

ADVOCATE

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SPRING 2002

Legislature Rains on Parade

No Pony in Proposed Budget

Acting DJJ Director Dave Marsden must be feeling like Little Johnny. You remember Little Johnny. He was the little boy who desperately wanted a pony for his sixth birthday. On the morning of his birthday, Johnny awoke and looked outside his bedroom window to see a very large pile of fertilizer in the yard that his father had delivered to spread on the garden. Johnny ran downstairs in his pajamas, threw open the back door, and jumped headfirst into that pile of fertilizer. As Johnny dug furiously in the pile, his shocked mother ran outside and screamed, "Johnny! Whatever are you doing?" Little Johnny's head popped out of the pile and, with a determined look on his face, he said, "There's **got** to be a pony in here someplace!"

As far as juvenile justice is concerned, there are no ponies in the recent budget sent to Governor Mark Warner by the Virginia Legislature. Faced with a significant budget shortfall, the Legislature made some very difficult decisions in their most recent session. Funding for Offices on Youth, our major source of prevention services, is gone. SABRE funding, the money used to purchase substance abuse education and treatment for system-involved youth, is gone. Drug Courts, gone.

VJCCCA funding, the smartest creation of the Legislature in the past 20 years, is cut by \$15 million, a 51 percent decrease. On top of these cuts, DJJ will have to absorb a 7 percent decrease in funding the first year and an 8 percent cut during the second year of the biennium. All of this is subject to the Governor's approval, of course, but this is where we are at press time.

Code Tweaked

In addition to the Budget Bill, various Code changes have been sent to the Governor which will impact juvenile justice in Virginia. HB 259 would amend 16.1-248.1 to allow for the secure detention of a juvenile based on probable cause that he violated his rules of probation, where the original charge was a felony or Class 1 misdemeanor. Currently, secure detention is only allowed on a felony or Class 1 misdemeanor charge. A change in 16.1-249 provides that the predispositional detention of an offender 18 years of age or older shall be in an adult facility. The judge would still have discretion to hold an adult in a juvenile facility if the adult is charged with violating the terms and conditions of release from a juvenile correctional center.

An Act of Assembly requires

DJJ to establish a uniform risk assessment instrument to be used by court service units when making detention decisions and when making recommendations at detention hearings. This instrument is to be implemented by the court service units and distributed to the juvenile court judges by October 1, 2002.

An amendment to 16.1-300 would allow the Commonwealth's Attorney and adult probation and parole officers to have access to DJJ records of an offender's criminal record without a Court Order. This access would be permitted in order to prepare pre-sentence reports, risk assessment instruments and discretionary sentencing guidelines worksheets. Amendments to 16.1-305 would allow the Commonwealth's Attorney and adult probation and parole officers the same access to court files, plus allow electronic access to court records.

HB 298 adds Section 16.1-235.1 which provides that the chief judge may make arrangements for a replacement intake officer from another court service unit to ensure the capability of a prompt response during hours the court is closed. It also sets forth procedures for the appearance of a juvenile before an intake officer by the use of two-way video and audio communication.

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Views From the Ledge ...

by Gary Conway

In what is rapidly approaching 25 years in this juvenile justice business, I have been fortunate enough to work with 9 different J&DR Court judges. My favorite is the Honorable William J. Cox.

Judge Cox started his career on the Bench in May of 1977 in the 15th Judicial District. As luck would have it, I started my job as a probation officer in August of that year and was assigned to Judge Cox's Court in Spotsylvania County. In those days, Judge Cox looked like a young Robert Shaw, the actor who played the steel-jawed boat's captain in the movie "Jaws." Today, he looks like an older version of Robert Shaw except for the fact that Mr. Shaw is deceased.

Shortly after I started my P.O. job, I was sitting with Judge Cox in his chambers as he smoked a cigarette between cases. He peered at me over his glasses and asked, "If Harry is short for Harold, and Larry is short for Lawrence, what is Gary short for?"

Having never been asked that question either before or since that time, I was a bit taken aback. "Well, Your Honor," I stammered, "its not short for anything... Its just Gary."

"Well," the judge drawled, obviously unhappy with my answer, "that's not formal enough for **my** Court. From now on, I'm going to call you Garwood." And to this day, he does.

For months, I thought 'Garwood' was given to me as a last name. I thought my first name was Blank It. "Blank It Garwood, do this." "Blank It Garwood, do that." "Blank It Garwood, where is that report?" And then it dawned on me that the judge lovingly referred to everyone that way. "Blank It Mastropaolo, do this." Blank It Johnson, do that." What a great judge and what a truly funny guy.

