

the Forum

Piedmont Virginia Community College

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Student Earns National Honor

By Emily Traylor
The Forum editor

A PVCC student has recently received a very prestigious award. Jacob Neal, a science major who will graduate this May, was named to the All-USA Community College Academic First Team.

As a result, Neal received a \$2,500 scholarship, was honored in a special ceremony in Philadelphia, and was featured in USA Today newspaper.

In addition, Neal was the student with the highest rating from Virginia and was named Virginia New Century Scholar. This award earned him an additional \$2,000 from the Coca-Cola Foundation.

The All-USA Community College Academic First Team is sponsored by USA Today newspaper, Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society, and the American Association of Community Colleges. The winning team consists of the top 20 community college students in the United States.

These elite students are chosen because of their academics, leadership, and service to their colleges and communities. In the last four years, three PVCC students have been named to this prestigious team. The first two were Micah Crowsey (2005) and Ben Sargeant (2007).

Neal was nominated for the award by Phi Theta Kappa Co-Advisors Jon Hexter and Bruce Robinson. They were impressed with Neal's dedication to his studies and his devoted service to PVCC.

"Jacob has shown excellence in academics while serving his college community and taking on leadership positions," said Hexter. "He does all of this with a very positive 'can-do' attitude."

Besides maintaining a 4.0 GPA, Neal has been extremely involved in many extracurricular activities at PVCC. He is a member of the Student Government Association, College Senate, Soccer Club & Team, Ultimate Frisbee, Investment Club, and is president of Phi Theta Kappa: Alpha Epsilon Tau.

Neal has also participated in many volunteer opportunities through PVCC's Volunteer Club and Phi Theta Kappa. In addition, he assisted with the Somalian Kid's Day and has been involved with service learning projects.

To apply for the award, Neal had to fill out an application, write several essays, and submit three letters of recommendation. After completing the application process, which occurred in

February, Neal continued with his studies as usual and waited for the results.

"I certainly had no expectations of winning," he said. "I thought I might do well on the state level. That was my anticipation and my hope."

After a month of waiting, Neal finally received news from the competition. He was driving to Pennsylvania when he got a phone call stating that he had been named to the All-USA Academic First Team.

"I had to pull over," he grinned. "I was pretty excited! I didn't want to drive off the road."

Neal is quite thrilled about having won the award and says the \$5,000 of scholarship money will be very useful to him when he transfers to a four-year

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Jacob Neal (middle) poses with his parents, Ellen and Mike, at the All-USA Academic Team ceremony in Philadelphia.

PVCC Students Honored at Awards Convocation

By Aimee Dumaresq
The Forum staff writer

The Dickinson auditorium was filled with students, faculty, staff, friends, and family. All were filled with nervous excitement and anticipation.

The Fourth Annual Academic and Leadership Awards Convocation, held at 4:00 pm on Thursday, April 17, was highly attended. Celebrating the academic achievements and leadership of PVCC's students, the ceremony lasted an hour and a half.

Jon Hexter gave an EGGcellent convocation address, in which he spoke about patience, chickens, eggs, and academic excellence. Laying his reputation on the line, Hexter cracked up the audience with his EGGcellent selection of chicken and egg yolks.

Academic awards were given to numerous students nominated by the PVCC faculty. Recognized by professors and peers as motivated leaders who are striving towards academic excellence, the awardees were commended for their involvement in and out of the classroom and service to others.



Economics Professor Dr. Mahmood (third from left standing) presents Anne Sledd (fourth from left) the economics award.

Awards were given by the Division of Business and Technologies, Division of Humanities, Fine Arts, and Social Sciences, and the Division of Mathematics, Sciences, and Human Services.

PVCC also recognized students who had received the Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges Award. Nominated by faculty, the students' leadership and academic excellence are recognized and their achievements applauded.

Student Leadership Awards were also received. These awards recognize

students' involvement in clubs and organizations at PVCC.

The 2007-2008 scholarship recipients were also recognized. Awarded based upon financial need and academic merit, PVCC's scholarships have become quite coveted.

Sarah E. Murphy was awarded the Chica Tenney Visual Arts Fellowship. Because of her leadership, talent, and vision, Murphy has improved the PVCC art program, showing herself to be an exceptional student.

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President Friedman (at podium) recognizes the PVCC faculty and staff.

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college.

