

PVCC STUDENTS WIN COMPETITION AND COMBAT HUNGER WITH PROJECT

BLANCA ROAT
FORUM STAFF WRITER

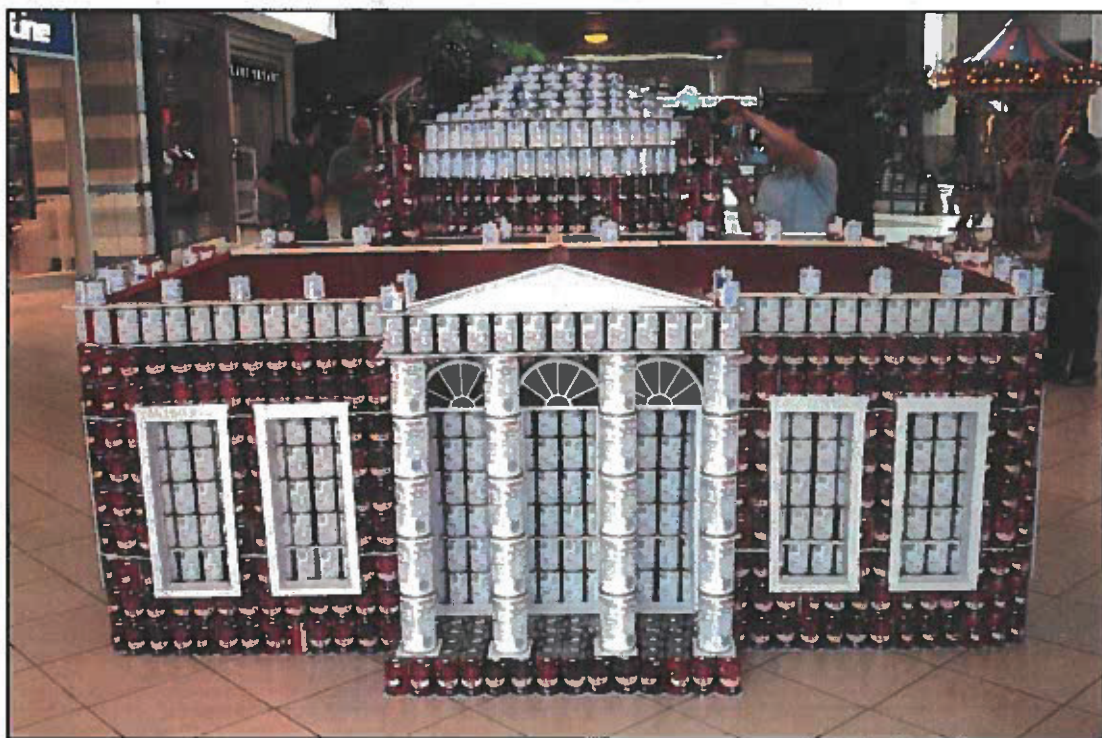
PVCC students recently won a local "Canstruction" competition by building a model of Monticello from food cans. Canstruction is a foundation of the Society for Design Administration, which calls it "the most unique food charity in the world."

The Canstruction competition is held annually in many cities throughout North America. The Blue Ridge Area Food Bank organized the local event and invited engineering and science students from PVCC to participate in the competition.

The PVCC team included SciTE scholars – engineering, science and computer science students at the tops of their classes. These individuals received scholarships from the National Science Foundation.

PVCC's team and its four competitors – local architectural and engineering firms – arrived at Fashion Square Mall on Nov. 5 to construct their designs.

The PVCC team finished in less than four hours and used about 3,000 cans of food. Their construction was limited



Courtesy of the Canstruction team.

The completed replica of Monticello stands on display in the Fashion Square Mall.

to a 10 ft x 10 ft x 8 ft space. The Monticello replica filled the majority of that, though its height was only about 6 ½ feet.

According to Andrew Renshaw, team leader and engineering program liaison at PVCC, the model was "scaled fairly accurately." He said Monticello is a long building, and, due to length restrictions,

students cut off two wings. They also wanted the model to be as tall as possible to appeal to the judges.

The idea to build a model of Monticello evolved during the students' brainstorming process. They were divided into three groups and asked to think of ideas. One group suggested building a model of the

White House. Through further discussion, the idea of Monticello came about. Monticello ultimately won the vote, as students thought its locality would give them an edge in the competition.

After making a decision, the team had only one and

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HOLIDAY EVENTS TO OCCUR IN CHARLOTTESVILLE

TATHAN TEARMS
FORUM STAFF WRITER

The end of the semester is approaching, and some students are looking forward to returning home. But what about those who will spend the holidays in Charlottesville? What is there to do? *The Forum* brings you a list of activities for those who are staying local for the break.

The Paramount Theater on Charlottesville's Downtown Mall is hosting several live performances from mid-December to mid-January.

One of the shows will be *A Christmas Carol*, the familiar Christmas-time story of Ebenezer Scrooge, by Charles Dickens. The rendition will be performed by the Nebraska Theatre Caravan on Tuesday, Dec. 16 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost between \$32 and \$45 for adults.

