

# COLLEGIATE TIMES

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## Students outsource accounting



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY KEVIN DICKEL / SPSS

Students remain unhappy with Accounting courses. The average GPAs for the two introductory classes are 2.37 and 2.33, respectively.

**KELLY CLINE**  
news staff writer

Business majors are required to take the Principles of Accounting introductory courses, and many agree about the level of difficulty involved.

An option that's become popular for business students is to take an easier, transferable course at community college. Some accounting students prefer to take their financial accounting class at

community colleges to avoid the more difficult classes at Virginia Tech.

Michelle Gryzbowski, a junior finance major at Tech, said she took the classes at a community college in northern Virginia during the summer of her freshman year.

"I've heard horror stories about how hard it is (at Tech) and...I didn't think I would be able to handle it," Gryzbowski said. "If I took it at community college, that allowed me to take it at an easier pace."

But students who want to try this route had better check with the Accounting Department.

In order to maintain the reputation of their rigorous — yet successful — program, the Accounting Department doesn't always allow the credits to transfer from other institutions. According to Dr. Reza Barkhi, the head of the Accounting Department at Virginia Tech, when a student wants to transfer credits, the syllabi of the courses in

question have to be evaluated by the corresponding departments at Virginia Tech.

When there is a Principles of Accounting course considered, Dr. Jennifer Clevenger forwards the syllabus to Dr. Barkhi and Professor Lynn Almond to be reviewed. After looking over the syllabus, if the course covers enough of the material that would be covered in the Tech class, a recommendation is made to accept or deny the credits.

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## New Hillel center unites community

**LEAH KOMADA**  
news staff writer

Hillel, the Jewish community at Virginia Tech, opened a new \$2.5 million building this month, with the hopes it would be a visible representation of support and opportunities for the Jewish community at Tech.

"Our building provides an additional programming space for students to gather for learning, socializing and religious activities," said Hillel Executive Director Sue Kurtz.

"We are not replacing the programming spaces we currently have at the university, we are simply adding another."

The building was created in memory of Malcolm Rosenberg, an entrepreneur and Jewish philanthropist, who endowed the Jewish student program at Virginia Tech.

"Malcolm always envisioned a modern center for Jewish life here at the university," said Kurtz. "After he passed away, his wife Diane sought to bring his vision to life."

The building contains several spaces available for students to hold meetings as small groups or larger organizations.

"It is often times difficult to have a meeting space consistent every week," said Kurtz. "We invite all organizations to use the space available, not just Jewish students."

Inside the building is a synagogue where students can go for any holidays or traditions they celebrate.

"The mother of a student in the Corp of Cadets donated a Torah for the new synagogue," said Kurtz. "The establishment of this building is truly a community effort."

Weekly community meals will also be held every Friday night and the dinners will be prepared in a kosher kitchen.

"Now we can really meet the needs of students who care about having traditional Jewish meals," said Kurtz.

The hope is that this building will create a stronger community on campus, as well as create a greater appeal for those prospective students wishing to have access to a Jewish community.

"It is important that freshmen or students looking at (Tech) who are part of a vibrant Jewish life in their current community see the same existence here at Tech," said Kurtz.

It takes the effort of many to create an ideal learning and living environment for students in college.

"Our main goal is to provide students with an accessible place for learning and socializing and to bring some of the Jewish traditions onto campus, for everyone to participate in and learn about," said Kurtz.

## Toxic chemical spill shuts down Draper Road for hours

**CAMERON AUSTIN**  
news reporter

A hazardous material spill on Tuesday caused the block of Draper between Roanoke and Lee streets to be closed.

According to the driver of the truck, 20 to 30 gallons of copper amine C9 was spilled and traveled directly into a drain leading to a fresh water source.

The chemical is commonly used as a wood preserver, but can also act as a fertilizer, which is toxic to fish.

W.E.L Incorporated is a hazardous material cleanup company that offers 24-hours services in Southwest Virginia.

The process of removing the chemical from the street involves vacuuming the areas and then incorporating the Blacksburg Fire Department to flush the drains with large amounts of water.

According to the driver, improper loading of the chemicals caused the spill, and he was not at fault. It will cost several thousands of dollars to clean up.

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality was on scene supervising the cleanup.

Follow the writer on Twitter: @CAustinCT



BEN WEDLICH / SPSS

Hazardous material crews work to clean up a chemical spill along Draper Road. The spill caused a closure of the street for several hours.

## Town members voice concern over BMS development



**DEAN SEAL**  
news editor

Skepticism inundated the latest discussion over the fate of the proposed development at the old Blacksburg Middle School

and concerns for Cowan and Steve Semones, an engineering advisor that accompanies Cowan to provide technical insight into the project.

The subject of the crowd's apprehensions varied, but