"I'm not really sure exactly how [the award] will help me later on, but I'm sure it will follow me around for quite a while," he said.

Having been home schooled K-12th grade, Neal says that his parents were very influential in helping him towards what he has achieved.

"They're been completely supportive," he related. "I'm very grateful for the way they've raised me. It certainly seems to have worked out well so far."

According to Neal, his home schooling background helped lay the foundation for his recent accomplishments.

"The biggest thing that I got out of my home schooling was the mentality for really getting hold of a concept or subject and learning as much as I can about it," he said. "I got the mentality for success."

Neal also points to the teaching faculty at PVCC as having been very instrumental in bringing him to where he is today.

"They have encouraged me to get involved and have encouraged me to become a student leader and have encouraged me to apply for these scholar-



Jacob Neal appears on the big-screen as he receives his All-USA honors in Philadelphia.

ships," he noted. "That's a very big influence."

Neal cites three professors in particular as having been very important in his life: Lloyd Willis, Sam Pincus, and Barbara Heyl. "These three, among some others, have probably been the most influential," he said.

With all that Neal does at PVCC, it is sometimes challenging for him to keep up with his studies. He ac-

knowledges that the heavy workload is quite stressful and often leaves him sleep-deprived.

"I try to do too much and [sleep] is the first thing that gets eliminated," he grinned. "Outside of school and extracurricular activities, I don't really have much time for anything."

Nonetheless, Neal considers schoolwork his top priority and doesn't let anything extracurricular get in the way. As a result, he has maintained a 4.0 grade point average through all of his semesters at PVCC.

After graduating from PVCC this spring, Neal plans to transfer to UVA to major in biology. His dream is to become a biology professor at a community college.

To other students who want to be successful, Neal offers this advice: "Treat your education almost like a job. If this were something you were being paid for, you would want to get as much done as you can."

He also says to "take advantage of all the opportunities that are available. Get involved. The more involved you are, the more you'll be driven to succeed."

Congratulations to Neal for his remarkable achievement and best wishes as he moves on from PVCC to further his education.



The All-USA Community College Academic Team displays their USA Today newspapers after receiving their awards. Jacob Neal is third from left on the first row.

Reflections of a Student

First-Person Perspective

By Axie Blundon
The Forum staff writer

I have been at PVCC for three years now and am more than ready to move on. Yet, the appropriateness of this time is remarkable to me. It has been a coming of age of sorts, a time for me to take everything in my world apart and put it back together.

My grandfather died this past year, just after the first of my first cousins got married – two big milestones in a family that I stay close with.

During my time at PVCC, I have been able to enrich my life by spending so much time at my grandfather's side during his final months, absorbing his amazing life of brilliant accomplishments.

If I had been away at school, this would have been impossible. But, by taking classes at PVCC, I was able to spend time with my family and step into my future self, realizing that I too want to live a life of brilliant accomplishments.

After a dynamic, chaotic, and wildly-fun high school career, which ranged from rural Virginia to the coast of Maine, I needed time to deepen my roots within my community and explore my options.

Piedmont gave me the opportunity to align myself for a successful transfer to a good university, while allowing me the freedom to pursue my own interests and passions.

Music is my passion, and PVCC provided that perfect academic route for me to follow while I built my connections and credit as an active musician in Charlottesville's thriving scene.

I have also had the opportunity to see what it's like to enter the working world, specifically pursuing a culinary career. I apprenticed with some fabulous chefs in Charlottesville and had the chance to manage the kitchen at a local restaurant, La Taza.

After a time, however, I found that I wanted to pursue higher education and leave my passion for good food and drink to the company of good friends

and family.

I have always been passionate about life, but Piedmont taught me to be passionate about learning. Life is learning and education is a means of a better, more successful life.

Success is living up to your own potential. That's all. PVCC made me want to work hard to live a successful life, just as my dear grandfather did. Without my time here at Havarad on the Hill, I could have floundered in the working world very easily.

Piedmont was my happy medium, giving me the chance to make academic

progress, while still growing personally. PVCC and community colleges in general are not for everyone, but for some like me, it provides the perfect time to make sense of the world and find one's place within it.

This spring, I will be graduating from PVCC and heading over the mountain to pursue a degree in music industry, all thanks to Piedmont's Guaranteed Admissions Program.

I have successfully focused my interest and passions in a meaningful way here at PVCC and am ready to build an honorable existence.

