

Regional News

Bob Saget coming to campus Oct. 18

The split personality of Bob Saget will come to the campus as part of Student Entertainment Event's Homecoming Comedy Show on Oct. 18.

The stand-up comic known as the straight-laced father Danny Tanner on the family T.V. show Full House and the mild-mannered host of America's Funniest Home Videos will bring his true self to Cole Field House: a raunchy comedian not suitable for sensitive ears.

The show also features Jamie Kennedy, star of the prank television series The Jamie Kennedy Experiment and the film Malibu's Most Wanted, and Jeff Ross, best known for his role as "Roastmaster General" at New York's Friars Club.

Tickets are now on sale.

—Reporter Ben Block contributed to this story.

CHIP, from Page 1

be able to simulate a virtual meeting place for friends, organize research points into a well-edited grade-A paper and design custom prescription medication based on an individual's medical history and genetic code.

While typical desktops use serial processing, which allows one operation to be performed at a time, Vishkin's creation uses a process called parallel processing. Vishkin, who is in his nineteenth year as a university professor and works in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, explained why serial processing is inferior to parallel processing.

"Suppose it takes one cleaner 300 minutes to clean your home," Vishkin said. "Parallel processing means that using 100 cleaners, we can clean your home in 3 minutes, reducing the interruption to your life, as well as

reducing your cost since you will be paying the same hourly rate."

Although Vishkin has made waves with his prototype, he said it could be three to five years before it reaches the market. The next step is to acquire the funding necessary to build an industry-grade chip to try to sell to a large company, such as Intel, that can mass-produce it, Vishkin said. This chip would be less than two-thirds of a square inch—smaller than the prototype.

"I believe that the work we are doing is truly revolutionary," said George Caragea, a fifth-year doctorate student in computer science who worked with Vishkin on the prototype for three years. "It remains to be seen if it will overcome the barriers set by the big corporations which control the market," Caragea said.

Patrick O'Shea, chairman of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering,

praised Vishkin's innovation and said that his work represents the motto of the department, "we bring you modern life."

"Professor Vishkin's work is an ideal embodiment of our role as a leading educational institution," O'Shea said. "Here, faculty, staff and students work together on cutting-edge research to produce results that have good and useful outcomes for humanity."

Vishkin has showcased his patented invention, which was given about \$2 million in funds by the National Science Foundation and the Department of Defense, at various conventions for computer manufacturers and researchers such as the Association for Computing Machinery's International Conference on Supercomputing in Seattle in June. He also held a demonstration on how to program the computer in local high schools, most

recently Montgomery Blair High School.

A Tel Aviv native, Vishkin said he began to develop the necessary theory to program parallel processing in 1979 while earning his doctorate at Technion-Israel Institute of Technology. It took him about 15 years, but he said his steady approach of working with theories before mechanics allowed him to progress.

"Parallel processing requires a very different way of thinking that is different from doing one thing at a time," Vishkin said.

In the 1990s, Vishkin said he discovered that the time for a computer to perform one function, known as clock speed, would not improve in the new millennium because the electronic signals that allow for computations cannot travel faster than the speed of light. Therefore, the only way to improve a computer's productivity was to place many more transistors, which con-

duct electricity and are fundamental in the operation of all modern electronic devices, on a single chip. A single chip with billions of miniature transistors can utilize parallel processing because many chips can perform the same operation, allowing for a faster performance.

It is important for the next generation of computer engineers to understand how to program a computer that uses parallel processing, Vishkin said. This spring, he is teaching two university courses about his developments and theories: "Towards a New Era of Supercomputing" and "Parallel Algorithms."

To promote his new technology, Vishkin is holding a contest, open to anyone in the world, to choose a name for the single-chip supercomputer. The deadline for submissions is Sept. 30 and the winner will receive \$500.

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University to save energy, cash with redesigned dorms**School taps into 'green building' trends with campus projects**

By MEGAN ECKSTEIN
Staff writer

When freshman finance major Dylan Brenneman moved into his Denton Hall dorm this semester, it didn't look quite right.

