VOLUME 85, ISSUE 27



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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2008



Rose Gets Big Raise in Tough Economy



LINWOOD ROSE

By ASHTON SMITH

The Breeze

During Thanksgiving Break, community members flocked to the Daily News-Record Web site, many commenters displeased with the news about JMU President Linwood Rose's

Rose accepted a \$66,000 raise that went into effect July 1, increasing his salary by 16.9 percent. Rose will be paid \$456,287 in salary and benefits for this school year.

Former rector to the Board of Visitors and a current member, Joseph Damico, has stood by the decision to allot the raise for Rose, despite some community backlash. Damico said Rose went years being underpaid. "Since it was time we looked at the

job he had done, which by any measurement possible, he at the university has done a tremendous job," Damico said Wednesday by phone, from his home in Chicago. "Then we looked at competitive data, meaning... the other university presidents of the state institutions in Virginia, what is their compensation and where does Dr. Rose rank?"

According to Damico, Rose was lower than the normal average for Virginia college presidents. The Faculty Senate will meet today,

and senate spokesman Steven Garren said he expects this issue to come up.

"If there are some departments that are concerned, hopefully they will talk to [their] senators, so senators might bring it up under 'new business," Garren

See SALARY, page 4

HIGHEST PAID PRESIDENTS

PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES:

- E. Gordon Gee Ohio State Mark Emmert
- \$887,870 \$797,048

\$1.3 million

\$2.8 million

\$2 million

University of Washington John Casteen III University of Virginia

PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES: David Sargent

- Suffolk University E. Gordon Gee
- Vanderbilt (moved to Ohio State) Henry S. Bienen \$1.7 million
- Northwestern The figures for public and private universities are from 2007-08 and 2006-07. respectively, and are from The Chronicle of Higher Education

Misleading Facts Meant No Ballot For Some Students

By AMY PASSARETTI The Breeze

This year freshman Whitney Eagleson was supposed to vote in her first presidential election. She was so eager to cast her ballot that she tried to register in Harrisonburg three times. But when Nov. 4 rolled around, she wasn't lining up outside the elementary

"It would have been the first time I was able to vote," she said. She realized during her history class that she wasn't alone in not being denied registration in Harrisonburg. "We talked about it in my class, and I wasn't the only one."

Eagleson is one of many JMU students who were not able to vote in the 2008 presidential race because of various problems with their registration forms. The common problem appears to have been students trying to use JMU's generic 800 South Main St. address, without including the name of their dorms.

registrar. There's no official number of students who were denied because they used the JMU mailing address, however, 1,300 of those who did were able to vote. Eagleson was also among students who ran into

"The only students that were denied were those that didn't give their dorm," said Debbie Logan, Harrisonburg's

trouble because they tried to register through third party registration groups. Logan said that some of the groups did not hand in student applications and were not well informed of the

registration process. 'The ones I couldn't help were those on campus going

through third people," Logan said. "But we take the heat for it because ultimately those people got rejected from

Evidently being unable to vote was a problem for students across the state.

The American Civil Liberty Union is offering legal assistance for Radford University students, because the college was not allowing students, who wanted to vote in the city, to use their dorms as an official residence on

See CONFUSION, page 5

Alleged Hunters Ridge Shooter Faces First-Degree Charges

STAFF REPORTS

Alleged shooter Zachery Turner, 18, faces first-degree murder charges for the fatal shooting of Reginald "Shay" Nicholson that happened in the early morning hours of

Nicholson, 19, clung to life for nearly two weeks at the University of Virginia medical center after being shot in the head outside a party in the Hunters Ridge townhomes. Doctors had been waiting for swelling in Nicholson's brain to go down before removing the bullet lodged in his sinuses. Before any surgery could be done, Nicholson died Thursday, Nov. 20.

"Our thoughts are certainly with Shay Nicholson's family during this time," said Lt. Kurt Boshart of the HPD, in a press release following Nicholson's death. "The past two weeks has been extremely difficult for them and we continue to be committed, seeing this investigation through to the end."

Turner was originally charged with aggravated malicious wounding, use or display of a firearm in commission of a felony, reckless handling of a firearm and discharge of a firearm in or around a school.

Charges for the other four suspects, Gregory Baker, 20; Jahmaine Faqiri, 18; and brothers Demonds, 19, and Ricky Parrish, 21, all of Ruckersville, have not been upgraded since Nicholson's death.

An initial hearing for the case is scheduled for Dec.



Linebacker Reggie Hicks and JMU still need three more wins before being the final No. 1. But Villanova can't be overlooked as the Dukes barely escaped Philly with a 23-19 win on a Hail Mary pass in October. The Wildcats and Dukes kickoff at 3:30 p.m. Saturday at Bridgeforth Stadium. SPORTS, 13

Kenyan Shares AIDS Info

HIV victim speaks on her husband's lost battle

By JOHN SUTTER

The Breeze

Naisidet Mason contracted HIV shortly before her husband did in 1988, while living in Kenya. She said her husband died two years later in 1990, because he gave up hope in fighting the disease. Mason, who is in her 40s, says she plans to live until she is 100.

Mason told her story as part of World AIDS Day festivities at JMU.

World AIDS Day began in 1988 as a way to raise awareness about the AIDS epidemic and provide support for those living with the disease.

The Valley AIDS Network (VAN) held a World AIDS Event in Memorial Hall Auditorium on Monday night to mark the anniversary and to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS in Harrison-

This day gives us the opportunity to remember those 25 million who have lost their lives to AIDS in the past three decades," said J. Workman Purvine, a Valley AIDS Network caseworker.

Purvine said that since the introduction of AIDS medications in 1996, people have let their guards down and have not been as proactive as before. He feels that since there are medications available to make AIDS a manageable chronic disease, people don't view the problem as it once was.

See AIDS, page 5



Naisidet Mason lost her husband to AIDS and fights HIV herself.







World/National News

Starvation Grows, Aid for Food Slows

MATABELELAND SOUTH, **Zimbabwe** — The child's name is Godknows, and his mother smiles softly when she explains

the choice: Only God knows whether he will live or die. "I'm leaving everything in God's hands because the child is

always ill," she whispers. Godknows is two but looks like a frail six-month-old baby, wrists and ankles like twigs, dark hollows under his solemn eyes, sores on his face. He flops in his mother's arms like an exhausted old man, a victim of Zimbabwe's silent hunger crisis.

The twin miseries of crop failure and economic collapse have left Zimbabwe's villages without food. Millions survive on nothing but wild fruit, and many have

There are no official statistics. But ask people here in Zimbabwe's Matabeleland South province whether they know anyone who died of hunger recently, and the answer is nearly always yes. Sometimes it's four or six people in the last couple of weeks. Sometimes they just say "plenty."

"Children are dying out in the bush," one foreign doctor says, on condition of anonymity. "We are all guarded. We have to keep quiet or else we'll be kicked out" by the government.

The crisis has been exacerbated by President Robert Mugabe's decision in June to suspend humanitarian aid during the runup to his one-man presidential runoff. The long-ruling Mugabe, stunned when he won fewer votes than opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai in the first round in March, accused aid agencies of supporting the opposition and didn't lift the ban until August. Critics say the regime, which has a history of denying food to opposition areas, was using hunger as a political tool to force people to vote for Mugabe.

In past years, groups such as Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and the Zimbabwean rights group Solidarity Peace Trust have reported that the Grain Marketing Board, the state monopoly responsible for distribution of maize, the nation's staple, routinely has denied food to opposition supporters. But this year, there is virtually no grain from the board — and in many areas, no humanitarian aid

"The food always ends up in the hands of ZANU-PF," savs villager Solomon Nsinga, 66, referring to Mugabe's ruling party. "The guys in charge of distribution are ZANU-PF. This is where the problem is. ZANU-PF gets it

Nsinga says he's lost count of how many people have died in his village.

"There are plenty of people who have died this year. Plenty people," he says. "They are dying a lot more than usual. This is not

Iraqis Skeptical of Withdrawal Plans

BAGHDAD — A lasting image from Parliament's debate on a U.S.-Iraqi security plan is of a lawmaker loyal to Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr sweeping his arm across a table in a rage, hurling books, papers and a vase of flowers onto the floor of the

Ahmed Masoudi's televised tantrum, and days of al-Sadr loyalists shouting, desk-pounding and pleading for Parliament to reject the pact, made no difference. Shiite, Sunni and Kurdish lawmakers approved the Status of Forces Agreement, which sets a Dec. 31, 2011, deadline for U.S. forces to leave Iraq. Al-Sadr says the deal has loopholes that could extend the U.S. presence.

The vote last week was a sign of how al-Sadr's clout has diminished since 2005, when his Parliament bloc provided the boost needed to propel fellow Shiite Nouri al-Maliki into the prime minister's role. Now that al-Sadr's ultimate goal, a U.S. exit, is in sight, questions are arising

about his political future. Things have changed from the days when al-Sadr's support was crucial to keeping al-Maliki in power, or when his supporters could use their street credibility to turn the public against the prime minister. Al-Sadr has lost some political and military run-

ins with al-Maliki. Critics and observers say he has made some missteps.

his six supporters from the Iraqi Cabinet to pressure al-Maliki to hold the United States to a withdrawal date. Al-Maliki rejected the ultimatum and replaced them, virtually denying the al-Sadr bloc a voice in the govern-

A year later, al-Maliki's offensive against Shiite militia strongholds in Basra and the Sadr City neighborhood of Baghdad ended with al-Sadr calling a cease-fire and his fighters giving up the streets they had controlled. Even though al-Maliki needed U.S. air power and ground support, by all accounts he emerged with a stronger sense of himself as a leader, willing to challenge the on a bailout could come next Americans in negotiations over the security plan, al-Sadr or anyone else who got in his way.

"Negotiations took a twist after Basra," one U.S. official said. "I mean, this is an Iraq that was really standing up and showing us and everyone they can do something."

A second U.S. official said passage of the Status of Forces Agreement left al-Sadr and his 30-member parliamentary bloc in an awkward spot. Acknowledging that the pullout dates are firm "would probably not be a political decision (al-)Sadr would be interested in taking," said the official, because it would leave him without an issue to rally supporters around.

Al-Sadr has worked hard to portray the pact as full of holes designed to let the Americans stay longer. The pact includes withdrawal dates — June 30, 2009, for combat troops to leave cities and Dec. 31, 2011, for all troops to leave Iraq.

There is some vagueness. The pact does not specify what constitutes a "combat" troop; it leaves many details to be worked out by yet-to-be formed committees; it allows for amendments if both sides agree, which could be interpreted as allowing for ex-

Those arguments were not enough to sway lawmakers. Some had indicated they were wary of the pact but struck bargains in exchange for supporting it. Sunnis won agreement on a referendum in July that could force Iraq's government to cancel the pact if voters reject it.

U.S. Automakers Ask For \$34 Billion

WASHINGTON — Turning to Washington for a liteline, General Motors Corp. asked lawmakers for up to \$18 billion to stave off collapse, promising to slash executive pay and jettison its poorly performing brands in

GM, along with Ford Motor Co. and Chrysler, submitted its restructuring plan to Congress on the same day domestic and foreign automakers reported a withering 37 percent U.S. sales

The depths of GM's troubles were brought fully to light in its proposal, released late Tuesday. In November, GM said it could run out of operating cash sometime in the first six months of 2009. Now, it appears that GM could fail in a matter of weeks without immediate aid.

"There is no Plan B," said Fritz Henderson, GM's president and chief operating officer, who faces a 30 percent pay cut himself. "Frankly, the shortage of liquidity does focus the mind."

Together, the Big Three U.S. automakers are asking Congress for \$34 billion in low-cost government loans — \$9 billion more than the \$25 billion the automakers had sought just last month.

GM said it would need \$4 billion immediately to avoid complete collapse before year's end, plus \$8 billion early next year. On top of that, the company wants access to a \$6-billion line of credit.

"Absent support, the company can't fund its operations," Henderson said.

For its part, the automaker said it would eliminate or sell its Saab and Saturn brands, shrink its venerable Pontiac division to a few niche models, lay off tens of thousands of employees and put nearly 2,000 dealers out of business.

GM also said it would reduce pay by 20 percent or more for four top executives and pay Chairman and Chief Executive Rick Wagoner a \$1 annual salary.

Chrysler requested \$7 billion in a bridge loan to help it operate through 2009. Ford asked for

In April 2007, al-Sadr pulled a \$9 billion line of credit but took pains to point out that it might not need the money.

