

ROBERT DRAKE/SPPS

Tech running back Kevin Jones (right) rushed for a career-high 188 yards on 30 carries, and three scores. Nathaniel Adibi, above, pumps up the sold-out crowd of 65,115 at Lane Stadium.

# Hokies hogtie A&M



ROBERT DRAKE/SPPS

## Tech grinds out win, 35-19

by Kumar Malhotra  
Sports Editor

While Hurricane Isabel was hyped as the "storm of the century," it was the Virginia Tech rushing attack headed by Kevin Jones' career-high 188 yards and three touchdowns, that proved to be a force of nature.

On a cold and rainy night, with wind gusts up to 28 miles per hour, the Hokies battled the elements and a dangerous Texas A&M team in front of a sold-out crowd at Lane Stadium. Despite the sub-par playing conditions, Tech outscored the Aggies 21-7 in the second half en route to their 35-19 victory.

"I'm really proud of our football team," said Tech head coach Frank Beamer, "I thought we got better as the day went along; we had a couple plays late in the game that let them back into it, but I like how we took control at the end."

The Hokies started the game by forcing A&M to punt on their first possession. The heavy rain, coupled with Tech's vaunted punt blocking unit, caused Aggies' punter Cody Scates to squib his first attempt of the game, kicking it 15 yards.

The Hokies retained possession on the A&M 28-yard line and need only five plays and two minutes and 35 seconds to score as Jones rushed for a 1-yard touchdown run.

The Aggies regained their composure and responded with a 13-play, 62-yard drive on the ensuing possession. Utilizing a fast-paced ground attack, led by sophomore quarterback Ryan McNeal, A&M chewed up the clock and marched deep into the Tech red zone. The Aggies, however, were unable to take full advantage of the drive and had to settle for a field goal.

The Hokies got back on the board early in the second quarter, as quarterback Bryan Randall found Jeff King wide open in the end zone for a 10-yard touchdown pass. On the day, Randall

## Aggies, Hokies battle to the end

by Rajan Nanavati  
Sports Editor

It was a donnybrook. A good old fashion slobber-knocker. Under the steady downpour of Hurricane Isabel unleashing her fury on the mid-atlantic states, Virginia Tech and Texas A&M traded punches like two heavyweight fighters who refused to go down for the count. Every time one of the combatants had a chance to put the other down for the count, the other would come back with a great counter move to even things out. Momentum shifted back and forth between the teams more frequently than a pendulum on a grandfather clock.

Early on, it looked like Tech would simply move the ball all over the Aggies' defense en route to a blow out. The Aggies went three and out to start the game, and A&M punter Cody Scates shanked a punt into the wind for 15 yards. Tech promptly and happily responded by scoring five plays and 28 yards later, capped by a one yard

touchdown carry by Kevin Jones.

Instead of being intimidated by the efficiency with which Tech moved the ball and the rowdy confines of Lane Stadium they had to play within, A&M quarterback Reggie McNeal would counter the Hokies scoring drive by leading A&M on a 62 yard drive of their own, ending in a 22 yard field goal conversion.

After being named starter only within 36 hours of kickoff, McNeal gave one of the grittiest and flashiest performances ever seen from an opposing player in Lane Stadium. He kept the Tech defense off balance with his ability to throw on the run, or simply pull the ball down and scramble himself. His tremendous quickness combined with his elusiveness helped

him avoid numerous sacks from onrushing Tech defenders. In essence, he nearly single-handedly kept the Aggies in the contest for a majority of the game.

"I give McNeal credit. He just flat out out-ran us a couple of times," said Tech head coach Frank Beamer. "He's quite a quarterback. He really threw the ball well, I thought. He also made some plays with his feet."

**"(Reggie McNeal) is quite a quarterback. He really threw the ball well, I thought. He also made some plays with his feet."**

**Frank Beamer**  
Tech head coach

With the two teams emotionally fired up and loaded with playmakers on both sides of the ball, the contest would go back and forth for three full quarters. Virginia Tech countered A&M's score with a 10 play, 70 yard touchdown drive.

McNeal's Aggies marched right back, moving 46 yards down the field, ending with a 20 yard field goal, cutting the

lead to eight points.

The Aggies tried to build on the momentum they were generating, attempting an on-side kick, but Tech recovered the attempt. Tech punted the ball just three plays later, and surely must have believed that after they downed the punt at Aggies two yard line, they had A&M right where they wanted them. The Aggies, however, had other ideas. They went 98 yards in 12 plays, with Aggies tailback Courtney Lewis scoring from two yards out. The plunge cut the score to 14-12, and with Tech reeling, Aggies coach Dennis Franchione attempted to push the momentum further in his favor, trying to go for the two point conversion instead of the extra point. The attempt failed, and while it seemed the Aggies were primed to give Virginia Tech legitimate worries of an upset, the failed conversion exemplified Tech's resiliency and courage to not fold when things were tough.

See **VICTORY**, page 8

See **WIN**, page 12

## Tech, Texas build wireless simulator

by Eric Beidel  
Associate News Editor

Virginia Tech has taken another step toward becoming a top research institution in its work alongside the University of Texas at Austin to develop a computer program to test future wireless networks.

Tech, along with UT, announced Wednesday it has been awarded two three-year research grants from the National Science Foundation worth close to \$2 million.

The program is a wireless simulator to help test wireless systems before they are implemented in places like coffee shops and airports where many people would need access for their laptops,

said Naren Ramakrishnan, an associate professor of computer science.

"The simulator will take into account everything from the building layout to the weather," Ramakrishnan said. "The first step is to simulate the design system on the computer to make sure everyone can get access."

Ramakrishnan is one of two professors working on the project from Tech. Srinidhi Varadarajan, an assistant professor of computer science, is also working on the project which is making progress in several areas.

"We plan to have an initial operational system up within the next six months,"

See **SIMULATOR**, page 2

## Brunt of Isabel misses Blacksburg

by Aaron Blackwell  
Associate News Editor

Hurricane Isabel finally arrived yesterday, but the brunt of the storm's winds and rains stayed to the east of Blacksburg.

The eastern part of the state has been hardest hit with very windy conditions and heavy rains, said Robert Stonefield, meteorologist at the Blacksburg office of the National Weather Service.

However, the story is much different hundreds of miles to the east.

More than 300,000 people in North Carolina and Virginia were urged to move to higher ground. Even seasoned storm veterans gave in to the five days of warnings starting when Isabel was a Category 5 hurricane with 160 mph wind.

A few thousand hardy souls ignored evacuation orders. Virginia Beach police suggested they write their names in permanent marker on their forearms so they can be identified if they are injured or killed.

At noon EDT, the center of Isabel's very large eye was about 35 miles south of North Carolina's Cape Lookout, the hurricane center said. It had picked up speed, moving northwest at around 18

mph. It was expected to stay at a similar strength and could spawn isolated tornadoes in eastern North Carolina and southeastern Virginia.

Forecasters said Isabel was expected to maintain its status as a hurricane for about 24 hours after landfall. It was expected to move north across North Carolina and Virginia and then take a path through western Pennsylvania and western New York before dissipating in Canada by Saturday.

The storm has hampered travel and has even shut down the federal government.

Amtrak halted service south of Washington, dozens of airline flights in the region were canceled and the Washington-area Metro system was shutting down all subway and bus services. US Airways alone canceled more than 70 flights along the East Coast.

The Federal Aviation Administration closed its air traffic control tower in Norfolk and flight arrivals at New York's LaGuardia Airport were delayed up to six hours, the FAA said.

Numerous schools closed in North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia, and schools were to close Friday in West



ELEANOR HOPSON/SPPS

Despite heavy rain and wind at times, Blacksburg wasn't hit by the full fury of Hurricane Isabel.

See **ISABEL**, page 2

## News in Brief

### West Nile cases up a third in one week

ATLANTA (AP) — America likely will have another record-breaking number of reported West Nile cases this year, with the number up by more than a third in the past week alone, federal officials said Thursday.

Nationwide, 4,137 human cases had been reported by Thursday, just 19 shy of last year's total of 4,156, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

CDC director Julie Gerberding had warned earlier this year that the country was on pace to break the record. The jump of 1,200 cases in the last week came at the peak of the season for the mosquito-spread virus.

### Germany, France discuss Iraq

BERLIN (AP) — The leaders of France and Germany met Thursday for talks on post-war Iraq and ways to boost Europe's economy, ahead of a weekend meeting with their British counterpart.

Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and President Jacques Chirac gathered at the Berlin chancellery for a regular German-French summit, accompanied by their foreign ministers and other key Cabinet members.

Both leaders strongly opposed the U.S.-led war in Iraq, causing a rift with the United States and their European Union partner

Britain. France and Germany are now seeking changes in a U.S. proposal at the United Nations that asks for more money and peacekeeping troops for Iraq.

### Virginia ponies take high ground

CHINCOTEAGUE (AP) — The tough ponies of Chincoteague are waiting out Hurricane Isabel on high ground.

The ponies, which number about 150, were led by members of the islands' volunteer firefighters to a fenced pasture about 20 feet higher than their regular pasture.

### Mid-life diet lengthens life

WASHINGTON (AP) — It has long been known that laboratory animals live longer on a low-calorie diet.

Now a study suggests that even if sensible eating is delayed until middle age, health can be improved and life extended.

A study on diet and life in the journal Science dealt only with laboratory fruit flies, but researchers said some of the same effects may apply to mammals, perhaps even humans.

In the study, British researchers compared the effects of different calorie-restricted diets on the mortality of fruit flies.

They found that fruit flies on restricted diets lived about 90 days, twice as long as those fed on a normal diet.