His fan unit was on the ceiling instead of the floor. The cinderblock walls that are such a common feature of life in the North Campus dorms were strangely absent, replaced by smooth blue surfaces.

No, he isn't receiving any special treatment over the other freshmen in his building. Brenneman is a guinea pig for the university's "green" prototype room, an experiment in cutting down on the amount of energy used in the dorms.

As the popularity of so-called "green development" surges, the school is tapping into the trend with a number of projects, looking to stay at the forefront of environmentally minded universities and save cash on energy at the same time.

As Brenneman puts it, "it's en-

vironment friendly, which is always good I guess if that's what their goal is. And if it saves money too, more power to them."

Along with energy-saving dorms, the university launched EcoHouse this semester, a living-learning community in New Leonardtown aimed at educating students in environmental issues and green practices. The Department of Residential Facilities will be adding meters to rooms in the EcoHouse to measure energy consumption and let residents see where they could potentially save the most power. And Dining Services has plans in the works for roof-top gardens on top of the dining halls, which absorb carbon dioxide and help to insulate buildings. Facilities is planning on doing the same on top of the North Campus dorms.

In Denton, Facilities made alterations to two dorm rooms to make the space more energy-efficient. The department's director, Jon Dooley, said his hunch is the rooms are already working, but



Two prototype dorm rooms have air conditioning units mounted on the ceiling and special insulation on one of the walls.

they will monitor the two rooms throughout the year to make sure there is a tangible cut.

Doing their part for the environ-

ment isn't the only factor pushing the university toward green development, though. Also behind the changes is the need to reduce ener-

gy use ahead of the installation of central air conditioning in a few years so the energy bill won't skyrocket. Dooley said he expects that

once the AC starts running, the overall energy bill will be just slightly lower than it is now.

This summer, a private engineering firm contracted by the university came up with recommendations for saving energy.

First, the cinderblock walls were not good at all for moderating room temperature. So in the two prototype rooms in Denton Hall, the cinderblock was covered with a layer of insulation made from recycled denim, and then a layer of dry wall was added.

Next, the windows were letting air escape into and out of the rooms. Residential Facilities will replace the current windows with double-paned, thermal insulated windows later this fiscal year.

Finally, the firm addressed the fan and heater unit's location. In theory, the unit is set up so that air will circulate throughout the room and warm up or cool down the entire room.

However, because of limited space in the rooms, residents with few options in setting up their furniture put the beds right next to the fans, and blankets and pillows inevitably block the air from circulating. So the department decided to try moving the fans to the ceiling.

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Strongest Man no more

STRONGMAN, from Page 1

contract would have been filmed in just three weeks, would have been a testing ground for the contest's competitors.

Marc Forest, the show's executive producer, said he hopes the university will reconsider their decision and allow IMG to film an episode of the show on the campus this spring when filming the actual series. For now, Forest said the show's campus arrival has only been put on hold.

Though the producers hadn't planned on broadcasting

the trial run of the show, they intended to invite UMTV to film it, Forest said.

IMG Media Vice Chairman Barry Frank said he was disappointed by the university's move.

"After having agreed to host it and having any number of meetings and trips to Baltimore and having gotten approval from everyone, they pulled the plug on us on the 13th of September," said Frank in an e-mail to The Diamondback.

Frank could not be reached for further comment.

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BY THE SALARIES

\$38,000
University Police

\$44,148
Prince George's Co.

\$45,165
Montgomery Co.

\$35,715
Greenbelt

\$36,338
University Park

Almost half of outgoing Univ. Police since '98 left for other departments

POLICE, from Page 1

president. "We need to attract and retain good, qualified people to be officers."

The university has slots for 99 full-time officers, but only 76 of those positions are filled, University Police Spokesman Paul Dillon said. Nine officers are in training, but even if all of them finish, the department will have 14 vacancies, he said.

"The more retention problems we have, we have more vacancies," Dillon said. "And the more vacancies, the less cops on the street. With less human resources you're less able to do the things you'd like to do."

