

America's 44th President



Photo courtesy of <http://www.boston.com>

Obama delivers his inaugural address before an estimated crowd of one million.

MAKING HISTORY



"What is required of us now is a new era of responsibility — a recognition, on the part of every American, that we have duties to ourselves, our nation and the world, duties that we do not grudgingly accept but rather seize gladly, firm in the knowledge that there is nothing so satisfying to the spirit, so defining of our character than giving our all to a difficult task." —President Barack Obama



OBAMA VOWS NEW ERA OF FREEDOM, RESPONSIBILITY

KYLE MIKKELSEN
FORUM STAFF WRITER

On Tuesday, Jan. 20, the United States saw Barack Hussein Obama, 47, sworn in as the nation's 44th president and first African-American elected to the post.

At 12:00 noon, what seemed improbable last year became reality as the former Illinois senator's nearly 2-year campaign culminated in his succession of George W. Bush as President.

Early in his inaugural address, Obama acknowledged the increasingly tough times that face the United States.

"Every so often the oath is taken amidst gathering clouds and raging storms," he said. "At these moments, America has carried on ... because We the People have remained faithful to the ideals of our forebears, and true to our founding documents.... So it must be with this generation of Americans."

The first Hawaiian-born President drew applause when he provided assurance that America will always carry on, regardless of what must be overcome.

"Today I say to you that the challenges we face are real, they are serious and they are many," he said. "They will not be met easily or in a short span of time. But know this America: They will be met."

In a clear message to those around the world who intend harm, Obama declared, "We will not apologize for our way of life, nor will we waver in its defense. And for those who seek to advance their aims by inducing terror and slaughter-



Photo by Jon Hasenfus

PVCC students and faculty gather in the Bolick Student Center to watch the inauguration.

ing innocents, we say to you now that, 'Our spirit is stronger and cannot be broken. You cannot outlast us, and we will defeat you.'"

Towards the end of his inaugural address, Obama emphasized the underlying theme of his speech—the need for more responsibility and accountability on the part of government, business and citizens alike. He told Americans that personal responsibility is "the price and the promise of citizenship."

"What is required of us now is a new era of responsibility — a recognition, on the part of every American, that we have duties to ourselves, our nation and the world, duties that we do not grudgingly accept but rather seize gladly, firm in the knowledge that

there is nothing so satisfying to the spirit, so defining of our character than giving our all to a difficult task," the President said.

The frigid weather—which included wind chill temperatures as low as the mid teens—did not seem to dissuade many. An estimated crowd of well over a million flooded the National Mall on Tuesday to witness history.

Although initial estimates put the expected total at somewhere between two and five million, satellite images of festivities suggest the actual number was probably closer to one million, according to the *L.A. Times*.

While likely, it is impossible to know for sure if the 44th president topped Lyndon B. Johnson's record-setting inau-

gural attendance of 1.2 million in 1965.

Some A-list attendees included Jay-Z, Beyoncé, Denzel Washington, Oprah, and Bruce Springsteen. Boxing legend Muhammad Ali, actor John Cusack, and director Steven Spielberg all had front row seats on the platform, according to the *San Diego Union-Tribune*.

Ben Elron, a left-leaning Obama supporter and student at Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire, described the inauguration as "fun" and "exciting." Despite arriving to the National Mall around 6:30 a.m. and waiting hours for the ceremony to start, he says, "It was certainly worth going."

Elron thought Obama was

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Photo by Jon Hasenfus

A view of the Dickinson Building after a recent snowfall in Charlottesville

WINTER WEATHER PUTS FREEZE ON CLASSES

DAVID CARON
FORUM STAFF WRITER

Wintry weather was first predicted on Jan. 21 in the 7-day forecast. As the days progressed, it became apparent that the forecast was right on target as a low-pressure front swept through the Midwest and headed towards Virginia.

It was clear by the morning of Jan. 26 that winter weather would arrive that night. At PVCC, Building & Grounds (B&G) Supervisor David Thompson started preparing for the coming days.

Dr. Bill Jackameit, vice president of finance & administrative services, readied the emergency alert systems. Students started checking for text messages from PVCC and watching TV to monitor the weather.

Though the storm failed to produce much snow, it did dump some water on the ground, and temperatures stayed in the mid to upper 20s for most of Tuesday and Wednesday mornings.

The night before the storm, school officials decided to cancel Tuesday classes to ensure the safety of students. Most other schools in central Virginia were also grounded that day, which coincides with a

policy that Thompson said was the standard in the decision to cancel school.

An email was sent out around 6:00 a.m. alerting every student that school would close for the day. When the storm failed to produce much precipitation, the president and vice presidents decided Tuesday night to open school at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday morning.

