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Barbara Farley and Stumpy greet visitors for the Chinese New Year celebration at Long Branch Nature Center on Friday, Feb. 16.

Nature Center Welcomes Chinese New Year

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Rugs

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February 21-27, 2018

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

From Couch to 5K

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NEWS

Disability and Diversity Fight continues for integration of students with disabilities into new Wilson School site.

By Vernon Miles The Connection

nyone who thought the discussion of diversity at the Wilson School site would end with the building's approval at the January School Board meeting was wrong. One month later, at the Feb. 15 School Board meeting, Arlington's community of parents of children with disabilities showed up in full force to confront the School Board on issues of diversity they say are plaguing the new Wilson School design.

At the center of discussion was a door in the Wilson School designs. While all of the entrances are handicap accessible, this door to the side was noted specifically as the entrances for students with disabilities. But the discussions about the school also raised other concerns, like the fact that the students at the Stratford Program will be located entirely on the ground and first floors, meaning that students with disabilities in the Stratford Program will have minimal opportunities to interact during the school day with other students.

Leading the public comment, 14 parents spoke up to call for a more inclusive design at Wilson and across Arlington schools. Anne Kelly took to the stand with her son, Russell Kelly, who lives with disabilities.

Russell graduated from Wakefield in 2006, and Anne Kelly shared that, because her son had been enrolled into a classroom, he had a positive high school experience. "He was learning and was welcomed by his peers," said Anne Kelly. "Teach-

his presence was having a positive effect on other stu-

dents. Student's respect towards each other increased, and the school counselor even asked if other students [with disabilities] could be included in classrooms It's beneficial for our students who have special things to be with other students."

But parents said that this experience is not universal for children in Arlington schools, nor is equality for students with disabilities uniformly spread across the schools

"My son has Down syndrome and attends Nottingham," said Heather Eilers-Bowser. "As a prospective student at Stratford, I want



Anne Kelly and her son, Russell.

to ensure my son is not relegated to a seperate entrance or any other kind of disparate treatment."

Eilers-Bowser noted that 15 percent of the APS student body, or roughly 4,000 students, have a disability.

"Over 500 student spend all or almost all day in completely separate classrooms," Bowser said. "We have a long way to go."

Keith Shannon, a father of a pre-k student with special needs, says the fight for greater diversity in Arlington schools is part of an ongoing nationwide effort to reform and integrate students with disabilities into the classrooms.

"Just 45 years ago, children with special needs had no federal right to attend school," said Shannon. "It was legal, and not unusual, for children with disabilities to be excluded ... please ensure that Arlington doesn't take a step back into history with arbitrary and needless barriers for students with disabilities in the new Wilson building."

Superintendent Patrick Murphy addressed the concerns of parents, saying discussions were continuing to occur and the public would be involved.

"There is dialogue going on behind the scenes about different aspects related not only to Stratford and Wilson, but the whole idea of inclusion," said Murphy. "As part of that discussion ... we are having conversations about the layout and design of that and considerations that can be brought to bear. Those things are being relooked at. The idea of inclusion in services is something we are continuing to look at."



News

Gun Debate on Lockdown Democrats unable to gain traction on reform, despite new numbers in House.

By Michael Lee Pope The Connection

hen lawmakers arrived in Richmond last month, Democrats were hopeful that they would be able to use their new numbers to gain some traction on the gun debate. Now that the session is half over and the nation is reeling from yet another mass shooting, little has been accomplished at the Capitol.

Republicans are still very much in control of the House of Delegates, even if they have a one-vote majority.

Perhaps most significantly, they control the process, which sends all gun bills to a seven-member subcommittee that has six Republicans and one Democrat. All reform efforts died in that subcommittee, including proposals to close the gun show loophole and ban bumpstocks. When Del. Marcus Simon (D-53) introduced a bill to create a new Stop Gun Violence license plate, Republicans amended it to raise money for mental health.

"They were trying to make the point that we don't have a gun violence problem we have a mental health problem," said Simon. "I think that's wrong. We actually have a gun violence problem, and it is in fact about the instrument."

INSTEAD OF MOVING forward on gun control, the Republican majority is moving in the other direction - finding ways to increase where people can take guns.



House Republicans killed more than two dozen gun reform bills this year.

Churches, for example. Virginia law prohibits firearms in places of religious worship. After 26 people were killed in a Texas church last year, religious leaders across Virginia began lobbying to change that. State Sen. Ben Chafin (R-38) responded by introducing a bill that would allow guns in churches during worship services.

"Virginia has the archaic law that says you're not supposed to have firearms in the church," Chafin said in a speech on the Senate floor. "Even if the faith leaders of the church, even if the people that own the church, even if the people who control the church want to have some members of their church provide protection."

For Republicans, the debate over gun control is a matter of good versus evil. Their solution to the epidemic of gun violence in America is not to restrict who can have guns and where they are allowed. It's to arm what they call the "good guys" who will take down what they call "bad guys." After the school shooting in Florida, many responded by calling for more guns in the classroom.

"Training and arming a few teachers in each school would make these attackers think twice about ever opening fire," said Prince William County Board of Supervisors Chairman Corey Stewart, a Republican who is challenging U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine. "The only way to stop these mad men is to return fire."

CAMPAIGN FINANCE records show big money on both sides of this debate. Advocates for gun control donated \$2.4 million to candidates in the last election cycle, mostly to the Democratic statewide candidates who were successful. But gun rights groups pumped more than \$160,000 into targeted House of Delegates races that helped Republicans keep control of the chamber and quash reform efforts. Members of the subcommittee that routinely kills gun reform effort were showered with tens of thousands of dollars in campaign contributions.

But money doesn't always win the day.

One race that pro-gun groups targeted was a hotly contested election in Prince William County, where eight-term incumbent Del. Scott Lingamfelter (R-31) trying to hold onto a district with shifting demographics. The NRA gave him \$2,500. The Virginia Citizens Defense League gave him See Gun Debate, Page II

Year of the Dog Long Branch Nature Center rings in Chinese New Year.

