

# 'SENIORITIS IN THE RIGHT WAY'

Senior Seth Allen shines as a leader in his final season.

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AHMED MUSTAFA / COLLEGIATE TIMES

Seth Allen (4) gets a pass from a teammate at the half court in the second half of the game against U.Va. in John Paul Jones Arena, Feb. 1, 2017. Read more on page 5.

column

## 'Take the oil' policy risks U.S. troops

IBRAHIM MOHAMED  
 opinions contributor

"In the old days, you know when you had a war, to the victor belong the spoils. You go in. You win the war and take it ... You're not stealing anything ... We're taking back \$1.5 trillion to reimburse ourselves," said Donald Trump in a 2011 television interview.

Perhaps the old days Trump is referring to are before August of 1949, when, in the Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions, pillage was explicitly forbidden in international law for the humanitarian treatment of war.

Perhaps these days are before the Hague Conventions of 1907, called at the behest of President Theodore Roosevelt, which, in the Convention with respect to the Laws and Customs of War on Land, states that, "The pillage of a town or place, even when taken by assault, is prohibited."

Perhaps these days are even before April of 1863, when, in the Lieber Code passed by President Abraham Lincoln, it was stated that, "All wanton violence committed against persons in the invaded country, all destruction of property not commanded by the authorized officer, all robbery, all pillage or sacking ... are prohibited under the penalty of death, or such other severe punishment."

These "take the oil" sentiments, which date back to a 2011 interview with George Stephanopoulos, have been shouted by our commander in chief on more than one occasion — only, until now, they have just been sentiments; as of Jan. 20, 2017, they became policy.

In countries such as Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya, United States troops are on the ground and working in alliance with sympathetic local forces against ISIS and the Taliban. Also, many of these same nations harbor valuable supplies of oil.

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## Previewing the 2017 Tech football roster

With several key players, on both offense and defense, departing the Virginia Tech football team, the Hokies are looking for replacements led by a recruiting class of 27 newcomers.

CHASE PARKER  
 football beat reporter

Just under five weeks have passed since the Virginia Tech Hokies ended their season on a 35-24 victory over Arkansas in the Belk Bowl. Since then, key seniors have departed, three offensive stars opted for the NFL Draft and 27 newcomers have been recruited for the 2017 class.

While there is a long seven-month wait ahead of the Hokie faithful for the upcoming season, it is never too early to speculate who may or may not be making an impact in 2017.

To figure out which positions will be vacant, we must take a look at the 2016 starters and their statuses for next year:

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### Virginia Tech Offense

WR	Isaiah Ford	Gone
LT	Yosuah Nijman	Returning
LG	Wyatt Teller	Returning
C	Eric Gallo	Returning
RG	Augie Conte	Gone
RT	Jonathan McLaughlin	Gone
WR	Bucky Hodges	Gone
RB	Sam Rogers	Gone
QB	Jerod Evans	Gone
TE	Chris Cunningham	Returning
WR	Cam Phillips	Returning

### Virginia Tech Defense

RCB	Greg Stroman	Gone
FS	Chuck Clark	Returning
ROV	Terrell Edmunds	Returning
LCB	Brandon Facyson	Returning
WHIP	Mook Reynolds	Gone
MLB	Andrew Motuapuaka	Gone
LOLB	Tremaine Edmunds	Gone
RDE	Ken Ekanem	Gone
NT	Woody Baron	Gone
DT	Nigel Williams	Returning
LDE	Vinny Mihota	Returning

JINA RO / COLLEGIATE TIMES

## College of Science takes clean sweep

The chemistry, physics and biological sciences departments have received exemplary awards.

MIKE LIU  
 news reporter

Three departments from the College of Science at Virginia Tech received the 2016 Exemplary Department or Program Award for their efforts in developing and sustaining effective class instruction.

The three departments that received the award are the Department of Physics, the Department of Chemistry and the Department of Biological Sciences. According to VT News, each department was awarded a sum of \$40,000 for its achievements. This is the third year in a row that the Department of Physics has won this award.

The Exemplary Department or Program Award is an annual award that started in 1994. With a different theme each year, the Exemplary Department or Program Award is trying to create a better learning environment for students. The theme in 2016 was recognizing departmental efforts in trying to create a sustainable program that was effective in teaching a large number of students.

According to Gary Long, the associate dean for curriculum and instruction in the College of Science, the three departments have many large introductory classes with up to 300 students per class. All three departments are using a flipped style classroom in these introductory courses, where the students will watch short video lectures before each class session, and they will use in-class time for exercises, projects and discussions. Students are broken down into small groups to work on exercises and projects together.

The flipped style classroom creates a positive learning environment.

According to James Tanko, professor and chair of the Department of Chemistry, a number of students are taking the introductory classes in the biological sciences for a number of reasons such as engineering prerequisites or life sciences majors and pre-med students. "So what I think it says is (that) the College of Science kicks ass," Tanko said. "I think we are really doing the job."

The introductory programs are helping students adapt to the college learning style.

"I think the introductory programs are the formative programs where we are helping students transition from secondary education to the college, and things are a little different," Long said. "Learning styles are different, responsibilities are different, but at the same time we want to make sure we are presenting our material in a learning style that is not alien to the student."

A large number of students from many other majors will take introductory classes under the three departments in the College of Science.

"From the College of Science point of view, one significant and important thing we do is the teaching of these introductory courses because clearly a lot of fields need introductory biology, introductory chemistry, introductory physics," said Mark Pitt, professor and chair of the Department of Physics. "Since that's an important mission of the College of Science where it's very important to us to make sure that we are doing a

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## Track and field shows growth at Doc Hale Invitational

The men's and women's track teams are proving that they are contenders among the elite as the championship season quickly approaches.

DAVIS CARBAUGH  
 sports staff writer

Virginia Tech's track and field team was back in action at the Doc Hale Elite Invitational on Feb. 3 and 4 at Rector Field House. The No. 17 men's team competed against three top 25 teams: Tennessee, Georgia and Florida. ACC opponents N.C. State and North Carolina also competed well in the invitational.

On the women's side, four top 25 teams were in attendance: Georgia, Florida, N.C. State and Tennessee.

Action at the Doc Hale Elite invitational began on Friday, Feb. 3 at Rector Fieldhouse. The Hokies ran their top sprinters in the meet, while most of the distance runners participated at the Camel City Invite in North Carolina.

Freshman Eszter Bajnok finished

second overall in the women's long jump with a distance of 5.75 meters.

Bajnok's coach, Paul Zalewski, was very impressed with the freshman's performance. "She's one of the best in the conference for sure, and I see her as one of the best in the country," Zalewski said. Looking ahead, Bajnok could be a legitimate competitor in the championship season.

Sophomore Mackenzie Muldoon finished ninth in the men's long jump, but Zalewski was still pleased by his personal best jump of 6.71 meters. "At this point in the season with three weeks to go until the conference meet, I was very happy with that jump," Zalewski said.