By about 7:30 a.m. Wednesday, it became obvious it would not be safe to open at the scheduled time. B&G tried to put ice melt on the president's walkway, but ice was too thick to be effective. The decision was then made to delay school until noon.

An alert was sent via text message shortly thereafter and posted to the PVCC website. Local news stations were called. B&G re-laid ice melt at 10:30 a.m. and was able to thaw the ice enough for safe passage around campus.

Some students were not particularly thrilled about the change, since it was so close to class time. Some thought there shouldn't have been further delay and had already gotten to school before being notified.

Others felt the whole day should have been canceled. As for those who did not

get the change early enough, Jackameit says that given the number of ways students can find closing and delay information, complaints should be pretty mute. He stresses that there are five different ways to check the status.

As of Jan. 30, there were 2,651 students signed up for the text message alert system. Any student wishing to sign up can go to the PVCC website, www.pvcc.edu, and click on the alert system link at the bottom left of their screens.

Another way to check the status is to call 434-977-3900. An alert is also posted to the PVCC website whenever there is either a cancellation or a delay. In addition, emails are sent out following any change in status. Finally, Jackameit alerts area TV and radio stations.

"The worst thing we can do is to have to send people home after school has started," said Jackameit. "Even if we're open and you feel it's too dangerous to come in, please don't come in."

The decision to close has to be made by 6:00 a.m. on the day of the closing, so that makes it tough for the school as well.

"Our top priority during inclement weather situations is student safety," concluded Thompson.



Photo courtesy of Pat Buck

Josh Micoch, Adam Wilson, Del. Watkins Abbitt, Vic Modic, Rachel Brown, Emily Traylor and Jackie Wright wait for photos after the visit.

PVCC LOBBIES FOR FUNDING AT VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EMILY TRAYLOR
FORUM EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In spring of 2008, PVCC experienced a 5 percent decrease in state funding. Half a year later, the school took another 5 percent drop.

"These cuts are already in effect, and we're feeling the impact," said PVCC President Frank Friedman.

Another 5 percent decrease is proposed for July 1, 2009. If the cut occurs, PVCC will have lost 15 percent of state funding in less than two years. That's approximately \$1.5 million out of the usual \$10 million revenue from Virginia.

As a result, PVCC has to skimp and save wherever possible to accommodate the reductions. According to Friedman, the first areas impacted are those that don't affect academics.

"We want to do this in such a way to minimize the impact

on students and the education they receive," he said.

Utilities, copying services and money spent on faculty training are several areas that were impacted. In addition, PVCC is considering low-enrollment degree programs for elimination.

"We've also looked at what program areas have low enrollment and therefore are serving

a small number of students but costing us a large amount of money," Friedman said.

One such program is Computer Aided Drafting & Design (CADD), which will be eliminated after this academic year.

In addition, tuition will rise this fall. Friedman estimates the Board for Community Colleges will approve an increase of approximately 5-10 percent.

Friedman explained all of this to a group of PVCC faculty and students traveling to Richmond to meet legislators at the General Assembly.

Half of the group from PVCC met Del. Rob Bell, Del. Watkins Abbitt and Del. William Janis. The others visited Del. David Toscano, Del. Steve Landes and Del. Watkins Abbitt.

During appointments, faculty and students introduced themselves and thanked the delegates for supporting higher education. Students spoke about the benefit of community college in their lives and encouraged leaders to keep budget cuts to a minimum.

One of the visiting students was Vic Modic, an engineering student in a masters program at UVA. Modic found himself out of work several years ago when his company was moved



Photo courtesy of Pat Buck

Dr. Stanley Cook, Andrew Williams, Doreen Dunu, Del. Emmett Hanger and Dr. Suzanne Morse pose in Toscano's office.

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to Mexico.

At 51 years old, he had to make a decision about what to do with his life. Years previous, he aspired to study engineering, but it didn't work out. After the loss of his job, Modic decided to resume his education in this field.

He needed to get into the Masters of System Engineering program at UVA, but he lacked background classes, such as Calculus 1-3 and computer science.

Modic attended PVCC to

fulfill the entry requirements for the masters program. He says the math and computer faculty were extremely patient and helpful as he tried to learn.

"By taking those classes at PVCC, I was able to get into this program," he said.

Modic will graduate from UVA this May with his Masters of System Engineering.

Another student, Joshua Mlčoch, related the experience of financing his own education at age 19. The oldest of eight children with another on the way, he knew his parents could

not afford to send that many kids through school. He currently attends PVCC full-time where he also works as a security officer.

"[Community college] has benefited me in that it's allowing me to achieve my dreams in a way that I can afford out of my own pocket," Mlčoch said. He enjoys PVCC, where he studies liberal arts and computer science.

"Community college was the only option for me, but it was the best option," he said.

Mlčoch will transfer to

UVA next fall to study computer science.

Other students shared their own stories with legislatures, and all contained a common theme: Community college made a difference in their lives.

