

theForum

Piedmont Virginia Community College

Volume 8, Issue 6- January 2010

PVCC STUDENTS LOBBY VIRGINIA GOVERNMENT



Jon Hasenfus

The delegation takes a group photo in front of the mace of the commonwealth, a traditional symbol of authority.

FORUM STAFF

On Thursday, January 14 PVCC sent a small delegation to Richmond to lobby Virginia General Assembly and the Virginia Senate. The party consisted of 13 students, accompanied by PVCC President Frank Friedman, Assistant to the President and Special Project Coordinator Pat Buck, and Donna J. Plasket and Ava Pippin from the College Board.

The goal of the lobbying was for students, as constituents and

representatives of PVCC, to ask their representatives to look elsewhere other than the community college budget when making commonwealth budget cuts.

The group met at 7:00 a.m. at PVCC and upon arriving at the Richmond Capital Building, split into two groups. A total of seven representatives were lobbied, including Delegate Rob Bell, Delegate David Toscano, and Senator Creigh Deeds.

PVCC student Erin Arizmendi told her representatives

her story. As a mother of two young children, a wife, and an income earner for her family, she could not have gone back to school without the community college option. She stated, "I couldn't commit to going to college for four to six years, and risk putting my family into such debt that we probably wouldn't be able to get out of it."

However, when asked about the budget situation, Delegate Rob Bell stated that he has not been able to

give good news to anyone.

With record high enrollment and a series of budget cuts, PVCC has more students and less money. Since fiscal year 2008, PVCC has received four budget cuts for a total loss of two million. Ten years ago the commonwealth paid 78% of the tuition cost for students. Currently, it pays 50%.

Despite this situation, at the College Board Meeting on January 4, Fried

See "Lobby" on page 7.

McNERNEY SHARES HIS NYC, HARLEM EXPERIENCE

FRANKIE CARL
FORUM STAFF WRITER

Steve McNerney begins his story with a brief account of the trip he and his daughter took to Liberia after the country had been devastated by 13 years of war.

That visit planted the seeds that lead to his involvement with churches and community organizations in various boroughs of New York City.

He said, "I wanted to establish a more permanent relationship with people, children and their families, so I decided on New York."

His first trip to New York was in 2007. He became involved with New Song, a community church in Harlem. New Song worked to provide affordable housing, afterschool programs and summer day camps.

McNerney's presentation is not simply an account of the time he spent there. It goes much deeper than that. He sets the stage by raising the issue of injustice not only around the globe, but also specifically here in America. He quotes Martin Luther King, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

In New York one can find one's self in the most luxurious, cultured surroundings, but with a short subway ride, be in a poverty stricken community with the worst schools in America.

Here children suffer from exposure to toxic waste and asbestos as well as homelessness. In New York City 25,000 people and children live below the street in the subway tunnels. He refers

his listeners to the book "The Mole People" and the movie "Dark Night" which document this subterranean existence.

McNerney briefly traces the history of the inner cities and how they went from viable self-sustaining communities to wastelands of urban blight and unemployment.

One factor was three decades of Federal Urban Renewal and Federal Highway Programs which took the land from the city neighborhoods, moved the poor to housing projects and encouraged the middle and upper classes to move to the suburbs. Suburban flight took the financial base and the high paying blue collar jobs away and unemployment in the inner cities rose.

This is a great example of the complexity of the issues that McNerney is raising. Change that is perceived as good can have unforeseen, harmful results. He mentions the three step process of justice discussed in the book "When Helping Hurts."

This process involves Relief, Rehabilitation and Development. When a society spends the least amount of time spent on Relief and Development, it allows its people become part of a system where they can begin walking up the ladder of justice.

McNerney questions, "Ultimately, what does gentrification bring and what is doing justice for a neighborhood? Will the upper classes move in and push the poor somewhere else again? Can they do more harm than good?"

He asks this question of himself as well and is hon-



ghettoamerica.blogspot.com

In New York one can find oneself in the most luxurious, cultured surroundings, but with a short subway ride, be in a poverty stricken community.

Steve McNerney is an Assistant Professor of Physical Education and the Director of Student Activities at PVCC



pvc.edu

est about his struggles with the world and his place in it.

He paraphrases this quote from F.B. White "I get up every morning determined to both change the world and have one hell of a good

time. Sometimes this makes planning my life difficult."

