

HILLPRESS

H I L L C R E S T H A L L · C O U L D ' V E H A D A V · 8

Virginia Tech Enters Space Race

Looking to strengthen its reputation as a top-30 research institution, Virginia Tech announced Tuesday that it had successfully entered the ranks of the world's space pioneers. Dr. Chris Hall, head of the department of Aerospace and Ocean Engineering, made the announcement from the new Surge SpaceBuilding. "The SpaceBuilding's benefits are twofold. Mainly, we have a new, state-of-the-art research facility in which to test the impacts of zero gravity on learning, but on top of that, we've finally found a solution that will let us expand campus while keeping the golf course—to slip the surly bonds of Earth and reach into the bleak blackness of space."



Several cars and Dr. Hall's Cadillac STS (license plate OV-104) were seen docked outside the Surge SpaceBuilding during the first week of classes.

The new facility contains an assortment of labs and offices, eleven classrooms, a water reclamation plant, 375 square meters of solar panels, and the Russian-built cargo module Zarya.

Student reaction to the new orbital structure is mixed. "Sure, they have those combination clock-message boards in all the class-

rooms," said junior ISE major Mitch Daniels, "but without a car, I need to allow three days to get to class if I want to catch the BT's new Endeavour route."

Civil Engineering graduate student Crysta Highfield reports that the situation is not that great for those with cars, either. "There's barely any parking at Surge, and with gas prices as they are I'm starting to think it's not worth it to drive the 217 miles to Low Earth Orbit."

In spite of any qualms its students may have about transportation, Dr. Hall reports that Virginia Tech is firm in its decision to continue its expansion into outer space. Already, an ambitious plan has been released to open two more SpaceBuildings, tentatively labeled Rush and Swell, before the space shuttle is retired in 2010. In the long term, Tech plans to move the entirety of the already distant Shultz dining facility to Mars using the Orion spacecraft presently under development by NASA, with an estimated total cost to taxpayers of slightly under \$210 billion through 2025.

Peter Kauffmann is a Rocket Man; burning out his fuse up here, alone.

Loliticans



Mitch Daniels felt very proud when he came up with the title, 'Loliticans', all by himself.

Where Do They Come Up with Those Names?!

With names like Floyd, Agnes, Edna, Gilbert, Claudette, and so many others just like that I can't help but feel that the hurricane naming process is a little outdated. As a solution to this problem, allow me to throw out a few of my own suggestions, perhaps a little more modern, to liven up this dismal practice.

Hurricane Kahn Ok, so in all fairness this hurricane would have to hit Central Asia (or the Starship Enterprise, to stay modern) in order to make sense, and it would have to hit it even harder than **Hurricane Communism** (not so much for the Enterprise, well who knows...). Or say you had a hurricane that only hit the major urban areas in Asia: we could call it...

Hurricane Western-Culture laying waste to... pretty much everything. In the same vein of "laying waste" we have...



Utter decimation.

Hurricane Rosie O'Donnell Laying waste to sex drives everywhere.

Hurricane Humberto Ok, I know that this one actually exists (believe it: Humberto). I like this one though, because all I can figure

is a group of guys sat around in a room laughing and saying "there's no way they'll actually go for this..." and were shocked to find that weathermen everywhere LOVED it. Finally, my personal favorite...

Hurricane Fran-tastic Turn that frown upside-down, Hurricane Frantastic is coming to town. It'll be a non-stop party with Frantastic bringing the booze/torrential rain. I mean really though, who needs to get drunk when you're drowning?

John Hoffman is changing his name to "John Marian Danger Smooth Witherspoon Hoffman" in hopes that one day they'll name a storm after him.

OPINIONS SECTION

Calling all Females...Do you have what it takes to be the next VP of the USA?

One would think that a Vice Presidential nominee would need strong foreign policy skills, a well-balanced work-life schedule that will allow for long nights campaigning, and a well-known name to bring prestige to the party. Those seem to be the general qualifications for being in the second most powerful position in the United States government. Because, let's face it, the VP only exists for replacing Presidents if they face an untimely death. Sometimes, a VP will help to re-energize a campaign.



Rosie the Riveter used her assets; so can you.

Barack Obama chose a candidate who, according to political pundits, is older, wiser, and, by most accounts, has more insurance. With Senator Joe Biden, the Democratic Party has been working hard to play up the middle-classness of the ticket. Biden, as one might tell from a picture, is neither overly attractive nor young, a stark contrast to Obama. But who did John McCain choose as his better half, his number 2?

John McCain chose a candidate who embodies the basic characteristics he wanted in a running mate: breasts, lack of foreign policy experience, beauty pageant experience, and most impor-

tantly, sports casting skills (because that draws male voters, too). Sarah Palin, a mother of five and governor of Alaska, pulls on all core Republican values, but otherwise, at least to this reporter's eyes, fits the characteristics shown above.

If you want to be a VP candidate, remember what Senator McCain has shown you about the future of women in politics: be a beauty pageant queen, have lots of children, and you can be a VP too!

Kari Adkins is hoping that having breasts will get her a job next week too.

Hillpress Staff

Tomatoes Kathleen Cooperstein
Celery Peter Kauffmann
Spinach Kari Adkins
Watercress Tory Smith
Lettuce Mitch Daniels
Beets Will Satterwhite
Parsley John Hoffman
Carrots Matt Allen