By Vernon Miles The Connection

he Long Branch Nature Center is tucked away into a corner of an Arlington forest along Four Mile Run, but for one night, the center was transformed into a destination straight out of Chinese tradition and folklore. Children eagerly led their parents inside to find the main classroom decorated in paper lanterns and art supplies, with nature center staff greeting attendees with a three-legged turtle named Stumpy. The Year of the Dog is off to a good start in Arlington.

"We were looking for anything [friendly to] young children not during work hours," said Katie Sunderland.

Sunderland said last year her family went to something for Chinese New Year at the Kennedy Center but were looking for something with a smaller scale. "This is our first time at this center."

Abra Frankel was inspired to bring her for kids." two children by her neighbor.

"Our neighbor is Taiwanese and talked a lot about the new year celebrations," said Frankel. "We spend a lot of time at the nature center; there's a lot of programs here www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



From left: Toby Shum, Mary Sanders, Theo Shum-Sanders, Oliver Shum-Sanders, Tessa Ipri, Abra Frankel, and Milo Ipri.

Barbara Farley, who was running the program at the Long Branch Nature Center, said the Chinese New Year's celebration was part of the center's ongoing efforts for cultural outreach.

"We're open and available, trying to be more visible to ethnic communities in Arlington," said Farley, saying in the fall they'd also had a Dia de los Muertos celebration and one of their part-time staff runs duallanguage programs in English and Spanish.



Chinese New Year celebration at Long Branch Nature Center

"We run programs for little kids up to seniors. There are little kid programs and adult only or senior only programs. We also have special needs programs that are open to anyone, but specifically aimed as being accessible to kids with special needs."

Arlington Connection & February 21-27, 2018 & 3

OPINION Another Assault on Common Sense

Perhaps this time might be different.

ou can feel the change in the air. This time the victims — teenagers — are outraged out loud about the deaths and wounding of their fellow students, the terror, horror and trauma that will haunt each of them in different ways for the rest of their lives.

Instant activists from last week's school shooting massacre in Florida, now connected to so many others around the country, know that this was preventable, that mass shootings can be stopped.

Editorial

Common sense tells them that the shooter, a former classmate, shouldn't have had access

to guns of any kind, never mind an assault rifle. Common sense tells them that the absence of the most reasonable safeguards is a failure of elected officials at both the federal and state level. Common sense tells them it's time for real accountability.

Gun control of course will be complicated. No one is trying to take guns away from the millions of Americans who are gun owners, but the mavens of divisiveness, seeking to stoke the ire of gun owners, will tell them that what activists, what Democrats, what moms want is to take their guns away. It's not true. But gun reform is more complicated and runs deeper than donations from the NRA to elected officials.

Anyone with common sense knows that if we don't have systems in place to keep weapons capable of so much carnage in three minutes out of the hands of someone so openly troubled as the teenage shooter in Florida last week, then we are doomed to relive that day in other tragedies, over and over.



"Wash, Rinse, Repeat."

Demonstrations of hundreds of protesters turned out in multiple places in the last few days. At NRA headquarters in Fairfax, at George Mason High School for a candlelight vigil, in front of the White House.

"I'm with hundreds of Northern Virginians at the NRA headquarters to mourn those lost at Parkland and to demand common sense gun safety measures to protect our children from massacre and violence," U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly tweeted from the demonstration

there. "As a nation, how can we continue to allow this to happen?"

"I'm with the students calling for gun reform outside the White House," said U.S. Rep. Don Beyer. "So proud to see America's young people leading the way. Stay mad, and stay focused. ... Don't let anyone tell you that there isn't hope, that we can't fight for change and win. There is and we can."

> — Mary Kimm MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Working on Strategy To Fund Metro

By Adam Ebbin STATE SENATOR (D-30)

uesday, Feb. 13 marked "Crossover" in the Virginia General Assembly, the point at which all Senate and House bills must be considered by the body in which they originated. During a six-hour marathon floor session, the Senate passed legislation that would provide critical fund-

COMMENTARY

ing for our Metro system. First opened in 1976, Metro today has 91 stations

and 117 miles of track. This essential resource provides enhanced mobility, traffic congestion relief, and improved air quality, serving as a lynchpin for regional economic development for the entire National Capital Region.

In Virginia, Metro's presence is estimated to generate more than \$600 million per year in sales and income tax revenues that benefit the entire Commonwealth. Without Metro, Virginians would be subjected to 56,500 more lane miles of traffic congestion on arterial roadways and an 80 percent decrease in transit-accessible jobs. Together with the Virginia Railway 4 ♦ Arlington Connection ♦ February 21-27, 2018



Express (VRE), Metro moves more than 290,000 people on an average weekday. Now, more than 40 years after its first trains went into operation, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) customers are experiencing the effects of

an aging system compounded by years of deferred maintenance.

The 30th District is home to seven Metro stations along the yellow and blue lines from Huntington to Pentagon City. As a member of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) and a former commissioner of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA), I have long supported transit and understand the important connection between the Virginia General Assembly and Metro. Eight years ago, I passed legislation to secure a commitment of \$50 million per year in Virginia state funds for Metro matched by Maryland and the District of Columbia. That \$150 million was in turn matched by the federal gov-

ernment — yielding \$3 billion over 10 years. However, this vital funding runs out in 2019. Members of our Congressional delegation have introduced legislation to continue this important federal match.

Following a 12-month restoration effort, during which WMATA replaced more than 50,000 railroad ties, fasteners, and insulators, in an effort to make rides smoother, safer and quieter, then-Governor Terry McAuliffe, working with former U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood and NVTC, initiated a detailed review of Metro. Secretary LaHood recommended that the region come together to create dedicated funding, institute cost control measures, address repair backlogs, and institute structural improvements to the WMATA board and governance structure.