During Judge Cox's tenure on the Bench, he would often hear cases that were of a sensitive nature in his chambers, located just off the courtroom. When the door to Judge Cox's chambers was closed, it meant that a case was going on in chambers and the proceedings were not to be interrupted. One morning, Fredericksburg attorney Jay Ventura made the mistake of opening the judge's door in the middle of a case. Immediately recognizing his error, Mr. Ventura quickly stepped back out and gently closed the door behind him. When Judge Cox finished hearing the case, he lit a cigarette and turned to the bailiff. "Bring me Mr. Ventura."

A few minutes later, Attorney Ventura was escorted before the judge's desk by the bailiff. As Jay stood staring down at his feet, the judge asked sternly, "Blank It Ventura, what does it mean when that door is closed?"

"It means that you're hearing a case, Your Honor, and no one is supposed to come in," Mr. Ventura said, still watching his own feet.

"Then why did you open the door?" the judge wanted to know.

"I...I... forgot," was the best the lawyer could come up with.

A sly smile came across the judge's face as he asked, "How much money ya got on ya, Mr. Ventura?"

Jay quickly took out his

wallet and peered inside. Slowly he took out the entire contents of the wallet between his thumb and forefinger, a single five-dollar bill. "Five bucks, Judge," Ventura answered. "I've got five bucks."

With a stern look that barely masked his ever-present smile, Judge Cox said formally, "I find you in contempt of court, Mr. Ventura. You're fined five dollars. Pay the clerk." Ventura handed his last five dollars to the clerk and was dutifully given a receipt.

When it was time to recess for lunch, Judge Cox was taking off his robe when he turned to Mr. Ventura and asked, "Blank It Jay, whatcha doin' for lunch?" Still chagrined over his contempt of court experience, Jay said, "Well, I was gonna go to Pete's but you took my last five dollars."

With that, the judge let out a hearty chuckle and put his arm around Jay's shoulder. "Let's go to Pete's," the judge said. "I'm buyin'." And the two went out the door looking like a couple of sailors on their way to shore leave.

Judge Cox retired from the Bench in 1995. He does a little sub judging, but mostly enjoys a well-deserved retirement. This and other stories about judges can be found in my book, *Juvenile Judges I Have Known*, to be written and published long after I retire.

ADVOCATE

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Bob's Turn

by Robert Bermingham, VJJA President

Now that the Oath of Office has been administered and the inaugural ceremonies have concluded, your Board of Directors has been hard at work. Over the past three months, the Board has met on two separate occasions and has discussed, among other things, increased membership, legislative issues, fund raising for the continued distribution of the *Advocate* and conference planning for the Fall VJJA Training Institute. This year's institute is scheduled for Nov. 6-8 at the Sheraton Park-South in Richmond. The last Board meeting was conducted March 27, 2002, on the eve of the VJJA Spring Training Institute held in Virginia Beach, hosted by the Tidewater District.

Jim Moran, the keynote speaker at the Spring Training Institute, presented an entertaining and thought-provoking seminar dealing with "life balance and the real meaning of life." Jim based his presentation on personal experiences while employed on the management level with Domino's Pizza and as the campaign manager for his father's successful bid for a seat in the United States Senate. His presentation gave all participants cause to ponder the idea of "life balance" and the importance of taking care of one's own self while attempting to achieve personal goals.

As usual, Diane Floyd organized an excellent series of training sessions that were very well attended. Trust me, when Diane says, "register early," it's a good idea to register early! The always highly anticipated "social" followed the first day of training and was highlighted by the Hawaiian shirt competition judged by Dave Marsden. Richard Hagy represented the Southwest District in outstanding "fashion," capturing the Hawaiian shirt contest while sporting his Jimmy Buffett hat and shirt combo.

While a good time was had by all, the news regarding cuts in VJCCCA funding was not far from

the hearts and minds of the training participants. In his brief address to the training participants, Dave Marsden verbalized his disappointment in the reductions and the impact such cuts will have on the clients served by such funding sources. He also stated that he was particularly disturbed by the impact the reductions would have on the lives of the people who are slated to lose jobs because of the reductions. Mr. Marsden went on to state that this legislative session was difficult not only because of the current financial status of the Commonwealth, but because many of the legislators who traditionally support juvenile justice issues are no longer in office. Mr. Marsden was also quick to state that while the Department of Juvenile Justice and recipients of VJCCCA funding have been dealt a tremendous setback, the Department's commitment to its staff and the programs that serve children and families continues. It is encouraging, based on Mr. Marsden's presentation and follow-up conversations, that the current leadership within the Department is attuned to and knowledgeable of the issues currently facing juvenile justice professionals throughout the Commonwealth and is committed to addressing these issues. Equally as impressive is the Department's desire to keep Virginia a national leader within the juvenile justice services spectrum, despite the financial setbacks currently facing the system.

