

the Forum

Piedmont Virginia Community College

Volume 6, No. 3 - March 21, 2008

Remembering the UNC Student Body President

By Whitney Kisling
The Daily Tar Heel (U. North Carolina)

(U-WIRE) CHAPEL HILL, N.C. - When Eve Carson got to talking about what makes UNC special, her eyes would light up. A smile would spread across her face, and she'd nearly stumble over her words in an anxious, overexcited way.

The Carolina Way, she would say, is what makes the University more than just a place - it's what makes it a home and an identity.

She often described that spirit as a commitment to UNC's prestigious reputation, support for students, academic freedom, service to the public.

And from now on, Eve herself will be a part of that definition.

Because it's her spirit and her energy that the campus community has been thinking about and talking about in the wake of her death.

In an address Thursday afternoon, Chancellor James Moeser gave voice to the effervescence that made Eve the prime example of the Carolina Way.

"Eve Carson personified the Carolina spirit. She did perhaps more profoundly than anyone I've known in my whole time here," Moeser told more than 5,000 people sitting, standing and holding each other on Polk Place. "She felt the very pulse and the heartbeat of

this University."

But it doesn't take a podium or a title or even a strong tie to Eve to know and understand that she was the epitome of the Carolina student.

Born in Athens, Ga., the bright-eyed 22-year-old set foot on UNC's campus in fall 2004, wasting little time in diving headfirst into her new world. She was involved in every group from student government - eventually becoming the student body president - to Nourish International to UNITAS diversity-themed housing.

That extensive dedication to service and student groups is something Eve carried over from Clarke Central High School. She was student body president there, too.

"Eve is the kind of girl you want your

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Parking Lot Safety at PVCC

By Emily Traylor
The Forum editor

With the latest tragic incident of college campus violence occurring just a few hours to the south of PVCC, the issue of school security is once again brought to the forefront of many peoples' minds.

Though most PVCC students feel fairly secure on campus, some have expressed concern about the safety of the parking lots after nightfall. The walk through the dark to student lot makes some feel less than comfortable.

"I'm quite nervous when I have to walk to the parking lot in the dark," said one young lady. She would like to see improved lighting in the lots.

Another student, Jackie Wright, was also concerned about the lighting situation. "Overall I don't think walking around PVCC at night is that bad," she said. "But I feel they should keep up with the lighting issues, because with all the lighting outages, it can be a very scary environment."

Some PVCC staff have suggested the idea of a parking lot safety program where several volunteers would be available during evening hours to accompany students to their cars. They would be stationed at exits and would wear official vests or badges as identification.

What do you think? Do you feel safe in PVCC's parking lots? Would you like PVCC to provide more accessible escort services? Letters to the editor can be sent to theforum@pvcc.edu.



Eve Carson was killed on March 5, 2005 in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. (Source: www.unc.edu)

Phantom Cow at PVCC

By Emily Traylor
The Forum staff writer

For about five months, a stray cow has been living on and around PVCC property. Though illusive, the animal has been sighted numerous times in Piedmont's fields and parking lots.

No, this is not an early April Fool's Day joke. Those who have observed the cow will heartily attest to the truth of its existence. However, some who haven't yet glimpsed said animal remain a bit skeptical.

"Really?! Where??" gasped one student after being told about the cow. She couldn't believe a farm creature would be living wild at a community college.

Another student was even more incredulous. "You're lying," he said, in total disbelief. "There's no cow out

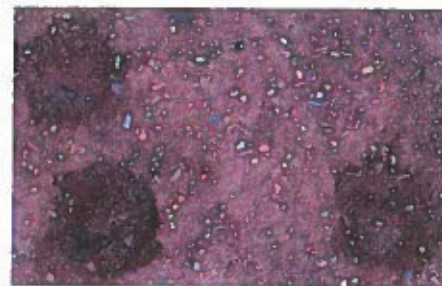
there! This is bogus."

The cow is black and comes out most often at night, which explains why few students have actually seen it. Nonetheless, the security office at PVCC receives calls on a regular basis from surprised students and faculty who have spotted the animal on Piedmont property.

No one is sure exactly where the cow came from, though the security office speculates it somehow got off a stock car passing by on Rt. 64. Now it is fending for itself in the PVCC area.

According to Tim Brown, supervisor of security and safety at PVCC, the cow is a black angus, about 1½ - 2 years old. "He likes the hill [at PVCC] because it has nice grass," Brown commented.

Rebekah Caruso, part-time security



Further bovine evidence: hoof prints in a flower bed.

officer at Piedmont, said the animal appears to be in good condition, though it is quite shy and has a slight limp. "It's a very swift-moving cow," she noted. Caruso also mentioned that it likes to leave droppings in the flower beds at the front of PVCC's main building.