> The three Detroit automakers prepared their plans at the behest of Congress, which sent the companies' top executives home last month after excoriating them for failing to make a compelling case for taxpayer

> On Thursday and Friday, the executives will return to Washington — driving, this time, instead of taking private jets. They are set to appear before the Senate Banking Committee on Thursday and the House Financial Services Committee on Friday. A vote

Obama Assembles **Diverse Staff**

WASHINGTON — President-elect Barack Obama's senior White House staff is taking form with a diverse array of appointees spanning generations, geography and educational and personal backgrounds.

Of the 28 top officials named to posts in the West Wing, East Wing or Vice President-elect Joe Biden's office, about two-thirds are the same age or younger than Obama, who is 47. The elder statesman of the West Wing will be retired Maj. James Jones, 65, who will become national security adviser. Nearly a dozen veterans of the Clinton administration will populate Obama's White House, including Lawrence Summers, 54, who will direct the National Economic Council.

But several relative rookies will have Obama's ear in the Oval Office, including 27year-old Jonathan Favreau, who will become chief speechwriter, and 32-year-old Alyssa Mastromonaco, who will be the president's scheduling and advance director. About half of the White House nominees and appointees, including Favreau and Mastromonaco, worked on Obama's presidential campaign, and eight have roots in the president-elect's hometown of Chicago. Obama seems to be assem-

eye toward gender and ethnic diversity, filling almost half the positions with women and one-third with nonwhites.

bling his senior staff with an

— The Washington Post and Los Angeles Times

MISSION

The Breeze, the student-run newspaper of James Madison University, serves student and faculty readership by reporting news involving the campus and local community. The Breeze strives to be impartial and fair in its reporting and firmly believes in its First Amendment

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THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

data provided by weather.com

NEW

Thursday, December 4, 2008 | 3

Macy's Parade Boasts Virginia's Finest



The Marching Royal Dukes play on the streets of New York City last Thursday morning. The band played continuously for an hour and a half as parade watchers cheered them on. Sophomore Ryan Ramirez, inset, and the drumline had the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade logo put on their drums to commemorate the day. The Dukes played for about 90 seconds on live television.

By ASHTON SMITH

"Look what's happening behind Shrek...," NBC's Matt Laurer announced during the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

"Scott Rikkers' enormous band takes over Herald Square. It's the Marching Royal Dukes from James Madison University located in Harrisonburg, Vir-

"Being away from family members on this holiday has got to be tough, but members of the band agree that their once-in-a-lifetime appearance here is worth the sacrifice," Al Roker added.

"And to celebrate their university's centennial year, Virginia's Finest play 'Sing, Sing, Sing,"

Meredith Viera said.

The band was one of the largest in the parade, with 483 members. They marched into Herald Square holding the James Madison University banner, performing for about 90 seconds on live television. But the band couldn't all fit on camera, and about a hundred were left out of view.

"It was a great day for JMU to be recognized on television," said Scott Rikkers, assistant director of bands and director of the Marching Royal Dukes. "The schedule we had we went from 2 in the morning on Wednesday until 2 in the afternoon on Thursday. Then we had to turn around and come back for a football game, and to me that was a true test of the dedication and the drive of this program. They were good to go until the very last minute of the game."

The band marched and played continuously for 90 minutes alternating between two songs more than 50 times during the parade.

"When you have a street lined with millions of people, we were there to play, and they wanted to hear us play, so we did," Rikkers said.

Rikkers said he didn't get to see the performance until after he got home, but people continually walked up to congratulate him on how well the band did. But the biggest surprise for him was how many JMU students were cheering them on in New York

"From the minute we stepped on until the end, there were groups of JMU people wearing their purple and gold and that was great," he said. "It was nice to feel appreciated."

But some of the band members said the marching really started to get to them. Senior Hunter Desper said playing in the drumline "killed" his wrists, while junior Alex Righter said playing the sousaphone left him with a knot on his shoulder about the size of a golf ball. Despite the injuries, the feedback members got from the performance made it

"My favorite part is the publicity we got out of it, lots of good P.R. for the university," Desper said. "I know a lot of people came up to me, 'Oh, you're in the marching band, I just want to shake your hand. That's so cool."

Senior John Seipp, who is part of the trumpet section, said people came up to him complementing the band on their preparation and how experienced

See BAND, page 4

Students into **Giving Spirit**

Theta Chi helps raise money for both Habitat for Humanity and Mercy House in Harrisonburg

By KATIE THISDELL The Breeze

All he wanted for Christmas was his two front teeth.

A local child lost them in an accident, but his family was struggling with money during the holiday season. They didn't know how they would pay for the new teeth.

Luckily, Mercy House was able to help. Providing homeless families throughout the year with shelter and other assistance, their help continues with Christmas gifts, according to executive director Twila Lee.

Students also wanted to help. Theta Chi raised money for Mercy House and Habitat for Humanity during their ninth annual "12 Days Project." They camped out on the commons from Nov. 10 - 22 to collect donations.

"We've had many people tell us their Mercy House Christmas was the best they've ever had," Lee said. "I think it's an indication of the awesome job that the community does to make sure that they have Christmas."

As people walked through the commons on campus, many reached into their pockets and bags to find something to give. They stuffed crumpled dollar bills and handfuls of coins into the plastic container. The brothers, whose motto is

"The Helping Hand," could also accept donations by FLEX.

After 12 days, it all added up. On the commons, they raised

Additional online donations made the total about \$5,000, which will be split evenly be-tween the two organizations. The brothers will present checks on

Dec. 12.

"We do this once a year, but they do this 365," senior Fred Rose said about Mercy House and Habitat for Humanity. Rose, a communications studies major, and senior Matt Portner were committee heads for the project.

"We want to keep the donations local so people know they're helping here," said Portner, a psychology major.

Mercy House partners with $the\,Harr is on burg\,\hat{P}olice\,Depart$ ment and Clear Channel Radio to create the Snowflake Wishes tree. The tree lets children write what they want for Christmas. Last year, Lee said the program provided presents for 776 children. This year's sign-up list is still open. Gifts have ranged from Dora the Explorer dolls to the two front teeth.

They help adults, too. Through their program, Christmas for Lasting Change, they use money for things such as

See CHARITY, page 8





The Interfaith Chapel is where some Muslims go to perform their daily prayers. The chapel is located on the second floor of Taylor

Muslims Seek Understanding

Muslim Student Association leader explains misconceptions

By ANNA YOUNG

The Breeze

Every day, Soraya Salam starts her morning before dawn by praying. She then proceeds to pray during the early afternoon, again later in the afternoon, before sunset and right before she goes to sleep.

Such is the life of a devout Muslim.

"It's really a blessing," said Salam, a sophomore media arts and design major, who looks forward to the five daily prayer times. "It gives you a chance to reflect because in this world we all are distracted by money, materialistic things, worldly things. So you're really taking 30 minutes out of your day for God."

Salam is the president of JMU's Muslim Student Association. When she came to JMU as a freshman, she noticed the organization had only a few active members. She then motivated a group of students to revitalize the organization and ran for executive office at the end of her freshman year. The group, which had about eight active members before Salam came along, now boasts more than 20 members who are proud of their identity and passionate about their religion.

"I think a lot of people wanted the group to be more active, just to provide support to the Muslims on campus and to do a lot of other interfaith activities," Salam said. "There aren't that many Muslims on campus and a bunch of us thought that making MSA active is really important because you're in a college atmosphere with a lot of peer pressure to do certain things. So, you need that spiritual support."

Next semester, MSA is arranging an Islam Awareness Week. Although planning is in the beginning stages and a week has yet to be chosen, Salam is spearheading the preparation, which will include discussions, speakers, film viewings and a

"There are so many misconceptions out there about the religion and it's just really important to educate people," the Richmond native said. "I think that's the best way to bridge the gap and coexist with each other."

Salam hopes to dispel many falsities members of the JMU community may have about her religion by hosting the week of awareness with fellow MSA members. She also

See INTERFAITH, page 5

Four Grants Approved By SGA

By MEGAN WILLIAMS The Breeze

The Student Government Association awarded program grants Tuesday night to different campus organizations in sums ranging from \$300 to \$10,000. These types of grants are different from other types of funding because they are specifically allocated for events that have a wide-spreading impact on JMU. The program grant pot began at approximately \$25,000 but will be brought down to \$9,716 after Tuesday night.

- The first program grant was given to MOZAIC, one of JMU's three dance groups on campus, in the amount of \$283.95 for a hiphop competition that will be held at the end of February.
- Cinemuse, JMU's film club was given \$5,000 to host the fourth annual film festival in February. The weekend-long event will be themed "Seven Deadly Sins" and students will submit their own videos to be shown at Grafton-Stovall Theatre.
- \$10,000 was given to EARTH Club for the funding of Festival Fest, a 12-hour music festival that precedes Earth Week. The money will go to paying national, state and local artists, stage and sound equipment, as well as food and art
- The Chinese Student Association was awarded \$2,386.24 in contingency funds Tuesday night as well. Contingency funds are money given to student organizations after front-end budget student groups (ones with a greater impact on campus life) are allocated funds. The money will go to hosting a culture show in late March.
- SGA also passed a resolution recognizing the hard work and dedication of the Marching Royal Dukes to JMU.

SALARY: Presidents of Area Schools Received Raises

Salary, from front

said. "The senate at this time doesn't have anyone op-

The \$456,287 includes salary and \$60,000 he receives per year for retirement from private funds. The raise came from private donations from the JMU Foundation, which raises, invests and administers private gifts to the university. The Board of Visitors voted unanimously to approve Rose's raise on June 5.

University spokesperson Don Egle said all personnel information presented to the Board takes place during closed session of each BOV meeting. Once salary information is approved, that information is available to any citizen of Virginia.

"Dr. Rose's salary for 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 was provided to the Daily News Record following a request from a DNR reporter in November," Egle said.

However, the figure does not include other benefits such as driving a 2008 Lincoln, health insurance, retirement from the state and living in a large JMUowned home behind Forest Hills.

STUDENT REACTION

But some students believe Rose could have put themoney toward another use, like upgrading certain

"I think that there should be some rethinking," senior Drake Dalton said. "If you look at what he drives and where he lives, I think he could take a little budget cut, so we could reallocate our resources to the school. I know in the geography department, we have to work with crappy lab equipment."

Others have felt the need to pinch their pockets because the economy has forced their family to. Rose's raise makes one student wonder how he could accept the money when so many students are struggling. 'Yeah he has a great job and his job may be diffi-

cult at times, but everybody has their situations," senior Amber Dinquel said. "I don't necessarily think that a job like this requires such magnitude of salary." Senior Gillian Goetz agrees that Rose should have

reconsidered his raise, seeing as other leaders in the country don't do what they do for the money neces-The President of the United States doesn't do his

salary has already gone up as it is, plus the house is already paid for, so it's just really spending money in his pocket," Goetz said.

job for the money, and I feel like, being that [Rose's]

The other three school presidents in the Valley,

those of Bridgewater College, Blue Ridge Community College and Eastern Mennonite University, also received raises, but not nearly as substantial as Rose's. Bridgewater's President Phillip Stone got a 5.8 percent raise to \$318,000, while BRCC's Jim Perkins is up 4.8 percent at \$194,639. EMU's Loren Swartzendruber rose 2.5 percent to \$182,224.

OTHER PRESIDENTS

The Chronicle of Higher Education, a publication in Washington D.C., released a survey of the nation's public university presidents' pay during the 2007-2008 school year and private university presidents' pay in 2006-

Private University of Richmond president William Cooper made \$814,052, making him the highest paid Virginia college president at that time. He has since stepped down. John Casteen III, the president of the University of Virginia, followed with \$797,048, and Charles Steger, of Virginia Tech, got paid \$719,892.

The highest paid president in the nation resides in Boston. The president of Suffolk University, David Sargent, made a cool \$2.8 million in 2006-2007.

Michelle Habel and Erik Landers contributed to

BAND: Dukes Take a Bite Out of the Big Apple



The JMU faithful gathered in New York to see the band.

Band, from page 3

they looked. But he said before the parade began, everyone was feeling the anticipation.

"I'll remember that as soon as we got out there everyone was jumping up and down; everyone's adrenaline was pumping," he said. "We put so much work into preparation for what felt like less than 30 seconds. We got to Herald Square and it felt like it was over before it had even That adrenaline spread to the

crowd, as the members talked about a glass apartment overlooking the street that had five or six people rating the different acts. When the band passed, they looked back and saw all 10s. The Marching Royal Dukes even

had a celebrity fan, when "30 Rock" actor Alec Baldwin, walked by and yelled "Go Dukes!"

