

SGA urges groups to back diversity goals

■ Brant Snyder, SGA president, pledged all available resources to support diversity awareness

by Aaron Blackwell
Associate News Editor

Representatives from various organizations at Virginia Tech gathered at the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Alliance introductory meeting last night to show support for the group's diversity initiatives.

Last year's controversy with the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors sparked the idea for such a gathering.

The board's decision last year to remove homosexuals as a protected group under the anti-discrimination policy caused many groups to come together, said Speaker Chair Alexandria Michael, a senior political science major. "Everyone banded together to cooperate during that difficult time," she said.

The BOV later overturned that decision after the community outcry.

Thursday's meeting was an effort to keep that cooperation alive, she said.

The LGBTA is branching out to try to get more people from different organizations involved, said LGBTA President, Heather Black, a junior biology major.

"We are trying to enlist people to help us out in the fight for equal treatment," she said.

Being at this meeting is a big stand and it's appreciated greatly, she said.

Groups such as the Asian-American Student Union, Residence Hall Federation,

Panhellenic Council, Young Democrats, Student Government Association and the Catholic Campus Ministry were all represented at the meeting.

This opportunity will give many minority groups on campus the chance to be heard, Michael said.

Student Government President Brant Snyder, a junior finance major, spoke to the crowd about getting more organizations across campus involved.

"It's time for us to stop talking and start acting," Snyder said.

"It's time for us to unite as one to support diversity initiatives."

Snyder pledged, on behalf of the SGA, all resources available to support diversity awareness.

Richard Mooney, campus minister for the Catholic Campus Ministry, made it known that he would be a resource to the LGBTA community as well as anyone else that needs it.

Many thought the meeting was a success and thought it offered some hope for the future.

"I was really impressed," said Rachel Rizk, a sophomore international studies major, and treasurer for the RHF. "I think it bodes well for the year."

Black said she was rather impressed with the number of people that attended.

"It was amazing," she said. "It definitely exceeded my expectations."

The LGBTA has various events planned in the next few weeks.

National Coming Out Day is Oct. 10 and will feature a concert by Rachel Sage. The group will also have a float in the Homecoming Parade on Oct. 11.

Va. schools unite to fight cuts

by Tiffany Hoffman
Managing Editor

In response to budget cuts at state universities, 12 Virginia public schools have joined together in a coalition to help the 150,000 state students be represented at the state level.

"Virginia 21 is a coalition that is working to refocus attention in the General Assembly on student issues," said Brandon Bull, campus coordinator for the Virginia Tech chapter of Virginia 21 and a junior economics major. "Right now, budgets are being cut, tuition is rising, buildings are crumbling — all based on the course of the General Assembly."

According to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, Tech alone is \$28.1 million shy of meeting the minimum base adequacy level needed to maintain the university.

"We want people to get involved because their professors are leaving and their college budget is cut," said Jesse Ferguson, executive director of Virginia 21. "We want to make it relevant to students."

The primary focus of the coalition right now is to get 25 percent of the 18-24 year olds involved in state politics, Ferguson said.

So far, Virginia 21 has presented its ideas to the presidents of all Virginia public universities and is working to become more involved with the leadership in the General Assembly as well as people in the offices of the lieutenant governor and governor.

"We're trying to build support at the same time we build the grassroots," Ferguson said.

Tech Student Government Association President Brant Snyder said Virginia 21 has already raised thousands of dollars to support its efforts for the betterment of higher education. The coalition boasts a board of prominent members of both the business and educational society.

By the end of the year, Tech will have its

own Virginia 21 chapter in full gear, Snyder said.

"I think student government needs to show students that politicians working in Richmond are not out of reach and that they are doing things that affect our everyday lives," Snyder said.

The Virginia 21 coalition movement began last year with the student effort during the higher education bond campaign, Ferguson said.

"We are taking that energy coupled with work at William and Mary and joining that with business community leaders to form Virginia 21," Ferguson said. By the end of June, the first of the student body presidents had met and Virginia 21 was born.

Though the specific agenda has yet to be determined, Ferguson said there

“Right now, budgets are being cut, tuition is rising, buildings are crumbling — all based on the course of the General Assembly.”

Brandon Bull
campus coordinator,
Tech chapter Virginia 21

See **SCHOOLS**, page 4

Showcase makes damp debut

by Ellen Gilmer
Staff Writer

The 3rd annual Virginia Tech Farm and Family Showcase started its three-day run Thursday at Tech's Kentland Research Farm.

"(The Showcase is) copulating one of the biggest missions of the land grant university — taking out what's done here at Virginia Tech," said Mike Schroder of Virginia Tech Continuing and Professional Education and coordinator of the showcase.

Schroder said the showcase breaks down into seven areas including lawn/garden and horticulture, equine industry, tours and demonstrations, agriculture, wild-life and conservation, food, health and family as well as significant outreach to students in elementary and secondary education.

Tech's Cooperative Extension program is also playing an active role in the three-day event.

"(The Virginia Cooperative Extension) would like people to



BERT GREEN/SPPS

Heavy rain during the day yesterday cancelled some of the events at the Virginia Tech Farm and Family Showcase, but other activities still went on as planned.

See **DAMP**, page 3

Athlete graduation rates rise

■ Officials said the goal of the athletic department is to mirror or exceed the graduation rate of the student body at Tech

by Adam Abramson
Associate Sports Editor

Perhaps the most overlooked statistic by a collegiate fan in reference to an athletics department are graduation rates. It should be duly noted Virginia Tech's graduation rates, both athletic and non-athletic, have gone up over the last several years.

Overall, the Tech class arriving in Blacksburg during the fall of 1996 had a graduation rate of 74 percent, a 2 percent increase from the classes entering from 1993-1996.

The Tech athletics department has seen vast improvement in their graduation rates all across the board.

Hokie athletics was accustomed to a graduation rate of 66 percent from 1993-1996, an increase of 4 percent with the class entering in 1996 as well.

"We have set the bar for athletic graduation rates to be equal to, or better than the regular graduation rate," said Chris Helms, director of student-athlete academic support services. "There was a pleasant, but unexpected raise in the regular graduation rate, so we're close to where we want to be."

Also increasing by 4 percent is the male population of student-athletes studying and competing at Tech.

Female student-athletes graduate at a

rate of 86 percent, the highest of all the categories of athletes and higher than the non-athlete rate of graduating students from 1996.

The renowned football program of the Tech athletics department has been nothing short of impressive in increasing the rate of players leaving with a degree. The class entering in 1996 witnessed a colossal rise of 15 percent from the time frame of 1993 to 1996.

In 2000, the Tech football team only graduated 29 percent of its' class who had entered in 1993. The next three years, the program's rate spiked up to a very respectable 64 percent.

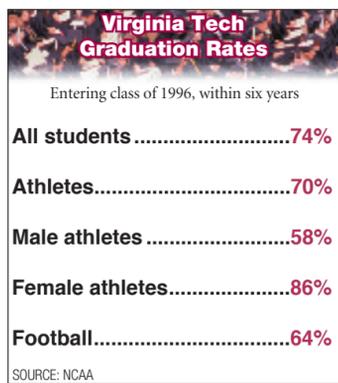
The task of the athletics department to produce high percentage rate is not a simple one. There are many unforeseen events that could take place and have grave effects on the overall number.

The 64 percent graduation rate for football was for the class entering in 1996. Twenty-two players entered with hopes of leaving with a degree. Only 14 walked across the stage, giving the 64 percent rate but many do not see what happened to the other eight.

One player left without ever setting foot into a classroom while another left the team early for professional football and two players transferred schools. Those four players automatically deflated the graduation rate by 18 percent.

"Graduation rates are tough because of all the factors," Helms said. "Retention efforts are key and what we try to do is start as soon as student-athletes arrive here. In the first year, we want to lead them by having them grasp the support system and hopefully they can go from there."

There are many integral parts of the



CHRIS HEUBERGER

percentage rate giving the athletics department the numbers they are striving for.

For instance, the women's basketball team has achieved a 100 percent graduation rate the last two years and the men's team had a 100 percent rate in 2002.

"Our success can be attributed to a combination of the coaches and students," Helms said. "We look for students who want to put in the time and effort and the coaches do an excellent job of finding these athletes. Once they are here, athletes receive tremendous support from coaching staffs, and are strongly encouraged to stick to the support plan, as well as support from the administration of the University and athletics department."

The future looks brighter for Hokie athletic graduation rates. As this year's football team looks to graduate 13 of the 14 players by the end of the season, with the other athlete to graduate in the spring.

Parking changes affect tailgaters

by Erin Zlomek
Staff Writer

Virginia Tech Parking Services will begin enforcing new parking changes for the 2003 football season today at 5 p.m.

Steve Morris, director of transportation, said public RV's will only be allowed to park in the Duck Pond lot rather than parking in other public campus lots as they did in previous years.

"(The relocation) will actually be better for the campus, the community and the environment," Morris said.

"We had problems in the past with folks dumping their RV waste into the storm water drains (outside the stadium)," Morris said. "The Duck Pond lot already has established waste removal sites to meet an RV's needs."

Another change in parking involves the Litton Reaves Hall parking lot. Because of ongoing construction, the Litton Reaves Hall lot will be closed to Hokie contributors this year.

"Since construction has decreased parking for contributors, we will use the Shultz Dining Hall lot to offset the spaces lost by Litton Reaves," Morris said.

Shultz is the farthest of the three lots reserved strictly for Hokie contributors, said Tom Gabbard, associate athletics director for internal affairs. However, being a contributor still does not guarantee a parking spot.

"Every year we have contributors make donations to this school,"

Gabbard said. "Points are collected according to the size of donation, tickets purchased, etc."

Parking is then assigned starting with those who have the highest number of points.

"We have about 12,000 contributors total but only 6,000 spots to give out," he said.

The third parking change made for this season is the relocation of handicapped parking.

"This change was primarily made so that BT vehicles had better accessibility to the Whittemore (Hall) lot," Morris said.

The lot behind Stanger Street is now the new location for handicapped parking. Though this lot is not yet paved, Morris said it will soon be fixed. In Tech's first game against the University of Central Florida, Richard McCoy, manager of parking services, said the new changes did not cause any major problems for game attendees.

"We ended up with only one real (violation)," McCoy said. "Being that it was the first game, we wanted to give (drivers) a chance (to adjust to the parking changes)."

However, McCoy said starting this weekend, parking services will carry out any action prescribed by the athletics department to reprimand parking violators.

Though there were a few complaints about changes in public RV parking, Morris said overall the changes were well received by the fans.

News in Brief

Pilot escapes emergency plane landing uninjured

WILLIAMSBURG (AP) — The pilot of a single-engine plane escaped injury during an emergency landing Thursday in James City County, state police said.

Sgt. D.S. Carr said troopers and local police began looking for the plane shortly after 8 a.m. after the Federal Aviation Administration lost sight of it on radar. The pilot also had sent out a distress call, Carr said.

Police found the 1995 Piper Warrior behind a construction site near the Williamsburg-James City County Courthouse.

Neil Wallace, 53, told police the plane began sputtering and then stalled. He tried to switch to a second fuel tank but could not get the aircraft restarted, so he set it down in a muddy field. The plane was not damaged.

Va. men rescued from river

WATERVIEW, Va. (AP) — Three Spotsylvania County men were rescued by the Coast Guard after spending 16 hours in the Rappahannock River when their boat sank during a fishing trip.

Linwood Acors Sr., 59, Linwood Acors Jr., 39, and David McAllister were picked up a day after their boat sank Tuesday around noon.

Authorities said waves pounding the boat caused the bilge pump to quit. Water

inside the boat then caused it to sink.

Old South theme offends patrons

NEW YORK—A Korean-AATHENS, Ga. (AP) — A new bar named after a Confederate general and decorated with Confederate flags and other vestiges of the Old South has upset some University of Georgia students.

"I'm definitely surprised," said Melvin Hines, a black sophomore from Albany. "I thought that after all this time things would have changed. People don't see it actually offends other people."

The owners of General Beauregard's, which recently opened just a few blocks from campus, said they didn't intend to be racist and simply wanted to create a bar with a unique atmosphere.

Judge throws out McDonalds suit

NEW YORK (AP) — For a second time this year, a federal judge threw out a class-action lawsuit Thursday that blamed McDonald's for making people fat.

U.S. District Judge Robert Sweet said the plaintiffs failed to show that the fast-food chain misled consumers into believing its food was nutritious and part of a healthy diet.

Sweet tossed out an earlier version of the lawsuit in January that claimed McDonald's food causes health problems in children.

