

PVCC Committee Continues to put the Environment First

Miss Club Day?
 Read about it on
 pages 10-11

Yasser Perez, staff writer

Amid a plethora of services provided to students, the sustainability committee stands out without drawing too much attention. PVCC provides many services and committees for the benefit of their students such as veteran services, academic tutoring, and workforce services. Most of these services are obvious in their aid towards students, but that is not the case with the sustainability committee.

The sustainability committee may not be as well known as its other counterparts, but its powerful impact is still deeply felt throughout the school. According to a report provided by a professor of English Dr. Bruce Glassco, one of the leaders of the Sustainability Committee, PVCC implemented recycling schoolwide around a decade ago, and this has helped the school

maintain its green initiatives. Not only that, but PVCC is planning to be plastic free by 2025 in accordance with Governor Ralph Northam's General Order 77, which seeks to eliminate single-use plastics in all state agencies.

Students at PVCC can take advantage of the sustainability practiced in the facility, but they are not the only ones who can reap the benefits. The PVCC Community Garden is run by 40-50 individuals from PVCC and UVA alike and provides self grown produce to the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, Food Not Bombs, Loaves and Fishes, The Haven, a church, and other needy individuals, according to Glassco's report.

Although the sustainability program has provided immediate impact towards its students, they are still looking towards the future. The program plans to install EVCs (Electric Vehicle

See Environment on page 4



PVCC Community Garden. Photography by Yasser Perez

In This Issue

- PVCC Events -pg. 2
- One Book -pg. 3
- PVCC Services -pgs. 4-5
- Sports -pg. 7
- Music -pgs. 8-9
- Reviews -pgs. 12-18
- Comics -pgs. 18-19
- Classifieds -pg. 20

DATES TO REMEMBER

— Fall Break —

Oct. 11-12, All Day, No classes

— Free Movie Friday: *Peter Rabbit 2* —

Oct. 15, 7:30 p.m., Dickinson Building Main Stage

— One Book Event: Making Sense of the News during an Infodemic —

Oct. 18, Noon to 1 p.m., Virtual

— Immigrant: Courage Required talk by Golar Haghtalab —

Oct. 20, Noon to 1 p.m., Main Building M229

— Documentary Filmmaking Workshop with Ty Cooper —

Oct. 22, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Dickinson Building

— Day of the Dead Candython —

Oct. 27, 3:30 p.m., Dickinson Commons

— PVCC Theatre presents *A Midsummer Night's Dream* —

Nov. 5 and 6, 7:30 p.m., Nov. 7, 2:30 p.m., Dickinson

— One Book Event: News Outlets vs. Fake News —

Nov. 8, Noon to 1 p.m., Virtual

— One Mic Stand —

Nov. 11, 7 p.m., Dickinson Building Maxwell Black Box Theater

— Kadencia performance —

Nov. 13, 7:30 p.m., Dickinson Building Main Stage

— Gallery Exhibition Opening Reception —

Nov. 17, 5-7 p.m., Dickinson Building Galleries

— Free Movie Friday: *Minari* —

Nov. 19, 7:30 p.m., Dickinson Building Main Stage

— Thanksgiving Break —

Nov. 24-28, All Day, No classes

— Let There Be Light —

Dec. 10 and Dec. 11, 6-9 p.m., Main Campus and around Charlottesville

About the SGA

The Student Government Association (SGA) of Piedmont Virginia Community College represents the rights, interests, and concerns of the student body to the college officials of PVCC while promoting an effective communication network between students and college officials. It is the largest and most influential student organization in the school.

The departments in the SGA are:

The Events Department: This department organizes and runs SGA-hosted social events across the campus and the community. Casino Night and the Talent Show, among many other events, are run by the committee.

The Public Relations Department: This department develops and maintains SGA media, outreach, administration-specific polling, and appreciation processes.

The Student Voice Department: This department maintains the Student Voice initiative, edits proposals, prepares project proposals for submission to the college administration, and conducts any necessary polling to determine student opinion of or interest in proposed or potential plans.

Additionally, three SGA senators represent the student's opinions and perspectives on the College Senate to bring improvements to the PVCC campus.

Further, student representatives (elected from the department bodies) serve on many college committees. These representatives communicate the interests of the SGA, and thus the student body, by their respective committees.

SGA Membership Requirements:

Hold a minimum of 2.5 cumulative GPA.

Be enrolled in at least 6 credit hours at PVCC.

Combatting Misinformation in the Digital Age

Max Walpole, assistant editor

For the Fall 2021 semester, PVCC's One Book Program has taken aim at misinformation and fake news. And the selected book, *The Misinformation Age: How False Beliefs Spread*, by Cailin O'Connor and James Owen Weatherall, is available for every student and staff member on campus to read digitally, a first for the One Book Program.

The One Book Program is a college-wide program where both students and staff read a selected book and participate in various activities connected to the text. For its 8th year, the One Book Program is working in conjunction with the PVCC Civic Engagement Quality Enhancement Plan to help engage students with civic life issues such as local politics, misinformation, and local charity organizations. In the upcoming years, each selected book will connect with relevant civic topics.

According to Director of Library Services Crystal Newell, the One Book Program has implemented changes to adapt to the threat posed by COVID-19.

"COVID certainly affected the One Book program, but primarily it affected access. Last year's One Book, *How to be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi, was only available in print or individual ebook access," said Newell. "Mailing print books to individuals in classes proved to be extremely cumbersome and time consuming, so we were very happy to be able to provide universal, immediate access to this year's One Book."

The events list for this year's One Book program includes "Antisocial Media: How

Facebook Disconnects Us and Undermines Democracy," a lecture presented by University of Virginia professor Dr. Siva Vaidhyanathan on Oct. 4 and "Making Sense of the News during an Infodemic," a lecture by Stony Brook University professor Jonathan Anzalone on Oct. 18. In addition, a showing of the movie *The Social Dilemma* is scheduled for Sept. 27.