Sightings of the cow started last November and have continued through the present. Animal Control and the Albemarle County Police Department have been to PVCC several times in an attempt to catch the creature, but have had no success. Usually by the time authorities arrive, the cow is nowhere to be seen.

Dustin Minor, a former PVCC security guard, has also attempted to catch the bovine. "I remember trying to chase it down with a golf cart!" he laughed.

The first time he saw the cow, it was in parking lot three near the softball field. A gentleman approached Minor and told him, "There's a cow out there!" Minor went over to see, but by the time he got there, it was almost gone.

The next time he saw the cow, it was in lot two, by the main building. It went running to the field behind the building and continued down College Drive and across Rt. 20. Minor and another officer tried to chase it down and called the police.

"I got within 10 feet of said cow," Minor said. "It looked pretty healthy." The attempt at capture was unsuccessful, however, as the runaway disappeared into the woods across Rt. 20.



The stray cow at PVCC frequently leaves droppings in the flower beds at the front of the main building.

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Bee Speaker Visits PVCC

By Zaynah Akeel
The Forum staff writer

Where have all the bees gone? David Hackenberg came to PVCC on March 12 to discuss this issue that has more weight than one would think.

As a beekeeper himself and a known expert on the field as well as former president of the American Beekeeping Federation, Hackenberg was alerted to a certain problem when, upon moving his bees from Pennsylvania to Florida for the winter, he lost 70 percent of his colonies.

Other farmers and keepers were losing their bees, as well, and Hackenberg decided to investigate. Thus, he embarked on a journey that continues today.

The previous hypothesis had been that the bees were all suffering from some sort of virus, but upon dissecting affected bees, they found something totally unexpected: fungus. This fungus had taken out the already weak immune systems of the bees. Hackenberg stated that it is a bit like an equivalent of AIDS for bees.

Working in conjunction with Penn State and several other groups of scientists, they discovered a possible cause for this fungus issue, now known as Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD): a culmination of stress, pathogens, genetically-modified plants and, specifically, certain pesticides that farmers have been putting on plants pollinated by the bees.



David Hackenberg came to PVCC to speak about bees.



Honey bees are disappearing and scientists are conducting research to discover why. (Source: www.eurekalert.com)

Hackenberg mentioned "neonicotinoids," which have become very popular in recent years and are very commonly used in farming and gardening as an incredibly strong and effective insecticide—they kill everything.

When he was studying these chemicals, he discovered that termites had been found before that had been affected by neonicotinoids. The chemical knocked out their immune systems, wiped out their memories so that they didn't know how to return to their homes, and caused them to stop eating. It is obviously a very strong neurotoxin for insects.

According to an article in the *St. Petersburg Times* in Florida about Mr. Hackenberg and this problem, neonicotinoids are less toxic to humans than old pesticides because they are absorbed into the plant. However, they are then present in the plants' pollen and nectar, which is where the problem for bees comes in.

If a large number of beekeepers are losing around seventy percent

(which is the most commonly reported number of losses) of their colonies to CCD, there will not be enough bees to pollinate many of our native crops: almonds, blueberries, apples, cherries, melons, oranges and other citrus products would suffer.

Bees are also used to find land mines. They are able to detect very small amounts of explosive vapors with 97 percent accuracy. Over 30 percent of bees nationwide have already been wiped out.

Funding for research to eliminate CCD is surprisingly slim. So far, Haagen Daas (the ice cream company) and Burt's Bees have been two major contributors, and Penn State has received grants for its research, but so far the government has barely gotten involved.

At the end of his talk, Hackenberg called for people to write and call their congressmen. Hopefully, scientists will be able to get to the bottom of what exactly is causing CCD and put an end to it soon.

"Remembering" from page 1

daughter to grow up to be," said Maxine Easom, principal at Clarke Central.

"She is one of the most perfect children I've ever worked with. More than that, she was one of the most compassionate young women. She loved people. She was beautiful inside and out."

Her philosophy seemed to be to live life fully. She studied, she worked, she traveled, she socialized, she explored.

Most apparent, though, was her ability to reach out to her friends and even complete strangers.

A quote from Martin Luther King Jr. is cited as one of her favorites on Facebook: "We must all live together as brothers, or we will all perish together as fools."

Maybe it was all the sports teams she played on, or maybe it was her ability to get comfortable in any situation. Either way, Eve had the ability to motivate and inspire those around her.

