

No. R-333. House concurrent resolution congratulating *The Vermont Cynic* on winning a 2011 Pacemaker Award for excellence in college journalism.

(H.C.R.246)

Offered by: Representatives Ram of Burlington, Aswad of Burlington, Botzow of Pownal, Branagan of Georgia, Champion of Bennington, Christie of Hartford, Clarkson of Woodstock, Courcelle of Rutland City, Dakin of Chester, Donovan of Burlington, Evans of Essex, French of Shrewsbury, French of Randolph, Head of South Burlington, Heath of Westford, Johnson of South Hero, Keenan of St. Albans City, Kupersmith of South Burlington, Lenes of Shelburne, Lorber of Burlington, Macaig of Williston, Malcolm of Pawlet, Marek of Newfane, Martin of Wolcott, Miller of Shaftsbury, Nuovo of Middlebury, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Pearson of Burlington, Pugh of South Burlington, South of St. Johnsbury, Sweaney of Windsor, Till of Jericho, Toll of Danville, Waite-Simpson of Essex, Webb of Shelburne, Wizowaty of Burlington, Yantachka of Charlotte and Young of Glover

Whereas, collegiate journalism at the University of Vermont (UVM) dates to 1883 when *The Vermont Cynic* (the *Cynic*) was established on the Burlington campus, and

Whereas, in the bicentennial history of the university, it was explained this unusual journalistic name was “inspired by Diogenes, the original cynic and scourge of hypocrites” in ancient Greece, and

Whereas, for over one century and one-quarter, the volunteer student staff of the *Cynic* has regularly observed and reported on life at the university and published opinion pieces, and

Whereas, the *Cynic* has weathered financial and institutional challenges when its future was in doubt, including just a few years ago when the paper was in debt, and

Whereas, the newspaper's student leadership regrouped and adopted a new, more fiscally disciplined operational approach and sought to improve the *Cynic's* lagging journalism standards, and

Whereas, as recently as 2010, the news operation was extremely short staffed, and the two top editors were writing much of the news copy, and

Whereas, revitalized interested, sparked in part from a physically reorganized *Cynic* headquarters at the Davis Center, has attracted nearly two dozen newswriters and approximately 65 regular student volunteers, and

Whereas, the newly energized *Cynic* has demonstrated that it can ferret a good story when it reported on security breaches in the UVM computer system, and

Whereas, the efforts of these UVM students to produce a high quality publication were deservedly rewarded in the fall of 2011 when the *Cynic* was honored as a winner of the Pacemaker Award, often called "the Pulitzer of college journalism," and

Whereas, the *Cynic* was one of 13 honorees in the nondaily category for four-year colleges, and, amazingly, the only award recipient whose college does not include a journalism department, and

Whereas, the 2011 Pacemaker marks the first time the *Cynic* has ever won any award, and its student journalists should be extremely proud of this historic achievement, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates *The Vermont Cynic* on winning a 2011 Pacemaker Award for excellence in college journalism, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to *The Vermont Cynic*'s editorial office at UVM.