

PVCC's Got Talent! First-ever Talent Show April 8

Elise Hansen, Managing Editor

PVCC students and staff are gearing up for the college's first talent show, scheduled for Friday, April 8. The show will be in the Dickinson Theater and is free and open to the public.

"Our goal for this show is for the performers, the audience and even the ones working behind the scenes to have great memories of a lifetime," said SGA President Camron Perry.

The show will include between seven and ten acts, about an hour and a half of performances. Martez Anderson plans to rap, a skill

he has been honing since he was nine years old. He has performed across Virginia at multiple talent shows and conventions. Ultimately, he hopes to perform on tour, possibly with the help of a label. He aspires to "connect with people, change their lives as well as be innovative to the game," he said.

Thomas Harton plans to play guitar. He is no stranger to the spotlight: he has played for a crowd of 300 in the past and recently played at Firefly in Charlottesville. "My biggest influence on my original music is anything I generally go

Preview PVCC's production of *The Tempest* page 10

through in life," he explained, including previous romantic relationships, which feature heavily in his songs. He hopes to play professionally in the future, "in front of thousands of people on an almost-daily basis."

The show is sponsored by The Kroger Company and Pepsi-Cola of Central Virginia. This is the first time an international company has sponsored a PVCC event. "Getting corporate sponsors is extremely

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Thomas Harton auditions for the PVCC Talent Show

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DATES TO REMEMBER

— *The Tempest* —

March 31-April 2, 7:30 p.m., April 2, 2:30 p.m.
Dickinson Building, Maxwell Theater

—Advance Summer Registration—

March 28-April 10

—Advance Fall Registration—

March 28-June 19

—Lecture on VA Native American Tribes*—

April 4, 12 p.m.-1 p.m., M229

—International Food Festival *—

April 6, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., North Mall Meeting Room

—PVCC Talent Show *—

April 8, 7 p.m., Dickinson Auditorium

—Charlottesville Municipal Band *—

April 10, 3:30 p.m., Dickinson Auditorium

—Guest Speaker: Matthew Morgan from the National Radio Astronomy Observatory *—

April 13, 12 p.m.-1 p.m., M229

—One Mic Stand *—

April 14, 7 p.m., Dickinson Building, Maxwell Theater

—Free Movie Friday: *The Revenant**—

April 15, 7:30 p.m., Dickinson Auditorium

—Ping Pong Tournament Semifinals *—

April 18, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Ping Pong Room

—Ping Pong Tournament Finals *—

April 20, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Bolick Center

—Spring Fling *—

April 20, 11 a.m.—3 p.m., Student Terrace

—Student Art Exhibition Opening and Chocolate Chowdown *—

April 22, 5-7 p.m., Dickinson Building, Maxwell Theater

—Improv Night *—

April 22, 7:30 p.m., Dickinson Building, Maxwell Theater

—PVCC Chorus Spring Concert *—

April 24, 3 p.m., Dickinson Theater Auditorium

*Free Event ^Student Vouchers Available

From the Editor

Elise Hansen, Editor

In a world inundated with national and international news, why should we care about local events? Why should we care about a school talent show when American Idol shows us performers from across the U.S.? Why should we care about a neighborhood bake sale or the latest gallery exhibit when scores of innocent Pakistani citizens have been murdered in a brutal terrorist attack?

We live in an age in which time can feel like our scarcest resource. We also have near-constant access to a flood of information—a Google search for “U.S. federal election” returns over 23 million results. And, thanks to the internet and social media, online communities can feel just as real to us as the communities we physically inhabit. So how much time should we devote to understanding events in our local communities?

The answer will look different for different people, but at *The Forum*, we believe that local events are worth our time and effort. Often the events that impact our lives the most happen closest to home: potholes in the street, zoning laws that determine where we can and cannot build homes, spring break dates, property tax rates—these decisions take place at the state and local level. When we vote in local and state elections, we are voting on whether Charlottesville’s Downtown Mall should put up security cameras, or whether the statue of Robert E. Lee should remain in Lee Park.

These questions matter, and we have a voice in deciding the answers. Of course, national and international events are important, but let us also remember to make an impact in the places where we live, work and study. Plug in to what is happening in your neighborhood and on PVCC campus! We are here to help you in that mission.



Student Government Association News

Hi everyone! My name is Anna Gage and I serve as the Director of Student Voice for PVCC's Student Government Association (SGA). The Student Voice Board meets to discuss how we can improve our school and help students have a wonderful time while attending Piedmont. The board works diligently to ensure that all students' needs are met.

The main reason I took on the director of Student Voice is because I felt I lacked a voice for a long time. I began to ponder and understand that I needed to stick up for those people who are like me. I want all voices to be heard regardless of race, religion, gender, social class or status. I hold on to the saying "greet the janitor the same way you greet the CEO."

As director of Student Voice, my job is to make sure students are aware of upcoming events. I am proud to say that the SGA is hosting its first annual talent show on April 8 at 7 p.m. This event will be very exciting, so join us as we open the door for our first talent show. Show your support for all the individuals who are showcasing their talent!



**SGA Director of Student Voice
Anna Gage**

Upcoming events:

April 8 - TALENT SHOW

April 18 - Ping Pong tournament semifinals

April 20 - Ping Pong tournament finals in Bolick Center

April 20 - Spring Fling

April 28-May 5 - Student appreciation tables

Come join us at these events if you are free! If you have any questions please feel free to send me an email. Remember to smile; life is a gift!

Anna Gage

Director of Student Voice

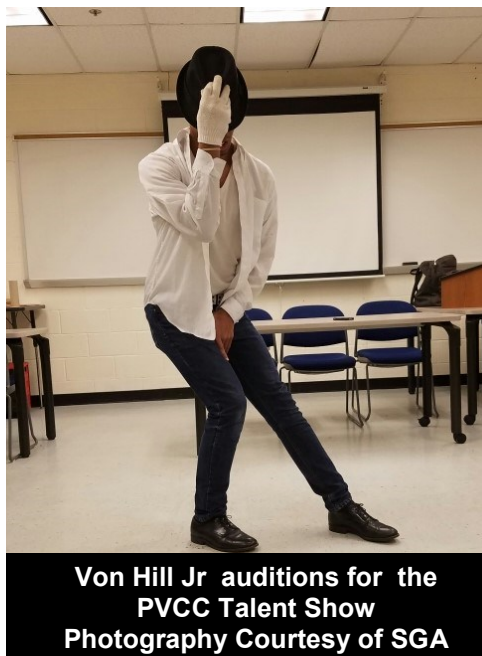
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Student Government Association
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Talent Show, Continued from page 1

difficult,” said Perry, whose efforts were key to securing such prominent support. “Most SGAs at universities cannot pull corporate sponsors for their events...if they do, they usually don’t have two of them,” he said. “As a community college SGA we are extremely proud to push beyond what others say is impossible.”

