

COLLEGIATE TIMES

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

Emergency airlift after car strike on North Main Street

On Friday night, an unidentified male pedestrian was struck by a car at the intersection of North Main Street and Jackson Street.

LEWIS MILLHOLLAND
managing editor

On Friday night, a pedestrian was struck by a vehicle on the intersection of North Main Street and Jackson Street. The student was airlifted to a hospital after being moved to a field with helicopter clearance.

Blacksburg Police stated on Saturday afternoon that the pedestrian is in stable condition.

"I saw this guy sprinting from the light post ... out of the crosswalk — he was not

in the crosswalk — and the lady that was driving the car didn't see him," said Nathan Miller, senior mechanical engineering major, who witnessed the incident. "She was going the speed limit, and he hit his head on the windshield and he was in the street."

Check online for updates on the story at ctimes.co/struckstudent.

 @WithTheFancyGuy



BEN WEIDLICH / COLLEGIATE TIMES

Emergency responders move the patient onto a stretcher at the scene of the accident, Jan 28, 2017.

Toy store brightens up Christiansburg

Brimming with history, purpose and craftsmanship, these three businesses are giving Christiansburg locals a taste of the past.

MEGAN MAURY CHURCH
lifestyles staff writer

It is almost February, and there is still a Christmas tree shining from the upper window of the old train station in Christiansburg. Owner Meghan Dorsett explained that she thinks of Christmas trees as a symbol of hope.

"I decided to leave it up because these days we can use about as much hope as we can get," Dorsett said.

This historic building is just 10 minutes away from campus. Set on the Virginia-Tennessee Railroad, the station is a remnant of the glory days of rail travel. Now it is privately owned and home to three unique businesses: Cambria Toy Station, Whistle Stop Books and Dorsett Publishing.

When a customer walks in, the books are in the left room, the toys are in the right and either Dorsett or her wife Carol Lindstrom is up front with a warm greeting.

The toy selection is wildly colorful and stacked high. Classic and new games alike, there is something for anyone to enjoy. One customer chased her grandson around in circles for 20 minutes and even lost him for a moment, before he reemerged clutching a stuffed animal.

Whistle Stop Books is a used bookstore also housed inside the building. The room has seven tall windows and a sitting area, perfect for browsing through or reading. Most of the books are only \$1–3.

The collection of books is large and is not limited to any genre, and Dorsett explained that only about a quarter of the company's books are on display. The rest are stored out back.

In the corner is a shelf stocked with children's books, which Dorsett gives away free-of-charge to any children who come into the shop. She believes it is important for kids to have books to read at home, no matter what their homes are like. The largest window on the track-facing wall has no bookshelves in front of it so that anyone can come in and watch a train go by.

"The toy selection is wildly colorful and stacked high. Classic and new games alike, there is something for anyone to enjoy."

These two businesses are both owned by Dorsett and Lindstrom and the proceeds go to keeping up the restoration of the station. Dorsett makes her living in a unique way: miniature making.

Dorsett's mother was a professional craftswoman who grew proficient in making miniature versions of buildings and furniture. Her craft was so renowned that she founded Dorsett Publishing and

see **TOYS** / page 6

VHYPER STUNS COMPETITION

Virginia Tech's Hyperloop team Vhyper advances to the 2017 International SpaceX Hyperloop Pod Competition, traveling 40 hours across the country to show off its latest design.

CLARE RIGNEY
environmentalism reporter

Outside of Hawthorne, California, university and industry competitors from across the world gathered this weekend to test out their designs for a futuristic transportation technology. As part of the Hyperloop Pod Competition, Virginia Tech's team was finally able to show off its hard work and engineering skills along the SpaceX test track.

The Hyperloop Pod competition was held at the mile-long SpaceX track outside of the company's headquarters, which is close to LAX. The Virginia Tech team, Vhyper, has been working on its design for months, after having received fourth place during Design Weekend at Texas A&M University in January 2016.

"You spend all this time in college and you want to do something great, something groundbreaking," said Quang Vo, Virginia Tech senior and Vhyper team member. He has been a member of the mechanical team since last August, as well as the head of marketing and social media.

In general, I'm a cheerleader ... The students are doing the work and they're the ones achieving."

David Goldsmith
adviser of the Vhyper team

The competition includes 30 teams from around the world. The concept of a hyperloop is a high-speed vacuum tube meant to carry humans and cargo. The original goal was to create a craft that could reach San Francisco from Los Angeles in 30 minutes. The Hyperloop competition was



COURTESY OF VHYPER TEAM

The pod, designed by the Vhyper team, and the tube that it travels in sit on display.

announced in 2015 by Elon Musk, the CEO of SpaceX and Tesla Motors, in order to find the design that best suited that goal.

The members of the Virginia Tech team traveled from Blacksburg to Los Angeles by car so that they could strap their pod to a trailer. They took turns driving and sleeping during the 40-hour trip.

Seventeen members of the team, as well as three faculty advisers, arrived in California last Monday, although the competition did not begin until Friday. They spent the week doing preparatory work and getting ready for their demonstration. Then, Vo said that the team had to host a presentation discussing why its work was "safe, reliable and an overall good design" to a panel of judges.

On Saturday, each team was given the opportunity to complete two runs on the test track. Sunday marked the

final run in which only the top five of the 30 teams in attendance were able to participate. After a week of judging, Virginia Tech came in as one of those top five.

"The pod performed exactly as we had anticipated," said David Goldsmith, a professor at the Myers-Lawson School of Construction. "Our chances are as good as anyone's and better than most."

