

The Settler is Volunteer State Community College's student newspaper. The views and opinions stated herein are solely those of the author and do not reflect, nor are intended to reflect, the views and opinions of any member of Volunteer State Community College's administration, faculty or staff. All stories, articles, artwork, and photography are the exclusive property of The Settler and/or the writer(s), artist(s) and photographer(s). Reprinting or duplication of the materials within is prohibited without express written consent by The Settler's editorial staff.

## THE SETTLER

Volume 48, Issue 8

SARAH KINGSBURY  
Editor

NEIL SIDERS  
Sports Editor

TIMMY CLAYTOR  
Technology Manager

LINDSEY SIRCY  
Advertising Director

MAURICE ZOLLER  
Cartoonist

DEWAYNE DOUGLAS  
Reporter

BRIAN ESTES  
Reporter

ASHLEY HOUSTON  
Reporter

LEA LEATH  
Reporter

RICK ROMOHR  
Reporter

CATI SCOTT  
Reporter

KIMBERLY WALKER  
Reporter

T. CLAYTON SCOTT  
Faculty Adviser

Send Letters to:  
Settler.Editor@volstate.edu

Front page design by Cati Scott

## Pell Grant increase is net loss of aid to students

President Bush's budget proposal for fiscal year 2006 includes increased funding for the Pell Grant program and elimination of the shortfall while disguising important cuts to higher education.

The Pell Grant program helps more than five million students attend post-secondary institutions for higher education every year.

This program is essential to the academic success of lower-income families.

Bush proposed to increase Pell Grant funding by \$100 for the next five years, raising the total available amount from \$4,050 to \$4,550 by 2011.

Bush also plans to retire the over \$4 billion Pell Grant shortfall that has occurred because of rapid growth in college enrollment.

In the next year, 132,000 more students are expected to apply for the grant than last year, by the president's estimations.

However, the increase seems to be a way for the president to conceal

several dangerous cuts which could prevent the program from having the positive impact it is intended.

On the same token, the president is eliminating the Perkins loan program which provides \$1,825 to the average recipient.

A \$100 grant increase will not make up for the loss of the Perkins Loan.

The president also plans to cut two TRIO programs and GEAR UP which help to prepare and adjust college students, especially lower-income and first generation students.

Programs such as Upward Bound, Talent Search, and GEAR UP help at-risk lower-income students to qualify for the \$100 increase in Pell Grants, but these programs are also eliminated.

It is important to note that more than half of all Pell Grant recipients are at or below the poverty line.

In a world where a college education has become the new high school diploma, higher education

plays a critical role in career success.

The White House is quick to tout new math and science grants to increase interest and opportunity in the subjects, but states with budget shortfalls, such as Tennessee, end up cutting funding for public universities and community colleges, forcing institutions to raise tuition and locking out students who cannot receive adequate financial aid.

To reduce the national deficit, it is understood government programs must be cut. Nevertheless, expanding higher education ensures that the next workforce generation will be well prepared for the challenge and competition of a globalized economy.

The Settler is an open forum for ideas, opinion and information.

Send letters to:  
Settler.Editor@volstate.edu

## Siders Says

### "Who thought Canada would be good at baseball?"

NEIL SIDERS  
Sports Editorial

Long over due, the World Baseball Classic is underway, with the USA moving into the second round.

The classic pits professional and non-professionals against each other as their teams compete to take home a truly world-wide baseball championship home for their countries.

While the whole principle seems practical, the application of the idea has proved less productive.

The objections started flowing in from owners, like George Steinbrenner, as soon as the Classic was announced.

Players, such as Alex Rodriguez, have offended whole countries by passing up the chance to compete for one of the countries in which they have dual-citizenship. These problems, along with the uncertainty of which players would actually play and who would back-out, muddied the pre-tournament waters.

But now that the tournament is underway all the skeptics' doubts have been silenced.

Now there is nothing to gawk at except a great international baseball

tournament.

One's only hope is that baseball's fans will join in and watch the classic.

In reality, this type of pure competition, based on patriotism, might be the first step in the right direction for baseball, following the past few years of turmoil that the brewing steroid controversy inspired.

America has a chance to prove that they are still on top in the great American pastime.

In recent years, many baseball fans have complained about the disadvantage that the USA experiences because the pros don't go to the Olympics. The reason for their non-participation is the fact that the MLB season conflicts with the summer Olympic schedule.

Now it's America's turn to back up all that talk, this time the pros are going.

The first round saw the U.S. team stumble against Canada, but then rebound against South Africa with a 17-0 victory which provided redemption for the earlier loss.

The second round holds the hope that the American team can pull through and still win the whole

thing. Anything less would be an utter disappointment for the heavily favored Americans.

While the Americans are favored in most eyes, no one can deny the threat of teams like the Dominican Republic and other Mediterranean teams who are chocked full of MLB players themselves.

The U.S. fans should be on the edge of their seats, waiting to see if the combination of youthful talent and the experience of the soon-to-be hall of famers will pull through and prove America's place on the throne of baseball.

Don't miss Pioneers baseball and softball this week!

Baseball:  
Pioneers v.  
Wallace State-Hancefield  
2 p.m.  
TODAY

Softball:  
Lady Pioneers v.  
Lindsey Wilson  
1 p.m.  
Thursday