In regard to legislative issues, the VJJA Legislative Committee has been hard at work under the leadership of Teri Larsen of the 15th District Court Service Unit. Contact was made with key legislators in both the Senate and House either directly or in writing regarding the impact of reducing VJCCCA funding. The committee spent an entire day in the General Assembly Building in Richmond meeting with lobbyists, legislative aides and, on one occasion, a senator, discussing the impact of VJCCCA cuts. This effort



proved to be both educational and effective in that VJJA established a presence within the General Assembly. Correspondence was also sent to Governor Mark Warner's office regarding the VJCCCA cuts and the association's support of the reappointment of Dave Marsden as Director of the Department of Juvenile Justice. One lesson that was taken away from the experience was that we as individuals and as an association can and should get involved in the legislative process in our own communities and at the state level. I truly believe we can make a difference in this arena.

Finally, we are going forth in the planning efforts for the 2002 VJJA Fall Institute. We have recently suffered a set back in securing funding through the Department of Criminal Justice Services' JAIBG grant funding source. We are currently exploring other funding sources through DJJ, federal grants, and private donors. We hope to acquire enough funding to make the training institute free of charge for all VJJA members, or at least reduce the cost significantly. We have been knocked down but we're still in the fight.

It was great seeing many of you at Virginia Beach, and I look forward to seeing more of you as I attend VJJA training sessions throughout the state. I hope each and every one of you has a safe and happy summer!

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Virginia Juvenile Justice Association

The Virginia Juvenile Justice Association (VJJA) is an organization comprised of professionals in court services, detention homes, juvenile correctional facilities, halfway houses, group homes, Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice staff, and others with an interest in youth and family services. The organization is administered by an elected board of directors and is committed to child advocacy and advancing the professional interests and competencies of its members.

Mission

- To advocate quality services for juveniles and families within the Commonwealth of Virginia
- To enhance the professionalism and skills of its members
- To foster communication among its members
- To promote alternative approaches to resolving youth and family problems

Goals

- To provide for communication with and among members
- To provide timely learning opportunities to members on pertinent topics
- To research, develop, and present legislation recommendations to the General Assembly and other law-making or policy-setting bodies

Benefits of Membership

- Quality, low-cost training offered year-round at both the state and local levels
- Service awards presented annually in recognition of staff and program excellence
- The *Advocate*, a quarterly professional journal and newsletter
- Scholarships awarded annually to further education and development
- A liaison with the General Assembly to promote Code changes and new legislation

Uncle Buck: On Special Assignment

Uncle Buck, the Advocate's Employee Advice Columnist, is currently on special assignment in Afghanistan. We caught up with him between important meetings for this exclusive interview.

Advocate: Our first question is pretty basic, Uncle Buck. What are you doing in Afghanistan?

Buck: Uncle Buck was invited to Afghanistan by its interim leader, Hamid Karzai, to work with the Afghani people. Lots of international investment money is pouring into this country. That means new businesses, a workforce to be retrained and, ultimately, employee relations problems. And employee relations problems are Uncle Buck's bread and butter.

Advocate: What kinds of businesses are you working with in Afghanistan?

Buck: Currently, Uncle Buck has a contract with "Northern Alliance Motors", formerly "Taliban Motors" ("We Beat **Any** Deal!"), to help them resolve some issues at their dealership in Kabul. I'm also consulting with "Colonel Haji's Country Fried Chicken" franchise, formerly "al-Qaida Country Fried Chicken".

Advocate: What types of employee relations problems are you finding in these Afghani businesses?

Buck: Surprisingly enough, Uncle Buck is finding many of the same problems here that he has worked with in America. Complaints about low pay, poor communications between staff and management, divided loyalties, sexual harassment. These employee relations problems seem to be universal, which should make this a very lucrative endeavor for Uncle Buck.

Advocate: How are you being received by the Afghan people, Buck?

Buck: The Afghanis are treating Uncle Buck very well. They are curious, of course, about America. They ask a lot of questions about our culture, our politics, about Britney Spears and Justin Timberlake. Uncle Buck has tried to answer all their questions and, overall, I think I have been accepted by the locals. President Karzai has even given Uncle Buck an Afghani name. Here, I am called "Islamabubba."

Advocate: What about security, Uncle Buck? Afghanistan isn't exactly the safest place in the world to be right now. Are you concerned about your personal safety?

Buck: Uncle Buck does take precautions. I have two retired Navy Seals as bodyguards. I dress in Afghani clothing so as not to attract attention. I wear a bulletproof vest loaned to me by Diane Anderson. But from what Uncle Buck hears, Kabul may be much safer than DJJ's Central Office during the recent budget negotiations.

Advocate: So, what's in your immediate future, Buck? Will you be in Afghanistan long?