Kroger supplied money for cash prizes and will have a table outside the theater featuring its products and a hiring table for those interested in employment.



Prominent members of the company are expected to attend the event along with regional employees. Up to 500 Pepsi products will be available outside the auditorium, according to Perry.

“We want people to walk away from the theater in awe about the performance,” Perry said. “We also want our sponsors to walk away feeling that it was well worth their time and money to sponsor our event...We want to bring [the students] what they deserve.”

Don’t Miss the International Food Festival

Cynthia Beasley, Staff Writer

Learning about different cultures is important, and what better way to learn than through food? The International Club, along with multiple other student groups, is giving PVCC the opportunity to experience cuisine from around the globe.

This year’s 27th annual International Food Festival will include foods from local restaurants as well as dishes made by PVCC students.

Kristine Swanson, advisor to the French Culture Club and one of the many people involved in planning the festival, said, “I think [the original goal] was to give our students and the PVCC community an exposure to international cuisine.”

The festival does just that, as it will include traditional dishes from many countries and cultures. Some of the types of food that will be represented are German, Chinese, Japanese, Thai, Mexican, French, soul food, and more.

The Black Student Alliance, the International Club, the Spanish Club, as well as other PVCC students and faculty members involved in

planning the event, will make these dishes.

In addition to the dishes prepared by members of the PVCC community, multiple locally-owned restaurants will be at the festival. These include Mican, The Bavarian Chef, East Garden, Pad Thai, and Crêperie Piémontaise.

For some of these restaurants, this is not their first appearance at the festival. “One of our steadfast restaurants is The Bavarian Chef. They have come almost every year ... They really are the mainstay of the restaurants and they put on quite a display,” said Swanson.

Each year, the proceeds from the event benefit a charity. In past years, the profits have been donated to earthquake relief in Haiti and tsunami relief in Japan. This year’s charity has not yet been decided.

Students can purchase items using tickets; tickets will be sold upon entry and can be redeemed at any vendor.

The festival will be in the North Mall Meeting Room on April 6 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. It is a great way to support local businesses, fellow students and classmates, and a charitable cause.

Coming Soon: Music to the Moon

Sam Jefferson, Staff Writer

Looking to experience the sensation of indie music? A fan of progressive rock? If so, then this April, dreams will begin to come true as the rock band Moon Taxi will be coming to Charlottesville.

Moon Taxi began to form several years ago when musicians Trevor Terndrup and Tommy Putnam moved to Nashville, Tennessee. There, they met with fellow musician Spencer Thompson, and began rocking it as the indie-progressive rock band Moon Taxi.

Though their performances were at first confined to the dormitories of local colleges, Moon Taxi began gaining more fame and recognition. Eventually, after many sit-ins, keyboardist Wes Bailey became the newest addition to Moon Taxi in fall 2006. Pretty soon, Moon Taxi was performing onstage in front of a

live, cheering audience.

Since then, they have even been featured on a few Late shows. Their first album, *Melodica*, was recorded in Nashville in 2008. Afterwards, they continued publishing albums named *Live Ride*, *Cabaret*, *Mountains Beaches Cities*, and *Daybreaker*. The songs include “Mercury,” “River Water,” “The New Black,” “Year Zero,” and “Running Wild.”

“When we release a new album, we enter a new chapter in our story; an experience we share with our fans,” said Wes Bailey. “When the day breaks and the sun rises, changes happen and the world we know illuminates. That's the same kind of effect we hope to achieve when we share new music.”

Moon Taxi will be performing at Charlottesville’s Jefferson Theater, located on the Downtown Mall on Madison Street. They will perform at 8 p.m. from April 3 to April 4.

Tanoshii Anime!

Sam Jefferson, Staff Writer

No college is complete without a host of clubs; someplace where people of similar interests can go off to enjoy themselves. Most clubs are commonly found throughout any college, such as the Chest Club or the Writing Club. These are the sorts of classic clubs that have existed in colleges long before the turn of the century.

PVCC proudly pushes the boundaries of common interests by hosting all sorts of unique and interesting clubs. There is the Brony Club, the Smash Club, and last but certainly not least, there is the Anime Club.

The Anime Club serves as a central hub for those who share a common interest in anime, or Japanese animation. Stationed at Room 154, the Anime Club meets every Friday from 3-5 p.m., where anime is viewed through the classroom’s projector.

While the anime is being aired, viewers often

have open discussions about the present anime characters and stories. Everyone is welcome to discuss and state their opinion, but anything that could be a potential spoiler is to be left to yourself.

Two different animes are screened each week, and the decision as to which anime is to be showed is decided by a viewer vote.

This April, the Anime Club will host a special event. On April 27, the Anime Club will host the Anime Cafe, where everyone is welcome. People will dress up as their favorite anime characters, and there will be finger foods, tarot readings, and tea ceremonies. The event will last from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. in the North Mall Meeting Room.

Though not as traditional as the Reading or Chess Club, the Anime Club has proven to be an effective club nonetheless. Its friendly social atmosphere is welcome to those who have never even watched anime before. Yonde kurete arigatō. Translation: Thanks for reading.

Presidential Primaries Explained

Cynthia Beasley, Staff Writer

Geoffrey Skelley, the media-relations coordinator for the University of Virginia's Center of Politics, came to speak to the PVCC community about the upcoming presidential primaries. He discussed the systems and processes used by both the Democratic and Republican parties, as well as some predictions for the election.