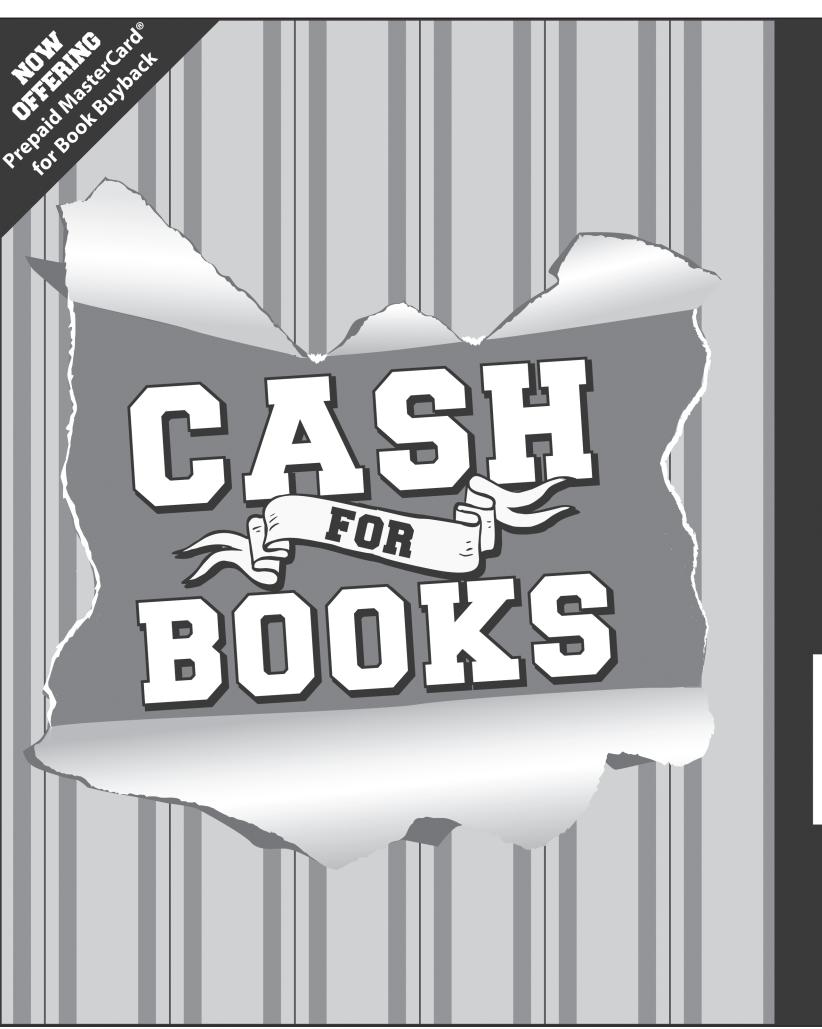
Don Fisher, a parent of a band member, said the parade-goers really got excited for the Dukes even before they reached Herald Square.

"I'm sure they cheered for other bands too, but it caught me by surprise how enthusiastic they were," Fisher said. "Clearly everyone in New York was MRD fans."



photos courtesy of DON FISHER

The Marching Royal Dukes Parade into Times Square.

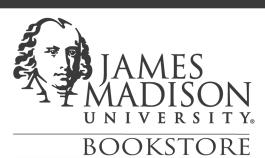




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AIDS: Education the Best Prevention

AIDS, from front

"We need a renewed commitment to combating AIDS," Purvine said.

Mason, the evening's keynote speaker, is a consultant with BroadReach Health Care in South Africa, and a leading AIDS prevention advocate. She focused on HIV prevention and the challenges of living

She said that people must stop treating those with AIDS as social outcasts and begin to treat them with compassion.

"It's important for us to stop the stigmatizing and the judging," Mason said. "Let's look beyond how people got it and be compassionate about

Mason keeps a positive and "fighter" approach to her disease. She believes optimism is the best way to live a long life, and along with medication, the best way to live with the

In addition to describing her personal battle with AIDS, Mason spoke about prevention efforts and ways to stop the spread of HIV, especially in Virginia and at universities. Mason said that prevention is the best way to keep HIV/AIDS from getting out of control.

"For young people there is this feeling that they think they are invincible," Mason said. "As long as they are not practicing safe sex then they are at risk because HIV doesn't discriminate."

She believes that education needs to be better about HIV. Mason said that in Kenya, all the children take a sex education program that educates them about HIV and other sexually transmitted infections.

need strong allies with the faith communities and schools to better educate the populace," Mason said.

In addition to more education for the youth, Mason also said that people need to step up efforts to make sure the government realizes that HIV is still a problem in this country. According to Mason, the United States spends more money on the AIDS epidemic in Africa than on HIV prevention in its own country.

"As long as we live in a global village and as long as we are interacting with others, we will always be at risk," Mason said.



Naisiadet Mason was the keynote speaker for World AIDS Day. She spoke Monday night in Memorial Hall to raise awareness about the

CONFUSION: Students Mistakenly Mail in Money

voter registration forms.

Radford and the ACLU exchanged barbed words over what the union said were "misleading postcards" regarding Virginia's voting laws sent to students. The ACLU notes on its Web site that Virginia law requires people to vote where their "abode" or "domicile" is, which confused some students who live in two different places throughout the year.

At JMU, many students were misinformed in the beginning about filling out their application, but the registrar sent out letters of denial or incompletion for each one that was incorrect.

Eagleson said her continuous denial letters read "invalid because of address." The Maryland resident wanted to vote here since Virginia was a swing state.

"I tried to make my address more specific every time; room number, dorm

By the third time she was rejected, she did not have time to send away for an absentee ballot.

"One thing I will be advocating is for third party registration to be more controlled," Logan said. "If we show them what they need and what's expected of

She went on to say that there were a number of groups that did follow rules and reported back to the office consistently such as Progressive Future and JMU Students for Barack Obama.

"People registering students didn't give complete information," Logan said. "Some of the smaller groups... didn't turn them in; didn't get everything filled out right."

In the beginning, a misleading denial letter was sent out saying to make an appeal, one must send in \$10, so some students simply mailed in the money. That actually had to be used to go to court, where the student must appear before a judge. The registrar stopped sending that letter due to confusion.

Eagleson said she sent in an appeal, which the girl from the group she registered with helped her write and even "took it to the registrar."

However, the registrar notes that to make a formal appeal, the student must appear before the circuit court and Eagleson never did that. Eight JMU students went through with the legal appeal, and the registrar had to produce evidence as to why the denial was made and all eight were still denied because they didn't use "legally correct applications," according to Logan.

The city of Harrisonburg increased by 21,000 voters this year, which was the fourth largest growth in Virginia and 85 percent of the increase was owed to IMU students, according to Logan.

INTERFAITH: Muslims Feel Their Religion Was 'Hijacked' on 9/11

global problem AIDS presents.

stressed that there are many more similarities between Islam and other religions such as Christianity, than there are differences, and that many people have harsh misconceptions about Islam and

ing to get people to understand us. We're American too, and it's not un-American to be Muslim." Salam hinted that many Americans are painted a distorted pic-

'We're not trying to convert anyone," Salam said. We're just try-

ture when they view Muslims portrayal in the media.

"You're associating a peaceful religion that teaches love and compassion and justice with killing innocent people."

She recounted that she heard many people blame Muslims for the 9/11 attacks, but she argued that, "many Muslims said that our religion was hijacked on that day."

Even though Islam is the second largest religion in the world, after Christianity, Islam is still a relatively unknown religion to a lot of people, according to Salam.

"If I get any insults or if anyone says anything hateful towards me, I will actually look at that in a positive way as an opportunity to have a discussion with them," Salam said. "Islam teaches that the best form of educating people about Islam is through your char-

Through the Pillars of Faith, Islam has a strong emphasis on doing good deeds, justice, charity, equality, prayer and being good for others, regardless if they practice Islam.

'We believe in one God, we believe in all of the major prophets and we believe that Islam is the same message that was given to Abraham, that was given to Jesus that was given to Moses," Salam said. "That message was to believe in one God, to submit yourself to the one powerful God, and do good deeds."

Adhering to the Islam faith, MSA does a lot of community service work throughout the city. One of the main projects the group partakes in is helping Iraqi refugees who have recently moved to Harrisonburg. MSA helps these refugees by tutoring their children and collecting and donating necessities like everyday household

Muslims observe two major holidays throughout the year. Eid -Fitr is the feast that occurs after Ramadan, a month of fasting from sunrise to sunset that commemorates when the Quran was given to Abraham by the angel Gabriel. Eid Al-Adha will be celebrated next Monday, and commemorates the story of Abraham

nearly sacrificing his son to prove his loyalty and obedience to God. This celebration also marks when Muslims make their hajj, or pilgrimage, to Mecca, Islam's holiest city.

"Every Muslim strives to do it at least one time in their life if they're physically and financially able to," Salam said. MSA meetings are twice a month, and include prayer and a

group discussion on a topic of Islam that is picked by any member

"We might start incorporating a system where we assign a topic to people every week but so far it's been the executive board deciding on topics and doing the research and compiling information,"

MSA will meet again next semester, on either the first or second Wednesday in January. "We have a lot of ideas we're excited to implement next semester," Salam said.

Many MSA members carpool to the Islamic Center of Shenandoah Valley to pray on Friday evenings. The mosque is located at 1330 Country Club Road in Harrisonburg.

Read about the Baha'i faith online at breezejmu.org.



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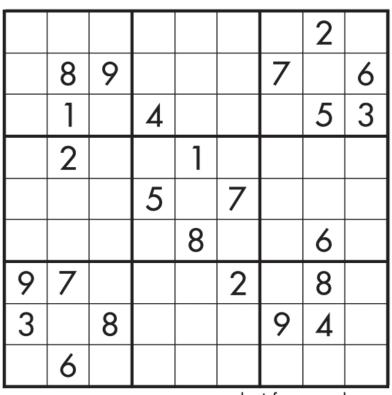


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Holiday Festivities Around Campus



HILLEL will be handing out free "gelt," to get JMU into the holdiay spirit. Gelt is the Chanukah traditon of giving out money as a gift.

WHEN: Today 11 a.m. to 1.p.m.

WHERE: The commons

THE HARRISONBURG CHRISTMAS PARADE on South Main Street featuring the Marching Royal Dukes fresh off their appearance in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York.

WHEN: Friday at 6 p.m. WHERE: Downtown





WINTER STORYTELL-ING: HOLIDAY SHORT STORIES, POEMS AND **DRAMATIC PIECES** will be collecting toys for the Salvation Army. A toy donation or \$5 is required at the door.

WHEN: Friday at 6 p.m. WHERE: Harrison Hall

WINTER WONDERLAND Madison Project will sing at the annual tree lighting on the Quad at 7 p.m. At 8 p.m. enjoy ice skating on the commons; skates will be provided. At 10 p.m. enjoy late night breakfast.

12 a.m.

WHERE: The Quad and the commons

WHEN: Tonight 7 p.m. to





HOLIDAYFEST CONCERT featuring JMU Chorale, Symphony Orchestra and Brass Band perfoming holiday classics. Tickets are \$8 and \$10.

WHEN: Sunday at 4 p.m. WHERE: Wilson Hall Auditorium

MOONLIGHT HOLIDAY FESTIVAL

Attendess can enjoy seasonal music, food and poetry as well as a horse-drawn carriage ride through the Arboretum. Call 540-568-3194 for details.

WHEN: Saturday Dec. 13, 4 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. **WHERE:** The Arboretum



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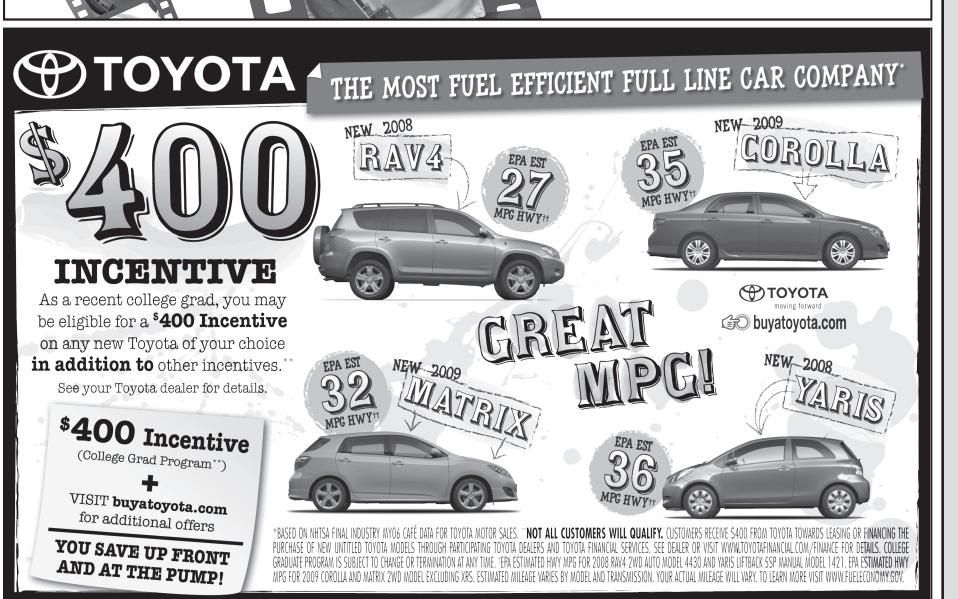
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JMU's CIS Program Now Ranked Top 10 in Nation

By ERIK LANDERS The Breeze

JMU's Computer Information Systems program has been named one of the top 10 programs in the nation by *TechRepublic* in its first such

TechRepublic is an online trade publication for information technology professionals that is owned by CBS

TechRepublicuniversities based on which programs offered students the best value. It included the curriculum, cost of education and student/faculty ratio as well as a few other factors. According to TechRepublic, JMU's strength is internships and a high employment rate.

