



# The Highland Cavalier

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## Dr. Augusto Portuondo bids farewell to CVC

Christy Morgan  
Staff Writer

After thirty years of dedication and service, Dr. Augusto A. Portuondo, Professor of Spanish, has announced his retirement from Clinch Valley College.

In 1968, when Portuondo first set foot on CVC ground, there were only two full-time Spanish teachers including him.

He has seen CVC turn into a four year college and a fine institution that he is proud of.

Originally from Cuba, Portuondo arrived in 1962 and soon after, began teaching Spanish in New Jersey. He received his doctorate in Spanish from the University of Virginia in 1974.

Portuondo also received his doctorate of law in Cuba but had to study with a lawyer here for 3 years and take the bar exam to practice law in the U.S.

He is involved in the International Club here at CVC and at one

time, he was the Chairman of Foreign Language Department.

After retirement, Portuondo will practice law full-time in Wise and he may even find some time to travel.

When asked about the reason behind his retirement, Portuondo believes that it is a timely matter after being here for thirty years.

One of the things that Portuondo has enjoyed most about CVC has been the students. "They are the nicest people I've ever met."

Portuondo has lived here longer than any other place in his life. "Even if I move away from this area, Southwest Virginia will always be a part of me." He will be missed.



Photo by Graham Marsteller

Dr. Augusto Portuondo retires after 30 years of service and dedication.

## Spring Break '98: Destination Italy

Maggie L. Ulrich  
Editor

While most Clinch Valley College students had Daytona Beach and Panama City in mind for Spring Break '98, twenty-four individuals had their eyes set on the sky and headed for Italy. Ashley Bentley, Angela Stallard, Carolyn Fleming, Kaye Barger, Melanie Farley, Justin Runyon, Blissa Powers, David Adams, Richard Runyon, Amelia Harris, Michael Donathan, Catana Turner, Bill Maxwell, Ron Heise, Julia Heise, Marcia Adams Gilliam, Kim Adams Gibson, Norma Siemans, Marilyn Swope, Betty Bowers, Anna Morton, Trish Morton, Josephine Richardson, and Marilyn Maxwell were the lucky few from CVC that spent Spring Break '98 in Italy.

Amelia Harris, professor at CVC and tour director, spent a lot of time and put in "quite a bit of

work" to make the *Medici Trip to Italy* a success.

Students, faculty, alumni, and friends boarded a Swiss Air flight March 6th in Cincinnati, Ohio with final destination being Rome, Italy. The group spent several days in Rome and Florence touring the cities and looking at artwork and architecture. The group got a taste of the Renaissance while visiting St. Peter's, the Sistine Chapel, and Academia (home to Michelangelo's *David*). One highlight that participants will not forget is seeing the Pope in Rome, who blessed them all.

The towns of Sienna, Pisa, and Orvieto were explored in day trips. In Pisa, the group visited the Leaning Tower of Pisa, which right now has 600 tons weighted to one side to prevent further damage. The towns of Sienna and Orvieto were described by Melanie Farley as being "quaint hillside, medieval towns," and

they reminded Dr. Bill Maxwell "very much of the countryside in Southwest Virginia."

The group got by with two fluent Italian speakers, Harris and Josephine Richardson, and the few phrases they were taught before they left. Maxwell commented that they were "immediately spotted as Americans, and so they were spoken to in English."

Both Harris and Maxwell said that the Italians were "friendly and accommodating," which came as a surprise to our worldly Americans who had heard stories of some Europeans. Harris commented that the one thing the trip accomplished was that the students learned not to expect what they were used to, and opened their eyes to new experiences.

The excitement that still lingers around the trip to Italy

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## A note from our SGA President

Dear fellow students,

There are less than six weeks left in the semester! Seniors are looking forward to graduation, juniors are looking forward to summer internships, sophomores and freshmen are taking summer classes and getting summer jobs. Before we depart to our summer destinations, let us finish these last six weeks together safely and successfully.

Here is a brief of what's to come. Be aware, get involved, and make these last six weeks memorable.

At the end of March your 97-98 Student Government officers will be meeting with the Student Council Association at the University of Virginia to take part in a discussion on student issues and to assure a seat on the 98-99 UVA Student Council Senate.