WMATA's general manager, Paul Wiedefeld, has made great strides in addressing major repairs and building upon recent improvements to reliability, safety, and reduced operating costs through his "Back2Good" Initiative. Mr. Wiedefeld also identified \$25 billion in unfunded capital needs required for the sys

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Arlington

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NEWS DEPARTMENT: arlington@connectionnewspapers.com

Steven Mauren Editor 703-778-9415 smauren@connectionnewspapers.com

Jean Card Production Editor jcard@connectionnewspapers.com

Vernon Miles Reporter 757-472-3435 vmiles@connectionnewspapers.com

Eden Brown, Shirley Ruhe **Contributing Writers** arlington@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING: For advertising information

sales@connectionnewspapers.com 703-778-9431

Debbie Funk Display Advertising/National Sales 703-778-9444 debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin Marketing Assistant 703-778-9431 dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Classified & Employment Advertising 703-778-9431

Editor & Publisher Marv Kimm mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com @MaryKimm **Executive Vice President** Jerry Vernon 703-549-0004 jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com **Editor in Chief** Steven Mauren Art/Design: Laurence Foong, John Heinly, Ali Khaligh **Production Manager:** Geovani Flores CIRCULATION circulation@connectionnewspapers.com



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News



Gwen McQueeney is running in the Arlington Thrive Resolve to Run 5K training program for the first time this year.

From Couch to 5K Arlington Thrive inspires local residents to give their best.

By Eden Brown The Connection

hey say what goes around, comes around. In the case of local nonprofit safetynet members, running to raise funds is going around. Gwen McQueeney is participating in Arlington Thrive's Resolve to Run "Couch to 5K" Training program for the first time this year. She is the vice president of Virginia Services Volunteers of America Chesapeake which runs the the Residential Program Center (RPC) on Columbia Pike. RPC provides three crucial services - non-medical detoxification, substance abuse recovery, and housing services for single adults experiencing homelessness – all under one roof.

McQueeney learned about the Resolve to Run program from Shandra Niswander, Arlington Thrive's director of development. McQueeney and Niswander are both graduates of Leadership Arlington Class of 2017, a signature program of Leadership Center for Excellence. Niswander hinted that running had many benefits, and McOueeney signed up.

"I'm super excited about the program and looking forward to trainsame time," she said.

Carlin Anderson, development manager at Bridges to Independence, has decided to lace up her running shoes and tackle the 5K arlingtonthrive.org. www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

program this year. She did it two years ago with her son. Nancy White, Arlington Free Clinic executive director is doing the 10 mile program. These are just three of Thrive's nonprofit safety-net partners and their staff who are doing the program.

For those who haven't thought about running a 5K in a long time, participants have said there are many good reasons to do so, and not just to raise money for Arlington Thrive. Mothers or fathers find it is great to spend a Saturday morning with their children, doing good, and some of those children have local service hours they need to chalk up. Those who find a 10-mile race too daunting can easily do a 5K, and the friends they make along the way last well beyond the finish line.

Arlington Thrive will hold a brief 5K orientation meeting at Pete's New Haven Pizza in Clarendon at 3017 Clarendon Blvd. on Friday, Feb. 23 at 6 p.m.

The 5K program starts Saturday, Feb. 24 at 9 a.m. Coach Jeff Myers will give a short presentation on the 5K program and answer questions at Pete's. Arlington Thrive will provide pizza and talk about how to raise funds while running, ing for a 5K race and helping our and a 10 percent off coupon to be partner Arlington Thrive at the used at Pacers running shop will be provided.

For more information, show up at Pete's or get in touch with Niswander at niswander@



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Location: Maggiano's 2001 International Drive McLean, VA 22102

Event Code: PEP-01431

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Arlington Connection & February 21-27, 2018 & 5

ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

- "Lay of the Land." Through Feb. 26, various times at at The Barry Gallery, in the Reinsch Library at Marymount, 2807 North Glebe Road. Featuring the art of Victor Ekpuk, Shané K. Gooding and Rujunko Pugh will be featured, along with the historical exhibit of James Parks and calligraphy from the series "Your State of Mind" by Felecia Brice McFail. Admission is free. Access for individuals with disabilities is available. Visit
- www.marymount.edu/barrygallery. **"Light Years."** Through March 4 at Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave. Eddie From Ohio's Robbie Schaefer crafts a touching and funny world premiere musical portrait featuring Bobby Smith. A master storyteller, Robbie journeys from his childhood in India to the joys and struggles of growing up, pursuing his passion and raising a family. Entwined throughout is his cherished relationship with his father- and his father's haunted past. Visit sigtheatre.org/events/2017-18/lightvears/ for tickets.
- Family Skate Night. Saturdays through March, 6:30-9 p.m. at Thomas Jefferson Community Center, 3501 2nd St S. Bring the whole family to Thomas Jefferson Community Center for Family Skate Night with a live DJ, moon bounces and snack bar, this is a crowd-pleaser for the entire family. Only \$2 to skate and \$3 to rent a pair of wheels (moon bounce and concessions are additional). Cash only. Visit parks.arlingtonva.us/locations/
- thomas-jefferson-community-center. You, If No One Else. Through March 31, Wednesday-Sunday, 12-5 p.m. at Arlington Arts Center 3550 Wilson Blvd. Arlington Arts Center presents You, if no one else, featuring 10 contemporary artists and artist collaborations. You, if no one else, looks at the ways in which artists record, reflect, contribute to, rail against, and engage with politics and civic life, bringing dialogue, beauty, and nuance to their involvement in the public sphere. The title of the exhibition was inspired by poet Tino Villanueva, whose poem of the same name was included in his 1994 collection Chronicle of My Worst Years. Visit
- www.arlingtonartscenter.org or call 703-248-6800. Michèle Colburn: The More Things Change. Through March 31, Wednesday-Sunday, 12-5 p.m. at Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd. Michèle Colburn's work explores socio-political themes related to domestic terrorism, war, and the costs associated with both. A multidisciplinary artist, Colburn makes mixed-media objects with forays into endurance performance on the streets. Her two- and threedimensional work incorporates gunpowder, spent bullet casings, and vintage surplus military trip wire. Visit www.arlingtonartscenter.org or
- call 703-248-6800. Arlington Farmer's Market. Every Saturday, 8 a.m.-noon at the corner of N. 14th Street and N. Courthouse Road. A weekly celebration of local food including fresh produce, meats, dairy, cheese, baked goods, free range eggs, specialty items, cut flowers, plants and herbs. Email csingiser@cfwdc.org or call 917-733-6402
- FRESHFARM Market. 3-7 p.m. on Tuesdays at 1900 Crystal Drive. Shop from local farmers and producers

6



Let Them Eat Cake by Michèle Colburn.

