

theForum

Piedmont Virginia Community College

Volume 9, Issue 2: Oct. 11 - Oct. 22, 2010

PVCC TO HOST HURT, PERRIELLO DEBATE



Rep. Tom Perriello



Sen. Robert Hurt

roberthurt.org

HANNAH MAHAFFEY
FORUM STAFF WRITER

The eyes of Virginia voters will be on Piedmont Virginia Community College Oct. 19, when the school will host a debate between Rep. Tom Perriello and Sen. Robert Hurt, the candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives from Virginia's 5th District.

The debate is being sponsored by the League of Women Voters and the Charlottesville Newsplex. PVCC President Frank Friedman coordinated the event with the heads of these organizations.

"I know both of those

leaders well. When they thought of a vendor, they thought of the Dickinson Building. It turned out that the date that they wanted was available. And, it falls into our fall break, which will make parking very convenient," Friedman said.

Friedman will be one of four panelists allowed to ask questions of the potential congressmen.

"I am inviting people to send questions that they would like me to ask. I will look for trends amongst the responses and try to mold them into questions," said Friedman.

He indicated he had a gen-

eral theme in mind, "I made the commitment to have both of my questions be about education. It's obviously very important to me and the rest of Piedmont. I believe one question will probably be asking them something about what they view to be the federal government's role in education."

The debate is open to the public and seating is first come, first serve. There are 500 seats available in the Dickinson Building and Friedman believes it will fill up quickly.

"I think it should be very valuable for our voters to hear what the candidates say. Hope-

fully there will also be a lot of viewers at home watching it televised," said Friedman.

Friedman expressed that he would like the student body to come out and watch the debate, "I think it's great that PVCC will be involved. It's just another way that we provide for the community. It's great exposure for us. It's a good community service for us."

The debate will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 19, from 7 until 8 p.m. and will be broadcast live on WCAV-TV, Channel 16. Friedman requests that all possible question submissions be emailed to him at ffriedman@pvcc.edu by Oct. 15.

EXPOSING "AMERICA'S BEST KEPT SECRET"

MICHELE MUELLER
FORUM STAFF WRITER

The White House Summit on Community Colleges was held on Oct. 5 in Washington D.C. The first of its kind, the summit discussed the \$2 billion legislation signed by President Obama.

The goal of the new bill, called The Community College Career Training Initiative, is to increase the community college graduation rate by five mil-

lion by the end of 2020.

Dr. Jill Biden, Vice President Joe Biden's wife, hosted the event. A career educator who has spent 17 of her 30 years as a teacher at the junior college level, she currently teaches English at Northern Virginia Community College.

In a recent Associated Press interview, Biden called community colleges, "One of America's best kept secrets."

The summit's key message



Dr. Jill Biden and Pres. Obama

Samantha Appleton, via whitehouse.org

highlighted the critical role that community colleges play in developing America's workforce and educational goals. More than 1,200 representatives from community colleges across the country attended, as well as top business executives, philanthropists, students and government employees.

Summit speaker Melinda Gates announced a five-year competitive grant program called "Completion by Design." The \$35 mil-

lion grant, from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, aims to boost graduation rates at community colleges.

An initiative was also announced by the Aspen Institute, called the "Skills for America's Future," which will connect employers and union leaders with community colleges to identify job skills in demand.

An announcement is expected later this fall on the first of the four \$500 million federal disbursements.

**WRITE HERE,
WRITE NOW!**
PVCC.EDU/ABOUT/QEP.PHP

facebook
Check out PVCC on Facebook!

TB RARE, TREATABLE

JEN TREACY
FORUM STAFF WRITER

As the weather gets colder, students find a variety of ways to get sick.

The first case of tuberculosis within the Piedmont community this season was reported in the beginning of October.

Tuberculosis, or TB for short, is spread primar-

ily through the air, by a sneeze or a cough. It cannot be contracted by touching a common surface, another person or by kissing.

Not everyone who is exposed to TB develops symptoms. An exposed person whose immune system can keep the bacteria from growing will not experience any symptoms besides a positive TB test.

Symptoms of TB include a bad cough, fatigue, lack of appetite, chills, fever, chest pain, coughing up blood and sweating at night.

Doctors can perform TB skin tests, but only if symptoms or an additional risk factor such as exposure occur.

If left untreated TB can cause death, but it is not difficult to detect if the test is run in a timely manner.

TB is considerably less common than the flu or other seasonal illnesses. The Virginia Department of Health reported 273 cases of TB in 2009, a 6.5% decrease from 2008.

For more information, students can check the Oct. 6 email from Mary Lee Walsh or visit the Center for Disease Control website at cdc.gov.

VOLUNTEER CLUB TAKES BITE OUT OF HUNGER

LAUREN BERG
FORUM STAFF WRITER

As Thanksgiving grows closer, the third annual Hunger Symposium, hosted by PVCC's Volunteer Club, will be held Oct. 20 through 22. The Symposium will raise funds and food for the Jefferson Area Food Bank, which helps people in the Charlottesville community.

"One of our goals is to raise awareness about local, as well as global hunger," said Kim Hoosier, faculty advisor for the Volunteer Club. The event will feature activities in which students will be able to participate.

According to Hoosier, the club is still finalizing activities for the semester, but may include a film and lecture series or a panel with local speakers on hunger issues.

They will be selling pizza

and other snacks to raise money for the Jefferson Area Food Bank. There will also be a food drive competition between the clubs at PVCC.

The panel of guest speakers will address poverty issues faced in the Charlottesville community and around the world.

According to the US Government's Statistical Abstract, in 2007 there were 139,767 families living in poverty in the state of Virginia. In 2008, 545,000 people were using food stamps to feed their families.