Coming up in April, a Commuter Breakfast will take place on April 15, and on April 24 a Commuter Appreciation Day will be filled with wonderful activities for both commuters and residen-

tial students. SGA is co-sponsoring these events with the Student Activities Board.

Students who would like to run for an SGA office or Honor Court office for the 98-99 school year, candidacy forms will be available Monday, March 30. If you would like to make a difference in our college society, I urge you to run for an office. The experience of campaigning alone is fantastic and worthwhile. The Student Government home page is now operational. Check out this wonderful sight by connecting through the CVC home page.

The student body Cystic Fibrosis Walk-a-thon will take place on April 2 at 4 PM. All that is needed is a minimum \$5.00 walking fee. Please take part in this cause to raise funds for children for Cystic Fibrosis.

Organizational games will take place April 6-10. Activities such as an organizational rush week and other fun activities will take place. see SGA, page 2

## CVC founder passes away

Press Release

Clinch Valley College has lost one of its most dear friends. Mary Draper Thompson, a great lady in the history of Clinch Valley College, passed away Feb. 25. She was 94.

"Mary Thompson was an exceptional woman, without whom Clinch Valley College might not be here today," said CVC Chancellor L. Jay Lemons. "Mary Thompson was among those with the visions to first suggest that the University of Virginia should offer courses in Wise."

As the legend goes, one evening in January, 1954, Mrs. Thompson

had an impromptu conversation over dinner with local resident Lois Tracy, and Sam Crockett, from the University of Virginia's extension division, about the possibility of offering a few continuing education programs in Southwest Virginia.

"Grandmother had the boldness and self-confidence to say, 'Why not here in Wise,'" said William A. "Billy" Thompson, III. "She went home and told Granddaddy and he and Kenneth Asbury and Fred Greear jumped at the idea. It was the right idea at the right time."

Thompson's grandfather, William A. Thompson, Sr., a coal see Founder, page 2

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DETOUR



# Entertainment

## "Primary Colors" Shows the True Colors of Modern Politics

Jarrod Williams  
Entertainment Editor

The new film "Primary Colors" is an engaging tale that manages to skewer both the public and the political system of the 90s while simultaneously evoking many different emotions ranging from sadness to utter disbelief.

The movie is based closely on the book by "Anonymous," the screenplay by Elaine May adapts it to the medium of film wonderfully.

Director Mike Nichols infuses this politically edged yarn with an air of complexity and sadness. Like most political films, "Primary Colors" is concerned with the loss of idealism on the road to the presidency.

The protagonist of this political morality fable is Henry Burton (Adrian Lester) whose grandfather marched in the Civil Rights Movement, and he is looking to be inspired by a candidate.

As Burton says in the film, "I was always curious about how it would be to work with someone who actually cared."

John Travolta is the center piece of the film as Southern presidential hopeful Jack Stanton.

Travolta speaks in a softspoken Clintonian rasp and he obviously gained a considerable amount of

weight for the role. His character represents the enigma of modern day politics in the ambiguity of his moral consciousness.

Much of the first half of the film is spent trying to discern Stanton's earnestness as he schmoozes with his constituents.

Stanton's wife Susan is portrayed by talented actress Emma Thompson.

Billy Bob Thornton gives a memorable performance as political advisor Richard Jemmons, he gives the film some of its funnier moments.

The true heart and moral consciousness of the film is the character Libby Holden, who is portrayed by Kathy Bates. She is part trouble-shooter and part "dust-buster" for Stanton.

The film traces the road to the White House for Stanton and his group of advisors and campaign managers.

Along the way they dodge sex scandals and other assorted political entrapments placed on the mindfield that is the modern-day political landscape.

Travolta's Stanton is a rubicube of a character, its hard to easily discern if the film is attempting to demonize or empathize with him.

There are moments when the

audience sees Stanton zipping-up after a sexual encounter and other times when the audience sees Stanton with the people seeming to genuinely care about them.

Go see "Primary Colors" to get, if not a new perspective, a fresh perspective on the shape of politics in America.

"I was always curious about how it would be to work with someone who actually cared."

Henry Burton, "Primary Colors"

## Coen Brothers Strike Again in "Lebowski"

Carolyn M. Hankins  
Entertainment Writer

Dude, what was that! That is what the halls of the movie theatres echoed as crowds were leaving *The Big Lebowski*.

