have now, it's a matter of maintaining what we do have and keeping the system up and running," Bankos said.

Warner's plan won't attempt

to raise the salaries of Virginia teachers to the national average, which Warner pledged to seek as a candidate two years ago. Hopes of achieving that milestone were lost in a \$6 billion revenue shortfall and the cuts it forced in state spending the past two years, he said.

It will, however, provide mentors for young teachers who often abandon the profession only a few years into it and unspecified incentives for retaining teachers, some of whom take jobs outside education.

Warner's proposals call for sending teams of auditors and management specialists from the Department of Planning and Budget to help local school divisions cut costs and run more efficiently.

It starts, however, only with a pilot project in three districts: the city of Richmond and Roanoke and New Kent counties.

All school divisions, however, will be subject to a performance audit, correlating how well a school district's students do academically to how effectively the district spends money. Results will be made public, Warner said.

"Turnaround teams" will be sent into the state's most troubled school districts, he added.

“Our commitment ... will eventually mean more reading specialists for kids ... better prepared teachers, enhanced school safety and better use of technology in the classroom.”

**Mark Warner**  
Virginia governor

# Witness expected to back Moussaoui

by **Larry Margasak**  
Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA (AP) — An al-Qaida captive is likely to testify that Zacarias Moussaoui was not contacted by the network to participate in the Sept. 11 attacks, supporting the suspected terrorist's claim that he was not part of the plot, a federal judge said.

By testifying that Moussaoui was not even contacted about the plot, the witness would go further than the defendant's oft-stated contention that he had no role in the attacks.

U.S. District Judge Leonie Brinkema cited the likely testimony to justify giving Moussaoui access to the prisoner for pretrial testimony and possibly as a trial witness. She also granted access to a second al-Qaida prisoner who would support Moussaoui's contention he was not part of the attack conspiracy.

The names of the prisoners were blacked out in the order

written Friday and released Wednesday. News reports last week identified them as a mastermind of the plot, Khalid Shaik Mohammed, and Mustafa Ahmed Hawsawi, an alleged paymaster for the 19 hijackers.

One of the witnesses "supports the claim that Moussaoui was not part of the Sept. 11 plot because the defendant was in the United States at the time, but was not contacted," Brinkema said.

This is the second time the judge has granted Moussaoui — an acknowledged al-Qaida loyalist — access to his former colleagues. The government has contended national security would be irreparably damaged and has defied Brinkema's order to produce a witness, former al-Qaida operative Ramzi Binalshibh.

Brinkema is expected to impose penalties against the government for its defiance, a move that could lead to intervention by a federal appeals court.

# Sale: Event raises funds for SGA

Continued from page 1

store," Snyder said. "Prices are at least half of what someone would normally find."

The sale consists of surplus merchandise not sold in stores, said SGA Vice President Puraj Patel, a junior business information technology major.

The SGA held a similar sale last year and it was well received, so the group decided to try it again, Patel said.

This year the SGA aims to make \$5,000, a significantly higher amount than the \$1,200 profit they made at last year's sale. Last year's funds covered administrative costs not provided by the budget board, Snyder said.

Barr-ee Station, a retailer of outlet clothing, was sponsored by the SGA for the event, Patel said. The retailer purchased the merchandise and is serving as a middleman for the fundraiser, he said.

Maggie Cox, co-owner of Barr-ee Station, based in Duck, N.C., said the sale has gone smoothly.

"It has been wonderful," she said.

Cox has also been impressed with the SGA members that have been working the event.

"They've worked really hard," she said.

Veronica Pugh, a junior chemistry major and SGA senator, worked during the sale yesterday and sees it as a good way of making the students aware of the SGA.

"It's a great way for the SGA to get noticed, plus we get a big discount at the end of the week," she said.

Some students heard about the sale from friends who had managed some thrifty purchases.

"A friend of mine told me he got some good deals, so I just decided to stop by and check it out," said Nick Chatham, a junior building construction major.

Snyder said the sale appeals to students who want new clothes to start off the semester.

"It's a great opportunity for people to come in and get new clothes that are inexpensive."

The group hopes to have a similar fundraiser some time next semester, Snyder said.

# Former minister executed for killing abortion doctor

by **Ron Word**  
Associated Press

STARKE, Fla. — Paul Hill, a former minister who said he murdered an abortion doctor and his bodyguard to save the lives of unborn babies, was executed Wednesday by injection. He was the first person put to death in the United States for anti-abortion violence.

Hill, 49, was condemned for the July 29, 1994, shooting deaths of Dr. John Bayard Britton and his bodyguard, retired Air Force Lt. Col. James Herman Barrett, and the wounding of Barrett's wife outside the Ladies Center in Pensacola.

As he has since the slaying, Hill showed no remorse and urged abortion foes to use whatever means to protect the unborn.

"If you believe abortion is a lethal force, you should oppose the force and do what you have to do to stop it," Hill said as laid strapped to a gurney in the execution chamber. "May God help you to protect the unborn as you would want to be protected."

Hill was pronounced dead at 6:08 p.m., Gov. Jeb Bush's office said.

Death penalty opponents and others had urged Bush to halt the execution, some of them warning Hill's death would make him a martyr and unleash more violence against abortion clinics. The governor said he would not be "bullied" into stopping the execution.

Florida abortion clinics and police were on heightened alert for reprisals. Several officials connected to the case

received threatening letters last week, accompanied by rifle bullets.

"Paul Hill is a dangerous psychopath," said Marti McKenzie, spokeswoman for Dr. James Pendergraft, who runs clinics in Orlando, Ocala, Tampa and Fort Lauderdale.

Outside Florida State Prison, extra law enforcement officers, explosives-sniffing dogs and undercover officers were in place to prevent protests from getting out of hand. About 50 abortion and death penalty foes quickly left following the execution as rain fell and lightning struck near the prison.

Hill, a former Presbyterian minister, had final visits with family members and his religious adviser stayed with him until just before the execution.

