

theForum

Piedmont Virginia Community College

Volume 8, Issue 5- December 2009

PVCC VOLUNTEER CLUB RECOGNIZED AT STATE LEVEL



Betsy Grantier Hernandez

President Frank Friedman presents the Volunteer Club with the first place prize from the Student Team Innovation and Service Competition. Sam Hewitt, Kim Hoosier, Lee Stone and Jenn Jones represent the Volunteer Club.

FORUM STAFF

PVCC President Frank Friedman presented the Volunteer Club with a \$200.00 check on December 3. The club earned first place and the monetary prize in the Student Team Innovation and Service Competition at the 2009 VCCS Leadership Conference.

The project that the Volunteer Club submitted to the competition was named

the Piedmont Project.

According to Lee Stone, Volunteer Club president, the goal of the Piedmont Project was two-fold: to provide a service to those in need, and to inspire others to join the cause of civic participation and service to the community.

It created the Piedmont Project to create opportunities for all PVCC students to help people in the community.

To reach its goal, the Pied-

mont Project planned, organized, and held four events, including an Easter egg hunt that occurred in April 2008, as well as the November 2009 canned food drive and hunger symposium, a clean hike, and a bakesale.

When Friedman was presented the check at the VCCS Presidents' Meeting and the Piedmont Project description was read aloud, the Chancellor asked if, for next year, the Volunteer Club planned

to take on world hunger.

The credit for the award was given to its advisor, Kim Hoosier. "Without such an energetic and dedicated advisor, the club would not be as it is today," stated Friedman.

The Volunteer Club plans to use the check for its next project: Santa Matters. The \$200.00 will be used to buy toys for children who have incarcerated parents in the Albemarle-Charlottesville Regional Jail.

GAIL WHITE HELPS PVCC BE COLLEGE FOR COMMUNITY

FRANKIE CARL
FORUM STAFF WRITER

Workforce Services is gearing up for the move to their new location this spring and Gail White feels it is a great time to be a part of this division. She is the new Program Manager for Customized Training and was hired this fall.

White is looking forward to the resources that will be available especially having more space and equipment for instruction. "My job is to help businesses in the surrounding area develop and implement training programs to enhance their employees' performance. This training ranges from entry level employees up to and including management."

An example of entry level training is the Career Readiness Certificate Program. This program develops the employee's skills in the areas of applied mathematics, reading for information, and locating information. This program addresses the findings of the National Commission on Writing, which reported that employers were frustrated with the skills of entry level applicants.

The employers mentioned that the cost of in-house training employees was astronomical and difficult to execute. This certificate program gives the employer a person who can grow with the company. It gives the individual employee a stand-alone credential that can be used as a supplement to a high school diploma, a GED, or a college degree.

The Associated General Contractors of America Supervisory Training Program serves employers by improving the leader-



Jenn Jones

"A trainer assesses a person's abilities and skills, and then designs a training program to strengthen and develop them. This is exactly what many employers are trying to do for their employees....It benefits the employer and the employee."

-Gail White

ship and management skills of foremen and superintendents. This program addresses more sophisticated skills like leadership and motivation, problem solving and decision making, contract documents and construction law, and cost control.

PVCC also offers the train-

ing for contractor licensing. The list of Workforce clients includes General Electric Fanuc, National Ground Intelligence Center (NGIC), Sperry Marine and the University of Virginia.

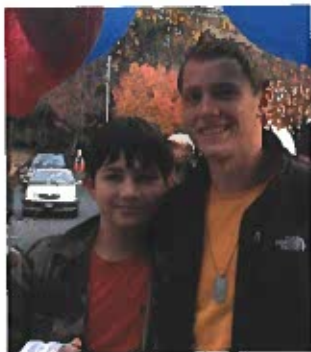
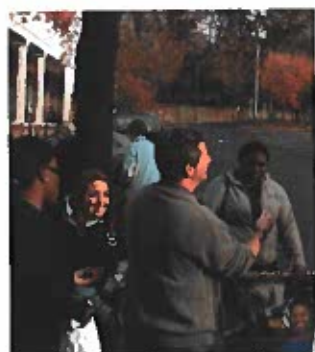
White has on-site meetings with employers to assess their needs, observe the work environ-

ment, and work with them to develop training programs using all of PVCC's resources. She feels that her education and work experience helped her develop the skills she needs for this job.

She has a Master's of Science from Indiana University,

Continued on page 4.

