

Quarterly Public Report for WNRN Public File

A-- During the 1st quarter (January 1st - March 31, 2011), WNRN News reported on and followed the following stories which other local print, broadcast media and governmental agencies found of interest to the City of Charlottesville and surrounding counties:

Virginia Lacrosse Murder

On January 10th, local media reporters that gathered to see accused murderer George Huguely were denied again. Huguely's attorneys filed and were granted a third continuance for a hearing that was originally scheduled for Thursday, January 21st. The counsel told the judge that is quote "a lot of stuff still out there." The court did certify five new charges against Huguely which are robbery, burglary, statutory burglary, larceny, and felony murder. These new charges are on top of the first-degree murder charge he faces in the death of his ex-girlfriend, fellow UVa lacrosse player Yearly Love. Love was pronounced dead at her university area apartment on May 3rd.

On January 11th, news reported that a preliminary hearing has been postponed for George Huguely, the former University of Virginia lacrosse player accused of killing women's lacrosse player Yearley Love. Lawyers for Huguely said yesterday in Charlottesville General District Court that the defense wasn't prepared to move forward with the previously scheduled Jan. 21 hearing.

On January 20th, news reported that George Huguely is most likely going to appear in a Charlottesville court for the first time now that a preliminary trial hearing date has been set for April 11th. Huguely now faces six charges, after the felony murder, robbery, burglary, statutory burglary, and larceny charges were added in January. His attorney asked for a postponement from the original date of January 21st because the defense had to evaluate many new pieces of evidence. If convicted, Huguely faces up to two life sentences in prison.

On Feb 23, The General Assembly is moving forward on a reform of the state's protective order laws. Currently, and perhaps tragically, people in dating relationships are not specifically allowed to seek protective orders against their partners. Legislators are working toward an expansion of protective order coverage as well as an intensification of penalties for abusers who violate those orders. Renewed momentum fuels the legal changes after the death last year of Yearley Love, a Virginia lacrosse player who allegedly was the victim of dating violence. Both the Senate and the House have passed similar measures, but nothing is certain until the budget is finalized.

The Virginia Board of Education is planning to adopt the first statewide guidelines, which would help school districts prevent misconduct and sexual abuse. The guidelines that were proposed include policies on electronics and social interactions, between teachers and students. The board is to take up the issue at their regular Thursday March 25th meeting.

A UVa Student died after falling from the roof of the school's Physics Building late Sunday night. Thomas Gilliam, the fourth, was a first year in the College of Arts and

Sciences, and it is believed that Gilliam slipped while guiding other students along the snow-slick roof. The Physics roof is known as one of UVa's hidden scenic sites, and students sneak to there to take in the nighttime beauty of the Old Dorms Quad. UVA says an electronic lock system will be added to the building. Gilliam's funeral will be held tomorrow, and UVA will remember Gilliam and other student deaths, including Yeardley Love, in the annual Student Memorial Service on Friday, April 1st.

Morgan Harrington

On January 26th, news reported that a year ago today, the body of Morgan Dana Harrington was found on Anchorage Farm in Albemarle County. Yesterday, the parents of the former Virginia Tech student made their first visit to the site. Dan and Gil Harrington believe their daughter's killer still lives nearby, because the seclusion of the site suggests familiarity with the area. Also, police remind us that the night of Morgan's disappearance was a rainy one, and anyone who walked on the Farm would have left in muddy clothing. A special tip line is at 434-352-3467.

The Commonwealth is going to begin using familial DNA testing for unsolved murder cases as reported on March 24th. The parents of murdered Virginia Tech student, Morgan Harrington, have been the major impetus for the use of this technology. Twenty-year-old Harrington disappeared from outside the John Paul Jones Arena during a Metallica concert on October 17th, 2009. Harrington's remains were discovered more than three months later on an Albemarle County farm, and unidentified DNA recovered in the case matches DNA left on the victim of a 2005 rape in Fairfax, Virginia.

Health Care Reform

On January 6th, Virginia lawmakers hope to move forward with their efforts to prepare for the massive reforms to our health care system, due to Virginia's current court fight challenging the laws, Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli says that we will have to wait. Yesterday, one week before the legislature reconvenes, members of the Joint Commission on health care got an update on the court challenge and on the commonwealth's efforts to prepare for reform in the meantime. Even though the appeal process is not likely to be over for a while, legislators are expected to lay the groundwork for these reforms during this session.

On January 27th, news reported that yesterday, The 4th US Circuit Court of Appeals granted a motion from Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli and the federal government to expedite its hearing of Virginia's suit against the federal health care law. The case has been tentatively set to be heard between May 10th and 13th. In December of last year, Cuccinelli's office was granted a victory when Judge Henry Hudson ruled that the individual insurance mandate was unconstitutional. Cuccinelli says he is still considering taking an appeal directly to the US Supreme Court, to skip the 4th US Circuit Court of Appeals.