Since losing his automatic appeals, Hill has not fought his execution and insisted up to the day before his death that he would be forgiven by God for killing to save the unborn.

"I expect a great reward in heaven," he said in an interview Tuesday, during which he was cheerful, often smiling. "I am looking forward to glory."

Fringe elements of the anti-abortion movement that condone clinic violence have invited attacks on Web sites that proclaim Hill as a martyr. Members of the mainstream anti-abortion movement have denounced the calls for violence.

# Orange: Slogan submitted last year

Continued from page 1

and say, 'That's Blacksburg.'"

The slogan on the shirts this year was actually sent in last year, but held over for "Orange Effect 2003" because they felt it was too good to waste, Patel said.

"Get out of our Lane" came from senior communication and English double major Bryan Nieder.

"It came to me at 2 a.m. during a boredom-induced caffeine binge," Nieder said. "What else are you going to do at 2 a.m. but come up with a slogan for a T-shirt?"

Nieder explained his idea

for the shirt as like being on a packed New Jersey turnpike and someone cuts into your lane, in this case Lane Stadium. "Instead of flipping them off, you can just turn around and show them your back," he said.

If it's anything like last year, Patel expects long lines will be forming where the T-shirts will be sold. That is why this year, SGA members will be circulating clipboards with voter registration and absentee ballot forms for students to fill out.

"We want them to get an 'Orange Effect 2003' T-shirt and register to vote," Patel said.

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# Senate bill grants Amtrak more money

by Alan Fram  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Amtrak would get \$1.35 billion in federal subsidies next year under a bill approved Wednesday by a Senate subcommittee that gives the railroad more money than

President Bush wants but less than Amtrak officials have said they need.

The cash-strapped carrier has said \$1.8 billion is necessary to retain existing levels of service, but critics want Amtrak to first drop money-losing lines and make other changes. Bush

proposed only \$900 million, the same amount included in a bill the House plans to consider this week, so Amtrak officials expressed relief at the Senate figure.

"Amtrak is encouraged" by the Senate bill and will "look to Congress to provide an

adequate level to fulfill our needs," said Amtrak spokesman Clifford Black.

The bill would defer repayment, for an additional year, of a \$100 million federal loan Amtrak received last summer.

Separately, the Republican-led Senate rejected Democratic efforts to boost spending for disabled students, schools near military bases and Hispanic youngsters as it worked slowly through a bill providing \$137.6 billion for schools, health and labor programs for the budget year beginning Oct. 1.

Democrats have a pile of education amendments ready as they battle the GOP over an issue both parties would like to dominate by next year's elections.

At a meeting with Bush and other White House officials, top congressional Republicans were told the administration will submit a "substantial" request to pay for ongoing U.S. activities in Iraq, Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, said in a brief interview.

He and others said Bush and other officials provided no details on the amount or timing of the request.

But congressional aides said the administration might request \$60 billion or \$70 billion, though no final decisions have been made.

The Amtrak funds were included in a measure providing \$89.8 billion for next year for transportation programs, the Treasury Department and several smaller agencies. It was approved by a subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Initially, Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., the subcommittee chairman, planned to provide only \$900 million for Amtrak, Senate aides said.

But he agreed to a plan by Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., to raise the total to nearly \$1.35 billion by trimming almost \$450 million from agency administrative costs and other items in the underlying legislation.

Shelby's assent illustrated the broad support among senators for Amtrak.

Though its busiest corridor runs between Boston and Washington, Amtrak serves 500 communities in 46 states.

The passenger railroad has received more than \$26 billion in taxpayer subsidies since its formation 32 years ago.

# Identity theft claims 10 million victims

by Jonathan Salant  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Even federal regulators were surprised by what the most comprehensive government study of identity theft turned up: nearly 10 million victims and a loss of \$53 billion for businesses and consumers last year alone.

And those numbers probably are low because many identity thefts go unreported, Federal Trade Commission officials said Wednesday.

"It is a crime of the times. It is a growing crime," said Howard Beales, the FTC's consumer protection director. "Unfortunately, a fair number of thieves have found it's a fairly easy way to make money."

An agency survey in March and April of 4,057 adults sought to gauge the extent of identity theft crimes in the past five years. Results from the random telephone survey, when based on the overall adult population, suggest that

during that period 27.3 million people were victimized when someone made unauthorized charges on their credit cards, took money from their bank accounts, or obtained a credit card or official document in their name.

In 2002 alone, the cost was \$48 billion for businesses and \$5 billion for consumers.

Beales said the number of victims was higher than he expected. In 2002, for example, the FTC received 161,819 complaints about identity theft.

The commission has set up a Web site with tips on how to avoid identity theft, [www.consumer.gov/idtheft](http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft), and urges consumers to carefully review their credit card statements each month, destroy charge slips rather than simply throw them in the trash, and check their accounts annually with the three credit reporting bureaus.

The agency also urged financial institutions to pay more attention to whom they are extending credit.

# Bombs strike train in southern Russia

by Sergei Venyavsky  
Associated Press

ROSTOV-ON-DON, Russia — Two bomb blasts rocked a rush-hour commuter train carrying college students in southern Russia on Wednesday, killing at least four people and wounding dozens.

The bombs were planted on the tracks linking Kislovodsk to Mineralnye Vody in the Caucasus region. There were about 50 people in the third car of the six-car train, which was directly hit by one blast, Railway Ministry spokesman Konstantin Pashkov said.

Survivors reported many of the passengers were college students. Many Russian universities began their fall semesters this week.

There were varying reports on the casualty toll.

Dmitry Oliferenko, a spokesman for President Vladimir Putin's envoy to southern Russia, said five people were killed, while Russian Railways Minister Gennady Fadeyev said in televised comments that six died.

However, Regional

Situations Ministry spokesman Igor Mikhailov said four were killed and 33 were wounded in the explosions as the train was approaching a station in Podkumok, a town on the outskirts of Kislovodsk, 870 miles south of Moscow.