Buck: Uncle Buck plans to turn much of the work over to his staff within the next couple of weeks and be back with his regular *Advocate* column in July. Although I understand there may be some opportunities for me in Iraq soon.



"Uncle Buck was invited to Afghanistan by its interim leader . . ."



". . . employee relations are Uncle Buck's bread and butter."



". . . I think I have been accepted by the locals."

Arrest My Kid He Needs Mental Health Care

by Anne-Marie Cusac

*The following is Part I of a three part series reprinted with the permission of **The Progressive**.*

Last August, Wanda Yanello of Plano, Texas, was terribly worried. Her fifteen-year-old daughter, Heather King, had been diagnosed with bipolar disorder. The illness seemed to be accelerating. Heather was punching holes in the wall and was gone for days on end.

“She was on the street all the time,” recalls Yanello. “Say 7 o’clock tonight, she’d go out the door. I can’t block the door. And she’d be gone two hours or two days. She’s ended up in Texarkana, five hours away. She’s ended up in College Station. That’s nine hours away.”

While on the street, Heather was raped, and her case was reported to the Richardson, Texas, police department. Yanello says her daughter at other times was beaten up, had twice attempted suicide and was taking drugs.

“Two of the best psychiatrists in Dallas” diagnosed her daughter with bipolar disorder and recommended long-term inpatient care, Yanello says. But Yanello’s insurance lapsed, and she couldn’t afford the treatment.

So she watched for an opportunity. And she found one when Heather went for a spin in Yanello’s car. “She only took it for four miles, thirty-five minutes, but I had her arrested,” says Yanello. “Every system along the way has failed my child, and I had high hopes that the juvenile justice system would come through.”

Heather King received a referral to a residential treatment program, and her mom picked out the

facility. Yanello chose the Campbell Griffin Center, a 120-bed program, six hours away from home, in San Antonio.

Yanello drove Heather to the center herself. It turned out that was a very unusual thing to do. “They said, ‘What are you doing? No parent brings a child in here. Only police officers bring kids in here. This is a juvenile correctional facility,’” says Yanello.

Yanello claims that Heather did not receive psychiatric care for the first four weeks. After that, the center allegedly refused to treat Heather for bipolar disorder, saying she had attention-deficit-hyperactivity disorder instead. The center did give Heather medication for that, says Yanello.

Officials at the Campbell Griffin Center say they cannot comment on individual patients. Julien Devereux, central division director of Campbell Griffin’s parent company, Cornell Company of Houston, also refused to discuss it. “I have no comment on any of that,” he says. “I assume that if she has a complaint, she has taken it to the director, and they have dealt with that.” He does say, however, that the facility employs two “licensed, competent psychiatrists” for the 106 children at the center, about 70 percent of whom are on psychotropic medications.

According to Yanello, the facility has also given Heather a pen to click whenever she feels manic. “I went to visit her,” says Yanello. “She was pacing, clicking a pen. She was like a dog in distemper. It was a mess. To this day, she hasn’t been treated for the diseases she went in there with. She’s been in since

February 20, and nobody will listen to me.”

No one will listen to Wanda Yanello because, in having her child arrested, she effectively gave up custody of her daughter to the juvenile justice system. Until Heather is released, Yanello has no say in her treatment. “I’ve lost all my rights,” says Yanello. “I’m not allowed to speak to her doctor.”

Yanello fears for her daughter’s future. “She is, at this moment, sitting in that place, manic for the last forty-five days, and no one’s doing anything,” she says. “I just know she’s fifteen, and if I don’t get help for her now, she’s going to end up graduating from this juvenile crap to prison.”

As stark as it might seem, Yanello’s situation is not unique. Across the country, parents who see no other solution are having their children arrested in the hopes of getting them mental health care that they can’t afford or that their insurance companies won’t cover.

“It is a national tragedy that American parents feel forced to have their children locked up simply in order to obtain desperately needed mental health services,” says Paul Wellstone, the Democratic Senator from Minnesota. “This is a horrendous symptom of the discrimination against mentally ill children rampant in our health care system today.”

Just how often parents do this is an open question. Chris Koyanagi, policy director for Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law in Washington, D.C., says it is “quite common.” But there are no good numbers “because there is nobody in the bureaucracy asking, ‘Why did this child come in?’”

No one says, 'Is it the parent seeking services?' There's no way to know other than talking to the families." And many parents who have their children arrested may be too ashamed to admit they have done so.

Chris Siegfried, a Texas-based social worker and mental health consultant, says parents who go this route often have children with extensive mental health needs requiring specialized or longer-term care — the sort that many HMOs don't cover.

