

Richmond Times-Dispatch

VIRGINIA'S NEWS LEADER

WEEK'S END

■ Several Virginia inmates are suing the state over the Department of Corrections' grooming policy. The DOC doesn't allow long, shaggy hair, for example. Some say the policy violates the prisoners' rights. We say it's simple tit-for-tat: The inmates don't care for the prisons' copious locks, and the prisons don't care for theirs.

■ Some Henrico residents don't like the plans for West Broad Village — tall buildings, urban density, a hotel — and hotly resent what they see as insufficient deference to their likes and dislikes. They want the county and the developers to make changes to suit their preferences. Well, *we* want an invisible jet to fly us to our own private island, where supermodels will give us neck rubs. But wanting something is not the same as being entitled to it. What — other than an excessive sense of entitlement — makes those opposed to the West Broad Village plans think they should be able to dictate how other people's property will be used?

■ With the Bush administration's criticism of *The New York Times'* publication of leaked material winding down, columnist Robert Novak has confirmed that Karl Rove confirmed to him the identity of Valerie Plame leaked to him — *i.e.*, Novak — by somebody else. Does this mean administration leaks are bad again? We're *so* confused!

■ When Florida passed its concealed-carry law two decades ago, critics predicted it would turn the Sunshine State into the Wild West. That didn't happen. Not surprisingly, the people who applied for lawful permission to carry concealed weapons turned out to be overwhelmingly law-abiding. Two years ago Florida passed a "stand-your-ground" law permitting individuals to use deadly force in self-defense not just at home but anywhere. Once again gun-control advocates predicted the streets would run red with blood. State Representative Eleanor Sobel said it would create (all together now) "a Wild, Wild West out there." According to the latest figures, last year Florida's crime rate fell for the 14th straight year — to the lowest level since 1971. Apologies may be mailed to the National Rifle Association, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030.

■ Meanwhile, the nation's capital of gun control — *i.e.*, the nation's capital, Washington, D.C. — has declared a state of emergency because of a surge in homicides. Are gun-control advocates paying *any* attention?

■ Of course not.