Mikhailov said 21 of the injured remained hospitalized, eight of them in serious condition.

NTV television reported that the dead were an 18-year-old woman, two 21-year-old men and a 15-year-old boy.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the blasts.

Viktor Kazantsev, President Vladimir Putin's envoy to southern Russia, told state television that police had arrested a man suspected of detonating the bombs.

Police said the suspect was injured in the explosion and was hospitalized in serious condition.

Russia has been hit recently by numerous bombings and other attacks, which the government usually blames on rebels from Chechnya.

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## Editorial UNIVERSITY ISSUE

### Student voters provide leverage

The right to vote should never be taken for granted and is vital to Virginia Tech students' abilities to maintain leverage with decision-makers in Richmond.

Given recent events involving the budget and policy changes made by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors, it is apparent influencing politicians is important in securing the quality of life and community in Blacksburg.

When last year's BOV issues were being played out on campus, the Student Government Association was a key player in voicing the opinions of students.

One such example is the "Cut This?" photo op, which helped put the spotlight on the university's budget cuts.

The SGA is now planning to help students become registered voters and encourage votes by distributing absentee ballots.

Registering the students to vote and supplying them the means to do so will be another method of protecting our campus and community from poor policy decisions and potentially devastating revisions to state funds.

Putting the ability to vote in the hands of the students is not only a weapon in itself but also a defense from those politicians willing to sell out the higher educational system for cutting taxes, ideology or political favors.

Without being in a position to exercise the right to vote, students and the organizations representing them, like the SGA, will be without leverage and justification for lobbying student interest.

The interests of the students can be served beyond the campus by motivating and providing the means to vote.

By getting students registered and providing absentee ballots, the students' power to vote on issues at school will precipitate into becoming involved in issues effecting them at home.

With that said, it is important for students to play their part and exercise their right to vote.

### Abortion rights still apply to incarcerated women

Kate Lynch

Even in jail, women have the right to an abortion.

A woman serving a sentence for battery in a Louisiana jail was denied her constitutional right to an abortion by jail workers.

A lawyer for the correctional facility said that because the woman's life was not endangered by the pregnancy, medical workers were not allowed to transport the woman sixty miles to the closest abortion clinic.

The woman was more than five months pregnant when she was released from jail and could no longer have an abortion.

Even when guilty of violating state laws, women who are pregnant in jail still have the right to make choices about their bodies.

Having a child is life-changing and comes with serious consequences and responsibility.

To take away the choice to have or not to have a child as punishment for being in jail is unjust and ludicrous.

The country does not need more children born to inept parents who don't want them.

The law in Louisiana prohibits using state funds to finance an abortion, which was one reason that the jail's representation

gave for not permitting the woman to have the procedure.

No one was able to disclose information on the specifics of the case, but assuming the woman did not have an abortion, she would have needed prenatal care.

Would state dollars fund her prenatal attention?

Prenatal care is more expensive than an abortion and transportation costs combined.

Obviously, the decision not to allow the woman to have an abortion was not based on money.

Ironically, the woman in this case, according to her attorneys, was going to use her own money to pay for both the abortion and the transportation to the clinic, completely negating the reason given by the jail to prevent her from an abortion.

The jail workers imposed their personal beliefs on the life of this woman and only had the ability to do so because they were in a position of power.

No matter what position you hold in a situation, you can never force a woman to have a baby by preventing other options.

Whether in the free world or in jail serving a sentence, a woman should always have the right to choose.

*Kate Lynch is the editorial assistant for the Collegiate Times.*

## Unions more than preventive

Justin Krometis

In "Labor Unions Ensure Fair Treatment" (CT, Sept. 2), the author argues that labor unions are necessary in the workplace to provide workers with a unified bargaining voice.

She points out that unions were instrumental in the labor movement of the late 1800's and that, despite the fact that "things are going well now," unions are necessary to ensure that workers continue to maintain that the benefits they enjoy now do not deteriorate over time.

The author was correct on all of these points, but I wanted to write in to demonstrate that "things" are far from being acceptable now. Consider: In 1968, the federal minimum wage reached an inflation-adjusted peak of \$7.92 per hour in today's currency, approximately 54 percent more than it is today.

In that time, worker productivity has increased 74 percent. If the minimum wage in 1968 had kept up with productivity, it would be \$13.80 an hour.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau in 1999, 11.8 percent of people in the United States lived below the poverty line, including 24 percent of African-Americans, 23 percent of Hispanic-Americans and 17 percent of those under 18 years of age.

And this in spite of the antiquated definition of poverty that the U.S. government still maintains.

Many independent organizations put self-sufficiency levels at upwards of 140 percent of the offi-

cial poverty line.

A 2000 survey of 25 cities found that requests for emergency food had increased by 17 percent in the previous year. Thirteen percent went unmet.

While I am no expert on the subject, I suspect that many of these changes can be traced to a decline in the power of unions in the last 25 years. New bills like NAFTA and GATT have undermined unions' power at the negotiating table by diminishing their power to strike.

By removing the tariffs that were once applied to foreign goods, these laws also remove the primary force dissuading factories from moving abroad.

Employers can now more seriously threaten to move where labor laws are weaker and therefore costs are lower.

In response, unions and workers in general are forced to compromise their demands.

Unions have begun to compromise their positions on a national level, refusing to endorse candidates other than the mainstream Democratic candidates — or to demand policy changes in exchange for doing so — for fear of aiding the Republicans into office.

In this era of decreased union power, many communities are taking on the fight themselves through the passage of living wage ordinances.

These laws increase the minimum wage locally to a level that would allow low-pay workers to meet their needs while working "only" 40 hours each week.

These laws have been successful in numerous localities and campuses, including Charlottesville and the

*"By removing the tariffs that were once applied to foreign goods, these laws also remove the primary force dissuading factories from moving abroad. Employers can now more seriously threaten to move where labor laws are weaker..."*

University of Virginia.