"Awards" from page 2

Murphy also obtained the Distinguished Student Award. The most prestigious award, it recognizes exemplary service and leadership at PVCC through activities on and off campus.

Winning the Travel Scholarship, Roger C. Gonzalez has the opportunity to practice and improve his Spanish through cultural immersion. Thanks to the Blue Ridge Mountains Rotary Club, Gonzalez will travel to Argentina this summer.

When adult parents return to school, they encounter innumerable hardships. The Jean and J. P. Walsh Awards recognize and salute the academic achievements of these students, despite the difficulties they encounter. Aljanie Williams received the Jean Walsh Award and Jeffrey Graham ob-

tained the J. P. Walsh Award.

PVCC, once again, had students receive All-USA Academic Team Nominations. Martin Hohoff was a member of the All-Virginian Academic Team. Jacob A. Neal was a member of the All-USA Academic Team and won the title of Virginia New Century Scholar. During the Convocation PVCC proudly recognized the achievements of these two students and celebrated with them in their success and accomplishment.

PVCC's convocation celebrated the success, patience, and leadership portrayed by awardees. Pressing on, a week and a half before final exams, the ceremony was refreshing and encouraging.

The Forum wishes to congratulate all the recipients of academic and leadership awards. Keep on keeping on!



The students who were named to Who's Who Among Students in Junior Colleges pose for pictures after the ceremony.

Graduating Student Says “Thank You PVCC!”

First-Person Perspective

By Veronica Olko
Special to *The Forum*

During my senior year of high school, people would always ask me, “So where are you going to school next year?” I hated this question because I did not like the fact that I would be attending community college and living with my parents. Most of my friends were on their ways to four-year schools. It was embarrassing to me.

The reason I did not apply to other schools was because I didn’t try my hardest in my first two years of high school therefore I would not have a chance of getting into a good school.

I didn’t realize that attending



Veronica Olko will graduate from PVCC this spring with a degree in liberal arts.

PVCC truly was a good idea until the last semester of my second year. Living at home with my parents has been rough for me these past two years while my friends enjoy their freedom off at school.

I have come to realize that having two years of still living at home, although hard at times, has given me the opportunity to do some growing up.

I have also grown as a student in my classes. I have learned how to aspire for a better education and to reach for my goals with an open mind. PVCC has guided me along and helped me to achieve these goals.

PVCC wants its students to do well and wants to help them to go on to transfer to their desired schools. That is what PVCC has helped me to do.

I am now graduating from PVCC with my associates’ degree in liberal arts and am on my way to James Madison University in the fall to major in elementary education. Attending PVCC has fully prepared me for this next journey in my life.

Not only have I excelled as a student, but I have also excelled as a person. Some of my classes, such as sociology and public speaking, have helped me find my true identity.

I have discovered that the most important thing in life is to really be true to yourself and know who you are. Everything else builds on that.

I never thought that I would do well in a public speaking course; in fact I was extremely nervous about taking it. Well, I received the speech award this semester, courtesy of Mr. Owen.

I can now openly talk in all my classes without feeling shy. I have really opened up to sharing my opinions with my fellow peers, and I think

it is a great thing to be able to voice one’s thoughts and opinions about real-life matters and things that are tangible. I am not talking about thoughts on shopping, going out on the weekends, or perhaps a cute boy.

No, I am talking about things that are real and make a difference, such as world politics, religion, and helping the world to be a better place.

I hope that others have learned the same lessons and have gained great knowledge while attending PVCC. I certainly have, and I know that I am ready to face the next stride in my life.

I want to thank all my professors as well as the friends and people who have made this journey worthwhile.
THANK YOU!

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A Successful Year at PVCC

PVCC Student Recaps the Last Two Semesters

First-Person Perspective

By Andrew Williams
The Forum staff writer

1. The favorable or prosperous termination of attempts or endeavors.
2. The attainment of wealth, position, honors, or the like.

"Victory is ours!" said I to my fellow classmates on the last day of class. How wonderful! For those of you who thought you would not make it, I want you to acknowledge you are still alive and what doesn't kill you makes you stronger.

This year, we, the students, had many difficulties and challenges in common. Studying for the finals and trying to find enough funding to get through school, we have certainly dealt with a lot of issues. These struggles make us family.

The accomplishments of our student leadership and clubs have been wonder-

ful. We have certainly enjoyed a very successful school year.