Goldsmith has been helping the Vhyper team as an advisor since May 2016 with a focus on the aerospace-related aspects of the project, such as the hull of the pod.

"In general, I'm a cheerleader ... the students are doing the work, and they're the ones achieving," Goldsmith said.

Throughout judging, there were over 100 check-off points that judges

see **HYPERLOOP** / page 5

Clarke takes leap in second year

After a freshman season hampered by injuries, Chris Clarke has emerged as a star for the Hokies. Clarke's versatility has enabled him to take on a do-it-all role for Tech's men's basketball.

PETER BEDROSIAN
sports staff writer

Men's basketball head coach Buzz Williams is known for his energy on the sideline as well as his team's energy on the court. There are a limited number of players that fit his ideal mold, and if they do, they are given the special label of "OKG" by Williams.

"He's an OKG, an 'our kinda guy,'" Williams said of sophomore forward Chris Clarke. "He doesn't have a position, can play a ball screen however you wanna play it, can pass, can dribble, can shoot, is an above-average athlete that plays really hard." The Virginia Beach product was the top ranked prospect in the state of Virginia coming out of high school and has proven he deserves that ranking.

As a freshman, Clarke was an energy player with size that could guard any position on the floor. He was an excellent rebounder and was a proficient scorer in the paint. At times he would struggle to stay under control, but that is expected from a true freshman adjusting to the speed of college basketball.

Unfortunately for Clarke and the Hokies, he suffered a foot injury just before conference play started and missed 12 straight games. Playing limited minutes once he returned, it was clear Clarke was not at 100 percent and might not be for the remainder of the season. "I would say probably right before mid-summer I felt 100 percent again," Clarke said when asked about his foot at the end of the season.

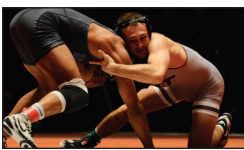
The healthy Clarke returned this year

see **CLARKE** / page 4



LOREN SKINKER / COLLEGIATE TIMES

Tech's Chris Clarke (15) ducks around Georgia Tech's Ben Lammers (44) to make the layup. Clarke tallied 11 points in the Hokies' victory, Jan. 18, 2017.



HOKIES WRESTLING
Check out some photos from Tech's home match-up against Duke.

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JOHN MAYER MAKES MUSIC FOR SPRING
Mayer's new song doesn't live up to its expectations.

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opinion

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column

Trump’s abortion gag order puts women at risk

The policy withdrawing funding from organizations which provide abortions or abortion counseling could endanger women in need.

We are less than 10 days into Donald Trump’s presidency, and it has been a whirlwind. Another day, another executive order. And while each executive order seems to be more controversial than the last, the Mexico City Policy has gone too far.

The Mexico City Policy, sometimes referred to as the global gag order, is a law from the Reagan era that bans federal money going to international groups that perform or provide information on abortions. It was rescinded under the Clinton administration, but Trump revived it on his second day in office.

While there are many important points to be made about this law, the most crucial, yet also the simplest, is this: abortions are going to happen whether they are funded or not. Abortions are going to happen whether women around the world are educated about them or not.

The decision to be made here is not whether or not women should be allowed to have abortions, it is whether or not women are going to die from them.

Even if you take away funding or education, you cannot erase the option for women who are demanding to decide for themselves. It will still happen; it will just take place in alleys and basements. There will be coat hangers and terrible pain. There will be bleeding, infections and occasionally death.

It is also important to understand that no woman wants to have an abortion. It is not something any woman wants to have to do. The decision to have an abortion does not come easy. It is a decision that

women agonize over. It is not taking the easy way out, and it is something that will affect that woman for the rest of her life.

It is a serious decision, and it is a decision that women deserve to make for themselves, in their own countries.

This law will not prevent women from having abortions; it will prevent women from having them safely, or force women to take care of a child when they do not have the means to do so. Yes, I understand that Trump feels as if he can make these decisions because it is federal money, but that is not the only factor at play here, and I think it is important for Trump and his staff to understand the magnitude of this decision.

The Trump administration is putting millions of women and children at risk, and that is not something that he should be able to simply do with the stroke of a pen on his second day in office.

Donald Trump and the men that surrounded him as he signed the executive order should not be making decisions on what women do with their bodies — especially if they are not prepared to help women get access to contraceptives to prevent unwanted pregnancies or do anything to make being a single mother easier. And Trump — just because you give a country money, that does not mean you get to dictate the lives of those living in that country.

KATELYN MEADE
• regular columnist
• senior/multimedia journalism

column

Ban on immigration robs refugees of a new life

Donald Trump recently enacted an immigration ban for several muslim-majority nations, which some are calling a violation of the American Dream.

My name is Armahn Rassuli, and I am an Iranian-American. My mother and father left Iran during a time when the country was facing a revolution and there was the American Hostage Crisis. They came by themselves, entering a foreign country whose promise to people was:

“Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door,” reads the plaque on the Statue of Liberty.

They came to the United States to seek refuge and to build a better future for themselves. They did not know the language, they still had to finish high school and college, they did not have their parents, they faced racism and they were poor.

Through all the adversity, they made something of themselves, not just because of their diligence and determination, but because this country let them start over to begin with. They raised my sister and me and made sure that we would never have

to face the hardships they did. They are in every way the embodiment of the American Dream.

Today I wonder how many people and families were robbed of the American Dream. Today I wonder: what does “temporary” mean? Today I wonder if it will be four years until I or any of my family members can visit Iran.

Today I wonder if it will be four years until my Iranian family can visit me. Today I wonder if people will ask themselves if they feel “safe” now. Today I wonder how many will question if this solves the problem or creates more.