PVCC JOINS IN FIRST ANNUAL DOWNTOWN HOLIDAY PARADE



Jenn Jones

From upper left: Sam Hewitt, Caleb Russell, Dori Dunu and Samantha Moore hold the PVCC banner. In the following three: Jonathan Motlaugh, Dunu, Leah Heckel, Moore, and Jonathan Hexter ready the float. Lower middle: Hewitt and Russell pose with the balloons; Lower right: Colleen Yax walks alongside the float, beside her son, who rides in the golfcart next to Heckel and Motlaugh.

JENN JONES FORUM EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Early on a chilly Saturday morning eight students and one faculty advisor gathered on the downtown mall. November 21 was the first annual Downtown Holiday Parade and PVCC had a float.

Student Ambassador and SGA executive at-large member, Jonathan Motlaugh, found out about the opportunity two weeks before the event and took charge.

Fellow student ambassador Leah Heckel and her father, Warren Britts, helped de-

sign and construct the float.

"It took a lot of time, but it was a lot of fun. Special thanks to clubs that sent in flags," stated Motlaugh.

Motlaugh and Heckel integrated flags representing PVCC clubs into the float design. Thirteen clubs created flags representing themselves: Ambassador Club, Art Club, Black Student Alliance, Christian Student Fellowship, Go Club, Graphics Club, the Forum, Japan Club, Masquers, Phi Theta Kappa, Pottery Club, the Student Government Association, Ultimate Fris-

bee Club, and Volunteer Club.

Once the float was on the downtown mall, students blew up red and blue balloons to decorate the float and to give to children attending the parade.

"Fantabulous" is how PVCC student, Dori Dunu described the parade. "For so early in the morning there were a lot of people!" Said Dunu.

PVCC student Sam Hewitt stated "the enthusiasm of the attendees was great."

The parade began at the ice-skating rink and ended at the Pavilion. There were

about 30 groups in the parade including the Scintillation Fire Dancers, bagpipe players, and Chihuahuas in tutus.

Heckel stated "I had just a great time overall; building it, being in the parade, hearing the people clap in the parade. It was just a good feeling."

Heather Lutz, Outreach Manager at PVCC and advisor to the Ambassador Club stated, "This was the first time we've really had a group of students out representing the community in a public celebration. I hope this is just the beginning."

Continued from page 2.

Bloomington. When she arrived in Charlottesville after graduation her first job was with the Department of Student Affairs at UVa.

When the owner of the Charlottesville Skating Rink discovered that she had been a competitive figure skater he recruited her to develop and manage the rinks skating program.

The skills required to participate in competitive sports are useful to her in the job she has now.

"A trainer assesses a person's abilities and skills, and then designs a training program to strengthen and develop them. This is exactly what many employers are trying to do for their employees. The great thing about this process is that it benefits the employer and the employee," she said.

White also stressed that the resources in new facility will help the local economy. "Businesses are more likely to do their training locally to save money if the training is as good as they can get in D.C. or Richmond. This in turn will employ people locally to do the training," she said.

The programs are taught by PVCC professors, adjunct faculty and people living in the Charlottesville area that have hands on experience and expertise in a particular field. The quality of the training provided by Workforce is best described by those who have experienced it.

"Workforce Services at PVCC has assisted Albemarle County a great deal as we've become a learning organization. Their staff is very helpful and they understand the importance of customization; they work closely with me on a one-to-one basis to develop training that will address our employees' unique development needs," said Colin Winter, Organizational Development Manager for Albemarle County.

PVCC STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS OFFER OPPORTUNITIES



pvc.edu

J HATFIELD FORUM STAFF WRITER

It is PVCC's goal to educate its students and provide help to further their educations when needed. PVCC offers a variety of scholarships to help facilitate this goal. Students throughout the campus know about the aid offered by the Financial Aid office.

However, at the North Entrance, just across the carpeted walkway from President Friedman's office, is the office of the PVCC Educational Foundation and its staff director, Mary Jane King.

The Financial Aid Office lets students know about scholarships that are available from organizations outside of the school, explains King. "The scholarships I work with are those that are funded by donations to the PVCC Educational Foundation. These scholarships are applied for via the website."

"What I want students to know," said King, "is that in

January 2010, the scholarship applications will be open and students will have until March 12 to complete their applications for the 2010-2011 school year beginning next fall."

A letter of recommendation from a faculty member is required as is a personal statement of a minimum and maximum length, as well as meeting the scholarships' respective criteria. While many scholarships are general in nature, some have specific criteria such as financial need, grade point average (GPA), home schooling or disability.