On February 1, 2011 Republicans in the Virginia House of Delegates pushed through many bills that are in stiff opposition of Federal law on Monday. One resolution is to make the U.S. Congress respect state sovereignty under the Tenth Amendment. The

bill's supporters are looking to counteract against health care reform. Another measure looks to tell Congress to desist in the implementation of a value added tax. The tax was created by the Federal Trade Commission and the House of Delegates has already Okayed a bill allowing two-thirds of the Commonwealth's legislatures to void federal laws they oppose. Some state Republicans are also taking aim at the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell as the conservatives want to ban gays from the National Guard. State Democrats have called all of these measures silly and symbolic gestures.

On Feb 14, Gov. Bob McDonnell was noncommittal Thursday about whether he would sign a bill that mandates insurance coverage for childhood autism, but he gave strong indication that he might reject a budget amendment that spends state money on public broadcasting. The House of Delegates and the Virginia Senate have passed legislation that would require coverage of autism for children ages 2 to 6, with a \$35,000 annual cap on services. Small businesses and self-insured companies would be exempt from the requirement, which would cover state employees. McDonnell was less equivocal on funding for public broadcasting. He has proposed eliminating funding in his budget amendments for the coming year.

On Feb 25, The Virginia Senate has passed a bill that will require abortion facilities to meet the same standards set for hospitals. The new legislation, already passed in the House of Delegates, will now go to Governor Bob McDonnell, who is expected to sign the bill into law. The passage of the rules requiring the state's abortion clinics to be treated like hospitals is seen as a victory for abortion foes; opponents of the new law say that it will restrict access to safe abortions, as the state's 21 abortion clinics may not be able to afford to make the changes required.

Liquor Privatization

On Jan 6, Governor Bob McDonnell will present a revised plan to privatize Virginia's ABC stores early next week. The governor has been trying to build support for his privatization plan this week, a plan that would include a sharp increase in the number of retail outlets of liquor, from the current three hundred and thirty two outlets to as many as a thousand. While the governor says he is committed to the privatization plan, he faces a tough sell with state legislators, who have stalled the plan once before.

On Jan 6, Governor Bob McDonnell is quietly planning to release next week his new attempt at dismantling Virginia's 76-year-old liquor cartel. The proposal, which was prepared as part of a 75-thousand dollar study, is closely held, but it apparently takes a lot from the approach Ohio uses. In that state, liquor is sold by privately owned stores, which get a commission like the ones stores in Virginia get for selling lottery tickets and hunting and fishing licenses. They also set their prices and serve as wholesaler and distributor. That feature may be crucial to getting the legislative support McDonnell failed to get with his previous proposal, as Virginia could then preserve its cash flow.

On Feb 1, Two of Governor Bob McDonnell's agenda items received some help on Monday. The House Appropriations Committee approved the governor's transportation

bill to work on more than nine hundred state-wide projects. The bill will cost the Commonwealth three billion dollars in debt and looks to improve bridges, roads, and railways. McDonnell also received support for his privatization of liquor sales from the Virginia Tea Party Patriot Federation. The tea party states their approval of the plan to privatize as a support to of free markets and competition. If the governor's plan is approved it would end a seventy-six-year-old state controlled monopoly on liquor sales.

On Feb 3, The House of Delegates decided not to hear a bill that would privatize the state's liquor stores, effectively assuring that the measure is dead for the year. The decision comes as a major setback to Governor Bob McDonnell, who has been campaigning hard for the privatization bill. Suffolk Delegate Chris Jones, who chairs the committee, cited concerns over tackling the issue in the time left in the legislative session as reason to postpone hearing the bill for another year.

On Feb 17 Virginia has agreed to allow public alcohol ads on billboards and store windows after Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli signed the decree with the support of Governor Bob McDonnell and the ABC board. Virginia's previous stance on alcohol advertising was that the advertisement could not be seen from the street, but Cuccinelli signed a quiet deal with a billboard advertising company almost six weeks ago on the grounds that the state's previous position was unconstitutional. The General Assembly was kept in the dark about the deal until recently.

On Feb 24 The House of Delegates voted unanimously yesterday to set new rules on alcohol advertising in outdoor places. Earlier, the House had put off action on the measure due to concerns that this could allow alcohol ads on billboards on land zoned for farming. The legislation will let billboards with these ads to be put on commercial real estate as long as they are not near homes, playgrounds, schools, and places of worship.

Ragged Mountain Dam

Supervisors of Albemarle County are expected to vote today [March 2nd] on the fate of the Ragged Mountain Dam. The Supervisors had originally aimed for a reservoir water height of forty-two feet, but the Charlottesville City Council has voted in favor of a height of thirty feet. County Supervisors have expressed a willingness to negotiate, and the vote today may progress toward a compromise.

