

the forum

Piedmont Virginia Community College

Volume 9, Issue 9: March 28 - April 15, 2011

ROBERT HURT TO SPEAK AT PVCC GRADUATION



Robert Hurt

hurt.house.gov

BRYAN KING
FORUM STAFF WRITER

On May 13, Representative Robert Hurt will be the guest speaker at PVCC's 38th annual graduation. The ceremony will start at 6 p.m. and is open to the public.

Robert Hurt is the representative for Virginia's 5th Congressional District, which extends from Charlottesville to the south side of Virginia and west to Bedford and Franklin Counties.

Hurt was raised in Chatham Virginia and attended Hargrave Military Academy.

He received his Bachelor's Degree in English from Hampden-Sydney College and then went on to earn a law degree from Mississippi College School of Law.

After law school, Hurt worked as a Commonwealth attorney for Pittsylvania County from 1996 to 1999.

He joined the general practice law firm of H. Victor Millner, Jr. in Chatham

in 1999 and completed the Sorenson Institute political leader program in 2000. Hurt was first elected to office as a member of Chatham's Town Council from 2000 to 2001.

He then served three terms with the Virginia House of Delegates, from 2002 to 2007, after which he was elected as a representative of the 19th District for the Virginia Senate beginning in 2008, until his election to the 5th Con-

See "Hurt" on page 2.

ECONOMY FORCES TUITION CHANGES AT MANY COLLEGES

HANNAH MAHAFFEY
FORUM STAFF WRITER

College students nationwide pinch pennies as a result of the financial recession and top-dollar demands of higher education. Not only are students effected by the dearth of funds, but colleges are beginning to change admissions policies in order to survive the strain.

According to Hanqing Chen, writer for the Washington Square News of NYU, "The Wall Street Journal reported last month that many colleges facing financial trouble are coping by creating more

need-aware admissions policies. Larger private universities like Yale and Stanford have readjusted their financial algorithms to get wealthier families (incomes of \$120 thousand to \$140 thousand) to pay a larger percentage of the tuition out of their own pockets. Some smaller liberal arts colleges are employing a need-blind policy during the first round of the admissions process. In subsequent rounds, they begin to consider financial need."

Alex Lamb, Virginia Tech freshman said, "Well, it is sort of a business. I mean, financially speaking, colleges need

to be able to stay running- think about all the expenses they face: materials, electricity, food, maintenance, among other things. Is it fair that state schools accept more out of state students solely for the fact that they get more in tuition from them? No, it's not, especially if they're basing their admission decisions on that and not merit... but nothing in life is fair."

University of Virginia student, Katherine Bachman said, "If you look at how society is changing, for one to have a job that will support a family they need to have a col-

lege education, and sometimes those four years aren't even enough. People all over the world come to American colleges and universities because of our education system, and for schools to eliminate applicants based on their parent's financial status is ridiculous."

Piedmont students may have less to worry about, considering community colleges admit a large variety of students no matter their financial status.

Whether this will lead to an increase in community college enrollment as students face higher education costs remains to be seen.

ADMISSIONS & ADVISING CENTER HELPS NEW, RETURNING STUDENTS

BRIAN ROBERTS
FORUM STAFF WRITER

Every student at PVCC was new at some point. The process of enrolling in the college can be quite an endeavor. What to study, which classes to take and where to get financial aid are all questions that need answers.

For those just beginning this process there is help available at the Admissions and Advising Center.

Located in room 144, just through the South entrance, the Admissions and Advising Center is the first point of contact for every prospective student, though returning students may find the services offered valuable as well.

Returning students may notice that the center has

changed, as some of the services offered have been moved to different areas of the building, while others have been brought to the center to provide a centralized location.

The center is comprised of four full-time staff advisors, two full-time and one part-time administrative assistants, as well as the Dean of Student Services, Mary Lee Walsh.

A rotating schedule of 60 full-time teaching faculty are also available to help with student questions.

The Coordinator of Admissions and Transfer, Kemper Steele, said, "We help students get into the correct major with the right classes, give general advice such as time management, transfer advising for students interested in going onto four year

institutions and even help with the FAFSA. The best part about it is that the services that we have always been providing are now in one location, which really benefits the students."

In addition to the services described by Steele, their website states, "The Admissions & Advising Center staff can explain the admissions and registration process at the College, refer you to appropriate resources, process graduation applications, assist Veterans with benefits, determine residency status and process transcript requests. They also can arrange for you to tour the campus. The Admissions & Advising Center also maintains student records and is ready to assist you with any questions during your

tenure as a student at PVCC."

Beyond the change in centralized services offered at the center, the hours have also been modified from previous semesters.

Steele said "We just extended the hours on Monday nights to better serve our evening student population. We really want to recognize that we have different student populations and we want to provide the same level of service to all of them."

The center's hours are Monday from 8 a.m. through 7 p.m., Tuesday from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

For more information about the center or to set up an appointment, call 434-961-6551 or visit their website at pvcc.edu/admissions.