"Ninety-two percent of students have work experience before they graduate," Daniel Smith said in his review of JMU. "Many landing competitive internships in and around the D.C. area; 85 percent of students are hired before graduation, and a full 100 percent have employment in the field

within six months after graduation, many landing at marquee companies such as IBM, Accenture and Ernst & Young."

According to alumna Vivian

Ninety-two percent of students have work experience before they graduate

RICHARD MATHIEU

Tran ('08), the relationship she developed with her professors was beneficial to her education.

"I love learning and getting to know the CIS professors here at JMU because they are always willing to go out of their way to help you," Tran said. "I am always welcomed in their office to talk, ask questions and seek advice."

Tran is now a business analyst at the consulting firm Protiviti.

For more than 25 years the CIS program has prepared students for careers as IT professionals. More than 200 students are currently enrolled in the major. According to Richard Mathieu, the CIS chair the enrollment for the program has increased 38 percent over the last two

"Students with a CIS degree should have confidence that the education they received at James Madison University has prepared them to successfully compete with graduates from the top universities in the country," Mathieu said.

Other schools that placed in the top 10 were Brigham Young University, Carnegie Mellon, MIT, Penn State, Temple University, the University of Arizona, the University of Illinois, the University of Maryland and Virginia

CHARITY: Original Goal not Met Due to Current Economic Issues

Charity, from page 3

diabetes evaluations and dental care, Lee said. Fifteen families also live in the Mercy House

shelter for an average of four months. They absolutely would not be able to do

Christmas without this help," Lee said.

Though Theta Chi originally wanted to raise \$10,000 for Mercy House and Habitat, they realized that would not be feasible with the country's economic problems.

'There's such a need now, and still students are willing to give," Rose said.

He said the coldest morning was the last one,

when flurries fell.

"It actually helped people get in the mood for the holiday season, and we had our largest donation day of the two-week event," Rose said.

The 12 days were divided into two-hour shifts. Each night, two of the brothers slept in a small

camper, borrowed from Doves Camper Sales. Though temperatures dropped down to 20 degrees, the brothers felt it was worth it.

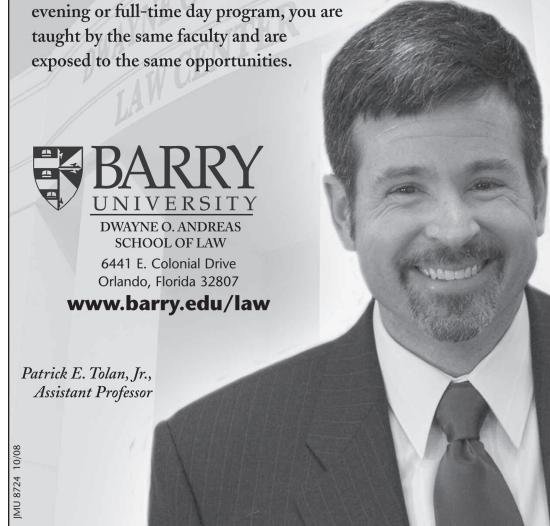
"It's always nice to open something on Christmas," said Stephen Jones, junior justice studies major, as he sat between two small heaters. "It's for a good cause, so I can sacrifice a night out in the

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EDITORIAL CARTOON

LAUREN HAGY



Darts & Pats are anonymously submitted and printed on a space-available basis. Submissions creatively depict a given situation, person or event and do not necessarily reflect the truth.

Submit Darts & Pats at breezejmu.org

A "way-to-bleed-purple-and-gold-in-the-Big-Apple!" pat to James Madison University's Marching Royal Dukes for being beyond fabulous in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

From all your loyal Dukes who waited patiently all morning to see the MRDs.

A "too-bad-customer-service-isn'talways-this-good" pat to the awesome UREC receptionist who looked through two months of lost-and-found items to find my jacket.

From a very recent grad who was reminded of why he loves his alma mater so much.

A "let-them-eat-cake" dart to President Linwood Rose for accepting a \$66,000 raise (on top of his generous salary and perks) as JMU programs are being cut, tuition is increasing and staff and faculty salaries are frozen.

From a demoralized employee worried if there will be enough paper in the Xerox machine come April.

THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

Christmas season is known as "the most wonderful time of the year," at least to some. For those who observe less commercially popular holidays (or no holiday at all), the time from the day after Thanksgiving to the New Year is one of

And for others who work in retail, Christmas is the equivalent to a painful trip to the dentist.

Speaking as someone who has worked seasonally at retail stores, I can safely say that the

Christmas season brings out the worst in folks. I've

SARAH **DELIA**

seen grown adults cut lines and grab items, then huddle them in their coats, hiding the fact that they got the last of a coveted item. My favorite customers are those who try to bargain down set retail prices, as if the store were some kind of flea market. This year, more stores

are staying open on Christmas, including drugstores like CVS, Chinese restaurants and some grocery stores. In Canada, Wal-Mart will have its doors open 24 hours a day, seven days a week until Christmas Day in an effort to "help" lastminute shoppers.

The issue of more stores staying open during holidays isn't limited to just religious occasions. This year, K-Mart remained open during the family-oriented, secular holiday Thanksgiving. Until recently, K-Mart was also open on Christmas Day. (This year the store will be open well into the night of Christmas Eve, but not the

The commercialism of Christmas, shoved down everybody's throats by TV ads and radio jingles, has a sick power over customers. Don't get me wrong, people who buy into these gimmicks actually believing they can win over their child's affections with a new cell phone or a Bratz doll are just as big of a problem. But the underlying problem is the slow suffocation of Christmas spirit that tightens its grip on the pillow of commercialism each moneymaking — I mean

To be clear, when I mention the Christmas spirit, I'm not talking Jesus' birthday or the secular, politically correct version with stars instead of angels on top of a tree. I'm referring to a celebrated time of year when people are a little bit nicer to one another, spend more time with their families and hopefully take time to relax and understand what's important in life. Family drama, drunken neighborhood parties and checks in cards are just mere bonuses.

For many, Christmas is just another day in the world with an added perk of not having to go to work or school. But whether or not the day have the option of a day off to spend meaningful time with loved ones.

The most prominent controversy circling Christmas comes from those who feel that secularism has been pushed upon the holiday, thereby making it less special or religiously significant. Conservative talk show host Bill O'Reilly goes so far as to call it the "War On Christmas."

But secularism isn't the problem here; it's commercialism that turns people into herds that literally stampede each other on Black Friday. At a Wal-Mart in Long Island, NY, a male employee was literary trampled to death by greedy customers. Their impatience to get inside the store

...secularism isn't the problem here; it's commercialism that turns people into herds that literally stampede each other...

caused a rush through the doors. The employee, Jdimytai Damour, fell and was trampled to death. Four others were hospitalized, one of which was a 28-year-old-woman who was eight months pregnant. This story is a grotesque yet true case where most people stepped over actual human beings in need to buy a replaceable plastic toy.

Secularism offers nonreligious folks a way to experience the holiday. You don't have to be a Christian to have a Christmas tree. You don't have to be Catholic to exchange presents on Dec. 25, as anyone can take advantage of the sales. Anyone can enjoy hot chocolate, snow angels and time with family. No one has to be consumed by finding the perfect gift.

For some people, Christmas is focused on religion or spirituality. In other cases, it's just another day. But there's also that certain group of people who find Christmas to be in between those two; it has a different connotation that isn't necessarily religious, but still means a great deal. Whether an individual believes Dec. 25 celebrates the birth of Christ or just really enjoys being with his or her family or friends — everyone deserves a day off.

■ SARAH DELIA is a senior English and art history

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Rose Should Refuse Pay Raise

In these troubling economic times where families all across the nation and the Commonwealth are tightening their belts, Madison's Board of Visitors decided it was a great time to give JMU President Rose a much deserved pay increase. I, like many alumni, do not begrudge Rose his increase in pay. It is well deserved and long overdue. However, like many alumni, students, faculty and staff, I am struck by the incredibly bad timing of this announcement. Madison is already facing state budget cuts in excess of \$5 million, and may face further cuts as the Commonwealth's budget outlook becomes bleaker. Not only are faculty and staff not receiving a pay increase, the students will more than likely face yet another tuition and fees increase this coming year. While only a portion of the president's salary comes from Commonwealth funds, this increase will come at the expense of funds from the JMU Foundation where the money for a pay increase may already have been earmarked by donors. Even with this fact in mind, I believe that Rose should do the right thing for the staff, faculty and Madison community at large, and refuse this salary increase until finances are on a surer footing.

The Board's actions have harmed Madison's image and have further degraded the morale of faculty and staff. My own talks with

faculty and staff at JMU, as well as at other state-supported universities, have indicated a general disdain and disgust with the Board's

A "that's-a-load-of-crap" dart to the

gold pride, but not the fact that you take up a

An "I-am-going-to-disown-you-like-I-disowned-my-parents" dart to $\it The\ Breeze$ for

not including "Home Alone" in the list of Top

A "literary" pat to the writers of the poems

and stories on the bathroom wall in Burruss

From a sophomore biology major who

A "find-somewhere-else-to-eat" dart

to the girls who take over the Sports Lounge

at Festival and change the TV channel from

From an annoyed freshman who thought

A "dolla-bills-y'all?" dart to the Anthony-

Seeger Hall vending machine for not taking \$\$\$.

From a guy who is calling you out.

sneaks out of class just to see your newest works.

space she could park in.

10 Christmas movies.

From Macaulay Culkin.

ESPN to whatever suits them.

the Sports Lounge was for... sports?

port-a-potties taking up parking spaces in the

From a junior who appreciates purple and

The image, much like the image of auto executives jetting off to Washington, is that Madison's administration does not understand or care for the pains that people are facing across this country. Just imagine the outcry if President-elect Obama received a pay raise in the midst of this economic disaster and massive budget deficits, or if Ford and GM decided to increase the pay of their failed executives. Imagine what the outcry will be come spring when the Board decides to raise tuition and fees to cover the university's budget shortfall at a time when financial aid is drying up nationwide. Gov. Kaine is even refusing to take a pay increase to set an example for all; perhaps Rose should do the same.

JMU has had several unofficial mottos over the years such as "All Together One" and "Be The Change." Perhaps, it is time for Rose to take his own advice and be the change — don't be the administrator who takes an increase while the workers and company suffer. All together we are one JMU community, and many in that community are not getting a raise this year. President Rose, you should do the same.

> Travis Stuart White class of '02 and '03

GUEST COLUMN THOMAS WEBB

The Fight for Republican Redemption

As a long time college football fan, I have been a great admirer of the late Paul "Bear" Bryant, head coach of Alabama from 1958 to 1982. His talent as a leader was extraordinary, as was his ability to win. He once said, "Show class, have pride and display character. If you do, winning takes care of itself." As a proud Republican, these words have once again reached the forefront of my mind as I, along with peers, battle to change the Republican Party.

America's first black president has been elected. This truly historic moment has been celebrated around the world. Looking at the Republican Party after this event was like watching victims of a tornado ask "Why?" as they surveyed the damage of their destroyed property. For years I have watched my party actively distance itself from the vision of Lincoln and the compassionate strength of Reagan. Openly, we have lacked Bryant's class, destroyed our nation's pride and showed only a lack of character. Hence, we lost, and winning will not

We have abandoned our mores and fed our base the proverbial "red meat" of intolerance and fear while never promoting a world of peace that we can achieve. Instead of reaching out to struggling nations, we have locked ourselves inside for fear of national security, telling the people that only through blind trust can we achieve some undefined victory. As the environment becomes a greater issue, candidates pander to a radical base that willfully ignores obvious signs of danger. Other issues - once considered important enough for government to work together for the common good have been whittled into talking points, establishing firing lines from which to lob political bombs. Most embarrassingly, when faced with an undeniable collapse of policy (witnessed in the economic crisis) we found ourselves unafraid to abandon the

See **GOP**, page 10

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OPINION

Dont' stress too hard.

