

Opinion / Editorial

THE LEFT'S ATTACK ON VMI FOR LACK OF WOKENESS MUST END

By Bill Connor

As happened with Joe Biden in 2020, the Democrats in Virginia pulled off another bait and switch with Abigail Spanberger as Governor. The Democrats ran Spanberger as a moderate to win yet now governing to the left of Karl Marx in all the initial executive orders. As one VA GOP lawmaker put it, "Virginians were sold a facade of practical solutions to make the commonwealth affordable—instead, they're getting Zohran Mamdani-style collectivism." And another noted "Gov. Spanberger campaigned as a centrist pragmatist, but she was a progressive in moderate's clothing from the start." <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/spanberger-signals-leftward-bent-after-centrist-campaign-gop-leader-warns-fairfaxing-va> Beyond following Mamdani style socialism for Virginia, arguably the worst damage is what Spanberger and the Democrats in the legislature are trying to do the Virginia Military Institute (VMI). Democrat punishing of VMI for giving up wokeness goes well beyond Virginia. It makes clear the Democrats are passionate about restoring and furthering wokeness.

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That VMI was under a Department of War obligation as a Senior Military College to end DEI doesn't matter to Governor Spanberger and her fellow Democrats in the Legislature. It also didn't matter that VMI had already been turned upside down by Democrats under the former Democratic Governor, Ralph Northam. The long-time 4-star Superintendent, General Binford Peah, was forced out under Northam over specious allegations of structural racism at VMI. Radical DEI/CRT programs were pushed so hard on VMI after General Peah left, that alumni were in near revolt and donors were cutting ties. Like under Northam, within days of Spanberger taking office, Virginia Democrats in the state legislature moved to "establish a task force to investigate the Virginia Military Institute

and determine if the historic military college should continue to receive funding." This was "the latest of Virginia Democrats' efforts to reinvigorate Diversity, Equity and Inclusion policy in the state after much of the DEI mandates and policies were revoked after President Donald Trump was elected in 2024. 'This takes away from VMI, takes away from its mission,' Rep. Rob Wittman, R-Va., told Fox News Digital. 'I think that it's harmful to the Commonwealth of Virginia, harmful to VMI as an institution, harmful to all the incredible military leaders and community leaders that have come out of VMI.'" <https://www.foxnews.com/us/virginia-democrats-blasted-threatening-historic-military-college-vmi-funding-threat-over-dei-concerns>. Democrats also filed to dissolve VMI's governing Board of Visitors and put VMI under the governance of historically black college, Virginia State University. <https://www.yahoo.com/news/articles/virginia-state-university-could-gain-214633500.html> The Governor did her part in seeking VMIs demise by quickly appointing five new far-left Board of Visitor members, including disgraced former Democrat governor Ralph Northam.

The Democrats know VMI, as a Senior Military College, has done nothing worthy of this retaliation in following the Department of War directives. Back in 1996, VMI and The Citadel were the last all-male military colleges in the nation and being sued to admit women. When the Federal Government, through the Courts, ordered women to be admitted that year, both schools complied. VMI follows orders as it should.

It's important to understand what this retaliation against VMI means for the rest of the nation if the Democrats win the mid-terms. First, Democrats have proven that regardless of how moderate they pretend while campaigning

Family & Marriage

What Do You Do with Trash?



Roger Rollins,
Family and Marriage Coalition

*"If we open a quarrel between
S D V W D
that we have lost the future."
- Winston Churchill*

*"For if you forgive others
for their transgressions, your
heavenly Father will also forgive you."
- Bible (Mathew 6:14)*

Years ago, I went with a friend of mine to a trailer house he owned but rented out. The recent renter had just been evicted for failing to pay rent for several months. The evicted person didn't seem to care; he just packed up a few belongings and left. My friend, who hadn't been in the house for quite a while, was amazed to find it full of "stuff." Not necessarily garbage, just a vast accumulation of useless items, years of old newspapers, mountains of old clothes, old appliances, worn out furniture, and more.

More recently, I had a conversation with someone who is having problems with his wife. He's trying to deal with issues that have caused problems in the past, but one keeps resurfacing. She keeps recalling a time when he became unreasonably angry. She wasn't the direct cause of his anger, but received some of it, being in the house with him. He apologized for his behavior. But she hasn't forgotten. She keeps bringing it up and holding it against him.

It's hard to move from the past into the present and look forward to a brighter future. It's easier to think about where we've been than to focus on where we're going. But if we

keep looking back, we may Qrask into the things in front of us. Perhaps that's why the Bible places great emphasis on letting go of yesterday. It's ok to dwell on the good things in the past once in a while and perhaps seek reconciliation of some past failure, if that would be of benefit. However, it's often best just to move forward, and not try to resurrect the past. We have probably done or said hurtful things to others, including our family members, for which we should apologize. Then we should move forward into a better future. Now it's up to the person to whom we've apologized to forgive us and also move on.

