

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

See **FLU**, page 7



ELEANOR HOPSON/SPPS

Many students opted to ride the Blacksburg Transit during yesterday's snowstorm. The operation of the BT is vital for holding classes.

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-

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.

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

Wayne Neu
associate dean, aerospace
and ocean engineering

"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

Four-week break not atypical for Tech

■ The academic calendar, including winter break, 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.

MEMORIAL GATHERING

in celebration of the life of

Fredrick Lutze

AN AEROSPACE ENGINEERING PROFESSOR

Friday, December 5th,
2:00pm
McCoy Funeral Home



A.J. MANDRACCHIA

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.






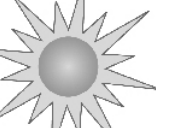
Chisholm said he will rely on his current customer base, which is heavily comprised of students who study at the Math Emporium.

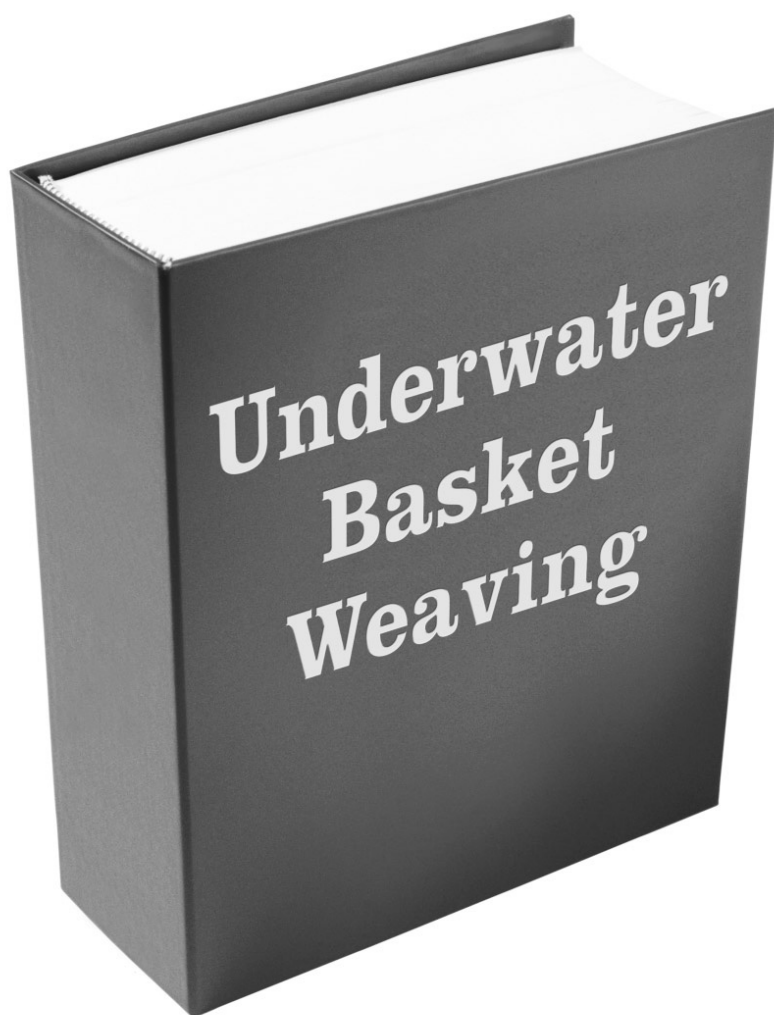
In fact, the shop has extended hours and is open 24 hours many days a week, he said.

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 — 12/03/2003 —		WEATHER	TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SATURDAY NIGHT	SUNDAY	MONDAY
DJIA	9930.82 ▲ 57.40							
NASDAQ	1968.80 ▲ 8.55		Cloudy / Freezing Rain	Snow, 2"-4" accumulation	Mostly cloudy, chance of aft. snow	Cloudy; chance of snow showers	Partly cloudy	Mostly sunny
S&P 500	1069.72 ▲ 4.99		Highs: 34°-37°	Lows: 24°-27°	Highs: 29°-33°	Lows: 22°-26°	40°/23°	46°/28°



Sell it on half.com and get more out of it than you did all semester.

Get a better return on your textbooks by selling them direct to buyers on half.com. Just click on "sell your stuff." It's easy, and you'll never have to stand in line. Remember, half.com is not just a great place to sell textbooks, it's also a great place to buy holiday gifts!

half.com™
by eBay®



Holiday gifts at half prices.

Great deals on all the hottest gifts, including the latest DVDs, CDs, video games and more!

For a limited time, first-time buyers
Save an additional \$5
on purchases of \$50 or more!
Simply use this code:
GOHOKIES

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

Accelerate Your Success

Seeking the competitive edge in today's highly competitive marketplace? Choose to pursue a technology-driven graduate program at New Jersey Institute of Technology. Interact with distinguished faculty in more than 50 graduate degree programs, including hot career tracks in biomedical engineering, computational biology, computer science, information systems and management (MBA). Full time, part time study and eLearning available.


Contact: Ms. Nancy Vega
Office of Graduate Admissions
1-800-925-NJIT;
973-596-3300
vegan@adm.njit.edu



New Jersey Institute of Technology
A Public Research University
UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS
NEWARK, NJ 07102-1982
AA/EOE

Join Us For Our Annual

4 HOUR ONLY SALE!




Thursday, December 11
University Bookstore
Volume Two Bookstore
5 pm - 9 pm

25% OFF


Clothing & Gifts, General Books, Supplies, and Clinique!
Plus, Special Savings on SELECT Computer Items!

Both Bookstores will close at 4 pm on Thursday, December 11 and reopen at 5 pm for the sale.

Excludes textbooks, diploma frames, graduation regalia, food & tobacco products, special orders, educationally restricted software, computer items except as marked, magazines, newspapers, items already on sale and other items as determined.




UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORE
On Campus, next to Newman Library
Mon - Fri 9 am - 6 pm
Sat 10 am - 6 pm
Sun 1 pm - 5 pm
(540) 231-5991




VOLUME TWO BOOKSTORE
Off Campus, in University Mall, next to Kroger
Mon - Sat 10 am - 9 pm
Sun 10 am - 6 pm
(540) 231-9674
WWW.BOOKSTORE.VT.EDU


Congratulations Graduates




Macado's wishes to thank all Virginia Tech students who have made this a successful semester. We also want to thank those graduating for making us a part of your college experience. We wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors and hope you will return soon.



THINK OF US FOR ALL YOUR GRADUATION CATERING AND DINING NEEDS



Great family atmosphere
Large groups welcome
Video games for the kids
Lasagna Supreme and other
Great pasta dishes



Huge, overstuffed sandwiches
Carryout and catering available
Boo Boo Bomber and deli trays
perfect for large number of guest
Plenty of free parking

922 University City Blvd., Blacksburg

953-2700

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



Restaurant & Bar

A Downtown Blacksburg Favorite Since 1992.

14 TV's with NFL Sunday Ticket & College Gameday. Plus 6 Pool Tables!

- Featuring Pizza, Wings, Burgers, Subs, Salads and Homemade Soups.
- Beer Wine Cocktails
- Semi-Private Party Rooms

study in class, party at PK's 552-1577

Open Daily - 11am • Eat In - Dine Out - Delivery
432 N Main St — Across from Campus

higher MCAT score guaranteed or your money back

Get the high MCAT score you need with the best classroom course and targeted extra practice.

Classes starting at Virginia Tech
January 10 and January 31, 2004.

*MCAT is a registered trademark of the Association of American Medical Colleges.

**Attend all required classes or make-up sessions, complete all scheduled tests, and do your homework. If your score doesn't improve on test day from your Kaplan diagnostic or a prior official test score, you can choose to repeat our program for free or get a full refund of your tuition. To be eligible for this offer, you must be enrolled in Kaplan's full classroom, tutoring, or online courses. In addition, you must present an official copy of your score report and submit your course materials within 90 days.

World Leader in Test Prep and Admissions



1-800-KAP-TEST
kaptest.com/premed

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE VIRGINIA TECH BOARD OF VISITORS

Applications are being solicited for the positions of student representatives to the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors to be appointed for 2004 – 2005. Two positions will be open: one for an **undergraduate** student and one for a **graduate** student. Application materials and selection procedures are available in the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, **112 Burruss Hall**, and in the Student Activities Office, **319 Squires Student Center**. Applications are also available on the Student Affairs home page at www.vpsa.vt.edu/bovrep. Any students who meets the eligibility standards below may apply.

Minimum Eligibility Standards: Undergraduate students must be enrolled as a full-time resident student during the year of their Board service and have at least a **2.3 QCA** with **70 semester** hours passed towards an undergraduate degree at the time application is submitted. Graduate students must be enrolled as a full-time student at the Blacksburg campus and must be in good standing.