"We are hoping students will spend a little bit of time thinking and reflecting about the various issues of hunger," said Hoosier.

The Symposium will benefit the Jefferson Area Food Bank, but it will also focus on hunger as a worldwide issue.

Volunteer Club member



Lauren Berg

Billy Saulle stated, "I hope that the Symposium will raise enough food so that we can feed many of the people who can't afford food."

Last year, the Symposium presented \$600 in donations and 550 pounds of food to the Jefferson Area Food Bank.

This year, Hoosier and the Volunteer Club "hope to surpass last year's numbers."

"[The Symposium] grows a bit each year and we are

really excited for this year's event. We have wonderful student involvement in the club and a lot of passion, so I am confident it will be very successful," said Hoosier.

Students can donate canned food such as tuna, peanut butter or dry milk. The club is also looking for any nonperishable food items.

There will be receptacles in the Bolick Student Center for donations.

NEW ALERT SYSTEM EMERGES

JEN TREACY
FORUM STAFF WRITER

Piedmont Virginia Community College will be using a new alert system to notify students of emergencies at the college campus. The emergency messaging system, called e2Campus, will send both emails and text

messages to warn about inclement weather, power outages, and college closings.

Students can sign up any combination of two email addresses and two phone numbers.

The link to sign up online, located on the PVCC webpage, is labeled "Sign Up for Text & Email Alerts."

"The e2campus system will only be used for emergency messaging ... users will not be bombarded with extraneous text or e-mail messages," said Dr. William Jackameit, Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services, in an email sent to all students Sept. 30. Jackameit will test

the system in October to make sure it works.

A separate alert system will be installed onto the computers at PVCC to interrupt the screens if there is a breaking bulletin.

Students can also call the PVCC emergency line at (434) 971-6673 for college closings.

NEXT SHOT FOR FREE FLU VACCINES

MARK SOECHTING
FORUM STAFF WRITER

Although it may seem that different viruses go in and out of fashion from year to year, the H1N1 virus, or swine flu still warrants concern.

Last year, over a thousand patients in the United States died of H1N1 related illnesses and it is something that the Piedmont faculty is taking very seriously in this cold season.

In its efforts, PVCC will be providing free vaccinations again this year to the community, assuming individuals are at least 18 years old or come with a parent or guardian who gives consent.

In previous years, patients were told to get the regular flu shot before receiv-



Lance McCord, Flickr



Jennifer Gaillard, Flickr

ing H1N1 vaccinations in case of possible side effects.

New vaccines, however, are available this season for which only one shot is needed to cover multiple strains.

Vaccines will be offered at no charge to students, faculty and college employees, regardless of whether they have health

insurance. Still, PVCC asks that community members who have medical coverage bring their information for Health Department records.

And, unlike last year, "there are plenty of vaccinations to go around," said Dr. William Jackameit, PVCC's Vice President for Finance. Everyone is encouraged

to take advantage of this opportunity to take precautions against both the seasonal and H1N1 flu.

The next clinic will be on Thursday, Oct. 14, in the North Mall Meeting Room, between 11 and 3 p.m.

Questions or concerns may be directed to Jackameit, at wjackameit@pvcc.edu.



JAY HATFIELD
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Last semester, The Forum covered a blossoming group of film enthusiasts called the Filmmakers Republik, headed by Amoeba Films and award-winning director Brian Wimer.

The group also has close ties with the Charlottesville Chapter of the Vir-

ginia Production Alliance. Three months after Wimer started the group, the FMR produced its debut movie, "Danger Zombies, Run."

The film won awards for Best Comedy and Best Soundtrack at Louisville, Kentucky's Fright Night Film Festival and generated acclaim across the country.

A San Antonio festival director even described

the movie as "a comedic breath of fresh air."

"Danger Zombies, Run" is set to open in Charlottesville's historic downtown Paramount Theatre on October 30, 2010 at 7 p.m. "There'll be a Q&A for the actors after the opening," said Wimer.

In support of the group's next project, a five kilometer run will be held on Sun-

day, October 17 at 8:30 a.m.

Additionally, some of the proceeds will be donated to improve food in city schools. More details can be found online at dangerzombiesrun.com.

The Filmmakers Republik meets every third Thursday of the month at 8 p.m. in 201 Elliot Avenue (The Frank IX Building) beside the NewsPlex.

LOCAL GROUP DEBUTS ZOMBIE FILM, RUNS

HALLOWEEN HAUNT AT KINGS DOMINION FRIGHTENINGLY FUN

AMANDA FISHBACK
FORUM STAFF WRITER

The clock strikes seven and bells begin to chime a sinister theme. Fog rolls in, and the overlord summons monsters to stalk and scare innocent victims.

This sounds like the setup for a horror movie, but it really means that Halloween Haunt is here.

Located at Kings Dominion in Doswell, Virginia, Halloween Haunt has been dubbed one of the scariest haunted attractions on the East Coast and attracts thousands of thrill seekers each year.

There are mazes located throughout the park, each

with a different theme, and several shows, such as "Fangs" and "Overlord's Resurrection."

There are also dozens of "scareactors" wandering the park, ready to leap out through the fog or from behind a statue, amidst a sea of sparks.

Halloween Haunt has long been a vital part of Kings Dominion and each year it ups the ante with new attractions.

"They changed a lot of stuff around this year," said Richard Sikes, a former Kings Dominion employee who worked Halloween Haunt in 2008 and 2009, "It was still the same mazes, just new stuff. It was nice to

actually get shocked again, instead of them just doing the same thing over again."

Many other guests seem to agree. Thousands from all over the country return each year to Halloween Haunt, just to see what has been prepared this time around.

Not everyone is a regular, however. Douglas Mews, a newcomer to Halloween Haunt, was surprised to be frightened by some of the attractions.

