

»GETTING STARTED

On tap this week

Cheap gas: Starting today, the more you spend on groceries at Ukrop's, the more you can save on gas at Uppy's. For details, go to inRich.com. Keyword: consumer.

Free soccer clinic: The city is holding a free clinic for kids 5 and older today through Thursday, 6 to 8:30 p.m., at the Pine Camp Arts and Community Center, 4901 Old Brook Road. Free, no advance registration.

Celebrate the Fourth: You can start with a parade in Ashland at 11 a.m., then try the All-American Celebration at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden (1-4 p.m., \$6-\$10) or the Old-Fashioned Fourth celebration at Crump Park (1-5 p.m., free). Finish with fireworks at Dogwood Dell, the Chesterfield County Fairgrounds, the Richmond Raceway Complex or Fort Lee. See Weekend on Thursday for more details.

On inRich.com

MashUp catch-up: Check out June's highlights to see what you should know about and what you missed. Keyword: mashup. More online extras, Page A2.

What to watch

Say it ain't so, Molly: Warning—this item may make you feel old. Molly Ringwald, star of "Sixteen Candles" and "The Breakfast Club," plays the mother in the new family drama "The Secret Life of the American Teenager." Tuesday, 8 p.m., ABC Family.

Awash in wealth: "Untold Wealth: The Rise of the Super Rich" explores how a growing number of newly minted multimillionaires are able to live virtually untouched by the recession. Thursday, 10 p.m., CNBC.

Living-room fireworks: If you can't make it to a local pyro-fest, TV has your back. Among the specials airing Friday night are "A Capitol Fourth" (8 p.m., PBS), "Macy's 4th of July Fireworks Spectacular" (9 p.m., NBC) and the "Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular" (10 p.m., CBS).

THE MONEY PINCH a continuing series

Young feeling sting of high gas prices



DEVON ERICKSEN

Tyler Benckert of Hanover County drives a 1999 Saab to his job, which is about 20 minutes from home. He plans to go to college to study alternative fuel sources.

Many drive less, socialize less

BY LINDSAY MACHAK
Times-Dispatch Staff Writer

It's only a five-minute walk from the doorstep of Lauren O'Neill's apartment to her job. O'Neill, 20, of Richmond drives a Volkswagen Beetle, but she didn't want to be driving excessively to get to work because of high gas prices, so she found a job that allowed her to walk.

"A couple of summers ago, I worked at Short Pump and I had to drive," she said. "It just wasn't worth it. Now, I only get gas every other week."

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, regular gas prices rose from a national average of \$2.98 per gallon at the end of June last year to a national av-

At inRich.com, we can tell you where to save money on fillups, groceries and lots more. Keyword: consumer

essary to cope. "They aren't taking trips to the beach on the weekend," he said. "They might go to a closer place to have fun."

Fishe said young people working low-wage or minimum-wage jobs are lucky to have even found jobs. Many teens are facing unemployment this summer.

"Mainly, my solution is getting my parents to drive me everywhere because I can't afford it," said Emily Sacher, 16, of Chesterfield County.

Cheaper gas

What do they earn?

Average hourly earnings for workers in the Richmond metropolitan area.

Food preparation	
■ Fast-food and counter workers:	\$7.31
■ Waiters and waitresses (tipped):	\$3.35
■ Cooks:	\$9.47
■ Combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food:	\$8.90
■ Construction and extraction occupations:	\$16.92
Office/administrative support	
■ Receptionists and information clerks:	\$13.14
■ Stock clerks and order fillers:	\$9.97
■ Office clerks, general:	\$14.85
■ Retail sales workers:	\$11.91
Production	
■ Miscellaneous occupations:	

VCU chief orders review of policies

Trani backs board decision in Monroe case, picks task force in Philip Morris case

BY KARIN KAPSIDELIS
Times-Dispatch Staff Writer

Controversies about former Richmond Police Chief Rodney D. Monroe's degree and a research agreement with Philip Morris USA warrant further scrutiny, Virginia Commonwealth University President Eugene P. Trani said last night.

Trani said he was saddened by the two recent incidents that have brought the university unfavorable news coverage.

He said "a compelling factor" behind the VCU board of visitors' decision Friday not to revoke Monroe's degree was a university policy that needs to be re-examined.

That policy allows for only "a very narrow reason for revocation of a degree" — and that is, academic misconduct must occur before the degree is awarded.

"In effect, we would have had to violate another policy because [one] policy was violated," said Trani, speaking by phone from Boston, where he is on sabbatical this summer.

He said the university will examine the policy to determine if it is too narrowly constructed, but Trani said he stands by the board of visitors' decision to let Monroe keep his bachelor of interdisciplinary studies degree because there was no evidence of misconduct on the part of Monroe, who became police chief in Charlotte, N.C., this month.