## Isabel devastates parts of East coast

by Emery Dalesio  
Associated Press

KILL DEVIL HILLS, N.C. — Hurricane Isabel plowed into North Carolina's Outer Banks with 100 mph winds and pushed its way Thursday up the Eastern Seaboard, weakening to a tropical storm by evening. Isabel was blamed for at least two traffic deaths and the electrocution of a utility employee.

The storm that had once threatened 160 mph winds and a 12-foot storm surge rolled in around midday just south of isolated Ocracoke Island with a 5-foot surge and gusts that rattled plywood boards spray-painted "Bring it on Izzy."

The storm downed trees, snarled air traffic and knocked out electricity — more than 2 million customers were without power in North Carolina and southeastern Virginia alone. More than 430,000 customers in Maryland, 78,000 in the District of Columbia and 10,000 in New Jersey also lost power. In North Carolina, a utility employee was electrocuted while restoring power, and the storm was blamed for the deaths of two motorists in Virginia and Maryland.

Isabel's top sustained wind eased to around 70 mph by late evening.

It continued to weaken, though it was still expected to produce hurricane-force gusts of at least 74 mph in parts of northern Virginia and Maryland.

National Hurricane Center Director Max Mayfield said fast-moving Isabel still posed a threat because of its dimensions — about the size of Colorado — and its potential to bring 6 to 10 inches of rain and flooding to an East Coast already sodden from one of the wettest summers in years.

"This is certainly not over for people experiencing Hurricane Isabel," he said. "This hurricane will not be remembered for how strong it is. It will be remembered for how large it is."

On the Outer Banks, the storm destroyed the 540-foot Jennette's Pier in Nags Head and at least two beach houses, where storm surge picked up a washer, dryer and refrigerator and carried them about 500 feet down the street.

In York County, Va., sheriff's deputies rescued a family of seven trapped on a street when trees fell and blocked the path to their car, county spokesman Greg Davy said. The family had driven to the York River and gotten out of their car to "experience the excitement," Davy said.

The hurricane couldn't keep football fans away from Virginia Tech's Lane Stadium. The game was sold out, even with rain that soaked through parkas and wind that bent back umbrellas.

"My wife's been calling me on the cell phone all day. ... The power's been off," said Hokies fan Lee Wagstaff from Clarksville. "Hey, it's a Tech ball game, man!"

## Simulator: Grants, leadership are vital

Continued from page 1

Varadarajan said. "We will have a full system operational at the end of the three years."

The project is a continuation of a project begun with Ted Rappaport, who was a member of Tech's engineering faculty for 14 years before moving to UT.

Rappaport and his colleagues at the Wireless Networking and Communications Group at UT are working with six total faculty and 15 students between the two universities.

"Future wireless devices will enable streaming video, voice over the Internet and vast amounts of data transfer," Rappaport said. "The software needed to simulate these future devices and networks must be created now."

Ramakrishnan said the work on the simulator began when

Rappaport was still at Tech. He said he is confident the work will be completed because of the grants and Rappaport's leadership.

"He is among the top few people in the world in working in wireless communications and has been the leader behind these projects," Ramakrishnan said.

Some Starbucks coffee shops have already implemented wireless access systems for their patrons who come in with their laptops. Ramakrishnan said these types of situations would be much easier to develop with the simulator being created.

Varadarajan is also busy with other work as the director of the Terascale Supercomputing Facility at Tech. In a few weeks, he will announce the benchmarking number for the supercomputer he and his colleagues are creating.

## Isabel: Campus in Northern Virginia closed

Continued from page 1

Virginia's Eastern Panhandle.

Virginia Tech Spokesman Larry Hincker said, as of yesterday afternoon, Tech would not be greatly affected by the storm.

"We don't expect to get the brunt of the storm as they are on the (eastern) side of the state," he said.

Hincker said he expects events on campus to go on as planned, with minimal impacts from the weather.

"It doesn't appear that the university is going to make any adjustments to the schedule," he said.

However the Northern Virginia Graduate Center in Falls Church will be closed today because of the storm, Hincker said.

Isabel will leave the area today, but showers are possible through the afternoon. The sun may peak out later in the afternoon, Stonefield said.

The Associated Press contributed to this article.

STOCK MARKET REPORT — 9/18/2003 —		FRIDAY MORNING		FRIDAY		FRIDAY NIGHT		SATURDAY		SATURDAY NIGHT		SUNDAY	
DJIA	9659.13 ▲ 113.48	WEATHER											
NASDAQ	1909.55 ▲ 26.45		Windy; showers likely	Breezy; chance of showers	Partly cloudy; slight chance of showers	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy	
S&P 500	1039.58 ▲ 13.61		Highs: 65°-70°	Highs: 70°-75°	Lows: 50°-55°	Highs: 70°-75°	50°/65°	55°/75°					

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# U.S.-led coalition kills 11 Taliban

More than 100 suspected Taliban have been killed since the fighting began in August

by Paul Haven  
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — U.S. warplanes supporting Afghan ground forces pummeled Taliban positions in southern Afghanistan, killing at least 11 rebels during three days of fighting, the military said Thursday.

The fighting in the mountains of Kandahar and Zabul provinces has been going on since the end of August, and more than 100 suspected Taliban have been killed, U.S. and Afghan officials said. Four American soldiers have died during fighting in recent

weeks. The fighting in Zabul and Kandahar is part of an operation dubbed "Mountain Viper" that has been going on for more than two weeks.

"Operation Mountain Viper continues to destroy the Taliban's ability to operate in the southern region of Afghanistan," the military said in a statement issued from Bagram Air Base, north of the capital, Kabul.

The U.S. military said it was inflicting heavy casualties on the rebels, but the ability of the militia to mount such stiff resistance over a sustained period has led to fears of a mounting security threat in Afghanistan, two years after the Taliban were ousted in a U.S.-led bombing campaign.

Over the weekend, Taliban militants in eastern Paktia province began threatening residents that they would

cut the nose of any Afghan caught listening to music and of any man who shaves his beard.

While in power, the hardline militia banned music, forced men to grow their beards, and barred women from working and girls from going to school. The insurgents have grown increasingly bold in their threats to Afghans deemed to be in leagues with the coalition.

Last week, four Afghans working for a Danish charity were tied up and shot to death along the side of a road by suspected Taliban after having been warned several times to stop working with foreigners. In other violence, insurgents fired seven rockets at a coalition base in Deh Rawood, in central Uruzgan province.

Coalition forces fired 81 mm mortars and machine guns at the suspected launch point.

There were no reported casualties and the military did not announce any arrests.

On Wednesday, suspected Taliban set off a bomb as a coalition convoy was traveling near the U.S. base in Kandahar, but there were no reported casualties, the military said in a statement from Bagram Air Base.

In the southeastern city of Ghazni late Wednesday, a bomb exploded outside the home of an Afghan security official, killing a policeman and wounding two others, a spokesman for the governor of Ghazni province, Ahmad Zia Massood, told The Associated Press.

The bomb was planted in a tin can "and it exploded when policemen ... tried to move it," the spokesman said, adding that he believed Taliban insurgents and their al-Qaida allies were responsible for the blast.

# Bush blames Arafat for peace breakdown

Bush accused Arafat of forcing the Palestinian Prime Minister to resign

by Terence Hunt  
Associated Press

CAMP DAVID, Md. — President Bush told Palestinians on Thursday that they must have a leader who fights terror if they want peace. He said Yasser Arafat "has failed as a leader" and blamed him for forcing the resignation of a prime minister committed to the peace process.

Bush said he does not expect a new U.S.-backed resolution on Iraqi reconstruction to be ready by the time he goes before the U.N. General Assembly next Tuesday.

"We're still working it," he told reporters as he met at the presidential retreat here with Jordan's King Abdullah II, a vital ally in the Middle East.

The United States is seeking Security Council backing for a resolution that would clear the way for additional peacekeeping troops and money to finance Iraq's reconstruction from other countries. Administration officials had hoped to have it ready by Bush's U.N. appearance next Tuesday.

On Mideast peace efforts, Bush said he regretted that former Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas had been forced to resign. "At every turn he was undercut by the old order," Bush said. He specifically noted that he was referring to Arafat.

"Hopefully, at some point in time, a leadership of the Palestinian Authority will emerge which will then commit itself 100 percent to fighting off terror," Bush said.

The president noted that he had last met Abdullah three months ago in Aqaba, Jordan, when the king hosted a three-way summit among Bush, Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to launch a U.S.-backed "road map" to peace.

Abbas resigned Sept. 6 after power struggles with Arafat, who has hand-picked Prime Minister-designate Ahmed Qureia to succeed Abbas.

Abdullah praised Bush for the "strong genuine dedication you have shown" in attempting to get the peace process going.

"It took a lot of courage to come to the Middle East," Abdullah said. "Unfortunately, there is a lull at the moment," he added, speaking in English.

Bush and Abdullah talked to reporters in a helicopter hangar on the presidential retreat, seeking cover there from the approaching winds and rain of Hurricane Isabel.

Despite initial reluctance of other major countries to step forward with troops or money to help stabilize and rebuild Iraq, Bush said he was encouraged that some nations like Britain and Poland were leading multinational forces in Iraq.

Bush said he would "continue to make the case that reconstruction aid is necessary."

Asked by a reporter if the new resolution would be ready in time for his U.N. appearance on Tuesday, Bush said, "No, I don't think so. It could be. We'll continue to work it, though."

Bush said that the resolution "must promote an orderly transfer of sovereignty to what will be a freely elected government based upon a constitution."