Muldoon is primarily a competitor in the heptathlon, which requires a versatility across events. His solid score in the long jump and his fourth-place finish in

the 60-meter hurdles have Tech's coaching staff excited about Muldoon's potential.

Daniel Rau recorded a personal best in the 3000 meter, running a time of 8:27.18, on his way to a third-place finish in the event.

It was a solid day for the women's 60-meter hurdlers as Shanel Burr and Jada Gundran finished third and fourth. "That was a season-best for Shanel," said sprint/hurdle coach Tim Vaught. "She's definitely heading in the right direction."

Senior Aaron Simpson took first place on the men's side of the 60-meter hurdles with a time of 8.20 seconds. "Simpson was a few hundredths of a second off his personal best," Vaught said. "At this point he's ahead of where he was at last year. I was very pleased."

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AHMED MUSTAFA / COLLEGIATE TIMES

The Hokies' Emily Miller tries to clear the high jump bar at the Doc Hale Elite Meet in Rector Field House, Feb. 4, 2017.



**BIG PROPOSAL FOR PROGRESS STREET**  
 Broadstreet Partners hopes for neighbor's approval.  
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**GREY'S ADDRESSES THE REAL ISSUES**  
 The TV series covers more than just medical matters.  
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# opinions

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## OIL: Pillaging Iraq's oil could endanger troops

from page 1

When Trump makes statements about how “we should’ve taken the oil,” it compromises the integrity of our military. It dilutes the international perception of our missions abroad with the suspicion of capitalistic intentions. We cannot afford for this criticism to be directed at the use of our military.

If it is, our troops in these oil-harboring nations could face the threat of the very translators and local forces that aid them turning on them, for fear that our intentions are not what we state they are.

Add to the fact that we have just sworn in former ExxonMobil CEO Rex Tillerson as our nation’s top diplomat. “He cannot do it. He cannot succeed,” said Dawoud Ali, a resident of Baghdad who is currently fighting against ISIS in a recent BuzzFeed News article. “Of course I would fight the Americans if they came for the oil.”

Gordon Trowbridge, a former Pentagon press secretary, recently tweeted that the White House press secretary clearly needed to state that the

United States would not take Iraq’s oil and that, “Every moment that statement stands puts our troops at greater risk.”

When recently asked by Anderson Cooper whether Trump’s statements advocating “taking the oil” in nations where we’re allied with locals “made sense to him,” war veteran Sen. John McCain’s response was, while laughing, “No. No. I don’t get it.”

**“It dilutes the international perception of our missions abroad. We cannot afford for this criticism to be directed at the use of our military.”**

I don’t get it either. Why must our own government further endanger the lives of men and women whose very existence in these unstable countries is already dangerous enough?

**IBRAHIM MOHAMED**  
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column

## Trump’s recent policies need a united opposition

So far, President Trump’s policies have been problematic for a number of Americans. The people need to give a united response.

Donald Trump has, despite past speculation, begun to instate nationalistic and otherwise exclusionary policies in the United States. It has only been a little over two weeks, and the courses of many lives have already started to change for the worse. We need to anticipate future moves and the extent of his plans for far-right policies not only to fight back, but for many, to get what they need ahead of time to survive.

It is important to quickly note the language of the inaugural address; speaking to the fears of many working-class and middle-class whites, Trump used “we,” not “I,” as the main pronoun. The word “we” was used to speak for and over anyone who disagreed with him. This fostered an ongoing us-versus-them attitude, setting up those who disagree with the words put in their mouths as traitors. Interestingly, there was a Christian focus, which could have been a way to draw in the lukewarm or a preemptive safety net for the nationalism he is trying to grow. An eye should be kept on that, as small as it seems now.

So far in immigration, he has temporarily suspended the refugee admissions program, blocked immigrants and green card holders (new and old) from seven countries from entering the U.S. (meaning for some that if they leave they might not be able to return), changed the policy on unauthorized immigrants so that they must all be detained if caught and has ordered construction to begin for the infamous wall.

These things mean many have to fear for the security of their homes, their friends and families, and for others, it may mean they cannot go back and visit their families if they want to return. It also means that the amount of suspicion and hatred they encounter on a regular basis will be much higher and undoubtedly lead to disproportionate targeting by law enforcement.

Beyond immigration, Trump has reinstated the global gag rule, which requires international health organizations to neither provide nor even give information about abortions if they are to receive

funding from the United States. This is particularly detrimental to those in developing countries, as they will be more likely to attempt unsafe abortions in lieu of safe ones. Additionally, steps are being taken to repeal the Affordable Care Act, leaving many to wonder how they will be able to afford basic aspects of healthcare.

Trump has also approved Dakota Access Pipeline, a move of disrespect and disregard toward the indigenous people. He has also frozen the communications of many governmental organizations, most notably the Environmental Protection Agency. In response, many of these agencies have formed unofficial accounts in order to inform the public about pertinent issues, particularly global warming.

With these actions having taken place in the span of just two weeks, it has become unquestionably clear that Trump has a coherent goal that he is working toward — a relic phase of capitalism and nationalism revived at much ethical expense, and that he will work towards it with minimal democracy all while claiming “we.”

It is important to note that what he deems as “we” is not the majority of the country; those who dissent far outnumber Trump and his followers. However, for this to be meaningful, it is crucial that we fight back. To ignore or try to let it pass will not do anything to a privileged few, but many already are being stripped of their rights. A crowd determined to censor science, control women, silence the indigenous and scapegoat Muslims and Mexicans is not a crowd to make peace with. It is not a crowd to hug or to try to reason with. It is a crowd to fight, for the sake of lives. We must prepare ourselves to rely on other sources of information than the government, in science and health, to be more trusting in each others’ words. We must create a welcome environment for those oppressed. We must prepare strength in ourselves and each other. We must unite.

**SKYE WOOD**  
 • regular columnist  
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COURTESY OF TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE



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column

## Hollywood major influence for closing gender pay gap

Women in film and television are consistently paid less than their male co-stars. Fighting this trend is the first step to gaining equal pay.

The wage gap difference in Hollywood is real, with many women in the entertainment industry receiving a smaller paycheck in comparison to men in the industry. Many critics have torn down this fight for the Hollywood wage gap because someone who is making millions of dollars should not be complaining of making a few million less than her co-star. However, if some of the biggest celebrities who work just as hard do not receive the same pay, this issue is bigger than a paycheck. It is about how we value any work of women.

Recently, Natalie Portman revealed that in her 2011 romantic comedy “No Strings Attached,” the other lead, Ashton Kutcher, was paid three times more than she was. Portman stated, “I mean, we get paid a lot, so it’s hard to complain, but the disparity is crazy ... Compared to men, in most professions, women make 80 cents to the dollar. In Hollywood, we are making 30 cents to the dollar.” Her receiving three times less pay makes no sense at all, especially since she was an Academy-Award nominee at the time.