Information Meeting: There will be an informational meeting for those interested in applying for the position on **January 23, 2004, 4:00-5:00p.m. in 110 Burruss Hall.**

Application Deadline: All undergraduate and graduate application materials must be completed and returned by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, **February 2, 2004**, to the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, **112 Burruss Hall**, or to the Student Activities Office, **319 Squires Student Center.**

VIRGINIA TECH MAN & WOMAN OF THE YEAR

EACH YEAR, VIRGINIA TECH SELECTS TWO UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS TO BE HONORED FOR THEIR BALANCED ACHIEVEMENT IN A VARIETY OF AREAS INCLUDING OUTSTANDING SCHOLARSHIP, LEADERSHIP, SERVICE, AND COMMITMENT TO THE UNIVERSITY BY NAMING THEM THE **2004 MAN & WOMAN OF THE YEAR**

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- ALL CANDIDATES MUST BE GRADUATING IN EITHER MAY, OR DECEMBER 2004.
- ALL CANDIDATES MUST HAVE A MINIMUM G.P.A. OF 3.3.
- CANDIDATES MUST NOT CURRENTLY BE ON JUDICIAL OR MILITARY PROBATION.

APPLICATION DEADLINE
FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2004

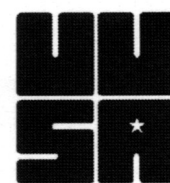
RECIPIENTS WILL BE RECOGNIZED AT AN AWARDS CEREMONY
ON APRIL 17, 2004

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON-LINE AT WWW.UUSA.VT.EDU
(SEE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT) OR IN 319 SQUIRES STUDENT CENTER

The Department of Student Activities on behalf of the Division of Student Affairs administers this program. Questions should be directed to Erica Estep, Assistant Director of Leadership Development, (540) 231-5725, fax (540) 231-5430, or email erestep@vt.edu



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY



OPINIONS COMMENTARY

EDITOR IN CHIEF
JEREMY DOEHNERT
MANAGING EDITORS
TIFFANY HOFFMAN
A.J. MANDRACCHIA
OPINIONS EDITOR
KATE LYNCH
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT
BRYAN NIEDER

EDITORIAL BOARD
Jeremy Doehnert, Tiffany Hoffman,
A.J. Mandracchia, Eliot Kriviski,
Rajan Nanavati, Kumar Malhotra,
Robert Drake, Eleanor Hopson,
Kate Lynch, Bryan Nieder

Homophobic christians quick to condemn homosexuality

David Sharrer

I certainly hope Chris Berge's opinion piece "Homosexuals do not deserve marriage" (CT, Dec. 3), is not indicative of the ideology of the Virginia Tech community. His arguments tend to lack sound deductive reasoning, reek of bigotry and spread false truths about a group of people who already have to deal with enough negative stigmatization.

First of all, the word "deserve" appears several times. Is marriage a reward for being straight that is to be earned?

Marriage is simply a legal contract between two people. Any spiritual, emotional or other implications may be added by the couple, their families or even their churches, but they are not integral to marriage as far as the law is concerned.

What is deserved by all people is equal treatment under the law. If a heterosexual couple can benefit from the institution of marriage, such as by filing jointly for taxes, a gay couple should be able to do the same.

Berge tries to make the point that, from a secular standpoint, government control of marriage is intended to increase the population while reducing the number of illegitimate children.

This falsely assumes gays, who are not allowed to marry, will then choose to enter into heterosexual marriages and have children.

If gay people do not choose their sexual orientation, as Berge concedes, then they are no more able to choose to be straight.

And if anyone can explain to me how a homosexual couple can produce a legitimate child, much less an illegitimate one, I would be extremely shocked.

Also, if the purpose of straight marriages is to produce children, then why are infertile straight people allowed to marry? Marriage is about a commitment between two people, not producing children.

Without mentioning James Dobson is a biased source of information as a minister and the founder of Focus on the Family, Berge presents opinions from Dobson's book as fact, manipulating statistics as he sees fit.

The American Psychiatric Association is not a homosexual organization, nor is it pushed around by gay interests.

It merely has changed its policies based on

research. Some of this research has shown homosexuality may be caused by genetic, congenital or anatomical factors and that sexual orientation is highly resistant to change.

Contrary to Berge's assertion that homosexuality is a disorder, the APA has ruled it is not because it "implies no impairment in judgment, stability, reliability or general social or vocational capabilities."

However, even if Berge, Dobson and others were correct in their assertions, the Americans with Disabilities Act prohibits discriminating against those with disorders such as these, as not allowing them to marry does.

It is also interesting that Berge discredits the genetic link by stating the twin of a homosexual is only 50 percent more likely to also be homosexual. This is actually a pretty considerable increase; if there were no genetic link, we would expect no change. Bipolar disorder, considered to be a genetic mental disorder, only produces a 62 percent concordance in identical twins.

Berge also brings religion into the debate. This should have no place in our legal system because of the separation of church and state. Nor should religion be used to prove or disprove scientific fact (certainly the religions appreciate science not interfering with their faith).

Also, homophobic Christians are quick to cite the Bible's condemnation of homosexuality, yet seem to skip over the parts about lying and adultery, not to mention the kosher dietary laws.

But most of all, if a person like Berge or Dobson believes homosexuality to be morally wrong, they simply should not be gay.

If a gay person does not see anything wrong with their chosen lifestyle, then why should they have Christian beliefs forced upon them?

If divorce and infidelity in straight marriages have not destroyed the sacredness of the institution, then gay people marrying certainly won't either.

Perhaps most troubling is the blatant bigotry Berge portrays. He says, "(homosexuals) have as much right to marriage as I do to marrying my bowling ball."

He is comparing a human being to an inanimate object. Homosexuals are people too, and they deserve to have the same rights as those of us who are straight enjoy.

David Sharrer is a senior psychology major.

Government has no say in the desire of two adults

Kate Anderson

I am writing in response to the editorial "Homosexuals do not deserve marriage" (CT, Dec. 3). Chris Berge had several holes in his arguments that I feel compelled to note.

Berge states, "(homosexuals) do not further the advancement of our society." This statement completely ignores the important contributions of homosexuals over the course of human advancement.

Alexander the Great conquered the known world at the age of 19, spreading the knowledge and enlightenment of Greek culture. Oscar Wilde wrote novels and plays that are still read and performed worldwide.

There are currently two known causes for mental disorders — biological and psychological. For homosexuality to be considered a mental disorder, it would have to fall under one of these two categories.

Berge states there is no genetic link to homosexuality. To make that statement is to imply that scientists have completely mapped the human genome and know what every gene does. This is simply not the case as geneticists are still unsure how different genes may interact to manifest themselves in a person.

If there is no predisposition, then homosexuality would have to be a psychological disorder as opposed to a chemical problem, like chronic depression, hyperactivity or Bipolar disorder. A chemical imbalance can be treated with medications, while a psychosis can only be treated through therapy.

To be a psychosis, there must be a trig-

gering event — ask most homosexuals to identify a triggering event that turned them gay and they probably can't.

To declare homosexuality a mental disorder despite the American Psychiatric Association dropping it from their Diagnostic and Statistic Manual is ridiculous. Because the APA changed its opinion after years of study indicates they are doing an excellent job reviewing their policies.

Their Diagnostic and Statistic Manual doesn't change often, but when it does it is after careful research. Remember, it took the APA decades to recognize post-traumatic stress syndrome as a disorder needing treatment.

To conclude his argument by stating Darwin wouldn't endorse it is immature.

To say it's unnatural is ludicrous, however. The family of the Whiptail lizard surprised biologists when detailed studies of it were made.

It was discovered of the genus *Cnemidophorus*, 30 percent of the known species are entirely female. This is correct — there exist no males — so a species can survive past a single generation.

Despite Berge's belief, it is not the government's position to dictate the morality of society. What occurs between two consenting adults is not the government's job to regulate. Homosexuals should be allowed to join together as a couple and receive the rights other committed heterosexuals receive.

This should be their right, not just as consenting adults, but also as citizens of a country priding itself on equality.

Kate Anderson is a junior clothing and textiles major.

Insurance companies must help in fighting obesity

Kate Lynch

As the American obesity rate increases, the resulting supersized insurance rates will thin out the wallets of the obese citizenry losing the battle of the bulge.

In 2000, The American Obesity Association reported, 64.5 percent of U.S. adults, age 20 years and older, are overweight, and 30.5 percent were obese. It appears that every year the number of people classified as obese or overweight increases.

The busy lifestyle that most Americans lead has much to do with the rising casualties. Improper nutrition from meals that are mostly fast food and packed with preservatives, as well as the lack of time allotted for proper exercise adds to the problem.

Unfortunately, there is no easy way to lose the weight and the programs that most people turn to for help are merely gimmicks. The weight loss programs that do work are fairly expensive with prices that few Americans can afford and most health insurance policies do not cover. Taking appetite suppressants and metabolic uppers are also not covered.

So why can health insurance charge overweight people more for health insurance?

According to a research project led by Dee W. Edgington, PhD, a researcher with the University of Michigan, overweight and obese people incur up to \$1,500 more in annual medical bills than healthy-weight people.

Health insurance companies refuse to cover ways to lose weight, but they will charge more if you are overweight. This type of policy is unfair and is counterintuitive to solving this problem afflicting America.

While it is understandable for health insurance companies to charge more for overweight people, due to the increased health risks associated with obesity, they should also have policies that cover a variety of weight loss possibilities.