"She was always the most lively person to meet in the Pit. She goes to all of our shows and sits with the founder of the group because she's become pretty good friends with him," said David Mikush, a Clef Hanger and friend of Eve's. "I really think one could say she was the most popular student on campus."

Eve maintained her high level of academic achievement even after high school, coming to UNC as a Morehead-Cain scholar - one of the most prestigious honors at the University. She became a member of Phi Beta Kappa honor fraternity.

"I went to high school with Eve. She was just as impressive in high school as she was here," sophomore Alexander Stephens said.

And like Eve, Stephens is a Morehead-Cain scholar. He said she was largely responsible for helping him secure the award.

"She advised me through the whole process. She was e-mailing me; she was just so encouraging and so enthu-

siastic and really cares."

It takes a lot of stamina to maintain the level of dedication to others that Eve had, but so many describe her as an unstoppable force. An abundance of energy that just doesn't run out.

"She loved Carolina, and her enthusiasm was so infectious. When she walked into a room she filled it up. Her persona was magnetic," said General Alumni Association President Doug Dibbert, who met with Eve shortly after she took office.

Eve used her energy and passion in her role as student body president during her senior year and in campaigning for the position the year before.

Junior Josephine Butler remembers her first impression of Eve outside in the rain soliciting student votes during the election last year.

"Eve Carson is standing out there in front of Rams Head just really excited and so thankful to be there and having the option to run in the elections and was just saying, 'Vote for me,' to all the students," Butler said.

And once she was elected, Eve brought vivacity to all of her committee and board meetings.

There were few - if any - Board of Trustees meetings during which Eve didn't interject the monotony of policy discussion with a question, and usually it went something to the tune of, "But does this represent the Carolina Way?"

One of her most prominent goals this year as student body president was making tuition more predictable for students. She proposed an expense report to the board and brought it up almost every chance she got.

"She was full of ideas and wanted to explore opportunities," trustee Nelson Schwab said.

And though her ideas didn't always resonate with the trustees or the committees she was on, she held her own.

"She tried to be as assertive as

possible and still be upbeat," said Margaret Jablonski, vice chancellor for student affairs, who met with Eve and the rest of her Cabinet at least once a month - usually more often.

"Eve and I had a very personal relationship. We talked a lot about what it's like to be women leaders."

The two also talked about Eve's plans for after graduation.

Although she had been considering a consulting position with McKinsey & Co. and had talked about summer school, Jablonski was encouraging Eve to take a break from the jam-packed schedule she'd created for herself.

"In typical Eve fashion she started saying, 'Maybe I can go to Africa and work for Carolina for Kibera.'"

The world-traveling was something Eve was familiar with. Part of the Morehead-Cain program includes spending summers abroad, and Eve had spent time in Cuba, Egypt and other foreign locations.

Eve maintained a high grade point average and had the task of representing more than 28,000 students, but she still found time for herself.

Part of how she defined the Carolina Way was studying hard, working hard - but also playing hard.

During her campaign for student body president when she was worn-out, sleep-deprived and about to embark on another few weeks of over-worked days, there was one thing she refused to give up: intramural sports.

She also said one of her favorite moments at UNC was when her intramural flag football team won the Regional Tournament.

"She enjoyed life to its fullest," Moeser said during his address.

And so, with the campus community still mourning, Moeser called for all of its members to pay the greatest tribute to Eve by living what she preached.

"Let us be the University that Eve Carson envisioned. Let us show the Carolina Way that she envisioned, that she talked about."

theEditorial

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The Forum

March 21, 2008

Dealing with the Effects of Eating Disorders

By Rachel Dumaresq
The Forum staff writer

February 24-March 1 was National Eating Disorder Awareness Week. According to the National Eating Disorders Association (NEDA), "In the United States, as many as 10 million females, and 1 million males are fighting a life and death battle with an eating disorder such as anorexia or bulimia. Millions more are struggling with binge eating disorder."

In order to promote eating disorders awareness, coordinators spend the week trying to convey the vital message of how everyone has a different body shape. As NEDA states, "Too often individuals struggle against their natural, genetically influenced size just to fit into that pair of 'skinny jeans' in the back of their closets. Fighting your natural size and shape can lead to unhealthy dieting practices, poor [body] images, and sometimes eating disorders."

However, many of those with eating disorders do not want to face the reality of it. I know this, because I have watched my closest friend become a stranger to everyone around her.

For a week last summer, I had haunting nightmares about one of my dearest friends dying (I will call her "Molly" for the sake of privacy). I was overwhelmed with fear for her life, because I had not talked to her in almost a year. At the time, I was away from home and had no way of contacting her.

When I arrived back home, my mom quickly told me that Molly had been in the hospital due to her acid reflux disease. I immediately broke down and cried, wondering if there was more than what we knew.