The Paramount is hosting its annual Christmas concert, *Christmas at the Para-*

mount. During the event, the Oratorio Society of Virginia will perform seasonal carols.

There will be two showings of the concert on Saturday, Dec. 20 at 3:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Tickets cost between \$15 and \$45 for the matinee and between \$20 and \$55 for the evening showing.

The Glenn Miller Orchestra, one of the most popular big bands in the world, will perform *In the Christmas Mood* on Sunday, Dec. 21 at 4:00 p.m. The event is promised to put viewers "In the Mood" for the holidays.

In January, the Paramount has two offerings that may be of interest. The first is MOOMIN, a performance by dancer-illusionists. The show will be Saturday, Jan. 17 at 8:00 p.m. Log on to their website, mosespendleton.com, for more information about the performance.

Continuing the dancing theme at the Paramount, Les Ballets Trockadero de

Monte Carlo will perform on Tuesday, Jan. 27.

A relatively new feature at the Paramount is their live, high-definition streaming video straight from the Metropolitan Opera in New York. The theater will show *Thaïs* by Massenet on Sunday, Dec. 28 at 1:00 p.m.

On Jan. 10, the theater will show *La Rondine* by Puccini. This event is also at 1:00 p.m.

The Paramount's final stream in January is *Orfeo ed Euridice* by Gluck. This will be Jan. 24 at 1:00 p.m.



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weeks to prepare for the competition.

"They spent many late nights at PVCC," Renshaw said.

The team had to overcome many obstacles. The first problem involved sizes of cans. They were on a budget and needed to buy as many cans as possible. In dealing with this, they encountered another issue: Not all cans are created equal!

"For example, Campbell's soup cans didn't work because they would not stack well due to the fact that the diameter is the same on the top of the can as on the bottom," said Renshaw. "We had to find cans that have a smaller bottom than top so that the model would be sturdy."

The team encountered difficulty again when faced with transporting 3,000 cans

to PVCC and the mall. Three thousand food cans are heavy and would bottom out any pick-up truck. Students ended up taking several trips to move the cargo.

In the end, the team overcame its obstacles and achieved a first-place win in the competition. The "canstructions" remained on display until Nov. 21, when the food was donated to the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank.

Renshaw is not sure what happens beyond the local win. Perhaps the model of Monticello is automatically entered into a higher level of the competition.

Either way, the students have already achieved more than a first-place honor. Through the project, they applied their studies to the practical world and aided the fight against hunger.



Courtesy of the Construction team

Derek Ramsay and Joseph Falvella put finishing touches on the dome of Monticello.



Photo by Jessica Max-Yeboah

The "Changing Lives" banner is displayed between the satellite ODU buildings on the PVCC campus.

STUDENTS CAN OBTAIN BACHELOR'S DEGREE ON PVCC CAMPUS

JESSICA MAX-YEBOAH
FORUM STAFF WRITER

The Old Dominion University (ODU) Distance Learning program at PVCC offers on-site admission. "We admit on the spot, so we don't have admission deadlines," said Site Director Kirk Dewyea.

However, each college has its own application deadline, which is important to remember. To apply, one must meet one of two credit requirements: have 24 credits or have 15 credits and sign a letter of intent with the university (further details below).

With either credit level, one must have at least a 2.5 grade point average (GPA). If one transfers credits from another institution, the minimum grade requirement is C.

An advantage of being a PVCC student is the guaranteed admission agreement that exists with ODU.

To enter the agreement, a student with 15 credits must sign a letter of intent, maintain a 2.5 GPA, and complete an associate's degree.

Completing an associate's degree "guarantees admission to the university, but does not guarantee admission to a certain program, like the nursing school," said Dewyea.

To apply, there is a \$40 application fee. However, the fee can be waived if proof is provided from the applicant's current institution, likely PVCC, that he or she is receiving



Photo courtesy of ODU

The ODU buildings are nestled among trees and shrubbery behind PVCC.

ing financial aid.

As of November 2008, the cost per credit hour for an undergraduate degree is \$219. For a graduate degree, the cost is \$321 per credit hour.

Students intending to apply should meet with an advisor or Dewyea. They also must obtain official transcripts from all previous institutions and complete a university application.

On average, there are 150 students taking classes at the PVCC site. Of those students, 10 to 15 graduate each semester.

There are several facts to remember

when transferring to ODU. First, ODU has admission agreements with more than thirty colleges throughout Virginia. So if a student moves, he or she can still be enrolled in the ODU program.

Second, ODU has invested \$880,000 in the Kluge-Moses Science Building and will relocate its distance learning program to the building once it is complete.

Third, if a student misses a class, Louise Schatz, assistant site director, says each class is videotaped so students can catch up on missed classes.

Fourth, students can be dual-enrolled.

Addition to the dictionary? Meh!

Meh (mē'): (n.) An interjection expressing indifference or boredom.

NICOLE CARNEMELLA
FORUM STAFF WRITER

From generation to generation, the English language has constantly evolved. In the 60s and 70s, there was "groovy." In the 80s and 90s, the phrase "totally awesome" was coined. Now, we have the word "meh."