Senate votes to block FCC ownership plan

by Alan Fram
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Senate committee voted Thursday to prevent federal regulators from letting media companies own larger shares of the nation's television market, defying a White House veto threat.

The Senate Appropriations Committee's voice vote came six weeks after the House approved a bill that would also block the liberalized ownership rules. After Thursday's vote, the Republican chairman of the Appropriations Committee said he believed President Bush would not veto the measure.

In June, the Federal

Communications Commission voted to let individual companies own stations serving up to 45 percent of the nation's viewers, compared with the current cap of 35 percent.

The FCC's broad overhaul of the decades-old restrictions would allow a single company to own combinations of newspapers and broadcast outlets in the same area. The language approved by the Appropriations panel would not affect that part of the FCC's plan, but some senators said they would try to block it, too, when the full Senate considers the measure.

On Wednesday, a federal appeals court in Philadelphia temporarily blocked the new rules from taking effect as

scheduled on Thursday.

Buoyed by that decision, consumer groups expanded their fight against the rules by petitioning the FCC to abandon the regulations, saying they resulted from a flawed decision that denied the public a chance to comment.

With billions of dollars and programming control at stake, the fight over the national TV ownership cap is pitting the television broadcast networks against many local station owners and a coalition of conservative and liberal groups.

The White House has threatened to veto legislation that thwarts the new regulations, arguing they are needed in a 21st Century television indus-

try changed by satellite and cable stations, as well as by the Internet.

"The position has not changed" on the White House's veto threat, said White House spokeswoman Claire Buchan.

But there has been strong congressional sentiment against raising the cap on television ownership, leading many lawmakers to conclude Bush would not cast his first veto as president on the issue.

"In my heart, I don't think they would veto this bill" over the caps, Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, told reporters.

Critics say the proposal would give too much power to the networks, at the expense of local station owners.

Judicial nominee Estrada withdraws name

by John Solomon
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Attorney Miguel Estrada, whose appointment to a federal appellate court judgeship was blocked by Democrats in a protracted fight with the Bush White House, asked Thursday that he be removed from consideration.

"I write to ask you to withdraw my pending nomination," Estrada said in a letter to President Bush. "I believe that the time has come to return my full attention to the practice of law and to regain the ability to make long-term plans for my family."

Estrada was one of a handful of federal judicial nominees named by Bush who became lightning rods during the Senate confirmation process, where Democrats argued they were too conservative to serve on the nation's second highest court. Republicans countered that the Democrats were biased, noting that Estrada is Hispanic.

"Mr. Estrada received disgraceful treat-

ment at the hands of 45 United States senators during the more than two years his nomination was pending," Bush said in a statement.

"Despite his superb qualifications and the wide bipartisan support for his nomination," he said, "these Democrat senators repeatedly blocked an up or down vote that would have led to Mr. Estrada's confirmation. The treatment of this fine man is an unfortunate chapter in the Senate's history."

The statement was issued on Air Force One as Bush flew to a speech in Kansas City, Mo.

The monthlong battle came to head in July when Senate Republicans mounted a weeklong effort to get the nominations through.

Democrats successfully filibustered that attempt.

"It's a terrible day for justice in America when a partisan minority of the Senate can obstruct an extremely well-qualified nominee to the federal bench, to the point of forc-

ing Miguel Estrada to withdraw his nomination," said Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas.

Sen. George Allen, R-Va., said he hoped Estrada would be renominated in the future. Estrada said in his letter that he hopes to work for the government again sometime in the future.

"I profoundly hope that, at some time in the future, I may be called again to serve my country in some capacity," he said.

The White House had no immediate comment.

Bush aggressively tried to get the Senate to approve Estrada early this year, but has been silent on the issue in recent months.

He staged a series of public events last winter that cast Democratic opposition to Estrada as "purely political" and called Democratic refusal to approve him as a "travesty."

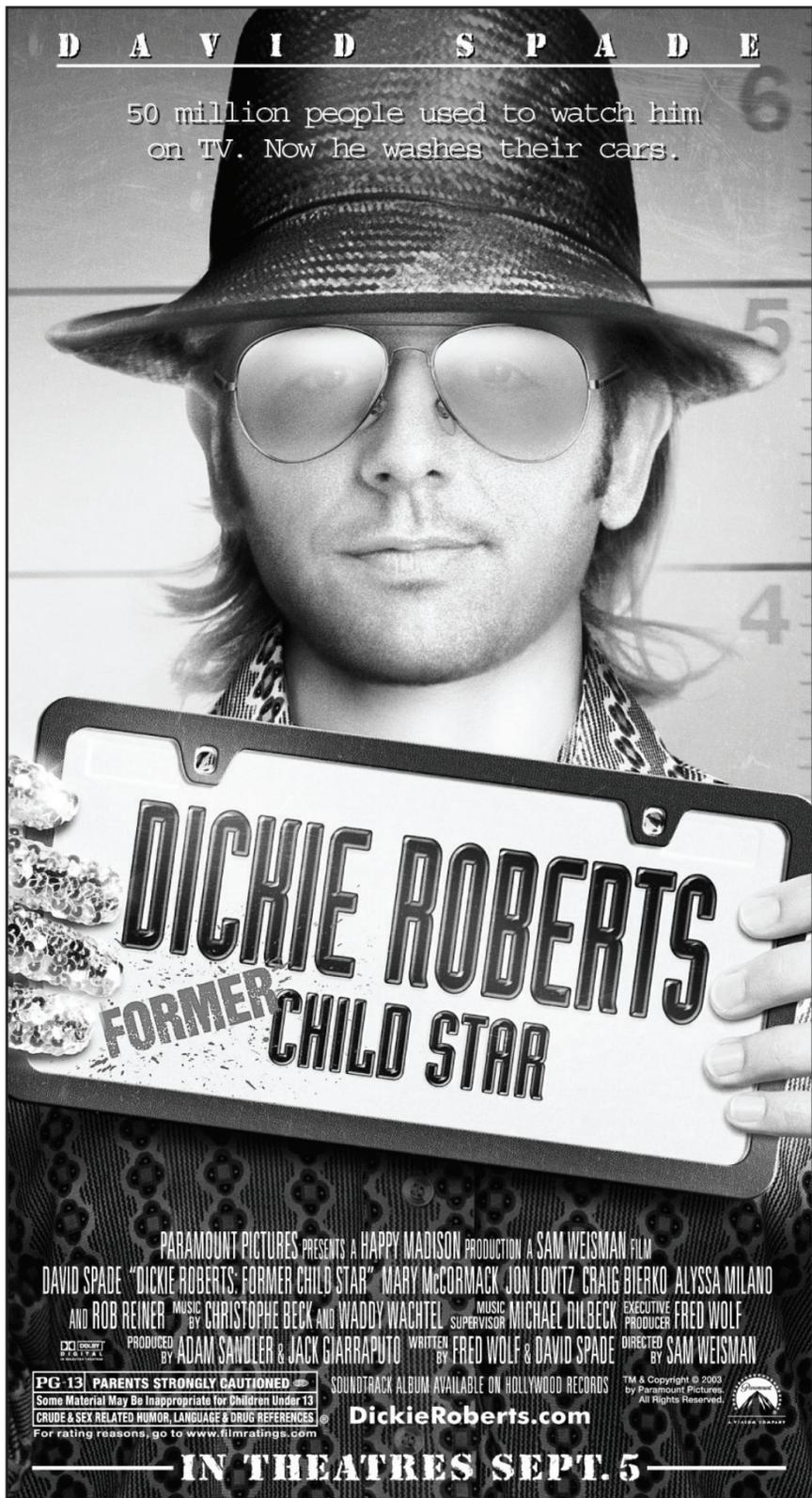
"Your personal involvement on my behalf has been a particular source of pride and comfort to me," Estrada said in the letter to Bush.

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NASDAQ	1868.97 ▲ 16.07
S&P 500	1027.97 ▲ 1.70

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	 Partly sunny Highs: 73°-78°	 Mostly clear Lows: 50°-55°	 Partly sunny Highs: 73°-78°	 Mostly clear Lows: 52°-57°	 Partly sunny 55°/75°	 Mostly Clear 65°/80°

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Damp: Corn maze, turkey calling on display

Continued from page 1

understand the things we offer to the citizens of Virginia," said Phil Blevins, Extension Agent in Agriculture from Washington County. "(We want them to understand) the fact that we work for Virginia Tech and offer research-based information to the people to help make their lives better."

Even if a person is not agriculturally inclined, Blevins said he would encourage people to come.

"There's a lot of things to see here, a lot of things that Virginia Tech is doing on this farm that I think would be interesting to everybody — not just farmers," Blevins said.

Educational activities and seminars will be presented by Tech faculty, VCE specialists, and other experts daily.

Visitors to the showcase can find demonstrations on everything from police and fire rescue to turkey calling, Shroder said.

Additionally, demos will be offered on high-tech GPS, heavy equipment and a sheep dog will round up a flock of sheep at scheduled times. A corn maze, livestock birthing center and tours of Kentland farm will be offered throughout the weekend.

Shroder said free health

screenings for cholesterol and blood sugar will also be available at the event, in partnership with Carilion Health Systems.

At the trade show, exhibitors from various businesses and organizations have set up booths allowing showcase attendants to view the latest products and services available for homeowners or agricultural producers.

Shroder said about 250 exhibits will be open at the showcase. Collegiate clubs have also set up booths dispensing information.

The 2003 showcase is co-sponsored by Southern States Cooperative and the John Deere Company.

"This is a showcase of all animal agriculture, all crop science," said Bob Webb, a Southern States Co-op feed salesperson and technical representative.

"If they want to find out what farmers do, this is the place to do it."

University sponsors include Colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, and Natural Resources; Virginia Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, VCE, Agricultural Experiment Station, and Division of Continuing Education, University Outreach of International Affairs Program Development, Agriculture and

Extension Communications, VT Electric Service and Kentland Farm.

Shroder said the four colleges are letting the public know the vast amounts of things done as well as working the companies. He said it is an opportunity to spread less-known information about what Virginia Tech is doing.

Dave Davis, an advisor in Virginia Tech's two-year Agricultural Technology program, said the agriculture technology booth was representative of some of the courses offered in the agriculture technology major such as fruits and vegetables, landscape contracting, irrigation and turf management.

Another major focus at Tech's Farm and Family Showcase is food. A number of food vendors at the showcase serve meals, snacks and treats like snow cones.

This year the Second Harvest Food Bank is anticipating the biggest canned food drive in all

of Virginia as well as the biggest in Southwest Virginia, Shroder said. Attendants to the showcase are encouraged to bring a canned food item to donate.

As for the weather, the rain fell steadily but it didn't dampen the showcase celebration.

"We are just happy to be here and the weather will take care of itself before the show is over and we'll have a lot of people come through," Webb said.

Mike Shroder said, despite the heavy clouds and cool temperatures, people are still coming out.

The 2003 Virginia Tech Farm and Family Showcase will continue until

Saturday. Daily hours are from 10:00 a.m. — 5 p.m. Kentland Farm is located eight miles west of Blacksburg. Parking is \$5 but there is no charge for people with a Hokie Passport or Tech parking permit. For more information, visit <www.farmandfamily.vt.edu.>

"There's a lot of things to see here, a lot of things that Virginia Tech is doing on this farm that I think would be interesting to everybody — not just farmers."

Phil Blevins
Extension Agent in
Agriculture

Democrats court Hispanic voters

by Leslie Hoffman
Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — The Democratic presidential debate is providing the party with a high-profile opportunity to deliver a simple message: "Queremos tu voto," which translates to "we want your vote."

Hispanics represent the country's largest and fastest growing minority group and securing their votes in the 2004 election is crucial for both political parties. In recognition of that political reality, Democrats are holding Thursday night's televised debate involving the nine candidates in a state with a large Hispanic population and a Hispanic governor.

Beyond location, the debate will include questions in English and Spanish. It is being co-produced by the country's largest Spanish-language network, Univision, which will air a translated version of the debate on Saturday. Public television will broadcast the debate live with a second audio track in Spanish.

"We wanted the entire theme to be reaching out to Hispanic American families," said Debra DeShong, communications director for the Democratic National Committee.

New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, a former congressman and Energy Secretary during the Clinton administration, lobbied national Democrats to bring the first debate to his state. Richardson and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus are co-hosting the debate.

"I believe Hispanics will be the key voting bloc in four battleground states — in New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada and Florida," Richardson said. "And I believe those four states will decide the presidency."

New Mexico Democrats hold their presidential caucus Feb. 3.