Also, a time frame should be established for those suffering from obesity to have an opportunity to lose the excess weight. This gives incentive to overweight Americans, with little risk for the insurance companies.

Kate Lynch is the opinions editor for the Collegiate Times.



COLLEGIATE TIMES

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

Letters, commentaries and editorial cartoons do not reflect the views of the Collegiate Times.

Editorials are written by the Collegiate Times editorial board as shown above.

Letters to the editor are submissions from Collegiate Times readers. We reserve the right to edit for anything. Anonymous letters will not be printed.

•Have a news tip?
Call 231-9865 or e-mail
editor@collegiatetimes.com

CT Phone Numbers
News/Features 231-9865
Sports/Opinions 231-9870
Editor-in-Chief 231-9867

VOICE YOUR OPINION. READERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SEND LETTERS AND COMMENTS TO THE COLLEGIATE TIMES,

121 Squires Student Center, Blacksburg, Va. 24061.
Fax: (540) 231-5057, e-mail: opinions@collegiatetimes.com

Students must include name, year, major and phone number.
Faculty and staff must include name, position and department.
All other submissions must include name, residence, and if

applicable, relationship to Virginia Tech (i.e. alumni, parent, etc.).
Letters should not exceed 300 words.
Columns are between 700 and 900 words.

CT Staff Positions

Editor in Chief Jeremy Doehnert
Managing Editor Tiffany Hoffman
Managing Editor of Design A.J. Mandracchia
Associate News Editors Eric Beidel, Aaron Blackwell
News Assistants Ellen Biltz, Christina Peña, Jared Turner, Erin Zlomek
Opinions Editor Kate Lynch
Editorial Assistant Bryan Nieder
Features Editor Eliot Kriviski
Associate Features Editors Phil Comey, Ashley

Crockett, Brandon Morgan
Sports Editors Kumar Malhotra, Rajan Nanavati
Associate Sports Editors Adam Abramson, Michelle Hershman
Sports Assistant Jana Renn
Copy Editors Lauren Angelucci, Rachel DeLauder, Emily Krebs, Zoe Mathias
Photo Editors Robert Drake, Eleanor Hopson
Layout Designers Stephanie Cicala, Steven

Dishman, Tim Howlett, Patti Ramsey
Graphic Designers Chris Heuberger, Jonathan De Guzman
Public Relations Manager Laurie Brogdon
Ads Production Manager Angela Pelino
Ads Production Cathrine Roby, Chase Goitia, Annie Tsang, Blair Marchant
Ads Creation Jordan Condon, Ray Samonte
In-House Ads Creation Erica Erickson
Business Manager Nathan Jones
Office Manager Heather Lisi

Advertising Director Brooke Boles
Advertising Representatives Jaryn Creasy, Maggie Dodd, Christina Maloney, Kara Perkins, Stefanie Schulman
Account Managers Susan Carter, Rebecca Gardner, Kim Karrat, Raheel Khan, Scheria Lewis, Jeremy Lis, Brian Haynes, English Redmond
Web Manager Nipun Jawalkar
Web Assistants Andrew Brletich, Alwin Karlin, William Humphries

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.

Subscription Rates: \$65 semester; \$80 year.

© Collegiate Times, December 5, 2003. All rights reserved. Material published in the Collegiate Times is the property thereof, and may not be reprinted without the express written consent of the Collegiate Times.

Rocket fired in field near U.S. Embassy

■ The blast occurred just two hours after Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld left Afghanistan

by **Stephen Graham**
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Suspected Islamic militants fired a rocket into a field next to the U.S. Embassy here Thursday, Afghan authorities said.

The blast occurred less than two hours after Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld left the Afghan capital.

There were no reports of injuries in the 6:15 p.m. explosion about 300 yards from the embassy compound, and 100

yards from the headquarters of international peacekeepers in Kabul.

Rumsfeld had earlier held talks with President Hamid Karzai at his palace elsewhere in the city. The defense secretary left about 4 p.m. to continue his tour of Central Asia.

"We are reviewing our security posture," a spokesman at the heavily fortified embassy said. He spoke on condition of anonymity and declined further comment.

The blast underlined the violence plaguing Afghanistan two years after a U.S.-led offensive swept the Taliban regime from power and heightened tension in Kabul ahead of a loya jirga, or grand council, next week to ratify a constitution.

Thursday's blast echoed around the city, drawing swarms of Afghan police

and soldiers to an expanse of newly tilled field next to the U.S. Embassy compound.

Security officials walked the field with flashlights. One emerged from the darkness holding a piece of shrapnel he said was from a small rocket. Reporters were evicted before the impact site could be found.

Troops from the 5,700-strong International Security Assistance Force blocked roads around the U.S. compound.

Lt. Cmdr. Frank Coburn, a British ISAF spokesman, said a forensics team was sent to the site.

He said he couldn't confirm witness accounts suggesting it was a rocket.

Matyullah Ramani, a senior Kabul police officer, said: "It was Taliban or (Gulbuddin) Hekmatyar" — a renegade

commander allied with the Taliban. "They are trying to disrupt the loya jirga."

Karzai's administration has little control outside the capital because of attacks by pro-Taliban insurgents and fighting among provincial warlords.

Recently, attacks on aid workers and Afghan government staff have increased sharply in the south and the east, forcing relief agencies to reduce their work there. Kabul has also been affected.

Five rockets rained down on the city on the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks, slightly injuring one Canadian civilian working at a peacekeepers' base.

On Nov. 22, an explosion in the garden of an upscale hotel in Kabul frequented by foreigners shattered windows, but caused no injuries.

Church in Ireland releases study of sexual abuse by priests

by **Shawn Pogatchnik**
Associated Press

DUBLIN, Ireland — Roman Catholic bishops, releasing a damning report on their handling of child sex-abuse scandals, apologized Thursday and promised to improve systems for protecting children.

The 332-page report, stemming from two years of work by psychologists at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, detailed the damage the scandals have done to victims, the church and wider society in this overwhelmingly Catholic nation.

"This study makes painful reading, not least for a bishop," said Archbishop Sean Brady, president of the Irish Bishops Conference and leader of Ireland's 4 million Catholics. "It tells of mistakes made in responding to those who

came to the church seeking sensitivity and compassion."


More than 100 Irish clergy have been convicted of sex offenses in the last decade. The scandals toppled a government in 1994 after the Irish attorney-general delayed extradition of a priest wanted on sex abuse charges in neighboring Northern Ireland.

A compensation tribunal formed earlier this year is expected to pay up to \$700 million to thousands of claimants who allegedly suffered abuse in church-run schools, workhouses and orphanages from the 1940s to 1980s. The government agreed to foot most of the bill because it had ultimate responsibility for supervising the institutions.

ople over too long a period. For what has happened we are truly sorry," Bishop John McAreavey said at a press conference unveiling the report.

Donations Accepted
Platinum Donor: \$50
Gold Donor: \$25
Silver Donor: \$10
Red Ribbon Donor: \$5

AIDS Awareness Week 2003
 one world.one hope.one fight




Dance Party

drag show
 free admission
 refreshments will be provided


Commonwealth Ballroom, Squires Student Center
Friday, December 5th
9:00pm - 2:00am

Persons with disabilities requiring assistance should contact PRSE at 540-231-5961


LGBTQA 

Winter Break.


Education discounts for holiday shoppers.




Digital music
iPod, the ultimate portable digital music player and iTunes Music Store.



Portables
Thin, lightweight, and extremely powerful portables, PowerBook G4 and iBook G4.




Desktops
From space-saving designs to high performance computing, iMac and Power Mac G5.



Personal video conferencing
Sight, state-of-the-art video camera for crystal clear video chats.

Put Apple on your gift-giving—or receiving—list this holiday season. And get the break you need using Apple's ongoing, exclusive faculty and student discount. With iPod, an entire digital music collection can hit the road. All-new iSight makes live video chats with friends, family, and colleagues a crystal clear reality. And leading a digital lifestyle is easier than ever with a Mac portable or desktop computer. Compatible with Windows and loaded with everything you need. Visit an Apple Authorized Campus Reseller or the online store for Education for a winter break on holiday gifts from Apple.




University Bookstore • Volume Two Bookstore
 (540) 231-5991 • (540) 231-9674
www.bookstore.vt.edu click on Computers

Terms and conditions apply. See www.apple.com/education/ for details. © 2003 Apple Computer, Inc. All rights reserved. Apple, the Apple logo, iPod, iTunes Music Store and PowerBook G4 are trademarks of Apple Computer, Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. iPod and iSight are trademarks of Apple Computer, Inc. Other product and company names mentioned herein may be trademarks of their respective companies. L300421A

Authorized Campus Reseller

DO YOU HAVE THE GUTS...



the lats, the pecs, the quads
the biceps, the delts...

Do you have what it takes to put your whole body through an hour of cold steel and hot music?

If you do then you have what it takes to do **BODYPUMP**.
Only at New Town Fitness

STUDENT SPECIAL
Sign up for Spring Semester at \$1.00 per day and get December FREE!
 a minimum of Spring Semester (January 19 – May 12) must be paid in full to receive the free month.

