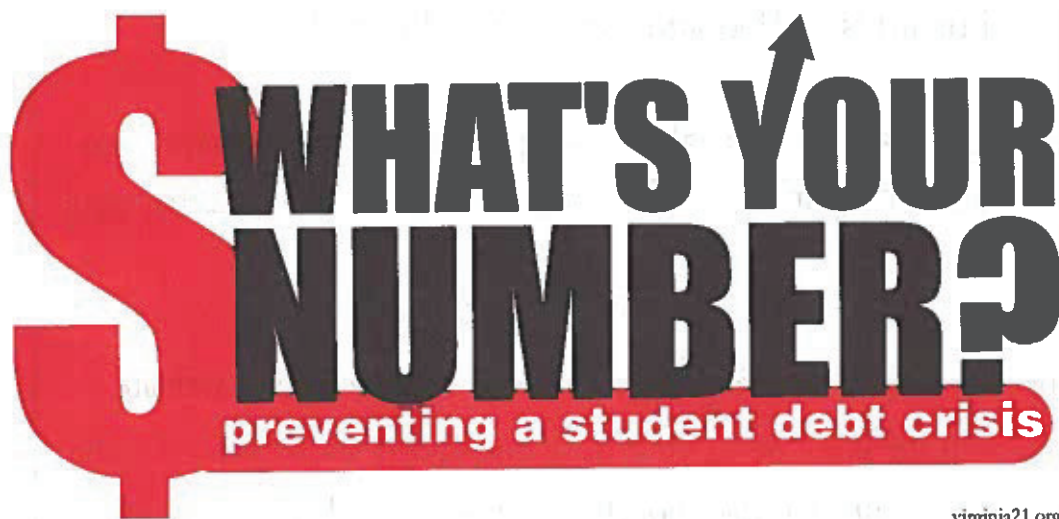


the forum

Piedmont Virginia Community College

Volume 10, Issue 2: Oct. - Nov. 2011

VA21 RAISES STUDENT DEBT AWARENESS



virginia21.org

BRIAN CARLSON
FORUM STAFF WRITER

As the economy is still struggling, many college students are finding it hard to afford school: the accumulated debt from student loans is proving to be difficult for some students to pay back as the job market has become harder to navigate during the recession.

According to a study conducted by the Institute for Higher Education Policy, only 37 percent of students who took out loans were able to repay them, in full and on time, in 2005.

In an attempt to help remedy this situation in Virginia, the political education group Virginia21 is hosting an event entitled "What's Your Number?"

The campaign is being held

on Oct. 27 at Piedmont Virginia Community College in the Bolick Student Center, and will be focused on obtaining signatures from college students for a petition to increase the state funding for financial aid.

The petition's goal is to reach 1000 signatures in support of persuading the governor and the General Assembly to help mitigate the current student debt crisis.

In addition to the collection of signatures, the "What's Your Number" event will involve a participation factor to effectively illustrate the widespread impact of student debt. Members of PVCC's Student Government Association will be present, wearing labels indicating their current debt levels.

Other attendees are invited to take part in this activity as

well, and those who do not feel comfortable displaying their actual level of debt may substitute it for something similar, such as "I work two jobs to pay for tuition" or the like.

"This is a very important issue. Almost every student, especially right now, is having trouble paying for college. So many students are graduating college with thousands of dollars in debt, which takes years to pay off. Students should not be penalized for trying to get a good education, but they are. It's crucial that all of these students get help paying for college," said President of the Student Government Association at PVCC, Charlotte Russell.

Anyone who cannot attend the event but would still like to sign the petition may do so online, at virginia21.org/whatsyournumber.

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launched website at
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the **forum** is looking for reporters!

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PVCC's The Forum is staffed and run entirely by students.

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The Forum publishes a print edition every few weeks and now includes a website devoted to daily updates with the latest news, entertainment, sports and weather for the collegiate community. Visit us online at PiedmontForum.com or find any of the blue boxes in the three buildings on campus to pick up a hard copy.

Students interested in joining the Forum as a contributing student writer, photographer or editor should contact theForum@pvcc.edu for more information.

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- Bob Shieffer*

Contact theForum@pvcc.edu for more information.

QUESTIONS FOLLOW GADDAFI'S DEATH

MADLINE CONNORS
HARVARD U.
via UWire

Muammar Gaddafi, the authoritarian leader that has defined the last 40 years of Libyan public life, was killed Thursday morning while attempting to flee his stronghold in Sirte. Gaddafi's death brings to an end a repressive era in Libyan history, but one Harvard professor says that Gaddafi's violent end may undermine the fragile seeds of democracy there.

Chibli Mallat, a visiting professor of Islamic legal studies, expressed concern for the future of Libya after Gaddafi's death. Mallat said

that the decision to kill Gaddafi was poorly informed, noting the need for closure after a 40-year dictatorship.

"I wanted him to stand trial. I'm sorry it ended in this way ... Justice would have been far better served if he had been tried rather than killed," he said.

While some international observers hoped that Gaddafi would eventually stand trial for abuses committed under his regime, his sudden death avoids a trial that would likely have become a massive public spectacle and distracted the country from other pressing concerns.

"There would have been a great fight about who would

have tried him—the courts of Libya or the International Court of Justice," said E. Roger Owen, a professor of Middle East history, who added that such a process would have shifted attention from moving forward and establishing a democracy.

Mallat said that he much prefers the peaceful tactics employed in Egypt and Tunisia to the violence that has marked the Libyan revolution. Non-violence, Mallat said, has helped lay the groundwork for democracy in Egypt and Tunisia, so Gaddafi's violent death may undermine stability in Libya.

"This precedent of non-violence created better op-

portunities for the long-term nonviolent cause ... Unfortunately, violent death doesn't bode very well for a new start in Libya," he said.

"Closure would have been far better for the democratic prospects if he had not been killed," Mallat added.

Gaddafi ruled Libya for one week short of forty-two years, but on Feb. 17, in the wave of revolutions known as the Arab Spring, protests began in Tripoli and lasted until Gaddafi's fall in August. Gaddafi fled immediately and had not been seen until Thursday morning in Sirte.

"This draws the line under a particularly nasty era in Libya," Owen said, calling Gaddafi's death a "clean break with the past."

"[Gaddafi's death] is a great boost for the Arab Revolution," Owen said, adding that tyrants still in power will feel more vulnerable after seeing Gaddafi's end.

Gaddafi was travelling in a convoy with his guards when attacked by an American drone and a French aircraft. The convoy disbanded, and Gaddafi hid in a sewer with his guards but was soon captured by the rebel soldiers and killed.

Throughout the day, photographs and videos of Gaddafi's body emerged on the internet. These graphic images displayed his bloodied body and quickly carried the news to the world that Gaddafi had been killed.

Libyans celebrated his death, taking to the streets of Tripoli, cheering and waving flags.

Madeline C. Connors is a reporter for the Harvard Crimson of Harvard U.



Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan dictator, met a bloody end at the hands of rebel forces.

PhotoXpress

PVCC SGA DISCUSSES HOT TOPICS DESPITE COLD TEMPERATURES



The PVCC SGA stops to pose for a photograph during their Wintergreen retreat this Sept.