After visiting legislators, the group walked to the state capitol for the opening of the General Assembly. Near the start of the session, Delegate Toscano introduced the PVCC representatives to the General Assembly. He asked them to stand as legislators gave a hearty round of applause.



Photo courtesy of Pat Buck

Adam Wilson, Emily Traylor, Jackie Wright and Josh Mlčoch visit with Del. Rob Bell (far right) in Richmond.

BLACK STUDENT ALLIANCE DISCUSSES ISSUES

JONATHAN SHARPE
Forum contributing writer

On Feb. 2, 2009, the Black Student Alliance (BSA) held a meeting in Room 160 of PVCC's main building. Many topics were discussed at the meeting, which was attended by about twelve members.

The club discussed how to create a fundraiser.

They talked about the possibility of having a guest speaker on the day of a movie showing at school. The speaker would discuss issues from the movie. Some movies suggested were the *Tuskegee Project*, *Ms. Ever's Boys* and *Life Support*.

They also discussed solutions for the prevalence of AIDS and HIV among certain people groups in the United

States.

In addition, they talked about community colleges being taken for granted. One attendee said many students don't think of community colleges as "real" colleges, like UVA or VCU. They see community colleges as being like high schools.

The attendee also mentioned that some students

don't take advantage of community college resources, such as the Writing Center and its online tutoring partner, www.smarthinking.com. She explained how to use www.smarthinking.com and what the Writing Center is all about.

For more information on BSA, contact Tierra Gough at tsg255@email.vccs.edu.

VARIETY OF STUDENT EVENTS TO OCCUR AT PVCC

RACHEL DUMARESQ
FORUM STAFF WRITER

With multiple classes and the stress of homework, students forget to make time for fun. However, they do not have to leave campus for entertainment. Each semester, PVCC sponsors activities for students to enjoy outside of class.

Free t-shirts, a popular activity of many students last semester, are coming back this spring. Students can get their pictures taken, alone or with a friend, and the image is stamped on a t-shirt. Images can be enhanced by choosing a border or logo to surround them.

For example, a calculus student took a picture with her book upside down and placed it under the logo "Nerd." The dates for this event are still undecided.

On Wednesday, April 15, there will be the annual Spring Fling during college hour. As usual, free food and live music will be provided. It will occur in the Bolick Student Center. This is a time for students to relax, hang out, listen to music and forget about exams.

A new event this semester is the Fantasy Casino Night. The T John E company will host the evening at PVCC with a Casino-like atmosphere. Students, faculty, and family can try their hands in the "casino." Unlike a real casino, alcohol is not offered, and contestants will not play for money.

"There will be no cash involved. People will play for a chance to win prizes," said Brad Foster, organizer of the event and member of the Masquers Club. Prizes include two



Photo by Jon Hasenitus

PVCC student Stephanie Hippert encourages fellow student Chris Wood to sign up for the Student Government Association (SGA) during the recent Club Day at PVCC.

flat-screen TVs and numerous other rewards.

"It will be a fun event with a full sound system, a complete Vegas experience, and even an oxygen bar," Foster added. The event will be held in the Bolick Student Center on Friday, March 20, from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Another event is the second-annual Field Day on Saturday, April 18. Some of the anticipated activities are volleyball, softball, Ultimate Frisbee, soccer and kickball. Food from the Korner restaurant and live entertainment will be offered as well.

Director of student activities Steve McNerney is excited

about all the student events, but he especially looks forward to Field Day.

"There is something for everyone – something for children, something for students, for competitive athletes and for non competitive athletes," he said. It is a time for students to interact with professors and faculty on a competitive and friendly level.

Along with student activities, PVCC boasts 31 student organizations dedicated to student involvement. Students can join any of these groups, which include the Art Club, Dance Club, Engineering club, Horticulture Club and many more.

PVCC also offers Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), an honors society specifically designed for two-year schools.

The variety of clubs provides a way for every student to be involved. Four new clubs just formed this semester. Look for information on bulletin boards about the Wushu Club, Physics Club, Photography Club and Piedmont Military Veterans Club.

Student activities allow students to relax with old friends and make new friends at school. Joining a club or participating in an event could be the first step in getting involved with the PVCC community.

AMERICANS FACE TOUGH ECONOMY

JOE DICTENBERG
FORUM STAFF WRITER

Today's economy in the United States has dropped a notch since the economic stability of the 1990s. According to the U.S. Department of State, a major reason for the economic boom of the '90s was the fall of the Soviet Union, which opened more trade opportunities for the United States.

Much has changed over the past eight years. Larry Elliott of *The Guardian* states that "inflation has risen by a 17-year high of 5.6%." Two major issues with the economy are high cost of living and lack of job security.

What will happen when the new generation of college graduates steps into the job market? Job loss has become common in recent months, and it isn't too settling for many college students.