President Bush has long courted Hispanics, often injecting Spanish into his campaign speeches and television ads. While previous Republican presidential nominees failed to break 30 percent among Hispanic voters, Bush secured 35 percent in 2000.

Abbas tells parliament to either support him or send him home

by Lara Sukhtian
Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas asked parliament Thursday to either support him or strip him of his post, saying infighting is keeping him from making progress on a U.S.-backed peace plan.

Weakened by a power struggle with Yasser Arafat, Abbas told legislators he must be given full power to carry out reforms required by the "road map" peace plan. If the demand is met, Abbas would have a stronger hand against militants he is pressing to stop attacks against Israelis.

Abbas, summing up his first 100 days in office, stopped short of seeking a vote of confidence that could topple him, but said he is leaving his future in parliament's hands.

"I am not attached to this post and I am not (making) and will not make any effort to keep this post. It is a difficult mission

that many describe as impossible," Abbas said.

At the start of the parliamentary session, about 200 activists in Arafat's Fatah movement demonstrated in support of their leader. Seven masked men from the crowd broke down a door to the building and smashed windows before unarmed guards forced them out.

At 10 p.m. Thursday, Palestinian gunmen shot and killed an Israeli soldier in an ambush near the West Bank town of Jenin. The Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, an armed group loosely linked to Fatah, claimed responsibility.

Parliament scheduled a closed-door session Saturday to meet with Abbas again and discuss his demands, after which legislators were to decide

whether to hold a confidence vote — possibly by next week. Several legislators said they feared a vote would be too divisive and said one might not be called at all.

Abbas' appeal is the latest chapter in a power struggle that began just after Arafat, under strong international pressure, appointed him in April. The two wrangled over Abbas' Cabinet choices and Arafat has refused to give him complete control over Palestinian security forces.

Abbas would have more sway over militant groups like Hamas and Islamic Jihad if he fully controlled the armed services, but Arafat doesn't want to give up one of his last concrete sources of power.

"I am not attached to this post ... and will not make any effort to keep this post"

Mahmoud Abbas
Palestinian prime minister

Verizon reaches deal with union

by Leigh Strope
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A tentative, five-year agreement was reached Thursday night between Verizon Communications and unions that provides raises and job protections for 78,000 East Coast telephone technicians and operators.

The deal comes more than a month after contracts expired and the unions threatened to strike. Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service Director Peter Hurtgen joined the contentious talks to successfully avert an Aug. 3 walkout.

Members of the Communications Workers of America and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers still must approve the agreement, which includes 27 separate local contracts.

"I think everyone was mindful of the enormous stakes, not just for labor-management in this situation, but for its potential effect on telecommunications in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic," Hurtgen said in a statement. "I think everyone

involved recognized how vital it was to reach an agreement."

Preserved in the deal are existing provisions that protect workers against layoffs and prohibit transfers out of communities without employee consent. However, workers hired after the contract takes effect will not have those protections.

The agreement also provides for annual, structured talks on jobs and wages to "mutually assess changes in the economy and the competitive environment and to balance any basic wage increase above 2 percent against the needs of the company to reduce the size of the work force," Verizon said.

But the contract will remain in place if both sides do not agree on changes.

"This landmark agreement is fair for employees and at the same time helps Verizon remain

competitive in these very challenging times," said Lawrence Babbio, Verizon's vice chairman and president. "It achieves

"I think everyone was mindful of the enormous stakes ... for its potential effect on telecommunications in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic."

Peter Hurtgen
mediator

a creative solution to all major economic issues so that employees continue to receive industry-leading benefits and wages, and Verizon can better control its costs, especially when compared with past contracts." Workers will receive immediate cash bonuses of 3 percent, or an average of \$1,600, upon approval of the contracts. Base wages will then increase 2 percent annually, for a total of 8 percent during the contract. Cost-of-living increases are possible in years four and five, depending on inflation.

Pensions will increase by 11 percent over the life of the contract. Annual profit-sharing cash bonuses next year through 2008 will give employees a minimum of \$3,000.

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Schools: Group wants 40,000 students

Continued from page 1

will be a number of state-wide lobby efforts underway.

"What's going to allow us to be effective in the spring is voting in the fall," Ferguson said.

If Virginia 21 reaches its goal of 40,000 students by Nov. 4, the students will have a good chance at affecting change in higher education, he said.

"Forty thousand is enough to make a significant difference in elections all across the commonwealth," Ferguson said.

One element that makes this year significant is the factor of having all 140 seats up for elec-

tion, Bull said.

"Every person who is a member of the commonwealth has an election to vote in," he said.

"There are 145,000 college students in the commonwealth and that's more than enough to sway many elections."

"It gives us a stronger voice in being united."

Virginia 21 coined '21' as part of its name because 21 is the median between the ages, 18 and 24 — the target age group of the coalition.

For more information about Virginia 21, visit <www.virginia21.org>.

International leaders criticize U.S. plan

by Geir Moulson
Associated Press

DRESDEN, Germany — The leaders of Germany and France criticized a U.S. draft resolution seeking international troops and money for Iraq, saying it falls short by not granting responsibility to Iraqis or a large enough role to the United Nations.

The two nations lined up their stances ahead of tough negotiations over the U.S. draft resolution put forward Wednesday. Secretary of State Colin Powell said the United States welcomes "constructive input."

The U.S. proposed seeks troops and money for Iraq's postwar reconstruction but declines to relinquish political or military control of the country.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and French President

Jacques Chirac insisted Washington had to go further.

"We are naturally ready to study it in the most positive manner," Chirac said. "But we are quite far removed from what we believe is the priority objective, which is the transfer of political responsibility to an Iraqi government as quickly as possible," Chirac told reporters.

Schroeder said the draft resolution had brought "movement" into the diplomacy. He added: "I agree with the president when he says: Not dynamic enough, not

sufficient."

"Now is the time to look forward, and that can only happen if the United Nations can take responsibility for the political process," Schroeder said.

Chirac said he believed any vote on a U.S. resolution was still some time away. "We will certainly have the occasion to present modification and amendments. That's where we stand now."

Still, Germany's U.N. Ambassador Gunter Pleuger said the U.S. draft was a good basis for negotiations, a view shared by

many other Security Council members.

"We will see in the negotiations in the next days how far we can get," Pleuger said. "It's a good working basis but it certainly can be improved."

French Defense Minister Michele Alliot-Marie said the U.S. draft was "a base to work with," but added that as it stands, "it is not sufficient for France."

Speaking at a news conference in Strasbourg, Alliot-Marie said it "does not seem to meet the conditions that (U.N. Secretary-General) Kofi Annan himself set down so the United Nations can intervene."

In Washington, Powell underlined that the resolution calls on the Iraqis to help work out a timetable for transferring power to an Iraqi government.

SARS virus linked with Chinese animals

WASHINGTON (AP) — A virus found in wild animals captured and sold for food in China is genetically similar to the virus that infects humans with SARS, suggesting the disease jumped from animals to humans and could do so again, a study says.

Chinese scientists report this week in the journal Science that they compared the genetic makeup of a virus isolated from human SARS patients with a virus found in animals that had been captured and then held in a retail food market.

Tests showed that the animals had a coronavirus that was 99.8 percent genetically identical to

a virus that causes severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, in humans.

"Our findings suggest that the markets provide a venue for the animal (coronavirus) viruses to amplify and transmit to new hosts, including humans and this is critically important from the point of view of public health," the Chinese researchers reported.

The researchers found the virus in civets, raccoon-dogs and ferret badgers that were offered for sale as food in a market in Shenzhen, but said it is not clear if these animals were the natural source of the virus.

U.S. agrees on weapons interdiction principles

by Joseph Coleman
Associated Press

PARIS — The United States and 10 other countries struck an accord Thursday outlining steps for uncovering shipments of weapons of mass destruction, including boarding ships, forcing suspected planes to land and inspecting cargoes.

The agreement, which came at the end of a two-day meeting in Paris, laid out guidelines for increasing cooperation on detecting transfers of weapons, delivery systems and related materials.

Part of the U.S. government's Proliferation Security Initiative, the pact called for changing national and international laws to strengthen interdiction efforts and share intelligence on weapons movements.

John Bolton, U.S. undersec-

retary of state for arms control, said Washington was especially interested in winning Chinese and Russian participation. The two countries are not among the 11 members of the accord.

Bolton, in Paris for the meeting and for talks with French officials, said the aim was to stop shipments and to create a deterrent for states or groups considering such shipments.

"While interdiction actions are already a reality, efforts to enhance our collective capabilities for action are essential," Bolton told reporters at the U.S. Embassy in Paris.

In addition to the United States, the members are Australia, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain and Britain.

The members will also conduct a series of 10 exercises

to prepare for interdictions on sea, land and air, beginning Sept. 13-14 in the Coral Sea off Australia's northeast coast.

Bolton said the fruits of such cooperation were apparent in Taiwan's interception in August of a North Korean-registered vessel and seizure of 158 barrels of phosphorous pentoxide, which U.S. officials said is a chemical weapons precursor. The seizure was carried out on the basis of U.S. intelligence.

The upcoming training sessions are "a very clear demonstration that what we're involved in here is not a diplomatic exercise," Bolton said.

In a statement, the French government said the agreement was part of the "overall effort in support of nonproliferation, which is a pillar of collective security."

"It can also help to reduce the risk of WMD (weapons of mass destruction) falling into the hands of terrorists," the statement said.

Bolton rebuffed concerns the program could give the United States and other countries too much power to stop ships in international waters.

There is "abundant authority" under existing law to conduct interdictions, most of which take place in countries' territorial waters anyway, he said.

In cases where the legal cover is not clear, members would attempt to strengthen the laws.

Bolton also said the effort was not aimed at any one nation, but he acknowledged North Korea's nuclear weapons program was a top concern.

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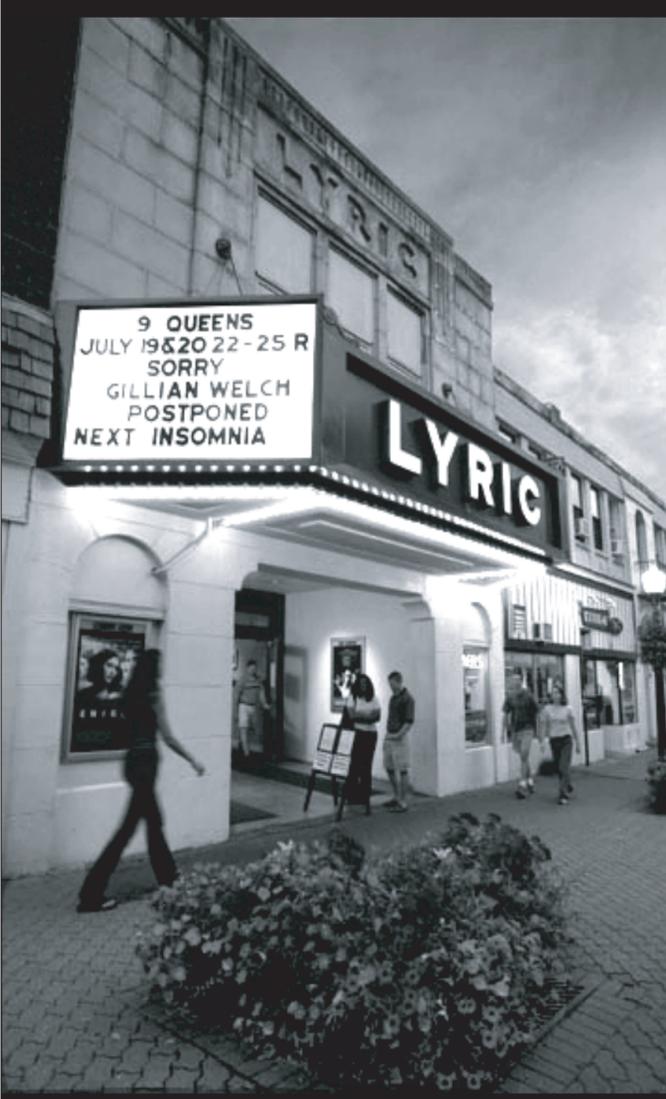
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Editorial NATIONAL ISSUE

Espresso tax a grande idea

What is another 10 cents on an espresso coffee drink from Starbucks? On Sept. 16, residents of Seattle will vote on a 10-cent tax on premium coffee drinks such as lattes, white chocolate mochas and caramel macchiatos.

The latte tax is expected to raise \$7 million each year toward the salaries of daycare workers. Supporters of the bill say people who are willing to buy a \$3 to \$5 drink won't even notice the levy.

