

COLLEGIATE TIMES

101st Year, No. 57 • Blacksburg, Virginia • December 5, 2003

An independent student-run newspaper serving the Virginia Tech community since 1903

www.collegiatetimes.com

Winter brings Tech a flurry of problems

Icy roads affect BT, student drivers

by Eric Beidel
Associate News Editor

Students out and about yesterday afternoon found themselves walking in a winter wonderland.

The first real snow fell on Blacksburg and the Virginia Tech campus yesterday and road crews from both Tech's Physical Plant and the Town of Blacksburg were plowing away.

"We have two big plows and we work them in tandem," said Bill Elvey,

assistant vice president for facilities at the Physical Plant. "We have them out 24 hours a day during heavy snowstorms and sometimes we rent more."

The Physical Plant keeps a minimum amount of salt on hand and trucks transport additional salt from Dublin as it is needed, courtesy of the Virginia Department of Transportation, Elvey said.

The Physical Plant budgets a minimum of \$10,000 for road maintenance during the winter, he said. A large portion of the money comes

out of the university's budget, while the rest comes from Parking Services.

Parking Services pays for work done in the parking lots, Elvey said.

Last year, costs rose to around \$50,000 because of the flurry of snowstorms that struck Blacksburg, he said.

The Town of Blacksburg budgeted \$96,000 for winter road maintenance, but went well over, said Kelly Mattingly, director of public works.

The town sends out 10 dump trucks with salt spreaders and plows during winter storms, Mattingly said.

They plow around the clock in the form of two 12-hour shifts.

The town also has the capacity to store 1,300 tons of salt. During a typical snowstorm, 200 tons of salt will be used, Mattingly said.

"We go with what Mother Nature gives us and do our best," he said. "Our roads are some of the best in the area."

Only a handful of very minor car accidents occurred on campus as of yesterday afternoon, said Denise Linkenhoker, program support techni-

Health officials worried about flu bugging students

by Erin Zlomek
News Assistant

After five deaths in Colorado due to the influenza virus, the nation's public health officials are worried about the severity of this year's flu season. The staff at Schiffert Health Center has expressed similar concerns.

"The flu is highly contagious," said Janine Baker of the Schiffert Health Center. "I recommend (everyone on campus) get a flu shot just because we are in such a close-knit college community."

Baker said the flu shot offered at Virginia Tech is the same shot offered anywhere else in the country.

"The (Centers for Disease Control) set the standard nationally for what the vaccine should be," Baker said.

"We (submit) nasal swabs (each year) so the Department of Public Health and the CDC can evaluate what strands of the flu are going around."

Slight variations are then made to

the vaccine each year.

"New (strands of the flu) are being discovered all the time," Baker said. "It's a guessing game every year."

Baker said we have only brushed the tip of what will be this year's flu season.

"We have only had a sprinkling of cases since students came back from break," Baker said. "The number of (diagnosed students) has gone up since this time last year."

Thirty-seven flu cases were reported at Tech this week alone. However, this number only includes those who have visited Schiffert for treatment.

"It's like when someone asks how many STD cases are on campus — we can only report on the number of cases that we actually see," Baker said. "It does not include the students who have gone to see other doctors."

Flu shots are available for \$11 at Schiffert, but this option is not open for all students.

"We get a limited amount of vaccines, so we only offer them to high risk students," Baker said. High-risk students are identified as having asthma, diabetes or an autoimmune disease.

The contracted company Intravene already held two clinics this year to provide shots for the rest of the campus population. Intravene has also held clinics at the University of

See FLU, page 7



ELEANOR HOPSON/SPPS

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See ROADS, page 3

Starbucks to start brewing near Tech

by Aaron Blackwell
Associate News Editor

The Blacksburg community will have another option when trying to satisfy caffeine fixes. Starbucks will set up shop early next year on University City Blvd.

"I think (Starbucks) will do very well," said Vittorio Bonomo, co-owner of Bonomo Plaza — the coffee shop's future home — and Virginia Tech professor of finance.

Starbucks has been interested in having a store in Blacksburg for a while, Bonomo said. Representatives from Starbucks came to visit the area, but wanted a location on University City Blvd.

At the time, none were available, he said. The company preferred to stay away from the downtown area.

Bonomo said Starbucks chooses their locations very carefully and favors the collegiate atmosphere.

The company is environmentally and socially conscious, contributing to causes like literary programs, and Bonomo said Starbucks feels a college town will have people who are sympathetic to those kinds of causes.

Bonomo said he's been waiting for the chain to come to Blacksburg.

"I think it's about time we got a Starbucks," he said.

Since the company studies possible locations before moving in, Bonomo said other large chain businesses will look at Blacksburg as a more desirable place to do business.

Managers of local coffee shops don't see the new arrival as a threat to their businesses.

"I don't think it will hurt us," said Scott Elich, owner of Mill Mountain Coffee & Tea, which has been located on North

See STARBUCKS, page 2

Memorial to be held honoring professor

▪ Fredrick Lutze was an aerospace engineering professor who had been at Tech since 1966

by Ellen Biltz
News Assistant

A memorial will be held this afternoon for the late Fredrick Lutze, an aerospace engineering professor. McCoy Funeral Home will hold the service at 2 p.m. today. The ceremony will be in the chapel at 150 Country Club Drive in Blacksburg.

According to Aerospace and Ocean Engineering Associate Dean Wayne Neu, the cause of death is unknown. Lutze passed away Monday evening.

"He was certainly very well respected and well liked by both stu-



Lutze

dents and faculty," Neu said.

Lutze had been teaching at Virginia Tech since 1966. Neu said he was by far the most senior professor in his department.

Lutze graduated from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in 1959. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Arizona and has been teaching at Tech ever since.

Over the years, Lutze has been involved in a variety of research projects in the area of dynamics and control, steady and post-stall aerodynamic modeling and trajectory analysis.

"He was really winding down on the research work," Neu said.

Although he officially retired in August 2003 and holds the title Professor Emeritus, Lutze still continued with his work at Tech.

Lutze's classes this semester consisted of similar topics to those he researched, Neu said. He taught introduction to aerospace engineering

along with dynamics and control and other aerospace engineering classes.

"I am sure they will have someone to cover the classes," said Larry Hincker, university spokesman.

A class schedule for Lutze had been planned out for next semester as well.

"That would be a whole different situation," Hincker said. "What will be done about next semester's classes will have to be decided by the department."