PVCC student JJ Kowalski commented on the current trend of job loss in the United States.

"The way the job market is with jobs being outsourced, it's pretty hard to say whether or not it will be easy to find a secure job," he said. "Hopefully, though, with new government plans, things will change for the better."

The war in Iraq has played a key role in the depressed economy. According to Linda J. Bilmes and Joseph E. Stiglitz of the *Washington Post*, the war has an estimated cost of \$3 trillion.

Since the conflict began, the price per barrel of gas jumped from \$25 to \$100 per barrel. According to John

Neurohr from the Center for American Progress, the price per barrel of gas could rise to \$200 per barrel by 2012, which is roughly \$5.38 per gallon. The higher fuel prices make it difficult for many Americans to spend money for other needs and wants.

President Obama and his administration have recently crafted a plan to help stimulate the economy. There is a proposed spending plan increase of \$825 billion to create jobs for working Americans. This plan is designed to help those currently unemployed and those about to step into the working world for the first time.

According to Richard Wolf of *USA Today*, this new plan will start around \$318 billion, which will support state and local governments that are facing possible layoffs and tax increases. This spending will also go toward school repairs and road construction and will assist with the rising cost of Medicaid. There is an additional \$102 billion that will be given to aid the unemployed.

UVA student Andrew Foster said, "Obama's proposed plan for spending increase will go over well if the money is handed down to things that are essential to the growth of the economy, such as the rebuilding of schools and hospitals and road construction."

In addition, Foster wants to see funding go to the jobless. "The money should also be used to help create jobs for the unemployed and also for those who are finishing college and need jobs to pay off their loans," he said.



Photos by Forum staff

PVCC security car gets ticket

The new PVCC security vehicle was recently spotted in the motorcycle lot with a parking ticket on its front windshield. The ticket cites "No current PVCC decal affixed to vehicle," "Parking in FACULTY—STAFF space," "No hang tag," and "In lot before 6:30 p.m." as the vehicle's offenses. It is unknown who put the sticker on the car — perhaps it was a student prank.

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"very respectful and presidential in his speech. And, considering what Bush has done, [anything disrespectful] probably would have been justified."

He added, "The security was pretty amazing. I've never seen so many policemen in my life.... But it took commitment to be at that thing. It was cold, windy.... You really couldn't move because you were surrounded by all these people pushing on you from all sides ... but it was worth it, you know?"

William Fraggie, a conservative and second-year student at PVCC, thought Obama's inaugural address was "absolutely disappointing."

Fraggle believed "there was a lot of politics interjected into the occasion, which I think is tragic.... It wasn't a bipartisan coming-together."

In response to Rev. Joseph Lowery's benediction—in which the 87-year-old said, "Lord ... we ask you to help us work for that day when black will not be asked to get in back, when brown can stick around... and when white will embrace what is right,"—Fraggle said he "couldn't believe it. I almost collapsed. It just wasn't the right occasion for that. It was completely inappropriate."

Elron didn't have a problem with the benediction, however. "I certainly didn't see anything wrong with it," he said.

PLAYOFF IN COLLEGE FOOTBALL?

JORDAN MUSSELMAN
FORUM STAFF WRITER

With the postseason of college football behind us and the after-parties of the Super Bowl drawing to a close, attention is shifting away from this concluding season and focusing on next year. There are many interesting questions on both the pro and collegiate sides of the ball.

What does Urban Meyer think of his two leaders Tim Tebow and Brandon Spikes returning for their senior years? What is going on through Brett Favre's head? Or what is going through the minds of every member and fan of the Detroit Lions?

Perhaps even more intriguing than these questions — at least, to college football fanatics — are the debates that rage about the fate of college football's postseason.

The topic has been discussed and beaten to death by fans, popular sportscasters and even President Obama. When asked on national TV during Monday Night Football what was one thing he would change about sports, Obama said he would be for a postseason playoff in NCAA football.

The problem is that no one wants to agree on a solution or even agree to disagree. Congress has even attempted to push forward, to no avail, legislation that would force college football to adopt a playoff system.

For those unfamiliar with college football and its postseason, here is a brief explanation of the system. Everything is governed and controlled by the Bowl Championship Series (BCS). The BCS is a selection system enacted in 1998 to give college football an orderly way of selecting and awarding a national champion.

At the end of regular-season play, the top 25 teams are ranked in order through a system that incorporates three separate groups of rankings. The first is the Associated Press (AP) poll, the second is the Coach's Poll, and third is the average ranking of six computerized ranking groupings.

These are produced using six individual and different algorithms.

In the end, the teams ranked number one and number two play each other. That's it. Through the occurrence of that single game, a national champion is crowned. There are 33 other "bowl" games that pit a total of 66 teams against each other, including 3 more BCS games.