New Town Fitness • 552-2555 • www.newtownfitness.com



Enliven Your Attitude With Live Entertainment

Thursday 12/4
College Night w/DJ Squirrel

Friday 12/5
Live Bands
Gregor Samsa
Red Admiral
Tripleside

Saturday 12/6
Karaoke
w/Rob Barnes

18 & Up with ID Everyday



Baltimore prosecutor found stabbed to death

BALTIMORE (AP) — A federal prosecutor was found shot and stabbed to death in a Pennsylvania creek Thursday after failing to show up at the trial of a rapper and another man accused of dealing heroin.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jonathan Luna, 38, was discovered face-down in the water behind the parking lot of a well-drilling company in Lancaster County, Pa., about 70 miles from Baltimore, Brecknock Township police said. A car was near the body, police said.

"Let there be no doubt. Let

there be no doubt that everyone in law enforcement, local police, state police, the United States Marshals Service, ATF, FBI, are united," U.S. Attorney Thomas DiBiagio said.

"We will find out who did this and we are dedicated to bringing the person responsible for this tragedy to justice."

Luna was prosecuting Baltimore rapper Deon Lionnel Smith, 32, and Walter Oriley Poindexter, 28, who were accused of dealing heroin and running a violent drug ring from their Stash House Records studio.

Smith recorded under the name Papi Jenkinz.

Authorities did not say whether the two men are under suspicion in the slaying. They were behind bars at the time.

Flu: Vaccine does has some side effects

Continued from page 1

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 Virginia and Liberty University.

"The reason we don't give (the shot to everyone) is because over 1,500 flu shots (were given at the two Intravene clinics)," Baker said. "We don't have enough manpower for that here at the health center — Intervene brings their own staff of nurses to administer the vaccine."

Baker said there are possible disadvantages to getting the vaccine.

"Any time you get an immunization there is a risk," Baker said. "There can always be a side effect."

Information about possible side effects is offered at Schiffert, as well as a fact sheet clearing up common miscon-

ceptions.

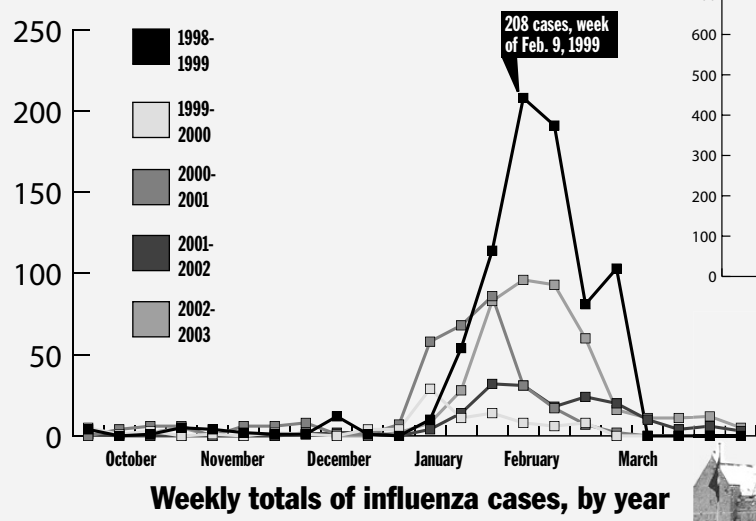
"You cannot get the flu from a flu shot," Baker said.

Other flu facts can be reached

by visiting the CDC Web site at www.cdc.gov. From this point on, students can still receive a flu shot from the Public

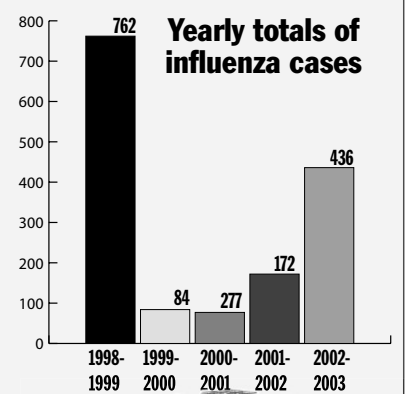
Department of health, or by calling Intravene at 1-800-272-3944 ext. 171 to arrange an appointment.

Influenza and Tech



SOURCE: Schiffert Health Center

Yearly totals of influenza cases



A.J. MANDRACCHIA/SPSS

Internet Made Easy!

LocalNet's **Unlimited** Internet access
\$9.95 PER MONTH!
 No Credit Card Required!
FREE SETUP SOFTWARE makes connecting fast & easy!
FIVE email boxes, Webmail, Instant Messaging and more!
Immediate Access - Sign Up Online
www.localnet.com
382-4873
 RELIABLE INTERNET ACCESS SINCE 1994

Need a teacher's opinion on your paper before it gets graded?
I Edit College Papers
 Professional Editing Services
www.shellycox.com
 With my help, your writing will sound better... Guaranteed

Virginia Tech

SUMMER STUDY IN PARIS

INFORMATION MEETING

- June 29 – Aug. 1, 2004
- 6 credit hours
- all levels of French, beginners to majors

www.fl.vt.edu/french/paris-program.html
 rjwatson@vt.edu

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 10
6:30 pm
1060 Torgersen Hall

Northern Virginia Students

Going home during the breaks?
Earn \$9.00 per hour
 Call (703) 318-7806 to set up an interview

RGIS Inventory Specialists EOE

Why do you live on campus? The Simplicity.

Living on campus makes life simple. As a college senior, it seems like my schedule is crammed with 400 things to do daily. Transportation and cooking just does not fit into my day. I have chosen to live on campus since my freshmen year to avoid parking hassles, traffic jams, frequent grocery runs, cooking fiascos, and apartment cleaning. Best of all, living on campus lets me live among a community of peers and enjoy their camaraderie. — Leslie, Class of 2003

ON-CAMPUS

Is Where It's At!

For more information about the housing application process, visit www.studentprograms.vt.edu.

Sign-up for 2004-2005 on-campus housing begins Monday, January 26 at 8:00 A.M. at www.studentprograms.vt.edu. Sign up will continue until Friday, January 30. There is no benefit to signing up on the first or last day.

Students who successfully obtain a Housing/Dining Contract through this online process will be e-mailed a contract by February 6. The contract and a \$100 prepayment will be due by 4:00 P.M. on Friday, February 20. Signed Housing/Dining Contracts will be legally binding for the 2004-2005 academic year and will not be cancelled unless the student ceases to attend Virginia Tech.

The Perfect Fit... We Have What You Are Looking For!

University Development Inc./DMI Communities

Maple Ridge Townhomes

344 Red Maple Drive
540-552-7002

- New 2 and 3 Bedroom Townhomes
- Washer and Dryer Included
- Pre-Wired for Ethernet, Cable & Phone
- On BT Route
- Brand New Welcome Center
- Fitness Center
- Tanning Bed
- Big Screen TV
- Fireplace

Hunters Ridge

1310 Henry Lane
540-951-5161

- 4 Bedroom / 2 Baths
- Spacious Floorplan
- Convenient Location
- Ample Parking
- Full Size Washer / Dryer
- Fitness Center
- Free Tanning Bed
- Clubhouse

Collegiate Suites

1310 Henry Lane
540-951-5161

- 1-2 and 4 Bedroom Apartments
- Every Bedroom has it's own bath
- Fitness Center
- Clubhouse

Accepting Applications for 2004-2005 School Year!!!

Office Hours • Monday-Fri day 9-5 • Saturday 10-2

Features

Crowe 'masters' big screen

Jason Bayer

Entering into this year's Oscar season, all the major film studios know the movie to beat for best picture is the third installment of the Lord of the Rings trilogy: "The Return of the King." With approximately six war epics coming out this fall, "Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World" was considered to have the best chance at dethroning the "King."

While it is certainly an extremely well done film, directed masterfully by Peter Weir (who brought us "Dead Poets Society" and "The Truman Show"), and well delivered (with Russell Crowe leading the way), LOTR will most likely be able to weather the storm.

Set against the backdrop of the Napoleonic Wars, the story follows the HMS Surprise, a British Frigate helmed by Capt. Jack Aubrey (Crowe), aka Lucky Jack to his crew. The ship has orders to stop the Acheron, a French warship, from spreading war to the waters surrounding South America.

The opening battle scene illustrates the superiority of the Acheron as a larger, faster vessel with almost twice the manpower. A masterful chess-like game ensues between the two ships — with Lucky Jack showing he has a few surprises of his own.

With a runtime of just under two hours and 20 minutes and only two battle scenes, the real victory of the movie is the out-

standing direction from Weir that keeps the film moving between the two.

The film establishes itself as more of a throwback to high-seas movies of old than an epic action movie by incorporating an impressive supporting cast in a successful attempt to illustrate what it would have been like to live as a sailor aboard such a ship.

The film not only follows the broodings Captain Aubrey over battle tactics, but also his social life and those of the crew, from the first mate's all the way down the line to the cook's. Weir is able to finesse the sort of camaraderie that draws the audience in and gives them a reason to care about the fate of the ship.