There have been multiple excuses for gender gap differences such as there being higher demand and profits for male-led movies, which is untrue. Movies such as “Spy,” “Pitch Perfect,” “Hunger Games” and “Trainwreck” show that a female lead is able to top the box office. According to the Annenberg Report, male characters have 71 percent of speaking roles in movies. Once women start receiving opportunities for bigger and better roles, there will be more equal paychecks.

Meryl Streep has won three Oscars, but says that she still gets paid less than her male co-stars. Amanda Seyfried has said that in the past, she has earned one-tenth of what her male co-stars have received. Gwyneth Paltrow has voiced her concerns about the significant gap between her pay and the pay of Robert Downey Jr. in “Iron Man.” Kathy Griffin won two Emmy awards, yet had to ask NBC executives to receive the same salary

as her male co-stars in her series. Charlize Theron was paid \$10 million less than Chris Hemsworth in “Snow White and the Huntsman.” These are just a few of the many examples of wage gap differences in Hollywood.

In 2016, the highest paid actress was Jennifer Lawrence at \$46 million and Dwayne Johnson as the highest paid actor with \$64.5 million. This almost \$20 million difference proves this clear wage gap, because Lawrence has starred in multiple box office hits.

After the big Sony hack, it was revealed that Lawrence and Amy Adams were paid less than Bradley Cooper and Christian Bale in “American Hustle.” Lawrence and Adams each received 7 percent of the movie’s profit, whereas Cooper and Bale earned 9 percent of the profit. Lawrence spoke out about this, saying that she “didn’t want to seem difficult or spoiled.” Adams also spoke up, and said, “It’s like we (women) have been conditioned to not be controversial, to not cause problems. It’s about finding your voice.” Lawrence and Adams are both widely known actresses with critical acclaim comparable to that of Bale and Cooper.

In her Oscar speech, Patricia Arquette spoke up saying that, “To every woman who gave birth, to every taxpayer and citizen of this nation, we have fought for everybody else’s equal rights. It’s our time to have wage equality once and for all and equal rights for women in the United States of America.”

Hollywood is one of the biggest powers and influences in our nation. If people start talking about this gender gap issue, we can move past unequal pay based on gender. If women at the top of the entertainment industry are not being paid the same amount for the same work as men, what does this mean for the rest of us?

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# news

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## Army ROTC thrives after 100 years

The ROTC's Army battalion has celebrated its centennial this past week, commemorating this milestone with a ceremony designed to introduce its incoming members to current members.

LIBBY HOWE

Corps of Cadets reporter

Virginia Tech's history is very closely tied to Army ROTC, the oldest ROTC organization within the Corps of Cadets, which celebrated its centennial this past Tuesday.

"Army ROTC came into existence with the stroke of a pen of President Wilson as part of the National Defense Authorization Act of 1916," said Col. Kevin Milton, commander of Virginia Tech's Army ROTC battalion. "We began our ROTC instruction here at Virginia Tech in January 1917, so this semester marks our 100th year of service here at Virginia Tech."

Virginia Tech was one of the first 46 programs that resulted from Wilson's legislation, but is now one of over 1,000 universities nationwide that provides Army ROTC instruction. Since its foundation, Army ROTC has produced over 650,000 officers for the United States Army.

While Virginia Tech's Army ROTC battalion may be one of hundreds, the cadets in the program have made it a cut above the rest. The battalion maintains excellent

physical fitness and academic standards. Additionally, for the second consecutive year, Virginia Tech will send more cadets to the Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency (CULP) summer program than any other university in the country.

"We should be proud of ourselves. Once again, for the second consecutive year, we have the most CULP selections of any university in the nation," Milton said. "Based on your academic performance and your APFT performance primarily, you are selected on a national level for participation in this CULP mission."

In addition to a cake cutting, Tuesday's ceremony introduced new staff members to the battalion, including several alumni, and a briefing from the Women's Center on sexual assault and harassment.

"Sexual harassment and sexual assault are very serious offenses in the Army and in the civilian community," Milton said. "Our Army needs soldiers of every type and color and gender. We don't discriminate ... I expect you to serve as a member of our team, and I expect you to treat all members of our team with the dignity

and respect that they deserve in accordance with our Army values."

Milton enumerated several experiences from his military career in order to provide examples of how to handle situations of sexual assault and harassment before introducing representatives from Virginia Tech's Women's Center to explain the resources that they provide.

"We serve any member of the campus community, Virginia Tech students, faculty, staff and their close relations," said Katie Mey, representative from the Virginia Tech Women's Center. "Anyone who has been impacted by many of the things that you all just covered."

Milton closed this portion of the briefing by explaining the Army's "I. A. M. Strong" sexual assault program, which stands for intervene, act and motivate.

"We all have a responsibility to intervene if we see sexual harassment or sexual assault about to take place or if it has already taken place," Milton said. "We need to act to prevent it or act to remove the individuals from one another or act to ensure the victim in this case knows the

resources available. We have to motivate one another that this behavior is not acceptable in our formation and we will not tolerate it."

During this briefing, Milton also outlined the plan for the battalion for the remainder of the semester.

"I am confident that if we execute this lab training properly for the semester, all of you will be able to run circles around your peers at both basic and advanced camps," Milton said.

Josh Conyers, senior industrial systems engineering major and this semester's cadet battalion commander, explained how his goals for the semester align with Milton's expectations.

"My big goals for the semester are to make the training that we do most closely resemble what the cadets will be seeing at camp," Conyers said. "So, that means more time at the O-Course, performing lane exercises at the platoon level instead of squad level and working through certain doctrine."

Conyers also expressed a unique goal to connect more closely with other campus organizations.

"I also want the battalion to work more closely with the larger part of Virginia Tech, specifically rec sports. We have all these resources at Virginia Tech as the No. 1 fitness school and we don't tap into that as much as we should," Conyers said.

Again, Conyers emphasized the same goals as Milton.

"I want our cadets to do exceptionally well at cadet summer training. And I am more than confident that we will be able to achieve that goal."

## AWARD: Flipped style enhances student learning

from page 1

very good job at that, so we invest a lot of time and effort into it, and I see that's what you see in this award."

According to Long, teaching assistants are also an important part in the flipped style classroom. Each teaching assistant is assigned to several groups, and their job is to keep the students on task, answer questions and keep the groups focused on the project rather than getting lost or confused.

**There can be a dozen students floating around the classroom, helping facilitate the activities."**

Brenda Winkel  
department head of  
biological sciences

"It also involves having (undergraduate teaching assistants), so these students come back after they've had freshman biology," said Brenda Winkel, professor and department head of Biological Sciences. They come in the second year, and they help facilitate the active learning in the classroom, so there can be a dozen students floating around the room helping facilitate the activities, and for them, there's that added benefit.

Along with the experiences in the classroom, students receive credit for repeating the class and are able to learn the material again, often better than the first interpretation of the material.

"They also can communicate the material better because they are closer to the experience level of the students in the class," Winkel said. "They are just a year, or sometimes two years out, so they can actually add a whole other layer to the teaching, and it's fantastic for their resumes, especially if you are interested in pedagogy."