"The motive is strictly financial for most parents," says Siegfried. "Parents still want to get their child some help but don't have the money to pay for more extensive help, which is usually residential, or their insurance doesn't cover it." Siegfried says that more parents have their kids arrested for these reasons in states with poorly developed mental health systems. Texas, she says, happens to be one of them.

Legislature Rains on Parade

This legislation would grease the skids for providing regional or statewide intake services after hours.

Amendments to 16.1-272 and 16.1-285.2 provide that the court may impose an adult sentence on a juvenile tried as an adult and convicted of a violent juvenile felony, but may order that a portion of that sentence be served in a juvenile correctional facility.

SB 533 seeks to amend 16.1-235 to allow localities with a state-operated juvenile court service unit to establish a locally-operated unit instead. This legislation may create the world's smallest bandwagon.

HB 1224 would amend 16.1-278.15 to give the J&DR Court the authority to order psychological or custody evaluations and drug tests of a parent, guardian, legal custodian or person standing in loco parentis to the child. The potential problem in this amendment may rest in the ordering of drug tests, when judges look around from their respective benches and order the nearest probation

But entering your child in the juvenile justice system can have unanticipated consequences. "I've heard stories of people saying they've called the police specifically to get their child arrested [to get mental health treatment] and end up seeing guns drawn on them," says Melanie Gantt, director of public policy for the Mental Health Association in Texas.

"Many parents are advised that that's the way to go," says Lindy Garnette, a social worker who is director of children's primary care for the National Mental Health Association in Alexandria, Virginia. "But I personally am not familiar with cases where that's been productive. Usually, it's made a very difficult situation much more difficult."

The reason, she says, is that "juvenile justice is responsible for the public safety. That is often in direct conflict with what would be in the best interest of the child for

officers to conduct the drug testing.

Last but certainly not least, the Legislature passed a Joint Resolution designating the fourth Wednesday of January as Brunswick Stew Day at the General Assembly.

VaLORS Left Behind

Conspicuous by its absence on the Governor's desk is any provision to allow juvenile probation officers into VaLORS. Efforts to expand VaLORS coverage to sworn members of DMV's enforcement division, deputy sheriffs of a political subdivision and special agents of the Department of Corrections were all continued to 2003 in the House Appropriations Committee. An effort to include "probation and parole officers of the Department of Juvenile Justice and security or investigative officers of the State Lottery Department" was left in the Finance Committee of the House on February 13, 2002.

treatment."

First, the child, if convicted, gets a criminal record. And the child will often "get stuck in the system," she says. "Once they get in, they don't have the social skills to play the game to get out of it."

Worst of all, the child may not get the health care that is needed. As Amnesty International reported in 1998, "Many [juvenile justice] facilities have not provided adequate mental health services, and some have responded brutally to the behavioral problems posed by troubled children."

Part II of this series will appear in the Summer 2002 issue of the Advocate.

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Restorative Justice in Juvenile Justice

Book Reviews by Eric Assur

Mark S. Umbreit

The Handbook of Victim Offender Mediation
Jossey-Bass, San Francisco, 2001, 425 pages

Charles Colson

Justice that Restores
Tyndale House, Wheaton, Ill, 2001, 172 pages

In recent months, two new books and two journal articles were added to the growing collection of literature on mediation within the criminal justice system. The latest work by Mark Umbreit is comprehensive and easy to read and use. This may be the most valuable book on the shelf in your Court Service Unit. Umbreit, most certainly the foremost leader in the field of Restorative Justice (RJ) in the last decade, begins his handbook with a brief history and overview. He makes proper mention to the 1997 *Restoring Justice* book by Karen Strong and Dan Van Ness, but does not rely heavily on this equally valuable work. Charles Colson, of Watergate and Prison Fellowship fame, tells readers the flaws in the North American justice system and finally gets to the topic of alternative dispute resolution and restorative justice in the final half of his book.

Umbreit and his contributors note the American Bar Association endorsement of Restorative Justice programs and document the history of RJ in Canada, England and the United States. In a chart format, they show that Germany has more active RJ programs than other nations. They do a good job in showing how traditional mediation differs from victim offender mediation. The differences between settlement-driven mediation and transformative mediation styles are shown in a very readable fashion. They then compare victim offender mediation to the two more traditional mediation approaches. Program design is shared in the later chapters and training ideas are also provided in an appendix.