HURT

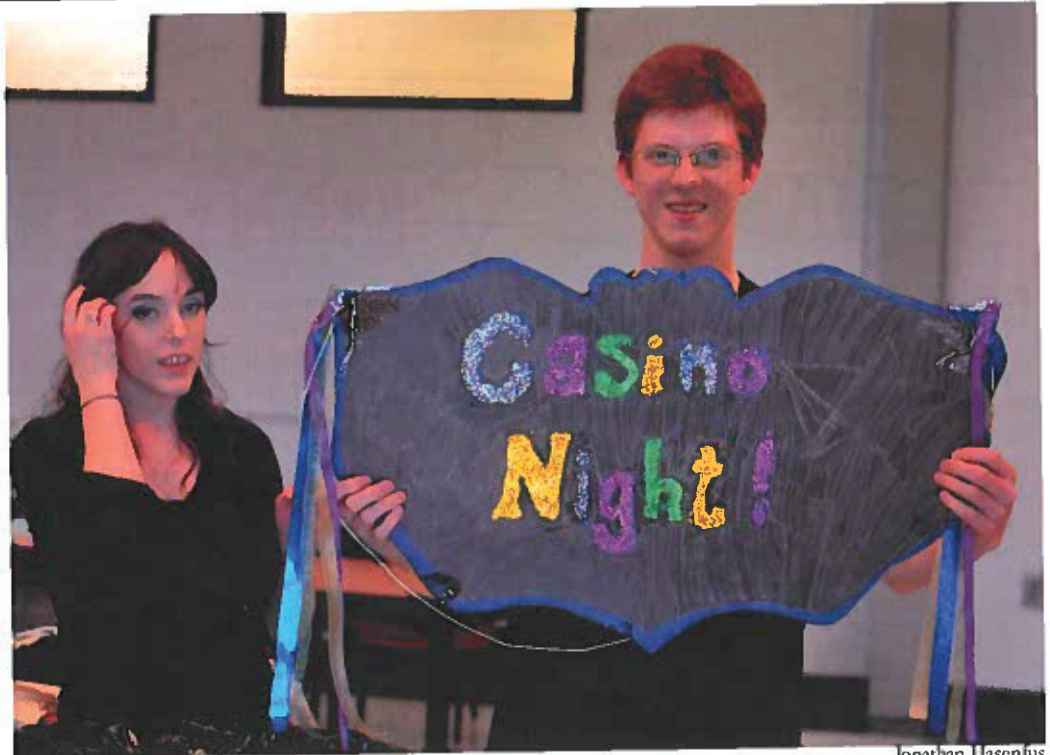
Continued from page 1.

gressional District in 2010.

In 2008, Hurt also opened his own law practice in Chatham, Va.

This will be the second time in eight months that Hurt has visited PVCC, having participated in a debate with Tom Perriello back in October.

Hurt currently is a Member of the Board of the New College Institute, the Virginia Bar Association's Board of Governors, the Hampden-Sydney Wilson Center Advisory Board, the John Marshall Foundation Board and the Board of Directors of Roman Eagles Nursing Home. Hurt presently resides in Chatham with his wife and three sons.



Jonathan Hlasenfus

Laryssa Coogan and Billy Saulle preparing for PVCC's Masquerade Casino Night on March 25, 2011.
Find more photos from Casino Night on page 7.

PVCC FITNESS CENTER EXPANDS, ADDS EQUIPMENT

BRANDON ESTES
FORUM STAFF WRITER

With the expansion and new equipment that has been provided, usage has increased and fitness is a hot topic. No matter how one desires to exercise, PVCC's new and improved fitness center can help.

"The fitness center allows one to work on selector zed machines for weight training as well as free weights," said Assistant Professor of Physical Education, Steve McNerney. "The weight room is spacious and most user friendly. The newest purchase is a Functional Trainer, which allows the user to work every body part simply by sliding the pulleys into various positions. The cardio room is also magnificent as it houses a step mill, stair master, cross trainers, adaptive motion trainers and six treadmills, recumbent bikes and spinners."

Students are happy with the improvements and are thrilled to have this new space to do their work-out. "The [fitness center] is now this big room with lots of awesome machines to help you work-out," said PVCC student Eddie Harrison. "The elliptical machines

are the best in my opinion."

Another Piedmont student, Jessica Nelms said, "I am more inclined to use the fitness center...I think the added space is the best improvement. Before, the room was so small and there were about 30 people in a classroom and it was just too cramped."