Scholarships range from \$500 to \$3,000. Students must be in a program of study and have at least a 2.0 GPA to apply for scholarships. According to King who had just gotten the figures for the 2010-11 academic year, "we have 88 individual scholarships and a total of around \$113,000 to award."

King advises students to check their PVCC e-mail and the monitors in the South



pvc.edu

Mary Jane King is the staff director of the PVCC Educational Foundation and the director of Institutional Advancement and Development.

Entrance and the Bolick Student Center for details. Students can also visit pvc.edu/financial_aid for more information.

PROFESSOR MCCARTY TO PUBLISH SECOND BOOK

CHRIS RIVERS
FORUM STAFF WRITER

A man, barely past his youth, sits in his bedroom, one that he's resided in since elementary school. Syllabi for classes and guidelines for projects are scattered across his desk as he holds his head in his hands. His eyes closed, he desperately wonders just how he might finish these assignments before their respective due dates and still do even a decent job on each one.

Stress can strike at anytime, from almost any source, leaving a person feeling lost and debilitated. Often times, when a person finds themselves in such a bind, they look to others for help and guidance, in friends, mentors and books written by strangers.

While books on philosophy may be a dime a dozen, for one to reach the New York Times' extended bestseller list, such a book would have to have a great deal more substance than those merely published and forgotten by the general public. Marietta McCarty, a professor of philosophy here at PVCC, has already published one such book. She now approaches the release of her second book, entitled *How Philosophy Can Save Your Life: 10 Ideas that Matter Most*.

The title of McCarty's second book reminds prospective readers of how certain problems can seem like the end of the world. In reality, most difficulties are only temporary. McCarty focuses on 10 of the more recurring issues pertaining to philosophy that her students had inquired



pvcc.edu

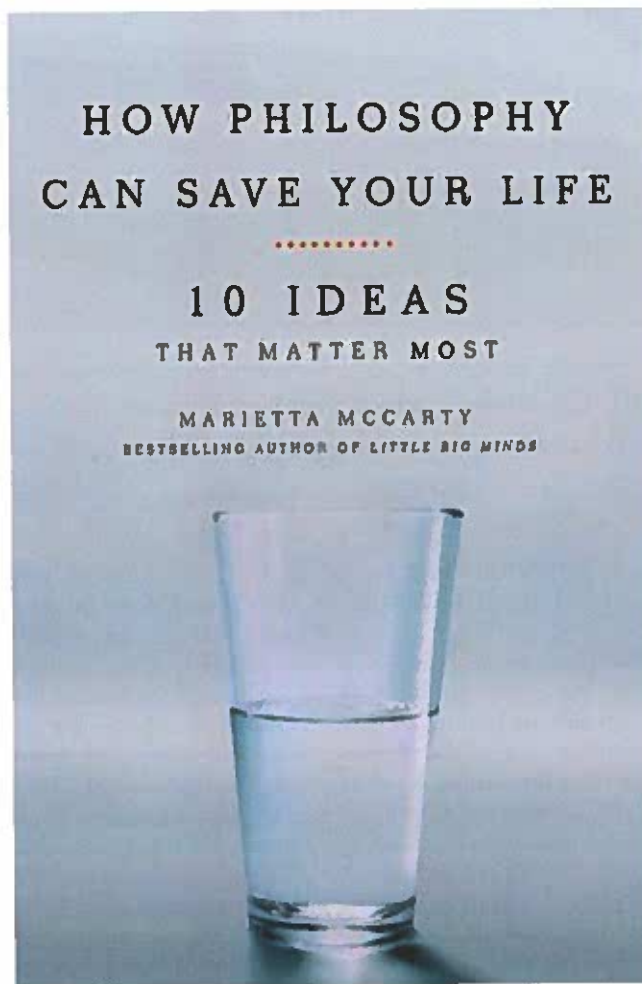
Marietta McCarthy is an ethics professor at PVCC and the author of two philosophy books.

about. "People seemed hungry to talk to me about these conversations," said McCarty. These topics include perspective, belonging, and individuality.

It was only after seeing the great success of McCarty's first book, *Little Big Minds: Sharing Philosophy with Kids*, that she considered authoring a second.

In her first book, McCarty discusses some topics that children often find difficult to comprehend, such as death and justice. The book was intended for adults to read with their children and help their kids in understanding these topics.

However, it was found that many adults merely bought the book to read themselves. McCarty stated that these adult readers "enjoyed having their own child-



amazon.co.uk

Her first book was intended for adults to read with their children and help their kids in understanding these topics. However, her second book is intended for purely adult reading.

hood philosophy reawakened."