A podcast of his presentation is available at https://admin.na6.acrobat.com/_a861040466/fpmcnerney/.



media.ksfy.com



epi.umn.edu

LEGAL DRINKING AGE TO BE REEXAMINED BY SOCIETY

ANNA ACREE
FORUM STAFF WRITER

At 18 years of age, U.S. citizens are capable of voting for the future President of the United States of America. At 18 years of age, one is capable of signing his or her name on a dotted line, saying that one is willing to die for one's country. Turning 18 entails receiving the rights and responsibilities of adulthood. The right to vote, to buy tobacco, to serve on juries, to get married, to sign contracts, to join the military, and to be prosecuted as adults. Yet, if one was born after this date in 1988, it is still illegal for one to purchase, possess, or consume alcohol.

The distribution of alcohol has been the cause of great debate throughout America's history. The temperance movement used selective prohibition as a starting point in the approach to their aim of outlawing all alcohol. In 1919 the 18th amendment to the constitution was ratified and finally the goal of

total prohibition of alcohol was achieved. Yet, due to the seemingly ineffectualness of prohibition, and a drastic change in public opinion, the 18th amendment was later repealed.

What followed was a compromise with the still existing temperance movement, and the idea of a legal drinking age was set into place. The minimum legal drinking age has not always been consistent in the United States. In the 1930s, nearly every state passed legislation stating that a person had to be at least 21 years of age to purchase alcohol. Later, in the 1970s, multiple states lowered the legal drinking age to 18, 19, or 20.

But, as time passed, states began to again increase the legal drinking age in the hopes that it might decrease the number of alcohol related deaths that take place each year. By 1984, the United States of America became one of the only developed nations whose national drinking age is above 18 years old. Countries such as the United

Kingdom, Australia, Germany, China, France, and Singapore continue to hold their drinking age at, or lower than, 18.

The movement to lower the legal drinking age to 18 is once again being set into motion. The proposal is the subject of a petition headed by the National Youth Rights Association. It has been considered in states such as Florida, Wisconsin, Vermont and Missouri. Advocates are arguing that young adults who are considered responsible enough to vote and fight for their country, should also be considered responsible enough to enjoy the pleasures of alcohol.

"I'm responsible and mature enough to walk into a recruitment office and sign up to put

my life on the line and kill other people, but I am not responsible and mature enough to handle a beer," says Private Shawn Wallace of the United States Army.

According to supporters, when adolescents are not taught to drink in moderation, they end up binge drinking. It is healthier, they claim, to teach young adults to learn how to drink responsibly and hold them accountable for their actions, as is the practice in every other aspect of their life after 18.

"Lowering the drinking age will make alcohol less of a taboo, take away the excitement that many young adults get from breaking the law, and make drinking a more

See "Legal" on page 4.

***"I'm responsible and mature enough to ...
kill other people, but I am not responsible
and mature enough to handle a beer."
- Private Shawn Wallace***

HIGH OIL PRICES FOSTER HEALTHIER FARMING

AVERY LEE
FORUM STAFF WRITER

Increased oil costs could benefit the quality of food Americans consume. For decades, cheap oil was an apt substitute for expensive labor on the farm.

Fossil fuel-powered machinery performed the labor of many men in nearly half the time for a fraction of the cost. However, tractors, unlike intelligent humans, could not distinguish between different crops inter-planted in a field. Growers needed to plant one kind of crop en masse.

Yet, large groupings of one type of crop, or monocultures, were particularly susceptible to pests and disease. Industrialized farmers who grew monocultures relied heavily on external chemical solutions such as pesticides.

External solutions brought secondary problems including a breakdown in the interdependent nature of the ecosystem of the farm. As the health of the farm deteriorated, the healthful qualities of the output of the farm suffered. Also, the pesticides needed were expensive. Farmers grew dependant on government subsidies. Thus farms transitioned from being relatively small, diversified, and self-contained to becoming massive monocultures dependent on government money.

U.S. farms depended on cheap foreign oil. Farming profit margins reflected fluctuations in the cost of oil. In the past few years, American farmers have become aware of their tenuous dependency on foreign oil.

Oil is scarce, increasingly more expensive, and burning



bips-edu.fr

Large groupings of one type of crop were particularly susceptible to pests and disease. Industrialized farmers who grew monocultures relied heavily on external chemical solutions such as pesticides, and external solutions brought secondary problems.

it produces carbon byproducts that are destructive to the environment. U.S. agriculture produces 413 million metric tons of carbon dioxide per year. (Center for American Progress)

As profit margins decrease, many farmers are forced to question the status quo and look for alternative methods in order to cut costs. Agricultural reform advocates have formed a growing broad-based grass roots movement that encourages a “back to the basics” approach to food pro-

duction that minimizes farms’ dependence on oil and industry. Should agriculture systems depend on industry or biology?