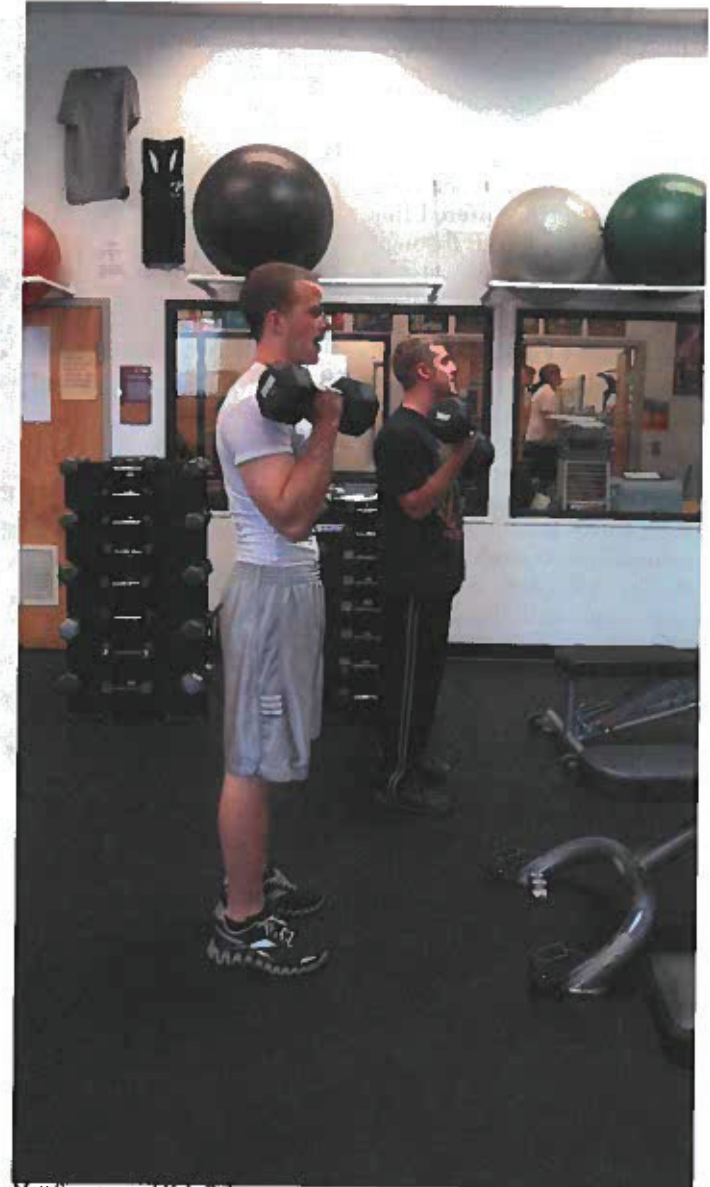
"I think the added space is the best improvement. Before, the room was so small and there were about 30 people in a classroom and it was just too cramped."

-Jessica Nelms

sanity' work-out videos. Those who sign up can... get a great work-out without having to purchase it."

According to Vice President of Academic Affairs, John Donnelly, "We were pleased to be able to expand the fitness center to meet the needs of our students, faculty and staff. We heard loud and clear from

PVCC's new and improved fitness center is getting many more participants and along with the expanded space, expanded workout classes. The right to use the fitness center is included in a student's activity fees, and "users need to sign a waiver and sign in when they come [to the center]. They have a list of hours posted and a flyer [for hours] that they can pick up," said Instructor of Physical Education, BJ Santos. "Steve even has videos like the 'P90X' and the 'In-



Matt Simpson and Kyle Roberts

Brandon Estes

students that the previous space was too small for the number of individuals wanting to use it. With the new space, we are able to accommodate those who want to exercise individually as well as providing separate space for physical education classes. Initial feedback from students, faculty and staff has been positive. The new fitness center provides

a new, expanded and dynamic exercise environment for the PVCC community."

Those who wish to participate in the usage of this facility can stop by room 173 in the main building and fill out the needed forms. For hours and more information, contact Steve McNerney at smcnerney@pvcc.edu or visit pvcc.edu/student_life/fitness_sports.php.

PVCC VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR SUMMER ACADEMIES

LAUREN BERG
FORUM STAFF WRITER

"CSI Charlottesville," "TV Production," "Saving Lives" and "Game Design" are just a small number of week-long academies being offered this year at PVCC to 6th through 10th grade students at the Summer Career Academies.

The day camp program was started for rising middle and high school students by the Piedmont Futures department from Workforce Services.

Piedmont Futures will hire four PVCC students as camp counselors to work all seven weeks of the academies, and one additional counselor to work selected weeks throughout the summer.

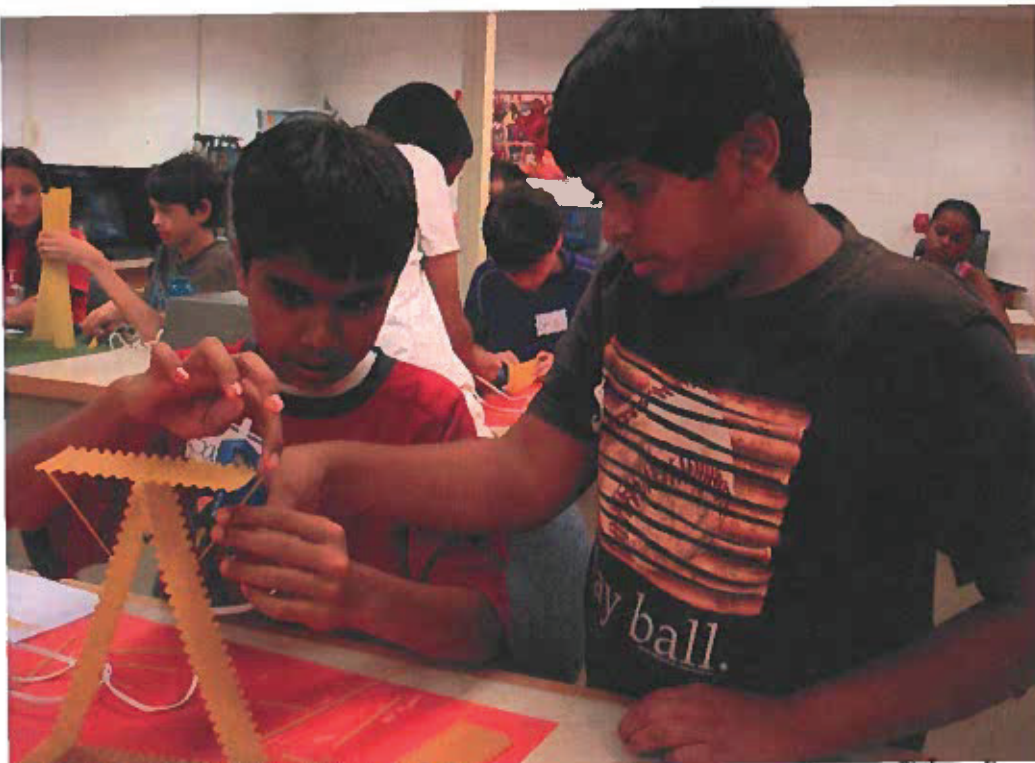
Erin Hughey-Commers, program coordinator of Piedmont Futures, said, "Camp counselors help students have fun while maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment."