How Philosophy Can Save Your Life: 10 Ideas That Matter Most, comes out December 10 and will be available in

the PVCC student book store. Those interested in finding out more about Marietta McCarty or her books can examine her website: www.mariettamccarty.com.

PVCC STUDENTS REACH OUT INTERNATIONALLY



heifer.org

PVCC students taking Professor Marietta McCarty's ethics class are collecting donations for Heifer International, a charity organization that allows its donors to donate livestock to people in need across the world.

PATRICK KNAUS
FORUM STAFF WRITER

As Thanksgiving break grew near not many people could have taken the spirit of the holiday more to heart than Professor Marietta McCarty's ethics students, who could be found in the main building collecting money for Heifer International.

Heifer International is a charity organization that allows its donors to donate livestock to people in need across the world. Rather than simply accepting money and spending it, Heifer International allows its donations to go right to the source.

A quick glance through the group's catalog shows a variety of options based on price range, which includes a flock of ducks for twenty dollars, and goes up to more expensive choices, such as a llama for one \$150, a water buffalo

for \$250, and a heifer for \$500.

PVCC student Ashlee Jones, who had already heard about the organization, decided to do a project on it for the class. After feeling the support from her fellow classmates, she worked with them to contact Heifer, and to organize a stand, which stood in PVCC's common area.

"I have known about Heifer International since I was little. Every year for as long as I can remember I have donated, or convinced my mother to donate," said Jones, who brought the idea of fundraising to the classes attention after it was discussed in class.

Jones likes Heifer International because of the message that she thinks they try to put out. "I think that the entire underlying message is good," she said. Heifer's slogan is "Pass on the Gift," and Jones believes that the organization does just that.



heifer.org

"Families are taught how to care for their livestock and then promise to pass the offspring to other families in the community," - Ashlee Jones

"Families are taught how to care for their livestock and then promise to pass the offspring to other families in the community," said Jones, who believes that this type of aid is good for the long term benefit of the people being helped by Heifer.

This initial drive to collect money was only the first of two planned collection

times that Jones and the class planned on collecting. Students also collected money on the week coming off of break.

Jones encourages students who missed this opportunity to go to Heifer International's website (www.heifer.org), where they can also make donations either towards a gift or for the whole thing.



taxdollars.freedomblogging.com

DURING HOLIDAYS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES BLOOM

LUKE WILSON
FORUM STAFF WRITER

The holidays can be a busy time of year; bringing to mind thoughts of shopping, family, and excellent food. If one doesn't immediately connect the holiday season with thoughts of thanks-giving and volunteerism one is not alone. After all, half of the difficulty in volunteering is knowing where to start. There are hundreds of organizations and fundraisers that compete for volunteers' interest and time.

If one has a little time and wishes to give back over the holidays, the PVCC Volunteer Club can help. The Volunteer Club has just finished their 'Hunger Symposium' and as

Sam Hewitt, secretary of the Volunteer Club said, "After all the work we put into the Hunger Symposium we got three times the food as last year!"

The PVCC volunteer club is also in mid-swing with other causes. Currently a coat drive is being organized for PVCC. The club is also concluding their efforts with Santa Matters; a fundraiser to provide presents for the children of incarcerated parents.

Sam Hewitt also mentioned how the role of giving can play in a busy life. He stated that while volunteering makes your life busier he still thinks that, "Giving is more fulfilling than receiving. And I don't think you can know that until you have experienced it."

"Giving is more fulfilling than receiving. And I don't think you can know that until you have experienced it." -Sam Hewitt

Hewitt also spoke about how a helpful attitude can positively affect those around you, who in turn can affect those around them.

In his own words, "Everyone has an impact on everyone else they come in contact with. You can make a positive or negative impact."

In the end it's truly not about the time you invest, as much as the spirit and sense of community you invest it with. Hewitt

pointed out that there are some signs that the local interest in volunteering is waning. For example, he noted that the Salvation Army now pays its bell ringers. "The spirit of community has drastically decreased from previous years. The fact that the Salvation Army is paying bell ringers for their holiday fundraising this year is just one example of this."

To contact the PVCC volunteer club e-mail theprojectmontproject@gmail.com.

DICKINSON TO HOST FOUR EVENTS IN DECEMBER

JEN TREACY
FORUM MANAGING EDITOR

December is a busy month for the Dickinson building. The first weekend of December will host Synergy, the annual program put on by PVCC dance students, and a holiday themed concert put on by the PVCC choir class. There will also be a sale by the Pottery Club and a light themed art exhibition.