"This year was the first time I ever went to Halloween Haunt," said Mews,

"I think it's really exciting to see all of the cool props and costumes."

When asked if he would come back, he stated, "Just give me a date and time."

Halloween Haunt will run until Nov. 1 and is not intended for children under 13. The children's section of the park closes at 7 p.m. when the Haunt begins.

Restrictions are also in place for those with heart conditions and similar ailments.

Tickets and directions are available online, at haunt.kingsdominion.com.



kingsdominion.com



kingsdominion.com



Stuart Pilbrow, Flickr

STUDENT DISCOUNTS MEAN FULLER WALLETS

BRANDON ESTES
FORUM STAFF WRITER

An empty wallet is unappealing and scrounging up extra cash can be burdensome. For many, working extensive hours and keeping up with school, things can become overwhelming.

There are, however, some student discounts which can provide relief.

Several local businesses offer discounts to anyone with a student ID.

J. Crew offers all college students a 15% discount on any full-price item, giving them a chance to splurge instead limiting themselves to the sales rack.

With a Harris Teeter VIC card, students receive a 5%

discount on their total grocery order. After signing up for a VIC card it will take up to 15 business days for this option to activate. Kroger offers a 5% discount as well, but only for UVA students.

Almost every college student craves pancakes at some point or another. IHOP has a special day set aside for all students with their college ID. Every Thursday from 6 p.m. until 6 a.m., students are eligible to receive 50% off their meal.

"Customers have to have a valid student ID and purchase a beverage," along with their entree, shared IHOP employee Jesse. "In the summer it is slower, obviously because school's not in, but when school

begins again, it is packed with students," she said.

Pizza is a perennial student favorite. Raul, an employee at Sbarro at Fashion Square Mall, said "If a student comes in and shows me an ID, I will give them a [10%] discount."

Not every discount results in more calories. For those looking to shed pounds instead of add them, Anytime Fitness and Gold's Gym offer reduced rates to college students.

According to Mike at Anytime Fitness, "It is \$128 to get started, and after that it is only \$40 a month."

Gold's Gym has a different approach. Their team members will work with students to design an agree-

ment that is right for them.

"The rough estimate can be about \$1 a day," an employee, Aja, shared. "Members are granted pool usage, travel privileges, club hours and class participation with their membership. There is also childcare available for anyone who may need it."

These businesses provide students discounts on clothes, food and exercise programs. Others in town offer discounts on their goods and services as well.

Anyone who has not yet gotten a student ID can get one in the security office across from the Jessup Library.

Having an ID can come in handy and even help save extra cash.

HORTICULTURE CLUB FLOURISHING AT PVCC

KATHERINE DEVINE
FORUM STAFF WRITER

These days, green is the new black and Piedmont is no exception to the trend. Three years ago, a group of students decided to start a horticulture club.

Horticulture, for those unaware, is the industry and science of plant cultivation, as well as soil preparation to improve crop yield, quality, nutritional value, and resistance of plants to disease and insects.

The club's sponsor, David Lerman, has worked at PVCC for 10 years, five of which have been spent in the counseling center.

His interest in horticulture, however, spans back over 2 decades.

When first approached

about becoming the sponsor, Lerman politely declined but, after some convincing, he eventually decided to work with the club part-time.

Twelve deeply rooted members of the Horticulture Club tend to the six large, organic garden beds located to the right of the Dickinson Building.

Over the past season, the club generously donated 400 pounds of produce to the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank.

This donation included vegetables, such as cucumbers, squash, tomatoes, radishes, carrots, pumpkins, and various types of cooking herbs.

This year, they plan to expand the plot with two more soil beds, rotate crops and work with other local horticulture organizations.

There has also been talk of starting a fruit orchard.

"The sky is the limit," said Lerman.

This year, the club participated in the Charlottesville Community Bike Tour, where bicyclists could leisurely view five local gardens, including the University of Virginia Community Garden, Hereford College Mini-Farm, Buford Schoolyard Garden Project, PATCH Garden (Haven project), and QCC Farms.

Other schools, such as Spectrum High School and Rappahannock High School, have decidedly taken interest in horticulture by starting their own gardens as well.

Lately, there has been some speculation over the issue of parking versus planting. With Piedmont's stu-

dent population on the rise, finding a place to park is becoming a difficult task. Furthermore, the Horticulture Club plants on one of the only flat areas on campus.

Many can see the dilemma here. The current plan, however, is to expand parking lots 3 and 4 towards the tennis courts, so the garden is safe to grow, for at least another year.

The Horticulture Club meets the second and fourth Wednesday of every month in room 160, between 12:20 and 1:20 p.m.

There is another meeting on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m.

Anyone interested in learning more can email David Lerman at dlerman@pvcc.edu or the club's student contact, Modou Gaye, at mlg2730@email.vccs.edu.



McKay Savage, Flickr

HOMECOOKED MEALS SAVE MONEY, NOT TIME

MARY KETCHAM
FORUM STAFF WRITER

Everyone knows cooking at home is cheaper than eating out. It is financial salvation to a monthly budget.

But on a Wednesday evening when everyone is cranky and hungry and nothing has been started, or worse, even planned for dinner, all good intentions are abandoned as someone scrambles to get something on the table.

Food manufacturers, wise to the challenges of the current economy, offer plenty of options. A shopper in the average Charlottesville supermarket sees some variation of "Ready in 10 minutes!" on a variety of food products.

It is a huge selling point, especially on a mid-week evening when the best laid plans become unattainable.

Prepared food is not just in the deli section. It comes packaged, frozen, refrigerated, boil in the bag, just add water, individually wrapped, steam in the microwave, and fully cooked. And it is not cheap.