Two days later, Molly's older sister called and told us that doctors had diagnosed Molly with anorexia and that she was malnourished.

At first, I went into complete shock. It was unbelievable that my best friend of twelve years had anorexia. Then anger took

over. I was furious with her parents for being obsessed with diets and being thin. But what could I do? She now lived in New Jersey. How could I help her? I could not. I waited in agony for six months, wondering if I would ever see her again.

Then, in December, I got the opportunity to visit Molly in New Jersey. I was in for the shock of my life! In our time apart, she had gone from 120 lbs to a mere 84 lbs. She seemed to waste away before my very eyes.

As the visit progressed, I realized that she was not the girl I once knew. Her eyes did not sparkle with the joy of life. No longer did she sing with her angelic voice. No longer did we burst into our infamous 10-minute fits of laughter.

She was distracted and listless. She made up excuses about how "[she was] so busy, [she did not] have time to eat or [she] just wasn't hungry." I knew she was lying (as many women and men with anorexia do in desperate attempts to hide their disease from their loved ones). Every time she lied to me, it felt as though she had ripped my heart out and thrown it on the ground. The one person I should have been able to trust the most, became the one person I would not trust with my life.

Watching Molly slowly kill herself has become my worst nightmare. I wish I could talk to Molly, but she will not let me. She does not think she has a problem. All she will accept is love. So, love is all I can give.

Many people suffer from eating disorders, and sadly, they do not realize the danger they put themselves in. It is not something to take lightly. Every day, I wonder if I will receive a call telling me of Molly's critical state or, even worse, her death.

I wish with all my heart that I could tell Molly that she is beautiful and that she could truly believe it. But she doesn't hear me, for her ears are tuned only to the lies

that she tells herself.

I long for the days of laughter without end. Will I ever get them back? I don't know. Nevertheless, I pray and hope for laughter, for love, and for this terrible nightmare to end.

An eating disorder is a very serious condition and should not be ignored. If someone you know is suffering from one, please do not disregard the situation. You could be the very one who is capable of bringing hope and help to the suffering person.

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"Phantom Cow" from page 2

Many students and faculty at PVCC are unaware of this cow, so they are usually quite shocked when they see it for the first time.

Alex Garza, a second-year student at PVCC, initially encountered the animal last semester. He was in the student parking lot talking with some friends on a cold, November evening. Suddenly, one of his buddies spotted the cow.

"I actually didn't believe him until

we walked closer to the light," Garza admitted. "We tried to take a picture of it, but none of our cameras were working."

Garza and his friends tried to chase the cow with their cars so they could get pictures on their cell phones, but they didn't have much success. "We thought it was charging us, so we went in reverse, and it headed to the field," Garza said. "It just disappeared."

Garza saw the cow again on a recent evening. This time, it was

headed down the road from PVCC.

Though the cow is usually seen at night, it does sometimes come out during the day. Jacob Neal, another PVCC student, spotted the creature one morning as he headed to his 8am class.

"It was standing in the middle of the road near the flag pole and had traffic backed up a bit down the hill, as it wouldn't move," he remembered. Neal ended up being a little late for class as a result.

"I was shocked to see a cow at Piedmont," he said. "I didn't realize that there were many cows in the area." Neal also glimpsed the animal once on the softball field.

Students haven't been the only ones to observe the cow. English Professor Andy Smith was headed home from class one afternoon when he spotted the bovine at PVCC.

"I was getting ready to bear to the right down the hill, and it was on a grassy strip between the entrance to PVCC and I64," he said. "It was just contentedly grazing, not the least bit disturbed by the roar of traffic on every side."

Realizing there might be health risks involved with the cow, Smith knew he should report it. "Making use of the survival skills I've gained over the years, I called security," he laughed. A security officer assured Smith that PVCC is aware of the animal and that attempts have been made to capture it.

Though Smith was quite surprised to see a cow at PVCC, he has come to view it as an important part of the college. "Now I just see Bessie (the cow) as another member of Building and Grounds, hard at work, keeping the landscape trimmed to the quick," he grinned.

The four-legged fugitive still remains on the loose, and if it ever does get caught, it will probably be sent to a local market where animals are bought and sold.

In the meantime, people can be on the look-out for the "phantom" cow that continues to reside mysteriously at PVCC, astonishing students and evading capture.



The PVCC Art Club held a special Art Attack on February 28 to encourage students to get involved with art. Above, students work with PVCC's adjunct art professors on one of the day's projects.

Diversity in PVCC's International Club

By Jonathan Sharpe
The Forum staff writer

Recently, the International Club and its advisor, Mahmood Moghimzadeh, held a meeting at PVCC.