The Ragged Mountain Dam is one step closer to fruition. Yesterday [March 9th], both the Albemarle County Service Authority and the Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority approved a construction plan for the dam, which is expected to cost between fifteen and nineteen million dollars. The Charlottesville City Council and the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors reached a compromise last week on the dam's water level. It will be designed to hold thirty feet, but the option exists to add at a later time. Construction is scheduled to begin on May first.

Blue Ridge Parkway Shooting

Ralph Leon Jackson is expected to plead guilty for the murder of WNRN personality Tim Davis. Jackson, fifty-seven, is accused of shooting Davis and Christina Floyd while they

were at a scenic overlook in April of two-thousand-ten. Davis was hospitalized for five days before succumbing to his injuries. Floyd, however, was able to survive her injuries which included a gun shot wound. The guilty plea is expected to be entered in a Harrisonburg Federal on Wednesday, March 23.

Tish Davis came to the WNRN studio on March, 23rd to make her pledge in person. She was making a donation in memory of her son, WNRN DJ Tim Davis, who was killed last year. Davis was victim to a shooting allegedly perpetrated by Ralph Leon Jackson, on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Jackson is expected to plead guilty today before a federal court in Harrisonburg, where he faces several charges related to the incident, including the first-degree murder of Davis.

Earlier today Ralph Leon Jackson pleaded guilty in a Harrisonburg United States District Court to the murder of WNRN personality Tim Davis. The guilty plea also includes the shooting of Christina Floyd, of Fluvanna County. Tim Davis and Christina Floyd were both shot by Jackson while they were watching the sunset at the Rock Point Overlook on the Blue Ridge Parkway last April. The U.S. Attorney, Timothy Heaphy told the press today that Jackson will receive at least life in prison and the prosecution will not seek the death penalty. Jackson was facing five federal felony charges, including pre-meditated murder.

B – In accordance with perceived community needs, WNRN broadcast programs devoted to the following during its one-hour Sunday Morning interactive talk/call-in show during the quarter. Live guests representing government or community organizations were in the studio for all of the following:

- Both an area realtor & financial assistant discuss real estate market, its effect on the community and family decisions.
- *Chesapeake Bay Foundation* scientist Chris Moore explains Menhaden, their environmental importance & current state.
- Mountain-top removal and its environmental impact with members from *Appalachian Voices*.
- Controversy over Virginia state park Biscuit Run, with local newspaper editor Hawes Spencer
- Current events in Egypt and other areas of the Middle East with UVa Professor R.K. Ramazani
- Government and its impact on small business. Panel includes a small business owner, Tea Party member and politician.
- *Albemarle Truth in Taxation* members discuss taxes, government waste and efficiency.
- Charlottesville social worker Joyce Martin shares stories and answers F.A.Q. about Elderly Protective Services.
- Local writer Barbara Nordin and the 25-year murder/mystery of Pat Collins and the errors by UVa Police Department.
- CARS (Charlottesville Albemarle Rescue Squad) president Dayton Haugh explains the group & importance to the community.

Rick Moore
WNRN Public Affairs Director
March, 2011

C -- PSA report for Q1 of 2011

Carried over....	
Salvation Army Food	TFN
Live Arts – Drowsy Chaperones	01/15/11
Virginia Discovery Museum	03/04/11
Virginia Festival of the Book	03/16/11
Virginia Blood Services	01/15/11
As 01/06/11	
Computer4kids	12/30/11
Writerhouse	02/03/11
As of 01/12/11	
Fluvanna SPCA	01/29/11
Kluge Ruhe	01/28/11
As of 01/26/11	
Virginia Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators	02/12/11
Camp Holiday Trail, Cville 10 miler	03/26/11
Piedmont Landscape Association	02/10/11
Camp Holiday Trails, school nurse seminar	03/15/11
Charlottesville track club	03/31/11
Play On Theater	02/13/11
West End Assembly of God Church	2/12/11
As of 02/8/11	
Peace Corps	02/10/11
Thomas Jefferson Coalition for the Homeless	03/06/11
As of 02/09/11	
MACAA headstart	03/31/11
League of Women Voters	02/17/11
As 02/24/11	
Shelter for Help in Emergency	03/21/11
Fluvanna SPCA 5k	03/26/11
As of 03/02/11	
Piedmont Housing Association	03/08/11
Amazement Square- Lynchburg	03/26/11
AS of 03/06/11	
Writerhouse – short story workshop	03/31/11
Thomas Jefferson coalition for the homeless	04/01/11
Stand Up Charlottesville	03/25/11

Wells4Wells

3/24/11