

## Protected records may hurt innocent

By **Monica Springer**  
Sports editor

Thousands of people are wishing an outdated law could have been updated sooner. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is meant to protect a student's educational records. Without written consent, schools cannot release information regarding a student to the student's parents.

However, a school can release the information if the student is in imminent danger to themselves or others, but is hard to do and often can't be proven. This means it is illegal for schools to contact parents. And that is a shame. Alerting parents when something is wrong with their child is critical. It could save lives. It could save a student from desperation.

The law is supposed to protect us. All eligible students who attend a higher education school have the right to not have certain records and documents released about them and their education.

For example, a student has the right to see educational records maintained by the school, though the school might

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charge a fee for copying. Second, a student has the right to request a record be changed if it is inaccurate. Additionally, a school can give out educational records if a student chooses to release any information.

Is the law fair? Yes. Is the law right? Probably not.

We all know the killings at Virginia Tech are tragic. Perhaps they could have been prevented. Instead on what could have been, the public should focus on what they can do now.

The education privacy laws were not the only thing that could have prevented the Virginia incident. Gun control could have. Numerous other things could have. But the educational laws are something that can be and should be changed.

Some aspects of the FERPA laws are dated. In some instances, notifying higher ups without getting written consent from the student could have positive outcomes. It could save lives.

While tragedies of this kind don't happen everywhere everyday, smaller tragedies happen all the time at every school. Students suffer from depression and don't tell anyone. Students with eating disorders spin out of control, with their lives hanging in the balance.

It's time to care about people, even if that means invading their privacy. A simple call to their parents could potentially save students from themselves and others.

Last year, Virginia was the first state to pass a law prohibiting colleges to expel or suspend a student if they attempt suicide or seek help for severe depression.

There are thousands of people around the United States who wish the law hadn't passed. Wouldn't it be ideal if a school forced a student to take a temporary leave of absence? Wouldn't it be nice if a school did that out of concern? A short break from life could eventually save lives.

There are probably some teachers out there who would care enough to share their concerns. By legal or nonlegal means, those teachers are probably right.

Imagine what could have been in Virginia. A clearly disturbed student could have gone home at his parents' request. He could have gotten more help, away from school and possibly away from the Virginia area.

The law is there to protect students who are ill, either mentally or physically. Where is the law protecting everybody else?

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# Caffeine gives nightly fix



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It is highly addictive. It has been known to be No. 1 on the list of addicting drugs.

The repercussions of not having this drug can seem pretty rough. Users across campus and America are putting themselves up for risk every time they take drink. Many users do not know that the drug they commonly use is caffeine.

### Health Column

An article was written in The National Geographic on Jan. 19, 2005 about caffeine and the effects of the drug. The author, George Studeville, said there are five withdrawal symptoms: headache, fatigue or drowsiness, depression or irritability, difficulty in concentrating, and flu-like symptoms including nausea, muscle pain, and stiffness.

Roland Griffiths has also done research on caffeine. He is a professor of behavioral biology

and neuroscience at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in Baltimore, Md. Griffiths has written over 10 papers on addicting substances.

Griffiths said in an interview to The National Geographic, "With regard to severity, 13 percent of people had clinically significant distress or functional impairment. At its worst, withdrawal involved missing work, canceling social functions, and going to bed with the belief that they had the flu."

Diane Dixon, pre-med biology sophomore, is taking LAS 230: Drugs Research and Reward. The course is taught by Michael Tessmer, associate professor of chemistry. Dixon said some of the side effects of excessive caffeine in the system include being fidgety and hyperactive.

Users have been known to drink excessive amounts of caffeine including soda and coffee, to help stay awake late at night or help wake them up early morning.

Finals are just five looming days away. This will mean staying up later to finish last minute assignments. Education majors who are enrolled in Rich Bicker's classes are familiar

with an exercise known as the midnight run. It is essentially an ultimate deadline: all work must be in on one certain day.