The Misinformation Age: How False Beliefs Spread was specifically voted for by both staff and faculty for this year's One Book Program because of its exploration of topical issues concerning misinformation on social media sites.

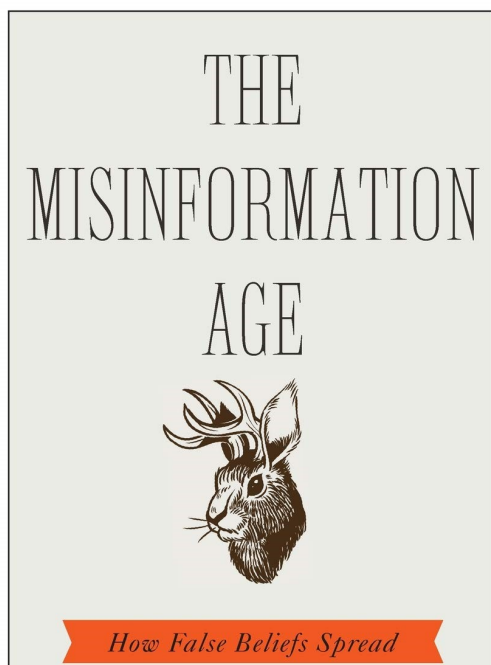
"I think interest in this book is apparent after the tumultuous year(s) we have experienced," said Newell. "Thinking critically and dealing with misinformation is a perennial concern for all educators; this book definitely had appeal."

The Misinformation Age: How False Beliefs Spread carefully examines the social and political factors that have contributed to the mainstream proliferation and staying power of false facts, and offers strategies on how people can use their understanding of this system to combat misinformation.

"I hope students will take away (from the book) a greater understanding of how information is shared, distributed, and understood, and what role they play in this environment. We all have personal agency in this misinformation age; we need to accept responsibility for not perpetuating it, but to do so, we must educate ourselves first" said Newell.

To download *The Misinformation Age: How False Beliefs Spread*, visit the PVCC library website and click "PVCC Fall 2021 One Book Program."

For more information on the One Book Program, contact the planning committee at onebok@pvcc.edu or contact Crystal Newell at cnewell@pvcc.edu.



The cover of *The Misinformation Age*

Environment, Continued from Page 1

Charging Stations) within the next few years as electric vehicles become more popular.

Additionally, PVCC is set to begin construction soon on a new Science and Technology building, which will be a net-zero carbon emissions building. This means the same amount of carbon dioxide going into the building will match the same amount of carbon dioxide

going out of the building, a major milestone for PVCC.

Commenting on the construction of the new building, Glassco said, “We can certainly be very proud of the fact that the new building which will begin construction this year will be zero carbon emissions. That will be a big deal, not just here in Charlottesville but across the state.”

SFRC: Helping Students in Need

Laurel Molloy, staff writer

The Student Financial Resource Center (SFRC) offers many different tools to help students succeed in life and in school. When you do not have enough money for food or good clothes but need a job and energy for school, it is hard. This can create a never-ending cycle of needing resources to get the resources you need. But the SFRC gives people a chance to stop the cycle and grow. They give students everything from financial assistance and counseling to free food and clothing.

“When we first started one of the most useful resources was the food pantry. However, now I think the most useful resource would be the resources [themselves],” said the Coordinator of the SFRC, Amanda Key. The SFRC offers an assortment of resources, like their name suggests. Key said that a nice tool they have, that not many people know about, is the office itself. It is a safe and free space where students can study. The SFRC also gives financial assistance and education.

“We try not to provide financial support without financial education,” said Key. Their goal is to help students as much as possible so they can help themselves in the future. The center offers referral services, tax preparation, and other useful financial tools to help students.

The SFRC is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. But students can stop by the food pantry right beside it throughout the week as well from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Both are located down the 100 wing at the opposite side of the hall from the gym.

In the food pantry, lots of different foods are

available.

They have a fridge stocked with milk, vegetables, eggs, butter, as well as cold drinks. Their shelves have an assortment of staple foods from pasta meals, to canned soups, and cereal for breakfast.

But the food pantry does not just supply food. They also have binders for school, bathroom supplies, and cat food so you can feed your furry friends. Along with those things, their selection of clothing is useful. There are nice shoes and suits for interviews that students can borrow or keep.

Key said, “You can donate to the pantry by donating clothing or donating food.” She went on to say that they take school supplies and hygiene products as well. All donations can be dropped off in the two barrels outside the food pantry or to the office directly. They go through things quickly, especially the refrigerated items, so donations are always welcome.

People can be afraid to ask for help or reach out. But the Financial Resource Center wants to help everyone and is willing to go out of their way to support students. On occasion they even go to houses to provide that support.

“You do what you need to do in order to provide the services that the individual needs,” said Key.



PVCC's food pantry.
Photography by Laurel Malloy

How Academic Coaching can Help You

Chloe Boutin, staff writer

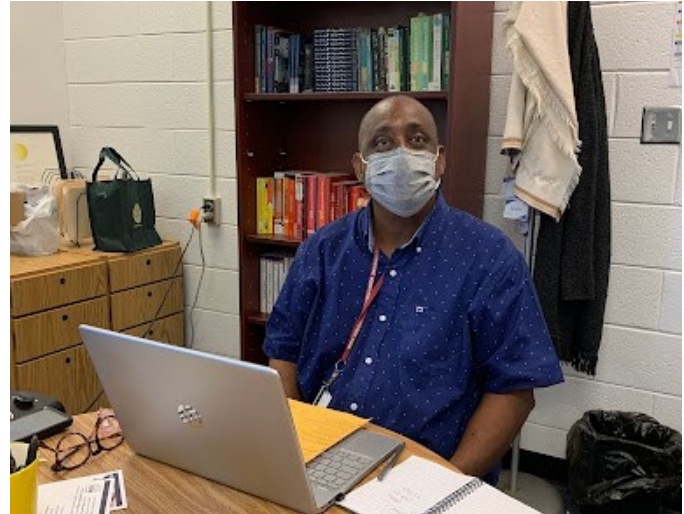
PVCC offers immense amounts of support for its students during their time at the college. One of the many great support systems PVCC has in place is academic coaching. Academic coaching is meeting up with a tutor at PVCC to help students create a plan for how they can improve their skills for academic success.