Lutze was also involved in the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. He was an associate fellow of the organization. Another of his activities involved being a member of Sigma Gamma Tau, an honorary society. He was also published in a variety of journals.

A Scholarship Fund has been made in his name. Donations can be made to the Fred Lutze Memorial Scholarship Fund.

"(Lutze) was certainly very well respected and well liked by both students and faculty."

Wayne Neu
associate dean, aerospace
and ocean engineering

Four-week break not atypical for Tech

▪ The winter break portion of the academic calendar is scheduled years in advance — this year's was planned in 1999

by Christina Peña
News Assistant

Even though it seems like Virginia Tech has not had a four-week winter break in a long time, it is actually not too peculiar and the reason this year is no different than any other year.

"The call is established by a university committee. There is nothing magic about it," said Associate Registrar Marvin Foushee.

The first factor in planning out the academic calendar is a deal made with Radford University. Tech and Radford agreed to not have their spring commencement on the same days because of hotel

availability.

"Both schools have had their commencements on the same days in previous years, but it turned into a disaster," said David Vaughan, chair of the Academic Support Committee of the University Council.

"A sufficient number of hotel rooms were not available for all parents and family, and that was years ago when both schools were smaller."

Tech and Radford pick which days they will hold their spring commencement and then the registrar and the University Council work backward to plan the rest of the year.

The academic calendar is also planned out in advance. This year's academic calendar was approved April 19, 1999 by the University Council.

The second factor in the decision is the fact

that the fall semester and spring semester must be the same number of days, Foushee said.

"(The length of the winter break) doesn't effect spring semester, because it just makes the same number of days."

David Vaughan
chair, Academic Support
Committee

By having a longer winter break, the number of days in the spring semester is balanced.

"(The length of the winter break) doesn't effect spring semester, because it just makes the same number of days," Vaughan said.

Vaughan and Foushee also said every fourth year is different because of leap year.

"Plus, the calendar is not exactly divisible by seven days per week," Vaughan said.

Tech's academic calendar is also different because there is no fall break like at universities, and, instead, there is a week-long Thanksgiving break, Vaughan said.

many other is a week-long Thanksgiving break, Vaughan said.

News in Brief

Rush Limbaugh's medical records seized

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Rush Limbaugh told listeners on his radio show Thursday that prosecutors in Palm Beach County have seized medical records from four of his doctors, but he called the investigation a "fishing expedition."

Limbaugh, reading from a statement prepared by his attorney, denied any wrongdoing and said the medical records will clear him.

"What these records show is that Mr. Limbaugh suffered extreme pain and had legitimate reasons for taking pain medication," Limbaugh said, reading from the statement by attorney Roy Black.

Va. jobless rate hits 29-month low

RICHMOND (AP) — Virginia's unemployment rate in October fell to 3.4 percent, the lowest rate in 29 months, the Virginia Employment Commission said Thursday.

The last month with a lower jobless rate was May 2001, when 3.2 percent of Virginians were out of work. The October 2003 unemployment rate was down from 3.8 percent in September.

Virginia's most recent unemployment rate also was well below both the October 2002 jobless level of 3.8 percent and the October 2003 national unemployment rate of 5.6 percent.

Bail set in N.D. kidnapping case

GRAND FORKS, N.D. (AP) — The man charged with kidnapping in the disappearance of University of North Dakota student who remains missing said through his lawyer Thursday that he wanted to remain in custody for his own safety.

Alfonso Rodriguez Jr., 50, a three-time convicted rapist, appeared at his bond hearing court wearing a brown parka over orange jail clothes. He spoke briefly in response to the judge's questions and only then to acknowledge that he understood the charges against him. The judge set bail at \$5 million.

Rick Brown, an assistant state's attorney for Grand Forks County, asked for the high bond because, there was a strong likelihood that he would commit more crimes.

Men outnumbered in med school apps

BOSTON (AP) — For the first time ever, women outnumbered men among applicants this fall to the nation's medical schools — a milestone in the slow but steady increase in the number of aspiring female doctors.

Nearly 35,000 men and women applied for the 2003-04 school year, a 3.4 percent increase over last year and the first increase since 1996. More than 17,600 of the applicants — or 50.8 percent — were women, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges.

Students go hands-on in Appomattox

by Amy Matzke
Staff Writer

This semester, Virginia Tech graduate students are getting hands-on experience with the local town government of Appomattox as part of their curriculum.

The students are participating in a service-learning course called "Performance Measurement and Benchmarking for Local Government" as part of their master's degree work in public administration.

After introductory class meetings and a midterm quiz, the students traveled independently to Appomattox each week to work with public departments such as wastewater treatment, general administration and public works.

A progress report is submitted during bi-weekly class meetings to Chad Miller, class professor and faculty member of the Office of Economic Development, a part of Outreach and International Affairs.

Last semester, students in the

class worked in Nelson County, executing many of the same projects as in Appomattox.

At the end of the semester, a report was produced, exploring the departments the students were involved with. After the study, Miller and John Augenbaugh, another faculty member of OED, organized a daylong training program to implement the findings of the semesters' efforts.

A seminar was also held to develop planning strategies for the future.

Miller said the program will work much the same way as this semester in Appomattox, with a few modifications to fit the needs of the specific locality.

This semester, the work was slightly delayed by Hurricane

Isabel, but is now on its way to completion.

Around the end of December, the students will be presenting the findings of their study to the Blacksburg Town Council. After the presentation, workshops will be planned to implement the findings into the town's function.

"At this point, the students are working very hard to gather information pertaining to the study," said David Garrett, Appomattox town manager. "I think we'll get a study that we can actually implement."

This is the fourth semester a class of this nature has been implemented in collaboration with Tech's Center for Public Administration and Policy.

The course is modeled after

the Pamplin School of Business' International Market Planning Program.

"It's really been interesting to see government in action, especially in a smaller town, without the resources available to larger localities," said Jessica Evans, a Master of Public Administration candidate. "My group is dealing specifically with the wastewater treatment functions provided by the town. This is definitely a less-than-glamorous service provided by the town, but it is certainly a vital function. This is definitely a behind-the-scenes look at local government."

Another group, researching the public works department, is surveying citizens to determine satisfaction with the current county services.

"The town is very responsive to its citizen needs," said Andy Sorrell, a graduate research assistant at the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute.

Sorrell said the project provides weekly brush pickup, daily leave pickup (in season), snow removal and regular trash pickup.

"It's really been interesting to see government in action, especially in a smaller town, without the resources available to larger localities."