Others say the high-ended coffee drinks are purchased by the richest in society and do not see a problem with charging them extra to help a good cause. Those against the tax argue it fails to provide a long-term solution and it unfairly singles out coffee drinkers.

Naturally, the progressive tax is opposed by people who can afford it.

Why not pay 10 more cents in order to help fund daycare for low-income children? It may not be a permanent solution, but raising a few million dollars in the mean time doesn't hurt anyone.

Progressive taxing on the local level is necessary for providing public services, such as daycare, via tax policies not hindering those who are in most need of these services. Without such progressive taxes, the poor will continue to bear the burden of taxation and continue to have average public services. With progressive tax, the community benefits as a whole and therefore the latte tax is the right step toward equal taxation.

Smart leasing takes team work

John Robertson

Last week, I invited you to show your Hokie pride by contacting the Student Government Association to get involved and make a change in your community if you aren't satisfied with the way things are.

To the best of my knowledge, not one of you was spurred to make such a contact.

You may plan to get involved next week, but if you wait, chances are good you'll drop the ball. Perhaps an analogy couched in familiar terminology might help to motivate you.

While you go about your business each day, a large number of your fellow Hokies are suffering. I'll give you an example.

Over 11,000 of you live off campus. There are numerous landlords who serve this population.

Some of those companies and property management businesses are, in economic terms, quite large — they have lots of capital. Most of them who have been in the business of renting to students also know the typical concerns you'll present.

All landlords are in the business to make a profit from renting to you. Like any group of people, some landlords are nice and some are not.

Unfortunately, not many of you off-campus residents know much about the law when it comes to landlord-tenant matters. As a result, I've seen thousands of you who have visited my office over the course of the last few years feeling enormously upset about some of the things your landlords have done.

If you didn't fill out a thorough damage report checklist at the beginning of your tenancy, you may stand to lose all of your security deposit. If you don't check with me before you move in or move out, you may still risk losing a large portion of the deposit.

That's like paying 13 months of rent to stay at your apartment for twelve months.

Some landlords even decide to send you an additional bill for damages because again, the students failed to document the condition of anything when they moved in or moved out. These bills are in excess of hundreds, sometimes thousands, of dollars.

This is your money.

Recently I've seen students whose landlords refused to let them out of their lease even though they were living in potentially toxic conditions. A few students have reported their landlord even laughed at them when they asked to be allowed to terminate their lease early when they discovered they were living in a residence with lead paint flaking off the walls.

A growing number of students have had to contend with problems involving black mold. This is a form of mold toxic enough to cause severe health problems in adults and may be lethal to children and infants.

Several landlords have characterized this hazard as a minor problem — taking minimal steps to correct the situation. A student complaining of this problem was told the landlord has access to a huge team of lawyers and the students stood no chance.

These are just a few examples. Instead of negotiating a resolution with the students, these landlords chose to hire expensive lawyers. This is an increasingly common response.

Note — the landlords share information. They're more organized than you. I'm seeing an increasing number of students who are now being asked to sign addenda to their leases in an attempt to sidestep the liability problems with the lead paint and black mold.

For your information, if you haven't signed these forms yet, see me before you do so. So here's the analogy. If you don't use my help, if you don't use your SGA, if you don't get involved

and if you don't develop some common plan, you'll always lose in those situations — always.

It would be similar to taking a group of your most out-of-shape friends who have never played football, not informing any of them about the rules of the game, never practicing . . . and then running in to Lane Stadium without pads or helmets to play the varsity team in a regulation game. You'd have no chance of scoring, much less escaping from the field in one piece.

So, here's a new approach (continuing the analogy) — emulate what our team does on the field. They're disciplined. They've got excellent coaches and they get the job done.

You have the tools to make accomplishments in our community and in Virginia the equivalent of what our team can do against an opponent. You're smart and you have strength in numbers but you have no organization. Take my word for it — if you don't start getting involved — this week — your number will come up and you'll be out there on the field by yourself against an imposing team who will crush you like a bug.

Here's how you start developing your team. Contact the Tenant's Association of Blacksburg at <tab@vt.edu> to start combating landlord problems. Register to vote if you haven't. Your SGA is eager to help! Visit <www.vote-smart.org> to get the dirt on candidates before you vote.

Keep reading the Collegiate Times for updates. Show this article to your parents and to anyone willing to help us and have them contact my office at <johnes@vt.edu> or the SGA at <vtsga@vt.edu> to find out more about what they can do.

Remember you're 26,000 strong. If you take these simple steps you'll give a new meaning to orange effect. Stay tuned.

John Robertson is the director of Student Legal Services at Virginia Tech.



Hard times for graduates, good times for investments in stock market

Steven Du

Student graduates are still struggling to find jobs and stocks are assuming new bull markets — both indications of the dawning of a new economic boom.

On Sept. 3, Nasdaq closed at a new high not seen in 17 months after continuing to rise for nearly a year while the Dow and S&P 500 ended up highest during the past 15 months — the cumulative results of more than two quarters' growth.

Back to the first quarter of this year, many optimistic analysts still wonder if the United States was in a shaky stagnant economy with remarkable concern about a double recession. If the economy falls after a seeming rally, it would be a real slump and it will take much more time to recover.

Even the most conservative analysts have solid reason to believe we will continue to see a relatively strong economic performance in the not so distant future. Without a doubt, all of

the traditional economic indicators are suggesting this recovery.

Three critical factors: investments, consumer consumption and exports are up — indicating a fairly encouraging economic picture in the near future.

Consumer spending climbed 0.8 percent in July, rising from June's 0.6 percent. According to the Department of Commerce, personal savings as a percentage of disposable personal income rose to 3.8 percent from 3.1 percent in June.

Low interest rates stimulate millions of Americans to buy new homes resulting in an increased demand on the real estate industry. Exports, the key to a solid recovery, have been under way for the most battered segment of manufacturing.

This industry reports improvements in output and productivity. The ISM index for new orders is higher than expected at 59.6 since July and the index for production jumped 8 points to 61.6 for both. This is the most significant growth in the last 4 years.

In fact, the stock market indicated a

business cycle was turning the corner at the end of 2002 when many corporations' stocks started to rise. Today's economy, represented by high tech industry and e-commerce, reaped the highest gains.

Expeditate — a new business model leader — has grown more than 100 percent — the stock price of NetEase, a Chinese internet service provider, has risen more than 100 times within one year. Imagine how much you could have earned even if you spent \$50 and purchased 100 shares of NetEase at the end of 2002.

What is surprising and ironic is unlike the economic growth before, this recovery is at the expense of job cuts and accompanied by a high unemployment ratio. While the economy and stock market are experiencing growth, so has unemployment — as high as 6.2 percent.

In 2001 America lost about 1 million jobs. This year, 2.4 million jobs were lost.

Even for a business major, it is hard to understand the economy is recover-

ing with such a high unemployment ratio and continuing job loss. This has seldom happened in the past and should not happen according to classic economic theory.

New economic theories might be able to explain this — science and technology are the major drive for the particular economic phenomena in jobs created by technology but can not offset the unemployment caused by automation.

This is why we see a strong economic recovery with high unemployment. As new and emerging technologies develop, this trend will not be weakened but only solidified.

A very simple example is manufacturers who are not only able to produce more products through highly mechanized automation but who are also able to distribute their merchandise through large-scale online channels.

Both methods significantly improve productivity while remarkably reducing the labor required.

Because the technology will continue

to develop and be applied to business, we will see this is a long-term trend.

Further, migration to developing countries will generate an even more prolonged structural unemployment issue. Therefore job searches will become increasingly difficult in this country.

For the new graduates from colleges with less professional experience who are competing with very experienced professionals for limited positions, landing a job is a real challenge.

Nevertheless, a fairly encouraging economy is in the future, more specifically the stock market will be rising for at least the next one or two years.

Surveys show 71 percent of Americans are optimistic about the future of the economy and look forward to a better life. Most investors agree, while it is a good time to invest in the stock market it is a difficult time to find a job.

Steven Du is a business columnist for the Collegiate Times.

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Man drives car into lake, charged for DUI

by **Jim Paul**
Associated Press

CLINTON, Ill. — The boyfriend of a woman whose three young children drowned when their car plunged into a lake has been charged with driving under the influence, authorities said Thursday.

Authorities are still investigating and have not determined whether Tuesday night's plunge was an accident, or even why the car was next to the lake, Sheriff Roger Massey said. The couple were not launching or retrieving a boat, authorities said.

Massey had said the couple escaped from the car before it sank, but on Thursday he would not comment on who, if anyone, was behind the wheel when the

car went into the lake.

Massey also would not say what substance the driver, Maurice Lagrone Jr., 28, allegedly used.

It was not immediately clear if Lagrone had an attorney. He was also charged with driving with a suspended license.

After the car rolled off a boat ramp, Amanda Hamm, 28, called 911 from a pay phone. Emergency workers were at the scene in about five minutes, but Christopher Hamm, 6, Austin Brown, 3, and Kyleigh Hamm, 23 months, died.

Authorities said a special prosecutor was assigned because Hamm's mother works for the state's attorney. Roger Simpson, the lawyer appointed special prosecutor, declined comment Thursday.

Oregon fires force residents to evacuate

CAMP SHERMAN, Ore. — Two big wildfires jumped containment lines Thursday in central Oregon, again forcing the evacuation of about 300 residents of this mountain community, officials said.

The fires were "large and getting larger. In terms of acres, it's probably close to 80,000," said firefighting spokesman Tom Lavagnino. The blazes were fueled by heavy undergrowth, combined with low humidity and high winds.

Authorities said the fires were threatening to merge.

The evacuation marked the second time in less than a month that Camp Sherman residents were forced from their homes. They were allowed back Saturday after a 12-day evacuation.

A 10-mile, westbound stretch of U.S. 20 between the town of Sisters and Camp Sherman was closed to allow passage of firefighting equipment, said Dave Davis, spokesman for the state transportation department.

The Red Cross was setting up a shelter at a church in Sisters. John O'Neil, an American Red Cross volunteer, said he could see a giant

plume of smoke from the church.

"It's really blown up. The fire's just rocking and rolling," O'Neil said.

A message at the Camp Sherman Country Store said: "It's 3:40 p.m. now. Evacuate now. The sirens you're hearing are the evacuation sirens. Evacuate now, don't wait. Good luck. Bye."

Along the Columbia River east of Portland, the tourist town of Cascade Locks escaped a 470-acre wildfire that burned up to its outskirts and forced evacuation of about 200 homes.

Evacuees were allowed to return late Wednesday, and a 47-mile stretch of Interstate 84 that had been closed a day earlier reopened.

A former bed and breakfast and an abandoned house and barn were the only buildings destroyed despite flames that had licked at underbrush just feet from dozens of homes.

In northern California, firefighters reported progress Thursday against scores of wildfires sparked by lightning.

Two firefighters suffered heat-related injuries from a blaze in Lake County that, at 2,500

acres, was the biggest of the more than 200 fires that began Wednesday, said California Department of Forestry spokeswoman Karen Terrill.

The Lake County fire was 50 percent contained by Thursday afternoon, but still threatened about 200 structures outside Middletown, about 70 miles north of San Francisco, she said.

Firefighters said they had contained 175 of the 239 fires in the region, and expected to contain most of the rest by Sunday. Acres burned were said to be in the thousands, but officials did not have a precise figure.

In Montana, the last two families forced from their homes by dozens of fires that had burned across the state were allowed to return Thursday in Tom's Gulch near Lincoln.

"They've been coming in twice a day every day to see when they can go back in," said fire information officer Bob Brousseau. "They had been living in a tent the whole time" — more than two weeks.

At the fire season's peak, hundreds of Montanans were chased from their homes by blazes that have charred more than 570,000 acres this summer.

Candidates compete to be GOP chairman

by **Bob Lewis**
Associated Press

RICHMOND — The policymaking board of the state Republican Party is preparing to meet Saturday to elect a chairman who can effectively put two crippling scandals behind the party as the legislative campaign season begins its final push.

Weary of an eavesdropping debacle that forced resignations and guilty pleas from the state GOP's executive director last year and its chairman last month, the party's state Central Committee will choose between Kate Obenshain Griffin and party treasurer Rick Neel.

Griffin, 34, is a local party activist who has never held a party office, but has a prominent Republican pedigree. She also is the choice of U.S. Sen. George Allen and state Attorney General Jerry W. Kilgore, a distinction that party leaders believe gives her the edge.