Academic coaching finds its home in the Writing Center, in hallway 600. It is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The advisers students are able to meet with are James Bryant, Todd Parks, Emily Kingsley, and Ruth Yoder. Students can find specific information about tutors' emails at <https://www.pvcc.edu/academic-coaching>.

Meetings can be set up in-person at the Writing Center, on Zoom, or by going to Navigate on your myPVCC dashboard. They can be as short as 20 minutes or as long as 45 minutes, depending on what help students need.

The academic coaches are there to help with a variety of skills to help better students' academic achievement. A common misconception with academic coaching is that people often confuse it with academic advising. Advising is there to

help students pick classes, while the coaching is not just focused on one specific class but rather gives students skills to use in all of their classes in order to succeed. Skills they like to focus on are time management and note-taking, while also helping fix problems



James Bryant. Photography by Chloe Boutin

like procrastination and testing anxiety.

Appointments will usually start with discussing the issues at hand, so the coach is able to get an idea of what skills students need to work on, and what things in their schedule need to change in order to be successful. Students come up with a plan with their coach and then usually book an appointment for a week later to check back in and see what worked and what needs a bit of tweaking in order to fit their needs.

Coaches will usually help students build a routine in order to keep these skills in place so they become habits. The meetings also serve to keep students accountable for their work with help from their coach. It lets students meet with faculty at PVCC to make new connections, but also holds them accountable for their academic success.

I sat down with Ruth Yoder, one of the academic coaches here at PVCC. Yoder works in the Writing Center as a writing tutor and an academic coach and also helps with freshman orientation for incoming students. She brought an interesting perspective to the process. She brought up the fact that all of your favorite celebrities have a support system very similar to this in order to keep themselves successful and on task with everything going on in their busy lives. Just like us, they are not able to do everything by themselves; they need help.

Yoder said, "The most successful people are the people that get help when they need it."



Ruth Yoder.
Photography by Chloe Boutin

Ty Cooper Hosts 2 Upcoming Events

Carlos Banda Montes, staff writer

PVCC's Open Mic Stand, hosted by Ty Cooper, is a free public event where anyone can sign up to perform an hour before it starts. The last Open Mic Stand was held Sept. 9, and I'm grateful to not have missed it. You had to be there is all I can sincerely say. I asked the technical staff if it would be recorded or live-streamed, but "out of respect for the performers," it was not. You only get that one chance to experience it. As ephemeral as Sept. 9's event was, it left a nice lasting memory.

Cooper is a creator, an award-winning producer and director. His newest screenplay *Amanda* premieres Nov. 12 and 13 at Vinegar Hill Theatre, in Charlottesville. At Open Mic Stand, he was a wonderful host. Welcoming and truly interested, Cooper wants to know when he asks, "How are you?" The audience, albeit small, was receptive. We got to know each other quite well.

One poet, a student at PVCC, reflected on Cooper's question during their time on stage. In their original piece, they ask, "Do you want to know?" "Fine," "okay," and "good" are not very honest answers. Do you really want to know how one is? Most would rather hear a lie, than hear a heavy truth. There's so much to be truly said, rather than to give a false one-worded response. But do you really want to know? We can all relate to their frustration for this damned question.

A storyteller came to recite two excerpts that day. Their voice was a deep and powerful bass, so captivating. I can't remember what the stories were about, but their voice stuck with me like a wordless melody that lingers in your head. The lines were articulated so nicely that if I did not see them reciting in front of me, I would have thought I was listening to a professional audiobook recording.

Two comedians, one a PVCC student and the other a California native, did routines. They were there to test their new material in front of an audience. The masks on the audience's faces made it hard to tell, but there were certainly smiles. When the audience did laugh, the jokesters then knew for sure they delivered good stuff. There were certainly more jokers in the room, however. In between some of the dramatic pieces, Cooper got some banter going to lighten

up the mood. We got to talking about little dogs, randomly. It was nice to balance the drama with some comedy, I thought.

Towards the end of the night, after all the signees had performed, we still had some time for



Ty Cooper. Photo courtesy of PVCC Marketing and Media Relations

anyone to go up. One man, a Christian worship leader, went up and read a few hymns. He had asked for feedback. Some audience members gave theirs, and I recommended establishment of metrical flow to the verses. Putting a pencil to his printed hymn, he took note. I appreciated how open this Open Mic Stand was.

Sept. 9's Open Mic Stand was a great way to get back into the rhythm of things. Cooper had not been on campus since before the pandemic, due to lockdowns. Now, he has plans to come more and share publicly with the community. Along with the next Open Mic Stand on Nov. 11, he will be hosting the free Documentary Filmmaking Workshop on Oct. 22. He wants us to share our creative talents, like he does his. While the filmmaking workshop will focus on capturing and recording moments, PVCC will not be doing such a thing with these public events. So, whether you perform or not, I encourage everyone to attend, because I don't want anyone to miss it.