Geoffrey Skelley is a political analyst and is an associate editor of *Sabato's Crystal Ball*, UVA's Center of Politics' nonpartisan newsletter on American campaigns and elections. The Crystal Ball provides analysis and information for elections all over the country and has been a leader in predicting past elections.

Before starting his presentation, Skelley said, "This has to be the most confusing, complicated, byzantine, ridiculous thing . . . The system we use to nominate the Presidents could not be any murkier than it is."

Jonathan Campos was one student in attendance. Campos, a Marine Corps Veteran said, "I believe that it is every citizen's duty to understand what is going on because we have to care. If we don't care about something, it will usually get taken away."

He then explained how the Virginia Democratic and Republican Parties select a candidate to represent them on the presidential ballot. His presentation included many charts and graphs in an effort to help the audience understand this confusing process.

"There is a lot more transparency than there used to be, but it still says something that the process is confusing for, basically, most people," said Skelley.

He discussed the fact that Virginia is typically a state to watch, as it has gone Democratic in the last two elections.

Skelley's predictions on whether or not Hillary Clinton would win Virginia were correct as he said, "It would be surprising if Hillary didn't win." He believed that if Sanders wanted a



chance, he would have needed to do well in Northern Virginia.

But will this be the case? Obviously, there is no way to tell yet, but he wins pluralities in every group and the media loves him. He has received 30 million dollars of essentially free advertisements from the three major networks.

"There really hasn't been a candidate like this, ever. Trump's appeal is not based on ideology, it's not based on his viewpoints, it's based on his personality," said Skelley.

He believes that both sides have reasons to be optimistic. The Democrats should be optimistic because of demographic changes in our country that favor them. Obama's approval ratings have risen, and Clinton will have a lot of allies and money for her campaign.

The Republicans also have reasons to remain hopeful, as it is hard for one party to continue winning, because our country always wants change and it is hard for one party to hold onto the White House.

"But, what we may think we know, isn't necessarily right," said Skelley.

After answering questions from students, the conversation turned to the possible outcome of the election. To that, Skelley said, "If it were Trump against Clinton . . . You think you have seen a lot of ugliness in our politics? Well, they may manage to do worse than ever before."

PVCC Hosts Positive Action Conference

Elise Hansen, Managing Editor

Students listened attentively as Virginia Senator Creigh Deeds and Virginia Delegates Rob Bell and Steve Landes discussed the importance of local and state government to students' lives. The speakers were a part of PVCC's first Positive Action Conference (PAC), designed to expose students to local issues and to inspire civic and political engagement at the local level.

The conference featured numerous speakers and panels, each addressing different aspects of local government. Topics included privacy and policing, LGBT rights, women in politics, and race and class divisions.

"I learned a lot of things I'll apply to my views about different political topics," said Grayson Katzenbach. She especially enjoyed the Privacy and Policing Panel because it presented contrasting viewpoints on a relevant topic. "We got to hear opinions for and against the use of security cameras...and we got to hear it from experts," she said.

"I liked [the conference]," said Logan Means. "Especially the [panels] I could really relate to, I loved." She attended the LGBT Panel, in which she learned about some of the issues facing the LGBT community. "I didn't know you could be kicked out of a restaurant for being gay," she said.

The conference began Friday night with a catered dinner and speakers and continued through Saturday afternoon. Breakfast and lunch were catered by Panera and Harvest Bread Company, and each meal featured speakers, with topic-specific panels in between.

"My goal for this conference is to show PVCC students that

politics can be an approachable subject and that anyone can get involved," said Elena Muraca, a member of the Student Planning Committee.

Almost all of the speakers insisted that local and state elections significantly impact students' daily lives. Because voter turnout for these elections is relatively low, Senator Deeds explained, each voter has a prominent voice in determining the outcomes.

Erika Garrett admitted that this was new information for her. "I knew voting was a good thing, but I didn't know what a big impact it had," she said. Means agreed: "I knew the presidential votes matter, but I didn't know the smaller votes were so important."

Asked how the conference went overall, Student Intern Daniel Berti said, "I think it went really well. The speakers and panelists were incredible; they did a really good job. It's been really inspiring."

Professor Connie Jorgensen, the event's faculty sponsor, agreed: "The conference was great!" she said. She hopes that PVCC can host another conference in the future; ideally, one that can accommodate a larger number of students (registration was limited to 100 students this year). "It's such a great opportunity to hear from local and state experts," she said over email.

She and Muraca insist that the conference supports an important cause. "I believe that politics has the ability to create community through people coming together to improve the lives of their fellow citizens, and this is precisely what the PAC promotes," said Muraca.



Ethics and Good Government Panel at the PCA. Photography by Elise Hansen

Debating Lee Park's Statue

Ryan Winkler, Staff Writer

There is a debate about the future of the statue of Robert E. Lee in Lee Park, located on Market Street in downtown Charlottesville. Charlottesville Vice Mayor Wes Bellamy has been calling for the tearing down of this monument, along with other historical objects. He believes the statue to be a glorifying symbol of slavery, and a symbol of hate.

The whole discussion began when a local high school student started a petition to remove the statue, which garnered the attention of the Vice Mayor.

There are reasonable arguments on both sides of this debate. First, those who support the removal of the statue are correct in saying that this statue represents a time of hate and severe racism. Robert E. Lee was a Confederate General, which is the side that supported

continuing slavery.

However, Lee himself was not a supporter of slavery, in fact abhorring the institution. Lee was also a member of the Union Army before defecting to the Confederacy in order to defend his home and family in the state of Virginia.

On the other side, those that oppose the removal of the statue have a strong argument as well. They argue the statue is a symbol of our history, even if it is a history blighted with issues like slavery. They also argue that it is important to remember our history, even if it is one that we might not be entirely proud of.

Charlottesville local Whit Zirkle said, "It is ridiculous to consider taking down the statue. No one is proud of slavery, but that is not what this statue represents. It represents an important, yet tumultuous time of our nation's history, and it would be a mistake to purposefully try and forget that."

Fathers' Rights Movement

Kaitlyn Duvalois, Staff Writer

"I'm her father; why should I have to be supervised?" said Shannon Chidester, a man fighting for his right to see his daughter after three years. The Fathers' Rights Movement is a social movement that is advocating for the rights of fathers in custody battles and child support cases.