Andrae Harper, elementary education senior, said, "I am a seasoned vet of the Bicker run, but I retired last semester. No more Bicker classes."

All assignments from the semester have one due date, the last day of classes by midnight. Harper said students use the clock on the weather channel so that they all have a common time.

Harper recalls his junior year in one of Bicker's classes. "I stayed up until five or six in the morning completing the assignments. Some of the assignments you have to do during the school year like interview with teachers, so the night before I complete everything and save a little time for the run. I finish up what I didn't finish and I drive to Mr. B's house before 12. I usually turn mine in around 10ish or 11."

Harper worked with other students in the class while listening to music. At 4 a.m. the group went to McDonalds for much needed food.



Photo illustration by April McCormick/Collegian photographer  
Students turn to caffeine to help stay up late while studying.

Harper said he drank Coke to help him stay up.

Harper isn't alone using caffeine for the extra energy boost or to help him stay awake. Unfortunately this can have harmful effects.

Dixon said, "The down side of drinking lots of caffeine is the crashing after you have a lot in your body because your body does not naturally make that much."

Dixon said when a person crashes from a caffeine high, they are more

tired than before. The next day could prove to be one of drowsiness, but if the user is really lucky, it could be a long day with a headache.

Now then, stop reading and go get some caffeine. Maybe try the popular caramel macchiato from the Java Jinx. If you fare to get off campus, try College Hill Coffee's most popular regular flavored coffees. If you are not a coffee drinker, I might suggest a Wild Cherry Pepsi or drive on down to Sonic.

# Television changes disappoint



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Saturday mornings used to be the funniest time of the weekend. It was a time when children had no problem waking up early, despite the fact that they could easily sleep in. What made those Saturday mornings so special in the eyes of children? Cartoons. Good old fashioned 90s television.

Now when I wake up early and turn the TV on, the cartoons I see basically stink, sometimes there being none at all. What happened to the shows I grew up loving? The ones I watched instead of doing homework or going to bed?

Cartoons have changed for the worse. I miss 90s TV. It's not only cartoons that have changed. There are several shows that are missed as well. The new millennium brought along big changes, but it also left behind great things.

When you look back to your

childhood, you remember shows that taught you things. "Shining Times Station," "Reading Rainbow," "Lamb Chops Play Along," "The Elephant Show," "Mr. Rogers"... great shows that have disappeared into the past.

When I turn the TV to ABC, I don't see Disney's "One Saturday Morning." I don't get the joy of watching "Recess" or seeing that animation of the singing bill on Capitol Hill.

Think about cartoons now, anime taking over every channel, it makes me sick. I can't be the only one who misses "Gargoyles," "Batman," "Johnny Quest," "Ghostbusters," the original "Scooby Doo" and so many more memorable shows. Those aren't airing anymore, not even reruns.

"Scooby Doo" has been remade to fit the new age. How can you remake a cartoon from the '70s when you don't have the same voices and dialect? It's not the same and it's not worth watching. If I want to see episodes of "Batman" now, I have to turn to pixilated versions on the

internet.

Before "Gilmore Girls" and "Scrubs," before "Grey's Anatomy" and "The Sopranos," we had things like TGIF where we could watch "Friends" and "Sabrina the Teenage Witch." We had "Growing Pains," "Brotherly Love," "The Famous Jett Jackson," and "Family Matters." What happened to those shows? Everything is just too dramatic these days, even cartoons meant for five year olds.

When ABC Family first came onto air, they had great shows. Cartoons like "The Addams Family" aired everyday after school. It was wonderful, something cute, not really anything to get into, just what I needed. Now when I watch that channel I get young age soap operas and bad movies.

Why the change? Do people really enjoy this?

Don't get me wrong, I love "Gilmore Girls" just as much as

anyone else, but I miss the old stuff.