Under the lights: UVA v Duke Women's Soccer



UVA Women's Soccer team in action. Photography by Laurel Molloy

Laurel Molloy, staff writer

On Thursday Sept. 23, the UVA Women's Soccer team warms up preparing to take on the Duke Blue Devils. People trickle in as the sun dips behind the bleachers at Klöckner stadium. The trees are capped in golden light that swiftly fades, and the players retreat to the locker rooms before the game begins.

The line to the concession stand fills up like the bleachers towering above it. The stand sells bottled water, hot chocolate, nachos, pizza, candy, and an assortment of other goodies that draw people to it. Salty smells waft from the popcorn and pretzels mixing with the crisp smell of autumn. The sun sinks down making a cool chill sweep the stadium.

The players march out onto the field. The UVA Cavaliers, ranked No. 7, wear their all-white home uniform while Duke, ranked No. 2, wears their all-black away uniforms. The commentator calls out the names of the players before they take the field. With a short whistle blast, the game begins.

The two teams face off, knocking the ball around the pitch. It is quick paced as both teams look to gain the upper hand.

The whole crowd cheers as #25, Samar Guidry, makes a cross down the left wing for UVA, but Duke clears it away.

"Boom," a UVA supporter cries out as a shot curls toward the top corner, but Duke's goalkeeper, Ruthie Jones, tips it out for a corner. Little kids run and jump near the grassy fence as the game goes on.

The first half comes to an end, after a tense and high-spirited segment, both teams are still 0-0. As people get up to get something to drink or

have a quick walk, a youth team takes the pitch scrimmaging against themselves for halftime entertainment. The kids call out to each other running across the grass. But soon they must leave the pitch for the teams to come back on.

The game continues, still scoreless, as the players shout across the field ping-ponging the ball around. But the tide shifts twelve minutes in. A long pass curls into Diana Ordoñez, a UVA forward, who slots it into the back of the net. Klöckner stadium erupts in cheers and the clanging of shoes on the metal bleachers. UVA bunches up, hugging each other as they run back to their side of the field.

The ball rolls once again as Duke kicks off, and they are hungry for a goal. The Blue Devils press UVA, getting several shots off as the minutes slowly tick by. Both teams battle for the ball. Laurel Ivory, UVA's goalkeeper, must make a couple saves as Duke tries to level the game. But UVA stand their ground, fighting to get another goal themselves. The clock counts down and as it reaches zero, the buzzer goes off signaling the end of the game and the win for the Cavaliers.

As the clapping slowly dies, the commentator thanks everyone for coming, wishing safe travels and to come again. The next opportunity to see the UVA women play at home comes on Oct. 17 as they match up against the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame.

When asked about the game, a bystander said that it is such a great opportunity to watch powerhouse teams like UVA and Duke competing in our backyard. He mentioned his gratitude that everyone living near UVA and Charlottesville has this opportunity to watch, learn, and have fun at these games.

VA Bands Battle it out in Battle of the Bands

Jaume Plumb-Planas, staff writer

This weekend marked the 12th or 13th year that EpicCville has hosted Battle of The Bands. “Honestly we’ve been doing this so long I don’t even remember,” said organizer Chris Gallagher from atop the stage set in the field at the Shops at Stonefield.

“I originally started Battle of the Bands because I came from a large area that had one, and Cville desperately needed an event like it. It’s a good way for smaller bands to make their way into the scene, especially the ones that haven’t played a gig before. Pre-covid we used to get over 100 bands that would apply to play, and it’s grown to the point that we have events ranging from Maryland to Virginia, and we’re prepping to start doing some in South Carolina soon,” said Gallagher.

Over 70% of proceeds go to Mason’s Toy Box, a local organization focused on providing aid and holiday gifts to families with terminally or chronically ill children.

“Usually at events like this, charities only end up receiving about 10% of the money brought in from alcohol and ticket sales,” said Gallagher.

First up at 7:30 p.m. was Musical Suspects, a funk rock band with heavy elements of jazz. Unfortunately they had to leave before their interview as they had another gig that night.

Up next was the incredibly high energy Kings of the Wild Things, a band based out of Baltimore, Maryland. “It’s all Pop-punk, pop-punk, pop-punk... [We] play solid simple bangers,” said the band’s frontman, Oscar Sobkowicz.

Local rapper Cheno Bliss took the stage next with a soulful but insightful set. “I like to be self aware, and any song that I do is about that. I felt like I didn’t have a voice, and I felt like music was a way I could get my voice out there,” he said.

Opening with John Denver’s “Leaving on a

Jet Plane” was Charlottesville’s own modern rock group Thebandbig. “The John Denver thing goes back to the 80’s when I was with a different band,” said guitarist Gary Hawthorne.

“We’ve been in a number of bands,” said Adam “J.R.” Stoffel, “Knowing Chris, I said ‘we need to be in the battle of the bands,’ ‘we’re older, and we’re wiser, but really we’re looking for any opportunity to get in front of people again.’”

Head banging their way on stage was Smoke, a Lynchburg metal band. “We started about two years ago, and just liked getting together drinking some beers and decided to

do something with it,” said Dalton, the band’s singer/guitarist. “With [COVID-19] lockdown we took the time to record an album, so we’re just trying to hit it hard now.”

Last up on the stage was Lowlife Tea Party, an Alt-Rock band from Richmond with “a big ol’ rock sandwich” vibe. “I saw about RockFest in 2020 and thought it was a good opportunity for us, so I signed up six times, and then the email came out saying we only needed to do it once, so I took the opportunity to sign up one more time just to make sure,” said the band’s drummer.

The music ended at 11 p.m. Chris and the folks that had helped set up the stage took down the stage and packed everything up. There was an overwhelming feeling of appreciation for Chris.

“We’re really grateful for people like Chris who say ‘Come aboard, we want to do a concert to benefit [our charity],” said Kelley Kassay, Mason’s Toybox’s Co-founder and Mason’s Mother.