Neel has held a variety of local, congressional district and state party offices, but has struggled to match Griffin's powerful backing with an intensive effort to call in favors from longtime party allies.

"This election is really not about Jerry Kilgore or George Allen," Neel said Thursday. "I did not get in this race to run against them. Far from it."

Allen, whose election as governor 10 years ago broke a Democratic stranglehold on state government and who unseated Democratic Sen. Chuck Robb in 2000, and Kilgore, the GOP's apparent 2005 gubernatorial

nominee, nevertheless dominate Saturday's election.

"First, there's the fact that she's the person George Allen and Jerry Kilgore feel strongly about. These guys have serious races coming up — especially Jerry — and if they feel comfortable with her in that role, then so do I," said Del. Terrie L. Suit, R-Virginia Beach, and a member of the 85-person committee.

Central Committee member Linwood Cobb of Henrico County, chair- man of the 7th Congressional District GOP organization, called Griffin's election "a done deal."

"From everything I hear, Kate has well over 50 committed votes

and Rick is below 20. The end is inevitable. Now I just wonder if Rick will look at the numbers and do the right thing for the party," Cobb said.

Part of Griffin's appeal is she represents a clean break from the state party's recent misfortunes. As a 34-year-old mother of four who lives in Winchester, she was well removed from the eavesdropping scandal and its key figures.

"The other reason Kate's got support is the desire for a fresh start," Suit said.

Edmund A. Matricardi III resigned last year from running the party's day-to-day operations after reports that he had monitored a confidential conference call involving Democratic legislators, their attorneys and, for a while, Democratic Gov. Mark R. Warner. He pleaded guilty in April to a single felony in U.S. District Court in Richmond and was sentenced to three years' probation.

"This election is really not about Jerry Kilgore or George Allen. I did not get in this race to run against them. Far from it."

Rick Neel
party treasurer,
candidate for chairman

Tropical depression drenches Florida

by **David Royce**
Associated Press

STEINHATCHEE, Fla. — A growing tropical depression in the Gulf of Mexico spawned heavy rain across Florida on Thursday, further dampening areas already soaked by one of the wettest summers in years.

As much as 15 inches of rain was expected during the week-end as the depression, likely to become a tropical storm, moves across the state toward the Atlantic Ocean.

"It's just raining. It hasn't kicked up yet," said Charles Norwood, an employee at the Sea Hag Marina at the mouth of the Steinhatchee River, about 125 miles north of Tampa. "I hope that's all we get — wet."

The tropical depression was expected to build into Tropical Storm Henri by the time it hits

the coast late Friday in the Cedar Key area and begins its slosh through the Florida Peninsula, forecasters said.

"But it's taking it's sweet time doing it," said Jack Beven, a hurricane specialist at the National Hurricane Center in Miami. The system's lingering in the gulf could lead to more rain in areas that don't need it, he added.

A tropical storm warning was issued for Florida's west coast from Englewood, south of Sarasota, north to the Aucilla River in the Panhandle, about 20 miles southeast of Tallahassee. Another 60 miles of coastline to the north was dropped from the warning late Thursday.

A tropical storm warning means that tropical storm conditions are expected within 24 hours.



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Bishop affirms support for married priests

by **Juliet Williams**
Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Responding to priests who argued that married men should be allowed into the priesthood, the head of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops affirmed his support for celibacy Thursday and questioned whether adding married clerics would increase the number of priests.

The conference released a letter sent from its president, Bishop Wilton Gregory, to Milwaukee Archbishop Timothy Dolan, in answer to a letter from about 160 local priests. The group, more than a quarter of the archdiocese's clerics, called last month for opening the priesthood to married men.

Gregory said he is convinced the church must continue to follow centuries-old dictates upheld by Pope John Paul II, including

the requirement that candidates for priesthood remain celibate.

"It is by no means clear that, as their letter states, a change in the discipline of clerical celibacy would necessarily bring about an increase in the numbers of candidates for priesthood," Gregory wrote.

While the number of American priests has dwindled, Gregory noted that several mainline Protestant denominations and branches of Judaism have suffered shortages of clergy even though their ministers and rabbis can marry.

The bishop suggested the problem across faiths may be that the role of religion in U.S. culture has declined and must be restored.

In a column published Thursday in the Catholic Herald newspaper, Dolan also said he fully supports the celibacy rule.

"I enthusiastically and confi-

dently embrace my own celibate commitment, and believe it a providential blessing for priests and for the church," Dolan wrote. "It is a gift cherished by the church since the time of Jesus, common among the ordained from apostolic times, expected of priests from early centuries, and required of them for close to 1,000 years."

"It is not some stodgy Vatican 'policy' that has been 'imposed,' but a gift savored for millennia," Dolan wrote.

Dolan met Tuesday with the three priests who initiated the letter campaign. They went through church channels first as

they exercised their rights under canon law.

Lay groups predicted the issue will not disappear.

Call to Action Wisconsin circulated a letter to Gregory asking for an open dialogue on the topic and received nearly 250 responses in four days, president Lois Ahlhauser said. The group promotes a more open church.

"I can't speak for other faiths, but I know for our faith, there are alternatives" to celibacy, she said, such as ordaining married deacons who already are trained in many priestly duties.

"(Celibacy) is a gift cherished by the church since the time of Jesus ... expected of priests from early centuries, and required ... for close to 1,000 years."

Timothy Dolan
Milwaukee Archbishop

Judge dismisses 10 Commandments suit

by **Bob Johnson**
Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — A federal judge rejected a lawsuit Thursday that argued the removal of a Ten Commandments monument from the state judicial building was an unconstitutional endorsement of nontheistic beliefs.

U.S. District Judge Myron Thompson ruled the empty space or "nothingness" left in the building's rotunda "is neither an endorsement of 'nontheistic belief' nor a sign of disrespect for Christianity or any other religion."

Rather, he wrote in his opinion, it demonstrates government neutrality toward religion. The ruling came shortly after about 150 supporters of suspended

Chief Justice Roy Moore, who had the monument moved into the judicial building two years ago, marched to the Alabama Capitol and presented a wooden plaque of the Ten Commandments to Gov. Bob Riley's chief of staff.

Patrick Mahoney of the Christian Defense Coalition, an organizer of the pro-monument protests, said Moore's supporters want the plaque displayed in a public area of the Capitol and not in Riley's office. Moore initially installed the 5,300-pound marker in the rotunda of the judicial building because he said it represented the moral foundation of American law. Thompson ruled the monument an unconstitutional promotion of religion by government and ordered it removed.

Anti-terrorism center may examine plane decontamination

by **Jeffrey McMurray**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congress is considering broadening the role of an Alabama-based anti-terrorism center by asking it to train airplane personnel in the event of an in-flight viral outbreak, such as SARS.

The proposal, tucked inside a measure to pay for next year's transportation initiatives, designates \$8.5 million to study cabin decontamination, with \$3.75 million earmarked for the Center for Domestic Preparedness in Anniston, Ala.

More important than the money, however, could be the new mission for CDP, which in the past has focused almost exclusively on preparing first-responders for terrorism.

In developing a decontamination plan, the center could be preparing for either the intentional act of weaponized bioterrorism or naturally occurring viruses.

"It's just another wrinkle they can do, and they're very interested in doing," said Alabama Sen. Richard Shelby, the Republican chairman of the Transportation Appropriations subcommittee.

"Think of all the potential biological weapons, and think of an airplane. I think of it all the time when I fly."

Shelby was instrumental in getting the proposal included in the Senate version of the bill, which his panel finished writing Wednesday. Senators still must approve it on the floor and negotiate with the House on the differences.

Joseph Pallone, vice president of Washington operations for Strategic Technology Enterprises, a subsidiary of STERIS Corporation, says the Anniston center's experience training first responders to chemical attacks makes it a natural to take on the task.

"The SARS outbreak was just an illustration of what could happen with a biocontamination event," Pallone said.

"SARS, even though it was a relatively simple virus, put a tremendous burden on the air transportation network. The repercussions are still being felt."

It's unclear what role STERIS, which specializes in decontamination technologies, would play in the new initiative.

Custody battle threatens Asian couple

by **Woody Baird**
Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — A Chinese couple facing possible deportation while trying to regain custody of their 4-year-old daughter failed Thursday to block termination of their parental rights.

Shaoqiang He and Qin Luo must now defend those rights at trial Sept. 29.

They are scheduled for a federal court hearing in December, and if deported before regaining custody of their daughter Anna Mae, could lose her forever.

An American couple, Jerry and Louise Baker, want to adopt Anna Mae over her parent's objections. Anna Mae's parents put her in foster care shortly after her birth in 1999 because they were out of work could not afford to support her.

The dispute has drawn the interest of the Chinese Embassy in Washington, D.C. Two embassy representatives

attended a hearing at which the Hes opposed a petition to take away their parental rights to Anna Mae.

"We are not specialists on law, but still we hope to see the rights and interests of our citizens protected by the court," said Wang Yigong, first secretary of the embassy.

As a step toward adoption, the Bakers seek to terminate the Hes' parental rights under state law, arguing they have abandoned Anna Mae.

The Hes contend the Bakers have

blocked their attempts to visit their daughter for more than two years. During an argument between the two couples in

December 2001, the Hes were escorted from the Bakers' residence by police.

At a hearing before State Chancery Court Judge D.J. Alissandratos, the Hes sought a summary judgment, or immediate decision, dismissing the Bakers' parental rights petition.

Alissandratos rejected the Hes' request and their petition for a jury trial.

If the Hes lose their parental rights, the Bakers can move toward adoption. If the Bakers lose, more hearings on custody must

"We are not specialists on law, but still we hope to see the rights and interests of our citizens protected by the court."

Wang Yigong
first secretary,
Chinese embassy

be held. The Hes are trying to stay in the United States until the custody dispute is settled.



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Features

Jolie gone from Billy Bob's body

by Michael Weinfeld
Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA — Billy Bob Thornton has erased Angelina Jolie from his body, but not from his soul.

Inside his tour bus Tuesday night, Thornton rolled up the sleeve of his leopard-print bathrobe to reveal he has covered up the left forearm tattoo of his ex-wife's name.

"See the 'A' right there?" Thornton asked AP Radio. "That's where it said 'Angelina.' And those are the four blood drops that represent the two of us and my boys. I had it covered up with an angel and it says 'Peace' right here. It's like, basically my way of saying no hard feelings."

Jolie had a tattoo of Billy Bob's name on her arm above a dragon. She has erased his name but left the dragon.

The 48-year-old actor and rock-a-billy singer is touring to support his new CD, "The Edge of the World", released in August. He and "Tombrailer" star Jolie divorced in May.

It was Thornton's fifth marriage and her second.

"I realized while I was in pain that I was healing at the same time and I thought, You know what? That's what this record's going to be. It's about a broken person, about someone who's broken and I've been broken forever. I'm still broken, but I'm on the way to healing."

Thornton is performing Sunday at Farm Aid in Cleveland but fans shouldn't expect to hear him sing "Angelina."

"I think it's inappropriate," he said. "If I go singing that song for an audience and there are fans of hers in the audience and I sing all this wonderful stuff about us and we've split up, I think it's not going to draw a good reaction from them, possibly."

What about the line from the song, "They said we would never make it"?

"I think, how ironic," Thornton said. "It doesn't hurt me because that relationship served a purpose in her life and it served a purpose in my life."

Acoustic Syndicate live show a mix of energy and rock

Alice Husak

Don't let the name fool you, there was nothing acoustic about last night's explosive performance at the Lyric given by the up-and-coming live musical act, Acoustic Syndicate.

This normally calm landmark theater was set aflame as the lights rose and melodious rhythms blasted among the four musicians playing instruments ranging from the banjo to a mandolin, all with furious speed while staying in sync.

This North Carolina based quartet blends an eclectic array of reggae, bluegrass, funk and rock into a live show so unique and entertaining that it's no wonder Syndicate has played with the likes of Neil Young, Willie Nelson and Dave Matthews.

As the band ascended the stage strumming the chords of the well known, Ride That Ride, members of the audience left out of assigned seating into rapid clumps of bouncing energy.

"This show is one for music lovers, its so original and funky — it just kind of gets in your blood. You have to dance," said Greg Mercer, a junior. No longer than a few seconds later, I looked to the front of the room to find Greg and

dozens of other people dancing wildly, arms floating throughout the air.

The members of Acoustic Syndicate, Fitz and Bryon McMurry, along with their cousin Steve, have been playing music together since childhood where musical influences included rock bands such as Led Zeppelin and Queen and reggae melodies sung straight from the mouths of migrant pickers who worked with the boys in the farmland.