Jessica Evans
Master of Public Administration candidate

Starbucks: Store will replace Bonomo's

Continued from page 1

Main St. for 13 years.

Elich said he has a loyal customer base, and the prices at his shop are better than what Starbucks offers.

Russ Chisholm, owner of the Easy Chair Coffee Shop in University Mall, said Starbucks could actually help

business.

"This is typically good because it introduces more people to the product," he said.

Chisholm said Blacksburg is already a competitive town for business and Starbucks won't make much of a difference.

"I don't know that we're concerned as far as Starbucks being

a competitor. We're pretty well established," he said.






Chisholm said he will rely on his current customer base, which is heavily comprised of students who study at the Math Emporium.

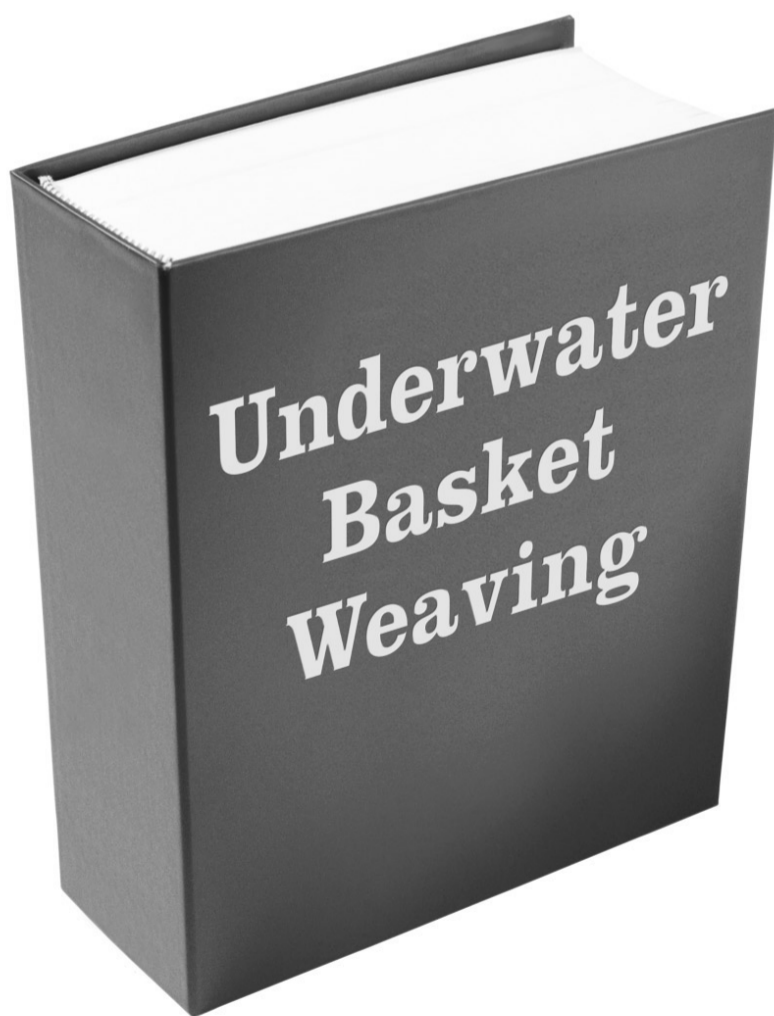
In fact, the shop has extended hours and is open 24 hours many days a week, he said.

Bonomo said the company's new location will only help other coffee establishments.

"People get in a coffee culture and want more coffee," he said.

This is the first Starbucks in Virginia, west of Charlottesville, and will be located in what is currently Bonomo's clothing store.

STOCK MARKET REPORT — 1/13/2003 —	TONIGHT	WEDNESDAY	WEDNESDAY NIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
NOT	 Cloudy with scattered flurries	 Partly sunny	 Becoming cloudy	 Chance of snow	 Cloudy with a chance of snow
	Lows: 15° - 20°	Highs: 25° - 30°	Lows: 15° - 20°	20°/30°	15°/30°
	WEATHER				



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Gag order put on in sniper trial

■ The gag order was imposed after a letter written by Malvo was leaked and printed in the Washington Post

by **Sonja Barisic**
Associated Press

CHESAPEAKE — Nearly a year after his arrest in the Washington-area sniper attacks, Lee Boyd Malvo's mood was oddly cheerful and "seemed quite out of step with the seriousness of the situation," a psychologist who examined him testified Thursday.

"It was almost a goofy affect," said David Schretlen, who teaches at Johns Hopkins University.

Lawyers for 18-year-old Malvo, on trial for his life in one of the 10 fatal sniper shootings during in the capital region in October 2002, are using an insanity defense, arguing that sniper mastermind John Allen Muhammad brainwashed the young man.

Muhammad, 42, was convicted last month of capital murder in another of the shootings; a jury recommended the death sentence.

Schretlen concluded that Malvo produced an "abnormal neurophysical examination," saying Malvo described himself as somewhat of an introverted

person, "socially alienated" and "hypervigilant."

Possible causes of the abnormal results could include depression or anxiety, he testified Thursday. On cross-examination, however, he said Malvo "did not strike me as being the least bit depressed" or anxious.

Schretlen noted that many of the test results were normal, and none indicated Malvo was psychotic.

Circuit Judge Jane Marum Roush had started Thursday's court session with a stern order to the attorneys in the case to stop talking to the news media after a letter written by Malvo appeared in The Washington Post.

Roush had refused to let defense attorneys show or read the letter to the jury, saying it was hearsay. The Post printed the letter's text Thursday and included excerpts in Malvo's handwriting. The newspaper did not say how it obtained the letter.

Before the jury was called in Thursday, the judge questioned the prosecutors and defense attorneys in the case. All told her they did not leak the letter. Roush also said she was disturbed by the daily news conferences defense attorneys had been holding after court.

"I'm going to enter a gag order because I am increasingly disturbed by this. I think it's an attempt to reach the jurors

or the jurors' families," Roush said. "No more talking to the papers, no more having press conferences."

Defense lawyer Michael Arif had argued in court Wednesday that the jury should be allowed to see the letter because it showed Malvo's gloomy state of mind just months before the sniper spree that left 10 people dead in and around the nation's capital.

After court, defense attorneys said there may be other ways to get the letter into evidence, but they did not elaborate.