According to fathersrightsmovement.us, most of the members of the Fathers' Rights Movement simply want shared custody with their child's mother.

According to the U.S Census Bureau, there are 24 million children in the United States and one out of three of those children grows up in a household where they do not have a biological father present.

In recent years, according to the National Coalition for Men (NCFM), fathers have usually asked for just 50 percent custody, whereas

mothers have asked for 80 percent and have gotten that. Fathers are basically just there to visit occasionally and to pay child support. Men represent 87.1 percent of child support payers and on average pay \$4,250 in child support each year, according to DadsDivorce.com.

This has become a problem and many people are looking at our court systems. "Virginia is an interesting case because we already have the rights in place, but they just aren't socially acceptable yet," said Arif Vega, a PVCC student in the battle for more parental rights.

The main goal for the Fathers' Rights Movement right now is to help people going through similar situations to see what they can do to make this process easier.

"It is like we're fighting over a piece of property," said Vega, referring to his experiences with the court system. Vega and many others are trying to fight the system just for the right to be in their child's life.

Great Expectations for Foster Care Students

Darien Tinsley, Staff Writer

PVCC has numerous programs that help college students with academics, finances, and other college-related needs. Down the 100 hall in the college's main building, there is a program called Great Expectations. It is designed for currently enrolled students who have been in foster care as adolescents to ensure that the needs of these students are met financially, hygienically, and, of course, academically.

The organization is statewide and was started in 2008 by then-Governor Tim Kaine's wife, Anne Holton, who is now the secretary of education.

Sarah Groom, the Great Expectations coach for PVCC, was in foster care as a youth. She prides herself in the students' successes, seeing their potential and helping them to shine. "No person in the program is a throw away; we are here to help people's gift shine," said Groom.

She explained that the organization is present in other community colleges as well, such as J.

Sargeant Reynolds Community College, Danville Community College, Southside Community College, Blue Ridge Community College, and others. Groom said, "Forty-eight percent of foster youth in Virginia do not graduate high school and less than two percent of former foster youth were pursuing post secondary education."

Groom knows what it is like to pay for college and how hard it is to fully make ends meet, so here at PVCC the organization offers financial resources that it calls "emergency funds." They are mostly used for transportation and housing assistance: they buy bus passes for the students in the program, help with car repairs, help students find apartments or assist with rent.

Most colleges' Great Expectations do not have emergency funds as PVCC does. Groom said, "PVCC is one of the most supportive colleges in the state for the Great Expectations program."

PVCC student Kiara Miller has been in the program for more than five years and has gained much from the program. She said, "It has helped me with my college expenses, but most importantly with my educational growth."

Most importantly, Groom also wants the office to be a place for individuals looking for a starting point, a place of acceptance that gives hope. Shelly Baker also works in the office, as do other student workers.

Groom said, "As a professional, vulnerability and figuring out the whole picture, is about getting deep and not superficial."



Photography Courtesy of PVCC's Great Expectations Program

The Tempest Strikes PVCC



All Photography by Tucker Poe

Tucker Poe, Staff Writer

Believed to have been written and first performed over 400 years ago, *The Tempest* is playing at PVCC on March 31, April 1 and 2. The cast of 18 includes students from PVCC and members of the local community who will be performing an inspired take on Shakespeare's classic.

Adjunct Coordinator of Theatre Productions and director of this spring's play Brad Stoller said, "I have always wanted to direct this show after a one man *Tempest* I saw 30 years ago that used shadows inventively and has always stayed with me as a wonderful way to explore the nature of illusion." The pageantry of the show with its



shadow play, in the cramped confines of the Black Box pulls the audience into the performance by putting them within arms reach of the actors.

Having a theatre program that, "is in wonderful shape with several dedicated students who have been returning to do many shows," as Stoller said, is vital for the success of students with a passion for acting. Jennie Bottas, playing Miranda, the leading female role, said, "I've been acting here and there since I was three. I definitely want to continue doing theater for the



rest of my life. It started off as a hobby, but has grown into a true passion of mine.”

Four-hundred years is a long time for a play to be performed and it has given people a lot of time to interpret and criticize *The Tempest*. From colonial to feminist implications the play has sparked discussion for centuries. “I feel that theatre is the best medium to approach issues that are so difficult to discuss about our human condition, specifically the nature of reality. Theatre has the ability to transcend the ordinary perceptions of morality, ethics, religion, identity etc, with movement of time and space as well as a fluidity of interactions between characters,” Stoller said.

With a cast that Bottas described as full of talent, PVCC’s *The Tempest* is an innovatively entertaining look at one of Shakespeare’s



classics. Stoller said, “I hope that the students here can take advantage of this opportunity to see this production, they will regret it I guarantee it if they miss it. It’s a fast paced, under one and half hours, show full of dance, song and spectacle of shadows and projections.”



PVCC Celebrates Pi Day with Pie

Owen Krug, Staff Writer

Albert Einstein is far more than just a name, it is an adjective. To be called Einstein is synonymous with intelligence. He was so brilliant and so dedicated to his craft that his name alone designates genius.

Einstein was born on March 14, 1879, in Ulm, Germany, and died thousands of miles away on April 18, 1955, in Princeton, New Jersey. Many years before his birth, a striking relationship within the circle was found that

would influence mathematics forever. While the exact person is unclear, a discovery was made determining that the ratio between a circle's circumference and diameter is constant.

The ratio is called Pi, and its numerical value can be rounded to 3.1415, although it continues far beyond those few numbers. This universal law not only showed the relationship of diameter and circumference, but eventually, a more obscure relationship with the modern-day godfather of mathematics.

Whether it was by chance or mathematical destiny, Einstein's birth date, 3/14, directly corresponds to Pi's numerical value of 3.14. It is a correlation PVCC's math club, Mu Alpha Theta, did not overlook.