Later, Bush's national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, suggested that the resolution could be completed later next week.

"There will be a lot of face time" at the U.N. gathering, she said.

"We'll have a lot of chance to talk with counterparts. And it seemed like a better idea than trying to press something forward now."

Other world powers, including France, Germany and Russia, have resisted taking a more active role in Iraqi reconstruction in the absence of specific U.N. authorization, and a larger role for the international organization and for themselves.

Bush also will meet at the United Nations with German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder.

Wolfgang Schauble, deputy chairman of the conservative opposition in the German Bundestag, said Thursday that the meeting could help bridge trans-Atlantic differences on Iraq, but only if Bush "shows he's not going in a unilateral way."

"You cannot have world order only through strength. The world is more complicated," Schauble said in an interview with The Associated Press.

# Iraqi killings declared worst since May 1

by Hamza Hendawi  
Associated Press

FALLUJAH, Iraq — American soldiers who mistakenly killed eight Iraqi policemen and a Jordanian guard this month had been in this turbulent city for only one day and were in the midst of a handover from one military unit to another, according to U.S. and Iraqi officials.

According to these officials, confusion and inexperience may have contributed to the Sept. 12 killings, the worst "friendly fire" incident since major hostilities were declared over May 1.

Capt. Jimmy Cummings, spokesman for the 82nd Airborne Division's headquarters in Fort Bragg, N.C., dismissed any suggestion that the soldiers — who had been in Iraq for a week — were ill-prepared.

"They did receive training. They had just gotten back from Afghanistan and before they deployed to Afghanistan they had training and before they went back they got the training again," Cummings said. He said the second round of training had been refined with lessons learned in Afghanistan and the Iraq conflict.

The Sept. 12 killings stoked tensions in the city.

Taha Bedawi, the U.S.-backed mayor of Fallujah, said U.S. military officials have asked to meet with Fallujah's tribal chiefs and dignitaries to try to defuse the anger that has swept the city of

200,000 people. He said the meeting, tentatively scheduled for later this week, will also decide on a financial settlement known in Arabic as "diya," or blood money, to be paid to the families of the victims.

The 82nd Airborne has had a checkered history in Fallujah, one of the cities in the "Sunni Triangle" where hostility toward the United States is most intense.

In April, soldiers from the division fired on protesters on two successive days, killing 18 and injuring 78. U.S. troops had withdrawn to a base outside the city in July and had been turning over security duties to local police. The U.S. military at the time said the troops were fired at first in the April incident, but Iraqi witnesses denied this.

After the April shooting, the military agreed to pay \$2,500 to the families of the dead and \$500 to those of the wounded. Bedawi, however, said only \$1,500 of the \$2,500 promised for each of the families of those killed had so far been paid. He suggested that \$2,500 per family may not be enough for families of the eight policemen killed this month.

"The compensation must be

appropriate. These families have nothing and \$2,500 is not an acceptable sum," he said.

The U.S.-led coalition has apologized for the Sept. 12 incident and appointed a senior officer, Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Schloesser of the 101st Airborne Division, to investigate it. The 101st is based in the northern city of Mosul.

The 82nd Airborne troops involved in the latest friendly fire incident were not the same as those who took part in the April shooting, a Pentagon official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. He said that the men had only recently arrived in Iraq.

The latest incident, which took place just outside Fallujah, happened during a three-day handover period between the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment and the 82nd Airborne, a U.S. military spokesman told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The 82nd airborne was first deployed in the Gulf region in February and fought its way north from Kuwait along with other U.S. units.

The 82nd units that served in Fallujah in April and May came from the division's 2nd

Brigade.

Those serving in Fallujah now are from the 2nd Brigade as well as the 3rd Brigade. The latter arrived in Iraq this month.

Cummings, the 82nd Airborne spokesman in Fort Bragg, said the soldiers posted to Iraq this month had experience in Afghanistan.

"Those guys did similar missions in Afghanistan," Cummings said. "They've had the real world experience in Afghanistan." Of their training, he said: "It deals with rules of engagement, some of which is classified, dealing with civilians on the battlefield and also cultural awareness classes."

The policemen were killed while chasing a white BMW thought to be used by highway bandits. The Iraqi police gave up the chase when the BMW got away. As they made their way back to Fallujah, they came under fire from U.S. soldiers.

The shooting happened in front of the Jordanian hospital, which also came under fire from the Americans. Survivors said the Americans fired at them for at least 30 minutes despite their screams in both English and Arabic that they were police.

Some took off their identity arm bands and waved them in the air for the Americans to see them, but to no avail.

None of the 25 policemen and members of the Fallujah Protection Force returned fire, witnesses and survivors said.

*"These guys did similar missions in Afghanistan. They've had the real world experience in Afghanistan."*

Capt. Jimmy Cummings  
spokesman, 82nd Airborne

**Virginia Tech**

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# Guerrillas ambush U.S. military convoy

by Tarek Al-Issawi  
Associated Press

KHALDIYAH, Iraq — Guerrillas ambushed a U.S. military convoy Thursday with a remote-controlled bomb, sparking a heavy gunbattle in which a 3-year-old boy was wounded in the chest and two trucks were destroyed.

Two American soldiers were wounded, the U.S. military said in Baghdad, although it was not immediately known if the casualties were from the ambush or a later attack several miles away.

In the nearby town of Fallujah, witnesses said an American patrol opened fire on a wedding, killing a 14-year-old boy, after mistaking celebratory gunfire for an attack.

North of Baghdad, fire raged at an oil pipeline following an explosion at the site, the U.S. military said, raising concerns that it was the latest in a series of sabotage attacks. The pipeline carries crude oil from fields near Kirkuk to Iraq's largest refinery at Beiji.

The violence involving U.S. troops heightened tensions in the "Sunni Triangle," a belt of central Iraq that has been the heart of support for Saddam Hussein loyalists against the American-led occupation. U.S. soldiers in the region are extremely jumpy, caught in what has become a guerrilla war.

The ambush took place in Khaldiya. The town's police chief, Col. Khedeir Mekhalef Ali, was assassinated Monday in a brazen shooting — the latest attack on Iraqis working with coalition forces. Ali was shot at a traffic circle on the outskirts of nearby Fallujah as he was returning to his home there.

Al-Arabiya television reported eight Americans were killed and one wounded in Thursday's ambush. The U.S. military did not confirm any deaths.

An Associated Press driver said a 3-year-old boy was shot in the chest. His condition was not known.

Five U.S. tanks, two Bradley fighting vehicles and 40 troops surrounded the neighborhood from which gunmen opened fire after the roadside bomb exploded, an AP reporter in Khaldiya said. Helicopters hovered above.

Initially as U.S. forces took fire from unknown positions, the soldiers shot back with no obvious targets in an apparent effort to protect themselves until reinforcements arrived, a witness said.

The AP reporter was fired on by one of the tanks with three rounds from its 50-caliber machine gun. An AP photographer said his car was shot up by American troops, the windshield blown out and all the tires flattened. The photographer and his driver were not injured.

Shortly afterward and nine miles to the west, a second roadside bomb hit a military convoy of three Humvees and a truck. One Humvee was engulfed in flames.

It was not clear if the military casualty report included the second attack.

Hours later, soldiers pointed tank cannons at reporters every time they tried to approach to find out what had happen.

As it grew dark, the Americans pulled out, removing the burned truck with a crane.

About 100 Iraqis danced in the streets and carried a large photo of Saddam dressed in military fatigues. There was celebratory gunfire and the people chanted: "With our blood, with our souls, we sacrifice ourselves for you, Saddam."

Wednesday night's shooting at the wedding in Fallujah came after American soldiers mistakenly killed eight U.S.-allied Iraqi police officers outside the town in a friendly fire incident.

# No evidence of smallpox found in Iraq

■ The Bush Administration had feared the possibility that Saddam was stockpiling the disease

by Dafna Linzer  
Associated Press

Top American scientists assigned to the weapons hunt in Iraq found no evidence Saddam Hussein's regime was making or stockpiling smallpox, The Associated Press has learned from senior military officers involved in the search.

Smallpox fears were part of the case the Bush administration used to build support for invading Iraq — and they were raised again as recently as last weekend by Vice President Dick Cheney.

A three-month search by "Team Pox" turned up only signs to the contrary: disabled equipment that had been rendered harmless by U.N. inspectors, Iraqi scientists deemed credible who gave no indication they had worked with smallpox and a laboratory thought to be back in use that was covered in cobwebs.

Fears that smallpox could be used as a weapon led the Bush administration to launch a vac-

ination campaign for some 500,000 U.S. military personnel after the Sept. 11 attacks, and to order enough vaccine to inoculate the entire U.S. population if necessary.

President Bush also was vaccinated against the disease, which kills about a third of its victims.

The negative smallpox findings reported to U.S. intelligence agencies come nearly six months after the administration went to war to disarm Iraq of weapons of mass destruction that Saddam long denied having and the military hasn't been able to find.

Smallpox was declared eradicated worldwide in 1980. All samples of the virus were to have been destroyed except those held by special labs in Atlanta and Russia, but some experts fear Russian samples could have gotten into the hands of hostile nations.

Two of the six members of Team Pox — whose existence and work hasn't been previously disclosed — have left Iraq while the rest remain involved in other aspects of the weapons hunt, said the officers who described the smallpox pursuit for the first time.

Though Team Pox is no longer operational, having carried out their work between May and July, their findings don't

dismiss the possibility that smallpox could still be discovered, according to the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

However, there remains little to pursue in this area now.

"We found no physical or new anecdotal evidence to suggest Iraq was producing smallpox or had stocks of it in its possession," one of the military officers said.