It's almost over.

We promise.

Happy Holidays.

From The Breeze.

GOP: Should remember focus on freedom, integrity

Never before have

I seen a party so bent

on sticking to their

change, adapt and

mounting evidence.

guns and refusing to

mature in the face of

GOP, from page 9

sermon, instead lying comfortably in the bed of what conservatives would have considered political beresy the day before

neresy the day before.

Since when has my freedom of association been eroded to the extent that I am chastised for not following every plank of my party's platform? Are we really so afraid of humanity's fraying edges that we would rather retreat to the absurd extremes of "safety" than work with outward courage toward removing the deep roots of international terrorism,

combating the radical leanings of demented demigods? I reject these wild claims. Never before have I seen a party so bent on sticking to their guns and refusing to change, adapt and mature in the face of mounting evidence.

Republicans must reassess themselves; the goal should be the restoration of values. Republican leaders have over-spent, infringed on the rights of citizens

on the rights of citizens, and nailed the party to a platform that cannot be questioned for fear of persecution. Republicans should take back the voice of hope that they lost to the Obama campaign.

We are the party that should be supporting the ambitious men and women in our nation who do not wait on inefficient government bureaucracies to make this world better but instead go out and do it on their own through service. We must once again respect the soldiers who expect their leaders to view them as human lives, not dispensable pieces in Risk.

National security has become the hook on which the Republican Party lays its hat. We've

claimed that through war, isolation, detainment and constant monitoring we are safe. I disagree. Our party has long favored protection of this nation for the sake of our freedoms, but for what freedoms do we fight if our "safety" depends on their erosion?

I believe in a Republican Party that understands that people hate us and that our freedoms make us vulnerable, but nevertheless refuses to infringe on them. We have forgotten our belief in and reliance on individual liberty. Even if this

nation's existence were threatened, I would only carry my American flag into battle alongside a party that defends those liberties. You lock up the criminal to protect the people; you do not lock up the people to protect them from the criminal.

Now is the time when I re-enter my party. I cannot do this alone, and I hope that all Republicans who have been neglected and rejected over the past years will restore

vision, maturity and values to what has become a shell. We must move our generation into control of the party and revolutionize its positions and remove the failed neo-conservative policy we have witnessed.

If this is not successful, the radical base will prevail. This is the ignorant mass that screamed "terrorist" at hearing the word Obama and sought racial division over policy. We need to grow up, and now is the time to start that process.

For the sake of conservatism.

■ THOMAS WEBB is a senior political science major.

LAURA **DONOVAN**, Arizona Daily Wildcat

Academic Demands Breed Depression

The break is over, and most students probably had homework due Monday, meaning they had to devote "break" time to dense reading, busywork and finals preparation. No one ever said college would be easy, or that the academic world goes on hold for the holidays, but it's disheartening that one of the few breaks during the semester cannot be even remotely relaxing.

Thanksgiving Break is only one example of why students may be unsatisfied with the way things are going. There are so many reasons why students would be unhappy, especially considering their relentless academic demands. Though students are primarily in college to get an education, it's difficult to make everything else completely secondary, and it's dangerous as well.

Students may achieve high grades if they discipline themselves enough to study all of the time, but they'll most likely be unhappy after weeks of minimal social interaction and physical outlets. Without a balance, students may become chronically depressed. They can force themselves to try to escape somehow, but sometimes the academic expectations of college don't allow for mental health days or breaks.

Because the real world isn't sympathetic, administrators argue that there is no reason to cut college students any slack, even during holidays intended for family gathering. Many grow from adversity and rough patches, and they find more strength within themselves than they knew they had. All this comes afterward, and in the meantime, students suffer immense anxiety they weren't prepared for. There's nothing wrong

with taking a slower transition into the real world, meaning students won't have to work so hard during their rare time off school. Without any leeway in college, where else can people get it?

A 2007 edition of *Social Work Today* magazine revealed unsettling information about college students suffering from unhappiness and depression, both of which often result from school pressures.

"I think this emphasis on self-perfection that our society has really contributes to depression in college students," says Tom Morson of the psychological and counseling services at the University of Michigan. "Many students have an 'all-or-nothing' mentality, not only about academics but also physical attractiveness and wealth. Depression has always been the No. 1 problem here."

In 2005, The American College Health Association collected troubling data from their National College Health Assessment. The top five impediments to academic performance are stress, colds/flus/sore throats, sleep difficulties, concern for family or friends and depression/anxiety disorders. If the top four reasons have remained unchanged since the 2000 assessment, why are students getting even more stressed out and sick from their responsibilities? More needs to be done to eliminate these problems from students' lives, and an occasional flexible academic curriculum would probably help restore the health of students. Life isn't easy in the long run, but the stresses on students today have the power to end lives entirely, and it has happened too many times already.

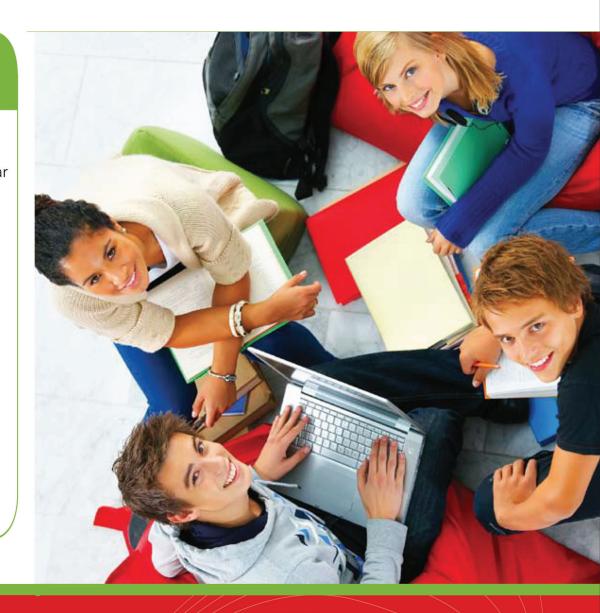


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Turn to page 18 to read about a JMU grad's experience being



LIFE



Betty Shull, D-Hall, Card Swiper



Betty Shull (left) has been working at D-Hall for 15 years and says it's 'just like home.' Betty Bowers has been working there for eight years. Both Bettys work the breakfast shift and enjoy interacting with students.

By RACHEL CHEMERYNSKI

The Breeze

Betty Shull gets up early every morning to start her day as the cashier, or "card swiper," at D-Hall. At 7 a.m, she begins greeting the many early JMU breakfast-goers; the faces

she sees every day. Shull said she enjoys seeing all the students, and that she tries to talk to all of them — even if it's just to see how their day is going.

'They are just like my kids," Shull said. "Actually, I think of them more as my grandchildren.'

Shull has worked at D-Hall for 15 years, and she said it would be difficult to leave be-

cause she'd miss it too much. "I went home for Thanksgiving and said to myself, 'I don't know if I could ever retire." Shull said. "Sometimes I say I'm gonna retire and the [JMU] kids say, 'No, you gotta stay

'til I graduate!' While Shull said her relationship with the students is the best part of her job, she said she values her relationships with her fellow D-Hall employees, as well.

"We have a good time," Shull said, glancing over at two of her friends. "It's just like home."

Betty Bowers, D-Hall, Sweets



Betty Bowers wakes up at 5 a.m to start working the D-Hall sweets counter at 6:30 a.m. She spends her day bringing desserts up from downstairs, slicing various breads and, of course,

socializing with and serving the students. Bowers said that students don't go a day without their sweet treats, especially the alltime student favorite: peanut butter pie.

"When they come in, you'd think they never had any sweets before," Bowers said laughing. "They just love them."

But ironically the dessert barista, Bowers herself, often can't eat what she serves.

"I'm actually a diabetic," Bowers said. "But sometimes I sneak a chocolate chip cookie."

However, it's not about the food for Bowers. Her favorite part of the job is seeing the

students every day. "I get a lot of hugs," Bowers said. "And everybody talks to me, especially the basketball team," said Bowers, adding that she

attends all their games. Sophomore basketball player Ben Louis Hall, or on game days.

"She's always the first in the door at our basketball games," Louis said. "There's just too many nice things about her."

And Bowers values her relationship with

Louis just the same. "I told him he could call me Nana," Bow-

ers said, laughing. While Bowers treasures the friendships she makes with the students, she loves being at D-Hall just as much.

They are opening a new dining hall and I said I wouldn't go," Bowers said. "I love every minute of it here."

All-Star Runners-

Chad (left) and Chris, East Campus Library, Java City



SETH BINSTED/The Breeze

Michelle, Festival,



JESSICA DODDS/The Breeze



DAN GORIN/contributing photographe



AMY GWALTNEY/The Breeze

Three-Day East Coast Endeavor

By GABRIEL HENRIQUEZ

The Marching Royal Dukes spent Thanksgiving Break in a neck-breaking, whirlwind tour along the East Coast that took them from the bustling streets of New York City back to JMU to celebrate another football victory. Last Saturday's victory over the Wofford Terriers ensured that the Dukes would continue to the next match with Villanova on Saturday — and the fanfare that is the Marching Royal Dukes will cheer them

The band was shuttled nine hours by bus to NYC the day before Thanksgiving to take part in the famed Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Those who lived close enough simply packed up their car and met the band on loca-

"A majority of the people who live in the Virginia and Pennsylvania area came back to JMU to take the bus and about 30 who live in the New York, New Jersey, Connecticut area met them in the city," sophomore Josh Rayner said.

The two-and-a-half mile affair that comprised the parade tour took them from Central Park West on 81st to 34th streets for about an estimated 90 minutes of regal marching.

The parade was a lot of fun. For me personally, and I would say for a lot of people, it was actually tiring since it was so long and we had to hold up our instruments for so long. But in the long run it was worth it," said Rayner, whose sentiments were echoed

by his fellow Marching Dukes.

"It's an exhausting parade, but definitely a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," said sophomore Heather Potter. "I think a lot of my friends who weren't in the marching band were just as excited as us that we were there. I had about a million texts when I got back to my phone about seeing us on

After a day of enjoying the sites of the city, however, they had to hop on a bus at 5:30 a.m. to make it back to Harrisonburg in time for JMU's half-time.

"The quick turnaround to the playoff game at JMU was expected. We all pretty much knew sleep was out of the question the

See **MARCH**, page 18



The Marching Royal Dukes perfrom at the first-round playoff game against Villanova on Saturday at Bridgeforth Stadium.







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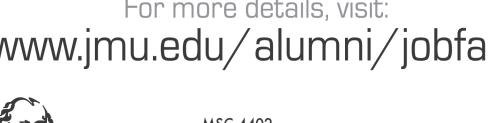
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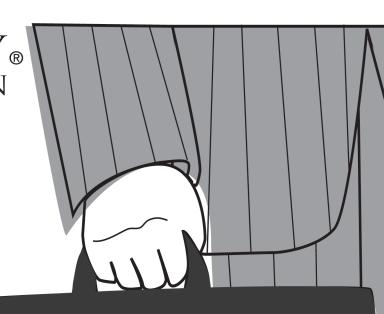
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Go to breezejmu.org for the 13th installment of

video of The Breeze editor-in-chief Tim Chapman

competing with JMU basketball coach Matt Brady.

Tim O'Keefe's fantasy football analysis, and a



Averaging 30 points per game, CAA Player of the Week Dawn Evans leads the NCAA Division I in scoring this season.

No Flame-out This Time

Dukes beat Liberty 77-64 to avenge first loss of 2007

By CASEY CAVANAGH

contributing writer

A year ago, Liberty's win over JMU ended the Dukes' six-game win streak and their then-undefeat-

Madison got its revenge Tuesday night in Harrisonburg. The Dukes won 77-64, improving to 3-2 on the

"We came out here knowing we had to redeem ourselves," said JMU sophomore point guard Dawn Evans. "We didn't feel that we should have lost to them last year and coming into this game we had to come a little harder."

The Dukes came hard, but so

did the Flames. Late in the first half, JMU had a solid 9-point lead, 36-27. Liberty responded with an 11-0 run and took a 38-36 lead with less than two minutes left in the half.