Josh Powell

R.T. PACKARD FORUM STAFF WRITER

Despite temperatures near freezing, the Piedmont Virginia Community College Student Government Association (SGA) spent the last weekend in Sept. at the Wintergreen Resort to discuss the hot topics for the Fall semester.

The annual retreat is intended to provide the SGA with an opportunity to plan for the upcoming year and develop the sense of camaraderie essential to a smooth operation.

As usual, the main item of the agenda was to agree upon the constitution and

bring campus related issues to the table on behalf of the student body.

This year, parking, smoking shelters and professor accountability were brought up, and the SGA will be discussing these matters more in depth during their bi-monthly meetings, the first of which took place on Oct. 11 at 7 a.m.

PVCC's SGA is made up of representatives from all the clubs on campus, as well as an executive board, consisting of a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Communications Liaison and an "At-Large" Representative.

For the 2011 through 2012

school year, Charlotte Russell fills the role of President, Brendan Wynn is the Vice President, Beth Russell is the Secretary, Robert Packard is the Communications Liaison and Gina Baldi is the "At-Large" representative.

The SGA meets twice a month, on the first and third Tuesday, at 7 a.m. in the North Mall Meeting Room. These meetings are open to anyone attending or employed at Piedmont Virginia Community College, although only official members of the SGA have the right to a vote.

It should be noted that in Oct., the schedule has been

switched to the second and fourth Tuesday, but regular scheduling will resume in Nov.

Any students interested in participating in the Student Government Association should contact SGA President Charlotte Russell at car2267@email.vccs.edu.

One does not have to request permission to attend any of the SGA meetings, however, and all students are encouraged to visit and share their ideas.

A version of this article appeared online on Oct. 3, 2011 at PiedmontForum.com

STUDENTS RALLY WITH OCCUPY WALL ST., SEVERAL ARRESTED

KARLA JIMENEZ
COLUMBIA U.
via UWire

Felicia Bishop avoided arrest by a stroke of luck last weekend.

Bishop said she and her friends were walking on the pedestrian pathway of the Brooklyn Bridge on Saturday with hundreds of Occupy Wall Street marchers, protesting corporate greed, unemployment, and corrupt financial institutions. They saw police officers in the street, assumed they were leading the marchers forward, and hopped into the road—and nearly into jail—with the rest of the protesters. Moments later, the bridge was barricaded and she was told everyone on it would be arrested. As she waited, a man, who she thinks was a New York Police Department officer, unexpectedly released her and a few people nearby.

“He picked 10 and we were released and escorted off the bridge, where a good 50 officers were waiting,” Bishop said. “I guess they did that with a few other groups when they didn’t have the capacity to hold us.”

700 people were arrested that day, several of them Columbia students, in an ongoing national campaign that began three weeks ago on Wall Street, where hundreds of mostly young people have been camping out or showing up for daily demonstrations.

Justine Lyons had attended the rallies in Occupy Wall Street’s epicenter Zuccotti Park, but she said she never imagined getting arrested.

Like Bishop, she joined the march across the Brooklyn Bridge but didn’t realize that

the NYPD had told the crowd not to walk on the roadway.

“The police are saying that they gave us a warning,” Lyons said, adding that while it was given, most didn’t hear the warning to move to the pedestrian pathway. “Any reasonable person would not have expected a huge group of protesters to hear.” After being handcuffed, Lyons and other detainees were put in MTA buses for about three hours before arriving at the precinct. Lyons said she was the fifth to last person who was released, at about 3:30 a.m., almost 12 hours after she was first handcuffed.

She was charged with blocking vehicular traffic, failure to obey lawful order to move, and improper use of roadway.

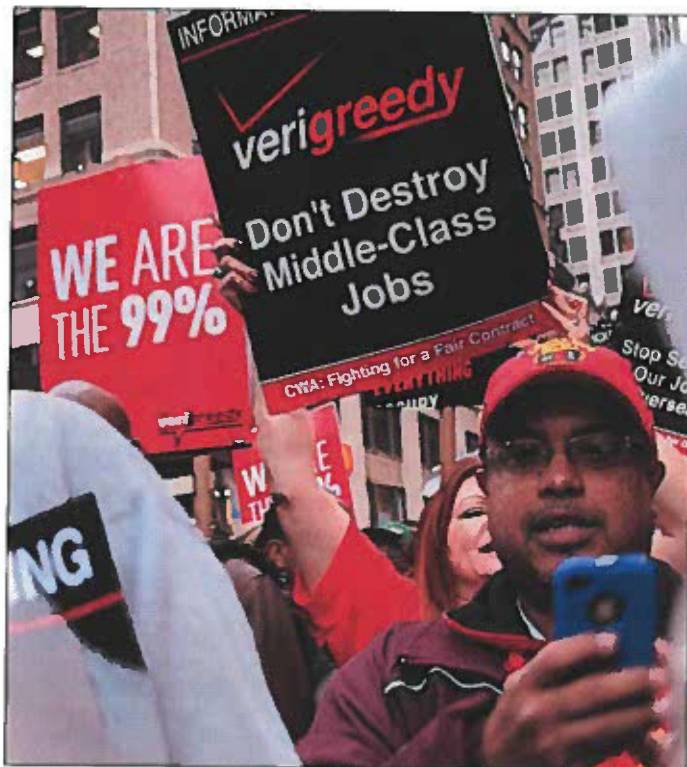
Both Lyons and Bishop said they were suspicious about the fact that JPMorgan Chase Bank recently donated 4.5 million dollars to the NYPD.

“The people that are meant to protect you, you really call that into question, you wonder where alliances lie,” Bishop said.

Some have criticized the populist campaign, that has spread to dozens of cities, as unfocused.

Thus far the protesters have relied on Facebook and Twitter for organization and, despite a myriad of grievances, they have not yet adopted a formal agenda or a list of demands.

“I don’t think that a protest is really effective. They’re looking for change in the system but simply protesting isn’t going to do it,” Layla Tavanagar said. “Maybe more concentrated efforts ... writing letters to Congress members ... They need to be a little more realistic and focused.”



The Occupy Wall St. group protests corporate greed. Sharese Ann Frederick, Flickr

But Yoni Golijov and a member of International Socialist Organization and CU Activists, said that declarations of demands had been written at the movement’s daily general assemblies, in which anyone who wishes to may speak for five minutes.

“Anyone that says it’s unclear what people are fighting for is covering their eyes and sticking their fingers in their ears,” Golijov said, explaining that it’s an anti-corporation movement demanding answers for the middle class that has bailed out big banks.

Cindy Gao and political chair of the Asian American Alliance, said initially she was more concerned about the homogeneity of the protest’s participants.

“The demographics seemed like young white peo-

ple who maybe didn’t have similar views as me,” Gao said, explaining that she felt that they didn’t think they were talking about how the economic crisis disproportionately affects people of color.

However, Gao has participated in the protest and said she was happy to see that she was able to voice her support for issues of settler colonialism and for people of color. In Zuccotti Park there is a white board where people can write about which issues should be considered.

“I’m going to make sure that there’s an Asian American presence there,” Gao said.