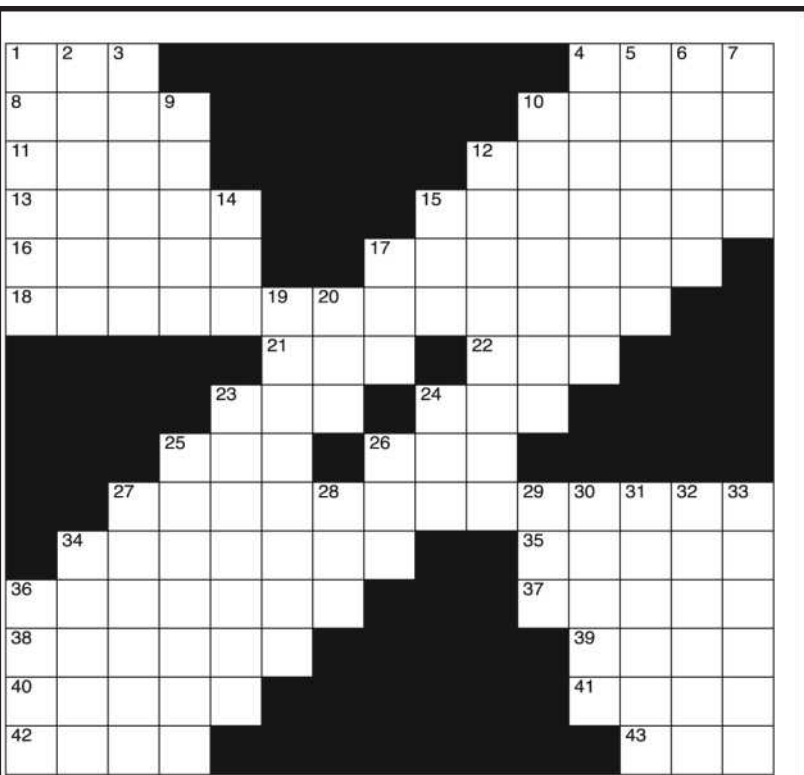
The world, especially in the political arena, has great difficulty forgiving. Most of our politicians today seem to be focusing on the wrong that has been done by others, instead of forgiving, working together, and moving forward. And those who may have made a mistake have a difficult time admitting it, and seeking forgiveness, because they know that others are unlikely to forgive. I have a very poor memory, and I often have to ask my wife about the names of people and specifics of past events. I find that those things I do remember are more negative than positive. That may just be me, but I make a conscious effort to focus on the good, both of present events, and the ones I can recall from the past.

Max Lucado, in his book "Every Day Deserves a Chance," has suggestions for moving beyond the past. For example, we should major on the grace

of God. We will mess up. We must seek forgiveness when that's needed and then trust in God to move forward. If the one we've offended continues to be upset, pray for them and love them. Learn to receive forgiveness, and to forgive. As the Bible says in 2 Timothy 2:1, "You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus." Grace can overcome a lot of offenses. In fact, Jesus says seventy times seven. But He really meant unlimited forgiveness.

A lesson I've learned about forgiveness is to "Always be joyful. Pray continually. Give thanks whatever happens." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18) I can't change the past. I can ask for forgiveness and forgive when that's needed. And then I let go and move forward. "Jesus said to him, 'No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.'" - (Luke 9:62)

Family and Marriage Coalition of Aiken, Inc. (FAMCO) was created to provide resources for you to succeed in your marriage and families. Roger Rollins, Executive Director, FAMCO, 803-640-4689, rogerrollins@gmail.com. Let us know how we can help.