Jay Sanders, who joined the band in 1998, provides a funk-driven bass texture to his treble charged counterparts, relaying this to their frantic, head-bobbing audience through his mastery of both the upright and electric bass. The second set is much more energetic than the first; beginning with new release, Terra Firma then fading into Neighbors, the switch from one song to the other being so perfected it's unrecognizable.

If you weren't lucky enough to experience this musical wonder in the flesh, Acoustic Syndicate has a string of CD's available, the most recent being Terra Firma. Each CD release has gotten rave reviews and portrays the talent of this band in a compacted form, yet could never hold a candle to the wonder that is Acoustic Syndicate live.

Alice Husak is a staff writer for the Collegiate Times.



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TED MARTELLO/SPPS

The quartet Acoustic Syndicate rocked the Lyric last night, playing songs from their most recent album Terra Firma.

Cosby holds pep rally at Baylor

WACO, Texas — Comedian Bill Cosby was greeted by Baylor's marching band and a crowd estimated at 20,000 people Thursday night at a "pep rally" designed to boost morale at a university shaken by heartache and scandal.

Cosby gave the free performance at Floyd Casey Stadium, home of the university's football team.

"Tonight, it's about you," Cosby told the crowd, which filled the west side of the stadium facing the stage.

"It's about the fact that you were left out of all this. It's about how tragedy came, but nobody really remembered that you were coming and you were a part of this as well."

Cosby, sporting a yellow "Baylor Track & Field" T-shirt, said he wanted to "build up" the students following the death of basketball player Patrick Dennehy.

Since Dennehy's death and the arrest of former teammate Carlton Dotson on murder

charges, revelations of secretly paid players, failed drug tests and a tape-recorded plot by former coach Dave Bliss to cover up wrongdoing have shaken the world's largest Baptist university.

"We're going to have fun," Cosby promised, drawing huge applause.

He didn't disappoint, keeping the audience laughing throughout a 90-minute comedy routine that made light of his "C average" daughter's college experience.

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'Grand Ole Opry' leaving CMT

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The live television broadcast from the Grand Ole Opry is moving from Country Music Television to its smaller competitor, Great American Country.

The hour-long country music show, "Grand Ole Opry Live," has appeared on CMT every Saturday night since 2001. It draws 1.5 million to 2 million viewers and was CMT's highest-rated weekly series.

The move means the TV broadcast will reach fewer viewers. Great American Country, which started in 1996, reaches only 25.2 million U.S. households, compared to the more than 70 million households reached by CMT.

"There isn't a bigger, longer-running music show on TV today," said Jeff Wayne, president of Great American Country, whose parent company is Jones Media Networks of Englewood, Colo.

"It really puts us on the map."

CMT and Gaylord Entertainment, which owns the Opry, tried but failed to negotiate a new agreement with the Opry.

Steve Buchanan, senior vice president of media and entertainment for Gaylord, said CMT proposed a deal that would have broadcast fewer shows.

Great American Country will air "Grand Ole Opry Live" every Saturday at 7 p.m. CDT and increase the number of repeat telecasts.

Repeats will be three times on weekends and twice on Tuesday.

However, in the first year of the deal, Great American Country will show fewer live episodes: only 26 in the first year, down from more than 40 live shows a year on CMT.

The Opry's TV show has been on the air for 18 years. Before CMT, it appeared on TNN: The Nashville Network.

Concert on National Mall helps kick off NFL season

by Marty Niland
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It rained much of the day, but skies cleared as a huge concert got underway on the National Mall Thursday night.

Six blocks of the Mall were filled with concertgoers in a crowd that could rival the size normally seen on the Fourth of July.

District of Columbia Mayor Anthony A. Williams welcomed the crowd to NFL Kickoff Live from the National Mall, and paid tribute to the 25,000 military members who were the guests of honor.

The opening act, a Maryland band called Good Charlotte, got a loud reception from crowd, many of whom braved a steady drizzle for about two hours before the concert started.

The concert was beamed on large TV screens along the Mall, and featured ads for the sponsors' products, as well as public service announcements urging people to volunteer on the nation's public lands.

"There've been no problems so far," D.C. Metropolitan Police Chief Charles H. Ramsey said.

Workers manning five first aid stations agreed with that assessment, saying the biggest problem they had seen were bee stings.

Following a security sweep, four checkpoints opened for the public to get onto the Mall. It took about 15 minutes for the initial crowds at

one checkpoint to get inside, but people were orderly. Bags were inspected for banned items including alcohol, weapons and glass containers.

Aerosmith, Britney Spears, Mary J. Blige, Aretha Franklin and Good Charlotte were on the bill for the concert, which was to be followed by a live broadcast on the TV screens of the season opener between the Washington Redskins and New York Jets.

"I'm here to see Aerosmith. I've never seen them before," said Rosie Riddicuti, 24. "It's free, I live in D.C., it seems like it should be a fun event."

The concert was part of Operation Tribute to Freedom, a military effort to encourage public support for U.S. troops coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan. The best seats in the crowd were reserved for 25,000 military personnel, and a member of each branch of the armed services was scheduled to introduce a musical act.

Police and city officials braced for heavier than normal traffic during the evening rush hour, with commuters heading home from work, concertgoers entering downtown, and Redskins ticket holders trying to get to FedEx Field in Landover, Md., for the 9 p.m. game.

However, traffic was much lighter than feared. Metro also saw fewer subway riders than it had planned for.

The transit agency planned to continue rush hour service until 10 p.m., but cut back at 7 p.m.

Bush to commemorate terror attacks

■ Vice President Dick Cheney will attend a memorial service at Ground Zero in New York City

by Terence Hunt
Associated Press

ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE (AP) - President Bush will attend a prayer service of remembrance and observe a moment of silence to mark the second anniversary of the terrorist attack of Sept. 11, 2001.

While Bush will be in Washington, Vice President Dick Cheney will attend a memorial service at Ground Zero in New York City and Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld will take part in a wreath laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery.

Interior Secretary Gale Norton will attend a ceremony at Shanksville, Pa., the site where one of the four terrorist-hijacked planes crashed.

"September 11 is a somber day for remembrance, reflection and prayer," said presidential spokesman Scott McClellan.

He said it also was an occasion for the nation to reaffirm its commitment and resolve in the war against terrorism.

Next Wednesday, on the eve of the anniversary, Bush will have a dinner at the White House and a screening of "Twin Towers," an Academy Award-winning documentary of the attacks on the World Trade Center towers.

The following day he will attend a prayer service at St. John's Episcopal Church at Lafayette Square, which is frequently attended by presidents.

He will be accompanied by the first lady.

Then the president, his wife, Laura, and members of his staff will gather on the South Lawn

to observe a moment of silence at 8:46 a.m., the moment when the first plane hit the World Trade Center.

In the afternoon, Bush will go to Walter Reed Army Medical Center, in Washington, to meet with troops wounded in Iraq.

Bush signed two proclamations Thursday, one of which designated Sept. 11 as a national day of prayer and remembrance. The second

designated the day as Patriot Day.

They call on Americans to hold candlelight vigils and prayer services to mark the day and direct governors to fly the flag at half-staff in honor of the victims of the terrorist attack.

“September 11 is a somber day for remembrance, reflection and prayer”

Scott McClellan
presidential spokesman

Correspondents rip celebrity interviews

by David Bauder
Associated Press

NEW YORK—If you see some celebrity interviews on "60 Minutes," the correspondents are probably holding their noses.

Morley Safer, Steve Kroft and Lesley Stahl didn't hide their distaste Wednesday for the hottest trend in their line of work. Celebrity chats are such winners for newsmagazines that NBC and ABC arranged for help from entertainment news shows in landing them this summer.

"This cloying by various television reporters for the right to interview the slut du jour just becomes kind of a silly joke, something out of 'Saturday Night Live,'" Safer said at a panel discussion arranged by the National Television Academy.

He acknowledged though, "60 Minutes" wasn't immune to chasing after the big "gets," a TV phrase Safer detests.

Over the past year, interviews with Whitney Houston, Sharon Osbourne, Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez have been unexpected ratings hits. ABC, NBC and Fox competed feverishly during February sweeps for footage of Michael

Jackson talking. After noticing NBC News used its corporate relationship with "Access Hollywood" to land the Affleck and J.Lo interview, ABC agreed to share celebrity chats with another syndicated program, "Entertainment Tonight."

Stahl and Kroft noted entertainment celebrities are usually the most demanding interview subjects — in terms of what they will talk about and when they will appear — usually to promote their latest projects. Affleck and Lopez only talked about their romance when their bomb movie, "Gigli," came out.

"It's made these interviews a little more distasteful for all of us," Kroft said. "It's turned us all into shills."

More often than not, Stahl said, these celebrities aren't particularly interesting.

"Most of the time, we walk away from them," said "60 Minutes" executive producer Don Hewitt. During the past year, "60 Minutes" has interviewed Nicole Kidman, Sheryl Crow and Billy Crystal.

Usually a comfortable profit center for CBS, "60 Minutes" has more leeway to say no than its competitors.

“This cloying by various television reporters for the right to interview the slut du jour just becomes kind of a silly joke.”

Morley Safer
"60 Minutes" correspondent



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RUNABOUT sports

Sports

Virginia Tech looks to muzzle Dukes of JMU in second game

■ The Hokies will play their I-81 rivals Saturday for the first time since a 47-0 win in the 1999 season

by **Rajan Nanavati**
Sports Editor

Virginia Tech fans would probably like to consider this Saturday's contest against the Dukes of James Madison University as an omen.

The last time the Hokies played the Dukes, also in the first week of September, Tech made the Dukes the first sacrificial lamb in their path to a

birth in the national championship game.

In the 1999 season opening 47-0 victory, Hokie fans and spectators were introduced to a phenom named Michael Vick, who slashed JMU for three rushing touchdowns. The scores came from a distance of three, seven and 54 yards, including a spectacular frontward flip into the end zone, a highlight forever linked with the legendary quarterback.

While the opponent travel-

ing to Blacksburg may not pose as much a threat to the Hokies as Central Florida or a Big East conference rival, Tech head coach Frank Beamer sees this game as an opportunity for the entire football team to improve overall.

"This is an important week for us," Beamer said. "I think you make the most progress between the first ball game and the second. You've played someone else, you learn from that, and you improve."

In an ironic but disappointing twist within the Vick family, younger brother Marcus Vick will not be playing this Saturday's contest after being suspended on Monday for a violation of team rules.

After a crisp debut in the victory against the University of Central Florida, the younger Vick will not be able to give nostalgic Tech fans a sense of déjà vu of the elder superstar. Linebacker Brandon Manning is also suspended for the game.

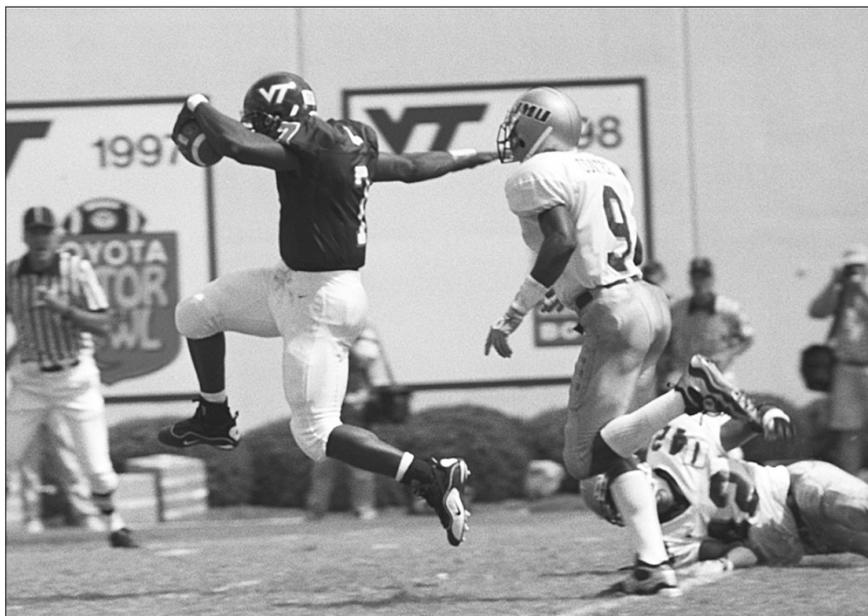
"They're great kids, they made a mistake, they'll be punished, and we'll get on with it," Beamer said.

Tech has little to worry about from the position under center. Incumbent starter Bryan Randall looked very sharp in the Hokies' victory over the Golden Knights last weekend, shredding the Central Florida defense for 278 yards and three touchdowns and was named Big East offensive player of the week.