There were many students present from an array of different countries, including Zambia, Peru, South Africa, China, Japan, Panama, Ecuador, El Salvador, Georgia in the Caucasus, Russia, Egypt, Turkey, India, Kenya, Brazil, and Iran. Interestingly, the Russian had Turkish ancestry, the Peruvian had Japanese ancestry, and the Brazilian had Spanish ancestry.

PVCC President Frank Friedman was present as well. He informed the students that the people of the South consider him a foreigner because of his accent, and they call him a

"Yankee." There were Americans in attendance as well, many of whom were from Texas. Altogether, there were at least 25 people at the gathering.

During the meeting, participants talked about what activities the club should host. The club is planning on going out to eat, and members discussed restaurant options. They considered Roma's (in Louisa), Guadalajara, and China King, which are in Charlottesville.

The club also discussed what movies to show at PVCC. The students liked the idea of viewing "Crash," a movie about racial discrimination.

The two presidents of the International Club are Elena Morales and Liebe Griebenauw. They are co-

presidents due to conflicting schedules. They fill in for each other when one can't make it to certain events.

Simeon Ananou was a guest speaker at the meeting. He shared with everyone how much he was impressed by the diversity of the International Club and the cooperation of all its members. Frank Friedman delivered a similar message.

After the meeting, the International Club ate Domino's Pizza and partook of other refreshments. There was even music! One song was by a group from Russia, and it sounded like a rap song because of the beats. Another song was "Kuzukuzu" by Tarkan, a singer from Turkey.

For more information on the International Club or any of its activities, contact Mahmood Moghimzadeh at mmoghimzadeh@pvcc.edu.



PVCC's International Club welcomes students of all nationalities! (Source: www.uk.or.kr)

Perplexed at Piedmont

By Zaynah Akeel & Rachel Dumaresq
The Forum staff writers

This question is for Cory Yeago... How does one "get big" in the gym? Is it the Chuck Norris Beard that's the source of this endless energy?
~Rockman

Dear Rockman:

Well, I'm not Cory Yeago so I technically can't answer your question, BUT! I can tell you more about the gym here and its hours! According to the bit of the PVCC website dedicated to Fitness and Sports, where one can find basically anything to do with anything to do with the Fitness Room, it's open on Mondays and Wednesdays 10:05-11am, 12:20-3:55pm, 7-9pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays 9-11am, 12:40-5:15pm, 7-9pm, and Fridays 10:05-11am, 12:20-3pm. All current PVCC students, faculty and staff are allowed to use this facility, where treadmills, elliptical cross trainers, recumbent bikes, spinning bikes, a step mill, a stairmaster, and free weights and weight machines are available. Anyone wishing to use the Fitness Room must first fill out a Waiver Form and should always wear proper attire for exercising.

Sorry this doesn't answer how Mr. Yeago manages to maintain himself. Hopefully if he sees this, he will seek you out with his Norris-like senses and answer you in person! ~Zaynah

Can we put pictures up all over campus one day of Logan and call it "Poke Logan Day" and everyone that sees him will poke him that day?!! (We can have a different person picked each day.) ~Love-of-Logan-Poking

Dear Love-of-Logan-Poking:

This is an interesting proposition... I doubt that the administration here would appreciate the copious amounts of Logan-pictures posted all over the place, but I dare say that if you did something like start a Facebook group, word could get around. I suggest that you post a big picture of his face online and send it to as much of PVCC as you can, telling all that you've decreed it "Poke Logan Day"—you actually would probably get some participants!
~Zaynah

What do you do when an endangered animal eats an endangered plant?? ~Daisy

Dear Daisy:

That is a tough question, but very clever! There are a few options that you can choose from.

- 1) If it is a small endangered animal (such as a bug or bird), kindly remove it from the endangered plant.
- 2) If it is a large, vicious, endangered animal, **RUN!**

Hope this helps! ~Rachel

Your Opinion Matters!

By the Student Government
Association (SGA)
Special to *The Forum*

Hello fellow students! In an effort to find out your feelings on hot topics around the PVCC campus, we would like to open an opportunity for your input. Located in the Bolick Student Center will be a poll box. Simply cut out this section, place your vote, and drop it off in the box. Results will be tallied and showcased in the next issue of *The Forum*.

To start the debate: There has been talk of Piedmont becoming a smoke-free campus. Are you:

- [] In favor of a smoke-free campus
- [] Opposed to a smoke-free campus
- [] Open to the idea of a smoking area located farther away from the school building itself

Remember, we want to hear your voice and your thoughts on this and forthcoming issues! We can only know what school policy you'd like to see if you vote!