PVCC students interested in working as counselors will act as assistants for the instructors on field trips and will lead recreation time, such as basketball and other games.

According to Hughey-Commers, these students should be "creative, enthusiastic, and able to work well with young people in addition to being reliable, trustworthy, and hard-working."

The camp is looking for college students to work from noon until 5 p.m. She said, "This is a great opportunity for someone who is interested in working in education or with kids in the future."

PVCC student Emily Traylor worked as a camp counselor during last year's academies. She said, "The best



Students playing during 2010's Summer Career Academies

Piedmont Futures

thing about working with the kids was seeing them get into the various activities and really having fun learning... [and] it was really neat to get to know each child and help encourage them along in their academic interests."

Traylor worked with an astronomy academy, making telescopes and visiting Monticello and a local observatory with the students.

"The time the counselors invest in the kids truly makes a difference for them, and it's a pretty cool experience for the counselors too," Traylor continued.

Each academy will be five days long, from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. The first part of each day, until about noon, is spent in a classroom.

Students work with PVCC instructors and guest speakers to participate in hands-on, project-based learning.

In the Biology Experiments: Mad Scientist academy, middle and high school students will conduct experiments, such as extracting DNA from strawberries and working with bluegill fish to see if they prefer large or small prey.

The remainder of the afternoon, from about 1 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. will be designated for field trips to UVA and area businesses, to allow the students a chance to see how their interests can be applied to careers in the local community.

Students who participate in the "You "Look MAHVALOUS!" academy will have the chance to see a design business and a theater department.

Registration for all camps is on a first come, first serve basis until all the sessions are full.

Last year, the camp hosted 195 middle and high school students in the academies.

This year, Hughey-Commers said they hope to see at least 450 students participating in the camp.

Each academy costs \$225, and the Career Academies has partnered with the Great Expectations program for foster youth to offer \$200 scholarships.

According to Hughey-Commers, "A committee from the Central Virginia Career Pathways Consortium selects students based on financial need and their written responses to three questions on the application form."

For more information about applying for a camp counselor position or to learn more about the Summer Career Academies, visit pvcc.edu/futures or email piedmontfutures@pvcc.edu.

VA WINE INDUSTRY BENEFITS TOURISM, ECONOMY

PATRICK WISE
FORUM STAFF WRITER

Patricia Kluge and Bill Moses took interest in Piedmont Virginia Community College and collaborated with the school, working on programs for students in enology and viticulture.

Kluge and Moses approached PVCC with plans to produce wine on a scale comparable to the vineyards in California. They were looking to team up with the college to generate a workforce for their operations in a field that has a significant impact on the local economy.

The President of PVCC, Frank Friedman, said, "[They] helped us start the program, they helped us with funding, they helped us with consulting experts who they brought in and paid for to work with us, and our friendship with Patricia Kluge and Bill Moses grew based on that partnership for that wine program."

This industry benefits the economy and has been growing steadily. According to VirginiaWine.org, "Some 17 years after Prohibition's repeal, Virginia had all of 15 acres of commercial wine grapes."

Virginia now boasts over 140 wineries and vineyards.