He remains firmly entrenched as the starting quarterback for the Hokies, displaying a strong knowledge and comfort level with the plays being called.

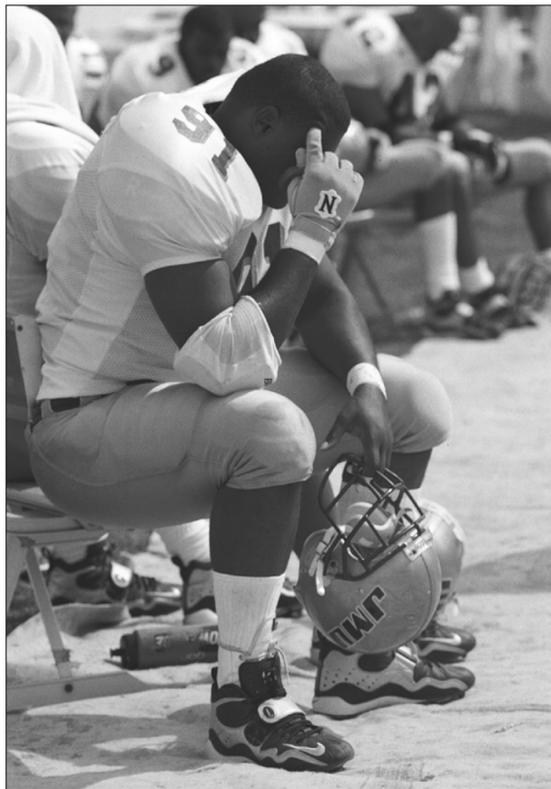
"I think you make the most progress between the first ball game and the second."

Frank Beamer
Tech football coach



STAFF/SPPS

Former Virginia Tech superstar Michael Vick played the first game of his collegiate career against James Madison University in 1999, running for three touchdowns.



STAFF/SPPS

James Madison University's defense had a long day against the Hokies and Michael Vick in 1999, giving up 47 points.

The Dukes are coming off a big victory last week, rolling over Liberty University, 48-6.

Redshirt freshman Alvin Banks tore up the Liberty defense by running for 157 yards and a touchdown.

It's usually given that a division I-AA school cannot match the talent of a major I-A college football program but Beamer knows first hand, after his coaching experience at Murray State University, that athletes from I-AA schools are highly motivated for major games like this.

"James Madison opened up with a great win, looked very good, played hard," Beamer said. "I know (they) will come in here very fired up, so we need to play hard as a football team."

"If we can win this football game, it counts as far as bowl eligibility," Beamer said regard-

ing the fact the contest against the Dukes has little significance in Tech's schedule.

"If anyone thinks we're going to walk out there and win, that's a bad assumption. We need to go out there and play (well). There's been a lot of I-AA's that have beaten (division one teams)."

Running back Kevin Jones will also be fully ready to go during this Saturday's contest, despite suffering a bruised shin against the Golden Knights.

The coaching staff is working with him to gain more of a north-south mentality as a running back and not worry about always trying to create big plays on every down.

However, the staff was extremely pleased with the effort Jones had against the Golden Knights, highlighted by the fact that he officially broke 14 tackles in the

contest. The game will begin at 1 p.m. Saturday afternoon and will be locally televised.

James Madison University leaders, at a glance



Passing:

Matt LeZotte (16 of 26, 210 yards, 2 TD)

Rushing:

Alvin Black (20 att, 157 yards, 1 TD)

Receiving:

Nic Tolley (6 catch, 83 yds)
Alan Harrison (3 catch, 45 yds, 1 TD)

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- Sept. 7 Cascades Hike
- Sept. 13 Canoeing the New River
- Sept. 14 Horseback Riding
- Sept. 20 Brown's Farm Trail Work
- Sept. 21 Dragon's Tooth Hike
- Sept. 28 VT Caving
- Oct. 4 Whitewater Rafting
- Oct. 5 Angel's Rest Hike
- Oct. 12 MacAfee's Knob Hike
- Oct. 18 Whitewater Rafting
- Oct. 19 Pandapas Pond Hike
- Oct. 25 Mountain Biking
- Oct. 26 Horseback Riding
- Nov. 2 Peaks of Otter Hike
- Nov. 8 & 9 Backpacking on the AT
- Nov. 15 VT Caving
- Nov. 16 Rock Climbing

Contact Venture Out for more information
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8:00 p.m.

House Rush:
Friday, September 12
AKPsi House
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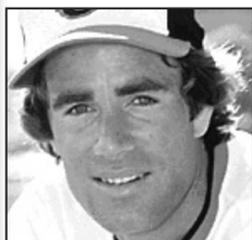


John Wayne



Brad Pitt

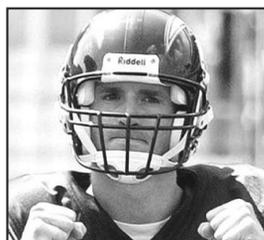
in athletics....



Jim Palmer
Pro Baseball



Mike Ditka
Da Bears



Drew Brees
Professional Football

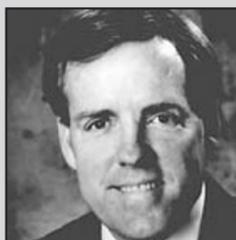


Woody Hayes
Ohio State Coach

in business....



Bill Marriot
Marriot Hotels



James Barksdale
Netscape



"Pete" Correll, Jr.
Georgia-Pacific

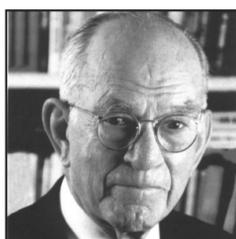


"J.R." Carpenter
Professional Golf Association

in politics....



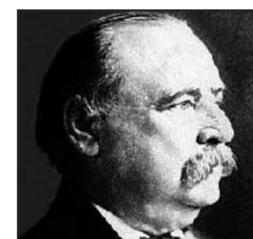
Barry Goldwater
U.S. Senator



J. William Fulbright
U.S. Senator



James Brady
Regan's Press Secretary



Grover Cleveland
22nd & 24th U.S. President

Contact information:

» **Rush Chairman:**
Nick Pascale
rushsigmachi@vt.edu

» **Check website for updates at**
www.vtsigmachi.org.

» **September 10,**
8:15 p.m.
Casino Night

» **September 16,**
8:15 p.m.
Brotherhood Night

» **September 19,**
6:00 p.m.
Philanthropy Night

» **All events at the**
Sigma Chi House
(68 Oak Lane)

» **Rides available from**
Cassell Coliseum



Casino Night



Get to know the brothers in an informal atmosphere before discovering the serious aspects of Sigma Chi. Craps, roulette, blackjack, poker, and floor prizes. September 10 at 8:15 p.m. at the Sigma Chi house.



SIGMA CHI
R U S H
BROTHERHOOD SINCE 1855

Cross Country teams kick off season

■ The Virginia Tech cross country team returns a core of their top runners from last year along with an infusion of freshman talent.

STAFF — The Virginia Tech men's and women's cross-country teams host the annual Virginia Tech Invitational tonight to kick off their 2003 season.

The men's six-kilometer race is set to begin at 5:30 p.m. on the Tech cross-country course and the women's four kilometer will start at 6:15 p.m.

The Hokies head into the season with high expectations, returning top runners

from last year on both teams.

In their preseason cross-country rankings, <www.trackshark.com> ranked the Tech women No. 34 in the nation, despite the loss of four-time MVP and 2002 NCAA qualifier Stacy Vidt.

Junior Jessica Morris and senior Marlies Overbeeke will fill Vidt's shoes as they strive to earn their own NCAA bids.

Morris narrowly missed a bid last season, finishing No. 20 while Overbeeke finished as the top Hokie in five of six events.

The women will also be looking to red-shirt senior Kim Millbourn to help them to their first top-five finish in the Big East.

The men's team will return five of its top six runners, including last season's

MVP, David Atkiss. Atkiss, who claimed the Hokies' top finish in three meets last year, has the potential to earn all-conference accolades.

Another consistent performer to keep an eye on is Tech junior Michael Lawson who was in the top three for the Hokies last season.

Juniors Justin Skaare and L.A. Snead and sophomore Antoine Harris also return after standout season in 2002. Skaare was in the top seven all season while Snead and Harris both competed in all six races last season.

Rounding out the squad is an influx of freshman providing needed depth for the 2003 season.

The Hokies are scheduled to host the Hokie Invitational on Saturday, Sept. 20. The meet will begin at 9:00 a.m.

Parrish and Worthy set for induction

by Howard Ulman
Associated Press

BOSTON — James Worthy was an eighth-grader when he first saw Robert Parish play college basketball. It left a lasting impact.

"Robert Parish was a 7-foot center and really exemplified everything that I wanted to be as a player at the time," Worthy said. "I thought it was very cool that he wore double-zero."

From his college days at Centenary, Parish went on to a brilliant career with the Boston Celtics.

Worthy starred with the Los Angeles Lakers after playing at North Carolina.

And they were in the middle of the fiercest NBA rivalry of the 1980s.

On Friday night, Parish and Worthy will be among seven people inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass.

"I'm really proud to receive basketball's highest award," Parish said. "I'm proud and excited."

The other inductees are Meadowlark Lemon of the Harlem Globetrotters, NBA pioneer Earl Lloyd, longtime Louisiana Tech women's coach Leon Barmore, Italian player Dino Meneghin and the late Chick Hearn, who broadcast 3,338 consecutive Los Angeles Lakers' games, many involving Worthy and Parish.

Worthy joined the Lakers in 1982, two years after Parish went to the Celtics.

They met in the NBA finals three times with Boston winning in 1984 and Los Angeles winning in 1985 and 1987.

Each team had two other players, in addition to Parish and Worthy, among the top 50 in NBA history and who went to the Hall of Fame — Larry Bird and Kevin McHale with the Celtics and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Magic Johnson with the Lakers.

In 1984-85, he and Worthy averaged 17.6 points each.

"H a t r e d would be a strong word. We really respected each other," Worthy said.

"I liked the game the way it was then. It was more respect for your opponents and

your own teammates. The game was played way differently. It was played as a team and it seems there was a lot more loyalty to teams."

Worthy averaged 17.6 points a game in his 12 NBA seasons, all with Los Angeles. He won titles in 1985, 1987 and 1988, being named the series MVP in the last one.

He retired after the 1993-94 season.

Parish averaged 16.5 points in 14 seasons with Boston, ending in 1993-94.

He also won three championships, in 1981, 1984 and 1986.

“ Robert Parrish was a 7-foot center and really exemplified everything I wanted to be as a player at the time.”

James Worthy
Former Lakers center

U. S. Open waterlogged by constant rain

■ The nation's premier tennis tournament has had a rough start due to a lack of cooperation from the weather

by Howard Fendrich
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The U.S. Open went from the submerged to the ridiculous Thursday.

On a fourth straight day of rain and start-stop-start-stop action, organizers scrambling to finish the tournament on time were deprived of a show court because the Grandstand had absorbed too much water and couldn't be dried enough for play.

Oh, and a women's fourth-round match that began Monday finally finished, but not before being interrupted when the chair umpire was hit and hurt by a ballboy's throw.

There was good news: The weather cleared up enough for 2001 champion Lleyton Hewitt, French Open winner Juan Carlos Ferrero, No. 5-seeded Guillermo Coria, and No. 13 David Nalbandian to reach the quarterfinals. Nalbandian knocked off Wimbledon champion Roger Federer 3-6, 7-6 (1), 6-4, 6-3.

Still, not your average big-time sporting event, huh?

"This was the weirdest situation that I've ever experienced in a Grand Slam tournament," two-time major champion Mary Pierce said. "It was really, really weird to wait four days and play 20 minutes to finish the match."

She lost 7-6 (2), 6-1 to No. 7 Anastasia Myskina, who later was scheduled to return to the court and face No. 2 Justine Henin-Hardenne in a quarterfinal.

Also asked to play more than once Thursday was No. 29 Francesca Schiavone, a 6-7

(5), 7-5, 6-2 winner over No. 15 Ai Sugiyama. Schiavone was supposed to play a quarterfinal against No. 6 Jennifer Capriati at night.

At least tennis was being played, though: A total of only four matches were completed from Monday through Wednesday.

The tournament began Thursday with a backlog of 174 matches, which was alleviated somewhat by the cancellation of the junior doubles events. Junior singles matches were moved to an indoor tennis club 25 miles away.