Malvo wrote the letter to LaToria Williams, a teenage niece of convicted sniper mastermind John Allen Muhammad, during a visit to Muhammad's family in Baton Rouge, La., just weeks before the October 2002 sniper attacks that killed 10 people in the Washington area.

Williams testified outside the jury's presence that she was scared after reading the letter because "he said that he was a ticking time bomb."

Also Thursday, a handwriting expert testified that Malvo wrote notes left for police at two of the shooting scenes, and he said Malvo's handwriting is on a Tarot card inscribed with the words "Call me God" that was left at another scene.

"It is my opinion that Lee Boyd Malvo is the author of those three documents," Larry F. Ziegler said.

Roads: VDOT, police, BT part of decision-making process

Continued from page 1

cian for Tech police.

According to Elvey, the Physical Plant was ready for the storm.

"This was a pretty easy storm for us. It was predicted well in advance," Elvey said during a lull in snowfall.

Around 2:30 p.m., word came that the university would cancel evening classes. Shortly after, the snow began to pick up again.

The process of canceling classes is more complicated than people think, said Larry Hincker, university spokesman.

A group including the Physical Plant director, vice president of administration and the executive vice president make the decision along with the provost and President Charles Steger, he said.

The group keeps in contact with VDOT, state police and Blacksburg Transit during the decision-making process, Hincker

said.

"The decision is based on the condition of sidewalks, roads on campus, roads leading to campus and whether or not the BT is running," he said.

Additional snow and the projection of freezing rain led officials to cancel evening classes, he said. A decision is not made until around 5 a.m. for morning and afternoon classes.

Hincker said not everyone is pleased with a decision one way or another. Sometimes faculty members call up and complain when classes are canceled.

Sometimes people living in outlying areas call, upset that classes were not canceled, he said.

"If the bulk of students and faculty can get to class, we have to make that decision. Then,

people who live in the farther-outlying areas have to make the decision for themselves," he said.

"I don't think I've ever had a student complain about classes being canceled."

"The decision (to hold classes) is based on the condition of sidewalks, roads on campus, roads leading to campus, and whether or not the BT is running."

Larry Hincker
university spokesman

Police force questioned following death

by **Terry Kinney**
Associated Press

CINCINNATI — A crowd of 300 residents questioned city officials about police use of force after a coroner determined a black man's death was caused mainly by his struggle with police officers.

Some cried Wednesday night as they watched a videotape of the confrontation Sunday between six officers and 41-year-old Nathaniel Jones. Video shot from a police cruiser showed that Jones swung at an officer, and that officers hit him repeatedly with nightsticks.

Roy Jones, 31, said he was concerned that the investigation would find "police followed procedures."

"That always seems to be the outcome of these investi-

gations," he said at a forum sponsored by the city's Human Relations Commission. "I think that shows that the procedures need to be reviewed."

Police Chief Thomas Streicher Jr. and City Manager Valerie Lemmie said several investigations were under way and police procedures would be reviewed.

Streicher has said the videotape showed that police officers observed department guidelines. But activists say Jones' death was another example of brutality by Cincinnati

police against blacks in a city that was rocked by race riots two years ago.

Hamilton County Coroner Carl Parrott said Wednesday that the death would be ruled a homicide, but that such a ruling "should not be interpreted as implying inappropriate behav-

ior or the use of excessive force by police."

He said the autopsy found Jones suffered from an enlarged heart, obesity and had intoxicating levels of cocaine, PCP and methanol in his blood. Jones' body had bruising on the lower half, but did not show signs of blows to the head or organ damage, he said.

The coroner said he had to rule the death a homicide because it didn't fall under other categories of a death in Ohio: accident, suicide or natural. Jones' death certificate will list a cause of death as an irregular heart beat because of a stress reaction from the violent struggle, Parrott said.

The family's lawyer, Ken Lawson, said Jones' body was being taken to Indianapolis for an independent autopsy.

He said the family had not decided if it would file a wrongful death lawsuit against the city but felt that an independent investigation was needed.


"(Police following procedures) always seems to be the outcome of these investigations. I think that shows that the procedures need to be reviewed."

Roy Jones
Cincinnati resident

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Rumsfeld meets with Afghan leader

by Robert Burns
Associated Press

MAZAR-e-SHARIF, Afghanistan — Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld met with the two main warlords of northern Afghanistan on Thursday and said he is satisfied that they have begun disarming — if more slowly than some had hoped.

Rumsfeld met with Abdul Rashid Dostum and Atta Mohammed, whose armies remain in conflict, at a dusty compound used by the British army as headquarters for a civil-military reconstruction project where they are working to improve security and calm tensions between rival factions.

Afterward, at a joint news conference, Rumsfeld said he told Dostum and Mohammed that the United States thinks their disarmament is "an important step for this country."

He said "their response was certainly positive and appropriate."

Rumsfeld also met with Afghan President Hamid Karzai. Karzai said the country was irretrievably committed to developing democracy. "The Taliban ... will not be able to disrupt this process."

He also said the problem of regional warlords "is being tackled aggressively."

About two hours after the meeting, a rocket exploded in a field about 300 yards from the U.S. Embassy in Kabul.

A U.S. military official said Rumsfeld had safely left the country to continue his tour of Central Asia. No one was injured in the explosion, which one official blamed on the Taliban or their ally, renegade warlord Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

It was not immediately known whether Rumsfeld was still in Afghanistan when the

blast occurred.

On disarmament, the British Army has formed a "provincial reconstruction team" designed to accelerate the process while enabling humanitarian organizations to work in areas wracked by civil strife.

Rumsfeld had arrived in a U.S. Air Force C-17 cargo plane and was driven to the headquarters of British Col. Dickie Davis, who heads the British provincial reconstruction team.

Rumsfeld was briefed on the work being done and was meeting later with the governor of Balkh province, Habibullah, before sitting down with the two warlords.

During Thursday's visit, Rumsfeld also was to meet with U.S. troops.

In addition to the work U.S. and allied combat forces are undertaking to hunt down remnants of the Taliban regime in eastern Afghanistan, there is

a growing focus on the reconstruction teams, which use a combination of civilian experts and military security to jumpstart reconstruction in various areas outside Kabul.

Rumsfeld was asked after his meeting with the warlords whether he was concerned about a resurgence of the Taliban in southeastern Afghanistan. "It's no great surprise," he said. "Those who have been defeated and removed would like to come back. That's always been the case. But they will not have that opportunity."

If U.S. troops detect Taliban or al-Qaida assembling in more than "ones and twos," Rumsfeld said, "they'll be killed or captured."