On Nov. 17, 2008 the word "Meh" was chosen to be included into the Collins English Dictionary next year. It was selected by Cormac McKeown, head of content at Collin Dictionaries, after surveying people about words they use in everyday conversation that are not in the dictionary.

"Meh" has officially been defined as "an interjection expressing indifference or boredom." The word "meh" beat off hundreds of other terms vying for entry. Suggested additions included "frenemy" – an enemy posing as a friend, "jargonant" – a friend of outlandish dialect, and "megrim" – low spirits.

The origins of the word are somewhat murky. It grew in popularity in 2001, when it was used during an episode of the *Simpsons*. Homer suggests

an outing to his children, Bart and Lisa. Both shrug their shoulders, say "meh" and keep watching TV. He asks again and Lisa replies, "We said MEH! Meh, meh!"

"With the rise in popularity of emailing and text messaging, the internet has played a big role in formalizing the spellings of vocal interjections such as these," states McKeown of times.com.

More and more words like "meh" and "heh" are popping up everywhere.

Former PVCC student Danica Lister said, "I guess it's cool. But I'm not sure if I see people using it enough to be added into the dictionary. And I feel like it's not really a word, more a sigh. I would have liked to have seen 'frenemy' added more than 'meh.'"

Matt Wood, a current PVCC student, stated, "I think this is hilarious. When I was first told, I really didn't believe it ... but I looked it up and there it was in black and white."

Whatever your opinion, if ever asked why you're shrugging your shoulders muttering "meh," you can now say, "Look it up; it's in the dictionary."

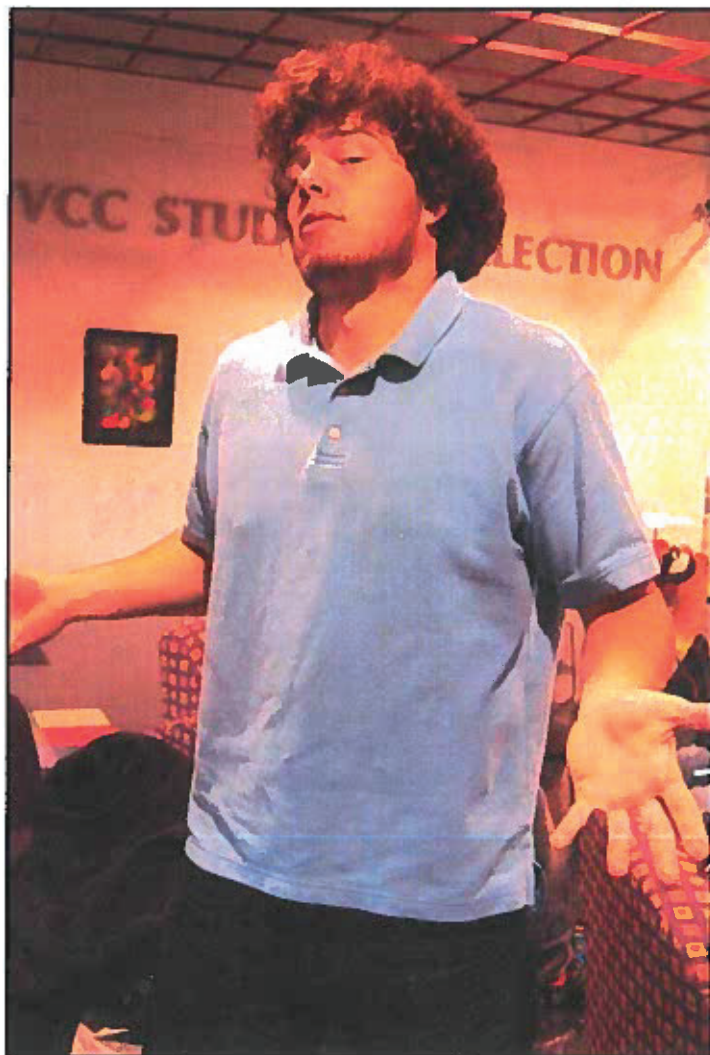


Photo by Jon Hasenfus

PVCC student Jonathan Showalter shows his "meh" pose. The word "meh" was recently added to the dictionary.

PVCC students can obtain free ID's

JORDAN MCNEISH
FORUM STAFF WRITER

It's not well known that PVCC students can get photo ID cards free of charge. At the security office across from the library, ID cards can be made with student numbers and color photos.

When a friend informed me I could get a free photo ID, I used a break from class to get mine.

The whole process took only ten minutes. The camera wasn't hooked up to the computer, so it took a while to work. Normally, the process would probably take two or

three minutes.

I view myself as a thrifty shopper, and there are plenty of opportunities to take advantage of student discounts.

Before I got my student ID, I used a yellow paper card that said "PVCC" and displayed my ID number. I used that ugly little card for a year,

despite frowns from several cashiers.