Disney Channel has changed the most since the 90s. I used to enjoy "The Gummy Bears," "Duck Tales," "Goof Troop," "Care Bears," "My Little Pony Tales," "Tale Spin," "Rescue Rangers," "Darkwing Duck," "Adventures in Wonderland," "Aladdin" and everyone's favorite, "Dinosaurs."

If I had children, I don't think I'd want them watching the Disney Channel. It's all teen movies and series, with very little cartoons anymore.

I always thought Disney was cartoons like Mickey Mouse and so on. The teen series weren't so bad when it was just "Boy Meets World" or the "Famous Jett Jackson," but then they came out with "Lizzie McGuire" and "That's So Raven" and some show about a girl in a hotel. It just doesn't seem like a child era for TV anymore.

Nickelodeon has changed as well. "The Rugrats" have grown up and "Doug" isn't even aired. "Rock" and "Ren & Stimpy" have disappeared

for good. What has television come too?

Those action and comic book stories like "Batman," "Spiderman" and "The Incredible Hulk" aren't aired either. Now when we turn on cartoon network for some old fashioned action cartoons, we get anime. All day every day.

It's annoying. The plots are way too mature for children, the outfits the girls wear don't send out a good message, and it's all outlined in very dark, black ink. Why is this popular? I think I'm missing the point here.

I miss what used to be good, what used to be okay for children to watch. The shows used to teach you something, but not too much. Now five year olds can learn a second language just from watching TV.

There are now channels meant only for infants. What happened to parents teaching their children how to talk and read? It's ridiculous. The era of good television may be gone for good and no one is doing anything about it.

## 'Idol' contestant releases album

By **Jessica Bernhardt**  
News editor

Who would've thought after getting voted off "American Idol" last season he would release an album? He was known for his messy teeth, rough voice, and inability to put his moves together with his words. Bucky Covington released his first album April 17.

Covington sounds like a corn-bred country boy, born and raised in the south. His first track, "American Friday Night" is a song about a typical Friday night feeling like the perfect place and reminisces about hanging out downtown with the guys.

Song number two and Bucky's first single, "A Different World," is a song of every person's childhood who grew up during the first Bush administration. With lyrics such as, "We got daddy's belt when we misbehaved/had three TV channels you got up to change/no video games and no satellite/all we had were friends and they were outside, playin' outside." Not everyone can relate to the days when, "We were born to mothers who smoked and drank/our cribs were covered in lead-based paint." However, many can relate to when, "It was a different life/when we were boys and girls/not just a different time/it was a different

world."

The majority of the songs make it seem as if Bucky's voice is a total change than when he was on "American Idol." He sounds like a true country star with his lyrics and matching voice of country stars that are still on the rise.

Covington's album has a bit of a rock edge to it, but not enough to make you wonder which side of the fence it is on.

Bucky did a great job of catching my attention in each and every song. He was able to catch it and then hang on to it. He also does a great job of telling the story each song represents.

The grizzly mixture of his voice with the lyrics make him sound as though those stories were happening to him and he did a good job of making me believe they were the details of his childhood.

Covington also does a good job of relating each song to the listener. No matter what age you are, there is at least one song on the album you will be able to relate to.

"It's Good to be Us" does its part in throwing in the love track of the album. I can't think of one country album that does not have something to do with love in at least one of its

### Music Review

### Personal Column

## Corrections

The men's golf team placed third in the Bison invitational in Oklahoma. This was incorrectly stated in the headline of the last issue of *The Collegian*.

Mark Prenter is a pre-med junior. This was incorrectly stated in previous issues of *The Collegian*.

In the article "Publications staff receives awards," it was incorrectly

stated that the special section awards were Monica Springer's. The awards went to Monica Springer and staff.

The article titled "Summer break interrupts employment" incorrectly stated Adam Dees works at Union State Bank. Dees work at Andreas Law Office.

The *Collegian* staff regrets these errors.

## THE COLLEGIAN

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