Writer and farmer Wendell Berry states, “Industrial solutions have always rested on the assumption that enough is all you can get.”

Farms willing to scale back and focus on quality rather than quantity that subscribe to diversified non-industrial techniques create products that are safer and, as some studies show, more nutritious.



PhysicsWorld.com

U.S. farms depended on cheap foreign oil.



Jon Hasenfus

Roger Agbati, Jonathan Motlagh, Sam Hewitt, Beth Russell, Del. David Toscano, Grace Finley, Alden Goodwin, and Donna J. Plaskit pose for a photo in Toscano's office in the Richmond Capital Building.

"Lobby" from page 1.

man stated that he believed it is the school's mission never to turn away any student. To his fellow board members, he said, "It is our job to make sure it never reaches that point."

The January 14 trip was part of a larger coordination. The "Every Day is a Community College Day" plan has the 23 colleges coordinate to have the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) represented everyday of the legislative session.

On the same day PVCC lobbied, Tidewater and NOVA were also represented.

Despite the fact that it was only the second day of the session, the capital building was buzzing with people.

PVCC student Roger Agbati stated, "Even though you might have an appointment with a representative, something might come up, for example he/she might have a committee meeting, so you might have to change your schedule."

The PVCC delegation played its agenda by ear. Unfortunately it was not able to



facebook.com

Ava Pippin, Jodi Hacking, Becca Davis, Pres. Frank Friedman, Lee Stone, Del. Rob Bell, Erin Arizmendi, and Jenn Jones pose for a photo. This photo can be found on Bell's facebook page under his note "Swearing in and Starting Work."

meet two senators and one delegate that were scheduled.

However, in two of the cases, the representatives' legal aid was available.

PVCC student Grace Finley stated, "It was really cool

experience because it allowed me to see what state government was like and it showed me I could have some influence in our government."

PVCC student Jodi Hacking stated, "I had no experience with

legislature or politics. It was interesting to be able to talk to my representative; to have personal contact; to know that he's not just someone in some office."

The next PVCC lobbying trip will be on February 9.

BRAZILIAN MUSIC STRETCHES ACROSS AMERICAN CULTURES

TATIANA EAMES
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Latino rhythms such as Salsa, Merengue, and Cha-cha have become very popular in the United States. These rhythms originated in Spanish-speaking countries in Central and South America, and have become popularized in the U.S. due, in some part, to the growing Hispanic population.

Lesser-known rhythms that are also flavorful and “calientes” are Bossa-Nova, Funk, Axé, and Samba, all of which come from Brazil.

The Brazilian musical style that perhaps is most familiar to Americans is called Bossa-Nova. This was popularized in the U.S. by the song “Girl From Ipanema,” which has become commonplace in the repertoire of many American singers and jazz musicians.

Bossa-Nova is a mild, soothing style that, can be heard in many Starbucks locations in addition to improvisational or jazz lounges across the country. This combination of styles results in a unique blend of musical flavors.

However, the newer generation tends to prefer the “juicy” lyrics and rapid dance steps associated with Funk and Axé.

Funk in Brazil was popularized in Rio de Janeiro, and started with the lower classes that live in the poor neighborhoods called favelas. In the beginning, young boys put the harsh reality of their day-to-day lives into music, much like how Rap originated in the U.S. Later, DJ's added a techno flavor and a strong beat to these lyrics, creating a

unique way to express their hard lives, transforming the tragedy of their lives into popular music.

Moving from Rio to the north of the country, in a state called Bahia in Brazil, local artists put together humorous lyrics in conjunction with choreographies that are easy to memorize, creating the Brazilian rhythm called Axé. This style is very popular among the youth, and widely listened to across the country, particularly during the month of February during Carnival in Brazil.

One of the examples of this kind of Axé would be the music titled “Dança do Quadrado,” which translates to “Square Dance.” The singer essentially gives command to the listeners/audience, telling them what to do inside their personal “Quadrado,” or square space. The result of the dance is an amazing, improvised and synchronized choreography without any need for rehearsal.