The More Things Change



fresh-cut flowers, container plants and herbs, farm-raised eggs, allnatural meats, artisan baked goods, and specialty foods. Visit

- www.crystalcity.org for more. **Mobile Bike Repair**. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. on Thursdays at 1900 Crystal Drive. Drop off your bike on Thursday morning and have it tuned up and ready to ride before heading home. Email DC@velofix.com, or phone 855-VELO-FIX for more.
- Food Truck Thursdays. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at 1900 Crystal Drive and 201 12th St. Actual truck schedules are subject to change so be sure to follow your favorites. Visit www.crystalcity.org for more.
- Healthy Lifestyle Runs. Saturdays, 9 a.m. at Roosevelt Island, George Washington Memorial Parkway. American Cancer Society partners with parkrun USA to promote fitness in the fight against cancer. Free. Visit www.parkrun.us/rooseveltislanddc/ for more.
- Friday Night Live. 8 p.m. Fridays at the Church at Clarendon, 1210 N. Highland St., Suite A. Local musicians perform. Free. Visit 1bc.org for more.
- Arlington's Historical Museum Open on First Wednesdays. The Arlington Historical Museum is open to the public on the first Wednesday of every month from 12:30-3:30 p.m. The museum consists of exhibits chronicling Arlington County's history from Native American settlements up to the present day. The museum will continue to be open on Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m. Admission is free. The museum is located in the former 1891 Hume School building at 1805 S. Arlington Ridge Road. Contact Garrett Peck at 571-243-1113 or at garrett.peck@ arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org.
- **Open Mic Comedy.** Wednesdays 8-10 p.m. at Ri Ra Irish Pub, 2915 Wilson

- Blvd. Doors open at 7 p.m. Age 21 and up only. Free show, \$25 cash prize for best joke. Call 703-248-9888 or Visit www.RiRa.com/ Arlington for more.
- Invasive Plants Removal. Work parties are held every month to keep the parks free of destructive invasive plants. Teens, adults and families welcome. Every second Sunday of the month 2-4:30 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Road; call 703-228-3403. Every third Sunday of the month 2-5 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road; call 703-228-6535 or Visit registration.arlingtonva.us. Free, no

registration required.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 21

Film Screening: "13th." 7 p.m. at Busboys & Poets - Shirlington, 4251 S. Campbell Ave. NAACP Arlington screening of "13th" is free and open to all. Call 703-379-9757 or visit busboysandpoets.com.

FEB. 22-25

Fundraising: Citrus Sale. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Overlee Community Pool Bath House (Lower Level), 6030 Lee Highway, lower entrance off John Marshall Drive. Fresh citrus, pecans, and maple syrup for sale to support Northwest Arlington Lions Club/Charities. Call 703-528-1130.

FRIDAY/FEB. 23

Author Event. 6 p.m. at Busboys & Poets - Shirlington, 4251 S. Campbell Ave. local author Helen Mondloch to discuss her play "American Breeze: A Whirlwind Theatrical Tour of American Literature." Free and open to all. Call 703-379-9757 or visit busboysandpoets.com.

SATURDAY/FEB. 24

- Pilates with a Purpose. 10 a.m.noon at Body Dynamics, Inc, 410 S. Maple Ave., Suite 100, Falls Church. Body Dynamics, Inc. presents Pilates with a Purpose to benefit Arlington Free Clinic. In addition to Pilates, enjoy a Kendra Scott trunk show and some morning refreshments. \$75. Register at 501auctions.com/afcgala/
- item/773420. Vegetable Gardening. 10:30 a.m.noon at Westover Branch Library. 1644 N. McKinley Road. Vegetable Gardening Part 2: Planning and Preparation for the beginning gardener. Learn easy-to-implement practices for selecting the best site and evaluating and improving soil, including which plants grow best in thisarea. Free. Advance registration requested at mgnv.org. Questions, telephone 703-228-6414 or
- emailmgarlalex@gmail.com. Tunes 4 Tots Music Class. 11 a.m. at Kinder Haus Toys, 1220 N. Fillmore St. Tunes 4 Tots teaches actual music concepts to even the youngest of children in a fun and interactive way. Ages 6 months to 3 years and siblings are welcome. Sign up at the desk or come as a walk-in and join us, if there is room, in our activity. Free. Visit www.tunes4tots.com.

SATURDAY/FEB. 24

Civil War Forts Van Tour. noon-3 p.m. at Fort C.F. Smith Park, 2411 N. 24th St. Union forts in North Arlington were built to protect Washington and the bridges across the Potomac River. Begin at Fort C.F. Smith and travel by van to Forts Bennett, Marcy and Ethan Allen. Teens ages 12 and up are welcomed. but must be accompanied by a registered adult. For information:

703-228-7033. \$15. #622748-A. Register at

registration.arlingtonva.us. 2018 Feel the Heritage Festival. 1-6 p.m. at Charles Drew Community Center, 3500 23rd St. S. Celebrate Black History Month at the 26th annual Feel the Heritage Festival with live music, dance and spoken word, dozens of community and artisan vendors, delicious food options, free kids' activities and more. Cook-Off Competition: Calling all cooks – sign up to enter dish(es) in the first-ever Cook-Off. Appetizers, entrees, side dishes and desserts will be accepted. Complete the online form. Visit parks.arlingtonva.us/ events/feel-the-heritage-festival/ for more.