"We fell asleep a little bit and allowed them to get back into basketball game," JMU coach Kenny Brooks said.

JMU senior forward Nina Uqdah fouled with 34 seconds left in the half. She made the first free throw, before missing the second.

JMU senior forward Kisha Stokes grabbed the rebound and made a routine layup with four seconds left on the clock.

The Dukes went into the locker

room at the half leading 39-38.

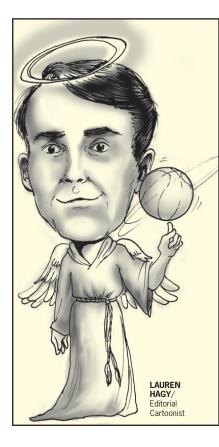
"They were beating us at our own game," Brooks said. "Liberty was playing strong, quick defense."

The Flames were also much stronger offensively than Brooks expected, specifically from behind the arc. Liberty finished 42 percent from 3-point range.

Some crucial injuries from earlier this season crippled the Flames in Tuesday night's contest. Two of the three Frazee triplets, Molly and Megan, were both out with injuries. Molly is out for the season, while Megan has missed the last four games.

The Dukes came out strong to start the second half. A 15-3 run gave them a 9-point edge with 9:35 left in the game. The Flames came within six with just under seven minutes remaining in regulation, but it was the closest they would be

See **HOOPS**, page 15



COMMENTARY

Saint Matt **Brady?**

Matt Brady is 43 years old, and the average life expectancy for an American man is 75. So that should give him 32 years, on average, to cement his résumé for Basketball Heaven.

What Catholic-raised coach wouldn't want to end up there?

No, the existence of an afterlife solely for hoop legends can't be proved — but use your imagination

God's "Gabriel" or messenger is, of course, James Naismith, the inventor of "Basket Ball," a game first played with a soccer ball and



CHAPMAN peach baskets in 1891. With your help I'm sure an extensive list of basketball

saints could be put together (see list below for the top five candidates). JMU's new coach has just 73 wins

to date, but he's only in his fifth year as a head coach. But basketball immortality isn't reserved for just the big winners anyway.

Take St. Jim Valvano, for instance Who hasn't seen the image of the charismatic young Italian American, leaping in joy after his N.C. State Wolf Pack pulled off a last-second upset over Georgetown for the 1983 national title? "Jimmy V" also gave a moving speech at the 1993 ESPY Awards before dying of cancer the same year, at the age of 47. His legacy lays in his V Foundation, which raises money for

cancer research. Enough history. Back to Brady. First and foremost he is a man of faith born and raised Roman Catholic. He was a star player at a parochial school Paul VI, in New Jersey and went on to Siena College, a Franciscan-founded school in Loundonville, N.Y. Siena's

nickname is the Saints, by the way. While Brady emphasizes that he is not a "zealot," his faith still clearly plays a role in his life. One of his first moves after being hired at JMU was buying a house in Crozet — about 40 minutes outside of Harrisonburg so his three young sons could attend Charlottesville Catholic School. (It probably wasn't the most endearing decision in the eyes of the JMU administration.)

See **BRADY**, page 14

Dukes Await Wildcats

Villanova travels to Madison for payback chance

By MATTHEW McGOVERN

Redemption games aren't foreign to the JMU football team.

In late September, the Dukes hosted Appalachian State just 10 months after the Mountaineers knocked JMU out of the first round of the NCAA playoffs. JMU scored 35 points in the second half to win 35-32.

But now, roles are reversed as No. 7 Villanova (10-2) travels to Harrisonburg in the second round of the NCAA playoffs, with a chance to avenge its last-second, 23-19 loss to JMU in late October.

As always, the intrigue is being downplayed by Madison's coach.

"Certainly, I'm sure Villanova feels like they should have won that game, and rightly so," Mickey Matthews said. "We wanted revenge against Appala-chian State, and look how we played in the first half against Appalachian this

NCAA Playoffs Second Round

Bridgeforth Stadium Saturday, 3:30 p.m. Parking lots open at 8 a.m.

year. You still gotta make plays, and what happened up there will have no effect on this game.

What's certain is that No. 1 JMU (11-1) is facing a worthy opponent in the Wildcats, who most recently drilled No. 16 Colgate 55-28 in their openinground playoff game held at Villanova Stadium. Villanova was up 41-7 at halftime, and the Wildcat second-team defense played the second half.

On the other hand, JMU nearly squandered a 28-14 halftime lead against No. 8 Wofford, who gave the Dukes all they could handle by out-scoring JMU 21-10 in the second half. Matthews said tackling, a familiar problem, plagued

Interestingly, the linebacking duo of freshman Jamie Veney and redshirt freshman Vidal Nelson started together for the first time against Villanova on

See CATS, page 15



TOP: Scotty McGee looks on as JMU drives for its final score of the first half in a 38-35 victory over Wofford. MIDDLE: Saturday's attendance was only 12,826, with many students still returning from Thanksgiving Break. LEFT: Rodney Landers warms up his throwing arm before the third quarter begins; he threw for three TDs. RIGHT: Mike Caussin celebrates Rockeed McCarter's touchdown catch with 23 seconds left in the first half.



new coach Matt Brady is tasked with the challenge of turning around a floundering program.

Freshman forward Andrey Semenov (11) had 12 points, seven rebounds and three assists Nov. 21 in an 82-69 win for the Dukes. Three of Madison's top four scorers through six games are freshmen, as

YOUTH WAVE

Freshmen stepping up for Dukes under new coach

STAFF REPORTS

After playing on the road for the sixth time in seven games last night at Longwood, men's basketball will return to Harrisonburg on Saturday to host Northeastern.

Saturday's matchup with the Huskies will be JMU's first conference match this season, and the first under new head coach Matt Brady.

JMU was 4-2 prior to its contest with Longwood last night, while Brady's freshmen newcomers had led the Dukes in scoring in four out of their six games.

Freshman Julius Wells was named the Colonial Athletic Association Rookie of the Week after averaging 13.0

points, 5.3 rebounds and 1.3 assists in three games. The forward had team highs of 13 points and six rebounds in 24 minutes in a 64-54 loss to Loyola on Nov. 24, while dropping 15 points, seven rebounds and three assists in JMU's 81-64 win over Florida Atlantic the following day.

Basketball Coaching Saints

St. Pat Summitt (Tennessee): Granted, the women's game has been easier to dominate but she is the winningiest coach, male or female, of all time. Approaching 1,000 wins, with eight NCAA titles at the age of 56 is angelic

St. Dean Smith (North Carolina): Only two NCAA titles, but 13 ACC titles in 36 years are pretty saintly. He retired in 1997 as the all-time winningiest coach with 879.

St. Adolph Rupp (Kentucky): Third most wins all time (876) in 41 years, and four national titles in one of the marquee programs of the sport.

St. John Wooden (UCLA): The Wizard of Westwood won a ridiculous 10 titles in 12 years, making the Bruins one of the most dominating programs of all time.

St. Bobby Knight (Indiana): Despite the profanity and tantrums, he's the winningiest men's coach of all time and has three titles with the Hoosiers in 29 years in the sport's Vatican.

BRADY: Dukes' New Coach Looks to Revive Madison Men's Basketball Program That Has Been Left For Dead

Brady, from page 13

"That's the reason why we're there," Brady said in October, adding that he'd love to live in Harrisonburg. "I, and my wife, both went to Catholic schools our whole lives.

"You know, as important as my job is to me... at the end of the day it's nothing compared to raising children with the same values that you want them to have."

So, check off faith and family values on his short résumé, but that alone won't earn him salvation in Basketball Heaven.
A resurrection of an abys-

mal basketball program could go even further. Madison hasn't had a winning record in eight seasons. It hasn't even been on the map since the mid-'90s when the legendary Lefty Driesell was the coach. Brady is confident, regardless.

"I have a lot of faith in this

returning group of players, and I've said it over and over again," Brady said before the season. "I'm not naïve enough to disregard this program's recent history, but I've also done this at Marist. I took over a program that was in a very similar situation and we had immediate success."

But Brady has his work cut out, and this situation isn't quite that similar.

In his first head coaching stint at Marist College, the Red Foxes were coming off two losing seasons — more of a purgatory, compared to JMU's hell — and went 6-22 in 2003-04 before he took over. They improved to 11-17 in Brady's first season and had winning records in the next three. In 06-07 Marist went 25-9, winning the Metro Atlantic regularseason title and the school's first postseason game, beating Oklahoma State in the NIT.

While good for a résumé, it was in the one-bid MAAC, which makes it notable at best. And two losing seasons is easier to recover from than eight.

Brady signed a five-year contract in April, and if he manages to do with JMU what he did with Marist, it's hard to imagine him not taking a higher-profile job in 2012. After all, he has a pedigree of out-recruiting his conference — especially with shooters

— and has tasted the NCAA tournament as an assistant during a Sweet-16 appearance with Rhode Island (87-88) and an Elite-8 run with St. Joseph's (03-04).

(Really, though, the NCAA tournament shouldn't even be uttered in Harrisonburg. JMU hasn't even gotten out

of the first round of the CAA tournament since 2003. And even with the recent success of George Mason and Virginia Commonwealth, the conference still has to fight for multiple bids. The last time JMU got the automatic bid was in '94, its only conference title.)

But forget the fact that Brady has the potential to be a John Beilein-type who bounces around after quickly rebuilding programs. Potential often means nothing. Ask JMU, which must have been encouraged by Dean Keener's recruiting of players like eventual NBA all-star Chris Bosh to Georgia Tech. He also made a Final Four-run as an assistant with the Yellow Jackets in '04. In four years at JMU, Keener posted a 31-85 record.

Before Keener, Sherman Dillard suffered through four losing seasons to end his seven-year run as coach. Athletic director Jeff Bourne should be glad anyone took this job, which seems to be career suicide.

So what does Brady have to do to avoid basketball damnation, and begin creating a pristine résumé to present at the pearly gates?

See **BRADY**, page 15

RECYCLE The Breeze When You're Done

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CATS: JMU Looks to Extend Season

Cats, from page 13

Oct. 25, after senior D.J. Brandon sustained a season-ending knee injury at Richmond two weeks earlier. In Nelson's first start, the Dukes struggled to tackle as a defensive unit.

But after five games starting together, Nelson feels that JMU's defense has the experience to rebound from its second-half collapse against Wofford.

"This time around, we're more focused and we're more comfortable out there," Nelson said after practice Tuesday. "That was me and Jamie's first start together. We've been watching the film of the game — being critics of ourselves — so we feel a little more comfortable."

No doubt, they have thoroughly scrutinized film of their last game. But it's not just the defense that slipped up.

Despite his stellar performance, quarterback Rodney Landers also threw his first interception since the Appalachian State contest against Wofford. The senior captain was hard on himself after the game, but found some positives in the experience.

"Well it was good to actually come out and have to earn it," Landers said. "Wofford was a well-coached team and we knew it would be a tough battle for us. A lot of people just thought it was gonna be a blowout from jump, but we pretty much knew we were gonna be in a dogfight."

After that experience, JMU should expect much of the same from a well-coached Villanova team that understands Madison's tackling issues as well as anyone after exploiting them in the teams' last meeting. And maybe, just maybe, the potential for redemption will have something to do with the outcome.

"We lost the league championship on that Hail Mary pass," Villanova coach Andy Talley said. "So it's not you're normal, everyday loss. It was very difficult in ramifications of what it meant for our program. So how do you dismiss something like that?"

PICKS: WEEK!

'Picks Of The Week' matches the predictions of Breeze editors in 12 football games every weekend, six college and six pro, against each other. Guests from outside the staff are encouraged to e-mail us at Breezesports@gmail.com to get your picks in *the Breeze* and test your abilities against ours.