In this last semester, PVCC has hosted successful, community-oriented events such as the job fair and the very successful first-annual field day.

PVCC also has a wonderful learning center where students can get tu-

bite off more than you can chew. There was a time when I thought I did not have enough to do. So, I took on 15 credit hours, 2 jobs, SGA, BSA and Air Force ROTC. I said earlier what does kill you make you stronger, but that was mighty close.

Second, try to study properly and have enough time for it. This past se-

“Once you have walked through a fire, little else can burn.”

toring simply by making a phone call or just walking in to see a tutor. What a great resource we have here at PVCC!

In addition, PVCC is blessed with so many smiling faces and beautiful people. My point is that we are fortunate to have so many things, including options.

On a more personal note, I have learned a few things outside of the textbook here at PVCC. First, don't

mester, I would take notes on subjects and still have trouble. This is due to the fact I did not allot enough time to study, and I would jump from subject to subject too quickly.

Third, I learned a lesson on failure. Failure is an act or instance of failing or proving unsuccessful. It is the lack of success.

Although I suffered some very disappointing (disappointing is an understatement) situations, I cannot conclude that all disappointments are failures.

Goals can always be reached, but they may not happen at the times you like. Nevertheless, I believe that I have gained more skills in human relations. I now understand that I must project myself as more a more serious person, depending on circumstances.

I would like you to adopt an idea: Once you have walked through a fire, little else can burn. Be stronger, faster, and smarter than the first time, and you will kiss your competition "good-bye!"

Now, give yourself a pat on the back for being a successful student.

"If you can not fly, run. If you can not run, walk. If you can not walk, crawl. But by all means, keep moving."

-MLK

I would like to thank the SGA, BSA, Steve McNerney, Dr. Friedman and you, the student, for one of the best years I can remember.



Andrew Williams (sixth from left) leads a group of high school students on a tour of PVCC. He did not let the students get bored!

Gov. Kaine to Deliver PVCC Commencement

PVCC News Release

Virginia Gov. Timothy M. Kaine will speak at Piedmont Virginia Community College's 35th annual commencement ceremony May 9.

The ceremony will begin at 6 p.m. on PVCC's campus at 501 College Drive in Charlottesville. The public is invited to attend.

"We couldn't be more delighted," commented PVCC President Frank Friedman in making the announcement. "Gov. Kaine's support for higher education and the community college system is greatly appreciated, and he'll be welcomed warmly by PVCC's graduating class, their family and friends."

Kaine became Virginia's 70th governor on January 14, 2006 after serving four years as lieutenant governor in Mark Warner's administration. He worked with then-Gov. Warner on budget reforms and investments in edu-

cation.

Kaine is slated to become Chairman of the Southern Governors Association this summer.

His political career began in 1994 when he was elected to Richmond's City Council. He served four Council

terms and served as mayor for two terms.

A native of Kansas, he attended the University of Missouri and Harvard Law School. He is married to Anne Holton, and the couple has three children.



Gov. Kaine will deliver the commencement address on May 9.



On April 24, a student music recital was held in the main auditorium in the Dickinson building. Above left, Elizabeth Risk and Patience Lanier perform *Le Nozze di Figaro* by W.A. Mozart. To the right, Allison Tornrose performs "The Singer" by M. Head.

PVCC Annual Dance Concert

PVCC annual dance performance continues to expand in diversity and creativity. There are original pieces choreographed and performed by PVCC faculty, students, and staff, as well as guest choreographers.

Piedmont Virginia Community College
(Dickinson Building Main Stage)

Friday May 2 at 7:30p.m and on Saturday May 3 at 7:30p.m.

Tickets:

\$10 dollars for adults

\$8 dollars for students/seniors

Student Voucher Show

Four Ways to Combat Global Warming

By Rebecca Faris
The Forum staff writer

Global warming is one of the hottest topics around these days – no pun intended! And with gas prices headed toward \$4.00 a gallon and with college students notoriously strapped for cash, it's a smart idea find ways to reduce our gas consumption.

Americans can painlessly save some bucks, reduce greenhouse emissions and feel empowered by making a positive contribution to the planet.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) offers some helpful tips (<http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/wycd/road.html>):

1. Buy Smart

There are a wide range of cleaner, more fuel-efficient vehicles available on the market today that produce fewer greenhouse gas emissions.