Karla Jimenez is a reporter for the Columbia Daily Spectator of Columbia U.

DOCUMENTARY TO FEATURE LOCAL AIR GUITAR CHAMPION



Adam "Tommy Fretless" Lee

Facebook.com/Fretless

**"LIKE" US ON
FACEBOOK**



facebook.com/PiedmontForum

**BRYAN KING
FORUM STAFF WRITER**

"World Peace" is an ambition many people desire. It is also a vague notion, and there have been many different ideas proposed to achieve it.

One film, however, has inspired a unique idea: achieving peace through rock 'n' roll music. "Air Guitar Nation" follows individuals performing rock 'n' roll without physical instruments.

Adam Lee, a local resident of Charlottesville who has been competing in air guitar competitions across the

United States since 2008, said, "The idea was if you are holding an air guitar then you can't be holding a gun, as well."

Lee goes by the stage name "Tommy Fretless,"

a double entendre, as there are no frets on an air guitar.

Lee explained, "Fretless as in free, because rock and roll keeps me worry free."

Lee first got into air guitar in 2007 after the release of the documentary "Air Guitar Nation."

The film featured the first United States contestant that competed at the World Championships in Oulu, Finland.

"My friend called me up about this crazy documentary. It is hilarious. By the time the movie was over, I made the decision to do it. I was born to do this," said Lee.

Air Guitar competitions are held in 22 countries around the world and various locations around the

United States. There are two one-minute rounds in each contest. Each competitor is graded on a 6.0 scale similar to that of figure skating competitions. They are judged on their technical merit, stage presence and, most importantly, their "airiness."

"I am doing this just as much for the other air guitarists as I am for the audience or the judges, that's my goal. That means more to me than winning. I want to go out there and make others say 'Why didn't I think of that,'" he said.

Lee has competed in competitions all over the east coast and consistently finishes in 2nd or 3rd place. In July 2011, however, he won the DC regional championship. This put him in the na-

***"I am doing this
just as much
for the other air
guitarists as I am
for the audience
or the judges,
that's my goal."
- Adam Lee***

tional competition later that month in Chicago.

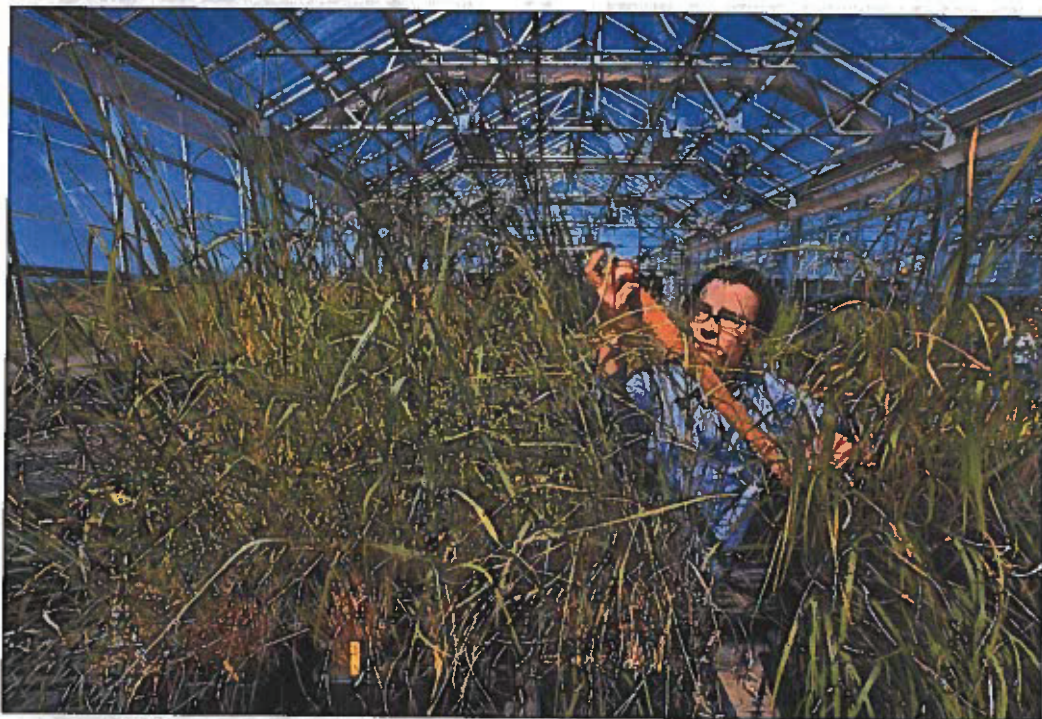
Due to an injury, however, he placed 6th at the national level. He suffered a level three sprain on his ankle one week prior during the photo shoot for his bio. He was able to put on a performance that allowed him to beat 16 other competitors.

This summer, Lee will be defending his DC title, and you can also watch his air band "Category 6."

Videos of Lee's performances are available on his Youtube, TommyFretless.

A version of this article appeared online on Oct. 14, 2011 at PiedmontForum.com

MODIFICATION OF SWITCHGRASS MAY PAVE WAY FOR EFFICIENT BIOFUEL



Switchgrass may provide the key to a more efficient biofuel.

Roy Kaltschmidt, Flickr

JAMIE APPLIGATE
U. CINCINNATI
via UWire

Research centered around a small, fast-growing type of grass may be leading the way to a more efficient and high-yield source of energy.

In a report published Oct. 10 in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, U. California-Berkeley research geneticist George Chuck, a geneticist at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Plant Gene Expression Center, and his team genetically modified switchgrass so that it produces increased amounts of starch — the product which is eventually broken down into biofuel.

By introducing a gene — *corngrass1* — from corn into switchgrass, Chuck and his team created a plant that never develops past a juvenile state

and yields more than twice the amount of starch produced by unmodified switchgrass. These traits make the modified plant easier and less costly to break down into fuel because it contains less of the organic polymer lignin, which strengthens cell walls.

While Chuck said that the finding, a result of approximately six years of experimentation, will not be applicable to biofuel production anytime soon, the research could be a step toward addressing energy issues.

"We're looking for a lot of alternatives to corn, and right now people are talking about alternatives like switchgrass," said Chuck. "I think there's going to be lots of different answers to the whole energy crisis, and this will definitely be a part of it. We could potentially solve our transportation en-

ergy problems just by growing crops like switchgrass."

Chuck added that switchgrass has come to be seen as a viable alternative to fossil fuels and corn as a source of energy because it has a much higher net energy gain than corn and uses a marginal amount of crop land.

Greg Hartgraves, senior director of research for Poet LLC, the largest corn-based ethanol producer in the United States, said that the company has begun to consider crops other than corn, including switchgrass.

"Humans have made alcohol from cellulose for thousands of years, but the challenge we face is making it economically viable in large quantities for fuel," Hartgraves said. "Anything that can increase carbohydrate content per unit of weight of biomass can have a significant

impact on the economics."

The company has begun construction on a processing facility in Iowa, scheduled to open in 2013, which will produce ethanol from sources such as corn biomass but may also work toward using switchgrass.