The programs in Vermont, Minnesota and a few other states got more attention than those in Virginia. But Eastern Mennonite University professor Howard Zehr was given proper credit for his continuing leadership in the development of well-grounded RJ models. The fact that Karen Strong and Dan Van Ness have Virginia roots was only a minor omission. The list of programs by state is clearly outdated. Virginia has far more RJ programs than noted, and some of the programs noted in Virginia may not even exist. In the past few years, the Supreme Court, Office for Dispute Resolution, has assisted community mediation centers and juvenile court service

units (CSUs) with the establishment of RJ programs. The large programs in Norfolk, Harrisonburg, and Prince William County were not mentioned in the list of Virginia programs. The web site link to the University of Minnesota National Center for Restorative Justice (<http://ssw.che.umn.edu/rjp/>) is impressive, but it does not provide the promised update on program locations for the United States. This 2001 book and the other works by Umbreit and his colleagues need to be read by all victim offender mediators. The Strong and Van Ness work, while more academic and technical, is also worthy of being added to your bookshelf.

The December 2001 issue of *Federal Probation* included an article by Umbreit and two colleagues. *The Impact of Victim Offender Mediation: Two Decades of Research* reports that VOM is a cost-effective means of holding offenders, especially young and first-time offenders, accountable for their actions. The August, 2001 OJJDP Juvenile Justice Bulletin report by Edmund McGarrell reached similar conclusions. The well-known Indianapolis Restorative Justice Experiment, beginning in 1997, served as the example of RJ program application for diverting young first offenders who admit responsibility for an offense to VOM services and away from intake, adjudication and probation services. The long article, *Restorative Justice Conferences as an Early Response to Young Offenders*, is easy to locate from the www.ojp.gov web site at <http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/ojjdp/187769.pdf>.

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The secular handbook offered by Mark Umbreit does appropriately make mention of the strong faith-based foundation for many of our RJ programs. Colson offers the reader an interesting commentary on penal reform and jurisprudence. His subtitle is "why our justice system doesn't work and the only method of true reform." He encourages readers and votes to apply RJ principals in all areas of criminal justice report. He, like Umbreit, shares personal stories of lives being changed through a mediation process. Colson supports restitution, victim involvement and victim rights and offender accountability. Virginia is mentioned in the first pages of both books.

On page 3 of *Justice that Restores*, Colson uses an Annandale, Virginia, B & E case as his first example of crisis in our society. The growth in our prison populations and the building of more and more prisons serve as examples of our crisis. Toward the middle of the book, Colson offers interesting examples of prevention programs that can be found in several juvenile courts and communities in Dallas, Charleston, San Diego, Hartford and New York. The more than 500 victim offender mediation programs that Mark Umbreit writes about serve as the RJ component used to conclude the book. Colson offers a very broad view of the RJ field. Umbreit offers a very focused and in-depth view of the mediation process and programs associated with the RJ field. Both books have merit and are worthy of the attention.

At the end of the last century, the Department of Dispute Resolution Services supported the findings of these articles and books by funding more than a dozen Virginia start-up programs to support police, CSU intake and bench-based Restorative Justice diversion throughout Virginia.

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 2

WHEREAS, by act of the 1988 General Assembly, Brunswick County was proclaimed the birthplace of the "gastronomic miracle" known as Brunswick Stew; and

WHEREAS, despite the attempts of pretenders from other states, Virginia's claim as the capitol of Brunswick Stew was reaffirmed in 1999 when Brunswick County stewmaster Jeff Daniel was declared World Champion of Brunswick Stew; and

WHEREAS, Brunswick Stew has a long and glorious history in the Commonwealth, beginning in 1828, when camp cook Jimmy Matthews, faced with the problem of feeding a hunting party on the Nottoway River, first combined squirrel, bacon, onions, butter, and stale bread into a thick concoction that pleased the members of the party; and

WHEREAS, with the help of former members of the General Assembly Creed Haskins and George Dromgoole, Brunswick Stew later became a fixture at Southside political gatherings; and

WHEREAS, over the years, Brunswick Stew, with the addition of such ingredients as chicken, corn, tomatoes, and lima beans, has become even more ambrosial; and

WHEREAS, when the Brunswick County Chamber of Commerce began a campaign in the late 1980s to promote economic growth in the County, Brunswick Stew served to remind the public of the economic development opportunities in Brunswick County; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, the General Assembly specifically authorized "the serving of Brunswick Stew on the Capitol grounds" during the General Assembly session; and

WHEREAS, "Brunswick Stew Day" has since become an honored and popular annual tradition at the Capitol, where hundreds warm their stomachs and spirits with a hearty serving of the "celestial sustenance known as Brunswick Stew"; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the fourth Wednesday in January, in 2002 and in each succeeding year, be hereby designated Brunswick Stew Day at the General Assembly; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerks of the House of Delegates and the Senate be directed to note this auspicious occasion on the official Calendars of the House of Delegates and the Senate so that members may be reminded to partake of the unique delights of the authentic Brunswick Stew.

Orange County Office on Youth EXCELS

Orange County Office on Youth's Project EXCEL (Extending Community Efforts to Learn), a school-based tutor/mentor program focusing on early elementary age students experiencing difficulty with reading, has been chosen to receive an Act of Caring award from the National Association of Counties (NACo). Impressive enough by itself, it is even more impressive because this is the second year in a row the program has earned this distinction.