Refrigerated and frozen "heat-and-eat" family style meal options have grown exponentially. Most packages with familiar name brands, contain an entrée that will serve 2-4 people.

They cost, on average, \$8.00. Side dishes cost \$2.99 to \$3.99 for a 3-6 oz serving.

Salads, in bags, round out a meal at \$3.00 to \$6.00 each.

Feeding a family of 4 this way is fast, and it is less expensive than carry-out, but reheating at home is hardly frugal.

The dollar and cents savings are in planning a weekly menu and buying ingredients. Planning meals ahead of time makes saving time and money begin to blend together rather than being mutually exclusive options.

But meal planning, careful shopping, and preparation take time most people either do not have or are not willing to divert from other activities.

With ingredients already in the pantry or the fridge, a home cook can pull together something tasty and nutritious in 30 minutes that costs less than \$5 per plate.

A 10 minutes Italian chicken and pasta dinner for two for \$7.00 starts to look like an amazing deal in terms of both time and money.

Preparation of a chicken and pasta dish for two from a basic Cooks.com recipe begins with 2 chicken breasts that each weigh between 5.5 and 8 oz and cost from \$3.50 to \$4.00 per pound.

One-half to a full pound of fresh vegetables cost roughly \$2.00 to \$4.00.



Mary Ketcham

Sixteen ounces of dry pasta costs approximately \$1.50.

A sauce prepared at home using 8 oz of butter, cream, and seasonings takes a good 15 minutes, but costs less than \$2.00.

The ingredients for the meal add up to between \$7.00 and \$8.00, and the baking, boiling, and stirring will take 30-45 minutes, not 10.

So, how is cooking at home saving?

A name brand Italian chicken and pasta dinner for two contains on average 3.5 oz of cooked chicken pieces, 3.5 oz of cooked frozen vegetables, 8 oz of cooked frozen pasta, and 8 oz of frozen sauce pieces.

This is substantially less food than the homemade meal for almost the same price.

Consumers should be wary of all the "time sav-

ers" in the supermarket.

Chopped fruit is priced upwards of one dollar per pound more than the whole fruit.

Individually wrapped "ready to cook" potatoes cost \$1.00, but a 5 lb. bag of the very same potatoes costs \$2.65 - less than 25 cents per potato.

The wildly popular Caesar salad kits are priced between \$4.00 and \$6.00, when a bottle of Caesar dressing, a head of romaine lettuce, and a bag of croutons, altogether costing less than \$3.00, will make more than one salad.

Individuals must determine what their own time is worth and how they would like to spend it, but packaging and "deals" claiming to save consumers both time and money usually do not help save on either. Even at 6 p.m. on a busy Wednesday evening,

"THE SOCIAL NETWORK" MOVIE GOOD, NOT GREAT

TONY LIBERA
MINNESOTA DAILY
via UWire.com

When critics began comparing "The Social Network" to "The Godfather" and "Citizen Kane" — perennial contenders for the title of Greatest Movie Ever Made — the indelible words of Flavor Flav started ringing in my ears. "Don't believe the hype," the clock-adorned Muppet whined.

Such bold declarations can usually be chocked up to pandering and critical knob-

jobbery, but "The Social Network" is actually worthy of praise. "The Godfather," it is not, but this film gives us insight into the origins of what is arguably the most important creation of the new millennium, and it captivates while doing so.

The movie takes us back to Cambridge in 2003, when a young Mark Zuckerberg — future co-founder of Facebook and the youngest billionaire of all time — is engaged in a type of hyper-literate verbal sparring match not seen since the end

of "Gilmore Girls." The dialogue is punchy and quickly details Zuckerberg's personality: He's absurdly smart, quasi-cool in his nerdiness and a bit of a prick.

After pissing off his opponent/girlfriend, he returns home and, fueled by drunken machismo, hacks Harvard's student databases and creates a website that allows students to vote on the hotness of their female classmates. It's offensive, misogynistic and it gets Zuckerberg into plenty of trouble, both legal and social. But it also sows the seeds of Facebook.

Zuckerberg's subsequent rise to power is saturated with moments of innovative brilliance, dumb luck and ruthless betrayal, which in many ways validates the "Kane" and "Godfather" references. To be clear, "The Social Network" is on a tier lower than those two films, but its themes and its presentation are undeniably similar.

Director David Fincher, working off a script by "The West Wing" maestro, Aaron Sorkin, presents much of the story in flashback form, bouncing between later litigation and Facebook's infancy. This non-linear storytelling, combined with the tycoon protagonist and a sense of loss amongst riches, does invite "Citizen Kane" and "Godfather" comparisons. Still, Fincher retains his own cinematic style, painting Zuckerberg's life in murky hues and dipping into the Welles vault of

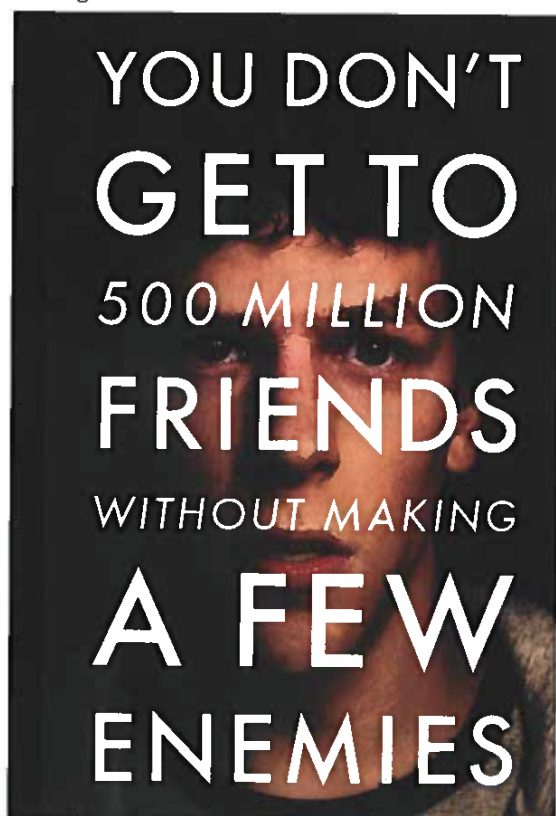
tricks only when need be. Employing Trent Reznor's score bolsters the overarching darkness with ominous undercurrents and walls of throbbing industrial noise.