Today I wonder, of all those who voted for him, how many are willing to stand up against him, not because of the story I just gave you, but because of Lady Liberty herself.

ARMAHN RASSULI
• photo editor
• senior/psychology



COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS



COURTESY OF TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

column

Scott Pruitt’s confirmation threatens future of climate

Attorney General Scott Pruitt’s rocky history with the Environmental Protection Agency casts doubt on his fitness to hold its highest position.

Amid the lingering uproar after President Donald Trump’s election, many individuals have fiercely criticized the president’s selection of Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt to lead the Environmental Protection Agency, igniting a fire beneath the skin of citizens who are aware of Pruitt’s ties to the gas and oil industries.

Yet many continue to endure the chill of political corruption and the acrid taste of political apathy without taking direct action to alert their political representatives of their discontent. I strongly encourage you to create space for political expression and activism in your own life, diverting the (acid) rains of a misplaced leader with the illuminating rays of your direct political input.

“Pruitt did not navigate his political career and resort to environmentally detrimental legislation simply as a last resort. Rather, he made the decision to favor his business interests on his own free will.”

The political climate of our nation becomes a bit hazier with every appointment of an individual who is out of alignment with the interests of the organization to which he or she has been appointed.

Pruitt has made a political career out of weakening environmental legislation in our nation. His LinkedIn page even boasts of his role as “a leading advocate against the EPA’s activist agenda.” How could a man who has been involved in 14 lawsuits against the interests of the EPA suddenly be appointed to lead such an esteemed environmental organization?

One may wonder if Trump resorted to Pruitt as his EPA pick due to his denouncement by countless prominent environmental advocates such as Fred Krupp and Rhea Suh. However, seeing as Trump has already elected to resume construction of both the Dakota Access and Keystone XL pipelines, perhaps such a decision was not so bizarre after all.

Unfortunately, Pruitt has maintained a close relationship with the very industries he would be charged with overseeing at the EPA throughout his political career. His track record reflects this siding with industry interests. Pruitt has been at “the

forefront fighting the EPA’s burdensome and unnecessary regulations,” since 2011, a testament to the extended time period by which Pruitt’s interests have been in alignment with those of the gas and oil industries.

Indebted to the fossil fuel industry after its generous financial contributions to his office (over \$314,996, in fact), these industries have collectively been the puppeteer pulling the strings of several of Pruitt’s political decisions.

An avid skeptic of climate change, Pruitt not only disbanded the environmental protection unit of his office upon his election, but he also cut allocations for environmental law entirely. He has attempted to halt the EPA’s legislative efforts to reduce soot and smog pollution from crossing state boundaries and has attempted to block EPA policies aimed at eliminating toxic mercury, arsenic and acid gases — a serious threat to public health with devastating impacts on the brain development of children.

While some individuals may condone Pruitt’s behavior, excusing it as simply yet another manifestation of political corruption normalizes such behavior and does not place pressure on the political system to reform in the first place. Pruitt did not navigate his political career and resort to environmentally detrimental legislation simply as a last resort. Rather, he made the decision to favor business interests on his own free will.

While the fears of speaking out may echo through your mind, do not allow these trepidations to sew your ears shut to the angry hum of injustice. Do not rest in the comfort of political passivity for fear of fully embodying the weight of your morals.

Please consider signing petitions created by the Environmental Defense Fund and the Food and Water Watch aimed at alerting senators of Pruitt’s murky political past. Fiercely protect the home of your personal political views from the windswept hurricane of an appointee who is not in alignment with his prospective position. You constructed these walls, brick by brick, and have the right to speak out against any force threatening to pollute this sanctuary.

ALEXA WILLIAMS
• opinions contributor
• freshman/political science

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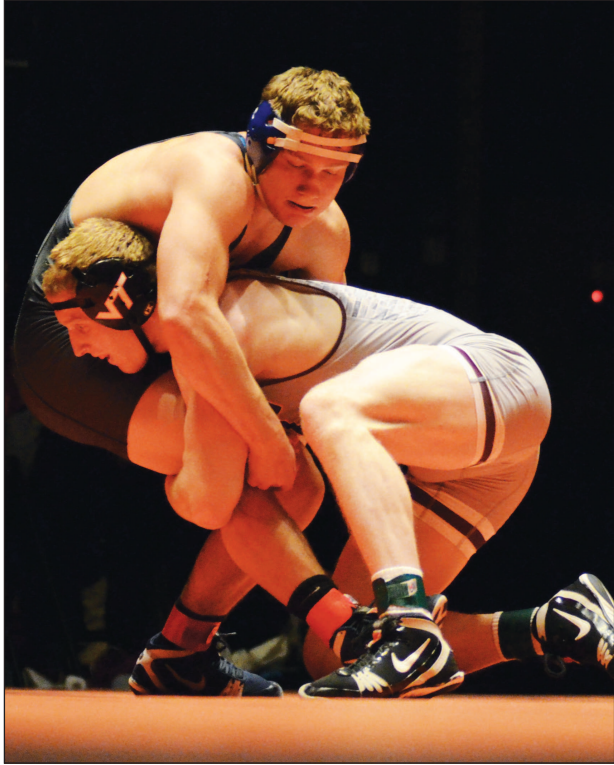
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VT wrestling beats Duke 26–13



AHMED MUSTAFA, BEN WEIDLICH / COLLEGIATE TIMES
The Virginia Tech wrestling team remains undefeated in the ACC after besting the Duke Blue Devils at the Moss Arts Center, Jan. 29, 2017.