The United States has about 10,000 soldiers in Afghanistan.

It was Rumsfeld's first visit to Mazar-e-Sharif, the principal city in the northern part of the country.

Bush lifts steel tariff after retaliation threat

by Martin Crutsinger
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Facing the threat of a trade war, President Bush on Thursday lifted 20-month-old tariffs on foreign steel, a move that will hurt steelmakers in states critical in next year's election.

To soften the blow, the administration announced a beefed-up monitoring program to guard against a sudden flood of foreign steel coming into the country.

Within minutes of the announcement, the 15-nation European Union announced in Brussels that it was lifting its threat of sanctions on \$2.2 billion of U.S. products.

"These sanctions ... were there as a tool for compliance," EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy said. "They've complied and the sanctions will disappear."

Bush said the tariffs had been imposed to give the domestic industry critical time to modernize and to protect jobs.

"These safeguard measures have now achieved their purpose, and as a result of changed economic circumstances, it is time to lift them," Bush said in a statement.

The tariffs, covering a wide range of steel products, were originally scheduled to remain in effect for three years, until 2005, to give U.S. steelmakers protection from foreign competition.

The president acted after the European Union and other trading partners threatened to impose billions of dollars in sanctions on a wide range of U.S. products made in states considered to be critical in next year's presidential race.

While those states — ranging

from Florida to California — will escape foreign retaliation on their products, other key states, including West Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania, are home to domestic steel makers who will now face greater foreign competition.

Bush said the tariffs had enabled U.S. steel companies to compete both at home and globally. He said the administration would continue to monitor foreign steel imports to make sure that U.S. companies are not again faced with unfair foreign competition.

He said that U.S. negotiators would continue to push America's trading partners to put in place "new and strong disciplines on subsidies" that foreign governments provide to their domestic steel producers.

"I strongly believe that America's workers can compete with anyone in the world as

long as we have a fair and level playing field," Bush said in the statement read by White House spokesman Scott McClellan.

U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick said that the situation facing the U.S. steel industry has improved greatly since Bush imposed the tariffs. Sales of domestic steel and company profits are up dramatically.

"Not only is the industry much stronger today than it was 20 months ago, but the economic circumstances ... have changed," Zoellick said. The 15-nation European Union had vowed to retaliate against \$2.2 billion of American products by mid-December unless the United States removed the steel tariffs, which were ruled illegal by the World Trade Organization. Japan and South Korea have also said they were considering retaliation.

"These safeguard measures have now achieved their purpose, and as a result of changed economic circumstances, it is time to lift them."

George Bush
U.S. President



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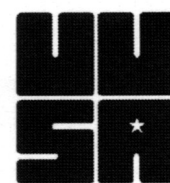
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U.S. must think globally when fixing global problems

Kate Lynch and Bryan Nieder

The Kyoto Protocol, an international treaty aimed at cutting greenhouse gas emissions in order to decrease global warming, is facing dissolution in the face of waning support by industrial and post-industrial countries. Russia's ratification would revive the pact and push it into implementation.

Movement toward ratification was declared Wednesday by Russia, despite objections from a top aide to President Vladimir Putin who said that the accord would be ratified if it proved to be in the economic interest of Russia.

When the Bush administration refused to ratify the Kyoto accord, Russia gained control of the accord's future. For the accord to go into effect, it requires the support of the countries that produce 55 percent of the world's emissions.

During the treaty's baseline year, 1990, Russia produced 17 percent of those emissions, leaving it one of the main contributors to the world's problem of gas emissions.

Russia's gas emissions now, however, are much lower than in 1990, but because the accord is basing reduction numbers from that year, Russia could profit by selling the excess pollution quota to countries that are struggling to meet the numbers allotted by the Kyoto Protocol.

As a substitute for the Kyoto Protocol, the United States wishes to suggest an emissions trading policy. This type of emissions trading policy is very effective domestically. However, according to Ross Gelbspan's article in the May, 2002 edition of the Ecologist, it is hard to monitor this type of policy internationally.

For example, international carbon trading is hard to monitor because carbon is emitted from millions of sources all over the world. Also, there is no binding international regulatory system

to enforce emissions limits. In fact, industrial nations are permitted to borrow from future allocations to avoid meeting specified limits within designated dates.

On the other hand, the Kyoto Protocol calls for a cap and trade scheme, which means a country that emits less than its quota could sell its unused allotment to another country. That country could then emit that much more than its assigned quota.

This type of trading would mostly occur between industrialized nations. Though most nations say trading should be used to supplement domestic emissions cuts, the United States insists on meeting all of its Kyoto obligations through trading.

The problem lies in developing nations not having the technology to meet emission standards. Since global warming is an international crisis, America needs to help itself and the world by contributing to the Earth's well being. Looking at how a policy worked domestically does not guarantee success abroad.

The number one thing that must occur is for the United States to ratify the Kyoto Protocol. The signing of it would accomplish two things. One, it would commit the United States to cutting its emissions of greenhouse gases. Second, and more importantly, it would show an international solidarity towards the issue.

If there is no international standard for the issue, then countries could take matters into their own hands. A collaborative effort is needed for developing nations to become effectively involved in the improvements.

Following an international agreement, like Kyoto, the United States should take their actions a step further like many European nations have done.

Kate Lynch is the opinions editor and Bryan Nieder is the editorial assistant for the Collegiate Times.

Advancement of society lies with more than marriage

Chris Janey

I have a few problems with the column "Homosexuals do not deserve marriage" (CT, Dec. 3). The author begins with the statement "Homosexuality is not a lifestyle deserving of the responsibility and honor of marriage."

According to the facts and statistics I have seen, I don't think most heterosexuals are very deserving. How should we feel about the 50 percent of straight people whose marriages end in divorce?

How can they be allowed a second, third, maybe even fourth go at upholding the honor of marriage? How exactly does one become deserving of marriage rights?

If marriage is for propagation only, as the author implies, should infertile women and sterile men not be allowed to marry? What about couples that never have children, should they be forced to divorce after childbearing becomes impossible?

The best part of the author's argument was the paragraph "Homosexuals will plead, beg, lie and trick common non-thinking citizens into believing they have a right to marriage, but the fact is they have as much right to marriage as I do to marrying my bowling ball, because they do not further the advancement of our society."

There are hundreds of respectable, successful and deserving gay and lesbian couples that

adopt children and provide a happy and loving environment for them.