All three departments are looking to bring an active learning environment to higher level courses and labs in the future.

"The obvious thing that we are already starting to do is to apply this kind of pedagogy as they call it to other courses: our upper division courses, and even some of our lab courses where we can start to integrate what's going on in the lectures with the labs," Winkel said. "This whole idea of active learning is kind of natural to us as scientists, but it hasn't always been an opportunity to introduce that in the classroom — it also requires to some degree (of) having the right classroom to do that."



COURTESY OF VIRGINIA TECH CORPS OF CADETS

Army ROTC cadets attend a ceremony in Haymarket Theatre to celebrate 100 years of excellence, Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2017.

@yourlenny

@CollegiateTimes

## Neighbors of Progress Street work out proposal kinks

Broadstreet Partners, LLC, spoke at last Thursday's neighborhood meeting to frontline its rezoning project as a Planned Residential Zoning District.

ALY DE ANGELUS

news editor

A handful of Blacksburg residents gathered to discuss the ramifications of rezoning 0.939 acres from the General Commercial (GC) and Transitional Residential (R-5) Zoning Districts to the Planned Residential (PR) Zoning District in the 900 block of Progress Street on Thursday, Feb. 2 at 6:30 p.m.

The neighborhood meeting took place at the Blacksburg Motor Company, beginning about 10 minutes late to allow time for the crowd to meander and take their seats. People in attendance included one married couple, two men and one woman, all middle-aged, joined by three representatives of the team for Preston Row Rezoning Project. Kinsey O'Shea, development administrator for the Town of Blacksburg, was also in attendance. Conversation spurred about the Hokies' triumphant football season, Blacksburg's go-to icebreaker, just moments before the commencement of the meeting signified the first opportunity for public input.

O'Shea spent the first 15 minutes rattling off tentative dates for considerable review of the project's integrity, assuring the neighbors involved that multiple work sessions will take place before public hearing.

Soon after, applicant and contract purchaser Craig Stipes of Broadstreet Partners, LLC, revealed his plans to develop 19 single-unit and multi-unit dwellings (with a maximum of 52 bedrooms), along with associated parking and residential amenities and infrastructure. Stipes introduced himself as a graduate of Blacksburg High School, identifying his hometown roots and commitment to Blacksburg's future early in the night. In fact, both Stipes and Matt Covington, co-founders of Broadstreet Partners, reside in Greenville, North Carolina, and intend on designing rental agreements in which they will be landlords or otherwise involved.

"We want to do a good, quality project that we can be proud of ...

something that we feel like could hold the test of time," Stipes said. "We are not corporate guys."

Objectives of the rezoning initiative include exhibiting an exceptional streetscape presence and budgeting accordingly for quality, timeless materials. The presentation's smooth sailing lasted nearly 25 minutes without interruption before questions surfaced about the inability to scrounge up an acceptable amount of green space.

"I don't see much green there, that's what bothers me," said one attendee, a native of Blacksburg since 2004 and an employee of Virginia Tech. "I just see parking."

This same woman speared the issue of pricing, fearing that their "all-inclusive community" would simply be another place for students to use. After pointing out that they are able to pay for the increase in rent when they are less concerned about other living conditions, this argument was countered by Stipes. He claimed that they will market to everyone, but have seen a predominant trend of students — upperclassmen and graduates in their early 20s.

Though consensus was reached on the appreciation of a thoughtful building design, the interior view for each cottage facing the Domino's Pizza was problematic for a few constituents. More importantly, neighbors wanted to know if the parking at Domino's Pizza would be eligible spots for visitors in the area, considering the plans for a .88 parking ratio for residents and the likelihood of overcrowding during peak season.

Stipes responded without an affirmative resolution for the parking limitations, admitting that there is no formal agreement with Domino's Pizza. However, Stipes remains positive in his eco-friendly model and references his past projects to support evidence that more parking will only result in an insufficient use of space.

Stipes and others came back to this subject matter multiple times throughout the night and concluded that less space is a common training method to prevent overcrowding and

encourage other means of transportation. Using a relevant comparison of Sturbridge Square's .90 parking ratio and The Edge's one-to-one ratio, the standard one-to-one proposal often results in excess parking space that could be devoted to more housing or green space.

One man, who claimed to be unaffiliated with the project or its financial gains, testified to this resolution, citing his experience as a practicing civil engineer for Virginia Tech and as a town councilman for Christiansburg. He mentioned that the town has intuitive rules, one parking (spot) per bedroom, which seems to make total sense. Interestingly enough, this application in the real world has proven to be a waste of resources.

"Virginia Tech is encouraging those to think about it. Virginia Tech is in the midst of deemphasizing vehicular transportation ... trying to be more responsible and maximize living and space."

What began as a quest for rezoning approval soon morphed into an existential theory of how to better create architecture and push people toward an eco-friendly path. O'Shea interjected with remarks on Virginia Tech's plans to grow the university by 5,000 students in the upcoming years, adding that bikes, mopeds and buses are highly encouraged and parking is undergoing a weed-out system.

Virginia Tech's model of activism soon became a comparison to the practices that Stipes and Covington mentioned in their proposal.

The same Blacksburg native who was concerned about green space expressed her frustration with previous construction projects in Blacksburg, noting that it's not like how it used to be.

"You used to look out, now you look up," the resident voiced with nostalgia. "It's a little disappointing."

Covington digressed from his project initiative, joining others in the conversation for environmental activism, stating that Virginia Tech is ahead of the movement and keenly aware of the adjustments that must be made for future contracting jobs.

"We like open space too," Covington said. "We don't like a sea of asphalt."

Despite the efforts of Stipes and Covington to paint an alluring picture of their new project, they admitted that there are still necessary kinks to work out and residents to win over.

"I can understand you wanting to put in as much in Blacksburg as you want to, but it's really tight," the Virginia Tech employee said. "I guess people live okay that way, but it's not a hometown anymore, it's a small city."

More so than the discussion of parking and green space, the topic of millennial movements served as a

crutch to the reasoning behind less of an emphasis on transportation.

"These millennials pride themselves on being as green as possible," the Christiansburg town councilman added. "This new generation takes a lot of pride on how green and sustainable they can live, a lot more than I did (in college)."

"But they also have 600 friends on Facebook," the Virginia Tech employee jokingly responded. "I've got 20."

After about an hour and a half, the meeting circled around for closing remarks. Stipes and Covington ended their presentation with a promise to look for a seemingly perfect balance of detached home life and high intensity interaction by building porches, sidewalks and looking for more ways to mitigate traffic.

If Stipes and Covington's proposal is successful, the team hopes that the project will be completed in the summer or fall of 2018, estimating roughly \$1,400 per month for each two-bedroom multi-unit. The work session for this project will take place on Feb. 21 and will not be open for public comment, but all people are welcome to attend.

@RealSlimAD



The Blacksburg Motor Company Building sits on Main Street in the afternoon light, with citizens of Blacksburg walking up and down the street to visit the building, Oct. 18, 2016.