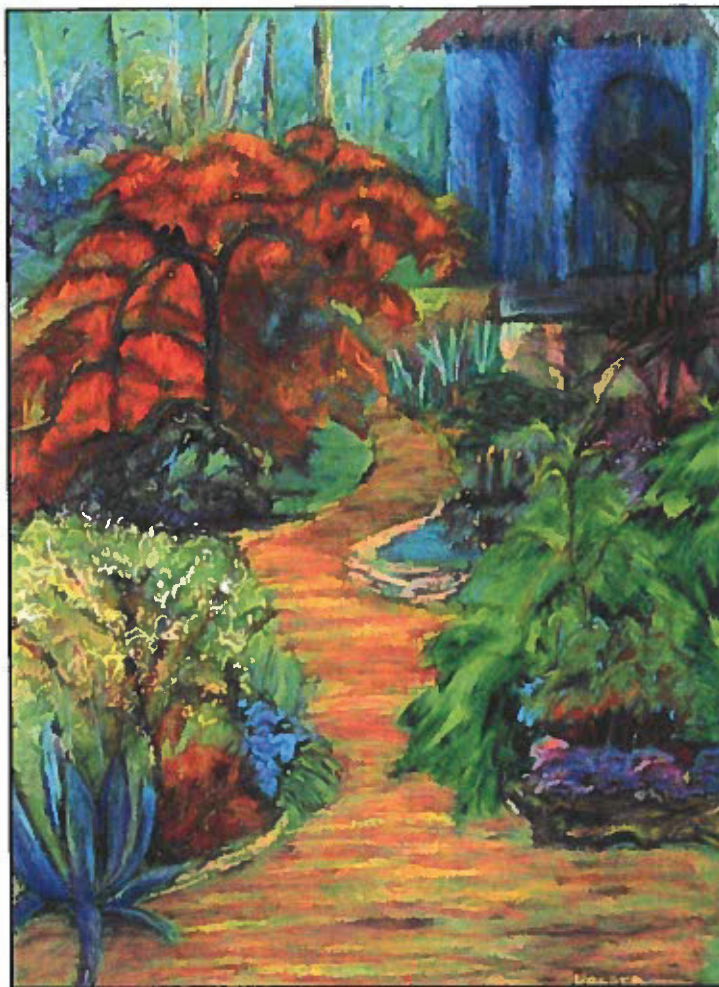
It's worthwhile to get a student ID and save some money. Also, the card means you don't have to memorize your student number.

Contact the security office for more information.



PVCC student featured in *The Inquiry* magazine

The Inquiry magazine holds an annual contest for art students in the Virginia Community College System (VCCS). The winner's artwork is placed on the cover of the magazine. For the second consecutive year, a PVCC student has won the award. Kreela Moore (pictured above with her professor, Rob Tarbell) received a \$250 prize and had her artwork (right) displayed on the front of *The Inquiry*. Moore is in Tarbell's Painting II class. The above picture of Tarbell and Moore was featured on the back cover of *The Inquiry*. Last year, PVCC student Katie Yancy of Beryl Solla's Drawing I class won the award.



"LANDSCAPE"

BY KREELA MOORE

Let There Be Light

The art department at PVCC will host *Let There Be Light* on Friday, Dec. 12 from 6-9 p.m. The evening, which is the longest of the year, will be filled with illuminated artwork around the Dickinson Building. Works of art by more than 12 artists from the community will be displayed. Attendees should dress warm and bring flashlights. Free hot chocolate will be provided.

Artwork: "If Not Now, When?"

Artist: James Yates (Photograph by Beryl Solla, PVCC professor of art)



Photo by Kay Betha

The Masquers Club at PVCC hosted a Tea Party to help students relax before exam week. Above are Sarah Richardson, Raymond Sanchez, Alyssa Burr, Brad Foster, Ally Watson and Jackie Wright.

Masquers Club hosts tea party



Photo by Kay Betha

Andy Davis (left) and Alex Modic (right) played the parts of Tweedle-Dee and Tweedle-Dum at the Tea Party.

JONATHAN SHARPE
FORUM CONTRIBUTING
WRITER

On Wednesday, Dec. 3, the Masquers Club at PVCC hosted a Mad Tea Party in the North Mall Meeting Room. Characters from *Alice in Wonderland* were in attendance, including pink-and-blue Alice, the queen, Mad Hatter, Cheshire cat, a tired mouse and two playing cards.

Refreshments included Swiss Miss Chocolate, Twinning's English-Breakfast Tea, Stash's Premium Decaf Chai Spice Tea and peppermint herbal tea. These were served with cookies and cupcakes.

The two card characters allowed people to walk on them even if it was unpleasant. At one point, everyone gathered together and sung "The Un-birthday Song."

Blue Alice enjoyed the tea party and said it was really nice. Pink-and-blue Alice fell down a rabbit hole and looked for

the white rabbit so she could go back to England. At one point, the two Alice's started arguing about which of them was the real Alice, but they did not want to fight.

Cheshire cat spoke poorly of the queen and said she had large buttocks. However, Cheshire later denied the statement when asked about it.

The queen said, "For anyone who didn't attend the tea party, you really missed out, so it's off with your head!"

The tired mouse played with a Rubik's cube but when asked if she enjoyed it, she slept. Other times, she sang "How I Wonder Where You Are" in a sleepy voice.