At points, the movie moves slowly and some of the events may come off as a bit strange, but this is apparently by design. Such events as having the captain of the ship believe in curses or having a twelve-year-old lead a group of men in battle may confuse some, but these each add to the historical accuracy of the film.

At this point of his career, excellent performances by Russell Crowe are simply expected, and he does not fail to deliver in this instance. In this role, he demonstrates he truly is master and commander of such epic period dramas.

A wonderful surprise, however, is the performance by Paul Bettany, who plays the doctor aboard the ship as well as Capt. Jack's friend and confidante, who remains a warm voice of reason

'Master and Commander'



Synopsis: Set during the Napoleonic Wars, Captain Jack Aubrey is on a mission to stop the larger, faster and better equipped French warship the Acheron.

Cast: Russell Crowe, Paul Bettany, James D'Arcy

Director: Peter Weir

Running Time: 138 min.

Rated PG-13

Grade: B

in a time of great madness. The role has sparked rumors of Oscar glory for him as well.

In a season filled with these epic films, each is going to be fighting for their share of the pie. By debuting first, "Master and Commander" gave itself a good three-week head start before the next comes out — Tom Cruise's "The Last Samurai."

Although it may not be a film everyone will enjoy because of its lengthy runtime compared to its lack of action, it is indeed well done and should find a solid audience.

Jason Bayer writes movie reviews for the Collegiate Times.

Rap, R&B lead Grammy nominees

by Nekesa Moody
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Rap and R&B have been consistent chart-toppers for the last few years, but in 2003 they took over pop music — and the Grammy nominations on Thursday.

The year's top-selling artist: rapper 50 Cent. Two of the year's biggest hits came from R&B singer Beyonce. In October, every spot on Billboard's top 10 singles chart was held by a rap or R&B artist.

Grammy voters took notice, doling out six nominations each to Beyonce, Jay-Z, OutKast and

Pharrell Williams.

"Hip-hop is at its most commercial point," Andre 3000 of the rap duo OutKast told The Associated Press. "It's pretty poppy, and it's popular this year."

Five nominations apiece went to Missy Elliott, Eminem, Evanescence, 50 Cent, Chad Hugo, Ricky Skaggs, Justin Timberlake, the ailing Luther Vandross and the late Warren Zevon.

Four of the five nominees for record of the year fell into the rap or R&B category: Beyonce's "Crazy in Love," "Where Is The Love," by The Black Eyed Peas & Justin Timberlake, "Lose

Yourself," by Eminem and "Hey Ya!" from OutKast. The brooding rock group Coldplay's song "Clocks" was the only exception. And rap and R&B also dominated the album of the year category: Missy Elliott's "Under Construction"; "Speakerboxxx/The Love Below" by OutKast; and "Justified," from Timberlake, which had the former boy-band star reach into R&B for his first solo effort. The White Stripes' "Elephant" and "Fallen" from goth rockers Evanescence rounded out the category.

However, in somewhat of a surprise, 50 Cent's "Get Rich or Die Tryin'," was shut out of the major categories.

Jackson's accusers provoked by TV

LOS ANGELES (AP) — More than a year ago, Michael Jackson let a television crew into his bizarre world for a TV documentary he no doubt hoped would boost his fading career.

Instead, "Living With Michael Jackson" may have triggered the child molestation case that threatens to destroy Jackson and his multimillion-dollar music empire.

Exactly what happened is a matter of dispute, but interviews with several sources close to Jackson and the accus-

er's family reveal one consistent thread: The documentary set in motion a series of events that led to the pop star's arrest last month.

The TV special, broadcast worldwide last February to an audience of millions, offered images of Jackson's fairy-tale estate, Neverland, his lonely trips to Las Vegas and his lavish spending habits. It also showed him talking about sleepovers with children at Neverland and holding the hand of a cancer-stricken boy — the boy who is now Jackson's accuser.

Those close to Jackson's defense team allege that around the time the TV special aired, the mother demanded a fee for her son's appearance. When Jackson refused, they say, the relationship between the family and Jackson soured.

In an alternate version, those close to the mother's side say she did not ask for payment.

Instead, they say Jackson began acting strangely just before the special aired, telling the family they were in danger and would have to leave their home.

Backstreets Restaurant

Two Strombolis or Two Calzones

Regular \$10.99 plus tax
Large \$15.99 plus tax

delivery and carry out only / expires 12-31-03

Extra Large Pizza

with two regular toppings and a 2 liter of Pepsi
\$ 10.99 plus tax

delivery and carry out only / expires 12-31-03

Deep Dish Pizza or Sicilian Style

with two toppings
12" \$ 10.99 plus tax

delivery and carry out only / expires 12-31-03

Two Large Steak and Cheese Subs

with a side of fries
\$ 11.99 plus tax

extra charge for additional items on sandwiches
delivery and carry out only / expires 12-31-03

Large One Item Pizza

\$ 8.99 plus tax
two for \$13.99 plus tax

delivery and carry out only / expires 12-31-03

552-6712

We deliver everything on our menu!

Wanted: Your Unwanted Textbooks

Cash In Hand



For Textbooks!



Get the best price for your textbooks, cash in hand and a Taco Bell meal deal to boot!

Taco Bell coupon for FREE Chicken Soft Taco or Bean Burrito plus a Nachos n Cheese & 16oz. Pepsi product!

(item subject to change, while supplies last)



TEXTBOOK BUYBACK

See locations, dates, and hours below

University Bookstore
231-5991

Dec. 8 - Dec. 19
Mon. - Fri. 9am-6pm
Sat. 10am-6pm
Sun. 1pm-5pm

Volume Two Bookstore
231-9674

Dec. 8 - Dec. 19
Mon. - Fri. 9am-9pm
Sat. 9am-7pm
Sun. 1pm-5pm

Dietrick General Store
231-7314

Hours As Posted

www.bookstore.vt.edu

HOLIDAY SHOPPING at the NEW

Coal Bank Hollow

Open MON-SAT, 10-6

1305 N. Main Street
Blacksburg • 552-4244

Neon/Retro Wall Clocks
Movie Posters/Frames
Coal Bank Hollow Calendars
Tiffany Lamps
Hammonds Candies
Vintage Candies & Tins
Unique Virginia Tech Gifts
Personalized Mailboxes
Byrd Cookies
Mole Hollow Candles
Coke Thermometers and More!

FREE GIFT WRAP!

BOMBER BREAD

DRUNKENNESS PROHIBITED.

15% OFF ALL PURCHASES OF Metal Diner Signs WITH THIS AD THROUGH DECEMBER 6, 2003

BOUDREAUXS.

p n
e i
n q
u
e
No Lines. e
a C
t o
e No cover charge.
961 2330 n k
n t
a i
l
s
W e
e k
n
s

We'll have a drink waiting.

downtown Blacksburg.



Fur flies on Happy Tree Friends DVD

■ The DVD contains 17 episodes of the Happy Tree Friends, which began in 1999

by **Eliot Kriviski**
Features Editor

Cartoons have long been the media refuge of cultural innocence, where anthropomorphic woodlands creatures of every species could frolic together, get into mischievous adventures, and no questions would be asked. This tradition is continued in animated short films on the Web site HappyTreeFriends.com, yet with a unique twist: Almost everyone dies.

Brutally. Now fans of the site can enjoy all the exquisite cartoonish carnage of Happy Tree Friends even when a computer or the Internet is not available.

For the holidays, Mondo Media, sponsor of Happy Tree Friends, collects 17 episodes from the website, plus tons of bonus material, to bring fans

and newbies alike the next DVD of the series, Happy Tree Friends: Second Serving.

The DVD was a big push for both the company and creators, said Christina Chavez of Mondo Media. Chavez said that there has been a large demand to continue Happy Tree Friends, and the first and second DVDs was the option chosen by Mondo in order to generate some revenue and make them more widely available.

"It was a theory that we wanted to test," Chavez said.

The past DVDs have given the creators a chance to give fans access to a lot of supplemental material and features that haven't found a place in the Happy Tree Friends universe as of yet. One example is Buddhist Monkey, who has his own special episode on Second Serving directed by Alan Lau, Navarro said.

"With Buddhist Monkey and a lot of other characters we have in the background, it's just a matter that we haven't quite found they're schtick yet, but they're all viable," Navarro said.

Happy Tree Friends started

out in 1999 as a joint product from the minds of the creators, Kenn Navarro, Rhode Montijo and Mondo Media, a company known for its push into internet multimedia with a whole lineup of animated webtoons, such as The God and Devil Show, and Thugs on Film.

Kenn Navarro describes Happy Tree Friends as a tribute, yet, at the same time, as a parody of the old cartoons he and Montijo wasted many Saturday mornings watching with bowls full of sugary cereal.

"We would like to see what would happen if all those old cartoons went horribly wrong," said Rhode Montijo co-creator of Happy Tree Friends, and author of a series of self-published comic books, "Pablo's Inferno." Each episode starts out in a peaceful, lighthearted manner, but for only about thirty seconds. From then on, it's anybody's guess as to how any of the 22 member-strong cast of cuddly creatures will face a gruesome demise.