Monroe received six credit hours at

See TRANI, Page A6



VCU President Eugene P. Trani is on sabbatical in Boston. He was interviewed by phone last night.

ion.
 ear-old protester died,
 the death toll to four in
 ew days.
 otests were sparked by
 er of 99 acres of land
 te government to the
 rnath Shrine Board, a
 ing a Hindu shrine, to
 facilities for pilgrims.
 s believe Indian au-
 lan to turn the struc-
 a permanent settle-
 hindus to change the
 alance in the region.

**an opposition
 lenies charges**

LUMPUR, Malaysia
 an opposition leader
 ahim denied accusa-
 lomizing a male aide
 efuge in the Turkish
 esterday, saying he
 vernment plot to as-
 im.
 omy accusations —
 olice complaint by a
 23-year-old
 aide — revived
 memories of a
 similar accusa-
 tion a decade
 ago that led to
 Anwar's im-
 prisonment and
 ouster as depu-
 ty prime min-
 ough a court later
 him. Anwar accused
 ient yesterday of a
 o thwart his rising
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 lai Lama
 alk again
 — China will hold a
 f talks with repre-
 the Dalai Lama
 nd hopes for a pos-
 e from the exiled
 tual leader, state
 esterday.
 I Xinhua News
 ot give a specific
 for the talks.

through the staunch re-
 solve of the Western allies,
 and the grit of the Berliners,
 the blockade was broken,"
 Graham told a crowd that in-
 cluded Germans, American
 soldiers and their families.
 "And along the way, the foun-
 dations were laid for the
 North Atlantic Treaty Or-
 ganization and the Federal

viacia, of Hayward, Calif.,
 had been an aircraft mechanic
 with the 317th Troop Car-
 riers in Celle, near Hannover,
 that carried mainly coal into
 Berlin. He also was aboard 10
 of the flights to the city.
 "Now Berlin's rebuilt and
 so modern today, it's really
 unbelievable. We never ex-
 pected this," he said.

used as a result of the fighting in
 the first half of this year. That
 compares with 430 in the first
 six months of 2007.
 Militants caused 422 of the
 recorded civilian casualties,
 while government or foreign
 troops killed 255 people, accord-
 ing to the U.N. numbers. The
 cause of 21 other deaths was un-
 clear.

human casualties and recognize
 the damage this does and want
 to deal with that," he said.
 NATO's reaction to the U.N.
 figures was cool.
 "The U.N. Human Rights rap-
 porteur made an accusation [in
 May] that we had killed 200,
 and I said then that those num-
 bers were far, far higher than we
 would recognize, and that is still

force, including airstrikes, in
 residential areas.
 Foreign commanders insist
 they take all reasonable precau-
 tions to avoid killing innocents
 and say militants routinely fire
 on them from houses and flee
 into villages.
 Holmes said the humanitar-
 ian situation was "serious and is
 getting worse."

Trani

From Page A1

VCU. Under university policy, 25 per-
 cent of a student's credit hours must be
 taken at VCU to receive a degree, mean-
 ing Monroe should have received 30
 credit hours from VCU.

Before Monroe was awarded his de-
 gree in 2007, the Richmond Times-Dis-
 patch reported that he had taken only
 two courses at VCU. Asked why that did
 not raise any red flags, Trani said, "I do
 not know the answer to that. . . . Some-
 body probably should have said some-
 thing."

Trani reiterated last night that he had

no involvement other than to say the
 possibility of Monroe getting his degree
 from VCU would be "a great idea."
 Trani said in a statement Friday that he
 now is "more aware than ever that an
 enthusiastic, energetic president with
 lots of ideas may, however inadver-
 tently, impact the behavior of others."

But he pointed out last night that
 Monroe, who needed 120 credit hours
 for his degree, had earned 121 hours.

"These are not fabricated hours,"
 Trani said. "Many of the hours were ob-
 tained online from the University of
 Phoenix." Monroe also completed
 course work at the FBI Academy.

"Clearly, there is concern," said
 Trani, when asked what reaction the

Monroe case had brought in the aca-
 demic community.

But he said that as part of its investi-
 gation, the university has examined
 16,000 degrees awarded since 2003, and
 no similar case was found.

"This is not a systemic problem," he
 said.

On the Philip Morris controversy,
 Trani said a task force he appointed will
 hold two open town-hall meetings in
 July. The meetings will be held on the
 MCV and Monroe Park campuses to dis-
 cuss the university's relationship with
 outside companies.

A New York Times article in May on
 VCU's research agreement with the cig-
 arette giant called it "highly unusual"
 and "extremely restrictive."

VCU staff members are researching
 data on nitrogen and phosphorus runoff
 into rivers and on the onset of lung dis-
 ease for Philip Morris under one of a
 half-dozen research services agreements
 the university has with corporations,
 Francis Macrina, the school's vice presi-
 dent for research, has said.

Those agreements allow companies
 to review any proposed publication of
 research to protect patent and intellec-
 tual property rights.

VCU's task force will give Trani its re-
 port in October.

He said he appointed the task force
 even though he believes the Times arti-
 cle "treated us unfairly."

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