There is a group in the town of Blacksburg starting a similar campaign. For more information, e-mail livingwage@vt.edu.

This slide has been going on for 35 years now, and the most rapid drop in the minimum wage occurred during the Reagan 80s.

Wages have been this low for a long time now, long enough that society has become accustomed to them.

Unions are powerful tools in the push for labor reform — one of the only tools for turning the tables on corporations in a capitalist society, and they deserve to be recognized as such.

But what deserves more recognition is that unions and other labor-reform tools are not simply preventative measures.

While we do not live in the 1880s, all is not well on the labor front.

*Justin Krometis is a graduate student in mathematics.*



FALL 2003

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# Showdown with Arafat a possibility

■ Prime Minister Abbas is insisting on a vote of confidence in the Palestinian parliament

by **Karin Laub**  
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, locked in a power struggle with Yasser Arafat, insists on being confirmed by parliament in a vote of confidence, raising the possibility of a showdown between the Palestinian leaders, a senior official said Wednesday.

Abbas initially said he would leave the decision on holding a vote to legislators. His reversal came after mediators failed to resolve his dispute with Arafat over control of security forces, said the official who met for several hours with Abbas on Tuesday and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Abbas, who is increasingly unpopular, could be toppled in a parliament vote.

His ouster, in turn, could throw an already troubled U.S.-backed peace plan into greater turmoil.

The Palestinian prime minister was to address parliament Thursday to sum up his first 100 days in office.

He has failed in his two key objectives — persuading militants to halt attacks on Israelis and improving the daily lives of Palestinians through progress on the “road map” peace plan.

Many legislators, while critical of Abbas, have said they don’t want to push him out and prefer that he work out his differences with Arafat.

Lawmaker Kadoura Fares of the ruling Fatah movement said parliament would probably object to holding a vote. “Asking for confidence now means that he (Abbas) wants to use the legislature in the current crisis between him and the president (Arafat), and this is unacceptable to us,” he said.

If Abbas insists on a vote, in apparent hopes of strengthening his position against Arafat, many legislators might not support him.

Palestinian Parliament Speaker Ahmed Qureia appears to have some discretion about deciding on the timing of the vote, and was meeting with aides later Wednesday to dis-

cuss the matter.

The power struggle between Abbas and Arafat intensified in recent weeks. Abbas, with the backing of the United States and Israel, demands that Arafat relinquish control of four security branches; Abbas commands the other four security services. Arafat has balked, fearing he would lose his main source of power.

Israel and the United States want Abbas to crack down on Hamas and other militant groups, as required by the road map. Israel’s Cabinet decided earlier this week to freeze implementation of the road map until Abbas orders a clampdown.

Abbas and his security chief, Mohammed Dahlan, have taken some measures, including freezing the bank accounts of Islamic charities with alleged links to Hamas, but it remains unclear whether they would order a full crackdown even if given control of all security services.

Ahead of the parliament session, Israel sent strong warnings to the Palestinians.

Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom said Israel will not negotiate with a new Palestinian government hand-picked by Arafat, and Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz warned Tuesday that Israel may have to expel Arafat soon if he keeps getting in the way of the road map.

Mofaz spoke several days after Israeli security officials again reviewed a possible expulsion, and came to the conclusion that at present it would cause more damage than benefit.

Zeev Schiff, a veteran Israeli military commentator, wrote Wednesday in the Haaretz daily that Israel might expel Arafat under three scenarios: Arafat refuses to relinquish control over the security services, Abbas is forced to resign, or militants carry out a major terror attack.

Israel Army Radio reported that the United States has asked Israel for a clarification following Mofaz’s expulsion comments.

An official at the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Arafat is considered “part of the problem, not the solution,” but that Washington does not want him expelled.

Several Palestinian legislators said privately that U.S. diplomats have warned them that the United States might withdraw as a mediator if Abbas is brought down.

# Blackout linked to Ohio utility center

■ The FirstEnergy Corp. complained of a computer breakdown one hour before the August 14 blackout

by **Josef Hebert**  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — During the hour before the nation’s worst blackout, engineers in the control center of an Ohio utility struggled to figure out why transmission lines were failing and complained that a computer breakdown was making it difficult, transcripts of telephone communications released Wednesday show.

At one point, an engineer at the Midwest grid managing organization asked engineers at the Ohio utility, FirstEnergy Corp., to explain why they had not responded to a line outage reported sometime earlier and asked that they find out what was going on.

“We have no clue. Our computer is giving us fits, too,” replied a FirstEnergy technician identified as Jerry Snickey. “We don’t even know the status of some of the stuff (power fluctuations) around us.”

A short time later, a

technician at the Midwest Independent Transmission System Operators, the group that monitors the Midwest power grid, expressed frustration with FirstEnergy’s failure to diagnose the problems erupting in their power system.

“I called you guys like 10 minutes ago, and I thought you were figuring out what was going on there,” the MISO technician, identified as Don Hunter, complained, according to the transcripts.

“Well, we’re trying to,” replied Snickey. “Our computer is not happy. It’s not cooperating either.”

The exchanges were contained in 650 pages of transcripts of telephone communications provided by MISO to House Energy and Commerce Committee investigators and made public by the committee Wednesday at the conclusion of the first day of hearings into the blackout.

Executives of FirstEnergy as well as other Midwest utilities and Midwest transmission grid managers were scheduled to testify before the committee on

Thursday.

Separately, the head of an industry-sponsored power grid reliability watchdog disclosed that last year the industry had 444 transmission operating violations nationwide, including some — involving failure to keep a balance of power generation and demand — that had a potential of causing a cascading system failure.

“FirstEnergy grid problems have been at the center of the investigation into what might have triggered the blackout.”