- Meet Our Animals. 1:30-3 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Families ages 3 and up. Register children and adults; children must be accompanied by a registered adult. What is the difference between a mammal, reptile and amphibian? Meet resident animals up close: turtles, frogs, snakes, birds and even a chipmunk. For information: 703-228-6535. Free. #622958-R. Register at
- registration.arlingtonva.us. **Concert: The Arlington Chorale.** 7:30 p.m. at Westover Baptist Church, 1125 Patrick Henry Drive. The Arlington Chorale will perform Mozart's Requiem (Requiem in D minor, K.626), the powerful choral masterpiece composed as Mozart approached his own death. The concert "Mozart Last's Notes, features an orchestra and soloists. All TAC concerts are free and open to the public, with donations gratefully accepted. Visit

www.arlingtonchorale.org.

SUNDAY/FEB. 25

Vanishing Vernal Pools. 2-3 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Families age 6 and up. Register children and adults; children must be accompanied by a registered adult. For wood frogs, spring peepers and spotted salamanders, spring comes early. They lay eggs in pools that dry out by summer, so they need to start the next generation before the last frost. Meet these animals up close, then look for them and their eggs in a vernal pool. For information: 703-228-6535. \$5. #622958-S. Register at registration.arlingtonva.us.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 28

DIY Sustainable Yard Series. 8:30 p.m. at Westover Branch Library, 1644 N. McKinley Road. Learn how to retain and absorb storm water using the right landscaping techniques and plant choices. Free. Advance registration requested at mgnv.org. Questions, telephone 703-228-6414 or emailmgarlalex@gmail.com.

THURSDAY/MARCH 1

Inside Signature with Robbie Schaefer. 1 p.m. at Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave. With charm and humor, folk/rock/indie band Eddie From Ohio's Robbie Schaefer talks about the process behind writing a world premiere musical based on his life, "Light Years." Learn about Robbie's background, his musical career, and ide him a musical portrait. "Light Years" is on stage at Signature through March 4. Visit www.sigtheatre.org.

FRIDAY/MARCH 2

March March. 3-4:30 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin

ENTERTAINMENT

- Springs Road. Families ages 5 and up. Register children and adults; children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Come march over hill and dale in search of signs of spring. Wear sturdy shoes, as hike may go off the trails at times. For information: 703-228-6535. Free. #632958-H. To register, call 703-228-4747 or visit
- registration.arlingtonva.us. Animal Pajama Party. 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Ages 2 to 10. Register child only, but caregivers must attend. Dress in coziest pajamas and bring a stuffed animal friend to the nature center to listen to stories and learn about wildlife at night. \$5. #632818-V. To register, call 703-228-4747 or visit registration.arlingtonva.us.
- Reception: "Personal Worlds." 6-8 p.m. at The Barry Gallery in the Reinsch Library at Marymount, 2807 North Glebe Road. Marymount University invites the public to an opening reception for the exhibition "Personal Worlds," which features oil paintings, drawings and prints by faculty member Mary Proenza. Admission is free. Visit www.marymount.edu/barrygallery.

MARCH 2-APRIL 2

"Personal Worlds." Gallery hours at The Barry Gallery in the Reinsch Library at Marymount, 2807 North Glebe Road. "Personal Worlds," features oil paintings, drawings and prints by faculty member Mary Proenza. Admission is free. Visit www.marymount.edu/barrygallery.

SATURDAY/MARCH 3

- Turtle First Aid. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Adults. Need CE credits or want to learn about local turtles? Join rehabilitators and vets in this six-hour session to learn the basics of care for rescued local turtles. Bring snacks and lunch. Teens ages 15 and up are welcomed, but must be accompanied by a registered adult. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center. \$35 covers both sessions. To register go to wildliferescueleague.org. For information, call 703-228-6535.
- Pioneer Spring Chores. 1-2 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Families ages 4 and up. Register children and adults; children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Join us at the log house for spring cleaning. Beat the rugs, make twig brooms to sweep the floor, plant peas, and more. For information: 703-228-3403. \$5. #632858-G. To register, call 703-228-4747 or visit registration.arlingtonva.us.



WEDNESDAY/MARCH 7

Northern Virginia Bird Club Walk. 8:30-11 a.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Adults. Join members of the Northern Virginia Bird Club for one or all of these informal walks through Long Branch and Glencarlyn Parks in search of resident and migratory birds. Experienced and beginning birders welcome. Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them. No registration is required. For information: 703-228-6535. Meet at the parking lot at Long Branch Nature Center. Free. #632948-A.

FRIDAY/MARCH 9

Brunch and Mah Jongg. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Temple Rodef Shalom, 2100 Westmoreland Drive, Falls Church. Sponsored by Women of TRS, brunch and mah jongg fun day will include food, prizes, raffle baskets (Queen for a Day; Wine Lovers; Curl Up and Read; NiteIn/Nite Out; Timeless Paris), one-of-a-kind silent auction items and more. Proceeds support a number of charities and organizations. \$50 by March 1; \$60 March 2 thru 9 (space permitting). Visit bit.ly/2Arwv08

MARCH 9-11

Narnia - The Musical. March 9-10, 7 p.m.; March 11, 2 p.m. at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 4250 N. Glebe Road. The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, the first and most famous

Worlds'

Marymount University invites the public for the "Personal exhibition Worlds," which features oil paintings, drawings and prints by faculty member Mary Proenza. Gallery hours March 2-April 2 at The Barry Gallery in the Reinsch Library at Marymount, 2807 North Glebe Road. An open-ing reception will take place March 2, 6-8 p.m. Admis-sion is free. Visit www.marymount.edu/ barrygallery.

A 36" by 24" oil-on-"Personal Worlds."

story of the Chronicles of Narnia, is brought to the musical stage by the young people of St. Peter's Church and their friends . Free, tickets required, available at 2018NarniaTickets@gmail.com. Questions, email Narnia2018@comcast.net.