Despite late rally, Hokies lose fourth-straight game

The Virginia Tech women’s basketball team dropped its fourth consecutive game, losing at home to unranked Syracuse, 82–72.

TODD SMITH
basketball beat reporter

Coming off of Thursday’s embarrassing loss at Virginia, the No. 19 Virginia Tech women’s basketball team looked to bounce back at home against Syracuse on Sunday. Unfortunately, the result was all too familiar for the Hokies, losing for the fifth time in six games by a final score of 82–72.

The result of Sunday’s game extends Virginia Tech’s current losing streak to four games. They have all come against ACC foes, dropping its conference record to 3–5 and 16–5 overall.

“I would love to give you coach talk and say they’re fine, we’re going to be great, it’s alright,” said head coach Kenny Brooks. “But the reality is they’re a little bit down, they’ve lost four in a row and until tonight the other three weren’t even close. But I think they’re understanding why the outcome is what it is.”

Syracuse came out early in a press and trap defense that gave the Hokies’ offense trouble from the onset, committing six turnovers in the first half. As

a result, the Orange led 23–16 and held on for the rest of the game.

The tenacious defense continued in the second quarter, with Virginia Tech committing five more turnovers. Despite a strong shooting percentage from the floor (54.2 percent), the home team was only able to muster 24 shot attempts compared to Syracuse’s 33 attempts. The discrepancy led to a 59–33 lead for the visitors at the break.

“Of course we’re going to have turnovers when there’s a press because that’s just what happens,” said forward Sidney Cook. “I thought we did a decent job in the first half.”

The Hokies came out of halftime and switched to a zone defense of their own, something Brooks only does out of necessity, and it temporarily stifled the Orange offense. Virginia Tech was able to claw its way back into the game, getting it under 10 points on several occasions.

Syracuse’s trio consisting of guards Alexis Peterson and Brittney Sykes, as well as forward Briana Day, were too much for the Hokies’ defense, as they combined for nearly all

of the opposition’s points on the day. Only one other player outside of these three scored any points for Syracuse.

Sykes led the way, scoring 31 points and going 12–17 in field goal attempts. Peterson and Day each contributed with a double-double a piece — Peterson finishing with 22 points and 11 assists and Day scoring 21 of her own points and 11 rebounds.

Cook scored a team-high 22 points for the Hokies while playing 39 minutes.

Depth continued to be an issue for Virginia Tech, who essentially played with a six-person rotation, including four starters all playing over 30 minutes once again this year. Kendyl Brooks was the only bench player to finish with more than four minutes.

The freshman, Brooks, who finished with nine points, played most of the fourth quarter over senior guard Vanessa Panousis.

“We need everyone to act accordingly. To go out and produce and have that leadership,” Brooks said. “They’ll tell you, I said, ‘What are some of our issues?’ and I think one of the seniors said, ‘Leadership.’ They know that even if things aren’t going their way they’re more valuable to us than just what their specialty is. They can provide so much more to us.”

The Hokies will look to end the current losing streak, but their schedule doesn’t get any easier as they make their way through the ACC gauntlet. No. 8 Notre Dame will be visiting Blacksburg for a matchup on Thursday evening.

“We just have to get back to the old us,” said guard Chanette Hicks. “Just focusing on ourselves in practice. Not looking forward to who we’re about to play because everyone in the ACC is a tough game.”



BEN WEIDLICH / COLLEGIATE TIMES
Sophomore guard Chanette Hicks (12) dribbles the ball down the court in Tech’s 82–72 home loss.

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The Inn at Virginia Tech & Skelton Conference Center
Feb 20-23, 9am-5pm - Installations
Art work, sculpture, models, fashion - Wallace Hall Gallery
Feb 23, 4-6pm - Meet & Greet with Scholars
Wallace Hall Gallery & Atrium

More info on
<http://tinyurl.com/OURsymposium2017>

study break

Today's Birthday Horoscope: Experiment with new concepts, cultures and views this year. Teamwork propels a shared dream. One door closes and another opens in a partnership this February, before a lucrative phase erupts. Make personal changes next September, before falling in love (again). Collaborate with all your heart.

quote of the day

“It is important to remember that we all have *magic* inside us.”

- JK Rowling

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MEDIUM

64



Tis the season for...

HOT CHOCOLATE

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Song of praise
6 Madagascar primate
11 “Norma ____”
14 Fiber-__ cable
15 Last Olds model
16 Make a decision
17 Massachusetts witch trial town
18 Frenzied
19 Speedometer reading: Abbr.
20 Mork’s sign-off
22 Cute Aussie “bear”
24 What we breathe
25 In favor of
26 Native of Damascus
27 Chinese menu letters
28 Eastside Manhattan thoroughfare
31 Dijon darling
33 Brain scan: Abbr.
34 Had the best record in
35 Confidentially, in Cannes
39 Univ. near Harvard
41 Unspecified number
42 Choppers
46 Boat made from a hollowed tree trunk
50 Ship, to a sailor
51 Zambia neighbor
52 Suffix with east
53 Male or female
54 Pastoral poem
55 Request for the latest update
58 Cozy cat seat
59 Kind of Boy Scout badge
61 Ancient region of Asia Minor
63 “Lux” composer Brian
64 Tylenol alternative
65 “Filthy” moolah
66 “Sure thing”
67 Eight plus one, to aviators
68 Disdainful grin
- DOWN**
- 1 Places to buy stamps: Abbr.
2 Language of Chile
3 On the loose
4 Property encumbrance
5 Golden Arches egg sandwich
6 Hollywood’s Hedy
7 Stylish vigor
8 Café chalkboard listing
9 Ocean State sch.
10 1990 Stallone boxing film which at the time was thought to be the conclusion of its series
11 Caesar salad lettuce
12 Give a hand to
13 Flammable hydrocarbon
21 There’s ____ in “team”
23 Bully’s threat ender
24 “Breaking Bad” channel
26 Palm starch
29 “Later, bro”
30 X, to Cato
32 Update factory machinery
36 “Toodles!”
37 GOP fundraising org.