Samba is as essential to Brazilian culture as American football is to American culture. It represents the people, the passion, the nationality, the soul and spirit of Brazilians. Samba has a rhythm called Batuque, which is basically the repetition of a basic beat pattern. This creates what Brazilians call a “Roda de Samba,” or “Circle of Samba” in which people produce the Batuque beat organically as a single unit.

Two “fathers of Samba”, are Jorge Aragão and Zeca Pagodinho. The former sings songs that are closer to the roots of Samba, while the latter started a new branch of Samba



fotos.sapo.pt

Ivette Sangalo is a Latin Grammy Award-winning Brazilian Axé singer and songwriter. She has six albums released with Banda Eva.

that has been termed Pagode.

Brazil has a rich culture that can only begin to be described by its music.

If you want to get a little of the country's flavor, food, and music without straying too far from Charlottesville, the city and surrounding area have a few places where you can enjoy Brazilian culture, including:

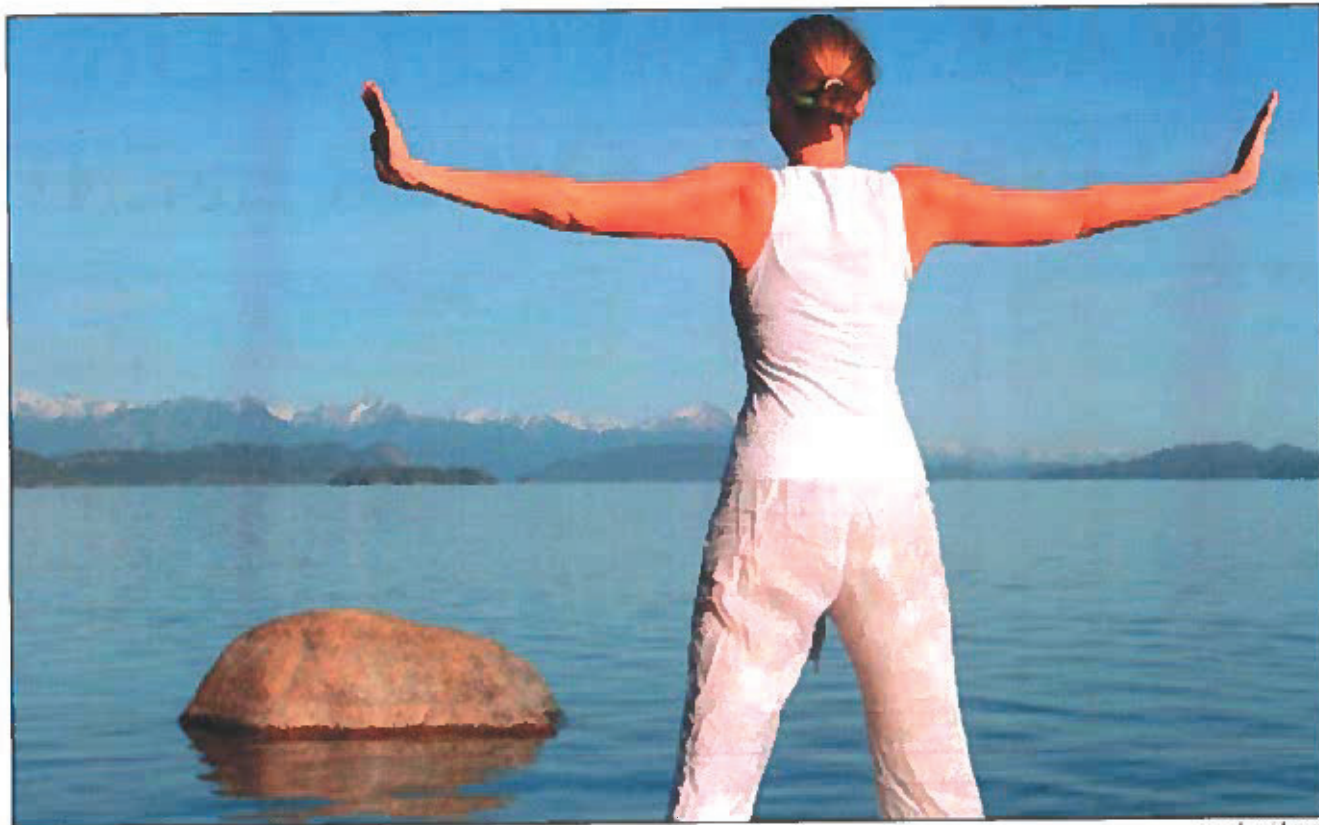
Copa Cabana Restaurant on 29 North at 400 Shoppers World CT, Beleza Brazil, a musical duet that frequently performs at Maya Restaurant, located at 633 West Main St., and Zabor Dance Studio, where you can learn Latino dance styles and attend Capoeira classes (a Brazilian dance/martial art), located at 109 2nd St. SE off the Downtown Mall.