FILE 2016



# study break

**Today's Birthday Horoscope:** This year favors travels and educational discovery. Work together to get farther, faster. Resolve partnership challenges this month, before a profitable boom phase. New personal directions in September serve as prelude to a flowering romance. Take your relationship to the next level.

## quote of the day

"The party don't start 'til I walk in."

- Ke\$ha

## su|do|ku

5		1			6	2
		1			6	8
	3	6	2		8	
				3	5	1
	5	7	8	6		
			9	7	6	2
		5	6			9
9	6				3	
						8

Complete the grid so that each column, row and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9.

# EXTRA EXTRA

read all about it



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In Squires Student Center

SMILE LIKE YOU MEAN IT

10am - 2pm & 3pm - 6pm each day

### Brewster Rokit: Space Guy! by Tim Rickard



FOR RELEASE FEBRUARY 6, 2017

## Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

### ACROSS

- 1 Most musicals have two
- 5 Start to faceted or purpose
- 10 Modern organizers, for short
- 14 Countenance
- 15 In front
- 16 Wine prefix
- 17 First chip in the poker pot
- 18 Football with scrums
- 19 Songwriter Kristofferson
- 20 Player who shoots par regularly
- 23 Malted relative
- 24 Magnolia State school, familiarly
- 27 Baseball misplays
- 31 Calendar page
- 32 Floppy disk backup device
- 35 Forest official
- 36 Angry rock genre
- 37 Michelangelo statue
- 39 R&B's \_\_\_ Hill
- 40 Changes gears
- 43 Ballad for a valentine
- 46 Start of a Poitier film title
- 47 Seek ambitiously
- 48 O. Henry works
- 50 Mexican dip
- 54 Virtually zero, and where the ends of 20-, 32- and 43-Across are literally situated
- 58 Slick-talking
- 60 Jokes and such
- 61 Cupid
- 62 Save for binge-watching, say
- 63 '50s nuclear trial
- 64 Dressed in
- 65 River of Hades
- 66 Barcelona babies
- 67 Joint commonly replaced

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21						22				
23								24					25	26
			27		28	29	30			31				
32	33	34							35					
36					37			38					39	
40			41	42			43			44	45			
46							47							
48					49					50		51	52	53
			54					55	56	57				
58	59						60					61		
62							63					64		
65							66					67		

By Jake Braun

### DOWN

- 1 Accumulate, as a fortune
- 2 Easy-peasy task
- 3 Aquarium fish
- 4 Moved stealthily
- 5 Artist Chagall
- 6 "Nah"
- 7 \_\_\_ Mason: investment giant
- 8 No-nos
- 9 Poem of rustic life
- 10 Critters hunted with a hugely popular 2016 mobile app
- 11 Heroic exploits
- 12 Young Darth's nickname
- 13 Distress signal at sea
- 21 La. or Dak., once
- 22 Disaster relief org.
- 25 Titanic rear end
- 26 "So what" shoulder gesture
- 28 Fabric flaws
- 29 Egg; Pref.
- 30 Fishing line holders
- 32 Thin citrus peels
- 33 Words spoken by a sweater?

### Thursday's Puzzle Solved

S	U	D	S		A	G	A	V	E		P	A	D	S
I	S	I	T		L	O	P	E	D		A	L	I	T
K	E	N	Y	A	B	U	R	N	S		P	A	S	A
H	U	E		R	A	T		T	E	N	A	N	C	Y
S	P	R	I	N	T		R	E	L	A	Y			
				R	E	R	E	A	D		M	A	J	O
M	A	T	E		O	R	C		D	E	J	A	V	U
E	X	E	C		S	E	E	Y	A		O	D	E	D
S	L	A	K	E	S		C	U	T		H	E	R	E
A	E	S	O	P		G	A	M	E	O	N			
				N	I	N	E	R		N	O	S	H	O
C	A	T	S	C	A	N		B	I	Z	I	C	U	
A	L	T	O		G	O	Y	A	G	E	T	T	E	R
P	L	O	Y		A	M	I	S	H		A	M	A	S
N	A	P	A		T	E	N	E	T		B	E	N	T

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2/3/17

- 34 Plant responsible for much itching
- 35 Sitarist Shankar
- 38 High side
- 41 Locomotive furnace
- 42 Cereal covered by a silly rabbit
- 44 Former "formerly"
- 45 Seattle football pro
- 47 Sharp as a tack
- 49 Wharton's Frome
- 51 Chihuahua citrus fruit
- 52 Boring lecture, for example
- 53 Share the same opinion
- 55 Dark clouds, perhaps
- 56 Aroma detector
- 57 Leftover bits
- 58 Classic sports cars
- 59 Set fire to

N	Y	E	L	L	A	V	T	E	L	L	E	N	Y	P	G	L	S
L	I	B	V	S	D	N	L	C	C	F	I	S	Z	M	Z	I	S
I	I	A	O	T	E	P	G	D	W	A	H	Z	B	Z	G	A	D
A	P	I	T	N	P	D	M	E	T	S	X	Q	L	C	D	R	Q
R	I	W	V	N	K	Y	A	N	L	P	U	H	F	B	B	T	I
T	A	A	T	T	U	S	U	C	Q	S	K	J	O	P	W	R	S
E	U	R	V	J	I	O	Y	N	S	Q	R	S	O	N	T	E	D
L	G	I	S	H	M	N	M	E	H	A	F	E	L	A	P	T	R
B	V	K	F	H	X	M	K	S	L	E	C	I	S	S	Z	A	A
B	C	J	S	L	J	K	K	E	R	L	N	T	F	T	Q	W	G
I	V	U	K	A	H	T	E	H	R	E	E	B	A	Y	E	H	O
R	R	V	D	T	Y	H	S	J	M	C	T	K	C	A	W	G	N
B	M	C	A	F	E	E	K	N	O	B	L	E	E	H	R	I	S
P	A	N	D	A	P	A	S	P	O	N	D	I	P	Q	Q	H	T
K	C	O	R	D	N	I	W	H	Z	B	J	E	F	K	Q	F	O
G	T	K	A	R	W	V	M	K	R	S	H	A	W	F	F	W	O
E	D	L	C	Y	V	Y	M	Q	I	N	K	Z	J	R	S	S	T
D	W	P	Q	H	S	F	T	P	G	R	I	X	H	X	A	G	H

### Blacksburg Hiking

Locate the list of words in the word bank in the letter grid

### WORD BANK



- ANGELS REST
- BRUSH MOUNTAIN
- CASCADES
- DRAGONS TOOTH
- ELLET VALLEY
- FOOLS FACE
- HIGH WATER TRAIL
- KELLEYS KNOB
- MCAFFEE KNOB
- PANDAPAS POND
- RIBBLE TRAIL
- TINKER CLIFFS
- PETERS MOUNTAIN
- WIND ROCK



# sports

collegiatetimes.com/sports

## Seth Allen develops into a star in his senior season

After transferring to Virginia Tech before his junior season, Seth Allen matured into the Hokies go-to scorer and offensive catalyst.