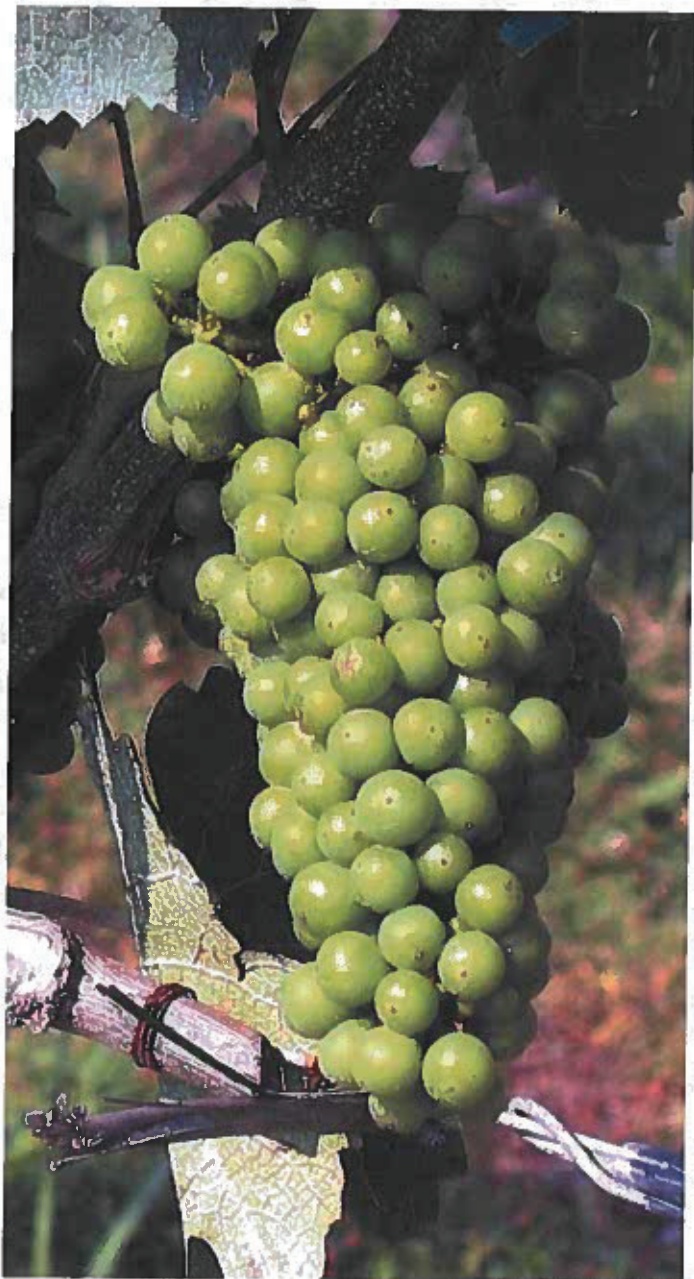
Wine is a major player in the tourism industry. As stated in a local food systems

report of 2007 entitled "Virginia Wine: Opportunities within a Regional Food System," "Additionally, tourism based on agriculture, or 'agritourism', is an essential component to a winery's business model... A recent Virginia Tourism Corporation study found that for every dollar spent at a winery, seven additional dollars are spent elsewhere in the local economy."

As mentioned in a step-by-step recommendation concerning the establishment of a tourism development fund, Tourism Subgroup Interim Report suggested, among other things, to "promote the growth of new and existing wineries, through the use of a capital improvements tax credit, elimination of burdensome regulations, aggressive cross marketing strategies and use of remote wine licenses in heavily travelled regions."

Most of the wineries and vineyards in Virginia are family owned and operated.

Palamountain said, "There is nobody in Virginia, none of the wineries that I say would be considered mass production the way you have Gallow, Mondavi, the large California vineyards... if you go into Sonoma you get more of the boutique wines where the wine itself is going to be unique for that particular vintage and that is what we have here, that is our industry."



Wendy Harman, Flickr

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PVCC COMMUNITY GARDEN AWAITS NEW IRRIGATION SYSTEM

RITA OSWALD
FORUM STAFF WRITER

This year's vegetable crop from the community garden may be its best yet with the collaboration of the Horticulture Club and some of this semester's SciTE, the college's science, engineering and technology scholarship, recipients.

Besides majoring in science, engineering or computer science, the SciTE applicants must possess a 3.5 GPA in his or her major, write an essay, interview for a panel and they must agree to contribute their talents to the college.

This semester, the contribution is a self-sustaining irrigation system to water the community garden which is maintained by the Horticulture Club.

According to Michael VanArsdale, a SciTE recipient and co-designer of the irrigation project, the system is an independent, gravity-fed system.

Discussion is also steering the project towards using solar panels to transmit power to pump batteries making the system entirely "green."

The group intends on breaking ground in April. They welcome extra hands, especially those with construction background, and those who can lend hand tools, drills and saws.

The community garden resides just outside Dickinson Building where, thus far, watering has been done by hand. The new irrigation system will save much time that can be used to tend plants and weeds.

Watering schedules will yield a larger, healthier crop,

much to the delight of the local food bank, the recipient of the garden's yield each year.

For Sara Elizabeth, president of the Horticulture Club, the garden is a labor of love, "Gardening, half of it's meditation" she says. Eager to share her fondness for the garden and its ultimate goal of charity within the local area, Elizabeth and the Hor-



PVCC Horticulture Club

pvchorticulture.wordpress.com



PVCC's Community Garden, located beside the Dickinson building

Sara Elizabeth

ticulture Club encourage participation from any students.

With a completed irrigation system to be ready for the summer crop, the workload increases as well and any help is welcomed.

Horticulture club advisor David Lerman said, "I'm often thinking about the garden." Calling the garden a "living laboratory," he hopes students and staff alike will take part in the

garden as a learning tool.

For additional information about the garden, volunteering or information on donating tools and gardening supplies, visit pvchorticulture.wordpress.com.

NEW DICKINSON PLAY TO BREAK DOWN FOURTH WALL

BRIAN CARLSON
FORUM STAFF WRITER

As warmer weather finally arrives, the PVCC theatre department is hard at work on their spring production of "High-Jinx at Hazy Hollow." In the style of old-fashioned melodramas, "High-Jinx at Hazy Hollow" features classic, larger-than-life characters, such as the nasty villain, the pure heroine and the upright hero.