SATURDAY/MARCH 10

NoVa TEEN Book Festival. Opens at 9:30 am at Washington-Lee High School, 1301 N. Stafford St. Forty authors will take part. Author panels and breakout sessions will be held throughout the day-long event packed with books, authors, and activities. Book lovers of all ages are welcome. Free admission. Find a full event schedule and register at novateenbookfestival.com

- Four Mile Run Stream Cleanup. 10 a.m.-1 p. m. at five locations along the stream. Arlington County Park Rangers are calling on volunteers to help with the 30th Annual Four Mile Run Stream Cleanup. For individuals, families service clubs and school groups. Volunteers should wear waterproof boots and bring gloves. Bags will be provided. An adult must accompany volunteers under 18 years old. Where to meet:
- Årlington Mill: Main courtyard area Barcroft: Rear picnic pavilion
- Glencarlyn: 3rd St. entrance by the restrooms
- Shirlington Park: Foot bridge inbetween Jennie Dean Park and

Shirlington Dog Park Madison Manor: Main park pavilion

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'Personal

panel image from Mary Proenza in her exhibition,

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OPINION How To Fund Metro?

From Page 4

tem to remain safe and reliable. Dedicated funding of \$500 million per year, shared between Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia, will allow WMATA to meet these needs and restore the system to a much-improved and reliable operation.

Recognizing the importance of Metro and the urgency of the moment, the General Assembly has embarked on the difficult task of establishing a dedicated \$154 million funding source — Virginia's share of the \$500 million required to right the ship. While Maryland uses state funds to fulfill their obligation, the Virginia Senate proposal allocates just \$30 million in state funding, with the majority of the additional funding on Virginia's side coming from regional taxes imposed on transactions occurring within the Metro jurisdictions of Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, Falls Church and Loudoun. The pressures of rising populations, increased demands on schools, and the need to make major infrastructure improvements leads to cities and counties having little choice but to disproportionately rely on property taxes to generate additional revenue. Localities have extremely limited taxing authority because of the "Dillon Rule" that requires jurisdictions to seek explicit approval from the General Assembly before they are permitted to enact most taxes and ordinances. As this issue has come to a head, key players have been brought to the table. I co-sponsored SB856, introduced by Sen. Dick Saslaw (D-Fairfax), which would augment the current funding mix beyond local property taxes. The bill accomplishes this by instituting a regional gas tax floor, re-allocating a portion of Northern Virginia's existing regional transportation funding directly to Metro, redirecting \$30 million in state transit funding, increasing the real estate transaction tax (Grantor's tax), and raising the region's hotel tax (Transient Occupancy Tax). The legislation also calls for ongoing attention to operational costs and reforms to the Metro board. I served as an active member of NVTC's Governance Committee that spent a number of meetings reviewing WMATA's board and its processes.

A contrasting bill (HB1539) emerged in the House of Delegates, introduced by Del. Tim Hugo (R-Fairfax). The legislation includes similar reform provisions to the Senate bill, but provides just \$105 million in funding. The bill would also take more revenues directly from the existing Northern Virginia's regional transportation fund administered by the NVTA, threatening the financial stability and creditworthiness of our regional funding program and reducing the availability of funds for other Northern Virginia improvements. Del. Rip Sullivan (D-Fairfax) introduced a proposal that mirrored the Senate approach, however the House adopted Delegate Hugo's bill instead, setting the state for intense negotiations to come. It is my hope that the final legislation that emerges from the General Assembly reflects the Senate language and we arrive at a sustainable solution for our vital transit infrastructure.

Please follow @AdamEbbin on Twitter, like my facebook page at facebook.com/ebbincampaign, and email your views to me at district30@senate.virginia.gov. It is my continued honor to serve the people of the 30th District.

'Renovation for Resale Expo'

Long & Foster Real Estate's Arlington office recently hosted a Renovation for Resale Expo for clients and the community. At the event, several of the office's top-producing real estate agents joined with home remodeling experts to share their research and personal insight on how to improve the look, livability and overall value of a home as it relates to resale. Sponsors of the conference included Long & Foster agents Mary Moran, Susan Joy, Maribeth Clissa, Bob Mathew, Archie Harders, Marty Switzer Merriam, Ivana Pelikan, and Christine Rich.



Publishes: Feb 28, 2018 · Ads close: Feb 22, 2018

PET Connection

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Newspapers & Online Special Edition

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The Pet Connection will publish on February 28, 2018, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by February 16.

This edition provides a great advertising opportunity to reach pet owners where they live in a section sure to attract and hold their attention - be sure to take advantage of our different advertising options.

Find more information about submissions online at www.connectionnewspapers.com/pets.

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8 * Arlington Connection * February 21-27, 2018

Education Learning Fun Diving into Black History with Books

Local educators suggest books to read in celebration of African American History Month.

By Marilyn Campbell

hroughout the year, but more intensely during February, Vincent Intondi, Ph.D., uses literature to teach aspects of African American history that are often overlooked or forgotten.

While slavery and the Civil Rights Movement are two of the most poignant periods of Black history, Intondi, a professor of history and the director of the Institute for Race, Justice, and Community Engagement at Montgomery College, and other educators say reading books about lesser known figures and periods in African American history is one way to paint a complete picture, not only of the history of African Americans, but American history as a whole.

"For example, while we focus on Malcolm X, after spending time with his daughter, Ilyasah, I came to realize just how much his wife Betty did and what she meant to the family. Therefore having a book that focuses on her is important," said Intondi, who is the author of "African Americans Against the Bomb: Nuclear Weapons, Colonialism, and the Black Freedom Movement." "One could argue that there wouldn't



have been a March on Washington were it not for Bayard Rustin, but we don't learn about him because he was gay," continued Intondi. "So part of what's important about these books is not only that they are well written and have amazing illustrations, but because of who they specifically focus on."

Infusing reading with dramatization and memorization, particularly with young children, is a technique that Ana Lado, Ph.D., professor of Education at Marymount University uses in her lessons. "I like to recommend award-winning books or books by

award-winning authors," she said. "I also pick books that can be part of a program [and] can be recited, can be dramatized, can be retold."

"Books that I made students memorize [include] 'I, Too, Am American' and 'My People,' both books of poetry by Langston Hughes; 'I Have a Dream,' [speech by Martin Luther King, Jr. published as a book]; 'Lincoln's Gettysburg Address,' [speech by President Abraham Lincoln published as a book], 'Martin's Big Words: The Life of Martin Luther King, Jr.,' 'Tar Beach' and 'Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky,' [both by Faith Ringgold] and 'If a Bus Could Talk, the Story of Rosa Parks' are book that my youngest students can dramatize," said Lado.