Although many companies and scientists say that biofuels are increasingly becoming an inevitable alternative to fossil fuels, the idea has met with criticism from other scientists.

Tadeusz Patzek, professor of petroleum and geosystems engineering at the University of Texas at Austin, said that the modified switchgrass may be more dangerous than helpful.

"Older plants need lignin for structural stiffness," Patzek said. "So the 'always young' plants, which are also huge, will lay on the ground, be stunted in growth and die ... If these modified switchgrass genes were to spread to wild grasses, the impact would be catastrophic."

However, Chuck said that the fact that the plants are fixed in a juvenile phase of development means that they never flower and thus never spread their seed.

Chuck added that using native grass like switchgrass is not new and could actually help the land it grows on.

"Native grasses such as switchgrass ... actually help preserve, or even improve cropland, compared to growing corn which causes loss of top soil and nitrogen runoff," Chuck said in an email.

Jamie Applegate is a reporter for the Daily Californian of U. California-Berkeley.

SATELLITE PVCC LOCATION IN GREENE COUNTY GETS APPROVAL

**PATRICK WISE
FORUM STAFF WRITER**

With power comes the ability to influence the community's future. Like chess players plotting the next move, powerful figures in society strategize this future.

As unemployment levels teeter at 9.1 percent, according to an Oct. 7, 2011 CNN.com post, Albemarle and surrounding counties in Virginia are devising plans to create revenue and local jobs.

Of these figures, Barbara Fried is interested in making Greene County a fertile residence for expected businesses and families in which they can reside and operate out of in the coming years. This fertility includes offering higher education in the area.

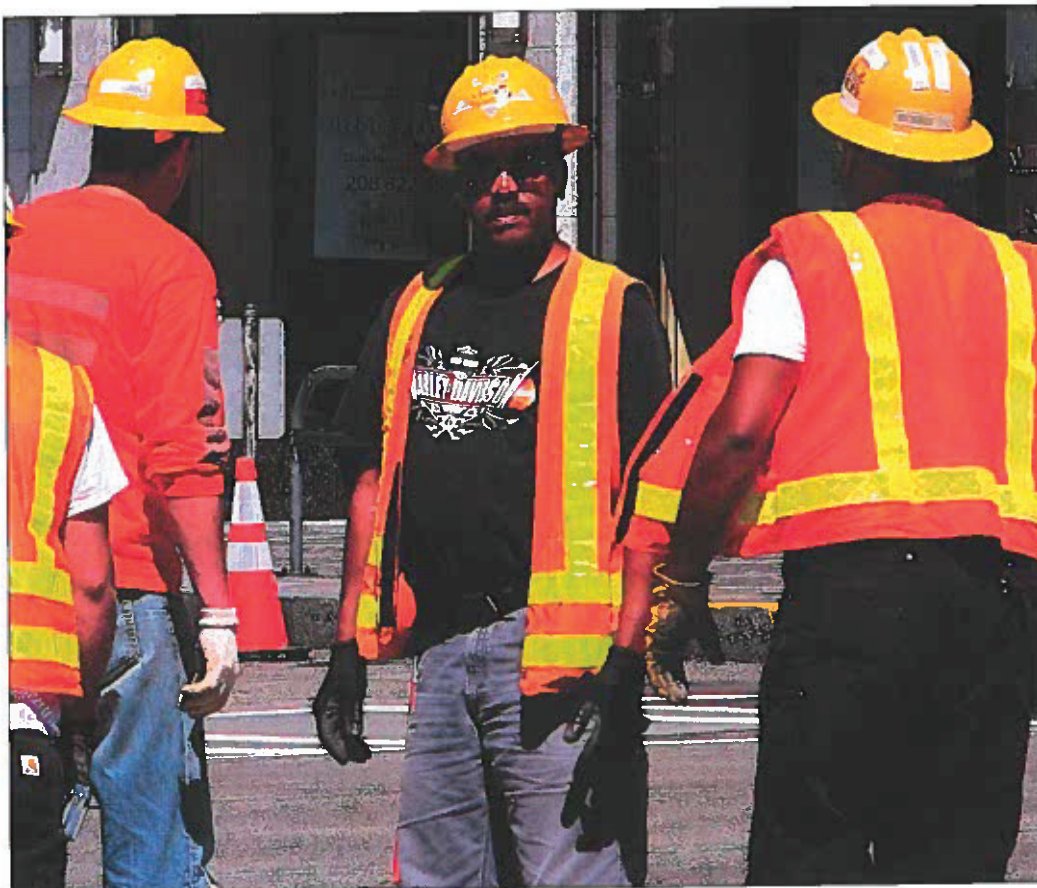
Piedmont Virginia Community College will be outfitting a satellite location on the second floor of the Greene County library at a date not yet set in stone.

Of the projected \$750,000 it will take to outfit, equip and begin operating from this location, Barbara Fried has donated \$250,000 to PVCC.

The foundation to raise money at PVCC is in many ways responsible for the college's new growth.

Mary Jane King, Director of Institutional Advancement and Development, says that the \$750,000 mark is nearly met.

King provided a little background for this foundation by saying that the college receives enough money through federal grants and state funding to operate proficiently but that in order to offer scholarships, start new programs and grow the college needs donations from other sources.



Construction can begin on the Greene County PVCC location now that it has been approved.

Patrick Moore

There was debate over PVCC moving to Greene County.

In a Feb. 2011 interview, Frank Friedman, president of PVCC, said, "NGIC and DIA

are in northern Albemarle County, it's about a 35 or 40 minute drive from DIA to here. So the center we want to open in Stanardsville is probably

20 minutes from DIA and NGIC. So we're trying to weigh will that being a little bit closer make it more conve-

nient to DIA and NGIC and make it easier for their employees to take courses from us there, or will it really matter? Will it be just as convenient for them to come here?"

***Piedmont Virginia
Community College will be
outfitting a satellite location
on the second floor of the
Greene County library at a
date not yet set in stone.***

In the end, adding a satellite location to the growing community in Greene County won the vote.

Fried Companies Inc. are constructing a Terrace Green Apartment Complex project in Ruckersville and the Rapidan Center.

Essentially catering to the defense contracting business that is booming, this project will provide jobs across the spectrum.

To benefit the economy, from business, engi-

neers, retail, maintenance and all the way to lawn care, faith is once again placed in building and developing.

VIRGINIA FILM FESTIVAL SOON TO OPEN CURTAINS IN CHARLOTTESVILLE



The Virginia Film Festival features the work of both well-known and obscure filmmakers. Virginia Film Festival, Flickr

BRIAN CARLSON FORUM STAFF WRITER

Every year, the University of Virginia's College and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences provides a great source for new and classic independent films to Charlottesville residents and cinema enthusiasts.

This Nov. marks the 24th annual Virginia Film Festival (VFF). The festival will take place from Thursday, Nov. 3 to Sunday, Nov. 6, and will feature discussions and introductions by many special guests, as well as the screening of more than 100 films.

Opening night for the VFF will feature a presentation of Alexander Payne's new film "The Descendants," starring George Clooney, followed by the Opening Night Gala to be held in the UVA Alumni Hall.