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By Kevin Christian and Andrea Carla Michaels

Thursday’s Puzzle Solved

R	A	J	A		C	U	R	E	D		B	A	B	A
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S	L	I	D		A	S	P	E	N		F	R	E	D

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1/27/17

- 38 Kitchen implements
39 Humdrum
40 “Lust for Life” punk rocker
43 Defining quality
44 2000s crime drama set in Baltimore
45 Cast a spell on
46 Dan of old MGM musicals
47 Tracey on whose show “The Simpsons” debuted
48 More orderly
49 Dinner plate scrap
55 Chirpy bird
56 Home with drones
57 Sentence subject, as a rule
60 Yale collegian
62 ____ Lingus: Irish carrier

CLARKE: Sophomore star emerges as a team leader

from page 1

better than ever. He is truly the epitome of an OKG as he has guarded every position on the court, played point guard and power forward on offense and notched the only triple double in Virginia Tech history against The Citadel in December. The versatile wing leads the team in rebounds and steals, is second in assists and third in both scoring and blocks.

Furthermore, he has been even better against conference opponents averaging 14.5 points per contest, 2.2 points above his season average. That stretch of games also includes two 20-point performances and an astounding 58 field goal percentage with two games where he did not miss a single shot.

However, an OKG’s true value does not show entirely through the stat sheet. They are hustle players that make plays indirectly as well as directly. Clarke might not get a steal, but he forces the bad pass that leads to the steal. He might not get the rebound, but he tips it to a teammate who does. He might not get the assist, but he

makes the pass just before the assist.

Clarke is blessed with a unique combination of size, strength and athleticism that allows him to be such a versatile player. Standing at 6-foot-6 and 205 pounds, Clarke can handle his own in the paint against taller big men. He is strong for his size and has an outstanding bounce that allows him to out-jump bigger players for rebounds. On offense, he is a matchup nightmare. If a player is quick enough to guard him, they are probably too short, and if they are tall enough to guard him, they are probably too slow.

Williams knows just how versatile Clarke is and speaks of his value to the team often. “We need him to be the focal point. When the ball’s in his hands, good things happen,” Williams said after the Notre Dame game when asked about Clarke’s role as a leader on the team.

And a leader Clarke has become. On a team as young as the Hokies, players are often put in leadership roles earlier than they would expect. With the two oldest players on the team coming off the bench, Clarke and sophomore point

guard Justin Robinson are the leaders on the court from the opening tip. If the pace gets too fast, players are out of position or a play needs to be made, players look to those two.

The most impressive part of Clarke’s game is his selflessness. He is a pass-first player that tries to set up his teammates for success rather than looking to score himself. He knows when to push it in transition and when to slow it down and find the point guard. His maturity level on the court has increased immensely from his freshman to sophomore year as well as his level of play.

The Hokies had a very strong start to the season in Williams’ third year and a large part of that is due to the young players quickly maturing and improving. Clarke was a prized recruit and is now a prized player on this team and puts fans at ease when the ball is in his hands. If more OKGs can join Clarke on this team with their high energy and selfless play, the Hokies have a promising future.



AHMED MUSTAFA / COLLEGIATE TIMES

Chris Clarke (15) tries to drive against UNC’s Isaiah Hicks (4) in the Hokies’ 72–91 road loss to the Tar Heels, Jan. 26, 2017.



@CTSportsTalk

Battle to build student housing resurges in Blacksburg

Student housing complexes in Blacksburg, which have faced numerous setbacks in the past, are working harder than ever to solidify a strong relationship with the town to add more options for off-campus student housing.

LEWIS MILLHOLLAND
managing editor

Building student housing in Blacksburg is not easy. Construction of The Lofts at Blacksburg, a pair of proposed student housing sites on North Main Street for a combined 765 beds, has been set back by traffic concerns, parking space issues and an aging sewage infrastructure.

Other developers are no strangers to this challenge. Even with collegiate housing communities in 87 locations under their belt, EdR's (the company behind The Retreat) Vice President of Real Estate Development Joshua Wilson said that Blacksburg was "one of the more difficult ones we've been to."

In 2013, the Blacksburg Town Council voted 4–3 to deny construction of The Retreat. One concern was that while the project only called to rezone approximately 42 acres of land, the town wanted The Retreat to fit into the broader image of the future Prices Fork Corridor.

EdR came back almost two years later with an updated proposal and an updated set of proffers, including an open fiber network system that could be used to expand Blacksburg's existing fiber network down the road. By addressing specific community concerns and contributing to the future development of the area, the project was approved unanimously in 2015.

The Lofts project has its own set of issues, and many of them are tangible. The development proposal includes roughly 0.96 parking spaces per student, causing neighbors to worry their property will become overflow parking space. Also, the resulting increased traffic and the high volume of students taking left turns onto Main Street to get to campus are causes for concern.

The environmental impact of the project has also been called into question. The property abuts the headwaters of the Stroubles Creek, which runs underneath the town and the university, feeding into the Duck Pond. With the creek's legacy of pollution, some citizens are less than excited at the thought of construction and parking deck runoff flowing through the community.