Before buying a new or used vehicle (or even before renting a vehicle), check out EPA's Green Vehicle Guide and the jointly-run EPA/DOE Fuel Economy Guide. These resources provide information about the emissions and fuel economy performance of different vehicles.

2. Drive Smart

Many factors affect how many miles can be driven per gallon (mpg):

- **Quick acceleration and heavy braking** can reduce fuel economy by up to 33 percent on the highway and 5 percent around town. That translates to \$.16 - \$1.07 a gallon. So resist burning rubber at that green light, take time to slow down, and you'll save lots of money!
- **Excessive idling** decreases MPG.

We all have to idle at stoplights, but letting your car idle to warm-up doesn't help your fuel economy, it actually uses more fuel and creates more pollution.

- **Driving at higher speeds** increases wind resistance, thereby reducing fuel economy. While every vehicle operates differently, gas mileage generally decreases rapidly at speeds above 60 mph. As a rule of thumb, drivers can assume that each 5 mph driven at over 60 mph is like paying an additional \$.20 per gallon for gas. That's a fuel-economy benefit of 7% - 23%, or a gas savings of \$.23 - \$.74 per gallon. So observe speed limits and save your green!
- **Cargo or cargo racks** on top of your vehicle (e.g., boxes, canoes, etc.) increase aerodynamic drag and lower fuel economy. Driving around with ski racks on your roof in July does not make you look cool – but it does make you lose bucks at the pump.
- **Excessive weight** decreases fuel economy so store that pile of bricks in your shed, not in the back of your truck!
- **Electrical accessories** (e.g., air conditioner) decreases fuel economy. Operating the air conditioner on "Max" can reduce MPG by roughly 5-25% compared to not using it. Bottom line: enjoy the cool days of Spring with the windows of your ride open, and save gas at the same time!
- **4-wheel drive** reduces fuel economy. Engaging all four wheels makes the engine work harder and increases crankcase losses. Use overdrive and cruise control on your car if you have them.
- **Tune your ride.** A well-

maintained car is more fuel-efficient, produces fewer greenhouse gas emissions, is more reliable, and is safer! Keep your car well-tuned, follow the manufacturer's maintenance schedule, and use the recommended grade of motor oil. Also check and replace your vehicle's air filter regularly.

- **Check your tires.** Check your tire pressure regularly. Under-inflation increases tire wear, reduces your fuel economy by up to 3 percent and leads to higher greenhouse gas emissions and releases of air pollutants. If you don't know the correct tire pressure for your vehicle, you can find it listed on the door to the glove compartment or on the driver's-side door pillar.

3. Take public transportation whenever possible.

Use [public transportation](#), [carpool](#), [walk or bike](#) whenever possible. Leaving your car at home just two days a week will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an average of 1,600 pounds per year.

Whenever possible, combine activities and errands into one trip. Consider options like telecommuting that can reduce the stress of commuting, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and save you money.

This is a better option in Charlottesville now than there ever has been. Charlottesville Transit Service just introduced Real-Time Passenger Information so riders will know when the next bus is coming.

Twenty-five CTS stops will have Bus Finders. These bright red boxes enable riders to press a screen and receive an instant response indicating the number of minutes until the next CTS bus ar-

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A Diverse Decade of Television

By Jonathan Sharpe
The Forum staff writer

The 1990s had a variety of television shows and movies. Some popular 1990s shows started out in the late 1980s, such as Baywatch, Pee Wee's Playhouse, Captain O.G. Readmore's Weekend Special, Tales from the Crypt, Star Trek: The Next Generation, Roseanne, Full House, Family Matters, Perfect Strangers, Saved by the Bell, and Head of the Class.

There were other shows that also had their starts in that decade, such as Millennium, Martin, America's Funniest Home Video's, America's Funniest People, Down the Shore, Parker Lewis Can't Lose, The Might Morphin Power Rangers, Real Stories of the Highway Patrol, Working, Boy Meets World, In Living Color, and others.

The 1990s were also a decade for movies: Death Becomes Her, starring Meryl Streep, Goldie Hawn, and Bruce Willis; The Crazy Sitter and Vegas Vacation, starring Beverly D' Angelo, Randy Quaid, and Chevy Chase, Freddy's Dead; The Final Nightmare, starring Robert Englund as "Freddy Krueger," and Jason Goes To Hell: The Final Friday, starring Kane Hodder as "Jason."