Among the other new movies to be shown over the course of the weekend are David Cronenberg's Sigmund Freud-Carl Jung biopic "A Dangerous Method," Lars von Trier's dark drama "Melancholia," the acclaimed silent French film, "The Artist" and the psychological thriller "We Need to Talk About Kevin."

Acclaimed director Oliver Stone will be presenting his Academy Award winning film "JFK," followed by a special discussion of the film with Stone and Director of the UVA

Center for Politics, Dr. Larry J. Sabato. Also set to attend the festival are comedic actress Rachael Harris and director Robbie Pickering, who will be screening their

***"I think
we have
programmed
a festival that
is exciting,
compelling and
engaging."
- Jody Kielbasa***

new comedy "Natural Selection," rising star Mia Wasikowska and director Rodrigo Garcia for a discussion of their new drama "Albert Nobbs," following a showing of the movie.

Last year proved to be the festival's

most successful year to date. "We broke an all-time attendance record, shattered the box office record and, more

than anything, really partnered with and engaged the community here with the film festival at a level that I don't think had ever been done before," said Jody Kielbasa, Director of the Virginia Film Festival. "I am looking forward to this year. I think we've done a really good job in the community and in reaching out to a number of groups. And, I think we have programmed a festival that is exciting, compelling and engaging."

For more information and tickets, visit virginiafilmfestival.org.

Tickets are also available at the UVA Box Office at the Culbreth Theatre and over the phone at 434-924-3376.

A version of this article appeared online on Oct. 20, 2011 at PiedmontForum.com

ALHAMRAA MOROCCAN RESTAURANT PROVIDES UNIQUE FOOD, MUSIC

**EDWARD PHILLIPS
FORUM STAFF WRITER**

Charlottesville is a town full of diverse food selections, yet it still has a few ethnicities underrepresented. For some proprietors, however, just adding a new option to diner's palettes is only one goal they have in mind.

Karim Sellam is the owner and operator of Charlottesville, Va.'s only traditional Moroccan restaurant, Alhamraa.

He hopes to capitalize on the spacious location and airy interior design by building a stage.

The room itself is designed to double as a music ven-

ue, though Sellam stresses, "Food is everything...it is key to start with the food."

Sellam also owns and operates the adjacent authentic Italian restaurant Al Dente.

And, the food has come first. Alhamraa, Charlottesville's only traditional Moroccan restaurant, has been serving

dishes rich with turmeric, tomato and cilantro, and boast-

ing traditional proteins like rabbit, goat and sardines.

On Thursday nights, diners are treated to belly dancing by the local troupe, Fire in the Belly Dancing Co.

At 10 p.m., the extensive Moroccan menu gives way to a lighter tapas selection, accompanied by an imaginative

martini list and live music.

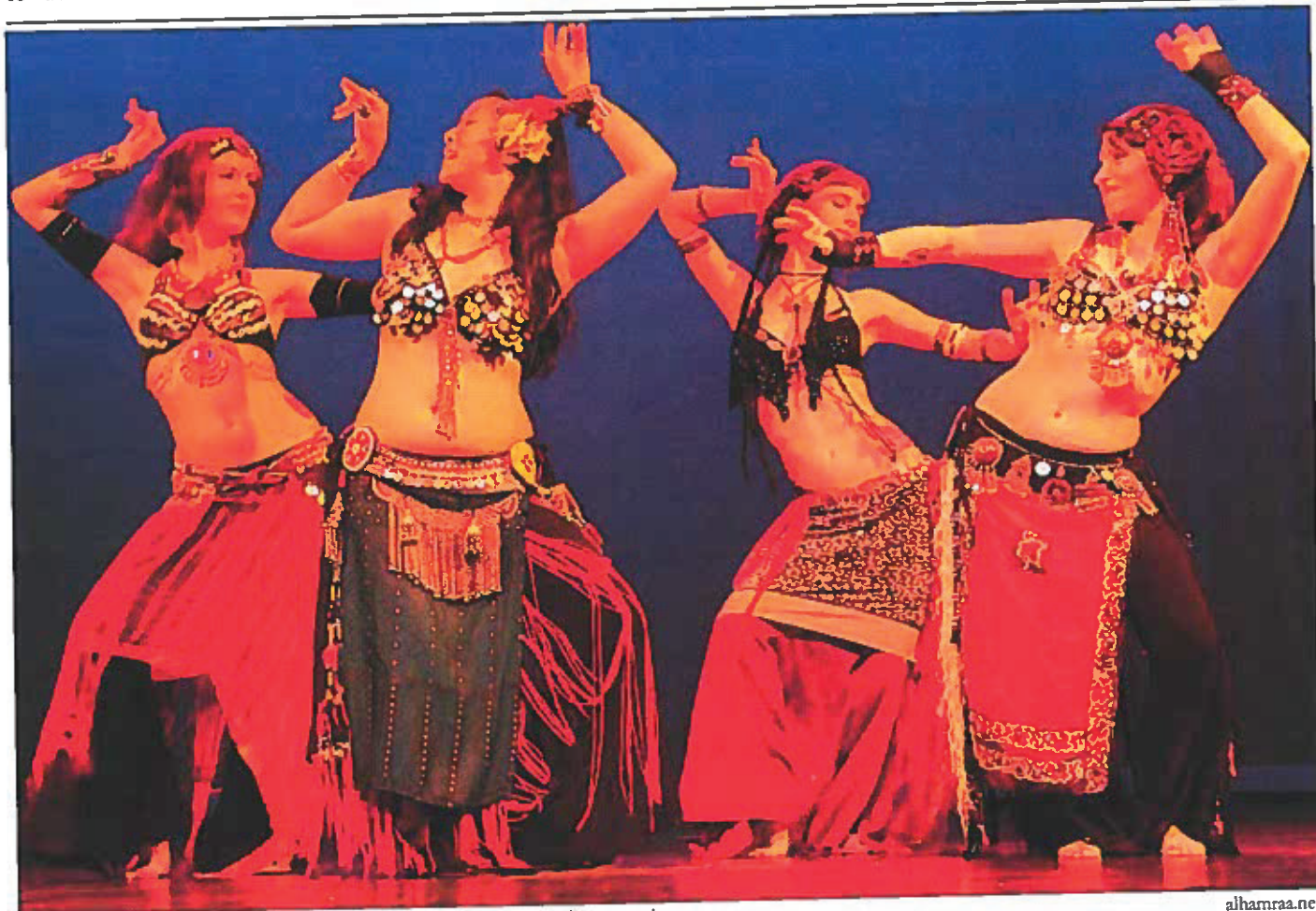
While it is not a nightly

affair, Alhamraa has featured acts such as Order and Dustin Wong. Sellam hopes to play host to more local musicians as he blends Alhamraa's traditional Moroccan culinary roots with the local music scene.

Alhamraa is located at 929 2nd St., in downtown Charlottesville and is open from 5 p.m. "until late." More information, including a menu and calendar of events, can be found on their website at alhamraa.net, or by calling 434-972-9907.

A version of this article appeared online on Oct. 4, 2011 at PiedmontForum.com

Sellam hopes to play host to more local musicians as he blends Alhamraa's traditional Moroccan culinary roots with the local music scene.