When Team Pox searched key locations in Iraq, such as the defunct Darwah foot-and-mouth disease center, they found the facility in the same condition U.N. inspectors left it in seven years ago.

In 1996, inspectors destroyed one fermenter, a storage tank and an inactivation tank at Darwah and poured concrete into the air conditioners while other equipment, including filter pressers and centrifuges were tagged for monitoring purposes.

The smallpox team found cobwebs covering much of the inside, although a CIA National Intelligence Estimate said the Iraqis were refurbishing the facility.

U.S. satellite images had spotted trucks pulling up in the past year — an indication of renewed activity, the team was told. But investigations on the ground revealed the trucks belonged to black marketeers

stealing scrap metal and other parts around the site.

In the run-up to the war, the CIA said chances were even that smallpox was part of an Iraqi biological weapons program, according to the National Intelligence Estimate.

Bush administration officials often cited smallpox when describing Saddam's intentions — and continue to do so despite the lack of evidence.

On Sunday, Cheney said two trailers discovered in Iraq could have been used to make smallpox. The vice president referred to the trailers as "mobile biological facilities" — a characterization that has been disputed by intelligence analysts within two U.S. government agencies that believe the trailers were used to fill weather balloons.

Secretary of State Colin Powell, making the U.S. case for war last February at the United Nations, said Saddam "has the wherewithal to develop smallpox."

Despite those suspicions, Pentagon planners didn't organize a specific search for smallpox when they put together a post-Saddam weapons hunt comprising hundreds of military personnel with expertise in missiles as well as chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

# Southern states deprived of AIDS money

NEW ORLEANS — The South gets short shrift when it comes to federal AIDS money, and an additional \$122 million a year is needed to erase the inequality, health officials from the region say.

Caseloads in the region are growing but federal money isn't keeping pace, officials from 14 states and Washington, D.C., told a national conference of AIDS/HIV workers on Wednesday.

They said they would ask Congress for the money, for

risk-reduction education, medical care, housing and programs that help people get expensive antiviral prescriptions.

The South had 39 percent of the nation's AIDS diagnoses in 2001, the latest year for which such figures are available, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

But Southerners with HIV get nearly 8 percent less money for treatment than their counterparts nationwide, and almost 11 percent less for prevention pro-

grams, according to the North Carolina Department of Health.

"It's unfair for HIV-infected individuals to not have adequate care," said Thomas Liberti, chief of the HIV/AIDS bureau in the Florida Department of Health. "It's in our nature to fight a disease and see gains. We know we can't as long as we're fighting with one hand behind our backs."

The disparity isn't caused by any sort of prejudice, the group said, but because federal money

is weighted toward cities with large numbers of cases, such as New York, Miami and New Orleans.

Many Southern states don't have concentrations of the illness, said Evelyn Foust, director of programs for AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases in North Carolina's Department of Health and Human Services.

In addition, many doctors in the rural South aren't familiar with AIDS, making it difficult to get care, the health officials said.

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## Letter to the Editor

### Tuition law alienates parents

I applaud your observations on this important issue of the inequity of forcing non-custodial divorced parents to pay for college tuition. My case was described in the recent article "Tuition law needs modification" (CT, Sept. 16).

I was forced by the New Hampshire Family Law Courts to pay half the parental portion of tuition for my daughter to attend Brown University.

She was also accepted at Brandeis University and the higher scholarship that Brandeis offered would have made my share of my daughter's expenses \$3000 as opposed to the \$6000 per year I'm paying for her to attend Brown.

What really aggravates me is I was not consulted in the entire process of her applying to colleges or deciding which one to attend.

Because my ex-wife was so sure I could be tagged for half the parental portion of the tuition, she didn't feel any need to consult me and I'm sure she convinced my daughter there was no need to have any discussion with me.

Custodial parents (mostly moth-

ers) say without the law there is little chance the non-custodial dad will contribute to college tuition.

My response is in many divorces the custodial parent alienates the children from the father, creating a situation where the normal bonds of filial respect and the role of the father in traditional parental decision-making is trampled.

A parent who has become alienated from his child through actions of the ex-spouse is less likely to want to make the financial sacrifice of paying college tuition at a high-priced institution than a parent enjoying the close parent-child relationship in an intact family.

In intact families with moderate financial resources, the college-age child often is required to choose a less expensive school than their first choice institution.

The parents tell Johnny there are X dollars available for college tuition and depending on the financial aid packages offered,

Johnny may not be able to attend his number one choice.

If the custodial spouse knows the non-custodial spouse's contribution to college tuition will be voluntary and not a forced contribution, they are more apt to encourage a close relationship between the child and that parent.

Alexander P. Duran, Ph. D., P.E.  
Nashua, NH

## Economy provides for entrepreneurs

Steven Du

Out of hesitation, the stock surged upward, triggered by the Fed holding the rates on Sept. 16. After three consecutive dismal and frustrating years, it seems the market is upset and anxious, as it looks for any excuse to up the pulse.

What is this excuse? No one is sure, but it should be something big and new enough to boost a new round of bull market. Faster memory or the more powerful handset with wireless connection? Not innovative enough. Maybe what we need for the next economy rally is not a single factor but a combination. If so, entrepreneurialism might be among the leading ideas.

If we review the state of last year's economy prosperity, without a doubt the electronics represented by semiconductor chips and PC applications have long been the engine of the new economy.

These benefit people living in modern standards and consolidate the leadership of American economy all over the world, hence the confidence of Americans free from any challenge from Europe and Japan.

But all of these could not happen without entrepreneurialism, one of the greatest American values.

We saw the PC pioneer, Apple and its founder Steven Jobs; we saw HP start in a garage. We saw Michael Dell assemble PCs in his dormitory and Bill Gates write BASIC code in a rush on an airplane to see his clients. Indeed, it is nothing but visions and struggle of entrepreneurs that led America into this new prosperity.

More importantly, we can not talk about last year's entrepreneurial fads

without mentioning technology in a technology-based economy. We hear people say, "I hate computers," but you can't get away from it. No, it is already part of the social fabric. It just does not matter whether you like it or not — you have to like it.

If we review history a little bit further, since the first steam engine took place, productivity has been liberated dramatically. Since the 17th and 18th centuries, merchandise has been traded globally and society has seen huge advancements in science and technology. Humans entered a new era featured by automation, electricity and computers.

However, what happened after the hit and boom in 2000? The bubble burst, stocks collapsed, and many businesses went bankrupt. Demand continued far short of supply. We ran into serious economy recession.

Nevertheless, technology has always been like that. That is exactly the way things evolve. Nothing can keep prospering all the time. Any technology, from electricity to automobiles, always makes its way up and then back down, but finally forward to advancement. The deep tech stagnation in 1985-86 bore a burst of new robust personal-computer applications. Out of downturn, beginning in the 1990s, researcher Tim Berners-Lee invented the World Wide Web.

The point is this is exactly the right time for the next entrepreneur to take off.

"Bad economies are the breeding ground for great leaps in technology," said serial entrepreneur S. Jerrold Kaplan. Foresee what lies in tomorrow and do not lag in the shadow of yesterday.

Preparedness: the most essential character of an entrepreneur. After such a long time of downturn, the

market seems to have no where to go but up.

New technology is continuing to advance, which is encouraging, and not only with electronics products. Have you ever imagined people flying helicopters or other aircrafts just like your car in the future? You might want to bet on it because, according

to Messrs. Icahn Eclipse Aviation, some businesses are trying to make a commercial air tax with less than \$2 a charge. Isn't it exciting? Also, interesting is GM's digital car.

Confidence is returning in venture capital. Venture capitalists just don't tell you they are ready to reap fruits in the coming year. A survey report ventures investing rose slightly to \$4.3 billion from April to July, compared to \$4.0 billion in the same period last year, according to Pricewater House Coopers, a worldwide consulting business. Furthermore, roughly 35 percent of the investment went to egg-hatching phase, the very first phase of startup. This is a dramatic increase higher than 20 percent average from year 2001.

It is not necessary for entrepreneurs to come up with new technology. New business models work very well as technology has been dispersed everywhere and accumulated. eBay, born humbly, just as a flea market of secondhand goods, has been considered part of the "new economy" — a term coined by the Wall Street Journal. Its retail revenue exceeded \$20 billion, more than the GDP of all but 70 of the world's countries.

Anyway, it also might not be a bad idea to start by using failed investment leftovers. Just like in all other endeavors, patience will pay.

Steven Du is a business columnist for the Collegiate Times.

## Responsible driving could save students from wrecking their future

John Robertson

I must admit, the Collegiate Times op-eds have been interesting, of late. I support many of the ideas aired by concerned students in this forum.

This week, alone, there was a letter to the student body to become informed on global issues, an exhortation to the judiciary to preserve Miranda warnings, an admonition to recognize the privilege of your education and a plea to refrain from excreting your bodily fluids in, on, or around public facilities as if you were a jungle creature marking its territory. All good advice.

I'll add yet another item to this growing list of requests to become, in general, more considerate, educated, and aware — please stop trying to kill yourselves and each other when you drive around here or anywhere else, for that matter.

I regard this as one of the most important acts of consideration you could show to your fellow students, much less the surrounding community.

I'm asking you this as your attorney. I know generalizations never hold true but I'm not just basing this request on personal observation of your driving habits. I'm not even basing it on

the fact that I see hundreds of you in my office every year for speeding and reckless driving offenses.

Other folks share the opinion you, as a group, drive dangerously.