"Eating Disorders" from page 5

Below are six ways to talk to a friend who has an eating disorder (taken from NEDA, <http://www.myneda.org>):

- Set a time to talk. Set aside a time for a private, respectful meeting with your friend to discuss your concerns openly and honestly in a caring, supportive way. Make sure you will be some place away from other distractions.
- Communicate your concerns. Share your memories of specific times when you felt concerned about your friend's eating or exercise behaviors. Explain that you think these things may indicate that there could be a problem that needs professional attention.
- Ask your friend to explore these concerns with a counselor, doctor, nutritionist, or other health professional who is knowledgeable about eating issues. If you feel comfortable doing so, offer to help your friend make an appointment or accompany your friend on their first visit.
- Avoid conflicts or a battle of the wills with your friend. If your friend refuses to acknowledge that there is a problem, or that there is any reason for you to be concerned, restate your feelings and the reasons for them and leave yourself open and available as a supportive listener.
- Avoid placing shame, blame, or guilt on your friend regarding their actions or attitudes. Do not use accusatory "you" statements like, "You just need to eat." Or, "You are acting irresponsibly." Instead, use "I" statements. For example: "I'm concerned about you because you refuse to eat breakfast or lunch." Or, "It makes me afraid to hear you vomiting."
- Express your continued support. Remind your friend that you care and want your friend to be healthy and happy.

Eating disorders permanently damage the body. Some of the most known damages are infertility, hair loss, acid reflux, and scarred tissue around the larynx (which can prevent the ability to sing). There are many more side effects and permanent damages that can occur. For more information on eating disorders, please visit www.NationalEatingDisorders.org.

Bottled Water Not Good for the Environment

By Rebecca Faris
The Forum staff writer

Anyone who spends much time on the campus of PVCC will quickly become aware of an item that is ubiquitous – bottles of water! They are everywhere – in students' hands, backpacks and cars. They are overflowing from trash cans. They lie, crushed and forgotten, in gutters and landscaping.

PVCC is not alone. A study done by Green Nature suggests that over half of Americans drink bottled water. According to Food and Water Watch, people in the US consumed 37 billion bottles in 2005. An estimated 47 million gallons of oil are used to produce the bottles of water that Americans drink each year.

As ever-present as it is, bottled water is relatively new on the American scene. While people throughout the world have had to carry their water supply with them in their travels for millennia, the explo-

sion of the bottled water industry in the 1990s is unprecedented.

International corporations have taken an essential commodity, which was basically free, and turned it into a business idea that produces billions of dollars of revenue annually.

According to research and consulting done by the Beverage Marketing Corporation, the global bottled water industry has exploded to over \$35 billion. Americans alone paid \$7.7 billion for bottled water in 2002. These enormous numbers are possible when one considers that bottled water costs hundreds or thousands of dollars more per gallon than water obtained from the tap.

An article from the November 3, 2007 *Philadelphia Inquirer* states, "Bottled water, once an icon of a healthy lifestyle, has become a pariah, the environmentally incorrect humvee of beverages.

"In recent months, dissent over the once innocuous bottle of Aquafina or Dasani has grown from a trickle to a tsunami.

"Not just among environs who decry the 1.5 million barrels of oil used to make a year's worth of bottles. (Plus more to transport it from, in the case of Tasmanian Rain, the end of the earth.)

"Not just among pragmatists who cringe at the absurdity of paying \$1.50 for bottled when tap is all but free – a fraction of a cent per gallon."

Bottled water, a \$10.9 billion-per-year industry in the United States, has even emerged as a moral or peace issue.

"We are called by our faith stance," said Sister Sharon Dillon, a former executive director of the Franciscan Federation in Washington, as she pledged to forgo Deer Park, Poland Spring, and all the other brands.

For her, it is a matter of equitable access. A billion people worldwide don't have safe drinking water, and one in five of them are children.

Americans, on the other hand, with near total access, are bingeing on bottled

of every sort, from the handheld variety to the office jugs. They swigged 8.25 billion gallons in 2006, an average of 28 gallons per person.

An advocacy group, Corporate Accountability International, sees bottled water as a corporate abuse: the takeover of a natural resource that should belong to everyone. The group wants people to "Think Outside the Bottle" and pledge not to drink it.

Canada's Polaris Group, which advocates for social change, wants people to take a closer look at what's *inside* the bottle. According to the Beverage Marketing Corporation, more than 40 percent is filtered or treated tap water.

Last month, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed legislation requiring water labels to specify the source, beginning in 2009.