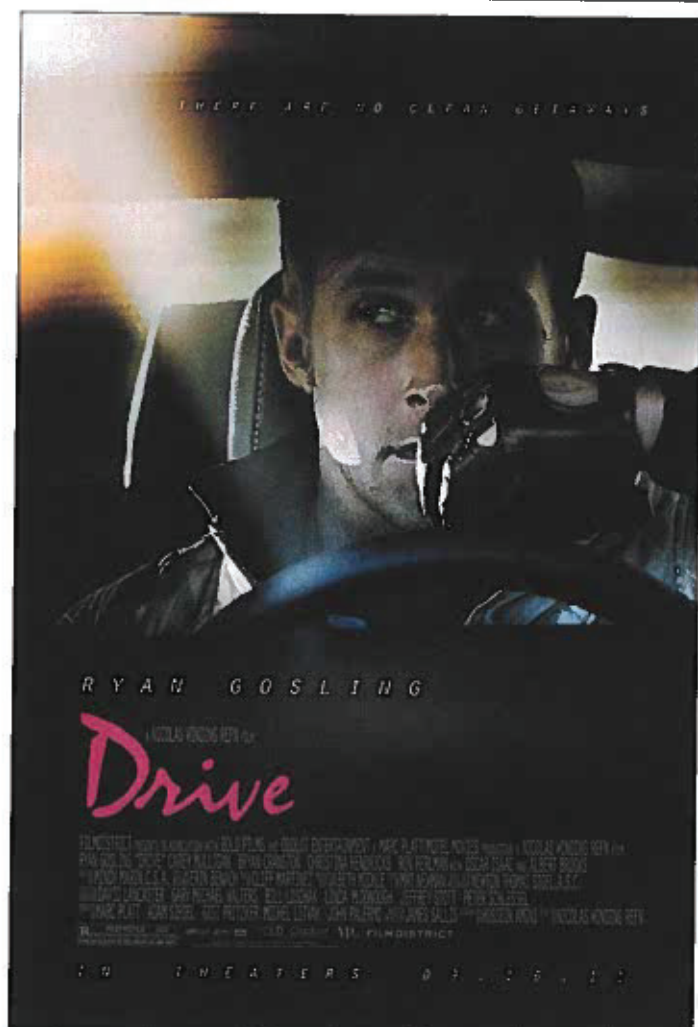


In addition to music and food, Alhamraa features bellydancing and other live entertainment.

alhamraa.net

BRIAN CARLSON
FORUM STAFF WRITER

NEW MOVIE REVIEWS



drive-movie.com

In theaters now: "Drive"

★★★★ & 1/2 out of ★★★★★

Academy Award nominee Ryan Gosling stars in "Drive" as an introverted young man known only as Driver. Driver works as a stunt driver for motion pictures and moonlights as a getaway driver. After a failed robbery, a bounty is placed on Driver's head, leaving him with no option but to fight back against those who want him dead.

The film is very much styled like a film from the 1980's, showing a lot of influence from gritty European thrillers released in that period. Danish director Nicolas Winding Refn manages to capture that feeling in a modern American movie incredibly well.

The cinematography by Newton Thomas Sigel captures the dark film noir tone with many European cinematic sensibilities in such a way that enables the film to easily be mistaken for a European noir, despite being Refn's first American production. Each shot is a careful build-up to the next; the duo of Sigel and Refn manage to bring the audience in with artful delicacy that intensifies throughout the film.

"Drive" is a film with very ambitious goals that succeeds in every way, making it the most highly-inventive "throwback" movie in years. It falls right on the line between art and entertainment.



scream-4.com

Available on home video: "Scream 4"

★★★ & 1/2 out of ★★★★★

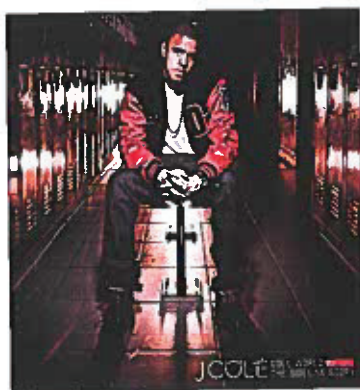
Eleven years after the third installment, director Wes Craven returns to the horror franchise that brought him success in the '90s with "Scream 4." In this film, Sidney, Dewey and Gale reunite when they find themselves back in Woodsboro, only to discover the style of murders with which they are all too familiar have returned as well, and the murderer may be targeting Sidney's cousin Jill. The body count rises as they theorize that the killer is acting in the style of a remake of the original "Scream."

This factor nicely implements the franchise's attempts to take shape as a series of mov-

ies within movies. At the same time, by having the killer's motive based on remakes of slasher films, the flick does a good job at lampooning the current state of horror in cinema. Anyone going into this film looking for more than a film that both falls prey to and remarks on the common horror clichés will most likely be left unsatisfied.

"Scream 4" is a film made for enthusiasts of the franchise and of the horror genre in general; it is formulaic, yet self-referential. Craven has made a nice complementary slasher movie that acknowledges the trend of remakes that has befallen the genre.

NEW MUSIC REVIEWS

R.T. PACKARD
FORUM STAFF WRITER

jcolemusic.com

★★★ out of
★★★★★

Album: Cole World: The Sideline Story
Artist: J. Cole
Label: Roc Nation
Released: Sept. 27, 2011
Genre: Hip Hop / Rap
Song Pick: "Lost Ones"

The street smart thug is a common image among modern rappers, and one which *magna cum laude* graduate J. Cole eschews. In his major label debut, "Cole World: The Sideline Story," Cole's signature rhythm is underscored by input from co-executive producer Jay-Z, who also owns the distributing label. As is to be expected, the move from underground to mainstream has added a conservatism to "Cole World," manifesting itself in clichéd beats and samples. Still, the revealing nature of the track's lyrics, coupled with the earnestness within Cole's rapping, comes through to make an overall engaging experience. Listeners should expect good things to come from Cole in the future.

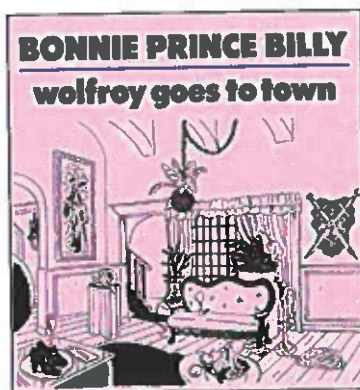


djshadow.com

★★ out of
★★★★★

Album: The Less You Know, the Better
Artist: DJ Shadow
Label: Island / Verve
Released: Sept. 27, 2011
Genre: Electronic / Trip Hop
Song Pick: "Tedium"

It is hard to discount the influence DJ Shadow has had on electronic and trip hop music, but perhaps the time has come for him to call it quits. The hype surrounding each successively more disappointing release only serves to further diminish the legend behind his beloved "Endtroducing..." album. On "The Less You Know, the Better," DJ Shadow once again attempts to reestablish himself as a competent producer and musician. And, unsurprisingly, he fails at each turn. Still, the album is not a total loss; fans can find amusement in the somewhat ironic warning embedded within the release's title: indeed, when it comes to DJ Shadow's latest effort, the less one knows really is better.



dragcity.com

★★★★ out of
★★★★★

Album: Wolfroy Goes to Town
Artist: Bonnie "Prince" Billy
Label: Drag City
Released: Oct. 4, 2011
Genre: Americana / Country
Song Pick: "New Tibet"

Will Oldham goes by many names, but most listeners probably know him as Bonnie "Prince" Billy. Since 1998, Oldham has recorded under this pseudonym and with each release, he has furthered the mythos of this character. On "Wolfroy Goes To Town," Oldham does not try to recreate the wheel by experimenting with a new sound, yet at the same time he comes across refined rather than repetitive. The focus here, as always, is on the vocals, which carry with them a sense of longing and a haunting esoteric beauty. While this is certainly not the record one would want to choose at a party, listeners who enjoy a quiet, contemplative relationship with their albums will be greatly pleased.