"Underground: Finding the Light to Freedom" by Shane W. Evans is another book that Lado encourages students to read. "This is the absolute easiest way to dramatize the Underground Railroad," she said. "I even use it with students with special needs and beginning English learners."

One quality to look for is books about modern day African American heroes who will likely go down in history. When compiling recommend books for African History

Month displays, Henrik Sundqvist of the Arlington Public Library said, "We try to pick titles which have been published within the last five years."

Among the books Arlington County Libraries is recommending are: "Firebird: Ballerina Misty Copeland Shows a Young Girl How to Dance Like a Firebird" by Copeland.

One book that offers a historical perspective and deeper understanding of a current issue, says Intond, is "The John Carlos Story" by Dave Zirin and John Carlos. "There is arguably no one better to write about sports, race, and politics than Dave Zirin," he said. "The book is great for a wide range of audiences. If one wants to understand Colin Kaepernick and what is happening today in sports then they should read this book."

Using such narratives offers a deeper understanding of America's past and puts current happenings into perspective. "Students can learn and appreciate those who came before them, sacrificed, fought, put themselves on the line and paid with their freedom and lives for equality," said Intondi. "Students will learn that they are part of the long movement for freedom and they too can change the world."



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AT&T Mobility, LLC is proposing to modify existing wireless telecommunications Internas on an existing building rooftop located at 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA. The modification will consist of installing one antenna in the gamma sector that will have a top height of 152 feet above grade. Additionall RRHs will also be installed. Any interested party wishing to submit comments regarding the potential effects the proposed facility may have on any historic property may do so by sending such comments to: Project 6118000559-SF c/o EBI Consulting, 6876 Susquehanna Trail South, York, PA 17403, or via telephone at (781) 273-2500.

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Vasilou LLC trading as Delia's, 2931 S. Glebe Rd Arlington, Va 22206. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVER-AGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Bee on premises & Mixed Beverage on premis es license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.George Theodooru / Owner. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.



connectionnewspapers

Announcements



10 & Arlington Connection & February 21-27, 2018



U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8), at right in center, listens during a meeting at the **Columbia Pike** Revitalization Organization office.

> Рното Contributed

Listening Tour on Columbia Pike

U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8) paid a visit to the Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization (CPRO) office on Monday, Feb. 12 to hear the concerns and issues of Pike residents and businesses.

Accompanied by his District Director Noah Simon and Immigration Case Worker Fiona Flory, Beyer was welcomed by CPRO Board President John Snyder and Executive Director Cecilia Cassidy, as well as CPRO Board members Carmen Romero, Mike Garcia, Linda LeDuc and Amanda Fischer. ECDC (Ethiopian Community Development Council) President Dr. Tsehaye Teferra, a former long-time CPRO board member, also joined the group.

Snyder offered information on transportation issues, as well as the Arlington Cemetery expansion

and its effect on the Air Force Memorial. Romero discussed housing issues faced by APAH and other nonprofit housing developers, in addition to the county's Affordable Housing Master Plan and the need to maintain the Pike's diversity while revitalizing the corridor.

Teferra echoed the need to keep focus on the diverse population of the Pike, emphasizing inclusion of all, and support for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).

At the end of the visit, when asked what Pike citizens could do to help DACA children, Beyer said, "Keep demonstrating, keep calling your representatives and voicing your opinion. It all adds up. And, whether Democrat or Republican, elect good people."

Local Architect Wins National Award

Korev White, AIA, LEED AP, NCARB, an architect in Stantec's Arlington office, was named Feb. 9 as a winner of an American Institute of Architects (AIA) Young Architects Award for 2018.

At 29 years old, White is a leader in the architecture industry – aspiring, she says, to help

forge the future of the profession. That's why she is committed to mentorship and career development for emerging professionals. Both within Stantec, and at the local, state, and national levels of the AIA organization, White has developed programs and opportunities for young architects to become involved in advocacy for the profession and community engagement activities.

White has presented and written on the topic of "Disruption 2.0," encouraging architects to embrace

School Notes

Email announcements to arlington@ connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos are welcome.

Jack Chellman, of Arlington, is one of three University of Virginia scholars - all with ties to the University's political and social thought program – who have earned Marshall Scholarships, paying their way for graduate study in the United Kingdom.

Chellman, who is in the area program in literary prose within the English major, is writing his political and social thought thesis on the relationship between James Joyce's book, "Finnegan's Wake," and Ireland's modern understanding of national identity. A



White

the change within the profession as tools and workflow continue to evolve. She believes that design can be a mechanism to improve communities and promote social equity.

White is a key force behind federal legislation to permit architects to be eligible for college student loan relief in return for community design service, similar to other service professionals.

Her work resulted in the National Design Services Act, currently working its way through the legislative process.

White's love of policy and its impact on design, inspired her move last year from the Colorado to D.C. She's already involved with AIA DC Emerging Professionals group, building Stantec office committees on inclusion and diversity and volunteering with the DC Central Kitchen.

This is White's second national industry recognition. She was recently named to Building Design + Construction's Top 40 under 40 Rising Stars.

fourth-year student double-majoring in English and political and social thought, Chellman will pursue a master's degree in media, power and public affairs at Royal Holloway, University of London, and a master's degree in ideology and discourse analysis from the University of Essex. Chellman is a Jefferson Scholar, an Echols Scholar and has received a Wagenheim Scholarship for English majors.

Å Lawn resident, he is a member of the Raven Society and has received two Jefferson Trust Grants, a Harrison Undergraduate Research Award and a Raven Society Fellowship. He is cofounder and editor-in-chief of Q* Anthology of Queer Culture; former

president of the Queer Student Union; former president of the Jefferson Literary and Debating Society; founder and director of the Jefferson Society Archives Project, which seeks to organize and digitize the archival collection of UVA's oldest student group; and vice chair of the "Unpacking Privilege" training program for the Minority Rights Coalition, running the organization's multicultural training program. He has been a volunteer for Madison House and UVA's LGBTQ Center.

