

Wilder

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Apparently, the magnitude at least warranted a closer look by the Wilder camp in Virginia. In April, the governor appointed a task force to look into the issue.

Virginia's Secretary of Education James Dyke, who chairs the task force, does not believe the committee is likely to support the idea of random drug testing, but contends drug testing could be justified on college campuses.

"Even though there is a factual and legal basis for testing, we don't think we will be pursuing it," Dyke said.

Still, students across the country are worried that even considering drug testing hits a little too close to the dorm room.

"I don't support drug testing for students here," said Andre Morgan, president of the student council at the U. of Virginia. "It's a clear violation of students' constitutional right to privacy and protection against self-incrimination."

Wilder the show horse

Many of those who know Wilder and have tracked his career say his political bark may be worse than the bite.

Dwayne Yancey, author of "When Hell Froze Over: The Story of Doug Wilder," said Wilder may be just laying down another level to his political platform.

"Nobody in Virginia is expecting (drug testing of students) to be followed up on," Yancey said. "He's always had a reputation among fellow legislators as a show horse rather than a work horse, seizing the hot issues of the day. That is one of his claims to fame."

Larry Sabato, a UVA. government and foreign affairs professor, agreed. "Doug Wilder knows that there will be no mandatory drug testing on college campuses," Wilder made the comments because he knew he could appeal to blue-collar workers, Sabato added.

Some political allies, such as Virginia



TOBY HOLLIS, THE DAILY FREE PRESS, BOSTON U.

Douglas Wilder spent two days last month driving around meeting people in New Hampshire. State Party Chairman Paul Goldman said Wilder is just a phone call away from home anytime he leaves the state to work on personal business.

Democratic Party Chairman Paul Goldman, said Wilder is not trying to attack students' individual rights, but that he simply plans on taking tough stands on issues like drug abuse. If that includes a look into campus drug testing, so be it, he added.

Goldman said the media has blown the drug testing issue out of proportion and has inaccurately reported the governor's views.

"He never said he was in favor of mandatory drug testing," Goldman said. "Just because you look into various options doesn't mean you favor them. A lot of people reacted and a lot of people thought campuses were sacred."

He added, "I think he thinks society has to get real serious if it wants to make a dent in the war on drugs."

Feds target UVA.

Wilder's get-tough stance on campus drugs has been heightened by problems in his own state.

When a federal sting operation raided

three UVA. fraternity houses late last March, many students said their campus was singled out for its prestige. Wilder immediately seized the campus drug use issue, and marched in a new political direction.

Wilder said the raids "could very well easily be looked on as a blessing rather than a curse" because it focused attention on the college drug problems. He added that it was wrong for universities to have a "laissez-faire" attitude and serve as havens where affluent students can be immune from the law.

When Wilder formed the task force, he said he would consider student drug testing as long as it didn't "run afoul of constitutional guarantees."

Administrative opposition

The issue of campus drug testing may be a valuable one for Wilder. It puts him even farther to the right of some Republicans, making him an appealing candidate to cross-over conservatives.

Looking into campus drug testing pushes

him past quite a few conservatives, though, including the current Bush administration. Officials there are not receptive to the idea of campus drug testing, characterizing it as a radical and misguided strategy.

"In the U.Va. case, you didn't need a drug test to identify the problem," Robert Martinez, director of the White House Office of Drug Policy Control, told a gathering of fraternity and sorority members in Washington, D.C. "I think the question for Virginia colleges — and all other colleges by extension — isn't so much how we can discover drug use on our campuses, but 'What do we do about it when it exists, and how fast can we act?'"

Wilder disagreed, characterizing a hard-line approach as the correct on-campus policy. "Rather than offering a proactive policy to stamp out illegal drug activity on our nation's college campuses, Mr. Martinez criticizes our forceful efforts in Virginia," Wilder said.

While many universities randomly drug test student athletes, few have blanket policies for the student body. The U. of Maryland has the nation's strongest drug testing policy, which administrators say was a response to the cocaine-induced death of basketball star Len Bias.

The university requires those caught using drugs to submit to random drug tests until graduation or face expulsion.

But William Kirwan, UM president, said, "We have no plans for implementing mandatory drug testing of the general student population." And UVA. president John Casteen said he needed a "concrete proposal" before making any decisions.

But Student Council President Morgan is still keeping an eye on the drug testing issue, adding that if testing is adopted, "We will be prepared to deal with it."

And Yancey, who has charted the governor's political career from the beginning, believes Wilder's views on drug testing and other issues are always subject to change.

"Wilder is very unpredictable," he said. "It's hard to tell what he could do."

Soviets

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Union, American and Soviet students in the volatile area during the coup have returned to the United States.

Many students familiar with the Soviet culture are trying to get a grasp on how to contact isolated friends and family as the Baltic republics scramble to gain their independence.

"I was extremely scared for my friends I made over there," said Emory senior Scott Adams, who returned to the U.S. in July after teaching English to Soviet businessmen for nine weeks. "When I first heard about the coup on the news, I thought the protest would be a lot worse than it was. I thought my friends would be there on the barricades. I hoped they wouldn't die."

On the night of the coup, Emory political science graduate student Svetlana Savranskaya tried unsuccessfully for two hours to telephone her parents in Moscow, unaware that the uprising was even taking place.

"My husband said the news had reported a coup, but I didn't believe him at all because his English is not very good," she said. "But

in the morning, I realized he was right."

Savranskaya, along with chemistry graduate student Michael Voronkov of Leningrad, followed developments in the Soviet Union by monitoring the Soviet television news program "Vremya," which began broadcasting live to the Emory campus via satellite in 1986.

"I watched as much Soviet TV as I could," said Savranskaya. "The American press delivered the facts accurately, but I couldn't feel the atmosphere at all. Some of the phrases and facts without expressions on them were exactly the same as the ones we saw six years ago. We Soviets know how to watch our own news."

Despite an uncertain future, many experts do not believe student exchange programs will be restricted. "The failure of the coup has accelerated the breakup of the Soviet Union, a process already in progress," said Thomas Remington, political science professor at Emory.

Adams agreed. He said said that despite any instability, he would return.

"Something makes you want to go back once you've been there, despite having to do your laundry by hand and wait in line for hours to make a telephone call home," he said.

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