The Breeze Editorial Staff and "Guest"











Erik	Matt	Megan	Wes	Tim	Joe
9-3	7-5	9-3	9-3	9-3	Guest
111-45	105-51	104-52	93-63	89-67	
JMU	Villanova	JMU	Villanova	JMU	JMU
OU	OU	OU	OU	Mizzou	OU
UF	Alabama	UF	UF	Alabama	Alabama
USC	USC	USC	USC	USC	USC
BC	VT	VT	BC	BC	BC
Navy	Navy	Army	Navy	Navy	Navy
Steelers	Cowboys	Steelers	Steelers	Steelers	Steelers
Skins	Ravens	Skins	Ravens	Skins	Ravens
Giants	Giants	Giants	Giants	Giants	Giants
Jets	Jets	Jets	Jets	Jets	Jets
Bucs	Panthers	Bucs	Panthers	Panthers	Panthers
Falcons	Saints	Falcons	Saints	Falcons	Falcons
	9-3 111-45 JMU OU UF USC BC Navy Steelers Skins Giants Jets Bucs	9-3 7-5 111-45 105-51 JMU Villanova OU OU UF Alabama USC USC BC VT Navy Navy Steelers Cowboys Skins Ravens Giants Giants Jets Jets Bucs Panthers	9-3 7-5 9-3 111-45 105-51 104-52 JMU Villanova JMU OU OU OU UF Alabama UF USC USC USC BC VT VT Navy Navy Army Steelers Cowboys Steelers Skins Ravens Skins Giants Giants Giants Jets Jets Bucs Panthers Bucs	9-3 7-5 9-3 9-3 111-45 105-51 104-52 93-63 JMU Villanova JMU Villanova OU OU OU OU UF Alabama UF UF USC USC USC USC BC VT VT BC Navy Navy Army Navy Steelers Cowboys Steelers Steelers Skins Ravens Skins Ravens Giants Giants Giants Jets Jets Jets Jets Bucs Panthers Bucs Panthers	9-3 7-5 9-3 9-3 9-3 111-45 105-51 104-52 93-63 89-67 JMU Villanova JMU Villanova JMU OU OU OU OU Mizzou UF Alabama UF UF Alabama USC USC USC USC USC BC VT VT BC BC Navy Navy Army Navy Navy Steelers Cowboys Steelers Steelers Skins Ravens Skins Ravens Skins Giants Giants Giants Giants Jets Jets Jets Jets Jets Bucs Panthers Bucs Panthers

HOOPS: Dukes Now 3-2 Behind Evans

Hoops, from page 13

for the rest of game.

Evans sealed the game by scoring the Dukes' final 14 points.

"She did exactly what I wanted her to," Brooks said.
The Dukes will now travel to Washington, D.C

The Dukes will now travel to Washington, D.C. to face the 5-1 Georgetown Hoyas of the Big East on Friday.

JMU sees Friday's game as a way to prove it can consistently compete at the top level of NCAA women's basketball.

"Georgetown is a very good basketball team," Brooks said. "Being able to win will give us a lot of confidence and open up some eyes. We feel like we have a great chance of winning if we go out and play intense basketball."

BRADY: Five Things He Must to do Bring Hope to Harrisonburg

Brady, from page 1

1.) STICK WITH HIS RECRUITS, AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT CATERING TO KEENER'S — The returning players haven't won at this level. The three scholarship freshmen are already in the top four in scoring through six games. Senior leader Juwann James has played only one game because of a heart problem, while senior

able 27 percent — possibly from a shoulder injury that kept him out of Wednesday's game against Longwood.

At 6-foot-7, junior forward Dazz Thornton is still underachieving (4 rebounds per game) despite losing about 30 pounds. Senior Kyle Swanston has been the one true bright point of the veterans. He's shooting 43 percent from long range and continues to be an emotional spark. Junior guard Pierre Curtis has been consistent,

and has improved his rebounding to lead the team with 5.8 per

game.

It shouldn't be a surprise that the freshmen are outperforming the veterans. Brady had a hand in recruiting NBA starters, Jameer Nelson (Orlando Magic) and Delonte West (Cleveland Cavaliers), to St. Joe's. His current recruits are similar in that they are tough and can score. However, getting a Duke to the league might mean Brady selling his soul to the devil.

2.) ACTUALLY GET THE TEAM TO PLAY DEFENSE — The last three years JMU has finished 12th twice and ninth once in team defense in the CAA.

"The thing [JMU] lacks, well probably two things and they're very connected, it's not a team that has defended well and it's subsequently not won," Brady said before the season.

The Dukes are improving, giving up an average of 67 points so far, and that includes a 99-point concession to Stephen Curry and No. 22 Davidson. Last year they gave up 73 per game, and finished last in the CAA. They're fourth best in the CAA in scoring defense this season.

3.) GET THE PROGRAM A POSTSEASON APPEARANCE

– The CAA tournament doesn't count and the last time JMU

— The CAA tournament doesn't count and the last time JMU danced was in '94. The last time they won was a first-round win over West Virginia in '83. God's merciful, but give him something to work with.

4.) COMPETE WITH FOOTBALL FOR THE AFFECTION OF THE STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY — In the midst of another national championship run; this is going to be hard. Competing with the Mickey Matthews' popularity will be even harder. There is fan potential, as seen in the 6,659 last year against George Mason, but after a 21-point loss to the "rival" the Convo went back to the least intimidating gym in the league.

5.) BE REALLY SELFLESS AND STAY WITH THE TEAM, IF
HE ACTUALLY DOES FIX IT — Even if Brady turned the disaster
around, his attention span will be like yours reading about JMU
basketball — waning quickly. Everyone wants to move up in his
or her profession, but all aspiring basketball saints should be
wary of pride one of the seven deadly sins

The pilgrimage has begun for the brave coach with the boyish look and enthusiasm. It continues Saturday at 11 a.m. in the CAA opener against Northeastern. Brady had been looking at

this game in hopes of getting his first good crowd.

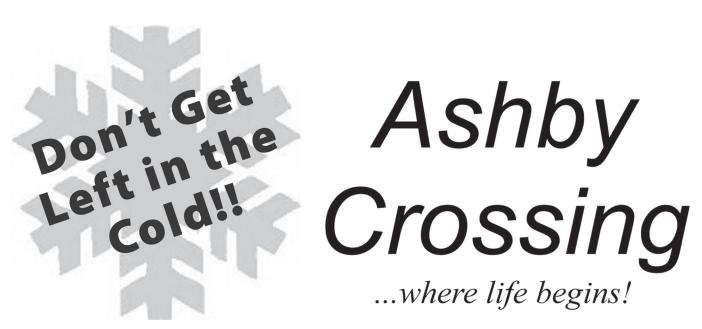
Unfortunately, that doesn't seem likely, as fans will be gearing up for the second round football game against Villanova. And at this point, tailgating is far more appealing to college students than JMU basketball. But who knows, if fans get out there early enough they might have a chance to drink a few. Beer has a reputation of making people go places and watch things they

Meet Coach Brady in an exclusive Breeze video as he goes 1-on-1 with Breeze

editor Tim Chapman.







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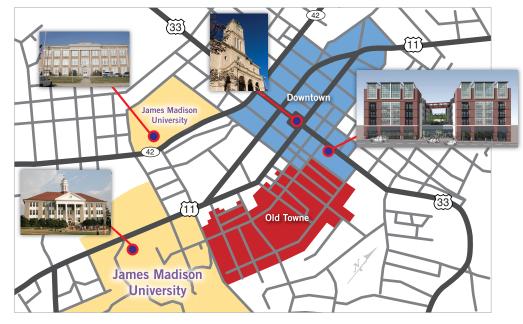
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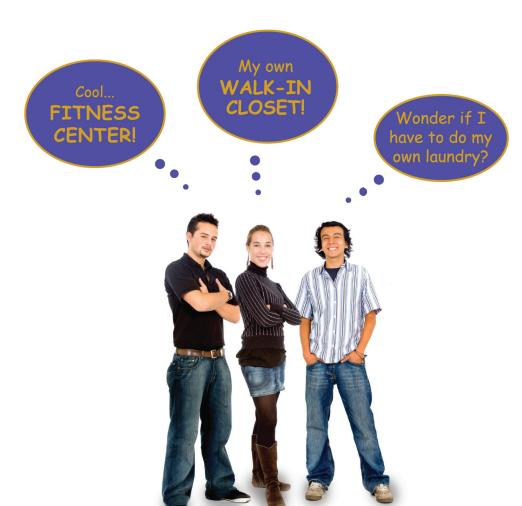
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New True-Story Drama, 'Milk,' Cries Out for Gay Rights

The Stanford Daily (Stanford University)

Glossy, poetic biopics don't always arrive at the right time in the right place. Wrapping a real, fallible individual in the soft-focus gauze of the silver screen, biographical films can often dance perilously close to the Chasm of the Saccharine or the Ravine of Deadly Boredom.

But Gus Van Sant's artfully crafted "Milk" has the good fortune to be the right film at the right time, and it certainly deserves to be taken seriously. Yes, "Milk" envisions politician Harvey Milk as a larger-than-life, tragic-heroic, wise-cracking gay icon whose every move was seen from a flattering camera angle. But what's so wrong with a little hero-making? Especially in these teary Prop. 8 times, "Milk" delivers a much-needed (if slightly maudlin) injection of flaming, prancing, Judy Garland-loving hope.

Harvey Milk (Sean Penn), the first openly gay candidate to be elected to a major American political office, served just 11 months as a San Francisco city supervisor before he and Mayor George Moscone (Victor Garber) were assassinated in 1978 by fellow supervisor Dan White (Josh Brolin). Milk was a groundbreaking activist and an energetic politician, but it's likely that most of the Californian 20-somethings who campaigned energetically against Prop. 8 won't have known very much about Milk until "Milk." The film, which blends some painless history lessons with universally fine acting, is a victory for the biopic genre, not least because it successfully goes about the business of resurrecting a semi-forgotten story that deserves remembering.

Milk's story has been cinematically presented before, in Rob Epstein's Oscar-winning documentary, "The Times of Harvey Milk" (1984). Van Sant's film echoes a great deal of the archival footage, photos and audio clips used in the documentary: TV interviews with Milk are reenacted, hippie wardrobes are meticulously copied and street-fronts from 1970s San Francisco are recreated with stunning accuracy. Everything is shot in deep, dark color, with an emphasis on dark; night scenes dominate, particularly during the rally sequences, in which striking, wide-angle shots hint at the immensity and fervor of the crowds that

marched with Milk through the streets of Frisco.

While covering documentary territory, "Milk" also adds semi-speculative insight into Harvey's personal life, which fresh-faced screenwriter Dustin Lance Black laces skillfully throughout the script. The film begins, tantalizingly, with the 40-year-old Milk chatting up a much younger man in a New York subway tunnel. That man, Scott Smith (James Franco), becomes Harvey's long-term partner, with whom he moves to San Francisco, where Harvey fashions himself as the unofficial Mayor of Castro Street, while Smith languishes quietly in the background like an over-tasked First Lady.

Penn might not seem like the "gayest" of men, but he is after all an actor, and he's working hard for the money. Undergoing an astounding physical transformation, Penn pitches his voice upward, miraculously loses his husky smoker's rasp, picks up Milk's Long Island Jew intonations and mirrors his boyish, upturned-lip smile. Penn even cultivates some surprising onscreen tension with Franco — the whole thing is certainly sexier than any grunting encounter from "Brokeback Mountain." But maybe it isn't too surprising that "Milk"

contains some convincing boy-on-boy moments; after all, Van Sant has certainly proved himself as a master of the bromance genre (as in "Finding Forrester," "Good Will Hunting," etc.).

The title of the Epstein documentary — "The Times of Harvey Milk" — suggested, perhaps, that the "times" were more important than the life. And while Harvey is the charming, magnetic center of "Milk," the film's focus is ultimately on the times — the determined struggle of the gay movement that Harvey put before all else in his short political career.

"Milk" opened just weeks after the passage of Prop. 8 and just days before the 30th anniversary of Harvey's death. In these modern times, the film is spookily resonant; some of Harvey's crowdrousing speeches even echo our president-elect: "I know that you cannot live on hope alone," Harvey Milk said, "but without it, life is not worth living." Like much of the Van Sant oeuvre, the film is a stylized, heartstring-tugging, impossibly poetic riff on human life, like some sort of Christmas special for smart adults. But it's also touching and well-executed and, for certain audiences, frankly inspiring. Luckily, "Milk" has arrived at the right time.