Michigan Gent, president of the North American Electric Reliability Council, said in a letter to Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich., that it was “pre-mature” to say whether the type of violations reported in 2002 might have played a role in the Aug. 14 blackout. Compliance with NERC’s rules is voluntary and carry no penalties. But Gent wrote the infractions carried a total of \$9 million in “simulated penalties.”

Although investigators have said previously that power line failures in Ohio were the first indication of an electricity grid problem on the afternoon of the blackout, the transcripts for the first time revealed the

confusion in the FirstEnergy control center in Ohio as the utility’s engineers sought to get a handle on what was becoming a growing and mysterious power problem.

According to previous timelines made public, the first sign of a problem developed when FirstEnergy’s power plant in Eastlake, Ohio, tripped off around 2 p.m. EDT on Aug. 14; next, at 3:06 p.m., one of its transmission lines failed and at 3:32 p.m. another high-voltage line, known as Hanna-Juniper, went dark.

That caught the attention of the MISO engineers monitoring the grid from their control center.

“I was wondering what’s going on there,” Hunter asked the FirstEnergy control center shortly after 3:43 p.m. EDT. The FirstEnergy engineers were unsure, but Hunter knew something was amiss.

“I’ve got to get my calculator,” he said.

“We’ve got something going on,” a First Energy technician identified only as Schwartz, replied. “I’m going to have to take a look and see what’s happening.”

FirstEnergy grid problems have been at the center of the investigation into what might have triggered the blackout.

# Schwarzenegger opts for speech, not debate

by **Erica Werner**  
Associated Press

LONG BEACH, Calif. — Arnold Schwarzenegger was a no-show at the initial debate of California’s recall election Wednesday and delivered what was billed as his first major campaign speech, getting pelted with an egg as he waded through a crowd at a college campus.

Unfazed when the egg hit his left shoulder, the action hero peeled off his coat and went ahead with a 15-minute speech in which he asserted that he is running for governor to give something back to a state responsible for his success.

“You have such a fantastic life, Arnold, you make millions of dollars to do movies and all those kinds of things, why do you want to do this?” Schwarzenegger asked rhetorically.

“And you know something, because everything that I’ve gotten — my career, my money, my family — everything that I’ve gotten and achieved is because of California,” he said to cheers at California State University, Long Beach.

Schwarzenegger said he wasn’t bothered by the egg-throwing. “This guy owes me bacon now,” he joked later. “I mean there’s no two ways about it because, I mean, you can’t just have eggs without bacon. But this is all part of, you know, the free speech.”

Several opponents from La Raza Student Association heckled Schwarzenegger at the speech for his past support of Proposition 187, which sought to deny services to illegal immigrants. They held a sign saying “Hasta la vista Latinos,” but supporters drowned out the hecklers with chants of “Arnold, Arnold, Arnold.”

# Israel retaliates against Lebanon in air raid

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Israeli warplanes attacked suspected Hezbollah positions in southern Lebanon on Wednesday, hours after Hezbollah fired shells into northern Israel in response to Israeli overflights, Lebanese security officials said.

Israeli warplanes fired at least three air-to-surface missiles on the hills near the village of Bayada on the outskirts of the southern port city of Tyre, the officials, speaking on customary condition of anonymity, said. There was no immediate word on casualties.

An Israeli military official in Jerusalem, Maj. Sharon Feingold, said the Israeli raid was in retaliation to Hezbollah shells that landed in northern Israel.

It was the first Israeli air raid since Aug. 10, when shells fired by Hezbollah killed a 16-year-old Israeli and wounded five people, including an infant. That shelling, part of volleys

fired by the guerrillas to counter Israeli reconnaissance flights over Lebanon, led to an Israeli air attack against suspected Hezbollah sites in southern Lebanon, shattering an eight-month lull on the border.

Earlier Wednesday, Israeli fighter jets flew over south Lebanon, drawing anti-aircraft fire from militant Hezbollah guerrillas, Lebanese security officials and Hezbollah said.

A statement issued by the group in Beirut said its air defense unit fired at “Israeli enemy planes which violated Lebanese sovereignty.”

In Jerusalem, the Israeli military said Hezbollah fired shells that landed near the small border community of Zarit. No injuries were reported.

An anonymous Israeli military source said about five shells landed in open areas near Zarit on Wednesday. The Israeli military said this was the first shelling since Aug. 10.

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Features

# Newspapers refuse Doonesbury strip

▪ Editors of several newspapers pulled the strip because it mentioned masturbation

by Amy Shafer  
Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — It's OK to portray the president as a wimp, a waffle or a reckless Roman emperor.

But if you're "Doonesbury" creator Garry Trudeau and you mention the "M" word — as in masturbation — editors will pull your strip.

Characters in Sunday's strip discuss a recent study by Australian scientists who found that men who masturbate often in their 20s are 30 percent less likely to get prostate cancer later.

Some U.S. newspapers have chosen to run a substitute offered by Kansas City-based Universal Press Syndicate.

"We felt it was something our readers would not like, and we did not have a good reason for running it," said Diane Bacha, assistant managing editor for features and entertainment at the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

Bacha posted a query about the comic on an industry e-mail message board and received responses from 34 newspapers.

Nineteen said they would not run the strip, 12 said they planned to and three did not know what they would do.

"To me this boils down to a taste issue," Bacha said.

This is not the first time newspapers have refused to run "Doonesbury."

Just before the 2000 presidential election, at least two newspapers pulled an installment that accused George W. Bush of cocaine abuse. In February 1998, at least four newspapers refused to run "Doonesbury" strips about accusations that President Clinton had sex with a White House intern.

Newspapers do not have to notify the syndicate when they pull a strip, so it would be impossible to know how many of about 1,400 subscribers will decide to run Sunday's installment, said Kathie Kerr, a spokeswoman for the distributor.

Normally, Trudeau doesn't allow Universal Press Syndicate to offer substitute strips when newspapers have

*"We felt it was something our readers would not like, and we did not have a good reason for running it."*

Diane Bacha  
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

"editorial concerns," Kerr said. This time, however, he agreed to let the cartoon's distributor offer a substitute "Doonesbury" from Sept. 22, 2002, she said.