A less tangible concern is the "fit" for the area — similar to the issue The Retreat faced in 2013. Planning and Building Director for the Town of Blacksburg Anne McClung pointed out that there is currently no coherent vision for the section of the North Main Corridor around the proposed Lofts at Blacksburg site.

Developing such a vision requires a concerted planning effort and involvement from stakeholders along that corridor — until that desired future is known, McClung stated that rezoning the site for The Lofts "is a bit premature."

The Right Fit
In the fall of 2015, Sturbridge Square Apartments built two new buildings to add 96 more bedrooms to its portfolio. Now, owners want to tear down the rest of the complex and rebuild with higher-density buildings for a total of 1,052 bedrooms — more than either The Edge or The Retreat.

This project involves all the typical Blacksburg housing development issues: rezoning to allow for higher density, the need for increased parking and an inadequate sewage infrastructure.

In the planning commission's eyes, Sturbridge is doing everything right. Sturbridge is removing 90 percent of its surface parking in favor of a new podium-style parking deck, and the new buildings will be split between graduate students, single families and



FILE 2016

The lot on 1310 North Main St. is one of the proposed sites of The Lofts at Blacksburg.

young students who "don't go to bed at 10 o'clock and don't have to wake up at 8 in the morning," as McClung put it.

Sturbridge is also planning a study to address inadequacies of the current sewage infrastructure. While upgrades are necessary to handle the increased number of residents, Sturbridge knows the existing system is adequate for its current size — a luxury The Lofts project does not have.

"Some of the lines (under the proposed Lofts location) are under capacity currently, so the developers of course want to know how that plays into what they're responsible for versus what the town's responsible for, whereas Sturbridge is clear-cut. That pump station has plenty of capacity right now and does not have capacity once the development comes on," said Town Engineer Victoria Hoyland.

The public hearing for the Sturbridge Square upgrades has not been announced.

"Sturbridge is actually a really good example of, 'We're not going to schedule a town council public hearing because we haven't gotten to the Planning Commission yet,'" said Development Administrator of Planning and Building Kinsey O'Shea.

While Capstone Collegiate Communities is involved with building and operating the Lofts at Blacksburg, LandPro Development Group, LLC, initially filed applications with the Town of Blacksburg in September 2016 to rezone the proposed sites for The Lofts at Blacksburg at 1230 and 1310 North Main St.

To address town and citizen concerns, the developers put the project on hold in January 2017.

"Capstone is very interested in working with the Town of Blacksburg as they study and resolve how to move forward with their sewer capacity issues and as a student housing developer, we welcome the opportunity to work cooperatively to see that more student housing is built in the appropriate locations to address future demand for housing as VA Tech continues to grow," Capstone officials said in an email to the Collegiate Times.

The next step is for LandPro and Capstone Collegiate Communities to revise their application and meet in a work session with the town planning commission before moving to a public hearing.

The Pressure to Build
To mixed success,

Blacksburg has always worked to retain its identity independent of the university community. A major player in this struggle is the ever-increasing pressure to rezone town land for student housing.

Virginia Tech President Tim Sands' vision to grow the student body by 5,000 in approximately the next five years doesn't help, either. Since Sands' announcement in 2014, Tech enrollment has risen by more than 1,500 students to 25,741 undergraduates for the 2016–17 academic year.

A study by Development Strategies, Inc., in 2015 identified two primary forces that have played into the underdevelopment of downtown Blacksburg: the increased demand for off-campus undergraduate student housing and "restrictive land use policies which are meant to preserve the town's historic character and minimize student housing (that) have inadvertently constrained desired development that targets strategically important demographic groups."

McClung expressed concern about the limited supply of commercially zoned locations downtown. In response to this, The Lofts at Blacksburg plans to incorporate a small

commercial component into the otherwise residential complex.

"The market for undergraduate student housing is driving everything to (itself) — it's warping your ability to get other types of housing built because the demand for the student housing is so intense," McClung said.

Broadstreet Partners, LLC, recently filed a request to rezone the 900 block of Progress Street from a general commercial to a transitional residential zoning district. Located near the Domino's Pizza on North Main Street, the developer is proposing 19 single-unit and multi-unit dwellings — Broadstreet did not comment regarding whether the new housing was designed for student use.

The neighborhood meeting where Broadstreet can present its plans to the community is scheduled for Feb. 2 at 6:30 p.m. at 400 Main St. This meeting precludes a Planning Commission work session, a public hearing and the ultimate Town Council public hearing.

"We have such an engaged community. It is better for everybody that we make all of that information available ... that way no one is surprised," O'Shea said. "It ends up making better projects for everybody."

For better or worse, Virginia Tech and the Town of Blacksburg are intimately tied together. Surrounded by Appalachian towns and cities that suffer from poverty and "brain drain," Blacksburg deals with a unique set of challenges dealt by its proximity to a growing, thriving university — which, as the Development Strategies report points out, are "good problems to have."

 @WithTheFancyGuy

Crash dummies used to determine drone safety

Virginia Tech researchers aim to reduce human-drone collisions with the help of crash test dummies. Findings indicate that precision is key.

MIKE LIU
news reporter

As drones are becoming a part of everyday life, the question about their safety rises. Researchers at Virginia Tech are studying the risks of bodily harm with drones striking people on the landing sites.

Drones can be used to carry out many services. For instance, Chipotle has used drones to deliver burritos to students at Virginia Tech. Drones can also be a recreational way for people to de-stress.

According to Steven Rowson, research assistant professor of biomedical engineering and mechanics at Virginia Tech who is also leading the injury bio-mechanics side of the research, the main purpose of the research is to understand the risks for drones to fly over people and the threat if they strike people on the ground. With the results of the testing, researchers will be able to make some changes and reduce the probability of life-threatening events.