“I’m really big on local charity,” said Thebandbig’s Gary Hawthorne. “I used to do what Chris does and produce charity shows, but I can’t do what Chris does anymore. He’s the man.”

On Monday, EpicCville announced the winners of the Battle of the Bands to be Kings of the Wild Things with Thebandbig in second place.



Kings of the Wild Things on Stage.
Photo courtesy of Leon Nunez

JMU Returns to In-person Concerts

Yasser Perez, staff writer

Live performances were absent in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but on Sept. 24 a sense of normalcy was felt at one of Harrisonburg's first live musical performances in over a year.

Ian Zook, a brass professor of James Madison University (JMU) and the French horn player of the event, teamed up with Tracey Schimmel-Reed, the principal pianist of the Shenandoah Valley Children's Choir and the pianist of the evening to provide a refreshing live performance to all of the musical enthusiasts of the area.

The event was held indoors in the Recital Hall at the Forbes Center for the Performing Arts, JMU's main building for its art department. Masking was enforced in accordance with the school's COVID policies in order to mitigate the transmission of the virus. Cell phones and other electronic devices were prohibited at all times during the performance to prevent any distractions and any unauthorized video

recordings or photography.

The performers played five pieces, each varying in length and feeling, but for the most part the audience was serenaded with lush tones for the entirety of the performance. "I Threw a Shoe at a Cat" was the only outlier of the evening as the piece was more humorous than the other four. "Ballade Normande" and "Every Day an Alleluia" were more traditional pieces, played with enhanced intensity and passion demonstrated by Zook's soulful body movements and Schimmel-Reed's nimble fingers, which seemed to take over as if they had a mind of their own. For 60 minutes, Zook and Schimmel-Reed held the audience in the palm of their hands. Thunderous applause followed the conclusion of every piece, signaling the audiences' approval and appreciation for the performance.

At the conclusion of the evening, the audience stood and offered a standing ovation, sending the performers off with a clear message: Thank you for an amazing performance.



Tracy Schimmel-Reed and Ian Zook perform on stage. Photography by Yasser Perez



Anime Club



Drama Club



Civic Sense Table



CRU Christian Fellowship



Japan Club



Horticulture Club

PVCC's Community on Display: Club Day

Maxwell Walpole, assistant editor

On Wednesday Sept. 8, the Bolick Student Center was packed with people, a rare sight in the era of social distancing. But that day was special. It was PVCC's club day.

Lining the hallway from the Bolick Student Center past the library were dozens of tables, each festooned with eye-catching displays and distinctive and often colorful iconography.

Pride flags stood proudly on the LGBTQ+ club table, a large red rocket decorated the table of the Piedmont Student Launch Team, still images from different anime series were taped around the perimeter of the anime club table, the CRU Christian fellowship table was flanked by a large decorative banner, the Horticulture club had a tri fold display with information on plastic pollution and cups of seeds for students to take, and many more.

Many clubs, such as the international club, have a strong focus on social events. "The main idea of the club is to bring people from all over the world together to learn about different cultures," said club member Xiohan Fan. The club regularly participates in events like a hayride, hiking, and other activities.

Fan made sure to clarify that just because it might be called the international club, that does

not mean that Americans cannot join. "This club invites people from any country, anywhere," said Fan.

The LGBTQ+ club likewise offers a welcoming, tolerant social environment. "The club is a safe space for LGBTQ+ people on campus to get together and talk," said club affiliate Alex Kingsley. "All people are welcome here."

The anime club also has an emphasis on socialization. "We meet, watch and then discuss different anime," said Club President Maria McCormack. "Even if you don't have any prior knowledge [of anime] you can check us out."

Other clubs have a focus on specific activities. The Piedmont Student Launch Team enters a yearly competition held by NASA that challenges college students nationwide to work together to design and ultimately fly a rocket carrying a payload.

"Some people don't feel like they're smart enough to join [the club]," said club member Faith Brown. "But there are lots of options not related to engineering. And lots of people start out not knowing anything."

In the event that a student missed club day, they can still sign up for any club of their choosing by going to the PVCC clubs and organizations webpage.



Photos courtesy of PVCC Marketing and Media Relations

Is C'ville Coffee the Best Coffee in Cville?

Chloe Boutin, staff writer

Many locals dine at C'ville Coffee & Wine as their go-to local coffee shop. Tailored for guests of all ages, C'ville Coffee offers delicious breakfast sandwiches and snacks, coffee and other beverages, and play areas for the young ones and study areas for the adults, creating a welcoming atmosphere for all C'villians.

I went one morning to enjoy some coffee and a breakfast sandwich to see if this timeless coffee shop was still as welcoming as I remembered it was as a kid. They do have a mask policy for entering the store, and employees are wearing masks at all times while interacting with customers.

I ordered my go-to beverage for a cafe: an iced chai latte for \$4.85. My sandwich of choice was a basic egg cheddar and ham sandwich on sourdough bread for \$9.95. The total of my meal was a whopping \$16 including tax, which seemed a bit excessive for a simple sandwich and a small chai, but I was invested in this review and this was indeed my breakfast.

After you order your food, you enter the seating area where chairs and tables are placed all over, with a small play area for kids to the side with the iconic wooden tortoise that has been there since I was small. I stationed myself in the "adult zone," which is an area toward the back that is meant for studying and is usually used by

people like myself that come to do work silently by themselves. Before I could even get all of my stuff out of my bag, my food was ready. The sandwich tasted exactly the same as I remembered it; the cheese was nice and melted and there was just the perfect amount of ham on there to add some more flavor. I cannot say it is the best sandwich I have ever eaten, especially for how expensive it is, but it was a solid breakfast sandwich.