Diane Valade is an assistant professor of Mathematics at PVCC and was heavily involved with the idea, formation, and execution of PVCC's second-ever Pi Day. In keeping with the

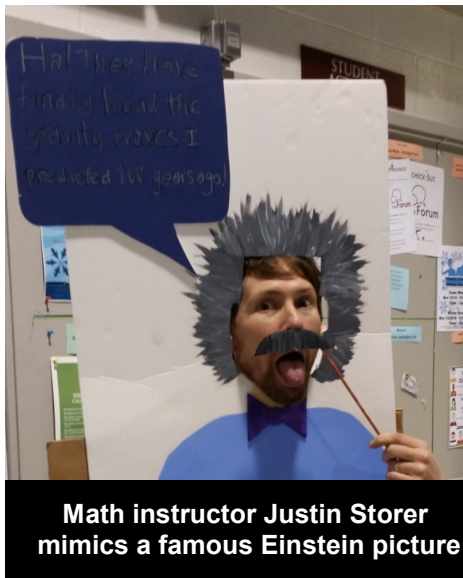
idea of Pi, not only was the day dedicated to the number 3.14, but also to the more tangible translation, food.

Upon arriving at the event attendees could make a number of decisions, one being to discuss math and enjoy the company of fellow mathematicians, another to eat a delicious piece of pie, and finally to poke their heads through a cardboard cutout of Albert Einstein and snap a picture.

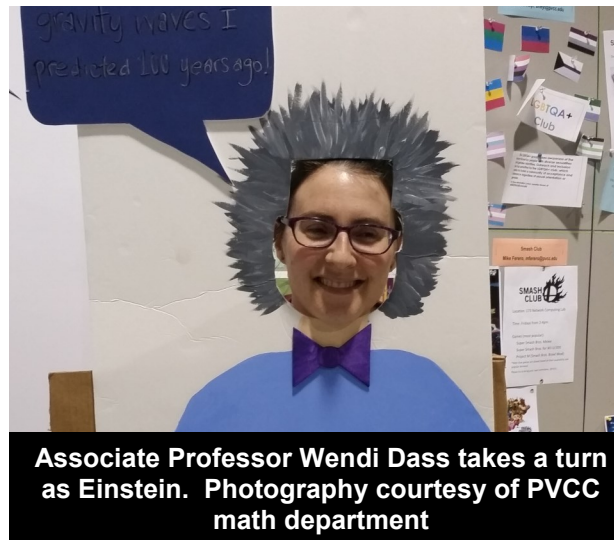
There were no worries of attack when exposing your head through the cardboard. While there was ample amount of pie, Valade reflected on the decision to leave the pastries in students' stomachs and not on their faces, saying, "No, we did not do pies in the face; we talked about it, but we did not do pies in the face."

This year's Pi Day was a great success and well-received; however, last year's event held even more mathematical significance. On 3/14/15, Valade said, "We didn't get three digits of pie. We got five digits of pie last year, so it was really cool."

In the end, what is Pi day all about? Beyond the tasty treats, the artistic cutouts, and the mathematical relationships, Valade feels Pi day serves a special purpose: "The goal wasn't [to make money], we ended up making \$34, we were just having fun with math; it's Pi day. Let's celebrate Einstein's birthday."



Math instructor Justin Storer mimics a famous Einstein picture



Associate Professor Wendi Dass takes a turn as Einstein. Photography courtesy of PVCC math department

Review: Lotus at the Jefferson

Ryan Winkler, Staff Writer

The unique band Lotus visited the Jefferson Theater February 9. Having performed as a single act for about 15 years, Lotus has proved to be an excellent example of self described “jamtronica.” As a true crossover band, Lotus craftily blends the genres of jam band music and electronica. Lotus is not a new act to come around town but is indeed an appreciated and popular one that always draws a large and vibrant crowd.

As a band that appeals to both fans of electronic music as well those who appreciate the jam band scene, Lotus often finds themselves at festivals or concerts either as the only band or artist performing live with instruments, or completely surrounded by instrument laden musical acts. For instance, in the same year they played All Good music festival, which is almost strictly non electronic music, they also played Ultra, which is electronic dance music. They play festivals with thousands of attendees, as well as more intimate venues such as the Jefferson Theater, which has a capacity of 750 people. This

versatility adds to their allure as an act.

At one of their shows, it is not difficult to find someone who has something positive to say about their performance. Live music fan and Charlottesville resident Alex McGrady said, “This is my third time seeing Lotus live, and it’s always a good time. I appreciate their instrumentation and musicianship, as well as their proficiency at music production. I’m not a huge fan of electronic music, but I can definitely get down to Lotus in concert, because they always rock out and put on a great show.”

A great thing about seeing Lotus is experiencing the work they put in on their track production. Jesse Miller, the bassist for the band, is also the “sampler,” meaning he operates his soundboard with pre-recorded and mixed tracks while playing along on his bass with the band, making for an intriguing experience. Another Lotus fan and Charlottesville resident Scotty Floyd said, “The show was fantastic. The light show is crazy, and it is especially impressive how the bassist includes tons of samples and tracks along with the live band playing.”

Review: Yearbook Taco’s Burritos

Morgan Barr, Staff Writer

Thursday night before the big snow storm, Yearbook Taco was quiet, with a few dimly lit booths full of patrons and an empty bar. The atmosphere was casual and seat yourself with menus and cutlery in a caddy on the table, but wait staff was prompt to greet guests and take drink orders.

Yearbook Taco’s prices were all reasonable, even for those watching their wallet. The restaurant is a good way to skip the fast food and grab some good eats with friends after class. One taco is \$4, three tacos are \$11 and a burrito is \$9, making them slightly pricier than Chipotle.

My burrito arrived shortly after ordering. It looked so beautiful and delicious I completely forgot to take an artistic picture of it for Instagram; I was ready to dig in. It was large,

certainly bigger than a Chipotle burrito, making the price seem more appropriate. The burrito was served on a slider with a metal plate that liked to slip around every time I tried to cut into my burrito. A standard plate would have been a better choice for the king-sized meal. My frustration over the poor choice in platter was lessened by the wonderful taste. When it first arrived I only planned to eat half; however, it was so good my plate was bare before I knew it.

Located on the ice rink side of the Downtown Mall, parking can be an issue, but it is definitely worth the trouble. Seating for larger parties could also prove troublesome, as the restaurant is lined with only four-person booths and one larger table towards the back. It is a good place for a small gathering as they will split the check up to four ways. Bottom line, Yearbook Taco is a fantastic place to hang out and get food for a small check.