There were also some interesting commercials in the 1990s as well. The Spice Girls sang their song "Move Over" on a Pepsi commercial featuring Pepsi's new Blue Can Design as it was starting out. Jay Leno used to appear in the Doritos commercials.

There was even a series of funny Bud Light Commercials. The "Yes I Am" guy was also featured in an episode of David Letterman.

The 1990s were also a decade of rival talk show hosts. When Johnny Carson retired from *The Tonight Show*, David Letterman wanted to take over. Instead, the job of hosting *The Tonight Show* was given to Jay Leno, who would substitute for Johnny Carson from time

to time.

Letterman then turned to rival station, CBS, to give him a talk show occurring at the same time as NBC's *The Tonight Show* called "The Late Show with David Letterman."

The 1990's were even a time for cartoons. Cartoons such as Ghostbusters, Garfield and Friends, The Bugs Bunny and Tweety Show, The Simpsons, and Winnie the Pooh began in the 1980s.

Other movies included Hellraiser: Bloodline, starring Doug Bradley as "Pinhead;" Batman Returns, Batman Forever, and Batman and Robin (Sequels to the 1989 movie starring

XL's "Kreep," Dr. Dre's "Keep 'Em Heads Ringin'" and one by Raven Symone dealing with interracial equality. Other rappers such as 3rd Bass did videos poking fun at and attacking Vanilla Ice, such as "Pop Goes the Weasel."

Of course, some of these movies and shows were more memorable than others. Who could forget Damon Wayans as Homey the Clown in "In Living Color" where he bops people on the head and says, "I don't think so. Homey don't play that" or Jim Carrey as Fire Marshall Bill always putting things on fire whether or not he means to.

Jim Carrey and Damon Wayans

“The 1990s were a
memorable and diverse
decade of entertainment!”

Michael Keaton), Space Jam starring Bugs Bunny and Michael Jordan, and the 2 Made for TV Dukes of Hazard Reunion movies starring that orange 1969 Dodge Charger called "The General Lee."

Some cartoons that got their start in the 1990s included the following: Eek: The Cat, Tales from the Cryptkeeper, Hammerman, The Terrible Thunder Lizards, Tiny Toon Adventures, Animaniacs, Taz-Mania, and the short-lived Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventures.

Also, there were The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles which eventually became a trilogy of movies, one of which was subtitled "The Secret of the Ooze." The Batman movies also became a cartoon series called "Batman: The Animated Series."

The 1990s were also a time for music videos, such as those for Chino

became really popular. Jim Carrey went on to play a goofy Riddler in "Batman Forever" and Damon Wayans went on to play a dad in "My Wife and Kids." Other shows are remembered more for the way they changed, such as the changing of different head villains on "The Mighty Morphin Power Rangers."

Other shows got cancelled due to people making a scandal about an issue such as Ellen Degeneres admitting to being gay. There were other shows that were put on at inconvenient times. Thus, they were not given a chance to succeed.

Rush Limbaugh was one of these shows. Each show started out with some funny sketch ridiculing President Bill Clinton. Then, Limbaugh went on telling people what he thought about a political issue. So, as can be seen, the 1990s were a memorable and diverse decade of entertainment!

The Music Beat

Festival Showcases Bands

By Phillip Obenschain
The Forum staff writer

1997 was a year in music largely remembered for the mainstream appeal of acts like the Spice Girls and the late Notorious B.I.G. It was a time when the independent rock scene was still very obscure and underground, so when a group of students at JMU's WXJM radio station formed a committee to create what would become the first Mid-Atlantic College Radio Conference, it was nothing short of groundbreaking.

MACRoCk, as it became known, flourished into the largest fully independent music festival of its kind and attracted up-and-coming bands from all over the nation for its annual conference of musical showcases, discussion panels, and label expos. Over the years,

MACRoCk brought some of the most prominent bands of all genres to Harrisonburg and its popularity grew to attract thousands of concertgoers from all over the nation.

Unfortunately, a decade after its creation MACRoCk found itself in a financial position where running under JMU was no longer an option and 2007 saw the first absence of the festival after a ten-year run.

Newly reformed as a non-profit organization with community support and still largely run and organized by students, MACRoCk was brought back with full force this year. On the weekend of April 4th and 5th, MACRoCk showcased over 75 bands in seven venues along with panel discussions and a record and clothing label expo.