The Acts of Caring is a recognition program for county volunteer efforts that enhance or preserve the county's quality of life. As one of only twenty programs nationwide selected to receive an award last year, Orange County Office on Youth's director, Ruth Anne Paisley, traveled to Washington, D.C., and took part in the awards ceremony honoring the selected community-based initiatives for 2001. She'll be making a return trip later this April as a 2002 honoree.

Project EXCEL was developed in 1988 to combat Orange County's drop-out rate which had far exceeded the state rate for many years. By 1997, the county's rate had fallen to below the state rate. With 17 volunteers in its first year, the Project now boasts 93 volunteers serving four schools and contributing an estimated 2,200 hours. Since its inception, over 2,000 Orange County children have been served by the program. Participants have consistently shown improvements

in reading skills, academic achievement and self-esteem. "It has been through the combined efforts of the OOOY, Orange County Schools, volunteers, churches, civic organizations and volunteers that Project EXCEL was implemented and has continued to serve our children through the years. This project is truly a partnership effort," says Ms. Paisley.

In January, the Commonwealth of Virginia's House Joint Resolution No. 7 commended the Orange County Office on Youth for the outstanding success of Project EXCEL and presented a copy of the Resolution to Ms. Paisley during the legislative session which ended on March 9, 2002.

It seems ironic that the very year one of their own receives such special recognition may be the same year the Commonwealth's Offices on Youth end their tumultuous struggles with state funding. Repeatedly threatened over the years, the separate funding for the Delinquency Prevention and Youth Development Act of 1978 programs was eliminated this year, placing local delinquency prevention programs in jeopardy in the 53 Virginia localities currently served by an Office on Youth. Although the ability to use the Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act (VJCCCA) funding was provided, those funds were drastically cut also (by 51 percent), leaving the possibility of funding Offices on Youth very

dim.

This would have been the first year the Offices on Youth would have been able to provide concrete evaluations of their efforts to prevent juvenile delinquency and promote positive youth development. The Code section relating to Offices on Youth changed in 2000 to refocus the Offices on planning and collaboration roles.

Companion language in the Appropriations Act tasked the Department of Juvenile Justice and the Offices on Youth with providing "measurable goals and objectives", not an easy task for programs whose mission is to *prevent* delinquency. To meet this challenge, the Offices partnered with the Virginia Effective Practices Project (VEPP) and the Governor's Office on Substance Abuse Prevention (GOSAP). Through these state-level collaborative efforts, local Offices were given training on developing and implementing evaluation plans. Funding was eliminated, however, before this year's information could be gathered, analyzed or presented.

The Commonwealth of Virginia expended just over two million general fund dollars for the Delinquency Prevention and Youth Development Act in FY01. Local Offices on Youth generated substantial local dollars in the same time-frame (just over seven million dollars) through their grant-writing and collaboration efforts.

Membership Matters

by Jim Woolf

Happy Spring!!! Happy Easter!!! Happy Golf, Golf, Golf, Golf!!!! Whoops!!! Maybe that was a bit much. Anyway, we have made it through the winter and, while many took a beating, we are still standing tall. That's just one of the benefits of your membership. It could have been much worse if you had not taken my advice to join or renew. It gives me such a warm feeling to know that by bringing so many of you into the safe harbor of VJJA you have been spared the worst of the storm.

This has been a record-breaking year for your membership as 610 of you took the time to renew or join, breaking our previous record of 583 back in 1999. I can't thank you enough for your support and enthusiasm. You have made this organization what it is today.

As I write this article, the Tidewater District is hosting its Spring Conference that was sold out with 120 in attendance. We could have had many more but were limited by the hotel's inability to handle more. The State Conference was one of the largest we have ever had and planning is already underway for the 2002 Conference. We are working hard to secure funding for this year's Institute, which will be held in Richmond November 6-8. If our hoped-for funding source comes through, (keep your fingers crossed), this could be one of the best Institutes ever. Don't miss out on receiving information about the big event just because you forgot to send in your membership renewal. We have a lot of active members, and I am sure it will fill up quickly. As always, current members will get first crack at the available spots.

In the last issue of our award-winning *Advocate*, I promised not to hit you over the head about your membership. Well, I didn't in that issue, but this is this issue and renewals are just around the corner. So bam!!! Hope that got your attention. Not yet? Well then bam!!! again . . . Let's just call it tough love, ok? I know what's ahead for you if you don't renew, and it's not pretty. I just want to spare you the miserable unfulfilled existence you will be headed for if you don't heed my plea. Do you really feel like tempting fate? We will be

sending out renewal notices the first of June, but if you want to rejoin now just go to our web site www.vjja.org and send me your application and \$15. You will be good to go until June 30, 2003.