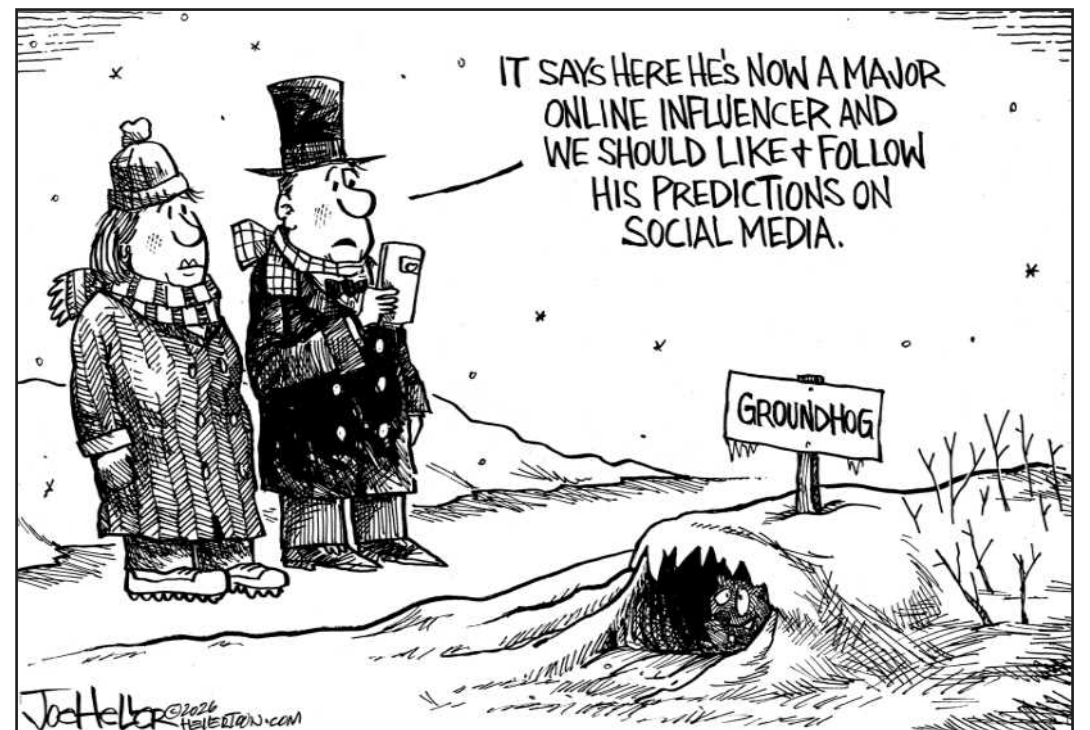


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Racket sport pros
- 4. Make tea
- 8. City South of Moscow
- 10. Spanish bullfighting term
- 11. Egg-shaped
- 12. Could not remember
- 13. French modernist painter
- 15. Persons
- 16. Painful intestinal obstruction
- 17. Professions
- 18. Is up to the task
- 21. Wood or metal bolt
- 22. Tax collector
- 23. A way to save for the future
- 24. Georgia rockers
- 25. Midway between north and northeast
- 26. High schoolers' test
- 27. Does not accept responsibility
- 34. One who prepares
- 35. Gout-indicative deposits
- 36. Place to play games
- 37. Book of Genesis character
- 38. Cleans oneself
- 39. Unloaded for money
- 40. Genus of flowering plants
- 41. Take a puff
- 42. Congressmen
- 43. God of battle in Scandinavian mythology

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Type of bomb
- 2. South Pacific islands
- 3. Celestial body
- 4. Negotiates
- 5. Consider in a specified way
- 6. Type of group in organic chemistry
- 7. Buddhist monasteries
- 9. Inhabitant of Bering Sea island
- 10. Body part
- 12. Milestone birthday
- 14. Thyroid-stimulating hormone
- 15. More (Spanish)
- 17. Chicago ballplayer
- 19. Leaves a place
- 20. Cannot be found
- 23. One's internal body parts
- 24. Tell on
- 25. North American peoples of southwest
- 26. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 27. Extract used for jams and jellies
- 28. Greek goddess of the dawn
- 29. Old English letter
- 30. A way to exaggerate
- 31. Get up and leave
- 32. "Boardwalk Empire" character
- 33. More generous
- 34. Hanging cloth used as a blind
- 36. Ancient Greek sophist



SUDOKU

	4			8				
6	2		5					
			6	4			2	
						4		7
	1						6	
	3	4						8
					6	3		
				9	3	8	4	2
			4	7			1	

Fun By The Numbers

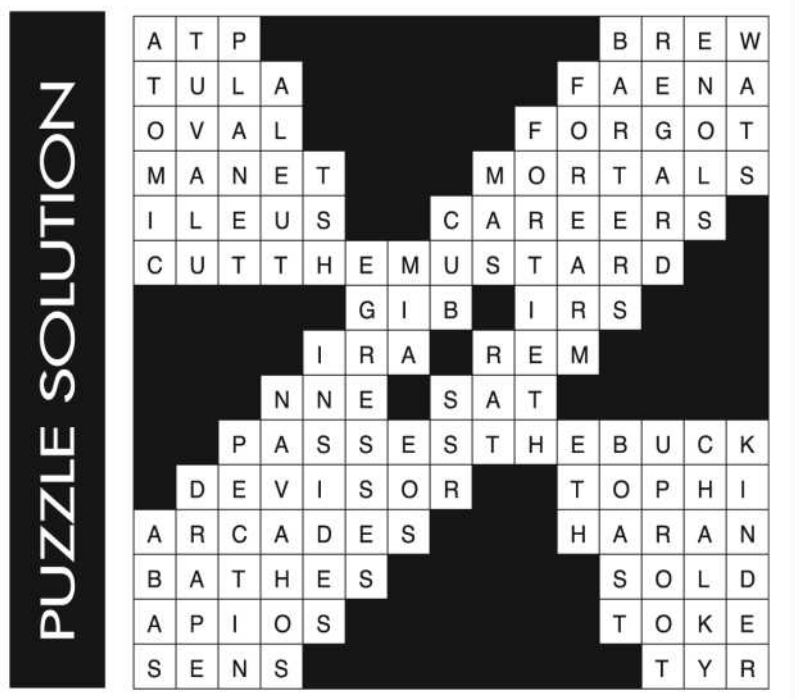
Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

1	9	7	8	2	5	3	4	6
2	8	3	4	5	7	6	1	9
3	5	7	6	1	9	8	3	4
4	9	1	8	2	7	6	3	5
5	7	3	4	2	6	9	5	1
6	8	1	5	9	7	4	2	3
7	3	4	2	6	9	8	5	1
8	1	5	9	7	4	2	6	3
9	6	2	3	1	8	4	5	7

ANSWER:



PUZZLE SOLUTION