Despite the scaled-down nature of this year's event, MACRoCk surpassed its financial need and drew almost 1,000 people for the first time in years. The lineup was true to MACRoCk's underground roots, yet still diverse and spectacular.

With everything from punk to hip-hop, metal to folk, mellow rock to hardcore, the festival offered something for everyone and its showcases were themed accordingly. More prominent national tour acts included Owen, Anathallo, Black Moth Super Rainbow, Maps & Atlases, Aloha, and Elf Power along with countless local favorites such as Shapiro, Valkyrie, and the Cinnamon Band.

For more information on MACRoCk please visit www.macrock.org.

Seattle Band Visits Charlottesville

By Phillip Obenschain
The Forum staff writer

In the seven years since their inception, Seattle band Minus the Bear have gained a huge following in the independent rock scene and this fact was blatantly apparent at their April 10th stop at the Satellite Ballroom.

With their cemented status as indie-rock superstars, Minus the Bear have also gained the clout to hand-pick their opening acts and their tour with Portugal. The Man and The Big Sleep was one of the strongest groupings of bands to pass through Charlottesville in recent memory.

Portugal. The Man, uniquely hailing from Alaska, delivered an opening set worthy of being a headliner. Soulful and passionate, singer John Gourley was the standout front man of the night and a skillful and original guitarist.

Their music was seamlessly matched

up with a light show, atypical for bands performing at the Satellite Ballroom, and they played with a togetherness and originality that was leaps and bounds above many of their contemporaries.

Portugal proved to be a hard act to follow, however The Big Sleep held their own. Unusual in style for many Charlottesville fans, the Brooklyn trio played a hypnotic rock set full of unorthodox synthesized sounds and driving rhythms.

It was Minus the Bear's first visit to Charlottesville since their stop at the now defunct Starr Hill Music Hall in the fall of 2006, and they played with a mountain of energy as if to reassure Charlottesville that they hadn't forgotten about it.

Though their set ranged in material from virtually every one of their al-



Minus the Bear recently performed in Charlottesville.

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"Global Warming" from page 8

rives. Go to www.charlottesville.org/transit to get real-time CTS bus schedules.

According to Jimmy Harding of CTS, buses leave the Transit Center, 615 East Water Street, at 45 minutes after the hour, starting at 6:45 AM Monday through Saturday, and arrive at Piedmont campus just 10 minutes later, every 55 minutes after the hour.

CTS buses depart PVCC at 3 minutes after each hour, with the last one at 11:03 PM. Tickets are normally \$.75 one way, but there are special prices for Piedmont students: \$6.00 for a 10-ride book or \$21.00 for a 40-ride book can be purchased from PVCC's cashier (cash only, please!).

CTS also operates the JAUNT buses which offer special services in the city and the county. They can be contacted at 296-3184 or at www.ridejaunt.org.

4. Watch what you eat.

Our forks may be more powerful tools in combating climate change than

our car keys. This is according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) That's the group which was awarded the Nobel Prize in December. <http://www.ipcc.ch/>

Last year, the United Nations published a report on livestock and the environment with a stunning conclusion: "The livestock sector emerges as one of the top two or three most significant contributors to the most serious environmental problems, at every scale from local to global."

It turns out that raising animals for food is a primary cause of land degradation, air pollution, water shortage, water pollution, loss of biodiversity, and not least of all, global warming.

The U.N. report says almost a fifth of global warming emissions come from livestock --that's more emissions than from all of the world's transportation combined.

Who would have ever thought that eating a plate of pasta, peeling a banana or enjoying a piece of apple pie could have such far-reaching consequences? Bon appétit!