The existence of these lesser bowls is merely a gesture to the schools that play in them, allowing one final game in the season and stakes at a trophy.

It is easy to see why this system may upset many people. Every year, there are at least four or five great teams who could deserve a shot at being national champions. But only two get a chance to prove their worth.

On the other hand, a playoff does not solve all problems either; rather, it creates new ones. An argument of those opposed to a playoff is that it legitimately lowers the value of regular-season games.

If a team with two or three losses makes it to the final showdown, going through the season without a loss becomes less of a commodity and more of a hassle. It also makes players more prone to injury due to extra time on the practice field and in games.

BCS officials also argue that extending postseason play could have major negative consequences on student-athletes' academic lives. This is due to the extended time they would spend playing and practicing rather than studying for class. But, that doesn't seem to matter to basketball, baseball or soccer players — especially considering that football teams play once a week, while basketball is played every three to five days.

In the past four seasons of college football alone, eight teams went undefeated — an extremely hard feat to accomplish — and six were denied a chance to play in the BCS national championship. Six teams who proved themselves on the field were denied a chance to compete for

the title.

In 2004, the University of Southern California (USC), Oklahoma, Auburn, Utah and Boise State went undefeated coming out of regular-season play, and all but Oklahoma and Boise State won their postseason games. USC and Oklahoma were granted a chance to compete for the national title, but Auburn, Utah, and Boise State were not.

In 2006, Boise State went undefeated and was unable to secure a spot in the title game. In 2008, Utah and Boise State went undefeated again and did not play for a national championship.

Utah went on to win its lesser bowl game as the underdog against Alabama, 31 – 17. Boise State would lose to 11th ranked Texas Christian University by one point.

The problem for Utah and Boise State is that the perceived strength of their conference, the Mountain West Conference (MWC), is generally lacking. But for Auburn, a team out of the powerful Southeastern Conference (SEC), one wonders how their players and fans must have felt after the 2004 season.

After looking at the facts, one question arises: Is a playoff system necessary in college football? The answer is much less obvious than the question, and the short-term answer is "no."

College football isn't nearing extinction, faltering in ratings or having any catastrophic meltdown. On the contrary, the qualms about college football's postseason may bring more attention to the sport through media attention and word of mouth among sports fans.

Once all is said and done, people will have to agree to disagree, no matter what takes place after the regular season ends. It's interesting to speculate, however, given recent events in the NFL.

Could the Utah Utes have been college football's version of the Arizona Cardinals this past year? An underdog team from a down conference and untested in battle has the sky as its limit; it's the stuff dreams are born of.

In the end, it probably doesn't even matter. Final score of Super Bowl XLIII: Pittsburgh 27 – Arizona 23.

iO Theater to perform at Dickinson

JENNIFER TREACY
FORUM STAFF WRITER

Everyone is familiar with Shakespeare, and this month PVCC will have the opportunity to experience his work in a different way. On Feb. 27, iO Theater will perform on the Dickinson Main Stage.

You'll want to be there because it could be your suggestion they improvise. These experienced performers use audience input to create an original play in Shakespearean style and form, complete with costumes and chock full of "thee's" and "thou's."

Based in Chicago, the iO Theater has an extensive repertoire and runs different shows every night. This is in addition to their groups that perform throughout the country.

Originally called Improv Olympics, it was founded in 1981 by Charna Halpern, with help from Second City TV performer Del Close. Many of today's funny faces started out at iO, including Tina Fey, Amy Poehler, Chris Farley, and Seth Meyers from *Saturday Night Live*. Others include Mike Myers from *Wayne's World* and *Shrek*, Angela Kinsey and Kate

Flannery from *The Office* and Neil Flynn from *Scrubs*.

The house special, the Harold, takes one audience suggestion apart and puts it back together through games, stories, characters and themes that are totally improvised. Their spontaneous Shakespeare received only the highest praise from several local newspapers like the *Chicago Tribune* and the *Chicago Reader*.

If Shakespeare is good, then free Shakespeare is even better. The student activity fee paid at the beginning of the semester covers two free shows per season, so students interested should go to the receptionist's desk in the main building to collect tickets. The student/faculty cost for additional tickets is \$6.

Other upcoming events this season include the Richmond Ballet and the Oratorio Society in March. PVCC Theatre's production of *Fabulous Flavio* will occur in April.

Email arts coordinator Bill Hurd at bhurd@pvcc.edu to get involved or to give suggestions about arts and performances you'd like to see at PVCC.