One may think that the joke would get old at some point, but looking at other popular

animated shows, Happy Tree Friends has managed to carve a unique niche out of the internet web-show audience.

"We don't try to just skin the cat, we try to think of a funny way to skin the cat," Montijo said.

The web show is a unique form of video entertainment, one that is free from the hassles of networks, ratings and most of all, censorship.

Web shows enjoy a huge cult following among college students, with many tuning into the sexcapades of Jake at Romp.com, while other web shows have enjoyed unprecedented popularity, such as the animated web cartoon "Undercover Brother" by Ridely Scott, which was turned into a movie two years ago.

Lawsuit settlement favors club members

by **Sarah Coffey**
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine — A federal judge has approved a settlement of a lawsuit filed on behalf of millions of record club members who alleged they had been overcharged in a price-fixing conspiracy.

Under the settlement signed Wednesday by U.S. District Judge D. Brock Hornby, the CD buyers will receive vouchers to give them 75 percent discounts for new compact discs, which they will receive with no shipping or handling charges.

Some members will be eligible for as many as three discounts, said an attorney for the

plaintiffs, Michael Jaffe.

Hornby approved a \$143 million settlement in a related lawsuit last July that accused major record companies and large music retailers of conspiring to set minimum music prices.

Under that settlement, 3.5 million people are to receive checks for \$12.60 and libraries and schools across the country will get \$75.7 million worth of music CDs.

The lawsuit was signed by the attorneys general of 43 states and territories and consolidated in Portland in October 2000.

In agreeing to the settlement, the companies denied any wrongdoing.

High-Speed Internet Access Available

Stop Shopping & Start Living Foxridge Living



Amenities

- ◆ 1,2,3,4 Bedrooms with Optional Dens
- ◆ BT Bus Service to Virginia Tech
- ◆ Walking Trails to Virginia Tech
- ◆ 2 Swimming Pools
- ◆ Tennis, Basketball and Volleyball Courts
- ◆ 2 Clubhouses
- ◆ Fitness Center
- ◆ Car Wash Area
- ◆ 24-hour Emergency Maintenance

Features

- ◆ High-Speed Internet Access
- ◆ Guaranteed Lease Option
- ◆ **Free Heat and Hot Water**
- ◆ **Free Garbage and Sewage**
- ◆ Optional Washer & Dryer
- ◆ Optional Microwaves
- ◆ Optional Furniture Packages
- ◆ Spacious Floor Plans
- ◆ Planned Social Activities

FOX RIDGE
Apartment Homes
750 Hethwood Blvd. #100-G
Blacksburg, VA 1-888-260-6987


An **HUMANA** Community

FoxridgeLiving.com 1-888-260-6987

Valley Fellowship Church

Come Home for Christmas

Sundays, December 14, 21, & 28, 2003
10:30am



One symbol that seems to capture the emotions of Christmas maybe better than any other is the symbol of **Home** - home for the holidays. So many people go through so much effort to get home for Christmas. **Home** is where we belong. Those very words can be used to describe the relationship we can have with **Jesus Christ**.

Childcare for young children provided. Casual Dress. Food and Fellowship.
For More Info call: 382 - 0691

Valley Fellowship is meeting at the Christiansburg Recreation Center, 1600 N. Franklin St., Christiansburg

Four Points® Sheraton

Graduation Eve Seafood Buffet
Thursday December 18th
5:30pm - 9:30pm
Featuring: All You Can Eat Crab Legs, Shrimp, Scallops, Flounder, Chicken, and Beef

Graduation Day Buffet
Friday December 19th
1:00pm - 5:00pm
Featuring: All You Can Eat Prime Rib, Swordfish, Chicken, and Pasta

\$19.95 per person for either buffet
Reservations Recommended
552 - 7001



GUMBY'S Pizza
552-3200
201-A Prices Fork Rd.

FAST FREE DELIVERY

OPEN LATE HOURS

Mon- Wed	4pm- 2am
Thurs	4pm- 3am
Fri & Sat	11am- 3am
Sun	11am- 1am

CREDIT CARD/HOKIE PASSPORT

DORM SPECIAL

Valid Monday-Thursday Only/Delivered to Dorms Only

1 Topping Pizza OR Pokey Stix Medium **\$5.99** + tax
Large **\$6.99** + tax

Monday Madness (Valid Monday Only)
Large 14" 1 Topping Pizza only **\$4.99** + tax

Stick it to Me Tuesday (Valid Tuesday Only)
Buy one order of Pokey Stix at Regular Price And Get a 2nd Order of Equal or Lesser Value **FREE!!**

GUMBY DAMMIT
X-Large 16" 1 Topping Pizza only **\$7.99** + tax

Wing Ding (VALID WEDNESDAY ONLY)
Buy one PIZZA at regular price and get a 2nd Pizza of equal or lesser value **FREE**

Offers may Expire without notice/Prices do not include tax

PIGGY BANK FATTENER!

NOW LEASING!

CMG LEASING
1504 University City Boulevard
(540) 521-4814
www.cmgleasing.com



Traveling???

Lube Time



1402 North Main St. Blacksburg 552-7018

Market Place Christiansburg 381-1733

See us before you travel!

Sports

'Fire Beamer' talk unwarranted



Michelle & Ness Herschman

Word travels fast in Blacksburg, and the latest buzz on the streets of the Virginia Tech campus is that Frank Beamer needs to be tossed out with last week's trash. Hokie fans everywhere are itching to give Frankie the boot, and why?

Because we did not go undefeated this season. We did not beat in-state rival University of Virginia. We got embarrassed in Morgantown. Therefore, we are obviously a horrible football team with a horrible head coach.

Well, shame on you, Hokie fans. I recently wrote an article asking the question, does loyalty rest with the winning team? Well, the question has been answered for me 10 times over. Except nobody realizes we're still a winning team with a winning 8-4 record.

Imagine going to Temple University — their football team went 1-11 this season. Or think about being a student at James Madison University — they don't even register on Virginia's football radar.

Back in the day, our football team looked much like the Owls.

From 1948-1950, Tech won one game under head coach Robert McNeish. Frank Moseley came in and had the Hokies going 8-0-1 within a couple of years. Now that was a necessary coaching change. But even Moseley had a losing season.

In fact, until 1993, we had only gone to six bowl games since 1892 — the year Hokie football came about. Since then, we have been to a bowl game every single year. That's 10 straight bowl games, and the Hokies will make it 11 this year. And what do you know, it was Beamer who coached us through the last decade, it was Beamer who took us to the national championship in 2000 and it was Beamer who won eight national coach of the year awards following the 1999 season.

Despite these successes, in the past week, I've heard everything from "Beamer's not risky enough," to "Beamer's not passionate enough" to "Beamer just has no idea what he's doing." Well, after the Pittsburgh game, I heard "Beamer was being too risky on that fourth-and-four call."

After the West Virginia University game, Beamer was criticized for being too caught up in the game when he slapped Ernest Wilford's helmet. And after the Miami game, I think the many of you who rushed the field with

such enthusiasm would have kissed Beamer's feet for that glorious victory.

Make up your minds. He's just a football coach, not God. He can't work miracles on the field, he can't always get it right and he can't always win the game.

This year, I've been lucky enough to see first hand just how hard these athletes and coaches work. They give it their all on the field — taking hits, playing through pain, racking up injuries. And when they lose, it's heart-breaking.

You can see the pain in their faces right after the game. It's enough to knock some sense into any fan and make you realize how little effort fans put forth and how much they rely unfairly on these football players, these young men, these students to bring our school victory and the national spotlight.

Of course fans feel a huge let down after a big loss, but it can't compare to what Beamer and his boys feel. Fans all have our off days where we're not 100 percent. Cut the man some slack and really take a look at his accomplishments and his hard work before you give up on him. If in the next couple of years the Hokies make it to a national championship, I bet you will all be singing a different tune with Beamer as the chorus. Won't the fans be hypocrites then?

I, too, was spoiled by coming

in on the Michael Vick bandwagon that led us straight to New Orleans, but at a certain point you have to realize we came close to perfection that year, and nobody's perfect.

We all went into the subsequent years with raised expectations, as we should have because every year we've had a good football team with a winning record. Maybe Beamer didn't lead us to another national championship, but how many other memories do we have?

Going to the walk before the Miami game where the streets were just lined with fans cheering their hearts out, rushing the field in thousands after the game, scoring six different ways against JMU and watching Kevin Jones break the single game rushing record against the University of Pittsburgh are memories I will never forget.

Beamerball and its founder will go down in the record books at Virginia Tech, and I am grateful I got to attend a school with a football team as talented as the Hokies and a football coach who led us to victory more times than losses. Thank you Frank Beamer for making my college experience one I will never forget, and thank you to the loyal fans who give Lane Stadium a unique Hokie atmosphere that will always be in my heart.

Sports Notes

Tennis: Four women players placed in top national rankings

Four Virginia Tech women's tennis team members are ranked in the Fall Intercollegiate Tennis Association East Region singles and doubles rankings. Sophomore Anat Elazari is ranked No. 21 in singles, after going 5-5 in the fall season.