He has been a contributing writer to the Cavalier Daily student newspaper and to the Huffington Post, as well as a press intern for U.S. Sen. Mark Warner of Virginia.

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

News Gun Debate

From Page 3

\$2,000. A Portsmouth gun dealer gave him \$10,000. But he ended up losing that race to Democrat Elizabeth Guzman.

"I support the Second Amendment and the right of every citizen to own a gun," said Guzman during the campaign. "However, we need to implement responsible gun laws that protect our communities from gun violence."

Unfortunately for Guzman and advocates for gun control, that agenda was dead on arrival as lawmakers arrived at the Capitol. The Republican majority killed more than two dozen gun safety bills this year — efforts to limit handgun purchases to one a month, proposals to ban high-capacity magazines and laws to keep guns out of the hands of people who present a threat to themselves or others. Republicans are more interested in getting rid of gun-free zones, including schools.

"The idea that we disarm people in the schools, we forbid out teachers and our staff from carrying concealed firearms, is a mistake," said state Sen. Dick Black (R-13) in a Senate floor speech after the Florida shooting.

Bulletin Board

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 21

- Application Deadline. 5 p.m. The Arlington Community Foundation is now accepting proposals for funding from the Arlington Education Fund. Arlington Education Fund grants provide up to \$1,500 to educators in Arlington to support innovative or unique projects that supplement and enrich the learning environment for preschool to adult students in Arlington. Questions? Call 703-243-4785 or email grants@arlcf.org. To apply, visit www.arlcf.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/ Arlington-Education-Fund-2018-Grant-Announcement.pdf.
- Arlington Committee of 100. 7 p.m. at Phelan Hall - Marymount University, 2807 N. Glebe Road. There has been a spike in drug overdose deaths and opioid-involved deaths in the United States. Speakers will share their views and discuss community efforts. Open to the public, all are welcome. Dinner reservations must be made by Sunday Feb. 18. Visit www.arlingtoncommitteeof100.org/getinvolved/make-a-reservation/.

THURSDAY/FEB. 22

- **Open House.** 4-6 p.m. at Neighborhood Health, 2120 Washington Blvd. Neighborhood Health is now offering primary medical care to Arlington adults and children ages 5 years and older. Tour the clinic and meet its medical team, Dr. Daniel Holtan and Lisa Gittleman, family nurse practitioner. This service expansion is made possible by a grant from the Virginia Health Care Foundation. See
- www.neighborhoodhealthva.org.
 Leading from the Inside Out. 7-9 p.m. at Temple Rodef Shalom, 2100 Westmoreland St., Falls Church. Energy Management: Leading with Intention and Purpose-learn how to: identify what fills and depletes your energy tanks. \$25-40. To RSVP visit wotrsleadinginsideout.eventbrite.com.

FRIDAY/FEB. 23

Hearts, Health and Happiness. 11 a.m.-noon at Carlin Springs Campus, 601 S. Carlin Springs Road. Presented by Virginia Hospital Center's Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Staff. RSVP for the event at 703-558-6859 or email Gwendolyn Beck, gbeck@virginiahospitalcenter.com.

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His Pillow



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Either it was the programming on CBS we were "demanding," or the recorded programming we were watching from PBS; but for the week it was, repeatedly, and I mean REPEATEDLY, we were subjected to the same commercials over and over again. Torture doesn't begin to describe the excruciating reaction I had every time I saw the same people saying the same words. Instead of turning me on to the product or services, it had quite the opposite effect: it tuned me off. Buy what they were selling? More like good-bye.

Not that I understand the strategy behind television and/or radio advertising/promoting as I have zero experience. But I do have some experience, 21 years in fact, selling newspaper/display advertising. And what knowledge I've gained says advertising frequently in multiple media platforms is the key to success. Picking and choosing results in hitting and missing. But hitting me constantly without missing a beat is hard to take too, and not necessarily managing the consistency desirable for most businesses to thrive. Moreover, bludgeoning me into submission/buying is not creating a positive experience either and one not likely to lead to repeat business.

With respect to this test – of will power, I can't help wondering if there's a tipping point of sorts when the con-

sumer/watcher/listener becomes less interested/more antagonistic to the message and by association, perhaps even less tolerant of the medium. Not that one can, generally speaking, blame the messenger, but when under the constant barrage of repetition, which in this instance I was forced to endure ("on demand" disables the fast-forward function so it forces you to sit and squirm), you want to blame someone, anyone. Too much of a good thing is not, after awhile, a good thing; and I'm being kind in my characterization.

Having seen the same commercial for what seemed like a dozen times, over a condensed period of time, during nearly every commercial break, I can't imagine how I could place my head on this pillow and not see this man from Minnesota, his warehouse staff, and most disturbingly, his presence when I open my medicine cabinet. Sleep? Hardly. More like shock and not awe as I lay my head down to rest. Visions of sugar plum fairies or sheep prancing over a fence I'm accustomed to, but a man with a moustache telling me what he knew he would about my reaction to his pillow, I can't quite abide.

Relax? More like reacts. Presumably if the message, messenger or medium is somehow disturbing in its consumer/market penetration; rather than being clear, concise and effective, all that was hoped to have been gained is lost in the muddle. And precious dollars wasted in the process. I imagine the question becomes: How much is too much, and how much is not enough? (Other than sports and chocolate, I wouldn't know.)

All I know is what my reaction has been to seeing and hearing endless (or so it seemed) repetition: almost visceral. I'm sort of angry and put upon for having had to listen so much to learn so little. And though I can certainly appreciate its context and presumptive strategy, I still can't help feeling like a victim of sorts; the cost of doing business, I suppose. I understand that watching what I want requires watching some of what I don't want; it's a trade. A trade I can balance except when what I don't want to watch has a stronger/more negative impact on me than does the programming I want to watch. Remember the goal is to capture my

attention, not abuse it.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

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