Synergy will be presented on Friday and Saturday, December 4 and 5, at 7:30 p.m. in the Dickinson building. The showcase will feature tap dancing, hip hop dancing, and some structured improvisation by students enrolled in the dance degree program, which graduated its first students last spring semester.

There will also be a dance for a song performed in the choir concert called "Homeward Bound" that has been choreographed by dance student Kelly Wilson and will be sung by soloist James Tubbs. Faculty advisors Anne Megibow and Cat Maguire will also perform.

Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$8.00 for seniors and students and can be purchased at Plan 9 Music, Sidetracks, or the PVCC Box Office and Cashier's office. Student voucher tickets can also be picked up 2 hours before the shows.

December 5 is also the day of the pottery sale, which will be from 9:00 am to noon in the Dickinson commons area, and will feature pottery crafted by 30 students in PVCC's Pottery club and classes. This is the sixth annual pottery sale for the club, and the money

raised funds for local ceramics artists who give workshops for ceramics students at PVCC.

The annual PVCC Holiday Concert will be the next day, Sunday, December 6 at 3:00 p.m. There will be a variety of types of performances, including Christmas and Hanukkah music, directed by Jeffrey Suling and PVCC student Jason Sutton, a piece accompanied by violinist Marco Escobar and cellist Elise Linder, and a favorite from last year, "Homeward Bound."

Other soloists include Aynsley Sandridge and Leslie Greer. The concert is free and open to the public. The choir currently has a little over 50 members of all ages, and they are looking for new members for next semester.

They plan to perform pieces from The Sound of Music in celebration of the musical's fiftieth birthday, as well as music from Schubert's Mass in G. Anyone interested should contact choir director Jeffrey Suling at 589-3779.

More than a dozen local artists will create and display their art with the theme of Let There Be Light on Friday, December 11 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. outside the grounds of the Dickinson building. The rain date is Saturday, December 12 at the same time and place.

This is the third annual exhibition of this nature, and it is also free and open to the public. Attendees are encouraged to bring flashlights, as it will be near the Winter Solstice, the longest night of the year. There will be free hot chocolate and a dance performance as well. For more information, contact



Forum Staff

The pottery sale on December 5 will feature work from PVCC students



Jason Cooper

Beryl Solla at bsolla@pvcc.edu. For more information on any of these or other events at Dick-

Faculty advisor Cat Maguire performs an arabesque. She will perform in Synergy on Friday and Saturday, December 4 and 5, at 7:30 p.m.

inson, or if you have suggestions for next semester, contact Bill Hurd at bhurd@pvcc.edu.

NEW GENERATION OF GAMING PUTS MMORPG ON NINTENDO

ROBERT MANGIONE
FORUM MANAGING EDITOR

Online, group games are all the rage with the current generation. The most popular example is World of Warcraft, but a newer generation has delighted the fans of the genre.

Phantasy Star Zero for the Nintendo DS is a small yet portable addition to this family of online group gaming that will please die-hard fans and newbies.

The Phantasy Star series is a series of role-playing games designed and developed by Sega. Phantasy Star Online is a MMORPG (massive multi-player online role playing game) that was released for many systems including the Gamecube, Dreamcast, and Xbox. It allowed players to customize their character's appearance and specific areas of combat for their futuristic sci-fi adventure.

Being an online RPG with the same customizable elements, Phantasy Star Zero follows the trend of online gaming. Through Nintendo's Wi-Fi Connection, the game runs at a brisk pace virtually free from lag or any other delays between button inputs.

After beating each level, advanced difficulty settings appear. They offer greater chances to find more-valuable items. The increased difficulty levels ramp up at a fair pace, enough for a player to feel challenged, yet not feel completely overwhelmed every time they go to a new area.

The gameplay is easy enough to pick up, and those familiar with Online will feel right at home with Zero.



co-optimus.com

Phantasy Star Online is a MMORPG (massive multi-player online role playing game) that was released for many systems including the DS, Gamecube, Dreamcast, and Xbox.

The player wanders around in dungeons finding new equipment to upgrade one's character and get bonuses. Optional quests net additional awards and money. This allows the player to buy healing items and new equipment.

Gameplay mechanics like Mags, a mechanical guardian for characters, have also been refined since Online, making it less tedious to level and tailor their stat bonuses to the player's style. The only real change is that shortcut commands have been changed.