Brazil has a rich culture that can only begin to be described by its music.

IMAGES FROM "LET THERE BE LIGHT" DECEMBER EVENT



Forum Staff



GOAL-ORIENTED RESOLUTIONS CREATE LESS STRESS

JEN TREACY
MANAGING EDITOR

It is mid-January, maybe even late January if you are good. But sooner or later, you will slip up. It happens to all of us. You miss going to the gym one day, or you eat a few too many cookies, and that's it for your new year's resolutions.

It is so easy to get discouraged with resolutions. We think that it is better for us if we set strict resolutions, as to not give ourselves any leeway. "I will do my homework every day." "I will stop smoking." It is also easy to write off our entire ef-

fort once we have slipped.

I would like to offer a simple alternative to discarding worthwhile resolutions before we even get to Valentine's Day.

My theory is this: resolutions should not be quantitative, but qualitative. If it helps, think of them as goals to have accomplished by a certain time, like the summer, or your birthday.

Rather than, "I will go to the gym 3 times a week," try "I want to be able to bench 200 lbs by the end of the year," or "I want to be able to run a 5K race by the summer."

Focus less on counting what you will do and more

on what you will accomplish.

Even if you mess up for any reason, go back to an old habit because it's comforting, you will feel less guilty. Because you cut yourself more slack, you put more faith in yourself. You trust that you can accomplish your end goal. This in turn will lower your stress level.

Most resolutions we make because we feel like we have an obligation to better ourselves. The constant pressure to live up to our own expectations can be overwhelming.

We owe it to ourselves to make fun resolutions as well. For example, "wear more red,"

or "save to buy an iPhone." The whole point of making resolutions is because we want the new year to be different, better.

The best way to do that is to feel like we are improving ourselves while also encouraging ourselves to enjoy life.

Keep the list somewhere you can find it, and check in with it periodically to remind yourself of your goals. By the end of the year, you will be rewarded by how many things you can cross off.

Pat yourself on the back for those things, and do not beat yourself up over the ones you did not quite get around to. After all, there is always next year.

STONE CREEK VILLAGE



Outdoor Amenities include:

- Pool with large deck
- Kiddie pool
- Spa
- Five hot tubs
- Three half-basketball courts
- Two putting greens
- Walking trails through the nature area
- Unheated pond

Indoor Amenities include:

7,000 square foot Club House with:

- Business Center
- Large 1,020 square foot fitness center complete with extensive state-of-the-art exercise equipment

Apartments:

- Fireplace in each apartment
- Full size washer and dryer in each apartment
- Oversized garden tubs in most master baths
- Large open kitchen with pantry and breakfast bar
- Appliances include frost-free refrigerator with ice maker, stove, oven, dishwasher, microwave and garbage disposal

Route 20 South, at Mill Creek Drive

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
434-872-9000
www.stonecreekvillageapts.com



**WRITE HERE,
WRITE NOW!**

<http://www.pvcc.edu/about/qep.php>

Check out the PVCC page on Facebook!



**Find us on
Facebook**

UPCOMING STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

What: Spring Semester Club Day
When: Jan. 27
Cost: none
Where: Bolick Student Center and the main hall

What: Student Government Association February General Board Meeting
When: Feb. 4, 7:00am
Cost: none
Where: Pace Board Room

What: Bryon Motley presents: The History of the Negro Baseball Leagues
When: Feb. 10, 12:10pm - 1:20pm
Cost: none
Where: Bolick Student Center

What: Steve Wallace-The Ambassador of Urban Soul music performance
When: Feb. 24, 12:10pm - 1:20pm
Cost: none
Where: Bolick Student Center

What: Fantasy Casino Night
When: Mar. 26, 8:00pm - 11:00pm
Cost: none
Where: Bolick Student Center and North Hall Meeting Room

What: Spring Fling Picnic
When: April 14, 11:00am - 1:20pm
Cost: none
Where: College Fields

What: Field Day
When: April 17 10:00am - 3:00pm
Cost: none
Where: College Fields

COLLEGE EVENTS**BAKESALE**

Tuesday 1/19,
Wednesday 1/20
9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Learning Center Tutors are holding a bakesale to benefit Haiti earthquake relief efforts. All proceeds will go to the Red Cross.