In a written statement released Friday by Universal Press, Trudeau said the comic "isn't really about masturbation or the cancer study as such, but about the shifting nature of taboos and the inability of two adults to have a certain kind of serious conversation."

"Still," Trudeau said, "I understand that the mention of certain words per se will not be acceptable to some family newspapers."

In a letter to newspaper editors, Lee Salem, editor and executive vice president of Universal Press, referred to masturbation as the "m-word."

"For some papers, the use of the m-word per se, no matter how deftly it is referenced, may cross the line," Salem wrote.

# Therapy for easing the college life blues

Meghan Holland

How many times have you yearned to toss aside your books and go out for a much-needed night on the town? How often have you found yourself stuck inside the dorm, absolutely bored with nothing to do? If you understand the horror of isolation and anti-social anxiety, you are not the only one.

It is a familiar feeling everyone has experienced at least once in his or her college career. It is a feeling of pure helplessness, even desperation. What should you do when your social life is on the rocks and there is no hope of finding a way to entertain yourself?

Well, never fear! Blacksburg is a town rich in nightlife, but you must first know where to look. There are apartment parties, fraternity parties, bars and dance clubs. The trick is deciding what atmosphere is right for you.

If fraternity parties are your game, I can

assure you Roanoke Street is the place to go. Many fraternities host parties on the weekend attracting hundreds of people on Friday and Saturday nights.

"Fraternities are a great social atmosphere where you can meet a lot of different people," said Devin Perry, rush chair for Kappa Alpha Order. "If you can't go to the bars, go to a fraternity party."

Fraternity parties are excellent places to go to with friends, especially if you are not into the downtown scene. These parties are the hot ticket in town and young men looking for a chance to rush this fall should attend a party to learn more about Greek life.

If you are not a fan of fraternity life, downtown Blacksburg is a great place to find entertainment. From music to dance, downtown Blacksburg offers a wealth of bars and clubs.

Among the most popular bars on Main Street are Woody's Baja Bar and Grill, Champs Restaurant and Sports Bar, Sharkey's and Hokie House. Other well-

attended bars include Top of the Stairs, The Cellar Restaurant, Big Al's Sports Bar and Grille and Rivermill Map Company Bar and Grill.

"Downtown caters to the older crowd," said Michelle Lewis, a senior human services major.

If you enjoy live music, venues such as Baylee's, Attitudes Bar and Café and the Lyric host concerts on a regular basis.

If dancing is more your style, Waterstreet Gallery and The NERV are great places to get your groove on.

The nightlife in Blacksburg is healthy and happening.

This is a college town full of fun, frenzy and fabulous social opportunities. You can dance, drink and live it up with style.

So relax, call a few friends and head off to a party this weekend. It is the best therapy for the college blues.

Meghan Holland is a staff writer for the Collegiate Times.

# Universal Music slashes CD prices

▪ The price cut is to help combat a drop in music sales in the last three years

by Alex Veiga  
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The world's largest recording company said Wednesday it would slash wholesale compact disc prices in hopes of reviving music sales, which have dropped 31 percent industry-wide in the last three years.

The suggested retail price on a majority of its CDs will be cut by \$6 to \$12.98, said Universal Music Group representatives.

Retailers have the final say on pricing, and UMG hopes the actual sales price will drop to about \$10 or less. Consumers could begin seeing the price changes as early as Oct. 1.

"We expect (this) will invigorate the music market in North America," said Doug Morris, UMG Chairman and CEO. UMG, the market leader among the world's five major recording companies, said some multiple disc packages or CD box sets would not be included in the pricing change.

Officials at EMI, BMG and Warner Music Group declined to comment. Sony Music Group officials could not be reached immediately. UMG's current wholesale price for a CD album is \$12.02. Under the new pricing structure, the wholesale price would be \$9.09.

UMG's artists include U2, Sting and Jimi Hendrix. The wholesale price for CDs by a handful of performers, including Eminem and Shania Twain, will be about a dollar more, said Jim Urie, president of Universal Music & Video Distribution.

The company also plans to cut wholesale prices on its cassettes and change the suggested retail price to \$8.98.

Josh Bernoff, an analyst with Forrester Research, said the decision to cut prices underscores how badly the industry has been hurting. "That is very significant. That's basically saying, 'We give up,'" he said.

Revenue from album sales declined from \$14.6 billion in 1999 to \$12.6 billion in 2002, according to the Recording Industry Association of America, a trade group that represents the largest recording companies. The recording industry blames the slump on illegal music swapping over networks.

# Latin Grammy Awards rock Miami

by Adrian Sainz  
Associated Press

MIAMI — Colombian singer-songwriter Juanes won two trophies while Spanish singer David Bisbal scored an upset during the pre-ceremony at Wednesday night's Latin Grammy Awards.

Juanes, who was nominated for five awards, took home a Latin Grammy for his rock solo album "Un Dia Normal," which was on the Billboard Latin charts for 65 weeks.

He also won best rock song for "Mala Gente (Bad People)," beating out Natalia Lafourcade, Shakira, Molotov and La Ley.

Lafourcade, the 19-year-old Mexican singer-songwriter, was the favorite to win best new artist.

But the winner was Bisbal, who burst on the scene with his album "Corazon Latino" after winning the Spanish equivalent of the television show "American Idol."

"Thanks to all the fans in so many countries who supported me. Thanks to my family and friends. Ole!" said Bisbal, wearing a white shirt and a black choker around his neck.

Also claiming two awards was composer-arranger Paquito D'Rivera for best

classical and best Latin jazz albums.

Producer-songwriter Sergio George, who led all nominees with six, won a Latin Grammy for teaming with Bacilos singer-songwriter Jorge Villamizar to write the Miami-based group's catchy cumbia-rock single "Mi Primer Millon."