For example, all insurance companies regard you as a high-risk group. That's why your premiums are even more expensive than, say, the total cost of all your textbooks, each year. That's gazillions of dollars. (I exaggerate for effect.)

Most rental car companies will not allow you to rent cars until you reach age 25.

If you ask local police, judges, politicians, and residents what they think of student driving behavior, chances are excellent they first, will laugh. Then they may direct your attention to surrounding residential roads where residents attempted to erect barricades of speed bumps, warning signs, reduced-speed-limit signs, and other obstacles nearly every 30 feet in the hopes of slowing you down. (Yes, this is an exaggeration... but not as much as you think.)

Don't think there's a problem? I invite you to watch, from the (relative) safety of the sidewalk, the morning commute, and the scramble at 7:55 a.m. in the commuter lots at Virginia Tech.

It's like watching a live action event that's part formula-car racing, part

battle bots. It's frightening to see the multiple-car accidents in those 15- or 25- or 35-mph zones, where accidents are so severe it may appear as if the vehicles involved (sometimes three or four!) were dropped from the sky. (Again: no exaggeration.)

You might be laughing until I share the costs with you.

First, you might be subject to criminal penalties when you go to court, maybe resulting in the loss of your license for up to a year, a steep fine, or (in some cases) jail time.

In a neighboring county, even if you have no previous traffic offenses, the judge will jail you if you were going over 88 mph on the interstate. This trend is catching on with many judges.

Next, if you are at fault, you might have to pay top dollar to have the other party's vehicle fixed. Even simple dents and scratches could cost you thousands of dollars. If you contest the matter, add thousands of additional dollars in legal fees and court costs. Do you have an extra \$5,000 lying around? Didn't think so.

If you aren't at fault, you will not be compensated for what you believe your vehicle to be worth.

In fact, the other insurance company might not give you very much money at all for property damages or your physical injuries. They'll give you

what they think you are worth ... or what they believe a jury would award to you. That amount often falls short of what students believe they should be compensated.

Or, if you're the person charged with being at fault, you might be held responsible for far more than you could imagine.

Recently, a jury in nearby Rockingham County handed down a \$520,608 verdict against a driver who was sober but driving around 90 when he rear-ended another vehicle, causing only about \$7,800 in medical injuries to the other driver.

The jury decided to send the offending driver a message by awarding the maximum \$250,000 in punitive damages to the injured party. Do you have \$520,608 lying around? (If so, please contribute generously to the Virginia Tech Foundation. They might be convinced to name a new parking lot in your honor.)

None of this takes into account how much a physical injury could impact your life.

Injuries that could disfigure you, cripple you, or worse. You could inflict those injuries on a child who darts in front of your car.

When you are in an accident, regardless of fault, you are embarking on a long, frustrating process of dealing with police, medical bureaucra-

cies, insurance bureaucracies, and the judicial system. This is the norm — not the exception.

So, fairly or unfairly, you, the students, have developed a reputation for being bad drivers. Keep in mind there are numerous traffic injuries ... and a few fatalities, on or near campus, every year. You are literally killing one another ... a couple of students at a time.

Here are three simple steps you can take to reduce your risk of getting into an accident to nearly zero: 1) Don't exceed the posted speed limit, and/or reduce speed if conditions are bad; 2) use your turn signals before you turn, and — this is important — to indicate the direction you will actually turn; and 3) maintain a 10 second stopping distance between you and the cars in front of you. That's it!

Weigh the costs of following these three easy rules against the thousands (or hundreds of thousands) of dollars in damages, severe injuries and countless hours of legal headaches you might experience in an accident.

Will you listen to me, or to those other students and mentors who incite you to think, to get involved, to be more considerate ... or at least not to pee on the seat? Time will tell.

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

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# Saudis may help with Mideastern costs

▪ Afghanistan is still a critical priority despite costs in Iraq and Saudi Arabia is expected to help with restructuring

by **Stephen Graham**  
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — U.S. Treasury Secretary John Snow said Thursday he expected Saudi Arabia to contribute to the reconstruction of both Iraq and Afghanistan and insisted that Afghanistan would not be sidelined as the cost of stabilizing Iraq grows.

Snow said in Kabul that he had raised the issue of funding for both Afghanistan and Iraq with Saudi leaders in Jiddah on Wednesday.

"I was encouraged by the response we got and I expect them to be participants in both reconstruction funding for Afghanistan and for Iraq," Snow said. He declined to say whether he had won a Saudi commitment to fund the rebuilding of the Iraqi army.

In Saudi Arabia, a Saudi

finance official who attended Wednesday's talks said the kingdom was considering the kind of aid it would give to Iraq and Afghanistan. But the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, did not comment on reconstruction of the Iraqi army.

"We are studying all options and we will be among the biggest countries to contribute in the reconstruction of Iraq. We are concerned with the brethren Iraqi people and will not hold back any aid from them," he said.

The United States is seeking to rebuild the Iraqi army — and is leading efforts to create a national army in factional Afghanistan from scratch — and is casting around for other countries willing to share the burden.

A report released in Washington this week estimated that rebuilding an army in Iraq of 30,000 to 40,000 soldiers would cost about \$2 billion next year.

In Afghanistan, Britain and France have joined the United States effort to train a planned 70,000-strong force in Afghanistan. But amid complaints of underfunding, only 6,000 troops have been brought under arms so far.

Snow, on a five-hour stopover in Kabul between trips to Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, insisted that Afghanistan remains a "critical priority" for the United States.

President Bush earlier this month asked the U.S. Congress for a \$800 million for the rebuilding of Afghanistan. Snow said Thursday that total 2004 U.S. money for Afghan reconstruction would be about \$1 billion — apparently including other funds administration officials have said would be added to Bush's request.

That is far smaller than the amount Bush is seeking to rebuild Iraq: \$20.3 billion. The administration has requested a total \$87 billion for military and reconstruction costs in the two countries.

Snow urged other nations to pledge new funds to help Afghan reconstruction when they meet at a donor's confer-

ence next week in Dubai. "We're counting on other nations to match or exceed" the \$1 billion from the United States, Snow said.

"We recognize that for prosperity to occur, there has to be investment in security, there has to be investment in infrastructure," Snow told reporters after meeting Afghan President Hamid Karzai. "And there has to be investment in the institutions of government that ultimately make prosperity possible."

But with Taliban loyalists harrying U.S. soldiers in the south of Afghanistan, warlords controlling much of the country, and the drug trade flourishing, aid groups say international financial support still falls far short.

Afghan Finance Minister Ashraf Ghani, speaking to reporters alongside Snow, said his country needed a total of \$30 billion over the next five years.

**"We are studying all options and we will be among the biggest countries to contribute in the reconstruction of Iraq."**

Saudi finance official

# Time Warner drops AOL in name

▪ One reason the company made the change is because of the many problems AOL is now facing

by **Seth Shutel**  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Acknowledging the failures of the largest merger in U.S. history, the board of AOL Time Warner Inc. voted Thursday to remove the letters "AOL" from the company's name.

The largest media and entertainment company in the world will now be called Time Warner Inc., as it was before the merger announced on Jan. 10, 2000 that was billed as a way to jump-start a media revolution by combining "old" and "new" media companies.

"We believe that our new name better reflects the portfolio of our valuable businesses and ends any confusion between our corporate name and the America Online brand name for our investors, partners and the public," chairman and chief executive Richard Parsons said in a statement.

The company declined to make Parsons available to comment.

The name change will be phased in over the next several weeks, and will affect the company's logos, the way it promotes its brands and even its ticker symbol, which is currently "AOL" but will revert to "TWX."

The change will also affect the name on the company's new headquarters building, a gleaming 80-story structure in Manhattan's Columbus Circle currently known as AOL Time Warner Center.

The building is nearly complete and will be opened to its first occupant, the Mandarin

Oriental Hotel, in the fall. Time Warner plans to move in next spring.

The pioneering Internet company America Online was once seen as a catalyst to breathe new life into the various media properties of Time Warner, including HBO, Time magazine and the nation's No. 2 cable company, Time Warner Cable.

Now, AOL is the company's biggest embarrassment. AOL is still profitable, on track to make \$1 billion this year, but it's facing a host of problems, including a regulatory inquiry into its accounting and an eroding subscriber base as users drop AOL for faster connections to the Internet.

With hopes for a media revolution now a distant memory, the company will continue to focus on simplifying its tangled corporate structure, cleaning up its balance sheet and selling off businesses not central to its core media operations.

This week the company announced its latest asset sale, a deal to sell its two winter sports teams in Atlanta, the NBA's Hawks and the NHL's Thrashers, to a Boston businessman for \$250 million. AOL has also sold off a DVD manufacturing facility and its half-interest in the Comedy Central cable channel.

In a memo to employees, Parsons said the company was delivering on its goal of debt reduction and turning around AOL. "We've also devoted a good deal of attention to revitalizing company morale," he wrote.

AOL Time Warner first indicated that it was considering a name change last month, when AOL chief Jonathan Miller personally appealed to Parsons that AOL be dropped from the corporate title so people wouldn't confuse the overall company with the online division.

# Five al-Qaida suspects arrested in Spain

by **Daniel Woolls**  
Associated Press

MADRID, Spain — Police arrested five suspects Thursday on orders of a Spanish judge investigating the al-Qaida terror network, a day after he issued the first known indictment against Osama bin Laden for the Sept. 11 attacks.

The five men, whose arrest was announced by the Interior Ministry, were not among the 35 suspects indicted in the dramatic order issued Wednesday by Judge Baltasar Garzon.

Four of them are linked to some of those indicted, accord-

ing to Garzon's 700-page order.

