



MIKE WOOD PHOTOS/SPECIAL TO THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

**Arden Porter**

9, NORFOLK

**SHE SANG** "Break Away," by Kelly Clarkson

**WAS SHE INTO IT?** She stood still and looked determined to win.

**ANYTHING SPECIAL?** Yup. Her character lit up.

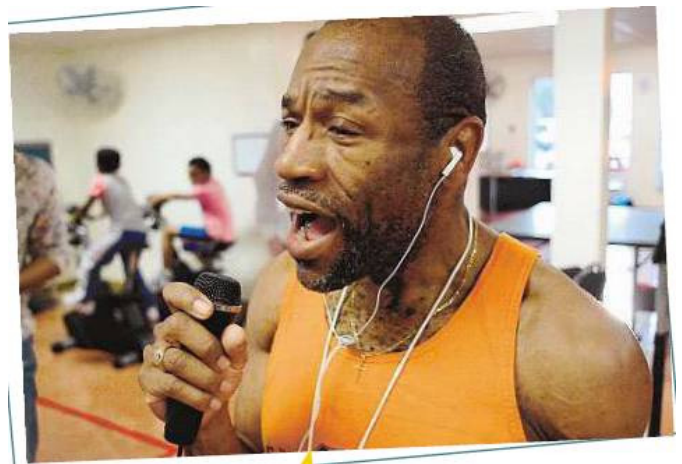
**WHAT DID THE JUDGES SAY?** Simon said, "For once, I'm speechless. Outstanding."

**DOES SHE WATCH?** "Yeah. I'm glad someone from the area is on."

**WHAT'D SHE THINK OF THE GAME?** "It's really fun. I was glad they said those things."

# Idol pastime

BY MALCOLM VENABLE ★ THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT



## 'American Idol' video game lets players at home see if they measure up when the pressure is on

**I**F YOU WATCH "American Idol," it's easy to dismiss contestants as less than Whitney Houston material, or even downright loony.

Everyone's a critic, but knowing how you would perform with the lights and camera on is a different story.

Thankfully there's "American Idol" the video game, to give the folks at home a chance to see if they can measure up to hopefuls like Chesapeake's Chris Richardson. One of 11 remaining singers, he's due to appear on the show again tonight at 8 on Fox.

▶ **INSIDE** Local support for local 'Idol' Page E4

▶ **ON TV** 'American Idol,' 8 tonight on FOX

Available for Playstation 2, the game is basically a karaoke contest. Players sing a hit song into a microphone as a video crowd judges them on pitch, timing and rhythm.

You can sing just one song or compete in an entire season, against the computer or other players. One of the game's addictive joys is having Randy, Simon and Paula rate your performance.

We had five people at the Norfolk Family YMCA try the game last week in the Y's Interactive Zone.

**John Brinkley**

15, NORFOLK

**HE SANG** "You and Me," by Lifehouse

**WAS HE INTO IT?** John's a natural – probably because he's in a band, Slow Starter.

**ANYTHING SPECIAL?** He nailed it. The digital judges clapped as he performed, and the Y's small crowd loved it, too.

**WHAT DID THE JUDGES SAY?** "You make the clouds go away," gushed Paula. "Brilliant," Simon said.

**DOES HE WATCH?** Yes. "I think the guy from Chesapeake is doing well. I like hearing what Simon has to say."

**WHAT'D HE THINK OF THE GAME?** "It wasn't bad. I might buy it, actually."



**George Ennels**

50, NORFOLK

**HE SANG** "Let's Stay Together," by Al Green

**WAS HE INTO IT?** Excited, yes, but he didn't move around a lot. He was holding a towel, on the way to class.

**ANYTHING SPECIAL?** Not exactly. George's rendition was a good effort, but the word "lousy" appeared on the screen more than once.

**WHAT DID THE JUDGES SAY?** Randy said, "You can't be offpitch at this stage in the game." Simon said, "Where do I begin?" prompting George to say, "Are they talking to me?"

**DOES HE WATCH?** Yes. "There are a couple of extraordinary singers this season. I like LaKisha. Chris is pretty good – not great – but I vote for him because he's local."

**WHAT'D HE THINK OF THE GAME?** "I like it, but I think they were wrong!"

Publication: The Virginian-Pilot; Date: Mar 20, 2007; Section: Daily Break; Page: 53



# Idol pastime

Continued from Page E1

## The game

"Karaoke Revolution Presents: American Idol" for PlayStation 2; \$54.99 with microphone, \$39.99 without

### Chalese Jones

24, NORFOLK

**SHE SANG** "Be Without You," by Mary J. Blige

**WAS SHE INTO IT?** Sort of.

**ANYTHING SPECIAL?** Not entirely, but it was a good try.

**WHAT DID THE JUDGES SAY?** Randy said she got "not one note right." Paula softly encouraged her to "keep practicing," while Simon said it was "so bad I'm at a loss for words."

**DOES SHE WATCH?** No. "I just don't keep up with it. There's someone from here on it right, a guy or something?"

**WHAT'D SHE THINK OF THE GAME?** "I enjoyed it."



MIKE WOOD PHOTOS/SPECIAL TO THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT



### Kimie Porter

41, NORFOLK

**SHE SANG** "Heaven," by Los Lonely Boys

**WAS SHE INTO IT?** Definitely. Porter danced along, much like her onscreen character.

**ANYTHING SPECIAL?** Yes. She hit a groove and got "boosts" from the crowd, causing her character to glow and sparkle.

**WHAT DID THE JUDGES SAY?** Randy called her "one of my dogs," and Simon said she hit every note perfectly.

**DOES SHE WATCH?** "I watch with my kids, especially now that there's someone on locally. It's a big thing in their school - they sort of have to know what happened on 'Idol.'"

**WHAT'D SHE THINK OF THE GAME?** "I think it's wonderful, and interactive. Really cool."