Elazari is ranked No. 14 in doubles with partner Carolyn Kramer.

Juniors Elissa Kinard and Felice Lam are the other doubles team in the rankings at No. 3. They went 11-2 over the fall season to earn their status.

The team will be in action at 9 a.m. Jan. 24 when they host Seton Hall at the Burrows/Burleson Tennis Center. Later in the day, they will host James Madison.

Football: Grove named finalist for national award, All American

Hokie center Jake Grove was named a finalist for the Dave Rimington Trophy Thursday. The four-year-old award honors the top center in college football and is named after a college center for Nebraska during the 1981-82 seasons.

Other finalists are Vince Carter of Oklahoma University, Norm Katnik of the University of Southern California, Nick Lacey of Kansas State University, Hugh Reilly of Georgia Tech, and Ben Wilkerson of Louisiana State University.

The winner will be announced at a banquet Dec. 13 at the Roco Theater in Lincoln, Neb. Money raised from the banquet will be donated to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, which is hosted by the Boomer Esiason Foundation.

Grove was also named to the American Football Coaches Association's All America first team. Running back Kevin Jones received first team honors as well.

ENLIST IN THE T-REX ARMY

for special new release prices every week

- ⊕ Rent DVD Movies for only \$1
- ⊕ New and Used CDs and Music DVDs
- ⊕ Buy, Sell and Trade CDs, DVD Movies and Video Games
- ⊕ Cash Offers and 50% MORE Credit Offers for Trade-ins
- ⊕ Shop 24 Hours at www.trexonline.com

THE RECORD EXCHANGE

Non-Corporate and Lovin' It Since 1979

YOUR RECRUITER: JUST ACROSS MAIN STREET IN DOWNTOWN BLACKSBURG (961 2500)

CHINA INN

403 Draper Rd. Blacksburg, VA

552-0871

FREE DELIVERY

15% off entire meal! (dine-in only)

"Kill Bill Vol. 1" R

Fri. & Sat. 7:00 & 9:15pm

Sun. 3:00, 7:00, 9:15

Mon. Wed. Thurs. 7:00 & 9:15pm

The Lyric Theatre

135 college avenue ~ movieline: 951.0604
www.thelyric.com

VENTURE OUT CENTER

Wilderness First Responder

March 6-14, 2004

Rapidly becoming the industry standard for outdoor professionals, this intense 80-hour curriculum focuses on extreme medical and environmental emergencies in the backcountry. Wilderness First Responder is a 3-year certification and includes CPR.

\$350.00 for Venture Out Staff
\$450.00 with Current Virginia Tech ID
\$500.00 for Community

Wilderness First Aid

April 2-4, 2004

This 16-hour course teaches basic backcountry first aid and demonstrates how to provide long-term patient care with limited access to 911. Wilderness First Aid is a 2-year certification. CPR and WFR recertification is available for an additional charge.

\$90.00 for Venture Out Staff
\$130.00 for Faculty/Staff & Community
\$21.00 for CPR \$15.00 for WFR Recertification

Sponsored by: Virginia Tech and SOLO
Contact Venture Out for more information!
231-3750 outdoors@vt.edu
www.uusa.vt.edu

Hokie House

Late Night Breakfast

A full breakfast menu with all your favorites!

Breakfast Sandwiches Omelets
French Toast Pancakes

Plus selected appetizers!

Chicken Fingers Wings
Cheese Stix and more...

Thursday and Friday Nights From Midnight until 3am!!!

\$1.00 off Any Omelet or Breakfast Sandwich

Breakfast Hours: Sat. & Sun. 11am-1pm
Late Night Breakfast: Thurs. & Fri. nights 12am-3am
valid through 12/31/03

Late Night Breakfast Bucks

BUY 1, GET 1 FREE

Any Omelet or Breakfast Sandwich

Breakfast Hours: Sat. & Sun. 11am-1pm
Late Night Breakfast: Thurs. & Fri. nights 12am-3am
valid through 12/31/03

CLASSIFIEDS

RATES:
33¢ per word and 38¢ per bold word, Pre-Paid in cash, check, Visa, Mastercard, Discover, American Express, or Hokie Passport
27 characters per line
2-line minimum

POLICIES:
Classified advertisement forms are available in 121 Squires Student Center.
The Collegiate Times reserves the right to refuse publication of advertisements containing profanity or violations of the university honor code.
No refunds are available.

DEADLINES:
Two business days prior to publication by 3 p.m.
Collegiate Times office hours are 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.



Any questions concerning ads please call the Better Business Bureau 1-800-533-5501.

Help Wanted
BARTENDER POSITIONS make up to 300/shift. No experience required. call 800-806-0085 ext. 1565

Need Extra CASH? Want to gain AWESOME resume experience? The Collegiate Times is searching for enthusiastic students to fill position openings for advertising representatives! We have several openings to start next semester. To apply, download an application from www.collegiatetimes.com, attach a resume and references, and drop them off at the CT Business Office in 121 Squires Student Center.

Help Wanted
CAFE/COFFEE HOUSE
Hiring cooks, bakers and service people. Friendly, hard-working people with knowledge of gourmet health foods a must. Opening mid-Jan. Downtown Blacksburg. 961-0085.

Bartender Trainees Needed
\$250 a day potential. Local positions. 1-800-293-3985 ext. 404
Jackson Hewett Tax Services Tax preparers needed for the 2004 tax season apply in person by 12/10 at 3125 North Franklin St. Christiansburg

For Sale
FORD F-150
4x4, 1989, XLT Package, 300 6-cyl, 5-speed, Dual Fuel Tanks, LongBed, Camper Top; 382-0178
POLICE IMPOUNDS!
Cars/Trucks/SUVs from \$500! For listings 800-719-3001 x7543

CollegeThrift.com-VT's Online Trading Post
Moving out? Buy or Sell used college Electronics, Furniture, Kitchen Appliances & Other Stuff!!

LEIS, GRASS SKIRTS, FACE PAINT AND MARDI GRAS BEADS.
PARTY CENTRAL
1701 S. MAIN ST.
953-1170

Health & Fitness
Blue Ridge School of Massage. Classes begin Jan. 6th. **Open House** Dec. 8th 4-6PM. 552-2177

For Rent
SUBLEASE NEEDED!
2 BR Apartment, 3rd floor, wal to campus and downtown, hardwood floors. Rent \$540. Call 449-5539

For Rent
1 br. avail in Pheasant Run. Rent \$250 and 1/4 utilities. Call 951-2386. Avail. Dec 20th.

2 BR Apartment in Stonegate available January 1st. Very clean. Walking distance to campus. On BT. Pet friendly. \$580/month. **1ST MONTHS RENT FREE.** Call 540-200-1410.

4 Bedroom Condos (Hunters Ridge), Townhouses, apartments (Houston Village.) Close to school, excellent condition (2004-2005 school year) **only four left** David 951-0714 or 392-5989 david@hokiebuckeye.com

DOWNTOWN One bedroom apartment for sublease spring semester. Rent negotiable. Two floor apartment call Jamie at 703-967-2306 or e-mail jdolton@vt.edu

3 Bedroom House near VT, Pets OK, \$800/Mo. Available 1/04. 552-7009 jamesgapinski@aol.com

SUBLEASE
Seeking female to sublease starting in Jan. The Village \$325/month Contact Kara 434-825-9266 or kmartine@vt.edu Rent negotiable!

SUBLEASERS NEEDED
Collegiate Suites Jan 1-Aug 15 3 rooms available **RENT NEGOTIABLE** Kelly 200-4392

SUBLEASE Spring 2004
Nice bedroom in quiet complex, within walking distance of downtown and campus. \$250/rent, with utilities. Email malynch@vt.edu for more info.

For Rent
Room for rent. Excellent location on Bus Route. Hunters Ridge 225/month. Starting January. Call 200-2052 for details. Ask for Nathan.

Free Rent for January Female roommate needed for a four bedroom townhouse in Pheasant Run Crossing. Call 951-4615 ask for Sarah or e-mail sadowdy2@vt.edu

Notices
100% TUITION AND IN-STATE RATES \$150-\$600+. For one weekend of work/month. Limited openings call Team VA at 381-7131.

"Stuck on a tough term paper? The PaperExperts.com can help! Expert writers will help you with editing, writing, graduate applications. We'll help on any subject - visit us 24/7 at ThePaperExperts.com."

SPRING BREAK
Free food, parties & drinks! As seen on CBS' 48 hours! Best Hotels Lowest Prices! breakerstravel.com 800-985-6789.

Travel
Spring Break 2004. Travel with STS, America's #1 Student Tour Operator to Jamaica, Cancun, Acapulco, Bahamas and Florida. Now hiring campus reps. Call for group discounts. Information/Reservations. 1-800-648-4849 or www.ststravel.com

All year round- **SKYDIVE!**
Tandem or learn to jump on your own. www.JumpRaeford.com 910-904-0000

Travel
ACT NOW!
Book 11 people, get the 12th trip free. Group discounts for 6+ www.springbreakdiscounts.com or 800-838-8202.