Among those arrested were two Syrian-born men in the southern city of Granada, who the indictment says are connected with Tayssir Alouni. Alouni, a journalist for the Arab TV station Al-Jazeera arrested earlier this month, was charged in Wednesday's indictment with membership in al-Qaida.

Two suspects arrested in Madrid, also of Syrian origin, are acquaintances of two others in the indictment: Imad Eddin Barakat Yarkas, the accused leader of an al-Qaida cell in Spain, and Mamoun Darkazanli, a Syrian-German businessman

believed to have been involved in plotting the Sept. 11 attacks.

The fifth man, of Moroccan origin, was arrested Thursday in the eastern town of Alicante, the ministry said, without providing further details.

Garzon's indictment was a sweeping move against al-Qaida elements in Spain and abroad. Many on the indictment list are already in Spanish jails, and Garzon issued or reissued arrest warrants for 13 on the list.

Interior Minister Angel Acebes said in Granada Thursday that there was no indication attacks were planned against Spain.

Ten of the 35 suspects indicted by Garzon were charged with direct participation in planning the suicide airplane attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Two of those 10 were jailed as of Wednesday, and a third was believed to be in Spain.

Others faced charges including membership in al-Qaida, tax fraud and weapons possession.

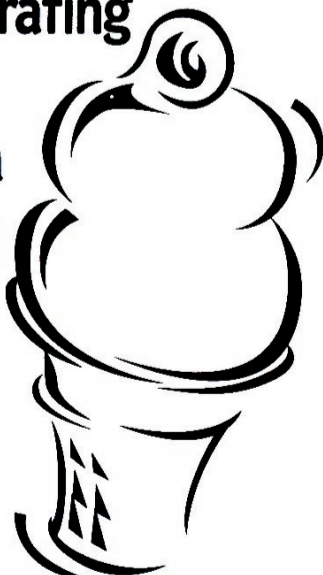
U.S. Justice Department officials said on condition of anonymity Wednesday that the U.S. government did not play a direct role in the Spanish indictment.

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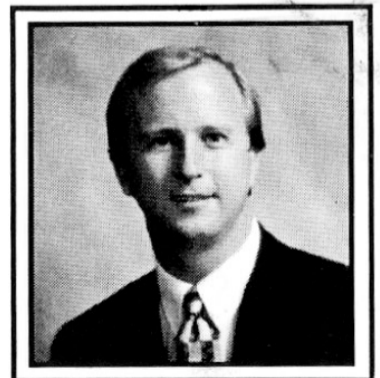
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Features

# Matchstick Men ablaze with good plot

Jason Bayer

Before even coming to the theaters, "Matchstick Men" seemed to have a boatload of credibility. Combining director Ridley Scott with lead man Nicholas Cage and up-and-coming energetic Sam Rockwell as his counterpart had excitement surrounding the film.

The question was whether or not the quirky plot could hold the audiences' attention for the duration of the film. Through excellent performances and great direction, the film does not disappoint.

Roy Waller (Cage) is a long time con artist who happens to have numerous phobias and a clear case of obsessive compulsive disorder. Frank Mercer (Rockwell) is his protégé partner trying to get further into the business.

Pulling the same con routine over and over suits Waller just fine but Mercer is constantly trying to get him to come in with him for a larger job. After Waller starts seeing a psychologist who helps reunite him with his long lost daughter Angela (Alison Lohman), things start looking up for him and he finally agrees to take on the big gig.

The twist is the 14-year-old Angela finds out her father's occupation and wants in, so the plot shifts as Waller starts teaching her the business.

Cage started his career with great acting in lower profile movies. In the mid-nineties he started starring in more mainstream movies like "The Rock," "Con Air," and "Face Off," all movies with commercial success but ones he started delivering sub-

par performances.

As if that weren't enough, he agreed to do such films as "City of Angels" and "Snake Eyes." Finally, he seemed to get back to his roots with last year's comedic drama "Adaptation."

The only question was whether or not he would continue that path or again start to disappear into mainstream flops.

He answers the question with a brilliant performance in this film where he expertly embodies the personality of a phobic.

The only downside to the movie is almost a requirement, and it is Waller's continuous problematic tendencies can create a very slow moving plot. Fortunately, every time it starts to become relevant, Rockwell jumps into the scene and gives it the energetic boost it needs.

Rockwell's performance as the protégé who doesn't have a problem making fun of his partner's phobias lightens the tone of the movie while simultaneously helping to define the extent of Waller's fears.

Alison Lohman also provides a performance helping Cage to explore the actions of a person with intense phobia. The combination of the opposing personalities is another facet making the movie so enjoyable to watch.

The cinematography and shot selections are yet another aspect worthy of comment. Particularly the scenes occurring in Waller's house when he is seen cleaning continuously, muttering to himself, or doing everything he does exactly three times.

All these scenes coupled with Cage's performance and his play off the other



## Matchstick Men

**Synopsis:** As a phobic con-artist, Nicholas Cage juggles his OCD, his protégé, and his long-lost 14-year-old daughter, who eventually wants in on the family business.

**Cast:** Nicholas Cage, Sam Rockwell, Alison Lohman

**Director:** Ridley Scott

**Running Time:** 116 min.

Rated PG-13 for crude and sex-related humor, language and drug references.

Rating: B+

characters makes Roy Waller a fabulously developed character.

The bottom line is an original plot, outstanding performances, great direction, and a surprising and interesting twist make this an excellent film. Ridley Scott changes gears a little from his recent action films "Black Hawk Down" and "Gladiator," but does so in fine style.

Sam Rockwell continues his energetic performance path making him a delight to watch and Nicholas Cage appears to be back, hopefully for good.

The twist at the end also brings to mind the adage "If you play with matches, you're bound to get burned." "Matchstick Men" is playing at New River Valley Mall.

Jason Bayer writes movie reviews for the Collegiate Times.

# 'Hairspray' debuts national tour in Md.

▪ The national tour is scheduled to run for two years starting its run in Baltimore

by Ben Nuckols  
Associated Press

BALTIMORE — This city was proud of "Hairspray" from the minute it premiered on Broadway — long before the near-unanimous chorus of ecstatic reviews, the months of sellout crowds and the eight Tony awards.

And now Baltimore has been repaid for its support.

"Hairspray," the musical adaptation of John Waters' 1988 film about a chubby East Baltimore girl who achieves her dream of dancing on a local sock-hop television show, launched its national tour Wednesday night before a raucous audience at the Mechanic Theatre.

*"This is a real feather in (Baltimore's) cap, to have the national tour start here."*

Norton Michaelson  
audience member

year-old Carly Jibson, who plays Tracy, is a total unknown, as was Tony winner Marissa Jaret Winokur when she was cast.

"In both instances, they were chosen right away," said producer Margo Lion, a Baltimore native. "It wasn't that hard, to be honest. There's a lot of talent out there."

The national tour is scheduled to run for two years, with performances in Canada and Australia also booked. "Hairspray" will ultimately play in Europe and Japan, Lion said.

Lion attended the premiere, along with Waters, composer Marc Shaiman, lyricist Scott Wittman and other luminaries.

They walked on stage during a five-minute standing ovation at the close of the show, and Waters dedicated the performance to the memory of Buddy Deane, the television deejay from whose show Waters drew his inspiration. Deane died July 16. His widow, Helen, was in

the audience.

Despite the story's big-hearted themes about acceptance of all races and body types, many on the "Hairspray" team are still amazed a cult film by a director dubbed the "pope of trash" could be transformed into an overwhelmingly popular family entertainment.

Pat Moran, the casting director for nearly all of Waters' films, marvels the movie was ever made at all.

"You have to think back to 1987," she said. "I don't think it was exactly safe moviemaking to make a musical, set in the '60s, about racism in Baltimore, and starring a man playing a woman. It all seems so benign now, but it wasn't then."

# Missouri cave proves to be Ice Age time capsule

by Connie Farrow  
Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. — Paleontologist Matt Forir expected to find another 50-foot, trash-filled pit when he went to investigate a cave unearthed by construction workers in southwest Missouri.

He could not have been more wrong.

The dynamite blasted into limestone for a new road in Greene County unveiled proof that 1,400-pound short-faced bears roamed the Ozarks

during the Ice Age and they struggled with arthritis and gout.

Forir and other researchers are also investigating the possibility that herds of peccary — pig-like animals — sought shelter in caves thousands of years ago, as opposed to being dragged in by predators for food.

"Everywhere you look in here, you find something significant," said Forir, president of Missouri Speleological Survey.

Icicle-shaped stalactites,

flowstone and soda straws created from countless drops of mineral-laden water might even prove useful for scientists.

"There's no question this cave is a picture to the past," said Kenneth C. Thomson, Southwest Missouri State geology professor and cave expert.

Missouri has more than 5,700 registered caves, but researchers think this one, formally known as Riverbluff Cave, holds infinite research possibilities.

They believe there might be enough evidence of Ice Age animals inside to give it national

prominence.

The scientists are examining animal tracks and dung.

"It certainly indicates that maybe they were using these caves in a social sense, where herds of them were going in to get out of bad weather," said Greg McDonald, a peccary expert and paleontological project coordinator for National Park Service in Denver.

"It raises all kinds of interesting questions as far as what the importance of caves was in the natural history of these animals."