Neither the FOP nor Dillon would disclose details of the con-

tract being discussed. The current agreement expires Sept. 30, but will remain valid until a new contract is signed.

The University's Department of Human Resources, which is handling negotiations for the school, could not be reached for comment Thursday.

"The university wants a contract that is going to be satisfactory to the FOP so the members of the department don't leave the agency," Dillon said.

Capt. Carolyn Consoli, who oversees the police budget, said police manage to cover some of the vacancies by spreading officers on duty over larger areas or paying off-duty officers overtime to work additional hours.

"There's a lot of different ways to handle a vacancy," Consoli said.

She said police are continuously hiring and training new officers in anticipation of vacancies, but supply has fallen short of demand.

Of the more than 90 officers who have left the force since 1998, at least 42 cited another law enforcement position as the reason for departure. Others retired, left police work altogether or cited other reasons.

"We've become a training ground for some agencies, because it doesn't cost them anything, they just get a trained officer," Diaz said. "It would be nice to just keep a hold of them so they can be productive officers for the community."

Salaries for University Police officers start at \$38,000 a year, Dillon said. That's thousands less than Prince George's County or neighboring Montgomery County, which offer starting salaries of \$44,148 and \$45,165, respectively.

Both counties also offer higher starting salaries for experienced officers, according to their websites.

Many smaller departments, including nearby University Park and Greenbelt, have comparable starting salaries, but also demand less forced overtime than the university.

University Park starts certified, but inexperienced officers at \$36,338, said Sgt. Wayne McCully of the department. Greenbelt's website estimates starting salaries range from \$35,714 to \$57,200.

Police say many officers are driven to leave the university because of the frequent sports events and university programs that pull them away from family and friends to work odd hours.

"When they are taking days off away or making you come in early, some officers like it because they want the money," said Officer Mark Wittkopw during a recent ride along. "Others are bitter about it and it chases them away."

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Good Luck Chuck R
Dragon Wars PG-13
The Brave One R
Halloween R
Shoot 'Em Up R
Rush Hour 3 PG-13
3:10 to Yuma R
Resident Evil: Extinction R
Balls of Fury PG-13

FRI-SAT

Movie	12:20	2:30	5:00	7:15	9:45
Good Luck Chuck	12:20	2:30	5:00	7:15	9:45
Dragon Wars	12:20	2:30	5:00	7:25	10:00
Halloween			4:50	7:15	9:45
Shoot 'Em Up	12:30	2:50	5:10	7:30	10:15
Rush Hour 3	12:30	2:50	5:10	7:30	10:15
3:10 to Yuma	1:00	4:00		7:15	10:00
Balls of Fury	12:20	2:40			
Resident Evil: Extinction	12:30	2:40	5:00	7:15	9:45
The Brave One	1:00	4:00		7:15	10:00

SUN

Movie	12:20	2:30	5:00	7:15
Good Luck Chuck	12:20	2:30	5:00	7:15
Dragon Wars	12:20	2:30	5:00	7:25
Halloween			4:50	7:15
Shoot 'Em Up	12:30	2:50	5:10	7:30
Rush Hour 3	12:30	2:50	5:10	7:30
3:10 to Yuma	1:00	4:00		7:15
Balls of Fury	12:20	2:40		
Resident Evil: Extinction	12:30	2:40	5:00	7:15
The Brave One	1:00	4:00		7:15

MON-THU

Movie	1:20	4:00	6:45	9:00
Good Luck Chuck	1:20	4:00	6:45	9:00
Dragon Wars	1:40	4:30	6:45	9:00
Halloween			6:30	8:45
Shoot 'Em Up	1:20	4:00	7:00	9:15
Rush Hour 3	1:40	4:30	6:45	9:00
3:10 to Yuma	1:00	3:30	6:15	8:45
Balls of Fury	1:40	4:30		
Resident Evil: Extinction	1:20	4:00	7:00	9:15
The Brave One	1:00	3:30	6:15	8:45