The Women's International League of Peace and Freedom has launched a three-year "Save the Water" campaign, on the notion that drinking bottled water encourages privatization, which can lead to wars over water.

Food and Water Watch, a nonprofit consumer rights organization, released a numbers-laden report. Entitled "Take Back the Tap," it aims to show why tap water "is better for your health, your pocketbook and the environment."

Last fall, officials at Smith College in Massachusetts handed out 2,500 refillable bottles and installed an eight-headed tap in the dining hall for what students now call "draft" water.

Public officials are also acting.

In June 2007, the U.S. Conference of Mayors decided to study the impact of bottled water on city waste streams. San Francisco, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Chicago and many other cities have recently jumped on the "ban bottled water" bandwagon, making it illegal to spend city dollars on bottled water. Perhaps a dozen other cities have canceled purchasing contracts.



PVCC student Jackie Wright guzzles some water.

Continued on page 10

New Club at PVCC

By Sarah Murphy
Special to *The Forum*

"Art is a birth and you can't go to a teacher and find out how to be born...you have to struggle...until that image, the one that comes out of your need to create, emerges."

-Malcolm Zeldis (1978)

Perhaps some people are unaware of the struggle that goes on with other levels of existence. Everyone marches to class, gets the grades, and writes the papers.

One thing an education teaches people is that *they* are responsible for what *they* know. Not everything can be spelled out. All life is a lesson.

Knowing this makes it all the more important for one to continue learning outside the classroom. Many teachers at PVCC strongly encourage this.

One champion this semester has been Rosita Gonzalez, faculty advisor and computer graphics teacher here at school. With her assistance, a Graphic Design Club has recently been formed to compliment the graphic design degree offered at PVCC.

This new club has opened the professional world to those hoping to join in. It allows those involved to learn more and elevate what they know to another level.

On March 7, the club took a field trip to The National Portrait Gallery in Washington and the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

Students most looked forward to getting out of their normal routines and becoming inspired by things they had never seen before. With this as a goal, the trip was a success.

The current exhibits at the mu-

seum include *Recognize*, a look into portraiture through the lens of hip-hop culture, graffiti, and spoken word. Also featured was *Field as Color*, which dealt with abstraction based on the power of an expanse of radiant color.

If you are looking for something to do to broaden your aesthetic horizon, the Graphic Design Club is a highly recommendable organization to join. The club plans to take a field trip to the Corcoran's senior show in May.

If you are unable to do that, then consider stopping by an art opening here on campus. The Student Show opens on March 21 in the Dickinson building. You will be able to see what the art minds have been up to this past year.

Mostly, it is important to do something: there is always a chance to be reborn.



The ladies of PVCC's Graphics Design Club take in the Washington DC art scene.

"Bottled Water" from page 9

Bottled water "very clearly reflects the wasteful and reckless consumerism in this country," said Salt Lake City Mayor Ross C. Anderson. Chicago is mulling a tax. New York launched an ad campaign. Louisville, Ky., adopted a mascot - Tapper.

"60 million plastic bottles A DAY are manufactured, transported and then disposed of in U.S. landfills. It's killing our planet, and for no good reason..." said Eric Olsen, of the Natural Resources Defense Council.

The Container Recycling Institute says 86 percent of water bottles - maybe two million tons of plastic a year - wind up as litter or in landfills instead of recycling bins. Partly because of the glut, states are implementing bottle bills that require deposits on even recyclable plastic.

We don't want to give up our bottled water, and we shouldn't have to. Fortunately, there are many alternative containers, such as the refillable Nalgene bottle - the new icon of a healthy and an environmentally correct lifestyle.

The Music Beat

Local Singer Goes National

By Philip Obenschain
The Forum staff writer

In mid-February, residents of Staunton and surrounding areas cheered on local singer Colton Berry as he was chosen as one of the *American Idol* top 24 finalists.

The last male singer selected, Berry provided a real nail-biter as the judges argued over the choice between him and fellow hopeful Kyle Ensley. They ultimately swung in Berry's favor, much to Judge Simon Cowell's objection.

First appearing on the show briefly during his initial audition in Charleston, SC, Berry accomplished what thousands of hopeful singers across America only dream of: a spot on America's most-watched show and the chance to compete for the title of "American Idol" and the fame that goes with it.

Unfortunately, the encouragement and votes of local fans and supporters were not enough to keep Berry afloat,

and he was eliminated during the first round of voting on February 21.

His brief time in the spotlight has only encouraged him to work even harder, however. Promptly upon returning home, Colton resumed directing duties for his production of "The Wiz" for ShenanArts in Augusta County.