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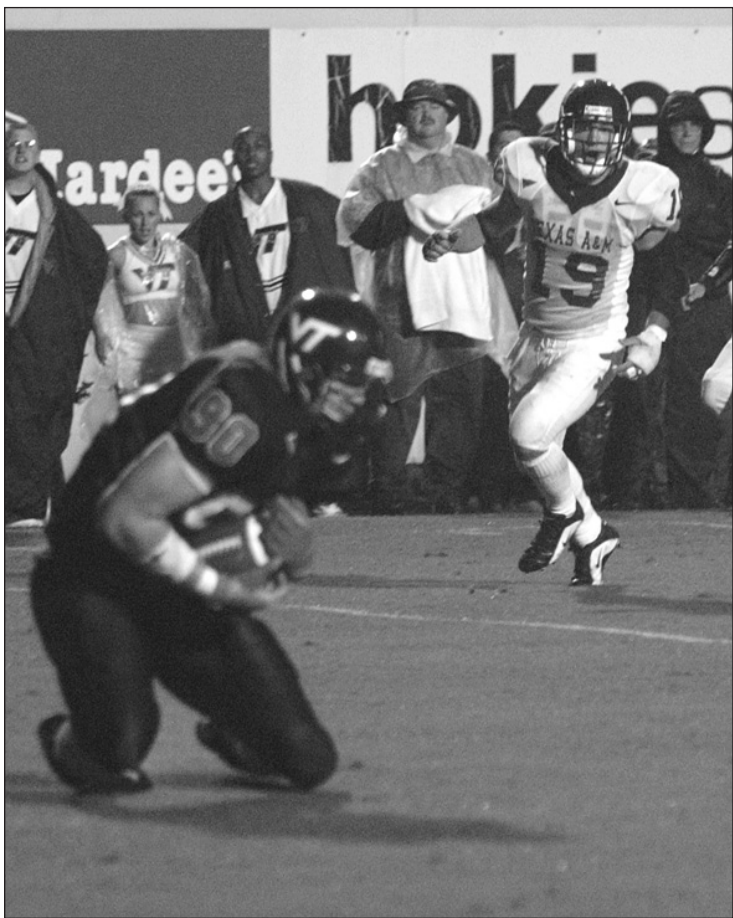
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## Sports



NICK TURPEN/SPPS

Jaxson Appel (19) reacts as Tech tight end Jeff King scores a wide-open touchdown, the second of his career.

# Battle: Tech leads wire-to-wire for a rain-soaked victory

Continued from page 1

Tech came out in the second half looking to put the game away, but the Aggies would keep trying to stay step-for-step with them. Tailback Kevin Jones emerged in the second half of the game after an efficient but quiet first half where he gained 58 yards rushing. Jones ran for 42 of the 76 yards Tech drove to open the second half, including a two yard touchdown run to give Tech a 21-12 lead.

Just when it seemed like Tech's defense could clamp down on the Aggies after the offense began to sputter, momentum shifted dangerously back in A&M's favor. Quarterback Bryan Randall threw an interception late in the third quarter, giving the Aggies great field position. A&M went 37 yards, and McNeal threw a touchdown pass to wideout Tim Van Zant from 15 yards out to cut the lead to 21-19.

With the momentum slipping back in the hands of the Aggies as the fourth quarter began, a Hokie victory seemed more and more like a mirage that would quickly fade away. However, Jones responded for Tech like the true workhorse the coaching staff has always envisioned him to be and helped establish that he was the most dangerous man on the field. He ran for another 44 yards on the drive immediately after A&M scored, and the drive ended when Randall scampered from 12 yards out for a touchdown, giving Tech a comfortable lead and essentially putting the proverbial nail in the coffin.

"The thing that I really liked is how we came back — especially when it was a two point game," Beamer said. "I like that about our football team."

After making several defensive adjustments in the second half, the Tech defense began

to contain McNeal much more effectively. The defensive staff realized that to counter McNeal's playmaking ability, they had to play more disciplined and continue their necessary responsibilities on defense.

"I thought we just played more poised and more controlled in the second half," said Tech defensive coordinator Bud Foster, regarding his defense.

"We were playing hard, we just needed to play better. Our kids hung in there, and we came out there and really played a heck of a second half."

The adjustments worked, as the Aggies posed no more threats for the rest of the game.

By midway through the fourth quarter, the Hokies sent in Marcus Vick for clean up duty, and the Aggies sent in backup quarterback Dustin Long, essentially signaling the game was over.

# Broncos coach cleared of lie

by John Marshall  
Associated Press

DENVER—Mike Shanahan lied and got away with it.

The Broncos coach was cleared of any wrongdoing Thursday after explaining to league officials why he lied about Jake Plummer's injury during a game last weekend.

"The key is we're on the same page and moving forward, so the matter that occurred last Sunday is closed," NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said. "We're satisfied that it is resolved and that Mike understands the policy."

The league started looking into Shanahan's actions after he gave a false injury report to CBS during halftime of Sunday's game against San Diego.

Plummer was injured while diving for a first down midway through the second quarter, but Shanahan told the network that the quarterback sustained a concussion instead of a separated shoulder.

Shanahan came clean after the game, saying he didn't want the Chargers to have an advantage if backup Steve Beuerlein got hurt. The Broncos had just two quarterbacks at the time.

Rules for reporting in-game injuries aren't as specific as pregame injuries, but the league didn't like Shanahan's deception tactics and said it would look into whether he broke any rules.

Shanahan did not hear from league officials early in the week, so he decided to call NFL executive vice president Roger Goodell to make sure there were no problems.

# Collision at practice injures Redskins' Fred Smoot

by Joseph White  
Associated Press

ASHBURN, — Washington Redskins cornerback Fred

Smoot was briefly knocked unconscious and taken to the hospital after a collision during practice Thursday.

Smoot took a hit to the head from safety Matt Bowen as the two defended Rob Johnson's pass to Cliff Russell. Trainer Dean Kleinschmidt said Smoot was unconscious for "less than a minute" and woke up with a

headache and back pain before being placed on a board and loaded in an ambulance.

"He had feeling," Kleinschmidt said. "He could move his arms and legs and feel and squeeze. He responded. He did not have amnesia."

Kleinschmidt said Smoot would probably be diagnosed with a concussion, pending tests

at the hospital.

Practice was stopped for about five minutes as Smoot was treated.

"When I saw him on the ground, and he just wasn't moving, that was the scary part," cornerback Champ Bailey said. "He was going in and out a little bit, but once they took his face mask off and they just had him lying on his back, he looked like he was at least aware of what was going on. I looked at him and he kind of smiled a little bit, so that was a good sign."

Bowen's aggressiveness in practice has been a problem for the Redskins since the start of training camp. He leveled running back Trung Canidate during the first week of practice, drawing the ire of coaches and cheers from his fellow defensive players.

Coach Steve Spurrier did not blame Bowen directly for Smoot's injury, but the coach said: "We've all got to realize we're practicing against each other."

Bowen, who was not hurt on the play, declined to speak to reporters.

Smoot's availability for the Sunday's game against the New York Giants is obviously in question, which would be a significant setback for the Redskins. He and Bailey are one of the top tandems in the league, and backup Rashad Bauman pulled his hamstring in last week's game against the Atlanta Falcons.

"With a guy like that, you lose a lot. You lose his talent. You lose his energy," Bailey said. "You can't replace Fred. ... He's one of a kind. It's definitely going to hurt this team."