The Brazilian collective Tribalistas won for best contemporary Brazilian pop album. They thanked the audience in English, Portuguese and Spanish, adding to the multicultural feel of the awards.

"Thank you very much. Obrigado. Muchas gracias," said the trio of Marisa Monte, Carlinhos Brown and Arnaldo Antunes.

Although they didn't obtain visas to attend the show, the Cuban acts Orishas and Ibrahim Ferrer were honored in the pre-ceremony.

Orishas, socially conscious rappers, won for best hip-hop album, and Ferrer, best known as a member of Buena Vista Social Club, won for best traditional tropical album.

Bebu Silveti, the early disco pioneer who worked in various genres, was honored posthumously as producer of the year. Silveti, 59, died in July of complications from pneumonia.

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Sports

# Hokies clip Eagles in triple OT

by Shawn Davis  
Staff Writer

The Virginia Tech women's soccer team took to field Tuesday night, hosting American University in their first home game of the year.

The game marked the inaugural game at the new Tech soccer field. The Hokies christened the new facility in exciting fashion, with a 3-2 double-overtime victory over the Eagles.

Tech came out of the gates flat, giving up two goals in the first six minutes of play. American forward Anabel Jimenez netted the game's first goal at the 4:24 mark. Within the next two minutes the Eagles were on the board again after midfielder

Kristie Fontana hit one into the back of the net at the 6:01 mark.

Tech coach Kelly Cagle wasn't pleased with the beginning of the game.

"Putting ourselves in a crisis during the first seven minutes of the game like we did is not a good thing," Cagle said. "That is hopefully something that will change."

The Hokies never gave up and finally got on the scoreboard in the 27th minute of the first half. Tech defender Blair Eason hit a perfect cross that midfielder Emily Barnhart headed into the back of the net. Tech trailed at intermission, 2-1.

The Hokies entered the second half with a fire, taking control of the tempo. After some near-

scoring chances, Tech forward Jessica Myers got the Hokies on the board again by finishing off a fast break in the 54th minute.

The remainder of the second half was a defensive battle as neither team yielded a score. Regulation ended with the teams locked in a 2-2 tie.

The first 10-minute overtime was a physical battle that saw both teams draw yellow cards. The stellar defense continued and neither team could make a dent in the score.

The second overtime mirrored the first in that neither team could penetrate the other's defense. The game appeared to be headed to a tie, until the 104th minute when Myers guided her second goal past a diving Eagle keeper for the game winner. Myers was also awarded with player of the game honors.

Cagle was very pleased with her team's effort.

"We made some tactical adjustments at halftime that really helped us," Cagle said. "This the best win for this program in the last ten years ... I just feel so happy for our team, with this being such an exciting time in our program's life."

The Hokies out-shot American 26-15 for the match and Tech freshman goal Mallory Soldner recorded a career-high eight saves.

Tech, now 1-1 on the year, takes to the road for the next two games with matches at Miami of Ohio and Marshall University. The Hokies return home Sept. 11 to host James Madison University.



ANDREW FULLER/SPPS

Junior forward Ryan Johnson, right, eludes an Eagle defender and retains possession of the ball.



ANDREW FULLER/SPPS

Senior forward Jessica Myers, left, accounted for two of the Hokies' three goals against American University. Myers and Kathy Holdsworth lead Tech with two goals on the season.

# 2003 NFL predictions: Bucs, Titans to battle for Super Bowl



Rajan  
The Guru  
Nanavati

After correctly predicting six of the eight division winners from 2002, along with the outcome of last January's Super Bowl, the Guru is here to enlighten you as to exactly how the NFL season is going to play out in 2003.

I figure that with all the supposed experts from major publications making picks that never actually happen, I need to give some credibility back to NFL analysts.

Let's start at the division

nearest, dearest and, ironically, most hated in my heart: the NFC East.

My faithful readers know I am a diehard Redskins fan (always have been, always will be), and I couldn't be any more excited about this year's team, including young signal caller Patrick Ramsey.

This year, with a brutal schedule, they'll claw to nine wins — but beware the native sons of Washington in 2004. The Eagles will take the division again this year with (and I say this grudgingly) a very potent offense, but the defensive holes in their front seven make them more vulnerable than in years past.

The Giants will challenge the Redskins for the final wild card spot, but fall short despite also going 9-7. Dallas will be

an interesting team to watch under the stewardship of the Tuna, but they have nothing resembling a productive offense as of yet. Five wins for the Tuna squad.

Moving on to the NFC North division, you basically have the Packers, and then everyone else. I look for the Packers to win the division going 10-6, but Minnesota is a team slowly on the rise as they're on their way to fixing that putrid defense.

I'll tell you this right now about the Lions: losing James Stewart for the season was a blessing in disguise for them — he was a terrible running back. They'll win six games this year under Mooch and an improved defense, but I'm not sold on Harrington as a can't-miss talent just yet.

The Bears will compete for the honor of being the worst team in the league. If they break four wins, that'll be a good season for them, but more than likely coach Dick Jauron and offensive coordinator John Shoop will be fired at the end of the season.

The landscape of the NFC South has been drastically altered with the injury of Michael Vick — this makes the Falcons much more vulnerable. I see the Buccaneers easily repeating their victory as division champs, winning about 11 games this year.

The Falcons and Saints will both hover around the .500 range, because the Falcons have a brutal first 12 weeks of the season, and no matter what you think, it'll take a few extra weeks for Vick to get re-acclimated to the game after he returns.

The Saints, meanwhile, have taken monumental steps backward by cutting good players on defense for faster players. Everyone is hyping the Panthers' defense, but I just don't buy into that hype, with the exception of man-child Julius Peppers. They'll get six wins.

The NFC West will be an

See NFL, page 10

### NFL DIVISION PREDICTIONS

<b>AFC</b>		<b>NFC</b>
	<b>North</b>	<b>PACKERS</b>
	<b>East</b>	
	<b>West</b>	
	<b>South</b>	<b>Buccaneers</b>
	<b>Wildcard</b>	

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Drake s going down in CT Sports Picks on Friday. -A.J.