**PETER BEDROSIAN**  
sports staff writer

Buzz Williams is known for his unorthodox way of doing things on the basketball court. He will play five guards at a time, he will change a defense multiple times within a half and he will constantly change up the starting five, even to the point of leaving his best players on the bench to start the game.

Of the aforementioned players to come off of the bench is senior guard Seth Allen. The Maryland transfer came to Tech and immediately became a leader on the young team. Due to NCAA transfer rules, however, Allen had to sit out a year. But that year, the first with Williams as head coach, provided time for Allen to rest a nagging foot injury as well as a chance to get to know his new teammates and coach.

The year of rest certainly paid off as Allen finished last season averaging just under 15 points a game as the Hokies second leading scorer. Furthermore, he was the steady, experienced hand his teammates looked to in tough situations. “(Allen’s statistics) say that he was really good, but the reason his numbers were

really good is a byproduct of his heart,” Williams said after a win over Florida State in which Allen had “his best game as a Hokie,” according to the head coach.

For all the leadership and scoring Allen brought to the table, he also tried to do it all himself at times, evidenced by his nearly three turnovers per game and a 39 percent field-goal percentage for the year.

However, Allen has returned this year with a completely new style of play that is much more calculated, patient and efficient. The veteran guard went from shooting 39 percent last year to shooting 56 percent thus far this season. He manages to average more shots made per game than attempts made, making him one of the most efficient scoring guards in the country. Allen is just outside the top 100 players in the country for field goal percentage, but only five players in that list are guards and only three are from power-five conferences. Not only has his scoring improved, but he averages one more assist per game and half a turnover less per game this season compared to last.

A big part of the change has

been his shot selection. Last year with a very young team, Allen felt the need to create his own shots instead of trusting his teammates to create them for him. After the Boston College game, Allen was asked about how he has been able to shoot the ball so well. His responded that his success is due to his shot selection and his efforts to ensure that the shots he takes aren’t the same ones he took last year.

His offensive efficiency has helped the Hokies in many games this year. “I thought (Allen) was really big. I thought he was really big against Notre Dame making some shots, and I thought he did the same thing again for us tonight. In many ways bailed us out,” Williams said after a close win against Georgia Tech in which Allen had the game winning basket.

Allen has been a spark off the bench for the Hokies this year including the Georgia Tech game as well as the Duke and Notre Dame games. He not only has had several scoring runs by himself in those games, but brings the maturity Williams wants to see from a senior point guard.

“I think (Allen) has senioritis in the right way,”



BEN WEIDLICH / COLLEGIATE TIMES

Seth Allen (4) attempts a shot under pressure from U. Va. forward Isaiah Wilkins (21) during the second half in the John Paul Jones Arena, Feb. 1, 2017.

Williams said. “We’re going into the last timeout, and it’s a tie ball game and (Allen’s) like, ‘We have to win this one.’ You can tell. He’s meeting with the guys when I’m done with them. I think he’s trying to do the right things.”

Williams has given Allen a lot of praise this year, but Allen is quick to humbly redirect it to his teammates. “Playing with these guys for a year last year and coming back and having that same

flow, same type of offense with added shooters like (Ahmed Hill) and (Ty Outlaw) spacing out the floor for me to drive and once they back up I can shoot my shot. So I mean you have to give credit to my teammates,” Allen said when asked how he has been able to improve his shooting so much this year.

When Allen transferred from Maryland, he did it for the right reasons. “I did it for me and my family,” Allen said

back in May of 2014. A player making that big of a decision for the right reasons says something about them and that maturity has certainly been seen this year by all that watch Allen play. He has become a great player and an even better leader in his senior season and is doing everything he can to finish his last season strong.

@peter\_bedrosian

## FOOTBALL: Analyzing the projected starters for the Virginia Tech Hokies

from page 1

### Offense

The offense is losing six out of its 11 starters. To put the impact of that into perspective, of the 6,229 total offensive yards tallied last season, 4,465 were gained by players who won’t be returning.

To replace receivers Isaiah Ford and Bucky Hodges, head coach Justin Fuente will have to plug in a mixture of some players with experience and some who lack it. It is safe to assume that Cam Phillips’ role will expand, placing him as the top receiver on the depth chart, but that’s where the obvious assumptions end.

Receiver C.J. Carroll gained some solid experience in 2016, racking up 18 receptions for 258 yards, but his role will likely remain the same. His skill set is best fit for a slot receiver who comes in on a handful of plays or to relieve his teammates.

Instead, all signs point to Jaylen Bradshaw and Divine Deablo to take the vacant starting receiving roles. Bradshaw backed up Ford a year ago, and Deablo backed up Hodges. Both players have the size and explosiveness to step up in 2017.

Predicting who will be replacing two offensive linemen (Augie Conte and Jonathan McLaughlin) is not an exact science, either. Last year, Fuente switched up the starters in the trenches multiple times. The safe bets would be Braxton Pfaff replacing Conte, and Parker Osterloh taking over for McLaughlin.

Travon McMillian is primed to take on the starting RB role, as he was Tech’s featured back in 2015, gaining over 1,000 yards in the effort. With Sam Rogers (graduated), Shai McKenzie (transfer) and Marshawn Williams (injury/retired) off the roster, McMillian will be shouldering the bulk of the carries in 2017.

Of course, the most anticipated announcement of the offseason will be the same as it was last year

— who will be the starting quarterback?

Josh Jackson will have a leg up on the competition entering the offseason, as he will be the only man in contention with a year of experience in Fuente’s system. However, two quarterback recruits from the 2017 class have already enrolled at Virginia Tech to participate in spring ball: Hendon Hooker and A.J. Bush.

Hooker is a four-star recruit out of Greensboro, North Carolina, and was slotted as the No. 11 dual-threat quarterback in the country last year according to 247 Sports. Coming out of high school, he is a very raw talent with tremendous upside, but it is likely that he will redshirt his freshman year.

**“Travon McMillian is primed to take on the starting RB role, as he was Tech’s featured back in 2015, gaining over 1,000 yards in the effort.”**

Bush has a bit of a different story. The 6-foot-4 signal caller signed with Nebraska in 2014, but transferred to Iowa Western Community

College in the summer of 2016 after struggling to climb up the Cornhuskers’ depth chart. Fuente recruited Bush in the 2017 class to add experience to the depleted quarterback position. Barring some incredible play in the spring and summer, Bush will likely back up Jackson in the fall.

### Defense

Replacing free safety Chuck Clark will be tricky. His backup a year ago, Der’Woun Greene, also graduated in the offseason, leaving not a single player on the current roster with ample collegiate experience at the position.

One of the more possible outcomes will be that defensive coordinator Bud Foster will move his defensive backs around a bit, placing a veteran corner back at free safety. If that scenario plays out, look for either Brandon Facyson or Adonis Alexander to move back to the position.