One of the things we are trying to do is get an e-mail directory of members put together and the application on the web has a place to include this information. Your renewal notice will also include a place for an e-mail address. Only about half of our members are in the DJJ Directory, so there are a lot of holes to fill in. If you would like to send me your e-mail address before it's time to renew, please feel free to do so. We are working on it now. With postage going up

WE DID IT!



600 MEMBERS!

again, we need to find ways to avoid unnecessary expenses, and one thing that we could eliminate would be reducing the number of reminder letters we have to mail out. There are usually about 250-300 members whom we have to contact a second time. If we could e-mail those reminders, it would be a substantial savings, which helps keep our membership fee at only \$15.

For many of the new members who wonder what's the big deal with joining an organization like this, I can tell you honestly that, back in the early '70s when I joined, I thought mostly about having fun at the conferences. Membership dues were worth the price to get to go and party with friends. I never thought I would still be here in the next millennium. Heck, I never even heard the word "millennium" before much less thought I would be in one. But here I am, and I can't tell you what the friendships I have fostered through my involvement in



VJJA in the past 31 years have meant to me.

Times have changed, and new generations are becoming members and are expecting more than just a once-a-year Conference. DJJ offers some quality training, but it is difficult to get all of your required hours through the Department. I think VJJA has stepped up to offer some really outstanding training, not only at the Fall Institute but also at the local level with training opportunities being offered in all areas of the State. Some have become traditions like the Capital District's Crab Feast and Tidewater's Annual Spring Conference. I can't stress this enough, but 25 percent of your membership dues is rebated directly back to your local District which helps provide training and activities for its members. The more members your district has, the more money you have for these activities. Most training for the local districts is free, too, so your membership pays for itself very quickly. I often joke about it being the best bargain in town, when in fact it really is a great bargain.

I am proud to be a member of VJJA, not only because of the many friendships that I have cultivated over the years, but also because of the positive direction that we have taken as a professional organization. I hope you will continue to be a part of this growth and encourage other members of your staff to join us. I want to thank all of you for helping us reach my personal goal of 600 members.

As always, I am here to help you with your membership questions or concerns. Please don't forget to send me your e-mail address. Hey, here's an idea! You could e-mail it to me at woolfjm@djj.state.va.us. You can also call me at 757-427-4361 or fax 757-563-1339. I look forward to hearing from you.

Advocate

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Dumb Crooks

A man wanting to rob a downtown Bank of America in San Francisco walked into the branch and wrote "this iz a stikkup. Put all your muny in this bag." While standing in line waiting to give his note to the teller, he began to worry that someone had seen him write the note and might call the police before he reached the teller's window. So he left the Bank of America and crossed the street to Wells Fargo. After waiting a few minutes in line, he handed his note to The Wells Fargo teller. She read it and, surmising from his spelling errors that he wasn't the brightest light in the harbor, told him that she could not accept his stickup note because it was written on a Bank of America deposit slip. He would either have to fill out a Wells Fargo deposit slip or go back to Bank of America. Looking somewhat defeated, the man said "O.K." and left. He was arrested a few minutes later, as he was waiting in line back at Bank of America.

A motorist was unknowingly caught in an automated speed trap that measured his speed using radar and photographed his car. He later received in the mail a ticket for \$40 and a photo of his car. Instead of payment, he sent the police department a photograph of \$40. Several days later, he received a letter from the police that contained another picture, this time of handcuffs. He immediately mailed in his \$40.

A young man walked into a convenience store with a shotgun and demanded all the cash from the cash drawer. After the cashier put the cash in a bag, the robber saw a bottle of scotch that he wanted behind the counter on the shelf. He told the cashier to put it in the bag as well, but the cashier refused and said, "I don't believe you are over 21." The robber said he was, but the clerk still refused to give it to him because he didn't believe him. At this point, the robber took his driver's license out of this wallet and gave it to the clerk. The clerk looked it over, agreed that the man was in fact over 21, and put the scotch in the bag. The robber then ran from the store with the loot. The cashier promptly called the police and gave the name and address of the robber that he got off the license. They arrested the robber two hours later.

A pair of Michigan robbers entered a record shop nervously waving revolvers. The first one shouted, "Nobody move!" When his partner moved, the startled first bandit shot him.

The Ann Arbor News crime column reports that a man walked into a Burger King in Ypsilanti, Michigan, at 12:50 a.m., flashed a gun and demanded cash. The clerk turned him down because he said he couldn't open the cash register without a food order. When the man ordered onion rings, the clerk said they weren't available for breakfast. The man, frustrated, walked away.