"Seattle Band" from page 10

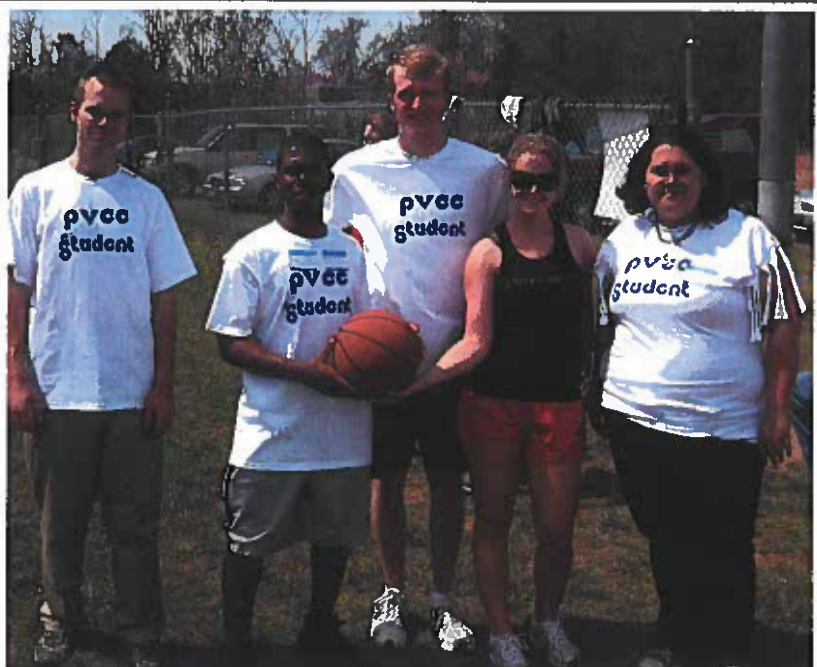
bums, they concentrated mostly on tunes from their newest release, *Planet of Ice*, as well as a wide selection from 2005's *Menos el Oso*.

Singer Jake Snider's cool and laid-back presentation juxtaposed with the unpredictability and intensity of guitarist Dave Knudson had the wall-to-wall audience feeling comfortable and content despite the venue's temperature being more fitting for a sauna.

Snider also revealed his vulnerable side as he dedicated "The Fix" to a friend who had recently passed away and had been part of the inspiration for the song.

Never short on showmanship and a rare musical honesty that many of their peers lack, Minus the Bear's stop at the Satellite Ballroom only served as a reminder of just how talented they really are and why they are the band to see for any fan of indie rock.

For more information on Minus the Bear, visit www.minusthebear.com.



On Saturday, April 19, PVCC's Student Government Association hosted a students vs. faculty field day. The event included free lunch and a variety of athletic events in which students competed against faculty. Above left, President Friedman relaxes with fellow members of the faculty team. On the right, the student basketball team poses for pictures. From left to right they are: James Klopp, Andrew Williams, Andy Modic, Lindsey Walker, and Jackie Wright.

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.

Journalism Class

Interested in journalism? Starting in the fall, PVCC will be offering English 121, taught by Andy Smith. It is a journalism course focused on newspaper writing. Writing for *The Forum* will be part of the course, which is a transferable elective.

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,

Help Needed!

Would you like a job that is never boring? That pays \$8.50/hr with the possibility of advancing to \$10? That lets you set your own schedule? That is only 3 - 10 hours per week? That is only 10 minutes from campus?

If this sounds good to you, please email goinglightly@aol.com for more information. We are moving to new digs and need help getting the house ready - inside and outside. Lots to do - you pick which chores you most enjoy, and we'll get to work! This could become a permanent position for the right person.

Clinical Trial

Do you have 9 or fewer periods each year or no periods?

Do you also have undesired hair growth on your face or upper body, acne?

If so, you may have Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) and qualify for a research study at the UVa Health System. The purpose of this study is to determine the effects of acupuncture on hormone levels in women with PCOS aged 18 to 43.

- 3 to 4 visits at UVa
- \$170 for study completion
- Charlottesville and Richmond acupuncturists

UVa Obstetrics/Gynecology
434-982-6657

ACUP_FOR_PCOS@virginia.edu
IRB-HSR #12045
www.uvahealth.com

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!

For Rent:

Owner of nice Townhouse in Belmont (built '00) seeking professional to share 3BR, 2.5 BA, three levels. Spacious kitchen, private bath, deck, off-street parking, convenient to Down-town, 1 mile to PVCC. \$400/month plus deposit furnished, \$375/month unfurnished, share utilities. Avail. May 1st. References requested. Call Richard, 293-6230.

Perplexed at Piedmont seeking questions

Got Questions? Try asking Perplexed at Piedmont, the Forum's very own advice column! Send all questions to theforum@pvcc.edu. Anonymity will be respected!

Interested in Transferring?

Come meet with the College Guide in room 132 to start a transfer plan. Get your questions answered on classes, applications, deadlines, essays, and anything else to do with getting your 4-year degree.

Further Questions:
Andrew Erwin,
Transfer College Guide
aerwin@pvcc.edu
434-961-5496