The audience will be invited to partake in this event by booing at the villain and cheering for the hero to which they will be prompted by cue cards.

For productions of this interactive nature, the audience is very important. At the beginning of the show, an announcer will come out to set up the ground rules for participation.

The cast will be given the opportunity to address lines

directly to the crowd. They can pick out people in groups or individually with whom to interact. Some audience

m e m b e r s may participate more than others. If that is to be the case, the individual will be alerted beforehand of his or her participation. No one will be forced to participate if he or she does not wish to.

The production's director, Dr. Kay Bethea said, "It's fun for the cast to be able to kind of break that fourth wall and actually interact with the au-

dience, which they will."

To bring the audience into this style, the characters will be portrayed in an exaggerated manner.

The term "over-acting," though, is perhaps not the proper term for the performances.

As Matthew Browning, who plays the character Aaron Cornbread, said, "When you over act it is blatantly obvious that you're acting. What we do

here is focus on only the most important part of a character." Thus, each character's main trait will be highlighted

in the actor's portrayal, allowing the audience to get a sense of the character's personality almost immediately.

"High-Jinx at Hazy Hollow" will be performed in the Black Box Theater in the Dickinson Building, allowing the audience to be closer to the cast.

Bethea anticipates it being quite a fun show. "If the audience goes away having enjoyed it, I know the cast is enjoying it. From day one we've been having a lot of fun."

The spring production of "High-Jinx at Hazy Hollow" will take place at 7:30 p.m. on April 1, 2, 8 and 9 and is suitable for all ages.

Tickets are \$5 and are available at the Masquers Ticket Booth in the Bolick Student Center. The show will run approximately 75 minutes and those interested in attending should arrive early, as no admission will be granted after the show begins.

"It's fun for the cast to be able to kind of break that fourth wall and actually interact with the audience, which they will."

-Dr. Kay Bethea

Images from Masquerade Casino Night 2011



Casino Night 2011

Jonathan Hasenfus



Casino Night 2011

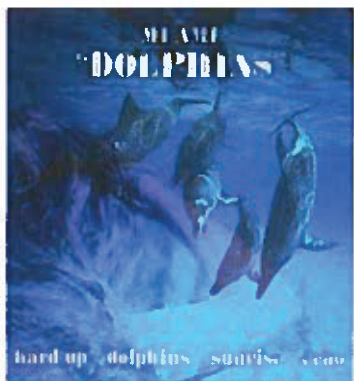
Jonathan Hasenfus

NEW MUSIC REVIEWS

R.T. PACKARD
FORUM STAFF WRITER
 remhq.com
 ★ ★ & 1/2 out
 of ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Album: Collapse into Now
Artist: R.E.M.
Label: Warner Bros.
Released: March 7, 2011
Genre: Alternative / Rock
Song Pick: "Mine Smell Like Honey"

After over three decades and 15 studio albums, R.E.M. are no strangers to the modern rock scene. It should come as no surprise, though, that a certain degree of complacency and even laziness can come about with 31 years worth of performing. "Collapse into Now," R.E.M.'s most recent effort, proves no exception to this rule. While the production is pristine and there is no shortage of hooks on the album, listeners familiar with the band's discography will find themselves experiencing a little déjà vu; almost every track sounds like it could fit on any one of R.E.M.'s earlier releases and, for such an established act, this lack of development comes across as indolent, rather than creative.


 hard up dolphins sunrise
 thrilljockey.com
 ★ ★ ★ ★ out of
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Album: Dolphins
Artist: Mi Ami
Label: Thrill Jockey
Released: March 15, 2011
Genre: Indie / Alternative
Song Pick: "Echo"

Normally, the departure of a critical band-member results in a detriment to the original group's output. With the New York and San Francisco-based Mi Ami, however, this could not be further from the truth; bassist Jacob Long's departure from the band saw no search for replacements, and instead yielded a remarkable new sonic direction from the former post-punk stylings for which they were known. The remaining musicians altogether abandoned their guitars and drums for a more electronic, keyboard-and-sampler driven approach. While there remains room for growth, the real beauty of "Dolphins" is in Mi Ami's ability to seamlessly take on a completely new existence.

LOCAL CONCERT SAMPLER

Tuesday, March 29 - Books and the Ends of Books, Sami the Great at the Garage (Donations)

Wednesday, March 30 - Terror Pigeon Dance Revolt at Twisted Branch Tea Bazaar (\$5)

Friday, April 1 - Easy Star All-Stars, the Green, Cas Haley at Jefferson Theater (\$18 advance / \$20 at door)

Sunday, April 3 - Charlottesville Experimental Music Showcase, with Miami Nights, Great Dads, Islero, Golden Glasses, Cathy Monnes, Jason Robinson at The Bridge PAI (\$5)

Saturday, April 9 - TV On The Radio at Jefferson Theater (\$30 advance / \$35 at door)

Tuesday, April 12 - Joe Pug at the Southern (\$10 advance / \$12 day of show)

Wednesday, April 13 - Rusted Root at Jefferson Theater (\$20 advance / \$22 at door)

Thursday, April 14 - Hunter Smith and the Dead Men, the Fervor at Twisted Branch Tea Bazaar (\$5)

Saturday, April 16 - Drive By Truckers, The Whigs, Dylan LeBlanc at Charlottesville Pavilion (\$35)

SPORTS

BRAZILIAN JIU JITSU OFFERS DEFENSE SKILLS, EXERCISE

CHRIS ASHLEY
FORUM STAFF WRITER

Brazilian Jiu Jitsu (BJJ) is a form of martial arts that has experienced a huge rise in popularity in the United States, due in part to the success of Mixed Martial Arts (MMA). When MMA was still in its infancy, most fighters only knew one fighting style and BJJ practitioners were dominating the sport early on because their techniques were groundbreaking and unknown. Now, MMA fighters have really embraced the name of their sport and mix several forms together. Each athlete has their own unique blend, but BJJ is a staple art that all successful fighters learn.