These people are bringing up their children to be accepting and open-minded, helping to advance society more than any hate-teaching, close-minded bigot with a bowling ball ever will.

The column continues with some excerpts from a book written by someone who seems to be just as ignorant as the author of the column, and then winds down with a few more opinion-, not fact-based arguments.

One is how homosexuals have "crept into our politically correct society." I do not think there is any need at all to comment on the laughable fallacies of this statement. It ends with some propaganda on how homosexuality is a sin, blah blah blah.

The column is written under the title "Homosexuals do not deserve marriage," but I think a more appropriate title would be "Homosexuals deserve mindless oppression." The author just wants to get the point across that he hates homosexuality and so should everyone else.

The column is nothing but an inflated opinion of a scared, yet pompous little person, and should be read with pity for its author and anyone ignorant enough to agree with it.

Chris Janey is a junior clothing and textiles major.

Letters to the Editor

Homosexuals need equality, not treatment

In the article "Homosexuals do not deserve marriage" (CT, Dec. 3), declaring that I do not deserve the same rights that the author does, I find it interesting that there seems to be no solid evidence of how homosexuality is a disorder.

Sure, you can read a book or quote the Bible, but that doesn't make you an expert on homosexuality.

Perhaps the author of the article would like to meet a gay person or spend time with a gay couple before asserting whether or not he believes that homosexuality is a disorder.

There are plenty of gay and lesbian couples who are living right here in Blacksburg who are in committed, loving relationships that have been going on since well before the author was born.

It deeply worries me that the author brings up treatment for homosexuality.

You can train a gay man to not like men — you can also make people believe two plus two is five.

Even if you train a gay man to not act out his homosexual feelings, he will never lose his attraction to men.

The author may also want to check his facts. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force was founded in 1973 and had no "great political pressure" to exhort on the American Psychiatric Association.

Furthermore, gays do help society advance, contrary to the author's assertion — from Harvey Milk to Elton John, to the thousands upon thousands of American citizens who have had to stay in the closet because of closed-minded people.

This homosexual has never lied to or tricked non-thinking citizens into supporting gay marriage.

I've only worked with fair-minded citizens who believe that true equality comes with equal rights for all Americans.

Toby Quaranta
sophomore,
political science and sociology

Free speech applies to all

I could not disagree more with the editorial "School must tighten dress code" (CT, Dec. 3).

Why is an "inoffensive atmosphere" considered a desirable standard for a public school?

I say bring on the offensive!
How are we going to expect students to be able to make their own value judgments if controversy is only addressed "in a controlled forum mediated by teachers and authority figures."

There is no constitutional freedom from being offended; a "stop the war" T-shirt would be as equally offensive to a portion

of reasonable students as an NRA T-shirt would be to others. Whose free speech is more important?

The free exchange of ideas is the basis of a liberal democracy, and all forms and forums should be protected from unnecessary regulation, even if it is just T-shirts in a middle school.

Sam Harvey
geoscience

Homosexuality is not a disorder

I'm writing in response to the article "Homosexuals do not deserve marriage" (CT, Dec. 3).

I first would like to thank him; articles and viewpoints like his may hurt the gay community, but they also allow for those outside the community to get a better understanding of the hatred, intolerance and injustice we face.

In the article, the author argues that the American Psychological Association should not have removed homosexuality from its list of mental disorders in their Diagnostic and Statistical Manual.

However, on the APA's website (www.apa.org) under the guidelines for psychotherapy with lesbian, gay and bisexual clients, they write, "The literature that classifies homosexuality and bisexuality as mental illness has been found to be methodologically unsound."

Gonsiorek (1991) reviewed this literature and found serious methodological flaws, including unclear definition of terms, inaccurate classification of subjects, inappropriate comparison of groups, discrepant sampling procedures, an ignorance of confounding social factors and questionable outcome measures.

The results from these flawed studies have been used to support theories of homosexuality as mental illness and/or arrested psychosexual development.

Although these studies concluded that homosexuality is a mental illness, they have no valid empirical support and serve as the foundation for beliefs that lead to inaccurate representations of lesbian, gay and bisexual people."

I believe the author should do more research and get a better understanding of both sides of the argument before presenting his case.

How would a heterosexual be able to understand what it's like to be queer? The article was nothing more than homophobic ramblings.

That's why I will conclude this response with a theory presented on the APA's website on homophobia:

"Psychoanalytic theory holds that homophobia — the fear, anxiety, anger, discomfort and aversion that some ostensibly heterosexual people hold for gay individuals — is the result of repressed homosexual urges that the person is either unaware of or denies.

Justin Shaffer
senior, political science

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The Collegiate Times, a division of the Educational Media Company at Virginia Tech, was established in 1903 by and for the students of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. The Collegiate Times is published every Tuesday through Friday of the academic year except during exams and vacations. The Collegiate Times receives no funding from the university.

The Collegiate Times can be found online at <www.collegiatetimes.com>.

Except where noted, all photographs were taken by the Student Publications Photo Staff. The Collegiate Times is located in 363 Squires Student Center, Blacksburg, Va. 24061. (540) 231-9860. Fax (540) 231-5057.

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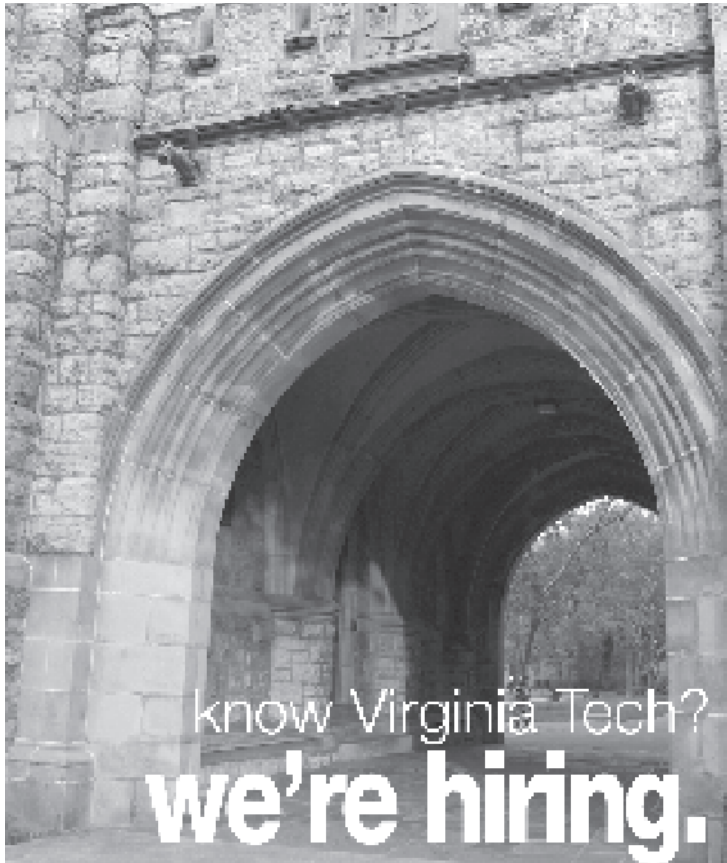
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Features

Boys choir brings holiday spirit

Anne-Henley Beck

Coming into the auditorium of Burruss Hall to hear the Moscow Boys Choir last night, I was not prepared for the unique presentation of songs that ensued.