"Drones are becoming part of everyday life ... so what we need to do is understand the risks associated with them flying over people and the event that there is failure," Rowson said. "If we understand how the drones interact with people, we can design interventions to reduce the probability of injury."

Rowson says that the research team has already

done some analytical work that includes calculating the risk flying drones over people. The research team used an instrumented crash test dummy to study the forces on the body on the off chance that a person is struck in the head with this airborne technology.

"If we understand how the drones interact with people, we can design interventions to reduce the probability of injury."

Steven Rowson
lead researcher for injury biomechanics

These studies can help the researchers predict the likelihood of severe injury. Rowson also mentioned that this is the same principle that is being used in automotive and sports fields to reduce the likelihood of concussions.

Rowson said that the team was impressive with the way that the trained pilot would maneuver a drone for test crashes. This intent was necessary to understanding the forces at different angles and altitudes. With accelerometers and load cells, Rowson says, "We can understand the forces on the body because if we know where

the forces on the body are, we can assess likelihood of severe injury."

"We are still working on the big picture in terms of understanding all different kinds of drones."

Considering the team's need for a large, open and controlled environment, Rowson's team chose the football training facility as its first testing site. With access to a spacious testing area, researchers are able to successfully fly the drone into the head and negate the effects of the wind to control the impact with the drone.

Rowson claimed that the testing in the football facility was only the first experimental set-up. In the future, the research team will test different kinds of drones in a real environment.

"We are still working on the big picture in terms of understanding all different kinds of drones. You know, some are big, some are small, some glide (and) some are really quadcopters," Rowson said. "They all would interact with people in a different way. So we really need to do a lot more testing in this point. I think we took the first step towards that goal, and in the future we are going to continue to assess the different drone types, understand the risks by type."

 @CollegiateTimes



COURTESY OF VHYPER TEAM

HYPERLOOP: Students design pods for SpaceX

from page 1

had to consider. According to Goldsmith, this included criteria such as design, producibility, safety, engineering and elegance.

"We have built a very well engineered pod, with a simple and elegant design that solves most of the problems others are having here by virtue of its fine engineering, not by virtue of its complexity," Goldsmith said.

After its judging, the team will now work on redesigning whichever components need adjustment before another competition in August of this year. This competition will be open for veteran teams as well as new teams that wish to participate. Vo is a senior, so he says that he will work with his team this semester, but

after graduation is a "gray area."

"It's great to say, 'Hey, Virginia Tech engineering, this is us right here, this is how far we've come.'"

Quang Vo
Vhyper team member

"If I am able to attend (the summer competition), I would love to ... in the meantime, I'll do prep work, prepare, anything I can do to essentially make the handoff easier to the younger generation," Vo said.

Goldsmith says that, although he is hopeful that the team will come out on top, that is not the only

reason for their participation. He says that much of the journey is about getting critiques and feedback for how they can improve their design.

"We have a long list of optimizations and improvements we're going to implement ... we're going to analyze preliminary data gathered while running in the main tube," Goldsmith said.

Vo says that one of the most exciting things about being at the competition is being able to represent Hokie Nation.

"We've been approached by graduated Hokies," Vo said. "It's great to say, 'Hey, Virginia Tech engineering, this is us right here, this is how far we've come.'"

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13141516

REVIEW: SPLIT

13141516

BRADY TICKLE
movie columnist

M. Night Shyamalan is a director with split personalities; sometimes he is able to direct a captivating, engrossing thriller, whereas other times he directs overstuffed, self-congratulatory shock.

Unfortunately, he has largely allowed his less-talented side to take over for far too long, churning out disasters like “The Happening” (where Mark Wahlberg fights plants that make people commit suicide), “The Last Airbender” (where a beloved children’s cartoon was turned into one of the most hated blockbusters of all time) and “After Earth” (where Will Smith bought his son a movie and the results were worse than expected, which was no small feat).

For so long, audiences have had to wonder: What went wrong with the guy who directed “Signs,” “Unbreakable” and “The Sixth Sense”? At long last, Shyamalan is back in good form, as “Split” is his best film since 2004’s underrated “The Village.”

Within the first five minutes, three girls are kidnapped by Kevin (played by James McAvoy), a man suffering from a severe case of dissociative identity disorder (DID) that has split his identity into 23 distinct personalities.

The opening is intense, and the thrills only escalate afterwards, barely allowing the audience to catch a breath throughout the remainder of the 116-minute runtime. It turns out the girls have been kidnapped due to a revolt in Kevin’s unconscious mind by two of his personalities, which have a shared plan for the girls revolving around a frighteningly dark belief about a

forthcoming 24th personality. To reveal more would lead me into spoiler territory, and the fun of watching “Split” lies in guessing what will happen next.

Early on in his career, Shyamalan was hailed as a master of the plot twist, and while that shtick became tired and overused, here it is renewed with vigor, complementing the story as opposed to detracting from its power. Through these twists, we learn more and more about the history of one of the girls, Casey (played by Anya Taylor-Joy), and the root of Kevin’s illness.

While at first the two seem like completely different characters, their histories of traumatic events give them a shared connection that the movie uses to illustrate their contrasting coping mechanisms. At its core, “Split” is a film that depicts healthy and unhealthy ways to deal with traumatic incidents, and whether or not one can grow as a result of them.

Mike Gioulakis’ cinematography is also mesmerizing, giving off a true sense of claustrophobia and panic when the narrative turns dour. The fine cinematography on display should come as no surprise, as Gioulakis’ previous work was on one of my favorite horror films of 2014, the terrifying 80s scary movie tribute “It Follows.”