"Fighting is the ultimate human competition, and I think people have a basic biological instinct for it, and thus...find it interesting. Humans aren't wired to play basketball, football, golf or tennis, but we are wired for self-defense," psychology professor Dennis Abry said.

BJJ practitioners can test their knowledge and skills competitively. Gordon Emery, a BJJ instructor and the owner of the local gym Charlottesville Brazilian Jiu Jitsu said, "There are [tournaments] for sport BJJ, Mixed Martial Arts if students want to test their skills outside of the gym. And of course if the situation arises that they need to physically protect themselves in the street then there's the opportunity."

The majority of BJJ practitioners are not looking to become fighters, they just want to be able to defend themselves, stay in shape, make friends and have fun. The sport is prac-



Two practitioners training at the Charlottesville Brazilian Jiu Jitsu gym

Chris Ashley

ticed by both sexes and people of all ages. Cville BJJ has students ranging in age from 4 to 69 years old.

Some students and faculty at Piedmont, including Abry, train at Cville BJJ. "It is great exercise physically, but also intellectually interesting from a mental side. It is a great form of mind [and] body practice, where you can identify what it is you want your body to do, and the question then is, can you train yourself to the point that your body can do it? I love that part," said Abry.

BJJ has a belt color ranking system. Beginners start with a white belt, and then are promoted to blue, purple, brown and black. The average time for a practitioner to receive a black belt is about nine years, which is much longer than similar sports.

"Other martial arts have prearranged sequences [that] they are judged from for

ranking. In order for someone to move up rank in BJJ, they need to be able to roll effectively and efficiently and that takes more time. Plus other martial arts tend to promote faster because it keeps students feeling like they are getting better and that keeps them paying but in actuality it's a false sense of security," said Emery.

Brazilian Jiu Jitsu is traditionally trained while wearing a "gi," or a thick, collared open jacket tied with a belt and pants, but it can also be practiced "no-gi" in a rash guard and board shorts.

"The 'gi' is a training tool that lets the student learn how to control their opponent.

It also makes the students learn how to deal with being controlled. It develops a more technical grappling game," Emery said.

A typical Jiu Jitsu class features learning techniques and practice apply-

ing those techniques. Often in classes students roll, or grapple, on the mats trying to achieve submissions.

"We train live practice a lot which makes it easier to learn for realistic application," Emery said.

Finding the right instructor can greatly impact one's martial arts experience. "For any martial art, I'd say the most important thing is to find an instructor you like and respect as a person. No matter how much you like the practice, if you don't like working with the instructor I suspect eventually you'll leave. People, I think, tend to feel there is a certain art that they want to learn, rather than finding the instructor they want to learn from. I think the instructor is more important than the style," Abry said.

Charlottesville BJJ is open six days a week. For more information, visit their website at cvillebjj.com.

THE NEWS IS NOT NECESSARY FOR LIFE



Sander Spolspoel, Flickr

GERARD KEISER
U. OKLAHOMA
via UWire

Most of the news is worthless. They say we have to keep up with all the transient phenomena, but why? For most private citizens, the actions of those far away don't matter; they do little to affect us, and we do little to affect them.

Even if you are among those praise-worthy few who aim to change things, you have probably realized you must specialize. Only fools spread their efforts over every fashionable cause, leaping from oppression to education to malnutrition, never pausing to offer deep and prolonged effort in any direction. So, the charities waste your money, awareness campaigns are forgotten and the stone rolls

back down the hill. As a result, much of the news is irrelevant to even the most involved and active of us.

Still less necessary than letting the news steal our time and attention is letting the news steal our whole day; what does not affect us immediately need not be known immediately. As an example, for those who have no special connection there, it is vain curiosity to keep checking the news on Libya. Or if you lived in a monastery for a couple months and didn't learn the outcome of a presidential election until six weeks afterwards, would it really matter?

Come to think of it, what did you learn from yesterday's news?

After all the unreliable factoids, unimportant fillers, schmaltzy human interest stories, repetition

of old events and those wretched, wretched commentators who divide their time between flattering their partisans and snarling at their enemies, how long did you spend for each snippet of real knowledge that you will remember and keep with you and act on?

We would know far more about what's really going on if we would get a couple good weekly or monthly papers, and then in the time that we saved we could read books on economics and history in order to take hold of the background behind what's going on.

As students, we shouldn't be spending our time gazing on shallow particulars; it is ours to learn the universals, the principals behind all these shifting appearances. This vanishing time is given to us so we may

gorge ourselves on wisdom, devouring the centuries of thought that alone can give order to the news. It is our duty as students to escape the dim cave, where dull, meaningless images wander past our eyes, and into the light of ideas, so our eyes may understand these fleeting things by first seeing the patterns they spring from.