Unlike other choirs, the Moscow Boys Choir possessed a witty humor in their presentation.

Aging from nine to eighteen years old, the boys' talented abilities to perform soprano with bass, tenor and baritone were well reflected in the selections of Christmas music and Russian folk songs.

Audience members ranged from kids as young as the performers themselves to students, middle aged and elderly community members.

To start with, the choir began with a slow melody, "All the Angels in the Sky Rejoiceth" by S. Degtiarev, and immediately the Russian accent could subtly be heard.

Not only did the accent add a special element to the performance, but also even more charming were the bows taken after each piece.

As individual choir members were given credit for solo performances, their bows ranged from a slight head nod from one of the smallest boys to a gigantic head ducking from one of the eldest.

And to add on to the charm, after bowing once and starting to scamper back to their positions, the choir master and conductor, Mr. Leonid Baklushin, quickly reminded them with his hand to return and bow again.

In the first set of the performance, during the song "Fum! Fum! Fum!" arranged by A. Snyder, the break in beat gave way to laughter from the crowd, which was just a preview of what was to come.

Accompanied by pianist Alexei Nesterenko, pieces such as "Ave Maria," by J. Bach and C. Gounod and "Holy Night" arranged by M. Huff were given high praise from audience members.

"I really liked the soloist in 'Holy Night,' and the build-up of the song," said Heather Doyle, a senior biochemistry major. "They're so good and so cute. They have such style in their bows."

Another audience member, and Blacksburg community member remarked on how the accent of the choir gave songs like Handel's "Messiah" a "punch."

To liven things up after intermission, clapping and bells woke the audience back up in "Christmas in Killarney," by Cavanaugh, Redmond, and Weldon, and a solo guitarist performance from Mr. Boris Kadnikov added to "What Child Is This" by W.C. Dix.

The most entertaining piece by

far though, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" epitomized the clever humor that the boys incorporated into their performances.

Different boys performed the different days, each with a unique style of pitch, beat and intonations made audience members reel with laughter. To top it off, for the sixth day, in which the verse, "six geese a-swaying" is sung, the soloist, in a very low pitch and drawn-out accent, actually swaggered as though a geese himself. Applause and cheers followed.

The choir left the auditorium with "America the Beautiful," in which audience members stood and sang along, followed by a

traditional Russian folk song that ended the night with a bang of bells and chimes (one of which was thrown out to the crowd).

Not quite a rock concert, the Moscow Boys Choir's talents and humor brought a new side to Christmas carols in Blacksburg.

The Moscow Boys Choir consists of thirty boys, who are chosen from 400 at the school, The Moscow Boys Capella. They have toured worldwide. With artistic director, Ninel Kamburg, Moscow Boys Choir has performed for the British Royal family and former President Clinton.

Anne-Henley Beck is a staff writer for the Collegiate Times.



DAVE FRANUSICH/SPPS

Ranging from ages nine to 18, members of the Moscow Boys Choir exhibited superior vocal talent and unexpected humor.

Rockafella acts ready to take Tech by storm

Eliot Kriviski
Features Editor

The semester has flown by, projects and papers are piling up and it's one week until exam time. So what can a Virginia Tech student look forward to in this last weekend of freedom?

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and Ascension Productions plan to answer that question by bringing a special hip-hop show of epic proportions this Saturday to Burruss Hall Auditorium.

Both organizations have worked especially hard to bring a quality concert experience to Tech, given the recent lack of mainstream urban music concerts on campus.

The concert is the culmination of a chain of events that the fraternity has been holding all week, said Bryan Davis, president of Alpha Phi Alpha and senior business management major.

The past week, the fraternity has been holding a variety of activities dealing with social and racial issues, such as a

forum discussing the portrayal of African Americans in the media on Tuesday, and a Miss Egyptian Goddess Pageant that will be held tonight in Squires Commonwealth Ballroom.

Yet the fraternity said they hope the concert will be the biggest event this week, Davis said.

"(We're) trying to attract all audiences, and trying to bring people together to share something that they can appreciate, which is the music," Davis said.

Ascension Entertainment has also played a huge role in bringing the concert to Tech.

Moe Hamden, owner of Ascension Entertainment and a senior finance major enrolled at Radford University, has worked extensively with Rockfella Records in the past.

Hamden has worked with artists such as the D.C.-based Ginuwine and brought Jay-Z to the MCI Center in D.C. a few years ago.

Hamden said he hopes that with this concert he can make a push for more diverse music in southwestern Virginia.

"The last two years have been rough because we've had artists cancel on us, such as Ja Rule and Cam'ron, and it would be a shame to have these great artists here this weekend and not have an audience to watch them perform," Hamden said.

Mainstream rap artists Young Gunz and R&B mogul Tank will be headlining the show, which also includes other artists such as Freeway and Memphis Bleek.

All of which are appearing courtesy of Rockfella Records, a mainstream rap record label who boasts renowned rap superstars, such as Cam'ron and Jay-Z.

Hamden has also talked about the possibility of a special guest appearance.

"There's a good chance there could be a surprise from the head man of Rockfella," Hamden hinted.

Tickets are \$15 for students and \$20 for non-students through the Squires Ticket Office, and Ascension Entertainment will be selling tickets for as low as \$12 though contact by e-mail, at ascension@hightop.suncom.net.

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Sports

Jones: KJ set 3 records in '03

Continued from page 1

Hokies faced a similar situation in 2001 before the team played Clemson in the Gator Bowl with Vick, and members of the team viewed it as an unnecessary annoyance.

"I called this press conference today to say that we can focus on the bowl game against (the University of California) and not have my decision be a distraction for our team," Jones said.