I then decided it was time to try my chai latte, which was one of the best ones I have ever had.

You could tell that this was not just milk and a chai concentrate mixed together as they do at other places, but it was much better because it had a lot more flavor. Compared to other coffee shops, the price was not that outrageous, and I honestly think this latte was the best \$5 dollars I have ever spent.

This coffee shop definitely has its reasons for being well known. It offers a relaxing environment that people are able to enjoy for a number of reasons. I did

enjoy my morning there, but I am hesitant to go back, only because of the price of the food.

Although it was a pleasant experience, I do not think I could find myself going there on a regular basis or else I would not have any money left. But if I ever needed a good pick me up or a nice chai latte, C'ville Coffee would be the place to go!



Chai latte with breakfast sandwich.
Photography by Chloe Boutin

Review: Baine's Books and Coffee

Laurel Molloy, staff writer

Wedged between two buildings in downtown Scottsville is a small café called Baine's. You will find it if you weave down Route 20 into the middle of Scottsville, the town of the Batteau Festival. This quaint café is filled with books, coffee, tea, and happy chatter.

It holds a warm joyful atmosphere with books wrapping the ivory and red walls, and sprinkled throughout the café are Harry Potter paraphernalia.

A picture of the Fat Lady from Harry Potter sits right among the guitars and books about history. In years past, they have even made butterbeer for Harry Potter lovers during October.

It is a small café with only five real tables

scattered within. But for such a small place, it has its own wooden entrance ramp for wheelchairs and easy access. And after you walk in, a back room has armchairs, a fake fire, and a chessboard for more leisure and comfort.

You can stroll in almost any time throughout the week. They are open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, and on Saturday and Sunday they are open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. instead. Like many shops, they have had to adapt to COVID-19. They request that everyone wear masks except while eating and drinking. All their employees also wear masks as they work to ensure everyone's safety.

Baine's is mainly a place to get drinks, sandwiches, and sweets. But they serve a variety of things. Their hot drinks include coffee, chai, hot chocolate, apple cider, and an assortment of espressos and other things. Their cold drinks

include most the things just mentioned but cold, as well as smoothies and Italian sodas. All their coffee is from the local Lexington Coffee roasters West of both Scottsville and Charlottesville. For food, they have grilled lunch sandwiches served daily from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. along with quiche and scones served all day until they run out.

As you sip at your beverage under the warm lights, you can peruse both new and used books for sale and for looking at. They have local art

and authors displayed for sale

throughout. It is always fascinating to see what is new. They love to

support local artists and local business even while being a local business themselves.

Every now and then they even play live music in the

evening, but that has slowed because of COVID.

To evaluate Baine's for being a small rural café, it is good, not over the top but a consistent and solid café in flavor. They have very good pecan sticky buns that puff with warm steam. Their scones, on the other hand, are a little too dry and dense.

But its atmosphere and joyful spirit is good. People sit with books clutched in their hands as paintings happily watch them.

Although tons of shops and businesses have come and gone in Scottsville, Baine's has stayed. It is a staple where people come to meet up and feel comfortable and connected. The staff are always friendly and cheery people. And it always feels comfy and fae-like, like little cafés should. It is a relaxed place to go to seek free internet or a good drink, to warm or cool yourself down, for wherever your path leads.



Baines' storefront. Photography by Laurel Molloy

Should Pineapple go on Salmon?

Yasser Perez, staff writer

Island Wing Company is the newest addition to the slew of restaurants in Harrisonburg. The restaurant is open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. everyday except for Fridays and Saturdays, where its hours extend to midnight. Island Wing Company is right across from the movie theater and just a few blocks from the local mall and Costco, perfectly placed in the center of Harrisonburg.

The first thing that stands out are the tropical vibes given off by the restaurant. Bright blue walls and prominent orange chairs evoke a relaxing atmosphere like being at the beachfront with your favorite drink in hand.

To the relief of hesitant patrons, all employees are masked and contactless menus are available via QR codes on the tables. Social distancing is also in effect, so consumers can “breathe easy” as well.

I dined at Island Wing Company on a Monday night at 7 p.m., the most common dinner time in

the area. For a Monday night, the restaurant was not excessively packed, but it did have quite a few more customers than surrounding restaurants due to its infancy.