R.T. PACKARD
FORUM STAFF WRITER

NEW MUSIC REVIEWS

Album: All Things Will Unwind
Artist: My Brightest Diamond
Label: Asthmatic Kitty
Released: Oct. 18, 2011
Genre: Alternative / Indie
Song Pick: "Be Brave"

The indie songstress and multi-instrumentalist Shara Worden is both the creative energy and driving voice behind My Brightest Diamond, a unique group with such diverse influences as rock, folk, opera, cabaret and classical music. Like Joanna Newsom or Annie Clark, Worden is best known for her ethereal vocals and primarily atmospheric composition. On "All Things Will Unwind," My Brightest Diamond's first release in three years, she returns with a formidable collection of songs spanning the emotional spectrum. For all her accomplishments, however, Worden still lacks the focus or precision of her peers, though this release proves there is no doubt she will soon develop these qualities.

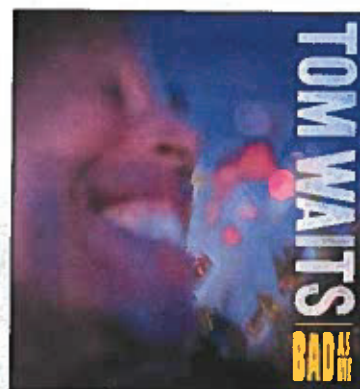


ilovestvincent.com

★★★ & 1/2
out of ★★★★★

Album: Bad As Me
Artist: Tom Waits
Label: Anti-
Released: Oct. 25, 2011
Genre: Rock / Blues
Song Pick: "Satisfied"

Tom Waits, the gravelly-voiced god of modern beatniks, returns with his first album of new material in seven years. Fans of Waits, however, have not been left high and dry; in 2006, "Orphans: Brawlers, Bawlers & Bastards," a collection of b-sides and rarities, was released, and 2009 saw a live album, "Glitter & Doom." With "Bad As Me," Waits hones in on the blues-driven sound at which he has slowly been hinting for years. Further, with the help of his wife and long-time collaborator, Kathleen Brennan, the raucous singer-songwriter has focused each track on the album to around three minutes. As with each new album, Waits's listeners will find their patience well rewarded by his latest collection.



tomwaits.com

★★★★★ out
of ★★★★★

Local Concert Sampler

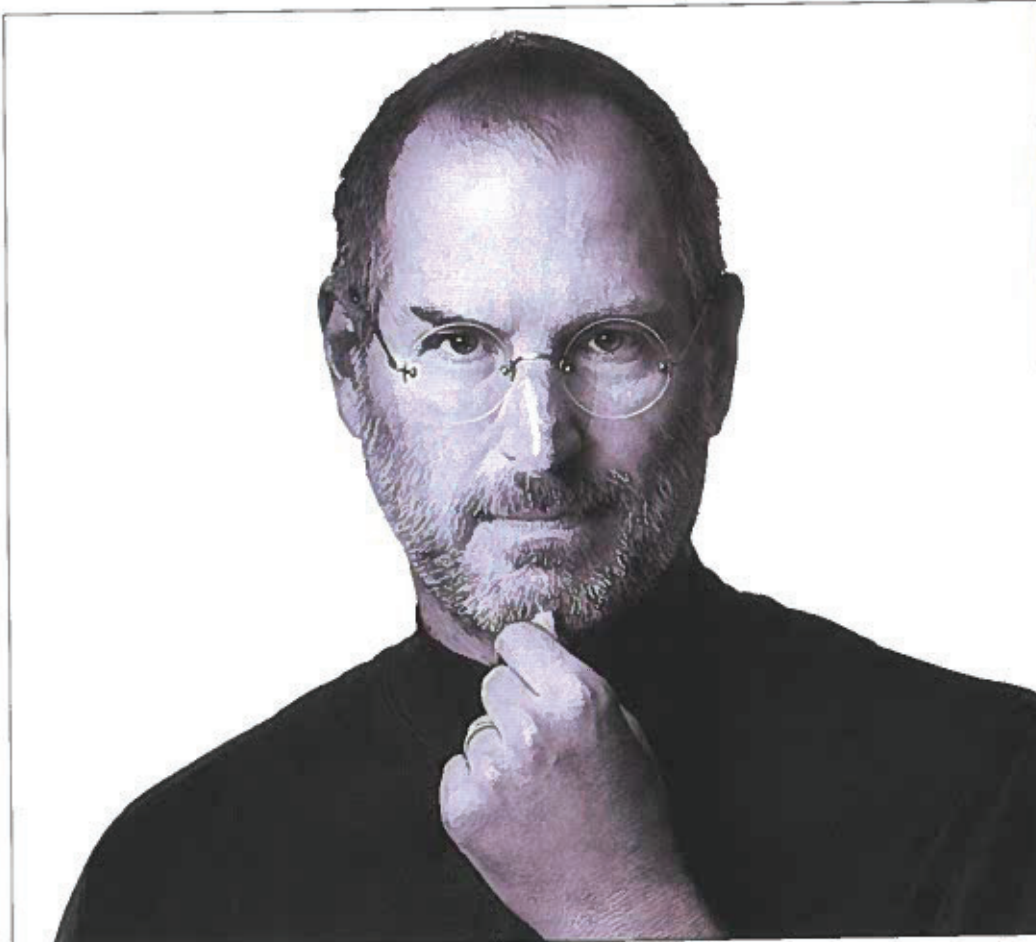
Wednesday, Oct. 26 - Portugal. the Man, Alberta Cross at the Jefferson (\$15 advance/\$17 at door)

Friday, Oct. 28 - Halloween show, with Astronomers as Smashing Pumpkins, Corsair as Thin Lizzy, Invisible Hand as the Beastie Boys, Sometime Favorites as the Killers, Borrowed Beams of Light as the Clash, Hunter Smith and the Dead Men as Bruce Springsteen at the Southern (\$10)

Saturday, Oct. 29 - Halloween show, with Kings of Belmont as Pink Floyd, PantherBurn as Violent Femmes, Eli Cook Band as Nirvana, Sinclarity as U2, a local Soundgarden cover band as Tool, Evil Eye as Fu Manchu at the Southern (\$10)

Sunday, Oct. 30 - St. Vincent at Jefferson (\$15 advance/\$18 at door)

REMEMBERING STEVE JOBS, INNOVATOR, FOUNDER OF APPLE



Steve Jobs helped make the iPod and the iPhone household names.

apple.com

R.T. PACKARD
FORUM STAFF WRITER

Late in the night on Wednesday, Oct. 5, my iPhone started buzzing furiously on my desk. I took my eyes off my iMac and looked at the smaller Apple device now showing over a dozen new messages; the news I saw came so hard and swift that for a moment I contemplated whether I would have preferred a literal blow. Steve Jobs had died.