However, it will be interesting to see if the Hokies decide to put four-star recruit Devon Hunter in at some point in his true freshman season. Hunter was the most highly touted player in Tech’s 2017 class and was listed as the No. 3 safety in the country by 247 Sports.

Foster is also faced with the tall task of replacing

three of the four defensive linemen. Fortunately, all of the backups for the departed linemen have solid experience.

Trevon Hill is the next man up to replace Ken Ekanem at the RDE position. The 6-foot-3 pass rusher recorded 37 total tackles and 2.5 sacks in 2016.

Ricky Walker will likely replace Woody Baron at nose tackle. Last year, Walker recorded 28 total tackles, 6.5 of which were for loss.

To replace defensive tackle Nigel Williams, 328-pound Tim Settle will be stepping up into a familiar role. Williams was forced to sit out multiple games in 2016 due to injury, pushing Settle into the starting lineup. The Virginia native collected 17 total tackles, seven of which were recorded behind the line of scrimmage.

Predicting a depth chart this early into the offseason is never a sure thing. A lot can change the pecking order once spring ball and summer camp rolls around. In the meantime, both speculation and research have formed the projected 2017 starting lineup below:

@ChaseParker\_VT

### Virginia Tech Offense Virginia Tech Defense

**WR** Cam Phillips  
**LT** Yosuah Nijman  
**LG** Wyatt Teller  
**C** Eric Gallo  
**RG** Braxton Pfaff  
**RT** Parker Osterloh  
**WR** Divine Deablo  
**RB** Travon McMillian

**RCB** Greg Stroman  
**FS** Adonis Alexander  
**ROV** Terrell Edmunds  
**LCB** Brandon Facyson  
**WHIP** Mook Reynolds  
**MLB** Andrew Motuapuaka  
**LOLB** Tremaine Edmunds  
**RDE** Trevon Hill

JINA RO / COLLEGIATE TIMES

The Collegiate Times’ predicted 2017 depth chart for the Tech football team.



AHMED MUSTAFA / COLLEGIATE TIMES

Diego Zarate sprints the last straightaway to win the men’s 1600-meter run. The Hokies’ Ashkan Mohammadi (behind) placed second, Feb. 4, 2017.

## TRACK: Hokies prevail at Doc Hale Invitational

from page 1

The Hokies finished day one with the top two finishers in the women’s 400-meter run, as Arlicia Bush and Ama-Selina Tchume finished neck and neck.

Arlicia Bush is a true freshman who has already been making her name known around the track world this season. “(Bush) was highly recruited out of high school. The sky is the limit for her,” Vaught said. “The more she matures, the more she is going to constantly get better.”

Day two began with Olivia Privitera and Erica Hjerpe taking fourth and fifth place in the women’s pole vault. Privitera is coming off of her first career win in the event last weekend at the Penn State Invitational with a height of 3.92 meters. In this weekend’s meet, she cleared a height of 3.87 meters.

On the men’s side of the pole vault, the top three finishers were all Hokies. Torben Laidig took first place with a height of 5.52 meters while Brad Johnson and Deakin Volz tied for second at 5.27 meters.

It was a dominant performance in the mile for both the men’s and women’s teams. In the men’s one-mile race, Diego Zarate and Ashkan Mohammadi took first and

second. Tessa Riley dominated the women’s mile with a time of 4:56.01 seconds.

Courtney Blanden was the highlight of the women’s 200-meter race, finishing in fourth place. “Courtney has had one of the best improvements on the team from last year,” Vaught said. “I think she’s definitely going to help the program out this year.”

Shannon Quinn and Catherine Stone finished the day for the women’s team by placing first and third in the 800-meter race. On the men’s side, sophomore Kevin Cianfarini finished in second place.

The Hokies showed great progress at the Doc Hale Elite Invitational. Some of Tech’s runners, including Greg Chiles, were given the day off, which allowed other athletes to compete. Overall, the Hokies showed that they are a team with great depth, which will be pivotal during the ACC Championships at the end of February.

“We’re a better team than we were last year. We’re very young and talented,” Vaught said. “I think we have an opportunity to go into the championship season and compete to win a championship.”

@CTSportsTalk



# lifestyles

collegiatetimes.com/lifestyles

## Grey's Anatomy highlights real issues amid TV drama

The hit TV series Grey's Anatomy draws attention to more than just the physical traumas that go on inside the emergency room.

KATELYN MEADE  
lifestyles staff writer

Grey's Anatomy has been on the air since 2005 and is best known for its all-consuming relationship drama that has been keeping fans on their toes for the past 13 seasons. But as dedicated Grey's Anatomy fans know, Shonda Rhimes, the show's executive producer, has a way of addressing serious issues in a subtle way that makes viewers think.

Even in season one, when drama was at an all-time high and viewers were wrestling with the beginnings of the McDreamy situation, Rhimes found clever ways to address serious issues. In the second episode, Izzie stitches up an illegal immigrant outside of the hospital when they are afraid to come inside because they don't have papers. The remainder of the short nine-episode pilot season also manages to touch on issues such as STDs, unwanted pregnancies and equal treatment of women in the workplace.

Throughout the next 10 seasons, Rhimes continued to bring up serious issues in a subtle way, while also focusing on feminism and featuring many strong female leads.

The show touches on mental illness several times with the storyline of Alex's family and Alex's relationship with Ava and Rebecca (who he saved during the ferry boat accident in season three). Mental illness is also addressed with Owen's struggle with PTSD, as well as with the



COURTESY OF AMERICAN BROADCASTING CO.

stories of a few patients at the hospital.

The show also features multiple LGBTQ couples, exploring issues that these couples faced. Grey's also addressed race relations, physician-assisted suicide and domestic violence.

However, the show has recently become even more blatant about these issues, showing specific incidents that are extremely relevant to our current political climate.

In season 12, the series began to address serious issues much more head on. In episode seven of this season, Amelia is worried that she offended someone based on race and Maggie tells her, "I don't speak for all black people but... if you feel uncomfortable having done it, check your white privilege and don't do it again."

Episode 21 of this season takes a solemn approach to gun control. In this episode, two 8-year-old boys having a playdate find a gun that belongs to one of their moms and begin to play with it. The gun goes off and one of the boys ends up paralyzed from the waist down.

And in last week's episode, aired on Jan. 26, the series focused solely on one case — a pregnant 16-year-old who is serving in a maximum security prison. A team of the hospital's surgeons go to the prison to remove a tumor from the teenager's still-in-utero baby. In the form of an emotional scene between Dr. Bailey and the prison's resident physician, the show confronts the seriousness of healthcare in the prison system, the lack of supplies that they receive and how terrible it is for pregnant mothers to reside in a jail.

Grey's Anatomy has personally helped me through some of the toughest of times, but it doesn't always get the credit it deserves. While it is great for getting you through that tough breakup or is an entertaining choice for binge watching on a Saturday night, it is also a show that addresses serious issues.