Yet Fincher's greatest feat is the way he humanizes each character, instilling the multifarious and contradictory qualities of their real-life counterparts. There's no easy villain here, no easy hero. Zuckerberg, former partner Eduardo Saverin, the homo superior Winklevoss brothers and the like are depicted with an amount of nuance that's rarely matched in cinema.

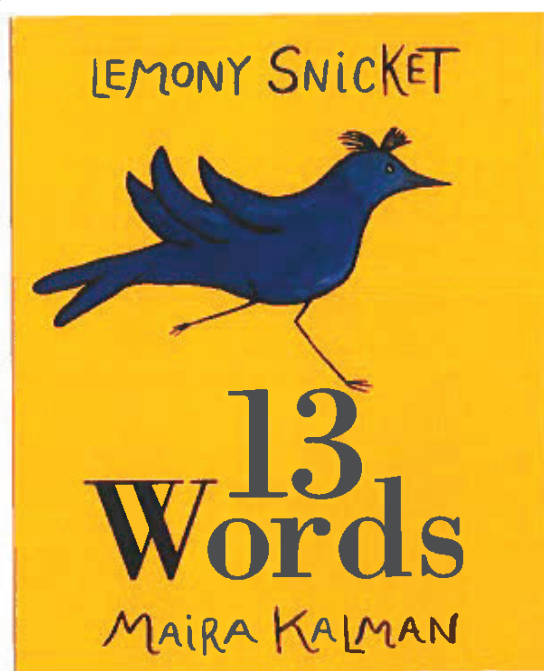
Sorkin shares some of the credit, as does the standout cast headed by Jesse Eisenberg. Eisenberg gets to do his patented fast-talkin' routine, but trades in kindly Cera-esque awkwardness for blatant insensitivity. Zuckerberg is a complex figure, and Eisenberg sells his genius, his drive and his bitterness. Andrew Garfield imbues Saverin with a spirit of grief that's affecting when it isn't maudlin, while Justin Timberlake makes Napster mastermind Sean Parker both slick and sleazy.

"The Social Network" is already being hailed by some as the defining film of our generation. While that's certainly a case of over-hyping, it doesn't detract from what is an expertly crafted film.

Tony Libera is a reporter for the Minnesota Daily of U. Minnesota.



thesocialnetwork-movie.com



NOOR BRARA
COLUMBIA DAILY
SPECTATOR
via UWire.com

The world may be surprised to discover that Daniel Handler and his literary alter ego Lemony Snicket are two very different people.

Handler, famous for the "A Series of Unfortunate Events" books, written under his pseudonym Snicket, visited the Bank Street Bookstore in New York on Friday, to celebrate the store's 40th anniversary and promote his newest children's book, "13 Words," to be released on Oct. 5. Each chapter of "13 Words" focuses on a different word—from conventional words such as "cake" to the more obscure "haberdashery." The pages are filled with original illustrations by Maira Kalman, who has also illustrated covers of the New Yorker, in her signature painting style.

In the "Series of Unfortunate Events" installments, Handler traced the adventures and misadventures of

the Baudelaire orphans, as they searched for a stable home after their parents' sudden deaths. Handler has always been fascinated with mystery fiction, citing Roald Dahl, Edward Gorey, and E.L. Konigsburg as childhood favorites and key literary influences. Handler wished to adapt the sense of mystery he loved in their works, not only to the unfolding of the plot, but also to the identity of the narrator. "I thought it would be interesting for the book to be a mystery in itself," he said, a feat accomplished by telling the story through a pseudonym.

Yet, "13 Words" shifts focus, from the fast-paced plots of "A Series of Unfortunate Events" to the musicality of words and their usage.

Handler planned his strategy of investigating words for months. He revealed that the manuscript was written specifically for the illustrator Kalman, with whom he wanted to work. "I've been a huge admirer of her work forever," he admitted.

LEMONY SNICKET PLAYS WITH "WORDS" IN NEW BOOK

"The idea was to write a manuscript and then charm her into illustrating it."

After Handler finished the first draft of "13 Words," he took Kalman out to a restaurant in San Francisco which, he said, "serves an unbelievable roast chicken." Kalman agreed to the offer. "I think the moral of the story is to take anyone to that restaurant if you ever want to convince them to do anything," Handler said, laughing.

"13 Words" tells the story of the friendship between a despondent bird and a loyal dog. The title references the 13 words used in the text—words Handler loves and words that, he feels, are not used enough. Words like "goat," "panache," "baby," and "mezzo-soprano" tie together the narrative of a quirky tale.

Concerning the book's target audience, Handler said, "it's hard to differentiate between adults and children. The funny thing about words is that I meet more children than adults who actually know what they mean, because children are asked to memorize and look up words they don't know."

Handler's talents extend beyond the literary sphere. He composed the song to his video trailer advertising

"13 Words," which is posted on his official website. "Hello, this is Lemony Snicket," his voice booms, after which he proceeds to discuss each of the words with a sense of underlying sarcasm.