*The Big Lebowski*, the latest release from the Coen Brothers (the creators of the Academy Award winning movie *Fargo*) is a movie that will leave the viewer in a haze. The interesting characters were obviously something dreamed up in a chemically induced frame of mind.

Dude (Jeff Bridges), the main character, gets confused with a man named Lebowski (which is Dude's real name).

This confusion brings Dude to the other Lebowski, who sends him on an interesting job. His trusty friends, one a Vietnam veteran played by John Goodman and the other a Kenny like figure (Kenny as in South Park), end up involved in this as well.

Along the way the encounter fake German kidnapers, a lot of weed, a sex crazed artist, and a bowler named Jesus.

Take all of this and add a flying carpet scene and dance sequence and you get *The Big Lebowski*.

The acting in this movie was excellent. Jeff Bridges gave an

extraordinary performance as The Dude. He was everything that a pacifist should be; laid back, living life for the moment, and not letting the world get him down.

The leading lady in this flick, Maude (Juliane Moore), played the sex crazed artist.

She plays this part on the stereotype that is thought of when modern art is brought to mind.

In other words you leave the scenes she is in trying to figure out what in the world is this woman thinking!

This movie was a wonderful taste of modern film making. The Coen brothers are on the top of the list with Generation X film artists like Tarantino (*Pulp Fiction*) and Robert Rodriguez (*Desperado*).

Yes, they are violent and the language is very raunchy but they have an interesting interpretation of life and they know how to reach the youth of today.

I highly recommend this movie to viewers between the ages of 16 to 25. It is a very enjoyable experience.

Rated R (Violence, Language)  
\*\*\*\*\* out of \*\*\*\*\* (5) stars

Other Coen brothers films include "Blood Simple," "Barton Fink," "Miller's Crossing," "Raising Arizona," and "Fargo."

## "The Man in the Iron Mask" Provides Swashbuckling Fun

Jarrod Williams  
Entertainment Editor

From the writer of "Braveheart" comes the new film "The Man In The Iron Mask," which stars Leonardo DiCaprio along with Gabriel Byrne, Jeremy Irons, John Malkovich, and Gerard Depardieu.

The story is based on the novel by Alexander Dumas which details the exploits of the "three musketeers" Athos (John Malkovitcha), Porthos (Gerard Depardieu), and Aramis (Jeremy Irons).

Gabriel Byrne plays the conflicted captain of the royal guard d'Artagnan and Leonardo DiCaprio portrays both the evil King Louis XIV and his twin brother Phillippe.

The film is directed by Randall Wallace of "Braveheart" fame and captures a lot of the swashbuckling elements of the Hollywood of yesteryear, providing a somewhat old-fashioned romp through 16th France with an A-List cast hosting the show.

Athos is a retired Musketeer

whose son is put in harms way by the lust of the king over his son's fiance Christine (Judith Godreche). When his son dies by the king's orders, Athos seeks vengeance upon the king for his actions.

Aramis is another of the retired Musketeer's who has become a Jesuit priest to seek forgiveness for an act he committed years ago; of which he will not speak.

Porthos is the bawdiest of the retired Musketeer's but his lust for life is waning as he obsesses over growing older.

The Captain of the royal guard d'Artagnan was one of the original Musketeers as well, but he still in the service of the king and has a strong sense of both honor and duty. His unflinching pride and honor put him with odds with the other Musketeers over the reprehensible behavior of the king.

When the Musketeer's reunite and devise a plan to replace the king with his twin brother, d'Artagnan walks out on them because of allegiance to the king and becomes their enemy.

From this point on the film tells its story with beautiful scenery and settings and healthy doses of sword fighting. Depardieu provides some raucous comic relief as the bawdy Porthos while the stately Aramis and Athos, as portrayed by Irons and Malkovich, add some dramatic punch to the threesome.

Gabriel Byrne shines as the torn Captain d'Artagnan and provides the film with some of its better moments.

DiCaprio is at once villainous and then extremely good-hearted as both Louis and his twin brother Phillippe. DiCaprio gets the opportunity to express extreme maliciousness and equally extreme naivete in his scenes starring opposite himself thanks to the wonder of special effects.

Although the film may depart from the novel at times and is perhaps less than historically accurate in some respects, it provides the audience with an entertaining experience that rekindles the flames that old sword swinging films from years past conjured up.