If you can look upon the factions in the Middle East and cannot say what Kant and Mill and Aristotle would think about it — worse, if you don't know what you think of it — maybe you should stop looking and read some books on political philosophy — which you will never learn despite how many newspapers and news channels you support.

Not to say news is totally worthless. Republics demand informed citizens, and it's important to be able to have an intelligent conversation about current events, while for a very few, knowledge of all the swirling happenings is truly necessary and most of us just enjoy the news as a form of entertainment — I certainly do. Yet, remembering we really are amusing rather than educating ourselves, we should resolve to gain true knowledge of lasting things, instead of vague opinions on the pretty flowers that will wither tomorrow.

Journalists keep asking themselves why citizens are so misinformed. Maybe they should tell their customers to purchase less journalism.

Gerard Keiser is a reporter for the Oklahoma Daily of U. Oklahoma.

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UPCOMING STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

What: International Food Festival
When: April 6, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Where: North Mall Meeting Room

What: Community Kids Day
When: April 9
Where: PVCC

What: Spring Fling Picnic
When: April 13
Where: TBA

What: Field Day
When: April 16
Where: PVCC

What: Free Movie Friday (Film TBA)
When: April 22
Where: Dickinson Building

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Contact theForum@pvcc.edu for more information.

COLLEGE EVENTS

"High-Jinx at Hazy Hollow" Performance Friday, April 1 7:30 p.m.

Piedmont Virginia Community College will present "High-Jinx at Hazy Hollow, An Old-Fashioned Melodrama," April 1-2 and 8-9, at 7:30 p.m. and April 2 and 9 at 2:30 p.m. in the Maxwell Theatre (Black Box) in the V. Earl Dickinson Building. Tickets are \$5 general admission. This old-fashioned musical melodrama invites the audience to cheer the hero, boo the villain and otherwise participate in a family appropriate production of theatrical fun. There is limited seating in the Maxwell Theatre and no late seating will be allowed. For more information, visit pvcc.edu/performingarts or call the box office at 434-961-5376.

Graduation Ceremonies Friday, May 13 6 p.m.

PVCC's graduation ceremony will be held at 6 p.m., Friday, May 13, at the Piedmont campus. The ceremony will be preceded by a 30-minute concert from the Charlottesville Municipal Band. U.S. Rep. Robert Hurt, R-Va., will deliver the commencement address. In case of rain, the event will be held at University Hall on the University of Virginia grounds.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Ivy Creek Toddler Walk Thursday, March 31 10 a.m.

On Thursday, March 31, at 10 a.m., introduce your toddler to nature with a short talk and trail walk for three to five year olds at the Ivy Creek Natural

Area in Charlottesville. Volunteer guide Rachel Bush will host, starting in the Education Center. For more information, call 434-973-7772 or visit ivycreekfoundation.org.

Art Exhibit Opening Friday, April 1 5:30 p.m.

To kick off the fresh April line of exhibits for the Charlottesville McGuffey Art Center, an opening reception will be held Friday, April 1 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The exhibits will be on display from March 29 through May 1. Open studio and gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and on Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m. For more information, call 434-295-7973.

Free Benefit Concert Friday, April 1 7 p.m.

Come out and enjoy wonderful music to give HOPE a hand! The Hope Community Center of Charlottesville will have a free benefit concert, featuring Deane's Gospel Bluegrass, on April 1 at 7 p.m. This event will take place at First Baptist Church located on 735 Park Street. Admission is free, however donations will be accepted. All donations will go to benefit the Hope Community Center's endeavors. For more information, call 434-872-0200.

SPCA 5K Walk/Run Saturday, April 2 7:30 a.m.

The Fluvanna SPCA will hold a 5K Run/Walk at the Lake Monticello Golf Course on Saturday, April 2, at 7:30 a.m. Registration begins at 6:30 a.m. Prizes will be awarded to the top male and female finishers overall and per age group. All proceeds will support the FSPCA's life-saving mission to rescue homeless pets and place them in good, loving homes. For more information and to pre-register, visit fspca.org or call 434-243-2650.

SARA Benefit Event Saturday, April 2 10:30 a.m.

On Saturday, April 2, from 10 a.m. until noon at the McGuffey Art Center, put your best feet forward and enter the first annual SARA Three-for-All, the world's largest three-legged race. This fun, family-friendly event will encourage personal and community responsibility for ending sexual violence. Participants of all ages will link up to symbolize how they are taking steps together to stop assault, abuse, stalking, and harassment. Register now at saraville.org. For more information, call 434-295-7273, extension 25.

Jazz Tribute Concert Saturday, April 2 8 p.m.

The McIntire Department of Music presents "Free Bridge Goes Broadway" on Saturday, April 2 at 8 p.m. in Old Cabell Hall. The Free Bridge Quintet is the jazz quintet-in-residence at the University of Virginia. The Free Bridge Quintet will pay tribute to Broadway by performing some new and classic jazz arrangements of favorite show tunes, featuring such classics as "My Fair Lady", "Fiddler on the Roof" and "The King and I". Tickets can be reserved by calling the Arts Box Office at 434-924-3376 or visiting artsboxoffice.virginia.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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