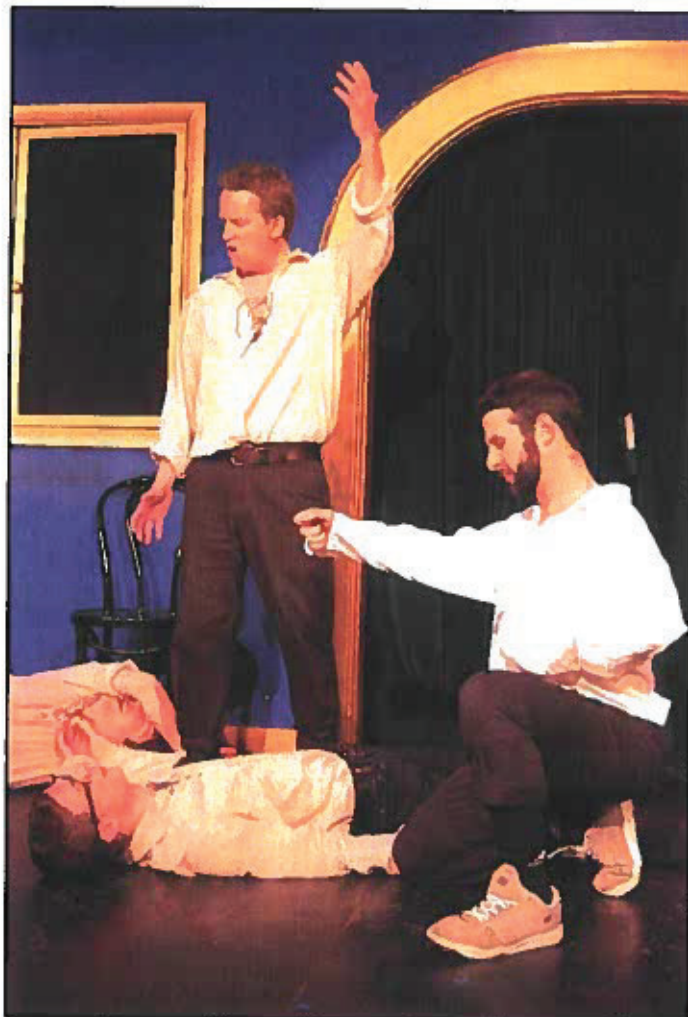


Photo courtesy of iO Theater

Cast members of iO Theater perform Shakespeare improv.

HALL TALK: How did you spend Christmas break? —By Rachel Dumaresq



Corinne Riley

"I spent the majority of my break applying to colleges and essays for scholarships. Overall, it was pretty relaxing."



Josh Micoch

"I worked extra hours and I went home to spend Christmas week with my family. Oh, and I brushed up on my piano skills."



Kathleen Delghan

"I spent time with my family, and my grandma came for Christmas. We didn't do much traveling. We all got sick."



Tyler McCartney

"I worked and celebrated Christmas and New Years."

WATCHMEN LAWSUIT HEATS UP, BURNS OUT, SETTLES

PAUL HENNEN
FORUM STAFF WRITER

What is *Watchmen*? It is a film based off a 1986 comic series of the same name. The story is set in an alternate 1985 when tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union heightened, and the plot follows a group of former vigilantes.

Directed by Zack Snyder of *300* and *Dawn of the Dead* (Remake), the film adaptation suffered in the developmental stage for years until producer Lawrence Gordon moved the project from Fox to Warner Bros. Doing so caused Fox to wage allegations that they owned rights to *Watchmen*.

Many have known about the issue through online news sources and newspapers, indicating that the film has already gathered a following.

A PVCC student, Jessica, said, "Fox should've made the movie when they had the chance. Now they are fighting over something that isn't theirs."

While Warner Bros. claimed in 2005 that Fox declined to produce the film, Fox began to build a legal case. Warner Bros. considered Fox disinterested in the film. In February 2008, Fox filed a lawsuit. Warner Bros. Studios motioned to dismiss the case in August 2008, and the motion was rejected.

The case was scheduled to begin on Jan. 20, 2009, but the two studios entered a non-binding settlement towards the end of November 2008. The legal fight had cost each studio a lot of money, and the two sides started arguing over which party was responsible

for covering legal costs.

Judge Gary Feess advised both studios to look towards a settlement. He said, "The parties may wish to turn their efforts from preparing for trial to negotiating a resolution of this dispute or positioning the case for review."

When asked about the issue, a PVCC student, who preferred to remain anonymous, said, "Fox has actually had a pretty bad year with movies and was just trying to get money that they didn't deserve."

the theaters would be happy] if the movie wasn't released when it was supposed to be."

According to screenrant.com, Fox has received gross participation from 5 to 8.5 percent, which will depend on *Watchmen*'s box office take-in. Comparing this to Director Zack Snyder's previous film, *300*, Fox would get roughly \$39 million if *Watchmen* grossed \$456 million.