Winter's Ruin: The March of Metal Madness

Joe Fowler, Staff Writer

After weeks of research into the events leading up to the chaos of 2016, I needed a break from the intensity of modern life. On March 25, I entered the Ante Room in downtown Charlottesville for Winter's Ruin Metal Fest.

Winter's Ruin featured eight bands and several hours of heavy metal music.

I arrived halfway through an instrumental performance by Charlottesville's Lamaze... I lost myself in the music. So began the ride.

Shredding guitar riffs, bass grooves, percussion precision and vocals serving as the combined voice for generations of defiant outcasts filled the Ante Room well past the midnight hour.



Just outside the doors, a wide variety of people stood talking about a variety of subjects from politics to life as restaurant employees. The various forms of shaming found beyond this haven

ceased to exist. Members of the crowd made friends for life with perfect strangers without having to remember a single name.

People engaging in a plethora of lifestyles gathered under one common flag. Back inside the venue, one act followed another with none seeming to have any desire to outdo the other. There was equality in what some would consider a sea of chaos.

I stood in the back of the venue, losing myself in the music as much as I could. Five sets in, I realized I needed to get some work done. I clipped my press pass onto my hoodie and pulled a notepad from the pocket of my camouflage cargo shorts.

Having transformed into seasoned truth-seeker and chaos junkie extraordinaire, Joe Fowler, I went out in search of an interview. The guitarist for the psychedelic doom metal trio, Heavy Temple, was to the left of me.

I approached Archbishop Barghest who seemed to be enjoying refreshments from the bar at a decent pace. After introducing myself, I went after the most important facts I could possibly think to ask about.

"How drunk are you?" I asked. Barghest responded that on a scale of one to ten, he was at a six. I spoke with Barghest for several minutes, before bassist and singer, High Priestess Nighthawk joined us.

After talking for several minutes, the three of us walked outside to talk shop about metal music and anything else that came to mind. Drummer, Siren Tempestas, joined us a little while later.

Nighthawk spent much time talking about heavy metal, "as its own mainstream." In the 46 years since Black Sabbath released their self-titled debut, her point has become increasingly more difficult to argue against. I went with it. The four of us continued talking for about an hour, the details of which can be found on piedmontforum.com.

One of the most passionate points we discussed was the reputation metal heads unfairly get based on stereotypes. I could hardly debate against the existence of the many misconceptions associated with metal heads.

However, the members of Heavy Temple provided an extremely common counterpoint to those stereotypes. Barghest holds a degree in physics. Nighthawk favors classical music and ranks Tchaikovsky as one of the top inspirations for her music. Tempestas identifies her taste in music as eclectic. She plays a variety of instruments including drums, trumpet and saxophone.

The scene at the Ante Room on March, 25, 2015 provide fulfilling and fascinating fun for many, both inside the venue as performers and fans, and outside in the spring air as a community.

Starlings, Cats, and Wiregrass

Kaitlyn Duvalois, Staff Writer

The room was full to the point where no seats were available, fans were anxiously awaiting their new favorite authors to read excerpts from their most recent works, and the authors looked somewhat nervous. On Friday, March 18, three authors, Nine de Garmont, Ed Tarkington, and Pam Webber, gathered for a Virginia Festival of the Book.

“I’m sorry if I sound dramatic. I’m sort of nervous” says de Gramont as she reads the first chapter of her new book, *The Last September*. De Gramont is from North Carolina and is a professor at UNC Wilmington. The excerpt from *The Last September* was chilling, however it was almost addictive. De Gramont has also written

Gossip of the Starlings, and *Of Cats and Men: Stories*.

Ed Tarkington is the author of *Only Love Can Break Your Heart*. This is Tarkington’s first novel and it even includes little glimpses of Charlottesville. *Only Love Can Break Your Heart* is comical, but it’s a rather mature comical. It has somewhat of a Southern charm to it.

Pam Webber’s novel *The Wiregrass* has been compared to works of the late Harper Lee. *The Wiregrass* is filled with humor and the excerpt that Webber read made everyone in the room laugh. *The Wiregrass* felt how coming of age books should feel. This is Webber’s first novel, however she has also co-authored three editions of nursing textbooks.

Finding God in All the Wrong Places

Tucker Poe, Staff Writer

At the Virginia Festival of the Book, in an auditorium at Newcomb Hall, every possible seat was taken. A number of attendees sat right on the stage. All came to hear Nadia Bolz-Weber, a tattooed, recovering, Lutheran “Pastrix,” the founding pastor at House for All Sinners and Saints in Denver, Colorado, help them find God in all the wrong people.

Bolz-Weber has published two books and developed a strong following. She said, “People wait in line to say thanks for not lying. How high is the fucking bar?” Bolz-Weber gave a sincere talk about having to speak to her congregation in December of 2012 shortly after the Newtown school shooting and her slow realization that even, as she said, “this horrible person Adam Lanza deserves to be remembered as a child of God.” She told the story

of how an intern at her church convinced her that she needed to address this in her sermon that Sunday. “Ok, but I want to register my objection to God’s grace,” she said.

Bolz-Weber’s first book is called *Pastrix: The Cranky, Beautiful Faith of a Sinner & Saint*. Read *the Spirit’s* web site defines the word pastrix as, “term used by certain unimaginative sections of the church to describe emergent female pastors,” a term she has not shied away from.

The honesty she is regarded for was apparent during her question and answer.

“I hope one day I can go through a yoga class without getting angry,” she said. “Your PC language doesn’t

change the fact your great-great granddad was raping his slaves.”

When asked about how to talk about Donald Trump and his current political rise, she said she looks for, “where is the thing I hate about Donald Trump in me?”



A Jumping Headache

Tucker Poe, Staff Writer

As you walk into Jump Charlottesville, you hear the screams of little children and pre-pubescent boys. A room full of trampolines, a kid's dream come true, but there is a sinister side to all of the fun. Twenty-two trampoline-related deaths occurred between 2000 and 2009, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

All the over protectiveness of modern society will evaporate as soon as you enter this time-locked temple. Not only is dodgeball, a game that infowars.com says one New Hampshire school BANNED, allowed, it is played on trampolines and has its own blocked off area just for slinging balls at anybody.