Mad Hatter spoke about the informal nature of the party. "A lot of people came, and a lot of people went back out," he said.

Alyssa Burr of the Masquers Club made most of the party's costumes and had a good time. She says everyone should join Masquers because it's fun.

Professor teaches, makes music, writes and raises baby

JESSICA MAX-YEBOAH
FORUM STAFF WRITER

Professor of English Justin Wert is entering his second year at PVCC. He grew up with two step-brothers in Darien, Conn., about an hour from New York.

His college career began at Menlo College and Foothill Community College. Both are in the Bay area of California.

The next part of Wert's college career started when he participated in a poetry reading. In the audience was a professor from the University of Mississippi.

The professor noted Wert's interest and understanding of southern living and suggested that Wert attend Mississippi, "or Ole Miss as it's called."

Wert took up the professor on his offer. He began pursuing a teaching career during his senior year of college.

He was working on an English degree but "had no idea what [he] was going to do with it," Wert said. One of his professors said he would make a good teacher.

While Wert pursued his master's degree, he taught high school English in Batesville, Miss. He did that for six years, from 1996 through 2002.

At PVCC, Wert teaches Survey of American Literature, African-American Literature and three sections of college composition.

During class, he commands the students' attention. Each

student listens intently to his lectures on authors such as Frederick Douglass, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Sojourner Truth and Harriet Jacobs. He makes a point of reviewing chapters of certain stories so students know what's important.

One student commented, "I love listening to him speak. I can't wait to hear what he's going to say next."

Another added, "I really enjoy this class (African-American Literature). He makes what you might think would be a ho-hum class exciting. You don't want to miss a class."

It was fate that Wert ended up at Ole Miss, since it's where he met his fiancé and mother of his 15-month-old son, Ian. His fiancé's name is Keshia. They have been together for five years. Since being a couple, they lived together in Mississippi, South Carolina and Virginia.

When not teaching, Wert spends time with Keshia and Ian. He and Keshia enjoy making music together. Wert's love for music, especially jazz and blues, started at age 10, when he heard a B.B. King album for the first time.

His favorite musicians include "little-known Magic Sam, from right near where I used to teach ... James Brown, B.B. King, Freddie King, Albert King, Miles Davis and John Coltrane," Wert said.

The couple has introduced their son to music. "We're



Photo by Jessica Max-Yeboah

Prof. Justin Wert is in his second year of teaching English at PVCC.

trying to teach it to Ian. He loves banging on the piano. He loves playing the guitar. You gotta start 'em out early, you know," Wert said, laughing.

Speaking of Ian, Wert says, "Moon is his favorite word. He loves the moon. He'll point out everything that's round, everything that looks like the moon. But at the same time, he gets that the moon can be a crescent. It's like, 'How does he get it?' I'd be confused by it!"

Wert likes to fish, though "I haven't done much since I've been here," he said.

He also spends his free time writing. He recently finished writing his second novel and is thinking about writing a

third. Currently, he's looking for a publisher for the second novel and still editing the first.

In addition, he likes watching college basketball, as "football, baseball and other sports are sort of secondary to me," Wert said.

When not writing, he's reading. He says he doesn't have one favorite book, but multiple favorites "that have changed over the years. I like Richard Wright's *Black Boy*, Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*... you know, all the greats."

Wert's favorite authors include those listed above, along with Toni Morrison, Steven Crane and William Faulkner.

"One of his professors said he would make a good teacher."



CHRYSLER



BIG THREE

SHOULD NOT RECEIVE GOVERNMENT BAILOUT

KYLE MIKKELSEN
FORUM STAFF WRITER

Look, there is no one who wants Detroit to succeed more than me. In fact, I would love for the Big Three to put foreign automakers to shame.

But bailing them out would not solve anything. Throwing billions of dollars at tanking automotive giants would only delay the inevitable – complete collapse – at the expense of taxpayers like you and me. General Motors (GM), Ford, and Chrysler do not need a big check; they need dramatic restructuring.

For those of you who think a bailout would solve the problem, let me ask you a question: Would you lend a massive amount of money to a fiscally irresponsible friend who has no means of paying you back? No, of course not.

Then why would the answer to a potential bailout of the Big Three be different? Handing these companies \$25 billion would only perpetuate the status quo, something that is driving them deeper and deeper into the ground.

It must be remembered that these three U.S. automakers are not simply going through a tough time. As some may think, a bailout would not serve as a bridge to better economic times.

In reality, the companies have been declining for decades, and foreign automaker Toyota has surpassed them for the first time ever in sales worldwide. Why? In part it is because of the vast disparities in labor costs between what U.S. automakers and foreign competitors pay.

This is due largely to strong unions that demand more and more for less and less. The result is cheaply-produced, American-made automobiles that people turn down

in favor of better foreign makes.

A bailout of the Big Three would also encourage other struggling sectors to ask the government for money. Bailing out banks, whose collapses would guarantee a depression, is one thing.

But the money for bailouts must come from somewhere, and the government cannot shell out money to every company facing tough times. Declining companies need to look within themselves for solutions, not the government.