The movie would be nothing without its star, James McAvoy, proving he is more than just a one-trick pony by playing five distinct, fleshed-out characters (and quite a few others in smaller appearances). Not only does he manage to be both intimidating and sympathetic, but also hilarious in some of the moments showcasing the film’s pitch-black comedy. Hedwig, one of


Kevin’s personalities who believes he is nine years old, provides the biggest laughs between the scares. Anya Taylor-Joy, who has started to become a modern scream queen through starring roles in “The Witch” and “Morgan,” gives a strong performance as the female lead, Casey. Betty Buckley is also quite good as Kevin’s therapist, Dr. Karen Fletcher.

While good in “The Edge of Seventeen,” Haley Lu Richardson is a bit out of place here as Claire, another girl who gets kidnapped with Casey; the same goes for Jessica Sula, who plays the third girl, Marcia. Their performances are not bad, but the characters feel underwritten and a bit pointless, with each having some truly cringe-inducing dialogue.

Overall, “Split” is the first horror movie of the year to be worthy of your ticket money. It is fast-paced, disturbing and edge-of-your-seat fun. Sure, some of Kevin’s abilities get a bit absurd by the end, and I highly doubt any form of DID actually looks like this, but this is a popcorn flick through and through.

Do not let the PG-13 rating fool you, either; things got twisted enough in the third act to make me shocked at the mild rating. Considering that both this and last year’s “The Visit” have received critical praise, it would appear that Shyamalan is returning to form. Here’s hoping his next project is just as creepy. I give “Split” four and a half out of five stars.

★★★★☆

 @BradyTickle

‘Love on the Weekend’ underwhelms true fans

For award-winning musician John Mayer, music is a way of life — but could his new song have been better? Some say yes.

ZACK WAJSGRAS
managing editor

Everything is a matter of perspective in that it’s possible for something to be good and bad at the same time. John Mayer’s new song “Love on the Weekend” is just that.

The song starts off with a mellow vibe and a mildly paced beat as Mayer begins to tell the story of how hard the week has been and how he is going to take advantage of the weekend with his lady friend. Despite hinting that he doesn’t work at all (“You’ve been working, I’ve been waiting.”) the message is tried and true and most people can relate to what he is singing about. On goes the rest of the song as the beat and melody repeat over and over.

The problem with this song is that John Mayer is one of the most fantastically talented individual musicians around today and this song doesn’t display a single one of his many

talents.

Mayer is known for his incredible blues guitar skills, his deep and powerful voice and his emotionally charged lyrics. If you are interested in seeing what he is really capable of, search on Youtube for “Something Like Olivia (Acoustic)” or any of his performances of “Gravity” live.

It is hard to imagine why someone so talented would ever put out a song that has easily digestible lyrics, no significant guitar sections and a general lack of creativity.

The song is good enough that I probably would not turn it off on the radio if it came on while I was driving. However, I am a big fan of the other work Mayer has done, and it is unfortunate that he went for the easy formula to produce a simple pop song that would sell quickly.

Since Mayer has not put out a lot of music recently, he most likely knew that whatever

he released would be at least mildly popular, but his more musically inclined fans will likely not appreciate this tune.

Maybe when he performs it live (or records it acoustically in studio like “Something Like Olivia”), he will add in some time for soloing or will come up with an alternate version of the song. But until Mayer releases a new full album, it seems we are stuck with a song that will fade quickly, as all pop songs do.

Now it shouldn’t be expected that a talented artist should produce ground-shattering music every time he or she releases something. That kind of pressure is what eventually leads to pop music as formulas for success are discovered and abused until every person on the planet hates them (i.e. what Mayer is doing now). Mayer, though, is capable of finding a balance. Even a clever opening riff would have been a welcomed addition to what he gave us.

I don’t think any less of him as an artist because of this song, and I am still going to give him the benefit of the doubt as he continues with his music career. But if songs like this continue to come out and his talents stay hidden, that could change very quickly.

The song might be considered much more successful if it was written by a budding artist or someone much less talented, but because it was written by John Mayer, I give this song two and a half out of five stars.



COURTESY OF ACE SHOWBIZ

 @CollegiateTimes



TAYO OLADELE / COLLEGIATE TIMES

The Cambria toy shop in downtown Christiansburg, Virginia, near an old railway station, displays miniature works and features a book store, Jan. 29, 2017.

TOYS: Christiansburg shop based in station

from page 1

began writing manuals on how to replicate the world on a miniature scale. The company has published guidebooks focused on specific styles, woods, items, techniques and tools.

Within the bookshop, many miniature works are on display in glass cases. Like small, realistic doll houses, they are replicas of different types of buildings throughout history, complete with tiny furniture, all handmade.

“‘The Cabinet Maker’s Guide’ is our bestseller. It was the first guidebook on how to build miniatures printed in the United States,” Dorsett said. “It predates the miniature-building hobby, which didn’t really start until the 1970s.”

Dorsett gives her mother’s detailed publications a lot of credit, and believes they helped develop the hobby of

miniature making in the U.S.

In the early ‘80s, a miniature desk made by Dorsett’s father was featured on the cover of Fine Woodworking, a premier magazine for full-size woodworking. Dorsett Publishing even ran its own magazine, Scale Cabinet Maker, from 1976–96.

Dorsett shared that, despite its closeness to campus, Virginia Tech students rarely patron the shop.

“We do occasionally get architecture students coming around for a look,” Dorsett said. The architecture style of the building is Tuscan Italian, rare to find in the South.

She hopes more book lovers and English students will come by when looking for a great book for only \$2.

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