Six men's fourth-round matches either resumed or started Thursday afternoon, though not without touches of the bizarre.

Hewitt had his match, a 4-6, 6-2, 6-4, 6-2 victory over No. 11 Paradorn Srichaphan, switched from the Grandstand to Court 11, where a scoreboard wasn't working. Hewitt next plays No. 3 Ferrero, who will make his debut in the

U.S. Open quarterfinals after getting past the unseeded Todd Martin 6-2, 6-4, 3-6, 5-7, 6-3.

The water level underneath the Grandstand is so high that the surface feels soggy even when the water on top has been wiped away, grounds crew supervisor Joe Sexton said.

"We have to wait for the sun. If it sits in the sun for 12 hours, it could be playable again," Sexton said.

Players were ushered out to all corners of the grounds in an effort to squeeze in matches, and Coria checked the map on the back of his credential to figure out exactly where Court 6 is.

Eventually, Coria found his way and finished off a 6-2, 6-3, 4-6, 6-2 victory over unseeded Jonas Bjorkman to set up a quarterfinal matchup with top-seeded Andre Agassi.

Coria beat Agassi in the round of eight at the French Open.

Extradition hearing date set for ex-Baylor basketball player Dotson

by Gretchen Parker
Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Maryland authorities on Thursday set a date for an extradition hearing for Carlton Dotson, who was indicted last week by a Texas

grand jury in the death of his former teammate at Baylor University.

The hearing, to be held Sept. 18 in the office of the secretary of state in Annapolis, will give Dotson another chance to tell authorities why he's opposing extradition to Texas, said Rick Morris, Maryland's extradition coordinator.

The assistant attorney general who presides over the hearing will make a recommendation to Maryland Gov. Robert Ehrlich. In the vast majority of cases,

governors sign rendition warrants, which turn the suspects over to the charging state.

If Ehrlich signs a rendition warrant, Texas authorities would have up to a month to pick up Dotson, Morris said.

Dotson has been held at the Kent County Detention Center since July 21, when he was arrested and charged with killing Patrick Dennehy, whose body was missing for six weeks until it was found in a field near Waco, where Baylor is

located.

An autopsy report showed that Dennehy died of two gunshot wounds to the head.

Purcell Luke of Salisbury, a member of Dotson's legal team, said Thursday that attorneys had not yet decided whether Dotson would attend the hearing in Annapolis.

The Maryland secretary of state's office set the hearing date after receiving a warrant, signed by Texas Gov. Rick

Perry, that requested Dotson's extradition.

Maryland authorities were reviewing the paperwork late Thursday, said Aja Foster, a spokeswoman for the secretary of state.

"They're trying to make sure that everything is correct, that they have everything they need," Foster said.

Dotson also is scheduled to appear at a hearing Oct. 14 in Kent County District Court.

Dotson can waive his right

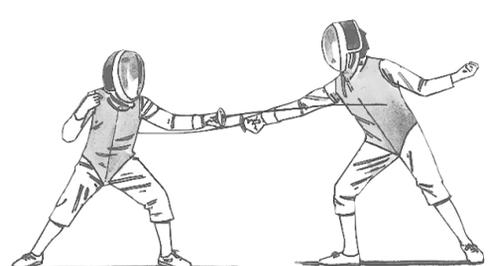
to the hearings at any time and agree to return to Texas, where he could be sentenced to life in prison if convicted.

The secretary of state's extradition hearings, held once a month, are informal, state officials said. No transcript is kept, and the suspect is given a chance to speak for himself. Most last about 15 minutes.

Only Maryland and South Carolina offer the unusual proceedings, called "governor's hearings."

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Greek Notes



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Greek Notes

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Roomate Wanted For 3 Bedroom Foxridge Apts. Call Lee 757-894-2034

Personals

GDGDGDGDGDGDGD Erin, Jeremy, and Mo, We need a GD night soon! - Blair -

Alpha Sigma Sigma beginning of the year rush event Saturday night at the house. Contact a brother for more information.

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GRAND OPENING EVENTS

- Sept. 8:** Open House all day: FREE food and FREE billiards, bowling, and table tennis. Ribbon Cutting at 12:00 noon!
- Sept. 11:** Everything is a QUARTER all day (billiards, bowling, and table tennis) and FREE FOOD. Also, a guest billiards expert Tom Rossman (www.drcuepromotions.com/)
- Sept. 12:** FREE Cosmic Bowling from 10pm-12:30am
- Sept. 13:** FREE Cosmic Bowling from 10pm-12:30am
- Sept. 15:** Open House all day: FREE FOOD and FREE billiards, bowling, and table tennis
- Sept. 19:** FREE Cosmic Bowling from 10pm-12:30am, FREE popcorn all day
- Sept. 20:** FREE Cosmic Bowling from 10pm-12:30am
- Sept. 22:** Open House all day: FREE FOOD and FREE billiards, bowling, and table tennis
- Sept. 25:** FREE Moonlight Bowling from 9pm-11:30pm
- Sept. 29:** Open House all day: FREE FOOD and FREE billiards, bowling, and table tennis
- Oct. 2:** FREE Moonlight Bowling from 9pm-11:30pm
- Oct. 3:** FREE popcorn all day

** All customers get a free chocolate bar and coupon for free billiards or bowling! (while supplies last)



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CT Sports Picks

■ All's fair in love and football.

This is week one for the 2003 CT sports picks. Check out www.collegiatetimes.com for more of the staff's sports picks.



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NFL

Jax @ Carolina Minn. @ Green Bay Balt. @ Pittsburgh New Eng. @ Buff. SD @ Kansas City St. Louis @ NYG Atlanta @ Dallas Chicago @ SF Oakland @ Tenn. Tampa Bay @ Philly	Jacksonville Green Bay Pittsburgh Buffalo San Diego NY Giants Dallas San Fran. Tennessee Tampa Bay	Carolina Green Bay Pittsburgh Buffalo San Diego St. Louis Atlanta San Fran. Oakland Tampa Bay	Carolina Green Bay Pittsburgh Buffalo San Diego St. Louis Atlanta San Fran. Oakland Tampa Bay	Carolina Green Bay Pittsburgh Buffalo San Diego St. Louis Atlanta San Fran. Tennessee Tampa Bay	Carolina Green Bay Pittsburgh Buffalo San Diego St. Louis Atlanta San Fran. Tennessee Tampa Bay	Jacksonville Minnesota Pittsburgh New England Kansas City NY Giants Dallas Chicago Oakland Tampa Bay	Carolina Green Bay Pittsburgh Buffalo Kansas City St. Louis Atlanta San Fran. Tennessee Tampa Bay	Carolina Green Bay Pittsburgh New England Kansas City St. Louis Atlanta San Fran. Tennessee Philadelphia	Jacksonville Green Bay Baltimore New England San Diego NY Giants Dallas San Fran. Tennessee Tampa Bay	Carolina Green Bay Pittsburgh Buffalo Kansas City NY Giants Atlanta San Fran. Oakland Tampa Bay	Jacksonville Green Bay Pittsburgh New England Kansas City St. Louis Atlanta San Fran. Oakland Tampa Bay	Carolina Green Bay Baltimore New England Kansas City NY Giants Dallas Chicago Tennessee Philadelphia	Jacksonville Green Bay Baltimore New England Kansas City St. Louis Atlanta San Fran. Oakland Tampa Bay	Jacksonville Green Bay Pittsburgh New England Kansas City NY Giants Dallas San Fran. Oakland Philadelphia
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NCAA

JMU @ Va. Tech Okla. @ Ala. Florida @ Miami BYU @ USC NC State @ Wake Maryland @ FSU Marshall @ Tenn. UVa @ South Car. Wash. State @ ND	Va. Tech Oklahoma Miami USC NC State Florida St. Tennessee UVa Notre Dame	Va. Tech Oklahoma Miami USC NC State Florida St. Tennessee UVa Wash. State	Va. Tech Oklahoma Miami USC NC State Florida St. Tennessee UVa Notre Dame	Va. Tech Oklahoma Miami USC NC State Florida St. Marshall UVa Notre Dame	Va. Tech Oklahoma Miami USC NC State Florida St. Tennessee South Car. UVa Notre Dame	Va. Tech Oklahoma Miami USC NC State Florida St. Tennessee UVa Notre Dame	Va. Tech Oklahoma Miami USC NC State Florida St. Tennessee UVa Wash. St.	Va. Tech Oklahoma Miami USC NC State Florida St. Tennessee UVa Notre Dame						
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VT Game of the Week Va Tech Men's Soccer @ Villanova	Virginia Tech	Villanova	Villanova	Villanova	Virginia Tech									
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Comments	New year, new picture, new title, same winner. Look to my picks as once again setting the standard. Keith and Nathaniel, an honor.	Guess who's back... back again. Yes, people, I have a feeling this is the year. D-Rake had a good run, but his reign is over. Sports picks are mine!	Worst to first—the number one spot will be mine, I guarantee-tee it! This be the answer key ova hurr.	This is my first time doing sports picks and my only wish is that I beat the Guru. "Little India" is going down.	These people don't realize what I'm bringin' because I wasn't here last year... they try to charge me, but I'm not guilty.	The boastful comments will come when I'm on top; so check next week.	Countdown to 21: 2 weeks ... Countdown to Vegas: 3 weeks Apparently Nick's mugshot came from an Aspen jailhouse.	Rajan and his obtuse head are going down.	Riding spinnas forever.	To the ABC officers with love: You're right, I'm not a lawyer.	Nate was too busy making money for the CT to make comments.	A photo editor won the crown last year, and this photo editor will win the crown this year.		
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News Assistant



Kate Lynch
Editorial Assistant



Zoe Mathias
Copy Editor



Lauren Angelucci
Copy Editor



Stephanie Cicala
Layout Designer



Chris Heuberger
Graphic Designer



Tim Howlett
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NFL

Jax @ Carolina Minn. @ Green Bay Balt. @ Pittsburgh New Eng. @ Buff. SD @ Kansas City St. Louis @ NYG Atlanta @ Dallas Chicago @ SF Oakland @ Tenn. Tampa Bay @ Philly	Jacksonville Green Bay Pittsburgh Buffalo San Diego NY Giants Dallas San Fran. Tennessee Tampa Bay	Jacksonville Minnesota Baltimore New England Kansas City NY Giants NY Giants Atlanta Chicago Oakland Tampa Bay	Carolina Green Bay Pittsburgh Buffalo San Diego NY Giants NY Giants Atlanta Chicago Tennessee Tampa Bay	Jacksonville Green Bay Baltimore New England Kansas City NY Giants NY Giants Atlanta San Fran. Oakland Tampa Bay	Carolina Green Bay Pittsburgh New England Kansas City St. Louis Atlanta San Fran. Oakland Tampa Bay	Carolina Green Bay Pittsburgh Buffalo San Diego NY Giants NY Giants Dallas San Fran. Tennessee Tampa Bay	Carolina Green Bay Baltimore New England San Diego NY Giants NY Giants Atlanta Chicago Oakland Philadelphia	Carolina Green Bay Pittsburgh Buffalo San Diego NY Giants NY Giants Dallas San Fran. Oakland Tampa Bay
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NCAA

JMU @ Va. Tech Okla. @ Ala. Florida @ Miami BYU @ USC NC State @ Wake Maryland @ FSU Marshall @ Tenn. UVa @ South Car. Wash. State @ ND	Va. Tech Oklahoma Miami USC NC State Florida St. Tennessee UVa Notre Dame	Va. Tech Oklahoma Miami USC NC State Maryland Tennessee UVa Notre Dame	Va. Tech Oklahoma Miami USC NC State Florida St. Tennessee UVa Wash. State	Va. Tech Oklahoma Miami USC NC State Florida St. Tennessee South Car. Wash. State	Va. Tech Oklahoma Miami USC NC State Florida St. Tennessee South Car. Notre Dame	Va. Tech Alabama Miami USC NC State Maryland Tennessee South Car. Notre Dame	Va. Tech Oklahoma Miami USC NC State Maryland Tennessee UVa Notre Dame	Va. Tech Oklahoma Miami USC NC State Florida St. Tennessee South Car. Notre Dame
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VT Game of the Week Va Tech Men's Soccer @ Villanova	Villanova	Villanova	Villanova	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	Villanova
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Comments	No one is reading this.	NFL stands for "Nieder for Life" Go Terps! I can't lose!	I'm glad I have other talents!	I suck at this!	Jeremy, I love you!!!	Welcome to Hokie Country McCauly. Hope you're ready, cuz it's gonna get nasty up in hurr	I'm a big fan of the 'Cocks this week.	
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