If domestic automakers are to ever have a chance at dominating the industry, they must successfully renegotiate their current labor contracts with unions such as the United Auto Workers union.

Because of these pacts, the Big Three pay an estimated \$2,000 more per vehicle in labor costs. It is no wonder American cars feel cheap when compared to similarly-priced foreign makes: They have \$2,000 less put into them though they cost the same.

As a result of these increased labor costs, GM, Ford and Chrysler cannot compete with the likes of Honda and Toyota, who pay far less to produce each vehicle and make higher-quality cars for less money.

Besides, if labor costs remain substantially higher in the United States, the Big Three will continue to routinely send thousands of jobs in parts-production overseas, where workers can be paid less.

If the CEOs of these U.S. auto companies get their ways and are handed a big check, they will continue flying around in their corporate jets while doing little to get their companies back on track.

Moreover, the Big Three will have no incentive to make the changes vital to a turnaround.

Think about it: You have a research

paper due in two days, and you've barely gotten started. You go into class and beg your professor to extend the due date by a week. The professor says "yes." Do you rush home and immediately work on the paper? Not likely.

Similarly, if the Big Three are given billions of dollars, they will feel no sense of urgency to get things straightened out, for there will be no imminent threat of collapse.

Ultimately, a bailout would do little more than keep the companies afloat for another 4-5 months – not nearly enough time to make a complete turnaround before demise becomes a reality.

This is not to say that the government should completely look away. The United States needs the auto industry.

As former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney suggests in a New York Times Op-Ed, "A managed bankruptcy may be the only path to the fundamental restructuring the industry needs."

If the Big Three file for bankruptcy, they could completely restructure by essentially getting a fresh start. The government could guarantee their warrantees to prevent a drop in sales due to fear of voided warrantees.

If the Big Three were able to develop a new outlook for future growth, perhaps the government should aid automakers by investing in newer, more advanced technologies, such as electric-powered cars.

A government bailout would be nothing more than a temporary band-aid. Labor cost disparities must be reduced, hatred between management and labor must be eliminated, and the companies must design newer and more efficient vehicles.

If changes are not made soon, there is no reason to think the U.S. auto industry will long be a cornerstone of the economy.

FED MAKING UNWISE DECISIONS WITH ECONOMY

JORDAN MCNEISH
FORUM STAFF WRITER

The Federal Reserve System, also known as "The Fed," was created in 1913 by Congress. The system divides the United States into twelve districts with one Federal Reserve Bank in every district.

The Federal Reserve System's seven-member Board of Governors is appointed by the president and approved by Congress. Through the Board of Governors, the Fed makes decisions about the nation's monetary and credit policies.

Members of the board may serve one full term, and some have already served partial terms when appointed. The length of a single term for a board member is 14 years. The former chairman of the Federal Reserve held his position for 19 years.

While the Federal Reserve System sets the scene for the American economy, it is not a government entity. It is a private bank.

Federal Reserve Banks enjoy the unique privilege of having no budget and no audits. It does not answer to Congress.

Neither branch of government has authority change or veto any decision the Fed makes. If a chairman or board member must be removed, only the president has the authority to do so.

The president must show that he has cause to do this. It takes extreme circumstances to constitute cause. For example, the chairman would be removed for stealing gold bullion from the Reserve.

The Federal Reserve System has become so influential that it's hard to imagine how

the economy could run without it.

It might surprise some to know that it once did. Before central banking, the market guided itself and determined interest rates. When money supply was high, such as when people held on to savings, interest rates were low. When more money was spent, interest rates were higher.

The economy was not artificially manipulated.

Since the financial meltdown this year, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke and Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson received unprecedented power to influence the economy.

The Federal Reserve Chairman and Board of Governors have retained control over their institution since its inception. With the passage of the Emergency Economic Stabili-

zation Act of 2008, Congress signed over its financial influence to the treasury secretary as well.

Congress granted Paulson this power, hoping he would carry out the original plan to buy bad mortgage assets.

The U.S. Treasury sold bonds to The Fed and borrowed \$700 billion from them. They hoped the cost of buying bad assets and putting America in debt would be outweighed by the return of a stable market.