Fox also retained gross participation rights to any *Watchmen* property in the future. This may include poten-

"Fox has actually had a pretty bad year with movies and was just trying to get money that they didn't deserve"

—PVCC student

According to the *Hollywood Reporter*, the case was released Jan. 15, just five days before the trial was to begin. Rather than fighting over the intellectual property, they chose to share revenue derived from it.

The settlement heated up again, because Warner Bros. faced the issue of the movie's March 6 release being pushed back. The release would have been delayed due to the concurring lawsuit. Such a delay would cause movie theaters much trouble. Screens must be booked ahead of time and readjusting the release date would slim Warner Bros.'s wallet even more.

Another student commented on the issue, "I don't really know much about the movie business [but I doubt if

tial sequels, prequels or spin-offs. Fox will collect an upfront payment of \$5 - \$10 million which is expected to cover its previous costs while developing the film. The money will also cover the studio's legal fees during the lawsuit.

An off campus citizen of Charlottesville said, "Well, Fox shouldn't have gotten anything, but it's better that they did, so Warner Bros. won't have any more trouble."

Watchmen will be released as planned on March 6, 2009.

According to the *Hollywood Reporter*, the case was released on Jan. 15, just five days before the trial was set to begin. Rather than fighting over the intellectual property, they chose to share revenue derived from it.

THE FORUM STAFF

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Courtesy of <http://hardrockhideout.files.wordpress.com>

BAND REVIEW: NICKLEBACK

APRIL HARRIS
FORUM STAFF WRITER

Nickelback emerged on the rock scene in early 2000 with its album, *The State*. Since 2000, the band has held the attentions of audiences with hit songs like "Photograph," "Animals" and "Rock Star."

Nickelback continues to keep fans entertained with every new album. Their latest CD is *Dark Horse* and includes songs like "Gotta Be Somebody" and "Never Going to Be Alone." "Dark Horse" was released on Nov. 18, 2008 and made Billboard 200's list at number three for 2009.

Nickelback is a band that knows how to connect to its listeners. Brianna Simons, a student at PVCC, describes the band in two adjectives: "relatable and easygoing."

She also says, "The band writes about so many messages that everyone can relate to. They sing about what its fans are going through in their lives." Brianna's favorite songs include "Rock Star" and "Gotta Be Somebody."

The band started in 1995 in

Alberta, Canada. It consists of four members. Two are brothers: Chad Kroeger on vocals and Mike Kroeger on base. In addition, there is guitarist Ryan Peak and Daniel Adair on drums.

Together they have sold over 27 million albums around the world and show no sign of change for the future. Since their first album release, the band has won countless recognition, including six Juno Awards. Nickelback's hard rock leaves the listener wanting more.

Nickelback will be touring throughout the United States in 2009. The band's first stop will be in Nashville, Tennessee, on Feb. 25. It will then travel to Philadelphia on March 9 for one of its closest concerts to Charlottesville.

Still want to know more? Check out the band's official website, nickelback.com, for more on tour dates, album information and the band's bio.

Nickelback's music can also be downloaded from iTunes and found at music stores in Charlottesville.

Local Café offers authentic Asian cuisine

PHIN GENERELLY
FORUM STAFF WRITER

When entering the shopping center housing Saigon Café, customers notice several stores that highlight the unique aspects of Charlottesville. While one might assume there would be at least one chain restaurant or store, none are in sight.

As hungry customers pull into Allied Lane, they witness a collection of stores that have served Charlottesville for many years. Nestled with other family-owned and operated businesses such as C'ville Coffee, Rocky Top Gym, and Crazy Horse Studios, Saigon Café stands out as one of Charlottesville's best-kept secrets.

While each of these restaurants and stores surely deserves a review, there are several reasons students might be interested in Saigon as an alternative to routine Asian fare. With regular lunch specials running below \$5, the quality of the food exceeds expectations.

Although no lunch buffet is available, restaurant-goers have found portion sizes to be large and cite this as reason to try the restaurant.

Saigon Café is located about four miles from PVCC. Map Quest estimates the average travel time from Piedmont is about ten minutes. Although many other food choices are closer to campus, a trip to this restaurant supports local business.

Types of food at the restaurant vary. Saigon Café has a menu that combines both au-

thentic Chinese and Vietnamese foods. With this in mind, customers should know that authenticity is highly valued by the owners, which can make the intensity of dishes more intense than typical Asian cuisine in Charlottesville.

One of the most popular items on the menu is easily identified. Wrapped in fresh lettuce and dipped in Saigon's signature tangy-sweet sauce, the Vietnam Egg Rolls consist of a fried rice paper shell filled with pork and other spices. This combination of crunch and taste is a great way to start a meal.

Many diners at Saigon Café cited common dishes such as tofu with vegetables or chicken fried rice as their favorite main courses. But some chose more traditional meals. Among these choices, Pho Tai stands out as a favorite. Pho (pronounced "fuh") largely resembles a beef stew but includes noodles. This amazing element of Vietnamese cuisine is one that most Asian cuisine connoisseurs are unaware of. This authenticity is not common among many Asian restaurants.