You may think that these dodgeball battles are six-on-six melees of six years olds, six a side with six balls a piece. But the sad reality is, that all too often some over sized man child ends up popping some six year old in the head.

But do not get hung up on that. We have

larger issues in mind. If you choose to purchase your "ticket" on the jumpeville.com website, you will be presented with, "Please note: Children two years and younger are free with adult ticket purchase. They will however still require a waiver."

We are just barely being able to understand Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE) effects on the brain or how it is caused, but two year olds and children even younger jumping on trampolines, shaking up their little brains will in no way protect them from what appears to be a crippling disease.

I know it seems bad, but if you add in the wild 13-year-olds, or the drunk 18-year-olds running in like bulls in a china shop with a crew to match, it only gets worse. These "trampoline factories" are advertised to children, to teens, to college students and they are all allowed free range indiscriminately. I know that I can look back and see my terrible 12-year-old self coming in hot and taking out someone's baby and having irreversible consequences.

Working it Out in PVCC's Fitness Center

Sam Jefferson, Staff Writer

Feeling anxious about a test? Need to work off some stress? For anyone who needs to vent some energy, head down to Room 179 and 180, the fitness center for Piedmont Virginia Community College. At the fitness center, students are able to put in a healthy workout, strengthening their bodies through various exercises.

The cardio equipment is located in Room 179. There are various sorts of machines to workout on, such as treadmills, cycles, ellipticals, and recumbents, which are similar to cycles, only the user sits in a reclined position while working out. Room 179 also has a rower and a Stairmaster, however, there is only one of each, so sharing is recommended. All cardio machines are quite advanced.

Room 180 is generally used for weightlifting,

with over half a dozen machines designed to strengthen various muscles in the human body. Room 180 is also equipped with various weights, and padded benches to lie down on while lifting. The fitness center is also stocked with exercise and medicine balls, and rubber cables for stretching. There are also moist wipes for sanitizing the exercise machines. It's always important to clean up after yourself.

A fitness room, when given some thought, is actually a very useful place for a school.

"The physical body being strong and healthy is going to enhance the students' ability and the professors' ability to teach," says fitness instructor Carol Rogers, "Because we know that physical fitness leads to better and clearer thinking, and a strong, physical, body. And a healthy body leads to better aptitude in core subjects."

Making PVCC SAFE

Tucker Poe, Staff Writer

PVCC has taken steps to ensure a safe and healthy campus community. PVCC SAFE is a program that provides students with services ranging from access to mental health and crisis counseling to establishing a clear medium to report sexual misconduct, assault, harassment, or stalking to the school.

In big bold letters on the PVCC SAFE website it says, “See something? Say something.” PVCC SAFE is committed to fostering a community that protects each other.

One of the first links you will find if you are on the PVCC SAFE home page is a link to the smoothly named “Incident Reporting Form.” This form has a slew of possible grievances you can choose from. Questions of academic

integrity, misconduct, issues involving title IX, automobile accidents, and more can be reported through the “Incident Reporting Form.” If you cannot find the right incident for you, no fear, there is plenty of space to write your own narrative. At the end of the report you can choose among thirteen copy recipients which include deans, vice presidents, counselors, and others in a position of authority within the school.

Half way down the homepage it reads, “Attention New Students. All new students are required to view *Not Anymore*.” This is a program designed to increase awareness and education of sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and bystander intervention.

Being a new student, I had never heard of such a video and questioned how many new students had ever heard of it.

Let Career Services Work for You

Kaitlyn Duvalois, Staff Writer

Picking a path in life is difficult, confusing, and ultimately terrifying. One day you are sitting in your high school chemistry class, fast forward two years, and you are expected to pick a program of study. However do not fret. Here at Piedmont, they provide career service assistance.

Career services is the answer to all of your confusing, future-related prayers. They help with all sorts of things, such as writing a resume or helping students set up interviews for potential jobs. They also help one choose a possible college major if you are about to transfer to a four-year school.

Andre Luck is the career services coordinator; basically, he helps students figure out what they want to do with their lives. Luck earned his bachelor’s in psychology at the University of

Virginia, and his MBA at Regent University.

He enjoys people and likes to watch students achieve their goals when it comes to job seeking. Luck has a background in human resources, which makes working in career services a great fit for him.

For the last 32 years, Piedmont has held an annual job fair with local business’ that are looking for possible new employment. This is a great way for students to network with people from around the area. Luck said, “It takes a village to prepare for the job fair.” There is a lot of coordination that goes on, and a ton of pre-planning with returning employers and new ones.

This year’s 32nd Annual Job Fair was held on March 23, in Piedmont’s Main Building from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Luck’s advice to students who are looking for a career path, is to do your research and have a plan.



Photography by Kaitlyn Duvalois

Who is Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin?

Haan DuVerney, Staff Writer



**Rachel Stauffer and
Kristine Swanson
Photography by Haan DuVerney**

“Putin on the Fritz,” a lecture by Dr. Rachel Stauffer of Ferrum College, gave PVCC students the opportunity to understand the current and past

relations between the U.S. and the Russian Federation. Dr. Stauffer also took an in-depth look into the perception of Vladimir Putin by Russian citizens, and by his critics in the west.

Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin was born October 7, 1952 in Leningrad, now modern-day St. Petersburg. It would seem that from the very beginning he would be destined to be a powerful individual. In Russian, the name Vladimir means universal ruler, and the “Put” in Putin translates to “the right path.”

Dr. Stauffer went on to explain that unlike most leaders of other nations, Putin takes on the role of a national celebrity. His entourage includes oil tycoons from Gazprom and Rosneft as well as music artists like the top Russian rapper Timati.

Dr. Stauffer highlighted that in Russian culture, great leaders are immortalized. Catherine the Great, Stalin and Lenin are among many who inspire the Russian people.

So, what kind of man is Putin exactly?

An avid sportsman, Putin participated in a hockey match with his cabinet comrades for his 63rd birthday; they played against former NHL All-Stars. Putin scored 7 of his team’s 15 goals in the match.

In addition to hockey, Putin is known for his love of the outdoors and hunting wild game. Shirtless photos of Putin grasping a hunting rifle in search of game, or riding horseback -- again shirtless - with a knife at his side, evokes imagery consistent with that of a superhero. Dr. Stauffer delved into the history of the importance of a leader’s image to those living in the Russian state.