But this is not Handler's first venture into the world of music. "I was a boy soprano for a long time, before puberty hit and wrecked my career," he recalled with a smile. During his time at Wesleyan College, he began playing the accordion and has since played for a variety of independent bands and artists. Offering a sample of his musical taste, Handler recommends "Sound Sun Pleasure" by Sun Ra and "Sandinista!" by The Clash as two albums everyone should listen to before they die.

After a personal meeting with Handler, it is difficult to imagine that he is the man behind the mysterious Lemony Snicket persona. However, upon closer inspection, one realizes that Handler's deep appreciation for the mysteries in life makes a pseudonym the perfect channel through which to share his stories.

Noor Brara is a reporter for The Columbia Daily Spectator of Columbia U.

RESEARCH EXPLORES VIDEO GAMES, VIOLENCE

DORIAN DAVIS
THE LARIAT
via UWire.com

Research shows that people who play video games are more likely to carry out their aggression.

A new study led by Dr. Daniel Shafer, an assistant professor of communica-

tion studies at Baylor U., aims to examine the effects video games have on people's aggression levels.

Shafer hopes to find which video games are most apt to lead to aggression and which people are most vulnerable to becoming aggressive and hostile as a result of playing video games.

"There's a definite link between media violence and aggression," Shafer said.

By randomly selecting a video game, Baylor students volunteering as subjects are asked to play under different circumstances and scenarios.

"We bring them in and have them fill out a questionnaire to find out about their video game exposure and general media exposure," Shafer said.

Ultimately, Shafer would like to understand how mul-

bility in monitoring what games their children play.

"If you have a responsible or strict parent, you may not play games that would affect you," Baerd said. "I think it's good when they have ratings because then it comes up to the parent."

Shafer also hopes to begin a study that monitors how people react to one another in online game-play as opposed to in person.

Dallas junior Forrest Harrington is the founder of the Baylor Gamer's Society, a

"There's a definite link between media violence and aggression." - Dr. Daniel Shafer

tiplayer game play affects people's personalities.

"We wanted to see if competition increased hostility more," Shafer said.

Shafer also questions if non-violent games contribute to hostility.

Currently, the government regulates games by labeling them with a rating, dependent on how violent the game is. Games labeled "mature" are considered the most violent and require a person to be 17 or older to purchase them.

Houston senior Emily Baerd, a research assistant for the project, said parents have the biggest responsi-

club designed to bring students who like to play a variety of games together every week. He said he's observed these differences when playing with friends.

"I'd say there's less aggression in a room setting because people are less likely to use profanity and throw stuff around," Harrington said. "I'd say they're more apt to do that when they're online than with other people."

Dorian Davis is a reporter for the The Lariat of Baylor U.



Aaron Barton, Flickr

BOB DYLAN SOON "BLOWING IN THE WIND" OF C-VILLE

R.T. PACKARD
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

It would seem the times, they are a-changing for Charlottesville. On November 10, 2010, legendary musician Bob Dylan will be gracing the stage at the John Paul Jones Arena, offering his second concert to the community in three years.

Dylan, who previously performed in town on September 27, 2007, is infamous for both his near incessant touring and inconsistent scheduling.

Despite routinely playing over a hundred shows a year, the Original Vagabond has passed over Charlottesville until recently.

In fact, before the John Paul Jones Arena was constructed, Dylan's last visit to the locality was nearly two decades ago, in 1991 at University Hall.

According to Charlottesville native, and self-proclaimed "Dylanologist," Tony Freed, "The acoustics were abysmal and something tells me Bobby was drunk before he got on stage. Still a great show though."

Regarding the 2007 concert, however, Freed was quick to point out that, "He was definitely more on the ball, but the audience seemed divided. You could hear some people complaining that he didn't sound like his records and he was avoiding his popular hits ... [People] just didn't know what to think."

Mixed sentiments are common amongst Dylan's fan base, many of whom

have come to expect little more than a chance to bathe in the presence of their idol.

"He's pushing 70," Freed pointed out, "So, you've really just got to head into it with a certain mindset. He's not going to sound like you want him to and he won't play the songs you want either."

This habit of eluding the expectations of his following has been the tenor of Dylan's career. Originally the poster boy for the 1960s folk protest movement, in 1964 Dylan alienated the audience who had made him famous by trading his acoustic guitar for an electric one. A few years later, baffling many, he gave up on the frantic rock music in favor of a slower, country sound.

This cycle of reinvention and reinterpretation is the one constant in Dylan's history, which is to be expected for an artist with over 30 official studio albums. "My theory is that he just doesn't want to get bored," Freed quipped.

Whatever reason Dylan has for his erratic behavior does not seem to dampen his appeal. An unnamed salesperson for the John Paul Jones Arena said the venue was nearly filled a mere twelve hours after tickets went on sale at noon on Friday, October 1.

"Hopefully, Bob will start coming by Charlottesville more. He seems to like the town, and I heard a rumor he used to hang out here in the early 60s ... Maybe JPJ will become a regular stop on his Never-ending Tour," said Freed.



bobdylan.com

"My theory is that he just, doesn't want to get bored..."

Could Freed's dream come true? Or, will it be another 16 years before Dylan comes back to town after November?

The future remains to be seen, but, as Dylan once sang, "Yesterday is just a memory; tomorrow's never what it's supposed to be."

Tickets are \$45.50 and a

parking permit can be purchased for an additional \$14.35 per car. The doors will open at 7:00 p.m. and Dylan is scheduled to take the stage an hour later.

Those interested in seeing Bob Dylan perform can visit johnpauljonesarena.com or call 1-888-JPJ-TIXS for more information.

WOLF PEOPLE'S STEEPLE DRUMS UP MEMORIES



jagguwar.com

ALYSSA MARIE HARN
THE DAILY IOWAN
via UWire.com

To any '60s and '70s rock-lovers out there: Be ready to rejoice when Steeple is played through your computer or, even more appropriately for the sound of the album, through a dusty boom box on your back porch.