The helpful shortcut menu from Online has been removed. The command that once took players to a simple menu that allowed one to move around in the midst of the action now takes

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dsroms.net

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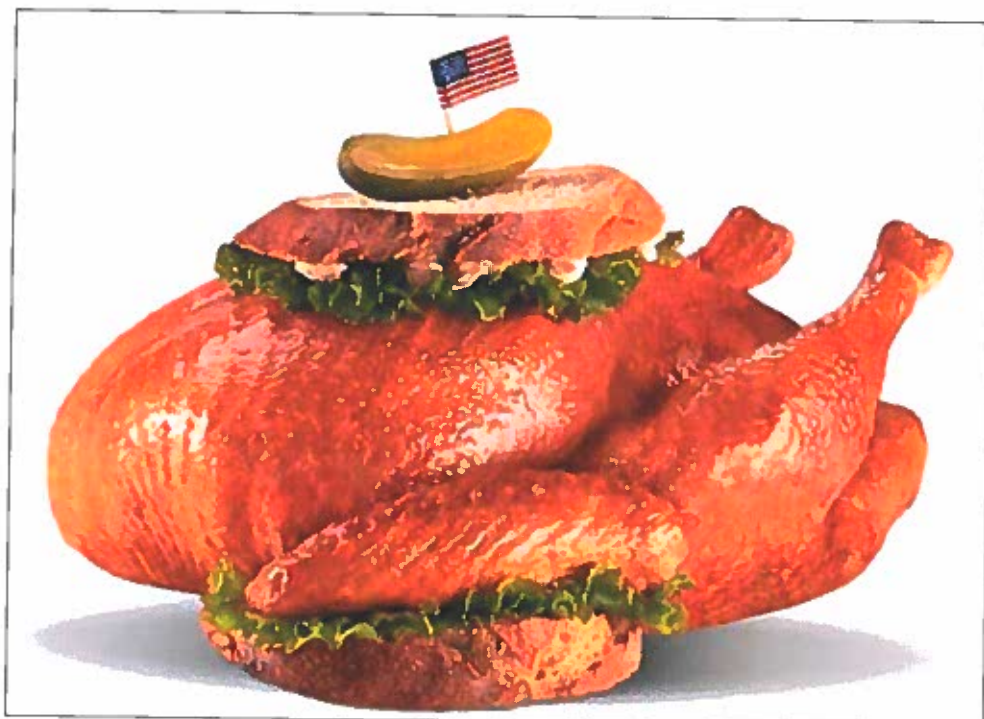
one directly to the regular menu, leaving one's character immobile and vulnerable mid-battle. Though it is faster than manually opening up the menu and selecting options, it is slow and cumbersome in solo-play with nobody to cover one's temporarily-helpless character. New players should lean to work around this gaffe to maximize their character's chances of survival.

Unfortunately, the game isn't as dynamic or varied as its predecessor. The bulk of Online's quests required players to explore new aspects that were temporarily put into familiar levels. The quests in Zero are rehashes of slogging through the same levels you've already beaten.

The only real difference is that there is some minute character interaction spattered here and there. It feels very cut-and-paste to do two missions with different descriptions, and there be no difference in terms of gameplay between the two.

Another minor annoyance is the lack of a "healing point" (HP) in town. If one's character is killed by the area's boss, it is returned with one HP. This leaves it extremely vulnerable, allowing it to be slain by the first new enemy it comes across. Additionally, the touch screen really doesn't have much of an active role outside of what can be accomplished through the menu.

Despite these annoyances, Phantasy Star Zero receives a favorable review. The online mode is well made with few connection problems, and the sheer amount of replay value is staggering. Playing online with friends only increases this factor, as difficulty increases in multi-player games, requiring more focused teamwork to survive in tough situations. Zero plays host to a modest price point of \$34.95, and is available at local Gamestop stores.



hijinx.com

TURKEY IS VERSATILE

ROBERT MANGIONE
FORUM MANAGING EDITOR

Post-Thanksgiving meals usually consist of nothing but leftovers. Eating all of it can seem like a daunting task, or even a chore. Fear not though, there are plenty of ways to get all the leftovers out without throwing any of it away.

The following ideas will help spice up these leftovers so that one will be able to work through all that leftover turkey while having something more interesting than the usual march of cold and dry turkey sandwiches that use more mayonnaise than turkey.

Stock is probably the easiest way to use leftover turkey bones and meat. Stock is broth made by boiling the carcass or bones in several cups of water over the course of a few hours.

There's no real formula for determining how much time it takes, but a good way to tell is the look at the color of the water after at least two hours, or compare the current amount to how much you originally put in.