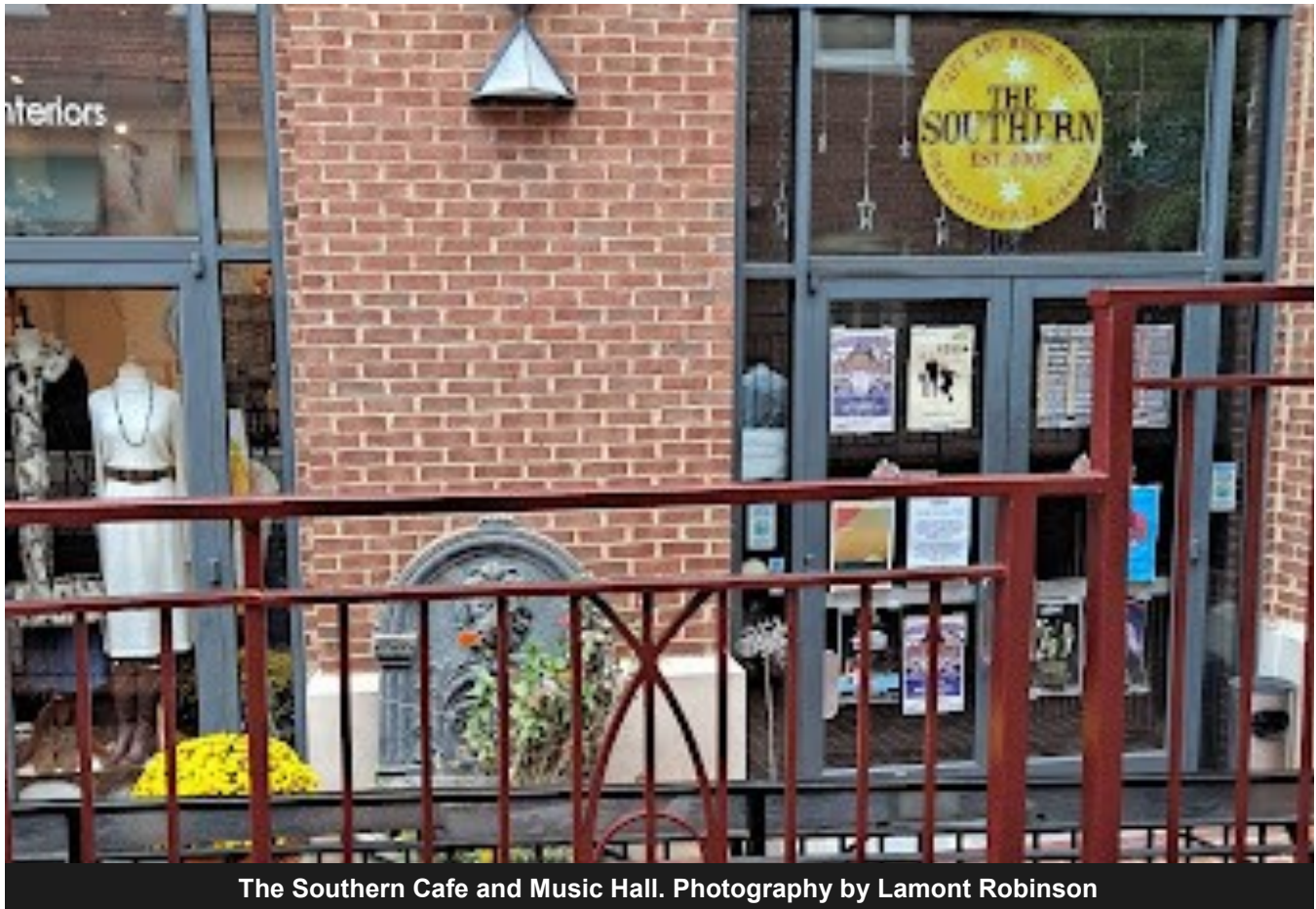
I ordered Caribbean Salmon (\$23.99) which is paired with coconut sprinkled rice and steamed vegetables. The salmon is a significantly larger portion compared to most restaurants and is topped with pineapple instead of the typical lemon. Although the spices on the salmon are quite pleasant and excite the taste buds, the pineapple unfortunately overpowers the dish leaving the entree sweeter than preferred. Likewise with the rice, the coconut added an excessive amount of sweetness, hindering the rice’s potential. Surprisingly, the steamed vegetables are the star of the show, perfectly textured and lightly seasoned to the satisfaction of the customer.

I applaud Island Wing’s ambition with their recipes, bringing fresh, new dishes to the area, however, they fall short in capturing the same success as their ambiance.



Caribbean Salmon, Coconut Rice, and Steamed Vegetables.
Photography by Yasser Perez

Comedy Night Produces Laughter



The Southern Cafe and Music Hall. Photography by Lamont Robinson

Lamont Robinson, staff writer

On a Monday night in September, The Southern Cafe and Music Hall held an open mic comedy night from 8-10 p.m. The night's host, Keith, entertained the crowd of spectators.

Before the stand up comedy started, Keith gave the crowd his appreciation for coming in tonight. The crowd was smaller in comparison to other comedy nights.

As Keith explained, "The comedy nights usually get bigger crowds in comparison to this one." The audience consisted of three couples, me, and another lady.

Some returning comedians came to test out some new material they came up with to see if it would be a hit with the crowd. Each person making jokes had their own style ranging from shock/edgy humor, stories from their life,

sex jokes, political jokes, and improv.

Many of the jokes got a chuckle out of the audience while a certain few caused the room to erupt in laughter, like one joke in regard to someone's hair. The crowd always gave a round of applause to each comedian as many of the jokes seem to have given them an enjoyable experience for the night.

However, as the jokes went by, the time for them to end at 10 p.m. came swiftly. Keith asked if anyone in the crowd wanted to do any stand up comedy before they finished up but no one was interested in joining in. Keith then gave the audience his appreciation as he considered the audience a great crowd for its size.

If anyone in The Southern Cafe wanted to come back to attempt or watch stand up in the future, Keith explained that comedy nights happen every Monday at the same time.

The Suicide Squad revels in Wonderful Insanity



Four members of Task Force X pause after a battle. Photo courtesy of Warner Bros. studios

Maxwell Walpole, assistant editor

On Aug. 5, James Gunn's *The Suicide Squad* was simultaneously released in theaters and on HBO Max, starring an ensemble cast including Idris Elba, Margot Robbie, Sylvester Stallone, John Cena, Joel Kinnaman, Daniel Melchior, Peter Capaldi and David Dastmalchian. *The Suicide Squad* sees a team of misfit superpowered criminals, designated "Task Force X," dispatched on a mission by the U.S. government that they have little hope of returning from alive. Contending with a brutal South American dictator, an extraterrestrial monster, and their own callous commander, Amanda Waller, the members of Task Force X must fight to survive or else live up to their sardonic nickname: the suicide squad.

A big part of what gives this film such a wonderfully unique look is the costume design. All too often, comic book movies seem to be embarrassed about their source material and tone down the more ridiculous elements of superhero costumes—see Bryan Singer's *X Men*. In *The Suicide Squad*, costume designer Judianna Makovsky embraces the absurdity, and the results are spectacular. The costumes burst with color

every time the characters are on screen, faithfully adapting the vibrant aesthetic of superhero comics to the screen in a way only rivaled by *Into The Spiderverse*.