Wolf People, the rock band from Britain, will release its first album, *Steeple*, with Jagguwar Records on Oct. 12.

In February, the band released the much softer-sounding *Tidings*, a compilation of 15 singles put together by the band's lead vocalist, Jack Sharp. The collection is merely a taste test of Wolf People's overall sound, showcasing only a few of the band's late-'60s, early '70s influences.

These Grateful Dead-era influences are clearly present in *Steeple*, with such tracks as "Banks of Sweet Dundee Pt. 1" and "Morning Born." All echo the far-out sounds of this rock 'n' roll band

with soft trailing lyrics and heavy musical tones.

The album is highly centered on the instrumentation, with many long guitar riffs throughout the nine songs that are often accompanied by light drumming and the sounds of a tambourine.

Completely void of lyrics, "Cromlech" highlights the band's harmonious musical talents, including two guitarists, one bassist, and a drummer. The song starts off rather chaotically — similar to the end of a guitar solo — and builds up to a more cohesive ending.

The songs blend together so well that it is difficult to tell when one song ends and a new one begins.

Usually, only the introduction of a new instrument is the only indication of a change in song.

It is evident that the four band members like to jam, especially the drummer, Tom Watt, with his steady thumping rhythm present in all of the songs. The crisp clash of the cymbals are also apparent throughout the

album, adding to the rich background sound.

The addition of the flute in the song "Tiny Circle" brings a surprising quirkiness to the tune and also serves to make it the most upbeat track of the album. "Tiny Circle" emphasizes the band's common pattern throughout its songs — extensive and fast-paced instrumental jams that lead into short spurts of gentle sounds.

During the rare lyrical moments throughout the album, Sharp's high-pitched voice accents the ends of words, often holding onto them until he has no more air to keep them up. His voice is also nasally at times, sounding a bit like the voice

of Fran Healy, the lead vocalist of the alternative rock band Travis. This is especially noticeable in the song "Silbury Sands."

Steeple sounds as if it were recorded 40 years ago, like something that would have been played in Eric Foreman's basement on "That '70s Show."

Overall, *Steeple* is sure to be a hit with nostalgic '70s rock fans. Those who play this album will be taken back to another era; an era of bell-bottoms, boom boxes, and real rock 'n' roll.

Alysa Marie Harn is a reporter for The Daily Iowan of U. Iowa.



jagguwar.com

COLLEGE STUDENT STUDIES ABROAD, OFFERS ADVICE

RACHEL WUNDERLICH
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

One of the best ways to understand the world in which we live is to explore it. Studying abroad can play a key role.

During my time in college, I was given the opportunity to live in Madrid, Spain for a semester and take classes at a local university.

Studying abroad was never something that I thought I could afford or fit into my time in college. Yet, as I discovered, it is amazing what one can do with a little research.

First, choose a country. This choice should be influenced by one's interests, whether they are the culture, language or location.

Other important factors to consider include diplomatic relations with the United States, social norms, education level, the currency exchange

rate and the cost of living.

Next, decide on a type of study abroad experience. There are direct exchange programs where one switches places with a student at another university.

These are usually more cost effective, but do not always include logistics such as housing.

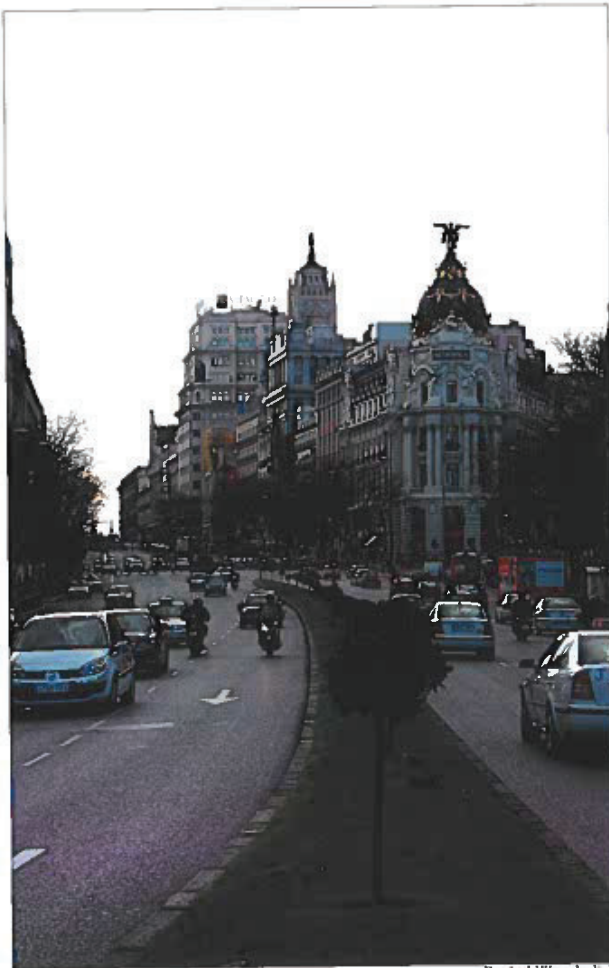
Another option is through a third party. Although this tends to be slightly more expensive, they often provide transportation, excursions, accommodations and food, along with connecting groups of students traveling to the same town.

When studying abroad for a semester, the price of tuition is about the same as Virginia's in-state tuition rates.

There are also many scholarships and financial aid options available. The earlier one begins preparing to study abroad, the more options are available. For more information on avail-



Rachel Wunderlich



Rachel Wunderlich

able scholarships, study-abroad.com/scholarships.aspx is a great starting place.