It also helps to flavor the broth with a mix of spices and herbs, or less desirable parts of vegetables like the ends of carrots or onion skins. Dried bay leaves, salt, and whole peppercorns are also good herbs for seasoning stock. After the amount of water has been greatly reduced, strain out the remaining spices and put into a container for later use. Stock remains good almost indefinitely when frozen, so it will remain usable long after the turkey has gone away.

Turkey salads are also a viable option. Turkey chunks, chopped nuts, and sliced fruits like apples

and cranberries thrown in with a little mayonnaise create a turkey salad with a variety of tastes to appeal to different palates. For those not big on mayo, breading and frying the turkey can provide a substitute to the usual chicken for a Caesar salad.

For those who don't really care much for turkey in general but still want to get rid of it, a meat pie with a variety of meats inside can help to bring a variety of flavors to titillate the taste buds.

This is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to innovative ways to spice up leftovers from Thanksgiving.

One could always come up with their own variations on traditional dishes while substituting turkey. Just make sure to use it all up before Christmas leftovers join it in the refrigerator.

DRINKING CAN CAUSE COLLISION WITH LAW

ANNA ACREE
FORUM STAFF WRITER

This holiday season, alcohol advertisements will use almost anything to promote their products. From women in skimpy Santa outfits, to shiny sports cars with bows.

Nothing is off limits. But what they fail to show is those same shiny sports cars crashed, with their paint ripped off, their fenders smashed in, the glass shattered out and their drivers strapped into a flashing ambulance.

At the end of every alcohol advertisement is that incredibly fast-paced catch phrase: "drink responsibly." But what exactly does drinking "responsibly" entail?

Drunk driving is one of America's most fatal crimes. According to national statistics, in 2008 11,773 people died in highway crashes involving alcohol-impaired drivers. 354 of those fatalities took place in the state of Virginia.

"The fact that alcohol is still a major contributing factor to Virginia's overall traffic fatalities is a harsh reminder that we must continue to crack down on this issue," stated Attorney General Bill Mims.

During the annual holiday season the risks involved with drunk driving increase. According to Mothers Against Drunk Driving, in 2007 there were 187 automobile fatalities in Virginia during the holiday season. Out of that number, 38% involved young drunk drivers between the ages of 21-24.

"Drunk drivers put everyone's life at risk. Reducing the number of alcohol-related incidents on our roads continues to be a top priority in the Commonwealth of Virginia," said Mims.

To ensure that less drunk drivers will be roaming the roads this holiday season, Virginia police departments will be reinforcing the national crack-down slogan, Drunk Driving. Over the limit. Under arrest.

Virginia Law Enforcement will be conducting Checkpoint Strikeforce, a research-based zero-tolerance initiative designed to catch and arrest drunk drivers by means of sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols.

Last year in Virginia, there were over 1,429 sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols. These resulted in 45,558 DUI arrests, averaging out to 125 arrests per day.

This year, law enforcement plans to pull at least one sobriety checkpoint and/or saturation patrol every week through the end of 2009.

Law enforcement agencies across the state will be hitting the roads to target would-be drunk drivers. "If you take the risk, you will get caught and the consequences are severe," said Lieutenant Colonel Robert Northern, Deputy Superintendent, Virginia State Police.

But you shouldn't leave your safety on the road all up to law enforcement. "Driving safe this holiday season doesn't start with other drivers or the police, it starts with you," said local volunteer EMT Christian Glass.

"You can't stop other people



walkingthinline.com

from driving drunk, but you can keep yourself from getting behind that wheel. Drinking responsibly isn't about getting behind the wheel with only a small amount of alcohol in your system," said Glass. "Drinking responsibly is about not getting behind the wheel with any amount of alcohol in your system."

According to local law enforcement, there are several ways to ensure your safety this holiday season. If you see a drunk driver on the road, do not hesitate to contact local law enforcement. Always wear your seat belt while in a car or use a helmet and protective gear when on a motorcycle. These are your best defenses against an impaired

driver. Arrange a safe way home before the festivities begin.

Before you start drinking, designate a sober driver and leave your car keys at home, so that you are not tempted to get behind the wheel. If you are impaired, use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation so you are sure to get home safely. "Nobody should ever feel the need to drive impaired," said Lieutenant Colonel Northern.

This holiday season, when you are picking out your "party punch," pay more attention to that fast paced catch phrase at the end of every alcohol advertisement: Drink Responsibly. Think before you drink.

COLLEGE EVENTS**PVCC DANCE CONCERT**
FRIDAY, 12/4

7:30 p.m.

Ballet, improvisation, tap and modern dance are just some of the techniques presented in an evening of works choreographed by PVCC dance students and faculty. General seating. \$10 adults, \$8 seniors/students.