"This shows you what Kevin is all about," Beamer said. "(He wanted) to get this done and not be a distraction for the bowl. If I know one thing, it's that this football team is important to Kevin and Kevin is thinking about this football team right now."

There was much speculation surrounding Jones' post-season intentions, especially after an ESPN's Magazine article interviewed Jones and his father and mentioned a high probability that he will enter the professional ranks after this season. Jones, however, maintained all season that his decision will come after the season is over. Tuesday evening, Jones' intention to turn professional was made public, coming just over 72 hours after Tech's season-ending loss to the University of Virginia Cavaliers.

"I just came to the decision a couple days ago," Jones said. "I talked to my parents, coach Hite and coach Beamer, and I was feeling double-sided. I love it here, I love my coaches, I love my teammates and at the same time, I felt it was time to move on. It's one of the biggest decision's I've ever made in my life, kind of the most important decision too," Jones added. "It's a big relief, now I can get it off my chest and keep it out of my mind and concentrate on the bowl game."

“ (Kevin Jones is) the best tailback that's ever played at Virginia Tech.”

Billy Hite
Tech running back coach

Much has been made of Jones' father, Thomas, who has been in Blacksburg for most of the season, putting his son through grueling work-out routines as often as four times a week after his daily football practice.

They both admitted that the work put in was towards postseason accolades such as the Doak Walker award and the Heisman Trophy, but Jones' father did admit, on several different occasions, that the efforts put in were with an eye towards the future.

"This is a glorious day, this is what all the hard work was all about," Thomas Jones said. "Every step, every run, every lift, (we were) thinking about the pros. He's hardworking, a great

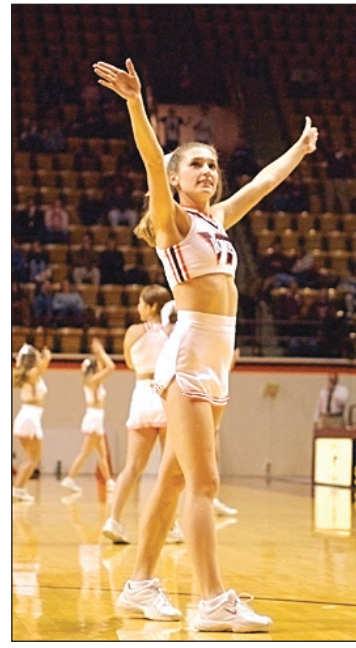
kid, a great son, I love him to death and he's going to realize his dreams for himself."

Jones will leave as the third leading rusher in Tech history, amassing 3,322 yards on 600 carries and 34 touchdowns. The Tech coaching staff is also quick to point out that his successful career came with only one year as a full-time starter in the Virginia Tech backfield, as he was the co-starter at running back during the 2001 and 2002 seasons.

"With the ball in his arm, he's the best tailback I've ever coached. He's the best tailback that's ever played at Virginia Tech," Hite said. "His motivation, desire, competitiveness — he's a freak. With the future he has ahead of him, I feel like he's making the right decision and I want to wish him the best of luck."

In what is now his final season with the Hokies, Jones has run for a school record 1,494 yards and 20 touchdowns. His eight consecutive 100-yard plus rushing efforts mark another school record. His 241-yard rushing effort in the loss against the University of Pittsburgh is the all-time single-game record for the Hokies.

"The program has had some people leave early, and Kevin won't be the last one. That's just part of it," Beamer said. "You take great pride in your program (when it) has this type of player in it. (He will) go on and do a lot of good things for Virginia Tech for a long time to come."



ROBERT DRAKE/SPPS

Lady Hokies beat ODU

■ The No. 24 Lady Hokies improved to 5-0 after defeating in-state rival Old Dominion, 79-72

by Naemah McDuffey
Staff Writer

The Virginia Tech women's basketball team defeated Old Dominion University 79-72 last night at Cassell Coliseum.

The score remained close in the first half as the Hokies got off to a strong start, shooting nearly 50 percent (14-29) from the floor and dominating in the paint.

However, Old Dominion, who shot 42.1 percent (16-38) from the field, made a strong comeback. The Lady Monarchs were able to take advantage of Tech's carelessness with the ball, scoring 10 points off the Hokies eight first-half turnovers. ODU also beat Tech on the boards, out rebounding the Hokies 20-18.

With about four minutes remaining in the first half, the Monarchs made a 13-3 run that was capped off by Shareese Grant's layup with three seconds remaining in the period. The Hokies entered the intermission trailing 35-34.



ROBERT DRAKE/SPPS

Dawn Chriss (No. 23) shot 6 of 9 from the field and scored 21 points in Tech's 79-72 win over Old Dominion University.

ODU started off the second half with a small run, and continued to stay in control until their star player, Monique Coker, got into foul trouble four minutes into the second half. The absence of Coker hurt the Monarch's offense and really opened up the floor for Tech.

"We had a good inside out game," said Tech guard Dawn Chriss "That really helped us keep close and get the victory."

In Coker's absence, Ieva Kublina and Erin Gibson dominated the paint leading the Hokies on a 23-5 run, giving Tech a commanding 66-52 lead with eight minutes to go in the game.

The Monarchs were unable to recover from the Hokies' offensive explosion, as they trailed by double digits for the rest of the game. Though ODU fought to get back in the game, they didn't seem to be enough to get the win.

Tech ended the game shooting 51.7 percent (15-29) from the floor, outscored Old Dominion 48-32 in the paint, getting 20 second chance points as opposed to Old Dominion's 12.

Chriss and Kublina were the game's high scorers, pouring in 21 points each. Additionally, Kublina had grabbed eight rebounds and blocked three shots, while Chriss chipped in seven rebounds and two assists of her own. Gibson did her part, scoring 20 points on 8-14 from the field and snagging nine rebounds.

For Old Dominion, Grant led the way with 21 points. Behind her was Coker with 18 points, 10 rebounds and five assists.

With the win, the Lady Hokies are now 5-0 and are quickly moving up in the rankings. Even with their early success, the team still remains humble and focused.

"Give (ODU) credit ... they hit some tough shots," said Tech head coach Bonnie Henrickson.

In preparation for the next game, Henrickson said that the team still needs to identify areas for improvement and proclaimed that "we're going to be better, and we have to be better".

The Hokies will be back in action Dec 7, when they travel to Tuscaloosa, Ala. to face the University of Alabama Crimson Tide.



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