Be forewarned, not all study abroad credits may transfer, but if one plans carefully in advance, he or she can usually find classes that will fit into a given major.

Some majors, such as Engineering or Physics, hesitate to accept study abroad credits because the curriculum is already set and hard to divert.

Spending time with a new culture opens one's eyes to different viewpoints in life. My time in Spain was an irreplaceable experience and I will never forget it.

I still have friends there with whom I talk regularly and I keep the valuable experience of cultural understanding that I otherwise would have missed if my entire college career had been in the United States.

Read the Forum online!

Check out the past issues!

pvcc.edu/student_life/forum.php



Write for the Forum!

Cover important news stories. Research and write about topics that strike your passions.

Contact theForum@pvcc.edu

UPCOMING STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

What: Free Movie Night
When: Oct. 15, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Where: Dickinson Building

What: Fall Break
When: Oct. 18 - Oct. 19
Where: PVCC

What: Hunger Symposium
When: Oct. 20-22, times TBA
Where: Bolick Student Center

What: Fantasy Photos
When: Nov. 3, times TBA
Where: Bolick Student Center

What: Caricatures
When: Nov. 10, 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Where: Bolick Student Center

What: Thanksgiving Break
When: Nov. 24 - Nov. 28
Where: PVCC

COLLEGE EVENTS

FREE MOVIE NIGHT

Friday, 10/15

7:30 p.m.

Free Movie Friday at PVCC features "The Kids Are All Right." Free admission, no tickets required. General seating. PVCC's Student Art Club sponsors Free Movie Friday on the big screen in the comfortable and spacious V. Earl Dickinson theatre. For more info visit pvcc.edu/performingarts

THE MUNICIPAL BAND OF CHARLOTTESVILLE

Sunday, 10/17

3:30 p.m.

Come listen to a fabulous concert of classical repertoire and new works, featuring the student winner of the James W. Simmons concerto contest. Free admission, no tickets required. General seating in the comfortable and spacious V. Earl Dickinson theatre. For more info visit pvcc.edu/performingarts

COMMUNITY EVENTS SAMPLER

WTJU JAZZ MARATHON

Monday, 10/11 - Sunday, 10/17

The return of the Jazz Marathon fundraiser on WTJU, in which seven full days are dedicated to Jazz programming, starting at 6 a.m. each morning and continuing through the whole day. All styles of jazz will be represented, from Latin, bebop, swing, traditional, cool, fusion and avant-garde. The station is also collecting donations to support the future of WTJU. Tune into 91.1 FM or visit wtju.net for more information.

MAD SCIENCE: STAR TREK

Tuesday, 10/12

6 p.m.

A show that takes the audience on a thrilling adventure with special effects and an interactive experience. Explore real space-age technology and help save planet Earth from an invasion of Romulan forces. Tickets are \$11.50 or \$6.50 for youth at the Paramount Theater. For more info visit theparamount.net

UVA MEN'S SOCCER VS VIRGINIA TECH

Friday, 10/15

7 p.m.

UVA's Men's Soccer team faces off against their in-state rival, Virginia Tech. The game will be at UVA and tickets are \$5 to \$9. Gate opens 1 hour prior to the start of the game. For more info visit VirginiaSports.com

IT'S ABOUT BOATING SAFELY

Saturday, 10/16

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

A single day course designed to discuss the basics of boating safety. This course satisfies the Commonwealth of Virginia's legal requirements for boater education. Taught at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory on the grounds of the University of Virginia by U.S. Coastguard volunteer instructors, this course is an excellent alternative to multi-lesson courses that are available. For more information and to register, please visit <http://aux84.com>

ROCK & ROLL MOVIE NIGHT

Monday, 10/15

8 p.m.

The Twisted Branch Tea Bazaar on the Historic Downtown Mall hosts WTJU's bi-weekly Rock & Roll Movie

Night. A different movie somehow related to rock music is shown every other week, starting between 8 and 9 p.m. Admission is free. Visit wtju.net or teabazaar.com for more information.

RALLY TO RESTORE SANITY & THE MARCH TO KEEP FEAR ALIVE

Saturday, 10/30

12 - 3 p.m.

Comedians Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert, of The Daily Show and The Colbert Report, respectively, are hosting competing mock-rallies. The two fake news anchors will talk and there are some as-of-yet unannounced guest speakers. The marches will take place on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. and cost nothing to attend. For more details visit rallytoresstoresanity.com and keepfearalive.com

POETRY IN MOTION

Deadline: 11/30

Do you like poetry? Want to try your hand at writing your own? Charlottesville Area Transit is having a poetry contest. Poems must be original and no more than 10 lines. The theme of the poem is "heroes." Winning poems will be posted on city buses and archived at the Special Collections Library at UVA. Deadline for entry is Nov. 30. For more info visit charlottesville.org/buslines

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

THE FORUM STAFF

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
R.T. Packard

MANAGING EDITOR
Jen Treacy

COPY EDITOR
Mary Ketcham

STAFF WRITERS
Lauren Berg
Katherine Devine
Brandon Estes
Amanda Fishback
Mary Ketcham
Hannah Mahaffey
Michele Mueller
Mark Soechting
Jen Treacy

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Noor Brara
Dorian Davis
Alyssa Marie Harn
Jay Hatfield
Tony Libera
Rachel Wunderlich

ADVISOR
Dr. Andrew Smith

PUBLISHER
Danielle Johnson

The Forum is a voice for all students. Accordingly, materials published in The Forum, including any opinions expressed, should not be interpreted as the position of the VCCS, Piedmont Virginia Community College, or any stakeholder thereof. We welcome letters to the editor, guest columns, questions or any idea one may have for the upcoming publications. Please contact theforum@pvcc.edu with any questions or comments.