The 56 year old founder

and former CEO of technology giant Apple had long battled with pancreatic cancer and many rumors were passed around regarding the state of his health. Still, no one in the general public

"The people who are crazy enough to think that they can change the world, are the ones who do." - Steve Jobs

quite expected Jobs to pass away so soon, especially this close to Tuesday's announcement of the iPhone 4S.

Mere moments after the ini-

tial press statement from Apple was released, Twitter and Facebook were afire with kind words and mourning for this loss. Besides being the brains behind Apple's now legendary iDevices, including the iPod, iPhone and iPad, Jobs was a philanthropist and public speaker who touched many lives with his insight and willingness to think outside the box.

For the Forum, Jobs' passing is more than just a newsworthy topic. For the past

three semesters, layout and editing for the print editions has been performed on an iMac. The website, piedmontforum.com, was designed and has since been updated from an iMac, as well as through the mobile browser on an iPad. These computers have been an infinitely valuable asset in the creation of what the Forum has become in recent years, and it is because of Jobs' ingenuity and inspiration that they were invented.

Trying to summarize the life Jobs lived in a short article is near impossible. His impact reaches into so many different territories and fields, that the sheer volume of material could fill multiple books.

Perhaps the most fitting tribute to the man who inspired the world to "Think Different" would be a quote he used in the first commercial after his 1997 return to Apple, a quote which sums up his life just as well as the image he made synonymous with his inventions: "Here's to the crazy ones, the misfits, the rebels, the troublemakers, the round pegs in the square holes ... the ones who see things differently — they're not fond of rules, and they have no respect for the status quo. ... You can quote them, disagree with them, glorify or vilify them, but the only thing you can't do is ignore them because they change things. ... They push the human race forward, and while some may see them as the crazy ones, we see genius, because the people who are crazy enough to think that they can change the world, are the ones who do."

A version of this article appeared online on Oct. 6, 2011 at PiedmontForum.com

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IMPORTANT COLLEGE DATES AND EVENTS

What: Virginia21 "What's Your Number?" Campaign

When: Oct. 27

Where: Bolick Student Center

What: Free Movie Friday: "The Help"

When: Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m.

Where: Dickinson Building

What: Last day to withdraw without grade penalty

When: Oct. 29

What: Free Movie Friday: "The Future"

When: Nov. 18, 7:30 p.m.

Where: Dickinson Building

What: Thanksgiving Break

When: Nov. 23 - Nov. 27

Where: Not at PVCC

What: PVCC Chorus Holiday Concert

When: Dec. 4, 3 p.m.

Where: Dickinson Building

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CLASSIFIEDS

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Wine Tasting Benefit Tuesday Oct. 25 5:30 p.m.

Wine Made Simple is hosting a fundraiser to benefit FOCUS Women's Resource Center on Tuesday, Oct. 25 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. The evening will include samplings of women-inspired wines, appetizers, dessert, music and a silent auction consisting of a bottle of Blenheim wine signed by Dave Matthews. This is sure to be a welcoming and uplifting evening for wine lovers and supporters of women's issues. Get your tickets in advance or pay extra at the door. For ticket inquiries or more information, call Wine Made Simple at 434-296-9463 or FOCUS at 434-293-2222. Additional details can be found at focus.avenue.org.

Benefit Walk Saturday Oct. 29 9 a.m.

Our Community Place in Harrisonburg invites you to "walk the walk" with them on Saturday, Oct. 29, beginning at 9 a.m. This "fun-raising" walk is a way for the community to join in helping OCP make the Harrisonburg area better for everyone. Walk a 10K or walk 10 blocks through beautiful and noteworthy areas of town. Complimentary breakfast and lunch will be offered, as well as T-shirts for all participants. To register, go online to ourcommunityplace.org/walk or go in person to OCP at 17 East Johnson St. in Harrisonburg. Participants are asked to find ten sponsors each to give \$10 and the proceeds will benefit OCP. Our Community Place is a non-profit organization making a place for those who have nowhere else to go. For more information,

see ourcommunityplace.org or call 540-442-7727.

Augusta County Haunted Barn Benefit Saturday Oct. 28 7 p.m.

Just in time for Halloween fun, the Augusta County Haunted Barn is going to open to visitors Friday and Saturday, Oct. 28 and 29 from 7 to 10:30 p.m. It's free, but donations to benefit St. Jude Children's Hospital will be accepted. To get to the Haunted Barn, follow the signs from Route 250 in Fishersville or Route 254 in Staunton. The Barn is located at 221 Miller Road in Waynesboro.

Exercise Dance Benefit Friday, Nov. 4 6 p.m.

Fans and first-timers alike of Zumba exercise dance, America's latest fitness craze, will gather together on Friday, Nov. 4, to move, shake and have loads of fun, all while helping to support medical care for diabetics at the Orange County Free Clinic. Designed for all fitness levels and ages, the Zumba event will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Orange County School of Performing Arts. To purchase tickets or get more information, please call 540-672-3530 or email ocfc@verizon.net.

WTJU Fall Feast Benefit Sunday, Nov. 6 6 p.m.

WTJU's Fall Feast is on Sunday, Nov. 6 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Timberwood Grill, 3311 Worth Crossing, off of Rt. 29 North next to Forest Lakes. Join WTJU for a wonderfully convivial evening with your favorite WTJU on air personalities, as the Rick Olivarez Trio delights and entertains. We'll be serving a superb meal with beverages courtesy of White Hall Vineyards and the Timberwood Grill. Entree options include

Filet Mignon, Crab Stuffed Tilapia, Chicken Au Poivre, and Wild Mushroom Ravioli with pesto. Tickets to the benefit dinner are \$75 apiece (\$150 per couple). Visit wtju.net or call the studio at 434-924-0885 for more information or to purchase tickets.

Social Justice Bowl VIII Friday, Nov. 18 6 p.m.

Help Virginia Organizing tackle injustice as it holds its Social Justice Bowl VIII on Friday, Nov. 18, at 6 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church on Rugby Road. Come by for a soup and bread supper and take home your soup bowl, handcrafted by a local potter. Tickets must be purchased in advance and are available at the Virginia Organizing office at 703 Concord Avenue. Or purchase your tickets by calling 984-4655, ext. 229. Virginia Organizing is dedicated to challenging injustice by organizing people in local communities to address issues that affect the quality of their lives.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The PVCC Student Government Association will be meeting on the first and third Tuesday of Nov. at 7 a.m. Students interested in attending should email SGA president Charlotte Russel at car2267@email.vccs.edu.

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

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