MARY BALDWIN INFO SESSION**TUESDAY, 12/8**

5:15 p.m.

The Mary Baldwin College Adult Degree Program located in Charlottesville at Piedmont Virginia Community College will hold an information session in the Mary Baldwin College office at PVCC in Room 300. Topics will include: full teacher licensure as well as programs leading to a bachelor's degree in Business Administration, English, History or any of more than 27 other majors offered through the Adult Degree Program. Please call 434-961-5422 or e-mail chardp@edu for more information.

COMMUNITY EVENT SAMPLER**BLUE GRASS JAM****FRIDAY, 12/11**

7:00 p.m.

Enjoy great local bluegrass music every 2nd, 4th, and 5th Friday of the month at the American Legion Building on Route 230 in historic Stanardsville. The festivities start at 7 p.m. with a featured band for the first hour of music. The music continues into the night with an open mic and jam session until 10 or 10:30 p.m.. It's only \$2 to listen and free to play, so bring your love of music and an instrument or two if you're so inclined. For more information contact David Pullen at 434-531-7889.

SCORE WORKSHOP**SATURDAY, 12/12**

9:30 a.m.

How to Write an Effective Business Plan: This workshop will present a step-by-step analysis of a business plan for a typical small business. This workshop is taught by experienced SCORE counsel-

ors and class participation is encouraged. Fee \$25. For more info, call Bob Zweig at 434-566-2363.

HOLIDAY EVENTS**A CHRISTMAS CAROL AT THE PARAMOUNT FRIDAY, 12/4**
6:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.

Charles Dicken's "A Christmas Carol" follows Ebenezer Scrooge through the course of one Christmas Eve. As the ghosts of his past, present and future reveal to him the unhappy and lonely man he has become and the fate that awaits him, he resolves to change his miserly ways. This 1951 version is considered to be the best of all the versions of Dicken's 1843 novel. Tickets are \$6.00 and \$4.00 (youth)

CHRISTMAS WITH THE CONSORT**SATURDAY, 12/5**

4:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

The Virginia Consort will hold its spectacular Christmas concert, Christmas With The Consort at the First Presbyterian Church, 500 Park Street in Charlottesville. The concert will feature familiar Christmas music accompanied by organ, brass and bells. Tickets may be purchased at Greenberrys, New Dominion Book Shop, Market Street Wine Shop (uptown and downtown), on line (www.virginiaconsort.org), or at the door, if available. For information, call 434-422-8444.

PVCC CHORUS HOLIDAY CONCERT**SUNDAY, 12/6**

3:00 p.m.

Enter into the holiday spirit with the PVCC Chorus including patriotic, folk, spiritual and holiday favorites. General seating. Free admission. No tickets required. For more information, call 434.961.5376.

CHRISTMAS AT THE HAVEN
SUNDAY, 12/6

7:00 p.m.

The New City Arts Initiative & The Thomas Jefferson Area Coalition for the Homeless is pleased to announce the 1st annual CHRISTMAS AT THE HAVEN benefit concert, featuring the Bifrost Arts Orchestra, Alex Mejias and Friends, Jared Buchanan and friends, John Bogg's Va-

den Cox, David Colwell and many more. Come and learn about the vital work that The Haven, along with Thomas Jefferson Coalition for the Homeless (TJACH) is doing for the impoverished members of our community. To learn more, visit <http://tjach.avenue.org/>. Tickets are \$15 and are available at New Dominion Booksellers - On The Mall 404 East Main St Sustain Inc - 406 W Main St Trinity.

A CHRISTMAS STORY**FRIDAY 12/4 thru****SATURDAY 12/19**

Humorist Jean Shepherd's joyous celebration of childhood. A memoir of growing up in the Midwest in the 1940's follows 9-year-old Ralphie Parker in his quest to get a genuine Red Ryder BB gun under the tree for Christmas. A Christmas Story is destined to become a theatrical holiday perennial. Ticket Prices: Adults \$15 • Seniors/Students \$12 • Children 12 & under \$10 • All Friday shows only \$5 per ticket. Visit <http://www.fourepp.org/> for show times.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New website for PVCC students to buy and sell used textbooks and books. www.pvcc.edu/used_books/

FOR SALE

WHITE MINI-FRIDGE. Contact Jennifer at 540. 907.9405.

The Forum offers classified space to the PVCC community free of charge. Please send announcements, along with your full name, e-mail, and phone number to theforum@pvcc.edu

**Happy Holidays from the
Forum Staff and
Newspaper Club.**

**THE FORUM
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