Athletics and fitness seem to be high on the list of priorities for Putin’s day to day activities. From an early age, young Vladimir began to practice sambo and judo martial arts. Many photos and videos have circulated of Putin taking down his opponent using moves learned in those sports. It is a powerful gesture, one that presents him as a strong individual who the people will naturally follow. However, a competitive attitude while playing a sport is different to authorizing acts of aggression. Putin’s recent intervention in the Crimea raise questions to this figure’s leadership.

The lecture also highlighted some of Putin’s more controversial relationships with other world leaders, namely Syrian president Bashar al-Assad and former Italian prime minister Silvio Berlusconi. In recent years, Putin has made questionable interventions in various eastern European states, in particular the Ukraine; leading to economic sanctions from both the EU and the United States. This puts pressure on the Russian economy, however in the long run it strains relations between western nations and Russia as we attempt to work together in the global community.

Thanks to the research of journalists, and academics like Dr. Stauffer, pertinent information on the enigmatic figure of Vladimir Putin is accessible for those who keep an eye on issues in the international community. Such information will likely present itself to be useful in interpreting these events as they unfold in the coming weeks and months ahead. This knowledge and the process in which it is obtained enable readers to learn how to perceive and interpret international news.

Riddles

Brennan Tanner, Staff Writer

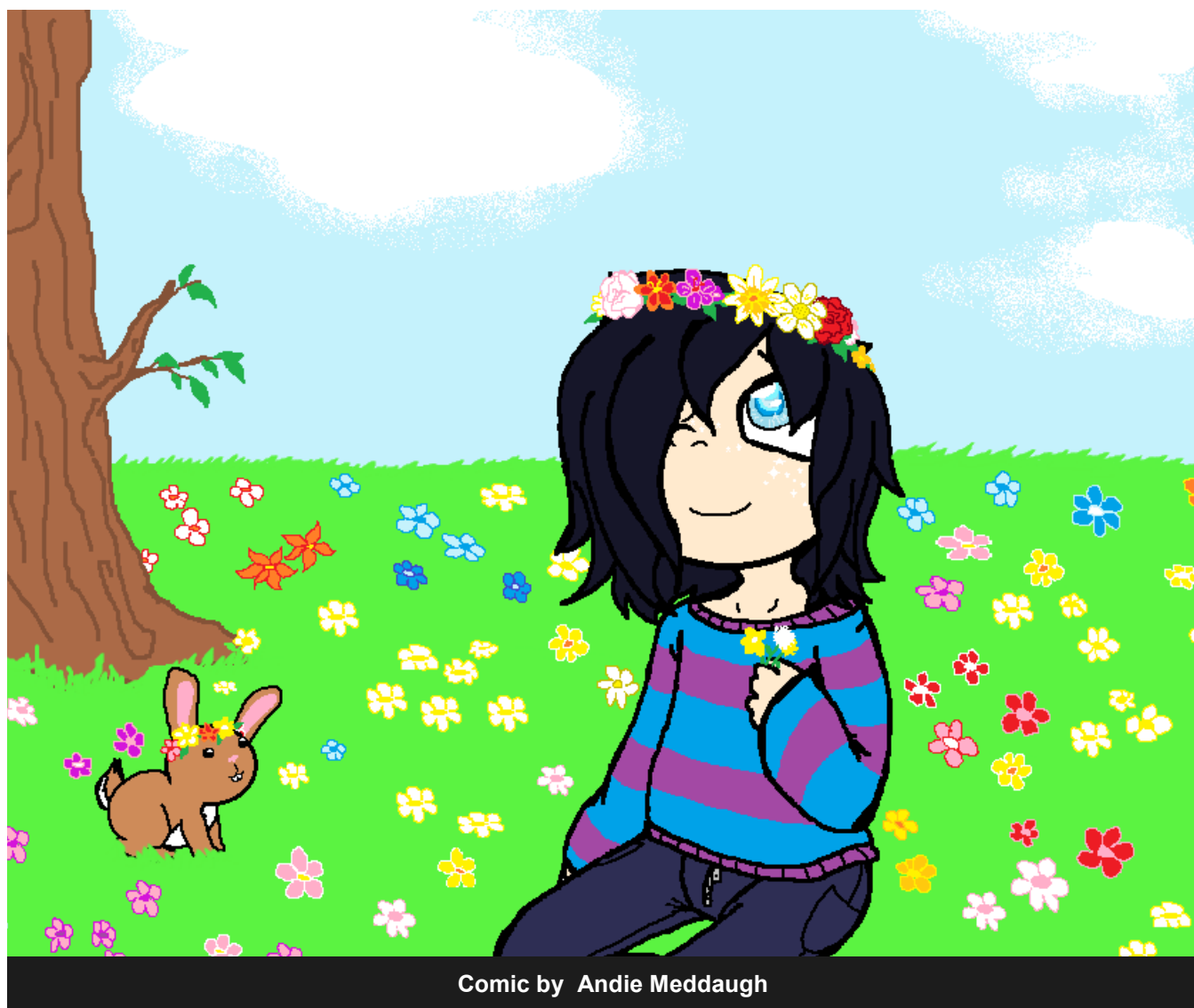
A golden sunburst,
Green lances thrust from the ground,
Swaying in the breeze.

A single crocus,
In a stretch of fresh green grass,
After the snow melts.
A spring symphony,
A song of celebration,
Always from above.

Pink, white, and cream,
Their heady scent fills the air,
A moment of peace.
Sadly their lives pass so swift,
Leaving just a memory.

A castle for birds,
With its numerous towers,
To hold their bowers.
Black in winter, green in spring,
Tis from these the birds do sing.

Find out the answers on PiedmontForum.com



Comic by Andie Meddaugh

Classifieds

FosterWalk 2016



Help build safer, stronger communities by walking with us in our Piedmont Region FosterWalk!

EVENT DATE: May 14, 2016

DONATION DEADLINE: May 31, 2016

Location: CATEC; 1000 Rio Rd E, Charlottesville

To learn more about the walk, how to register or donate online, you can visit our Crowdrise site here:

www.crowdrise.com/PIEDMONTVAFOSTERWALK



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