FREE MOVIE NIGHT

Friday, 1/22
7:30 pm

Free Movie Friday at PVCC features "Where the Wild Things Are" Free admission. No tickets required. General seating. PVCC's Student Art Club sponsors Free Movie Friday on the big screen in the comfortable and spacious V. Earl Dickenson theatre. For more info visit www.pvcc.edu/performingarts

MODERN DANCE CLASS

Saturday, 1/23
10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Christopher Morgan is artistic director of Muse, a dance theater company in New York City. His diverse experience as a choreographer and performer lends to a vast repertoire of modern dance techniques. Come barefoot and prepared to move. Open to all levels of experience. \$10. Pre-register by calling the PVCC Box Office @ 434.961.5376

CLUB DAY

Wednesday 1/27
9:30 am to 1:30 pm,
5:00pm to 7:00 pm

PVCC clubs have tables in the Bolick Student Center and main hallway to recruit new students.

ART OPENING RECEPTION

Friday, 1/29
7:00 pm

Odebla featuring: Matthew Lively and Cut and Paste featuring: Harriet Arthur, Shelby Fischer, and Lisa Parker Hyatt Ehrlich.

Show runs through March 3.
www.pvcc.edu/performingarts

IMPROV DANCE W/SHANE

O'HARA
Saturday, 1/30
12:00 pm

Based on the composition and improvisation techniques of dance master Daniel Nagrin, this class will explore exercises that create movement from impulses that sidestep the mind's filtering processes. Open to all levels of experience. \$10.
www.pvcc.edu/performingarts

COMMUNITY EVENTS SAMPLER**EVENING WITH EDGAR ALLAN POE**

Saturday, 1/23
6:00 pm

The Albemarle Charlottesville Historical Society will host an elegant fundraiser. Guests will enjoy a standing cocktail hour with wine, hors d'oeuvres, and live music, followed by a performance and reading by Mr. Edgar Allan Poe (portrayed by Mr. Keith Kaufelt of the Edgar Allan Poe Museum in Richmond). This is a ticketed event open to the public and all proceeds will support the publication of a book commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the founding of Charlottesville. Tickets are \$35. www.albemarlehistory.org

BUDGETING WORKSHOP

Tuesday, 1/26
6:00 pm

FOCUS Women's Resource Center offers a workshop on budgeting. Cosponsored by Clearpoint Credit Counseling Solutions. No charge. Pre-registration is requested. For more information call 434-293-2222 ext. 27

MENTOR, TUTOR, PASS IT ON!

Thursday, 1/28
11:00 am

Fourteen local organizations participate in the Recruitment Fair at the Omni Hotel. Learn more about the many different ways you make a difference in the life of a child. Chat with representatives from local programs. For more info, contact United Way @ www.BeAVolunteer.info/

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New website for PVCC students to buy and sell used textbooks and books. www.pvcc.edu/used_books/

FOR RENT

Lake front summer cottage on Newfound Lake, NH. Available for families up to 8 people. \$2000/wk. See www.homeaway.com for more information. Look for property # 1 8 1 1 5 9 .

FOR SALE

ACTION FIGURES. Lot of 10 assorted, unopened action figures from the late 90s - early 2000s. Mostly Star Wars: Huge book value, \$50. Call Jay at 4 3 4 . 2 6 3 . 4 0 7 8 .

BIO 101/102 USED TEXTBOOK Contact Jen at jjj23@live.com.

COMIC BOOKS lot of 20, MOST MINT AND RARE, 60s-90s ONLY \$20 Call Jay at 434.263.4078

The Forum offers classified space to the PVCC community free of charge. Please send announcements, along with your full name, e-mail, and phone number to theforum@pvcc.edu

THE FORUM STAFF**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

Jenn Jones

MANAGING EDITORS

Robert Mangione

Jen Treacy

STAFF WRITERS

Anna Acree

Avery Lee

Frankie Carl

J Hatfield

Patrick Knaus

Christopher Rivers

Luke Wilson

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Tatiana Fames

Cora Kessler

ADVISOR

Dr. Andrew Smith

PUBLISHER

Danielle Johnson

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