The action set pieces are equally over the top, with positively astronomical levels of gore (and well-honed sense of dark humor to match), frenetic fight choreography, and a giant blue CGI starfish monster. But if it was solely ridiculous and no care was taken towards character development, *The Suicide Squad* would just be fun, substanceless spectacle. Perhaps that alone would be enough.

But committed performances from the cast and satisfying writing ensure that the lovable misfits of Task Force X leave an impression long after the screen cuts to black.

After years of the box office being inundated with scores of superhero movies that tried their best to neuter or entirely abandon the inherent childish absurdity and wonder of comic books, *The Suicide Squad* is a breath of fresh air, an absurd amount of fun, and most importantly a faithful and joyous celebration of the comic book stories to which it owes its existence.

The Suicide Squad is currently streaming on HBO Max.

Marvel tries a New Style with *Shang-Chi*

Lamont Robinson, staff writer

In life, the past will always creep back up whether you like it or not, and *Shang-Chi And The Legend Of The Ten Rings* is an example of that. Shaun A.K.A Shang-Chi (Simu Liu) lives the simple life working as a valet with his friend Katy (Awkwafina); however, he is forced to reveal his past to her and attempt to stop his father Xu Wenwu (Tony Leung Chiu Wai), who leads the thousand year old Ten Rings organization and stole Shang-Chi's pendant for unknown reasons. Shang-Chi is forced to take his friend on an adventure around Asia that will get them into trouble with not only The Ten Rings, but also mythical beings.

One important thing about Marvel movies is if they are full of intense action scenes that will keep the audience glued to the screen, and *Shang-Chi* delivers in that aspect with intense fight scenes that use martial arts as their basis to make the battles grounded yet just as enjoyable, if not more, than the usual gargantuan CGI fight scenes that are standard in Marvel movies like *Avengers: Endgame*. Unfortunately, the action starts to lower in quality when the movie switches from the martial art scenes, which was one of the main attractions of the movie, and instead follows the same formula of other Marvel movies with the final CGI fight scene in the later half of the movie.

The main characters of the movie are full of life, having their own goals and conflicts that shape their personalities and actions throughout the story. Xu Wenwu, the main antagonist of the story, is a great example of this.

When Xu used the Ten Rings, a weapon that gave him eternal youth and superpowers, he conquered many lands for thousands of years until he met Ying Li (Fala Chen) searching for Ta Lo, a land said to have mythical beings. He eventually fell in love with Ying and dedicated his life to being a family man instead of the leader of The Ten Rings.

When Ying dies, Xu is struck with grief and resumes operations of his organization to get revenge for Ying's death and to bring her back to life by any means necessary. Tony Leung's acting makes Xu an amazing character as he makes the audience feel sorry for him despite being a villain



as his grief is manipulated by an entity long sealed away.

The main actor Simu Liu makes Shang-Chi as a character enjoyable to watch thanks to his incredible stunt work in fight scenes, charismatic attitude, and acting skills when the movie delves into Shang Chi's past with his father and his sister Xialing (Meng'er Zhang) who is one of the weaker characters of the movie as she barely gets any screen time spent on her. She doesn't develop as a character and unfortunately stays the same towards the end of the movie.

Shang-Chi overall delivers if you want a movie with some great action despite the final fight scene being more CGI focused instead of martial arts. The story can be on the weaker side sometimes as some things are not explained. For example, the film does not explain how Xu obtained The Ten Rings, which might be a result of Marvel trying to sequel bait. *Shang-Chi* still is a great movie that will bring you some enjoyment for its 2-hour screen time.

Local Theaters showing the movie:

Alamo Drafthouse Cinema

375 Merchant Walk Sq., 326-5056.

Regal Stonefield 14 and IMAX

The Shops at Stonefield, 244-3213.

Violet Crown Cinema

200 W. Main St., Downtown Mall, 529-3000.

A Sweet Delivery with a Spicy Kick

Katie Austin, staff writer

If you are like me, then you are always looking for an opportunity to find a unique place to eat. If you are also a college student that enjoys keeping their meal under \$20-30, then I have a place for you. Try Now and Zen on the strip of the outer skirt of the downtown mall. I have visited this place a few times this year, and the sushi has not disappointed me once. It always hits the spot and is so fresh.

I have been here at Now and Zen a couple of times for my favorite meal of all time, sushi. One sushi roll that has sent my tastes buds on a roll every time is the Spicy Maui (\$8). The Spicy Maui is a flavor explosion of spicy tuna, with creamy fresh avocado, and the sweetness of

mango, and it is so unbelievably good. Overall, it might not be the biggest place, but sometimes the smallest places hold the most powerful dishes that will never leave you disappointed.

Now and Zen has a unique set of days and hours. For instance, they are not open on Monday at all. On Tuesday through Thursday and also Sunday, they are only open from 5-9 pm. Friday and Saturday they are open an hour longer than usual. They are not terribly expensive.

The least you could spend on a meal is \$20 and the highest would be \$150 at the most, all depending on what you get. The address of this amazing place is 202 2nd St NW, Charlottesville, VA 22902.

So go on down to Now and Zen; I promise that you will not regret it.





Nailed it.

Classifieds

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Fall 2021

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Via Zoom

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Nov. 3: Driving
Nov. 10: Sleep and Dreams
Nov. 17: Movies & TV
Nov. 24-Dec. 8: To be Announced

Questions? Contact The Writing Center at PVCC (434-961-5499). Email ryoder@pvcc.edu for the link to the virtual meeting.

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The Forum offers classified space to the PVCC community free of charge. Please send announcements along with full name, email, and phone number to: twhyte@pvcc.edu.

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