At just 18 years old, the former Wilson Memorial High School student has appeared in and directed countless productions with ShenanArts and Waynesboro Players and has even performed at Charlottesville's own Paramount Theatre.

As far as his plans for the future, Berry has stayed in touch with some contacts he made during his time in Los Angeles and intends to pursue future opportunities for theater.

American Idol airs Tuesdays and Wednesdays on Fox. Check local listings for times.



Colton Berry was recently voted off of *American Idol*.
(Source: www.americanidol.com)

He Says I Have No Soul Because I Don't Like Hot Chocolate, and Perhaps He is Right

By Kyla Crowley

For DH. You know who you are.

the music starts skipping
repeating the drum beat
and my heart follows
this place knows my fear
I am pushing it into my oblivion
I can do this
will you
in here
and I'll
breathe in
breathe out
I'll keep a few of my wits about me
you cannot steal the few parts
of me I keep guarded
the man outside walking drunk
knows more about me
than I will allow you
the more I surrender to you
the more of my heart
you will have
to break
and though I am
in awe over your
raw beauty
and raw words
dirty habits
there are infinite things
I am not ready to confide
in you
in the world
there is so much about me
I have already spilled
that I cannot retrieve
the painting of the girl,
naked,
in front of me
I silently tell her all of the things I could
never tell you.

The Forum Classifieds

Room For Rent in Eagles Landing

It has its own bathroom, and two windows. Large kitchen and already furnished. I need someone to move in by May. Rent: \$490 (all utilities included). Washer and dryer in the apartment, great pool and grills, as well as a gym. Please contact me via e-mail if you are interested. Bcool159@aol.com.

For Sale: Handmade Turkish Kalim Wool Rug

Animal designs woven into rug. Fringed at ends. 42 1/2 by 68 1/2 inches. Blue, burgundy, cream, and black. \$150. Call 296-7418.

24th Annual Job Fair at PVCC

The event will occur March 26. Everyone is encouraged to attend! Over 50 companies will be recruiting for full- and part-time jobs and internships. This is an excellent opportunity for you to network with local companies.

PVCC Dance Club

We meet the 1st and 3rd Friday of every month from 12:30-2:00 pm in the Dickinson Building on the main stage or the black box theatre. Contact the PVCC Dance Club at pvcc_dance_club@yahoo.com. Wear comfortable clothing and be ready to move!

Looking for a wonderful home for two adorable FERRETS.

The owners are moving and can't take them along. They are so cute, smart, and are very little trouble. They have the run of the house, and get along great with the dogs, the cats and the kid. If you need some love in your life, email vabubles777@aol.com or call 970-2026.

S. Faris, 3378 Cotswold Lane, Keswick, VA 22947

For Rent:

Lakefront summer cottage on Newfound Lake, NH. Available for families up to 8 people. \$2000/wk. See www.homeaway.com for more information. Look for property #181159.

Letter to the Editor

Louisa Resident Concerned about Nuclear Power Plants

I read Rebecca Faris' interesting but disturbing article today and it really hit home.

I live down the road from the North Anna Nuclear Power station. The thought of reactors blowing up and turning my central Virginia neighborhood of Bumpass into another Chernobyl frightens me.

On one hand, North Anna Nuclear power station has created jobs for the residents of Louisa County and created a neighborhood around the Lake Anna area as well as Lake Anna itself. Lake Anna was created to collect water to turn into electricity.

But then it turned into a recreational area attracting many beachgoers and tourists. Many settle around the area, especially retired military personnel. Because of this large influx of people, residents of Lake Anna requested their own post office.

On the other hand, Lake Anna has done much damage such as submerging

some land that formerly belonged to Jerdone Castle, a Louisa County historical landmark that George Washington spent some nights in.

Worse, nuclear waste from the plant has been dumped into the water and atmosphere over time, and recently a naegleria fouleri amoeba that has killed six Americans last year was found in it. Makes me want to leave my own county!

Considering all of this, two more reactors in Louisa County is not a good idea. We cannot risk more radioactivity, waste, and DNA destruction just so we can boil water needed for electricity.

Then again, what other solutions are there? We can use less electricity or use other fuel sources such as coal and oil to generate electricity like some places do. Whatever the solution is, let us never allow Louisa County or the surrounding areas to become another Chernobyl!

--Jonathan Sharpe

The Forum Welcomes Your Classifieds!

Looking for a ride?
Need a roommate?
Need to sell a book,
computer, or school
supplies?

Trying to get the word
out about your intramural
social or sports club?

If so, look no farther than *The Forum*. *The Forum* will be offering ad space to the PVCC community free of charge. Please send ads and announcements, along with your full name, mailing address, email, and phone number to theforum@pvcc.edu.