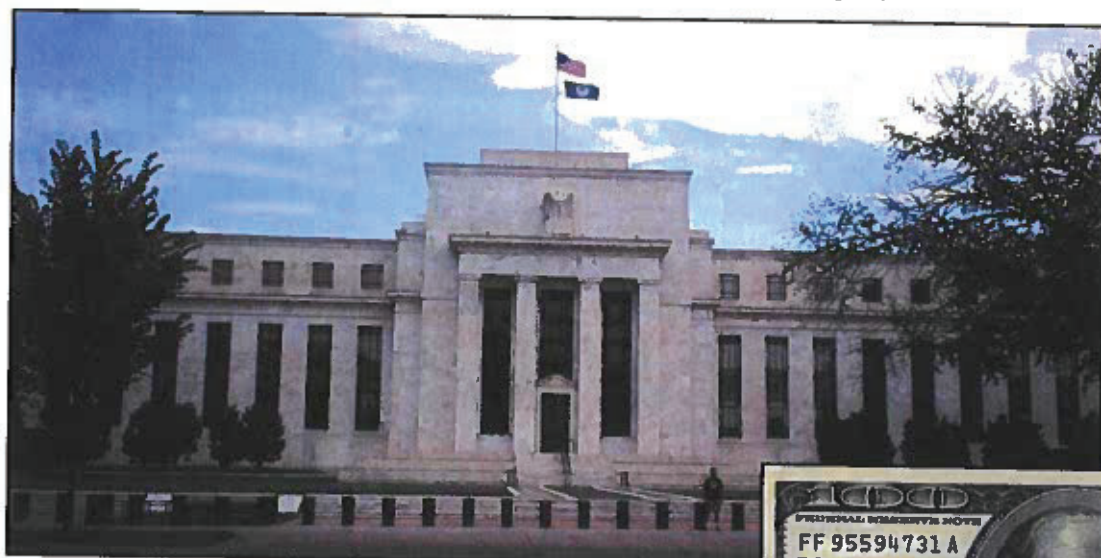
Several weeks ago, Paulson decided not to use half of the bailout money to buy troubled mortgage assets. This was much to the dismay of many in Congress who granted him power to do so.

Instead, he put the money into troubled credit card and loan markets.

Congress has signed away its power and is effectively impotent and unable to decide what to do with the borrowed money that put taxpayers in debt.

All taxpayers can do is hope for the smallest possible national debt once the financial fiasco winds down.

It may be pointless to spend time petitioning congressmen; the money our children must pay back is almost entirely in the hands of two unelected officials.



Above: The Federal Reserve Bank has a lot of control over the U.S. economy. Above is the Federal Reserve building in Washington D.C.

Left: One of the bills produced by the Federal Reserve.



BCS system will result in awful bowl season

JOHANATHAN BROOKS
THE DAILY REVEILLE, LSU

Baton Rouge, La. — The BCS is awful.

Every year this is said, and every year it becomes a more valid statement. I'm not going to make some corny joke about it being "BS" with a middle initial. We've heard them all, and none of them are funny. But really, the whole system needs an overhaul ASAP.

What group of people keeps allowing this system to dictate who plays in what bowl?

In 2008, the BCS is still giving teams the business. Texas and Boise State both have legitimate beefs this season, among others.

The most egregious of the errors this season affects the Longhorns who will be sitting at home while Oklahoma and Missouri — two teams Texas already beat — will be playing for the Big 12 Championship.

In a three-way division tie, the Big 12 selects the team with the highest BCS ranking to represent the division in the title game. That in itself is dumb, but what makes it a BCS issue is the fact that Texas was sitting at No. 3 prior to last weekend, beat archrival Texas A&M by 40, but still got jumped by Oklahoma, which beat an overrated Oklahoma State team.

The Cowboys lost to every good team they've played this season, and their signature win is against Missouri. They're dirt, too.

But somehow if an act of God occurs and Missouri beats Oklahoma, it would open up a can of worms with Texas po-



tentially playing for the national title without even representing its division in the conference championship game.

Boise State is getting screwed by the system, too. The Broncos are one of the only undefeated teams in the country, but they'll be playing in the Poinsettia Bowl because the BCS will select mediocre teams as at-large selections.

The Broncos are good — better than the alternatives, at least. They've dirt-rolled most of their opponents this season, but Utah, whose signature win is against an Oregon State team which just gave up 700 yards of offense to Oregon, is probably going to get an at-large bid instead.

Ohio State will be another at-large selection instead of Boise State. That team got run

out of the Coliseum by USC this season and had awful showings in its last two BCS bowls.

It all comes down to money. Utah will travel better than Boise, so the more deserving Broncos get left out.

Thanks to the BCS's bowl tie-ins, football fans will have to suffer through some pretty awful bowls this season.

Alabama vs. Utah in the Sugar Bowl? Tide roll by 30.

USC vs. Penn State in the Rose? Trojans by 20.

Cincinnati vs. Virginia Tech in the Orange? Who cares?

Something needs to be done about the BCS so teams that deserve to play in good bowls do and as a football fan I can enjoy some prime-time matchups instead of beat downs.

The Forum staff

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Emily Traylor

Managing Editor
Aimee Dumaresq

Staff Writers
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Contributing Writers
Angel Phillips
Jonathan Sharpe

Photographers
Jon Hasenfus
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Advisor
Dr. Andrew Smith

Publisher
Phillip Kelley

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GET INTO THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT AT LOCAL CONCERTS

PAUL HENNEN
FORUM STAFF WRITER

The holidays have arrived and brought with them many events to Charlottesville and PVCC.

The annual PVCC Chorus Holiday Concert will be Dec. 7, at 5:00 p.m. The concert will be on the main stage in the Dickinson Building. Get into the holiday spirit as songs are presented from 10 years of winter concerts on the Dickinson stage.

Now in its 11th year, the 60-member chorus will perform a variety of music styles which will include patriotic, spiritual, show tunes, and holiday favorites.