Besides authentic food and affordable price, the owners of the restaurant strive to make newcomers feel welcome and provide fast service. This combination of excellent food, affordable price and friendly ambiance make Saigon Café a great, economical choice for anyone wanting another option in the plethora of Asian restaurants.

Wanted

Do you like to write? Are you Creative?
Do you remember those random English prompts from High School where you had to finish the story? A fellow PVCC student is looking for your ideas to publish in her book of 100 (or more) short stories! Send her story starters/ scenarios, and you could get your name and idea published in her next book! Please send any ideas you may have to Kathleen at: frubafreak17@gmail.com. To see one of her stories, visit <http://frubafreak17.deviantart.com/art/The-Man-with-100-Tales-99381424>

Be a Tutor at Cale Elementary School!

Volunteer 1 hour / week, starting this semester. Make a difference in a child's life! For more information contact Erin at 961.6530.

Announcements

Attention Spring 2009 Graduates

Please get your Application for Graduation (available at the Welcome Center and on line) to the Welcome Center as soon as possible. If you are missing a class, it still may be possible to choose one from the late-starting classes. For more information contact Lorraine Conca at lconca@pvcc.edu or by phone 434-961-6541.

Attention Students

Your student activities fee provides you with vouchers for free admission to many events in the Dickinson Building. Pick up a voucher form at the Reception Desk in the Main Building. Tickets obtained with vouchers are only available for pick up at the PVCC Box Office in the Dickinson Building, which is open two hours before the start of each show. Contact the Dickinson Theater Box Office for more information at boxoffice@pvcc.edu or 961-5376.

Upcoming Events

Monday, January 26 12:20-1:20
Thursday, January 29 3:30-4:30
Nursing information session
Main Building Auditorium, room 229.

For more information, call 434.961.5226 or e-mail agilles-pie@pvcc.edu.

Friday, February 20. 7:30 p.m.

Man on Wire

Main Stage of V. Earl Dickinson Building
PVCC Student Art Club Presents a free screening of *Man on Wire* for free. Event is open to the public. Nominated for a 2009 Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature, *Man on Wire* tells how a Frenchman performed a high-wire routine between New York City's World Trade Center's twin towers in 1974. For more information, log on to www.pvcc.edu/performingarts or contact Beryl Solla, professor of art, at 434.961.5362 or bsolla@pvcc.edu.

Monday, February 23, 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Antonio Alcalá, StudioA

"To thine own self be true."

C'ville Coffee located at 1031 Harris Street Charlottesville, Virginia
Event co-sponsored by the PVCC AIGA Student Group. Learn how Shakespeare and Graphic Design come together during a coffee chat with Antonio Alcalá of StudioA. This event is FREE and open to the public. For more information visit <http://richmond.aiga.org/events/2009/02/26491238>

Friday, February 27, 7:30 p.m.
iO Theatre-Improvvised Shakespeare Company

\$12 Adults; \$10 Students/Seniors
Chicago's legendary iO Theater presents a fully improvised tragedy, comedy or history Elizabethan style. Based on one suggestion from the audience. General seating.

alternativenenergy

Powered by BP

Part-Time Office Assistant

Part-Time Office Assistant needed for busy downtown Alternative Energy Company. Approximately 15 - 20 hours per week. Afternoon hours from 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. preferred (negotiable depending on class schedule). Duties include, but are not limited to, answering the telephone, receptionist duties, filing, purchasing of office supplies, organizing, office errands, etc. Qualifications include a working knowledge of Microsoft Word and Excel, a valid driver's license, a pleasant phone manner, and a basic understanding of office procedures as well as the ability to take the initiative and work independently. Punctuality, dependability, and attention to detail are a must. A starting pay of \$9.00 - \$10.00 per hour is possible depending on experience. Please e-mail your resume and cover letter

Virginia21 is an action-tank involving young people across the Commonwealth in the political process by providing information, directing advocacy, and coordinating political action on a non-partisan issue agenda. Virginia21 is the Commonwealth's and the country's first true generational advocate for young people. We've been called the "AARP of the next generation". Virginia21's agenda focuses beyond the next election cycle, on policies that matter to building a better future for Virginia. We are acting today to shape tomorrow. Think you have a few good ideas? Well, then send them to us. Send an email to our Campus Director Andrew D. Williams at adw2981@email.vccs.edu. Only together can we succeed in our endeavors!

The Awards Committee solicits your nominations for the PVCC Distinguished Service Award, PVCC Distinguished Student Award, PVCC Nominee for SCHEV Outstanding Faculty Award, and the PVCC Medallion. Nominations are due by 5 p.m. on February 28.

The Forum offers 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.