CANCUN, ACAPULCO, NASSAU, JAMAICA!
7 Nights From \$459 + tax! Includes Breakfasts, Dinners, 20-25 Hours Free Drinks! Guaranteed Lowest Prices & Best Party Schedule, The Only Spring Break Company Recognized For Outstanding Ethics! Visit The **BEST** Spring Break Site On The Web View 100s of Hotel Videos And Reviews At www.SpringBreakTravel.com 1-800-678-6386

!!!BIGGEST SPRING BREAK PARTY!!!
Cruise With 100's Of Students on The Largest & Wildest Student Party Cruise! Spend 5 Days In The Bahamas From \$279! Includes Most Meals, Free Parties, Port Taxes! Ethics Award Winning Company! www.SpringBreakTravel.com 1-800-678-6386

#1 Spring Break Vacations! Cancun, Jamaica, Bahamas, & Florida! Best Parties, Best Hotels, Best Prices! Space is limited! Hurry up & Book Now! 1-800-234-7007 www.endlesssummertours.com

Bahamas Special Spring Break & Winter Break
\$199.00 per person! 5 days/4 nights Package includes:
*Round trip cruise Plus
*Food aboard ship Plus
*Resort accommodations on Grand Bahama Island Toll Free: 888-85-BEACH (888-852-3224) www.GoBahama.com

Travel
JAMAICA SPRING BREAK
CONFIRMED VA TECH FLIGHTS!!!
NIGHTL BRACH CLUB COUNTRY PALMVIEW TIGRESS II
BAR & BARN WHITE SANDS CHARTERS FROM RICHMOND & CHARLOTTE
air Jamaica The World's Best Airline
VA TECH STUDENTS ENJOY DAILY NON-STOP CHAMPAGNE SERVICE FROM BALTIMORE
SPACE IS LIMITED - BOOK NOW!
1-800-234-7007 www.endlesssummertours.com

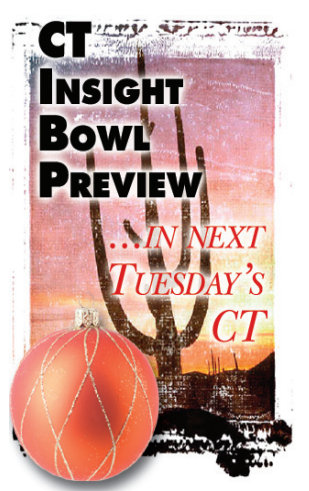
! So many Spring Break companies... Book **DIRECT** with the established leader in Spring Break Travel. Better trips, better prices. Info/res: 1-800-367-1252 or www.springbreakdirect.com

Spring Break 2004
Join University Travel and STS
CANCUN ACAPULCO JAMAICA BAHAMAS FLORIDA
Prices increase Dec. 15

Book Locally with Someone you can Trust
Call for Info and Discounts 922 University City Blvd. Blacksburg VA 24060 540-961-2700
Spradlin Forms, (next to Pifer One) 45 Conston Ave Christiansburg, VA 24073 540-381-3800
www.universitytravel.com

Rides
www.Hooptieride.com (540)-449-3748

Personals
Find your perfect match in the Collegiate Times personal ads! Call 231-9860 to place a personal ad of your own!



Follow the Signs on Kent Street to

Curbside Pickup



Monday-Friday • 7:00-9:00 A.M.

Featuring a fine selection of Cinnabon products and Seattle's Best Coffee Beverages.

For more information visit Hokie Grill & Co. in Owens Dining Center, or visit the Curbside Service website at:

www.studentprograms.vt.edu/curbside

Curbside Pickup is located by the Hokie Grill & Co. entrance of Owens Hall in the Owens Hall parking lot.



December 5-18
Curbside Only Special
CINNABON
Buy one Cinnabon at the regular price and get a second one for 50¢

December 8-12
Curbside Only Special
CINNABON
50¢ Hot Chocolate and Steamer Beverages

December 15-18
Curbside Only Special
CINNABON
Free Coffee with Purchase



Give your family and friends our 12th Night Holiday Christmas blend coffee, unadorned chocolate with a touch of butterscotch, or any of our other flavors of fresh roasted coffees and specialty gifts.

Build your own Holiday Gift Packages with:
• a variety of Fresh Roasted Coffees
• Tea
• Wine
• Home Sweet Home Cookbooks and other specialty items!

Place your order online at www.studentprograms.vt.edu/decs or contact us in person from locally!

Deadline for ordering is midnight December 15. Orders will be ready for pickup in three days. All orders must be picked up by 3:00 P.M. on December 18.

Plus Dollars Dining Center, Hokie Passport Account and cash are accepted.



Half-court shot sinks Hokies

■ As time expired in regulation, John Waller hit a 45-foot shot to force overtime, where the Hokies lost, 94-92

by Brent Anderson and Susan Suddarth
Sports Staff

It was cold and snowy outside last night, but the two teams in Cassell Coliseum were on fire.

Despite their best efforts, including a career-high 37 points from senior Bryant Matthews, the Virginia Tech men's basketball team suffered their second loss of the season in a heart breaking overtime defeat to Old Dominion University, 94-92.

Tech was constantly playing catch up through out the first half, but was never able to overcome their cross-state rival, The Monarchs played strong defense against Tech which forced the Hokies to pound the ball down low and to shoot midrange jumpers. On the defensive side

of the court, the Hokies seemed to lack intensity, and ODU took advantage by making several three-pointers and driving down the middle for easy lay-ups.

Tech picked up the pace before the end of the first half and was able to shorten the Monarch's lead, going into halftime with the score trailing 42-37.

After making adjustments at the half, the Hokies switched to a man-to-man defense and came out strong. Tech kept the game close and tied it at 73 when Matthews hit a free throw with just under three minutes left in regulation.

"I thought we fought hard and tried to get back in the game," said head coach Seth Greenberg. "And we were able to get back in the game."

The Monarchs were able to take back the lead at the 2:28 mark on a layup by guard John Waller. But freshman Zabian Dowdell answered back by knocking down a three pointer, giving the Hokies the lead with just over two minutes to play.

Dowdell drained another three with 35 seconds left to play, and extended Tech's lead with two

free throws seconds later.

A victory seemed certain as the Hokies had momentum on their side and were ahead 83-79 with 26 seconds left, but ODU would strike back.

Drew Williamson made a three to put the Monarchs within one point, but Dowdell was fouled on the next play and sank his free throws to put the Hokies ahead 85-82.

With only seven seconds left, ODU brought the ball down the court against Tech's tough man to man defense. The Monarchs weren't able to penetrate past the foul line, and the Hokies forced them to throw up a desperation shot.

Waller took the shot and drained a 45-footer at the buzzer to tie the game and send it into overtime.

"It's just one of those plays where a player throws up a prayer and God answers," Dowdell said.

Tech and ODU battled back and forth during the extra period, but the Hokies were dealt a huge blow when Matthews fouled out with over two minutes to play. Markus Sailes stepped up in

Matthews' absence by making several shots, but the Monarchs got the last laugh when Isaiah Hunter made two free throws to put ODU up by two with less than a minute remaining in the extra period.

With seven seconds left, Jamon Gordon took a jumper that hit the rim. A scramble for the rebound followed, but the Hokies were not able to get off a good shot.

Free throws played a constant roll throughout the contest, with the Monarchs consistently knocking theirs down while Tech struggled.

Despite the loss, Matthews continued his stellar play, scoring 35-plus points for his second straight game and pulling down 12 rebounds.


"He played so hard and you just can't help but admire him," Greenberg said.

The loss brings Tech's overall record to 3-2 on the season. The Hokies next home game is on Dec. 10 against VMI, but the team will be on the road this weekend in Columbus, Ohio against Ohio State University. Tip-off is set for 2:00 p.m. Saturday.



ELEANOR HOPSON/SPPS

Philip McCandies was at the free-throw line in overtime with a chance to tie the game, but missed two shots. Tech lost 94-92.



hand-blown
GLASS

Paperweights, ornaments,
and other handmade gifts
from

MATRIX
GALLERY

handmade jewelry
contemporary crafts


115 north main street - downtown blacksburg
951.3566

Elissa's
Lingerie & Novelties

"Experience
Something
Different"

Regular & Plus Size
Lingerie
Menswear
Dancewear
Shoes
DVD's
Magazines
Adult Videos
Games
Massage Oils
Novelties
Risqué Greeting Cards
Tobacco Pipes
...and much more!

Admittance 18 & up
382-0168
Open Monday thru
Saturday
12:00 - 9:00 p.m.



The Honorable Brothers of the Alpha Delta Chapter of
PHI GAMMA GAMMA
Phi Gamma Gamma

The Virtuous Women of the Alpha Delta Chapter of
OMEGA DELTA GAMMA

In Collaboration with IMPACT
**2ND ANNUAL FALL
INDUCTION**
Friday December 5th, 2003

Haymarket Theater
7pm to 11pm
Free and all welcome

Guest Artist:
TRIUMPH
GOSPEL, HIP HOP

P&W, Stepping, and
more



GOBBLER NITES.COM

Your Weekend Connection



1 - 19 - 04