Ditto to my roommates on what Jeremy said over here -----> -AJ

**Personals**  
Alpha Sigma Sigma rush event Saturday night at the house. Talk to a brother for the full details.

To my roommates: Sorry I never get to see you anymore. Hope you are all doing. Don't send out a search crew for me. Everything is fine. -Jeremy

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# NFL: Redskins should have good year, earn NFC wild card bid

Continued from page 8

interesting division to watch this year. You have the Rams, whom everyone is claiming will return to their "greatest show on turf" ways. I believe that to a certain extent, but their defense, in my opinion, is absolutely nothing to get excited about. Chalk them up for 10 wins along with the division crown.

The Seahawks will challenge for the division crown with a new high-octane offense and a very underrated secondary. Over by the bay, the 49ers, and more specifically, quarterback Jeff Garcia, are in worse shape than most are leading on, and their defense is mediocre at best. I say six wins for the 49ers at most.

The Cardinals will give the Bears a run for their money regarding who gets the No. 1

overall draft pick in 2004. Poor Dave McGinnis — great coach in the worst possible situation.

Many know the loss of Lawyer Milloy to the Patriots is a huge blow to the team, and quite frankly, that loss completely alters my view of the top of the AFC East division. Before, I was ready to pick the Patriots as winning it, but the Pats are going to miss Milloy more than they realize now.

The Dolphins will get 11 wins pretty easily, and Ricky Williams will challenge for 2,000 yards rushing. I still like the Pats getting nine or 10 wins.

The Bills loss of Peerless Price is major, especially considering Drew Bledsoe was simply mediocre during his last six or seven games of 2002. I see them challenging for the wild card this season but falling short.

As for the New York Jets, they better start looking for a

quarterback fast, because fans will be howling in disgust when they see Vinny Testaverde try to play in a west-coast offense. If Vinny plays all 16 games this year, the Jets will be the worst team in the AFC.

Truthfully, I'm not impressed by any team in the AFC North division. These are no longer your dad's Pittsburgh Steelers, and while they may have some damn good wide receivers, I don't think Tommy Maddox is a championship-caliber quarterback. Plus, the loss of Joey Porter is major — he is the best player on the team.

I'm not buying into any hype about the Ravens quick turnaround, and I'll say it now: quarterback Kyle Boller and linebacker Terrell Suggs will be major draft busts when we look back five years from now. Seven wins at the very maximum.

The Browns, on the other

hand, have the potential to do some damage during the regular season, even though they have huge holes on defense. Kelly Holcomb is the ultimate system quarterback who fits perfectly in offensive coordinator Bruce Arians' offense, and I believe he has the most talented corps of wide receivers in the league. The Browns will get nine wins, but fall just short of a wild card birth.

While I'm on the record with all my readers, let me throw this out now: Marvin Lewis is an obtuse, stubborn coach who tries to cook Peking duck on defense when all he has for groceries are bologna and cottage cheese.

I'm glad Lewis is out of Washington, and I say he's the next coach in line in Cincinnati to crash and burn. However, I must give credit where credit is due. He got that team moving

in the right direction by keeping IQ-deficient owner Mike Brown outside of the personnel affairs of the team. Bengals get five wins this year.

The AFC South will have two great teams, a good team and a terrible team — the latter two probably aren't who you think they are.

I think the Titans will get it together this year, especially with Eddie George looking rejuvenated and very strong during the off-season, and they've still got a darn good defense and coaching staff. I like them for 12 wins and the division crown.

Edgerrin James will get 1,600 yards rushing and help lead the Colts to the most powerful offense in the league, but lord almighty, that defense is pathetic. James, Peyton Manning and Marvin Harrison will carry the team to eight wins, but that defense will sell out the offense

on a regular occasion. I see the Houston Texans getting six or seven wins as well.

Quarterback David Carr has the most poise for a rookie quarterback I've seen since Peyton Manning, and adding Stacey Mack along with Hurricanes' monster Andre Johnson will give Carr someone to actually get the ball to. Meanwhile, down in Jacksonville, there will be a raging controversy as to who should be the Jaguars' quarterback come October: David Garrard or Byron Leftwich (and for the record, this expert says the latter). Jaguars get five wins if they're lucky.

The Raiders will repeat as division champs in the AFC West, but nowhere as powerfully as they did last season. They're older and slower this year, but they've still got weapons galore on offense, including wide receiver Jerry Porter who'll approach 1,300 yards and 11 touchdowns receiving after taking the starting job from Tim Brown.

I think the Chiefs will pick up the second wild card in the AFC. I believe Trent Green will have a huge season this year, somewhere in the 4,000-yard and 30-touchdown range, throwing to a very underrated but dangerous receiving corps, if he can stay healthy. Plus, you'll all see Priest Holmes back to normal physically, but not the 2,000 total yards and 25 touchdowns monstrosity he was the last two seasons, as the Chiefs go to the air more this year.

I like Marty Schottenheimer's Chargers making a run at the wild card but falling short as he initiates the youth movement in San Diego, getting nine wins in the process.

The Broncos will get six wins if they have a good season, because that defense is terrible, and if Ray Rhodes can't fix it, nobody in the game today can. I think Plummer will have a good, but not great year, and Shanahan will finally lose the moniker of being a coaching "genius."

For Super Bowl XXXVIII, I'm going with the Buccaneers over the Titans. Offensive MVP will be Ricky Williams of the Dolphins, and defensive MVP will be Ray Lewis of the Ravens. Lions' wide receiver Charlie Rogers gets offensive rookie of the year, and Cowboys' cornerback Terrance Newman gets defensive rookie of the year.

At the end of the season, Jauron, McGinnis and Saints' coach Jim Haslett will be unemployed.

Let the games begin.

Rajan Nanavati is the sports editor for the Collegiate Times.

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