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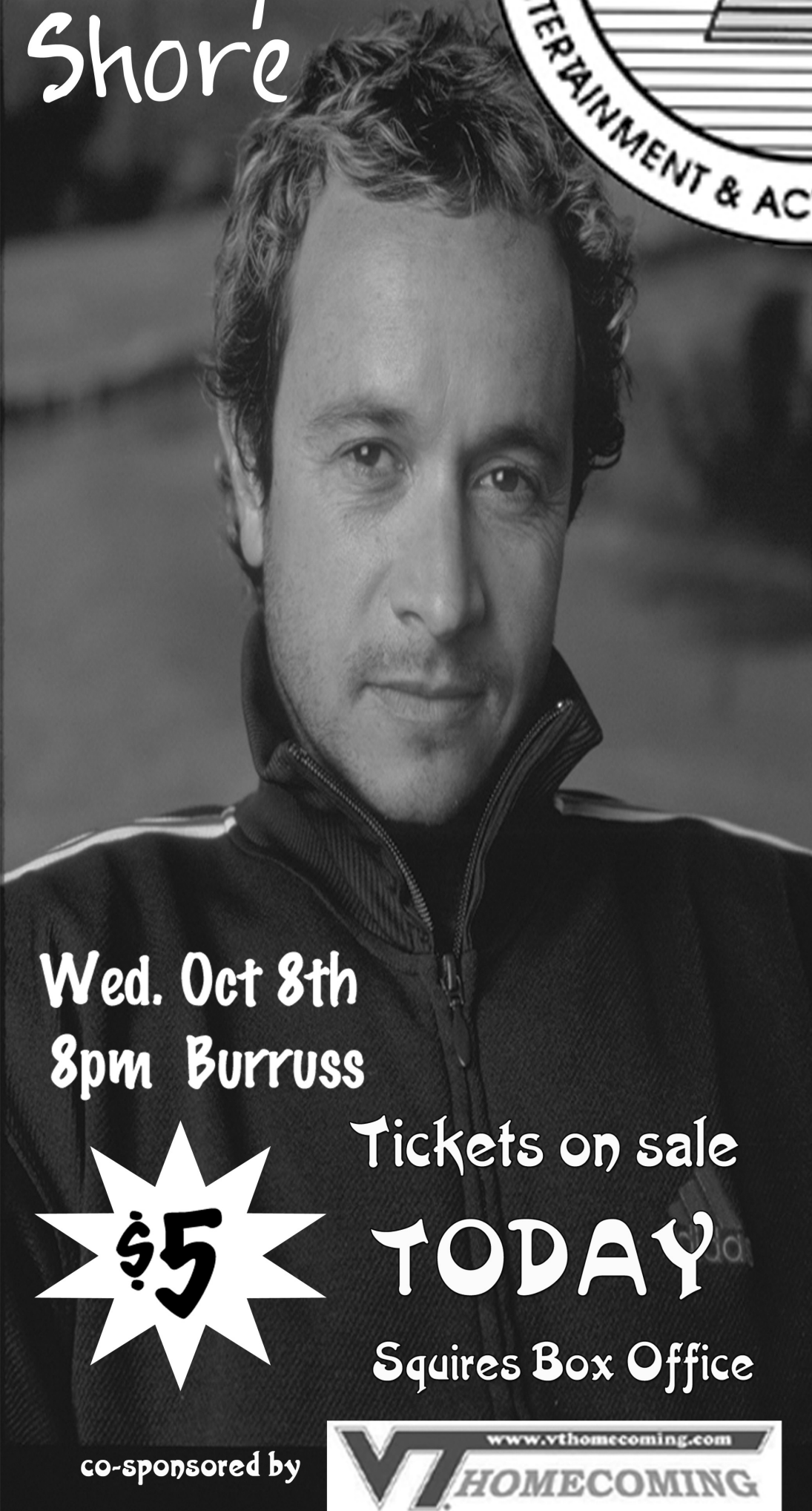
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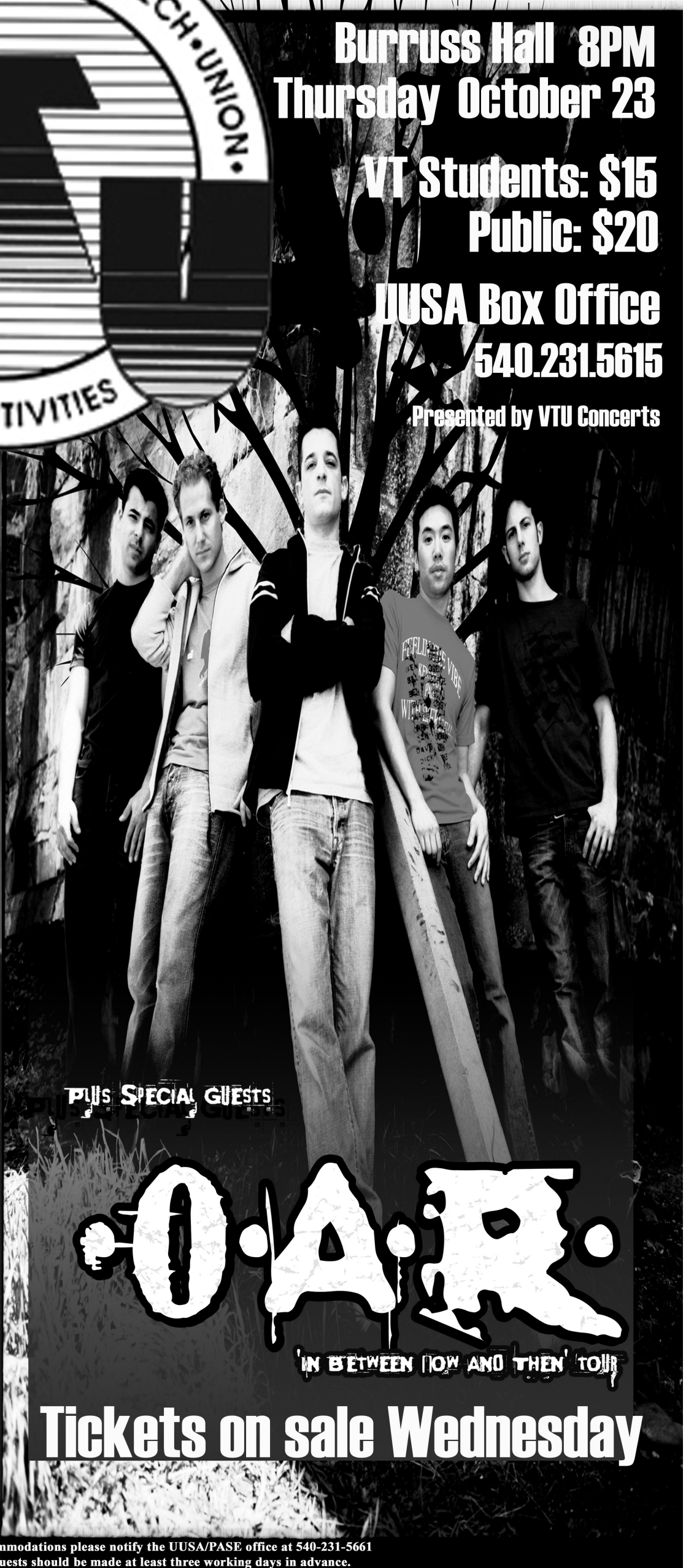
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# Win: Kevin Jones has career rushing day against Aggies

Continued from page 1

threw nine for 13 for 63 yards and one interception.

Again, A&M responded to the Tech score by marching up the field deep into Hokie territory. Once again, the Aggies were unable to score a touchdown in red zone and had to settle for a field goal.

With 7:53 left in the half, A&M trailed 14-6. Unfazed by the deficit, the Aggies' defense flexed its prowess and forced the Hokies to punt.

Retaining possession on their own two-yard line, A&M marched 98 yards in five minutes and 37 seconds and scored their first touchdown of the night. The Hokies were able to stop the Aggies on the two-point conversion attempt and headed into the locker room with a 14-12 lead.

"We were probably too juiced up in the first half. Their quarterback had a couple great throws and made some nice runs," said Tech defensive coordinator Bud Foster. "We made some adjustments at halftime and came after him a little bit more. I thought we played more under control in the second half."

Those adjustments Foster spoke of were evident throughout the second half as the Tech defense held McNeal in check, who threw three for nine for 29 yards in the second half.

"They were blitzing a lot more in the second half," McNeal said. "They were sending pressure from outside two out of every three downs and that kept me from getting to the perimeter."

Despite solid play from its defense and 67 rushing yards and one touchdown from Jones

in the third, the Hokies allowed A&M to get back into the game on a special teams miscue.

Late in the third quarter, DeAngello Hall awaited a punt from Scates. Hall couldn't get a grip on the ball and dropped the reception. The Aggies recovered the ball at the Tech 24-yard line.

A&M wasted little time capitalizing on the turnover, needing only four plays to get into the endzone. At the 14:20 mark in the fourth, the Aggies trailed 21-19.

The Hokies responded, quieting the A&M surge by putting together an 11 play, 80-yard drive that was capped by a 12-yard touchdown run by Randall.

Jones scored the final touchdown of the game on an 11-yard run, six plays after Tech recovered a fumble by A&M kick returner Byron Jones.



NICK TURPEN/SPPS

Texas A&M wide receiver Tim Van Zant (83), gets swarmed by a gang of Hokie defenders. Tech rover Michael Crawford (21) lead the Hokies with five solo tackles and nine assisted tackles.

VIRGINIA TECH BOX SCORE					
Quarter	1	2	3	4	Final
TAMU	3	9	0	7	19
VT	7	7	7	14	35
STATS					
				TAMU	VT
First Downs				16	22
Rushing Attempts				39	47
Net Rushing Yards				102	273
Passes Attempted				26	13
Passes Completed				14	9
Net Passing Yards				170	63
Total Net Yards				272	336
Penalties: Number - Yards				9-71	6-64
Time of Possession				30:43	29:17
Third-Down Conversions				4 of 14	6 of 11
Fourth-Down Conversions				3 of 3	2 of 2
Red-Zone: Scores - Chances				4-4	5-5

# Giants' unbeatable lead nets championship

San Francisco claims preemptive National League West division victory with two weeks left to play

by Greg Beacham  
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO—Barry Bonds and the San Francisco Giants overcame many obstacles in their season-long roll to the playoffs.

Through it all, from the deaths of family members to a series of injuries, they never fell out of first place in the NL West.

Jason Schmidt had 11 strikeouts in his 16th win, and Andres Galarraga and Marquis Grissom

hit two-run homers as the Giants beat San Diego 8-3 on Wednesday night to wrap up the division title and their third playoff appearance in four seasons.

The Giants' win coupled with Los Angeles' 2-0 loss to Arizona gave San Francisco an insurmountable 13-game lead with less than two weeks to play. The Giants watched the final outs of Los Angeles' loss on the video board in center field.

"This is exhilarating," Schmidt said. "Even though we've gone through this before, everyone here deserves to celebrate and deserves to have a good time tonight. We know the real work starts in October, though."

After the final out in a solid win over San Diego, the play-

ers slapped high-fives as they normally would following a victory. As the players gathered at the dugout railing to watch the Dodgers' game, the crowd began chanting, "Beat L.A.! Beat L.A.!"

When it ended, the Giants thrust their hands in the air and joined in a huge group hug near the dugout steps.

In the clubhouse, players doused each other with champagne and beer to celebrate the earliest playoff clinch in franchise history. The festivities became increasingly raucous, with several players apparently competing to douse everyone giving postgame interviews.

"We knew we were going to be pretty good, but to do what we did is amazing," general manager Brian Sabean said after getting a champagne soaking. "We've proved to baseball we know what we're doing, and we've overcome a huge number of obstacles along the way. This is the sweet part, but we'll go right back to work."

By taking first place on opening day and never letting go, the defending NL champions became just the ninth wire-to-wire winner of a division or pennant in baseball history. But the Giants' run was even more impressive for its degree of difficulty.

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