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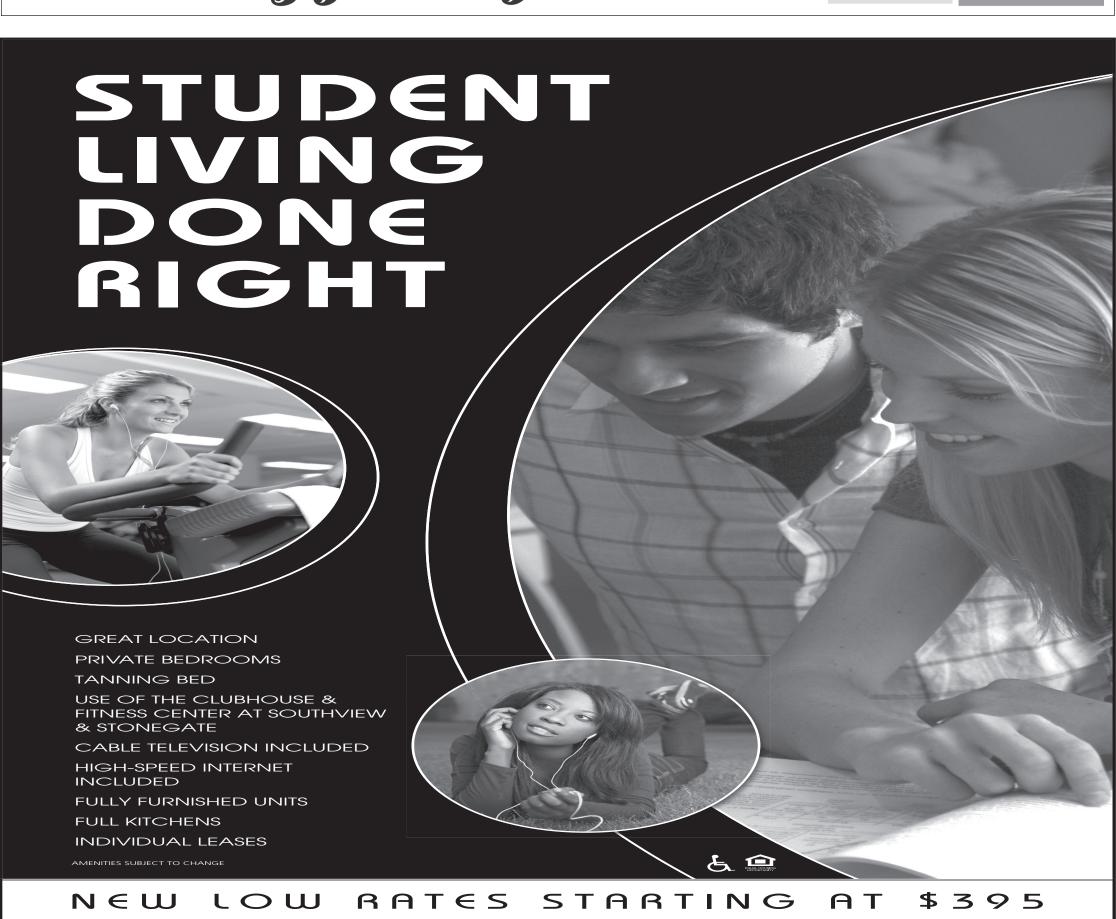
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MARCH: Practice Proves Worth It

March, from page 11

entire trip and it certainly was," Potter said. "However, it was really easy to muster up a lot of cheering at the game. We are first and foremost the Marching Royal Dukes and our main agenda is to cheer on our Dukes, and they haven't disappointed us."

The level of sacrifice these students go through for an extracurricular activity is staggering: daily practices from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. (as any student living in the Hillside area will tell you), weekends at the games and the event like the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade add up. However, they face it with alacrity and pride.

"It's just like a normal class, we do an hour and half every day," Rayner said. "It's exactly like being on a sports team. You work hard every day to then put out a product, which would be our show. Rooting for the team makes it all worth it at the end of the week."

Eight-Limbed Biter Not a Spider



DAVID LONNQUEST/Th

JMU grad Rachel Harper was bitten by an octopus at Sylvia's Pets.

By CAITLIN HARDGROVE

contributing writer

There are seven boxes of "Powder-Free Latex-Free Ultra One Exam Gloves" in the back storage room of Sylvia's Pets in Harrisonburg. But they are used by one person and her right hand: Rachel Harper.

"I had to wear gloves for four months straight every time I got my hand wet," said Harper, a JMU '07 graduate.

So, what's the deal with the glove?

Harper wasn't trying out her Michael Jackson impersonation on a school of goldfish, but a Common Octopus made it clear that it wanted her to "beat it."

Harper, 23, is the Aquatic Specialist at Sylvia's Pets, a locally owned pet

store. But this odd octopus occurrence happened in her home — which at one point last year had 27 fish tanks in it. Her new pet hadn't even been in its saltwater tank for 24 hours before Harper noticed something was wrong: It wasn't moving.

To see if it was dead, she reached in the tank to pick it up.

Harper quickly learned the octopus was alive as it latched to her hand and bit her right index finger with its beak and squirted venomous saliva. She instinctively flung it off and it smacked into her stone fireplace, where it spent its final moments.

The attack happened more than a year ago but Harper is still crazy about aquatic creatures, even though her finger is still not quite back to normal. She said she visits the renowned Baltimore National Aquarium at least four times a year.

"It used to be real itchy and sore and sometimes it would crack so bad it would start bleeding," Harper said. Now, with most of the feeling gone, the wound has slowly spread all over her finger, killing skin cells and causing a peely, scratched-up appearance.

Can she be cured?

After going to two family doctors and two dermatologists in Harrisonburg, Harper isn't sure.

"The first doctor said it was eczema and gave me medicine for that," she said. "Then I went to another doctor and they gave me stronger [eczema] medicine, but it definitely just made it spread."

A nurse from JMU's Health Center said they haven't dealt with any venomous bites, but if they did they would send them to the emergency room.

Harper said she plans to go to the hospital at the University of Vir-

ginia. Other injuries that she has gotten from marine life have had specific antidotes.

To read this article in full, go to breezejmu.org.

Sigur Rós Shows Their Celebratory Side

By CORY KUKLICK

contributing writer

For the greater part of the last decade, Sigur Rós have not been a band. Instead, they have been a pulse, a movement and for some, a void-filling catalyst. Coming close to the 15-year mark as a group, Sigur Rós have produced what many consider to be the most ethereal, haunting and ultimately beautiful music to be labeled as "post-rock."

Hailing from Iceland, Sigur Rós reached inter-

national popularity by defying musical normality, recording their songs in abandoned swimming pools and using an array of instruments, including a glockenspiel, banjo and a guitar that singer Jonsi Birgisson plays with a cello bow to create sweeping, often minimalist, epics. While at times the band just seemed to be fulfilling their per-

petual mountain-moving existence, the mastery they held over their songs rarely gives way to selfgratification. With the release of their fifth studio album, the band has begun the process of shedding their bulk, but not their majesty.

"Með suð i eyrum við spilum endalaust" (translated to English as "With a Buzz in Our Ears We Play Endlessly") finds Sigur Rós attempting to play on a much more economical scale, uncharted waters for a band that has made a career out of stretching their songs out into heavenly oblivion and back, but a move that certainly had to be made.

The album's first single and song, "Gobbledigook," barely clocks in over three minutes, and is one of the first times the joyous, perhaps even celebratory, side of Sigur Rós has been revealed. Birgisson's voice no longer seems out in the open, but rather on a dictated path as swirling

percussion, acoustic guitars and clapping hands

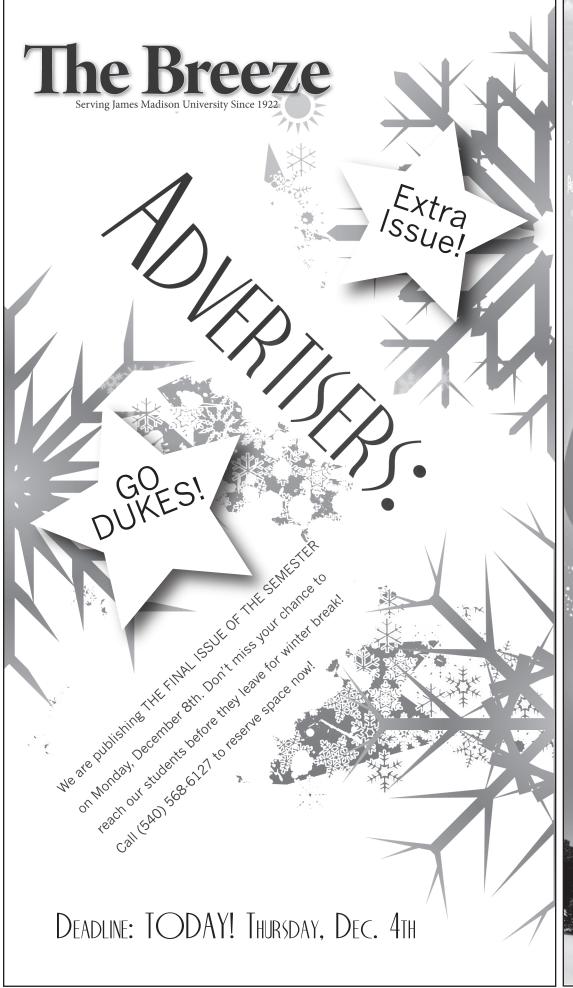
Sigur Rós continue to field restraint throughout the first third of the album, showing how much of a visceral punch they can pack in a more confined space. "Inní mér Syngur Vitleysingur" is filled with the whistles and chimes of the bands glockenspiel and a soaring trombone, while "Góðan daginn" is atmospheric and mixes wispy acoustic guitars with Birgisson's delicate falsetto vocals. Both songs total less than 10 minutes of music, and prove that in the case of Sigur Rós, the Earth can be split in a matter of minutes, not in a lifetime of constant pushing and pressure.

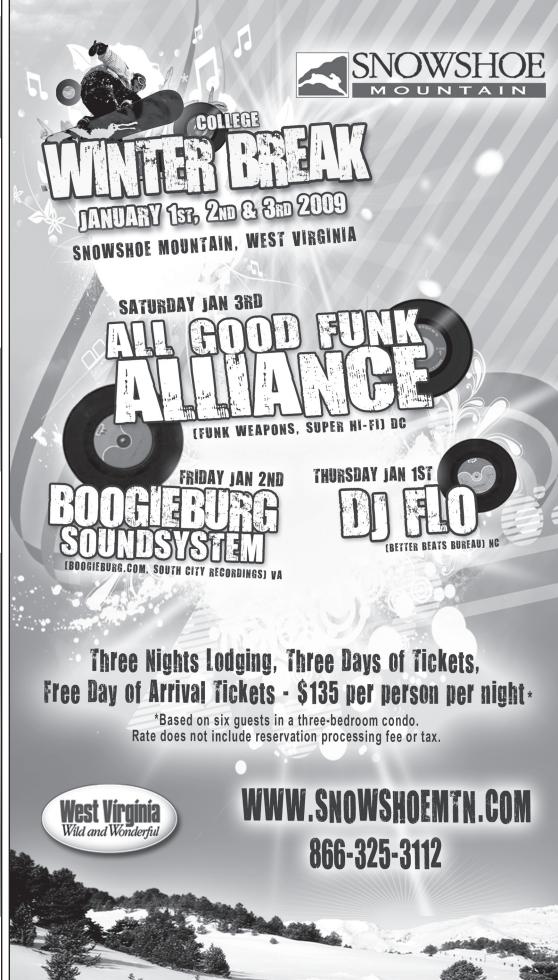
Not completely committed to their new trimmed-down approach, "Festival" and "Ára bátur" both flirt with the 10-minute mark. While "Festival" is on mark as one of Sigur Rós bests as

Birgission sings over a church organ before leading to orchestral buildups and climaxes, "Ára bátur" gets lost in its own drawn out breath.

Minimal setbacks aside, the brighter and much shorter side of Sigur Rós is a much needed and successful change. "Með suð..." is the natural evolution of a band that has conjured mystic monsters for their entire career. "Með suð..." is still a beast, just one that Sigur Rós rarely let off its leash.

Check out Cory Kuklick's article on the best music of 2008 in the first issue of *The Breeze* next semester.





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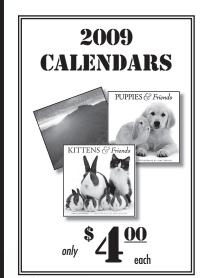
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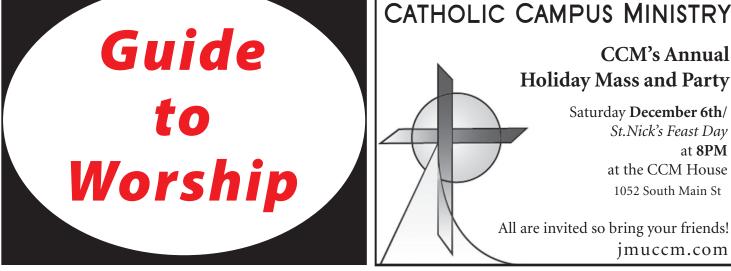
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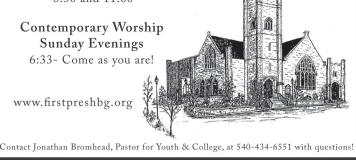
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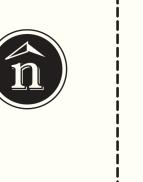
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