The chorus is directed by Jeff Suling, fine arts coordinator for the Charlottesville City Schools. Kris Cushman is the accompanist.

The show is free for all wishing to attend. No tickets are required. PVCC offers chorus as a one-credit class with no audition required.

Also, "Breaking Ground"

can still be caught on Dec. 6. The show is produced, directed, choreographed and performed entirely by PVCC's dance students.

Dance styles will range from hip-hop to jazz, tap, ballet, and modern. All tickets are \$5 with no late seating. Students interested in taking dance classes in the future

may want to catch this event to get a taste of PVCC dance.

To purchase tickets ahead of time, call the PVCC box office at 434-961-5376. VISA and MasterCard are accepted.

In addition to these events at PVCC, another holiday

show will take place in the Martin Luther King Center at Charlottesville High School. The 86th Annual Holiday Concert with the Charlottesville Municipal Band is Sunday, Dec. 14, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. Admission is free.



The PVCC Chorus performs in the Dickinson Building.

From all of us here at *The Forum*:

MERRY CHRISTMAS

For Sale

Paint ball gun-great condition no scratches. Price negotiable. Contact Mark at: mnd281@email.vccs.edu

BC Rich Warlock guitar and Spider II line 6 amp. Price negotiable. Contact Matt at: 434-591-0863

Stackable Washer and Dryer. Frigidaire Gallery Series, largest load capacity. Only two and a half years old-perfect condition. Contact Kimberly at: kjp2251@email.vccs.edu.

Double size futon-good condition. Comes with cover for mattress. \$150 or best offer. Email Steph at Stephabbbs@gmail.com

Two blue lazy boy recliners. Will sell both or one at a time. Good condition. Price negotiable. Email Steph at Stephabbbs@gmail.com

Wooden TV stand-good condition. \$100 or best offer. Email Mark at mdn281@email.vccs.edu

RM250 dirt bike. \$600 or best offer. Contact Mark at mdn281@email.vccs.edu

1992 Lincoln Mark VII LSC-\$3500. Contact Maurice at momo451057@yahoo.com

3 female parakeets: 1-2 y/o that are very intelligent, love people, and enjoy hanging out with you. Asking \$50 for the birds, large cage, toys, and seed catcher. No food. E-mail Tara @ tls2185@email.vccs.edu for more information.

Wanted

Kitchen chairs preferably wood. Email Caitlin at cgm5m@virginia.com

Vacuum in a good condition. Email Nicole at ncamemella0001@email.vccs.edu

CD player and speakers for car. Email Matt at Mwood8344@pvcc.edu

Biltmore Grill is looking for experienced **servers and bouncers.** Apply within, located at 16 Elliwod Avenue by Mincers off of University Avenue. Or call 434-293-6700 between 10-5 ask for John.

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>

Upcoming Events

December 4, 5, 6, 7:30 p.m.

December 6, 2:30 p.m.

PVCC Dance Presents *Breaking Ground*
Maxwell Theatre (Black Box)

All tickets \$5

PVCC's Student Dance Club presents an evening of works produced, directed, choreographed and performed entirely by students. Featured dance styles include hip-hop, jazz, tap, ballet and modern. Seating is limited. No late seating.

Sunday, December 7, 3 p.m.

PVCC Chorus Holiday Concert

Free admission.

The Piedmont Virginia Community College Chorus will perform its annual holiday concert Sunday, Dec. 7, at 3 p.m. on the Main Stage of the V. Earl Dickinson Building. Admission is free and open to the public.

Sunday, December 12, 6-9 p.m.

***Let There be Light* gallery exhibit**

Piedmont Virginia Community College's Visual Arts Department presents *Let There Be Light*, an evening of light-centered artwork on winter solstice, the longest night of the year. One night only! Friday, Dec. 12, from 6-9 p.m. on the grounds surrounding the V. Earl Dickinson Building. Free and no ticket required. Rain date is December 13.

Saturday, January 10, 2009

Technology Saturday

PVCC's Technology Wing, room 835
Learn about degrees and certificates at PVCC in computer-aided drafting & design, computer science, electronics, and information technology. For more information, call 434.961.5347.

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 aquillespie@pvcc.edu.

Friday, January 23, 7:30 p.m.

UNFORGETTABLE

\$20 Adults; \$15 Students/Seniors

Tony Award nominee Monroe Kent performs a musical portrayal of Nat "King" Cole and his life story.

Announcements

Attention currently enrolled students

Register for spring classes now!

Visit pvcc.edu or MyPVCC to view a schedule or register for classes.

December 9-17

Final Exams

December 24- January 2

PVCC closed for the Holidays

January 5-19

Open registration for Spring 2009 semester.

January 19, 2009

PVCC closed for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday.

January 20, 2009

Spring 2009 semester classes begin.

Be a Tutor at Cale Elementary School!

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

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.

INTERESTED IN JOURNALISM?

Sign up for English 121: Intro to Journalism! Professor Andy Smith keeps the class fun and informal. Students will learn the basics of news reporting and interviewing. Writing for the Forum newspaper is a requirement for the course. For info, contact ansmith@pvcc.edu.