

"I support our president doing all he can to protect us, even if it means stepping on the civil rights of terrorists and their friends."

OPINION

Bringing youths together

In an environment where some substance abuse resources are decreasing and demands are increasing, collaboration has become even more essential. Communities find and encourage greatness by uniting and expanding on existing strengths, assets and resources.

On Jan. 27, the Historic Triangle region was witness to the power of collaboration, when more than 20 organizations joined to host the regional Youth Summit. More than 60 Williamsburg, James City and York high school youths convened to learn how to become leaders and advocates for change in our community. This highly successful event was the end product of more than six months of work from a cross-section of community organizations committed to giving youths a voice.

On behalf of the Historic Triangle Substance Abuse Coalition, we would like to thank and recognize our partners in this endeavor:

Adolescent Pregnancy Action Coalition, American Lung Association, Avalon, Bacon Street, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Greater Williamsburg, Boys Scouts of America, College of William & Mary, Colonial CASA, Colonial Services Board, Community Action Agency, Girl Scouts of America, James City Parks & Recreation.

Also, James City Community Services, NAACP, SpiritWorks Foundation, United Way of Greater Williamsburg, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Williamsburg Department of Social Services, WJC Schools, York Schools and York Parks & Recreation.

Gina de Peralta Thorne
Coalition Director

LETTERS

A true treasure

In reference to the Jan. 28 article, "Master of disaster": Paying Roger Baldwin what he's worth is not the issue, and that's lucky for our community budgets. We need to find out how one person can possibly fill so many roles and do them so well.

What the article about Baldwin and the Red Cross Disaster Services did not cover were the other hats he has been wearing over the years. His church membership in the Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists includes just about everything from leading the board as president, singing in the choir, chairing several essential committees, and helping keep the campus shipshape after storms. Did I mention that his voice has rung out in a popular local barbershop quartet?

I hope I'm not letting the cat out of the bag. Maybe these groups did not know he was moonlighting so many other jobs! Maybe they thought they had an exclusive on this community treasure.



Roger Baldwin

Katharine Fournier
James City

Wiretapping okay

It is disturbing that people are more worried about wiretapping than Osama bin Laden's goal to kill Americans, preferably here in America.

President Bush is doing what he can to stop that from happening, and rightly so. Our country has never been in a situation like this. Terrorists don't play by the "rules" of war, so new rules must be formed.

It seems that people have forgotten about 9-11, and I pray that it doesn't take a repeat of that magnitude to remind us. Believe this: That is exactly what al Qaeda strives for every day. They want to see us dead or, if alive, at least cowering in streets of blood. Every communication received or intercepted confirms this.

I support our president doing all he can to protect us, even if it means stepping on the civil rights of terrorists and their friends. Thank God George Bush is in the White House ignoring the ridiculous political mud-slinging.

After we defeat bin Laden, al-Zawahri and the rest, God willing, then we can go back to talking about getting court orders. For now, we are in the middle of a war unlike any we've ever been in, and the only reason you've forgotten that is because your president is doing his job much, much better than you know.

Lori Puhl
York