This is a show that tells women they can do whatever they want, and no one can tell them otherwise; this is a show that will always be there for you. This is a show that forces you to think about serious issues and see them in a different light.



@CollegiateTimes

## Escape room puzzles Blacksburg community

Puzzlr specializes in the construction of escape rooms and challenges participants to solve the riddle before the clock runs out.

GRETCHEN KERNBACH  
lifestyles staff writer

On Jan. 29, three friends and I were kidnapped and taken hostage in a small room for the duration of 60 minutes.

But, not really.

While we were locked inside a small room for an hour, it was completely voluntary and hilarious. Although someone locking you in a room doesn't seem like the best way to spend your time, it becomes interesting when the only way you can get out is by solving a string of clues.

I am talking about Puzzlr, Blacksburg's puzzle and escape room company.

Located on North Main Street, Puzzlr is still relatively new to the area since it opened its doors last October. The original room, titled The Detective's Case, was its first escape room open to Blacksburg residents. Since then, the creators Cesar Grado, Quinn Cajayon and Alvin Dela Paz have expanded their company's potential and come out with a second storyline.

Taken, the title of Puzzlr's newest escape room, revolves around a kidnapping scenario. Basically, the goal is to get out of the room before the "mysterious" figure comes back — and I regret to inform that my friends and I would have definitely been killed if this was a real kidnapping.

The rules are simple: you have a maximum of 60 minutes to get out, you are only allowed three hints and you can't break anything. Our experience in the Taken room took about 80 minutes, we were given approximately eight clues and someone almost broke something. All in all, our time in the room was anything but productive, however it was one

of the most fun, unique experiences I have ever had.

The start of our long time in the room began with a short informational video in the waiting room, something everyone watches before they enter a room. Afterwards, we were walked through the door, received extra instruction and were then locked in — and that was that — we were floating meat in open water.

Our first idea was to examine the room, which ended up taking way longer than it should have. When we needed a hint within 15 minutes, I knew it was going to be a long night.

In order to avoid ruining the puzzle for future goers, I cannot say much. However, I will say that something in the room scared my friend and me so badly that we jolted backward, screaming. I don't think I've been that terrified in a long time.

Fast forward to the end, way past the 60-minute limit, my friends and I finally got to the last clue. At this point, we must have solved around 10 puzzles and we were grateful to be on the last. After five minutes of countless debating (and maybe a little sass) we got the final code to unlock the door and get out.

The sense of accomplishment that came over my friends and me was celebrated by cheering and dancing. We had solved the puzzle — not in the allotted time frame, but we did solve it.

Taken taught me three things: I need to go back (with more people), I shouldn't treat the hints like they are unlimited and the creators of Puzzlr are geniuses.

Back in July 2016, it was Grado who first thought of the idea, which he pitched to Dela

Paz at King's Dominion. He said they were "both nervous, but excited" about the start of their own company and discovered it to be not as easy as they predicted.

Nevertheless, the amazing storylines come from nothing other than their brains.

"From there, we go into more specific things as we start building the storyline, props and furniture," Cesar said.

Although Taken is Puzzlr's highly anticipated new room, the original room is still up and running and is just as exciting. As stated on its website, the objective of The Detective's Case is to "step into the shoes of a fallen detective and finish what he has started."

Hokies and Blacksburg residents can expect new themes to come out every semester.

"We have some general ideas of what we plan to create," Grado said. "Some of the ones we are more focused on are a sequel to The Detective's Case and other rooms that involves different motives of escaping."

Overall, Taken is a challenging yet rewarding experience. Even though some of the clues might have gone over all of our heads, it all made sense when we eventually solved them. I highly recommend doing this particular room with more than five people for the sake of more brains working together. Also, a little word from the wise: make sure you are efficient in the dark.

The cost is \$18 per person, and a discount is available when you book a private room, which fits up to 10 people. Both walk-ins and room reservations are welcome. To learn more about Puzzlr, visit its website.



@CollegiateTimes

## REVIEW: THE FOUNDER

BRADY TICKLE  
movie columnist

Give Michael Keaton an Oscar already. After Eddie Redmayne was undeservedly given the Academy Award for Best Actor in 2015, it seemed that one of the greatest actors alive had lost his opportunity to win his long overdue Oscar for his work as the lead in "Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)."

Fortunately, after starring in the Best Picture winner of 2015, Keaton then went on to give a truly memorable performance in "Spotlight," which was the winner of Best Picture in 2016. Unfortunately, Keaton was not even nominated for an Oscar for his performance. Now, with his latest Oscar bid, "The Founder," Keaton has once again not been nominated for a performance that deserves attention.

"The Founder" follows the true story of McDonald's tycoon Ray Kroc, who helped bring McDonald's to its current level of widespread success. However, in the process, Kroc ultimately stole the restaurant from the actual McDonald brothers who founded it, leaving them forgotten and ripped off.

While Kroc starts out as a likable salesman, he slowly degrades into a shell of his former self as the film progresses, fueled by greed and a desire for glory.

Have we seen this type of story before? Absolutely. What makes it work so well

here, though, is the fact that it never blatantly depicts Kroc as a monster, but rather as a guy whose passion and need for success lead him down a road of increasingly unsavory and morally wrong choices. He was not evil, but he was definitely no saint. In this way, it serves as both a warning against the evil aspects of capitalism and a message about the more inspirational aspects of capitalism (with the latter being largely found in the first half of the movie).

"The Founder" shows how greed destroys a man, but also how anyone can succeed in this country with enough persistence and hard work. It is easy to get caught up in the first half's optimistic success story. Kroc was nobody special; in fact, he was somewhat of an aged loser before he stumbled upon the McDonald brothers' speedy, never-before-seen restaurant system and was driven to make a franchise out of the fast-food establishment.

After years of failed, hare-brained business schemes, Kroc was desperate for just one of his ideas to work out; so desperate that he made some bad decisions and cut the people who actually made the restaurant out of the deal.

Keaton is, as usual, awesome as Kroc. He portrays Kroc as a fast-talking con man, a sympathetic loser, an intimidating business legend and a diabolical mastermind, often all in the same scene. It's a mesmerizing performance

that's hard to look away from. Nick Offerman is superb as Dick McDonald, the no-nonsense McDonald's brother who figured out the logistics of making burgers and fries quickly while retaining their quality.

John Carroll Lynch is also excellent as Mac McDonald, the more charismatic and friendly brother who initially brings Kroc in to show him the inner workings of the restaurant. Finally, Laura Dern is perfect as Kroc's first wife, Ethel, and gives the character an air of melancholy that is almost oppressive.

Overall, "The Founder" is a gem that the Academy Awards have overlooked. It is filled with great performances and strong direction from John Lee Hancock. What could have been a very dry movie is thrilling in Hancock's hands, with one scene in particular showing how the McDonald brothers figured out their fast-food system on a tennis court was quite enthralling.

It's a shame that Keaton will not be recognized on a larger scale for his work here, but his dedication to the role shows that his dramatic acting chops are still up and running. I give "The Founder" five out of five stars.



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