

# Police arrest flasher outside Taylor Hall

By JOHN SUTTER

A Harrisonburg man was arrested Tuesday for allegedly exposing himself outside Taylor Hall.

Carlos Perez-Lopez, 48, allegedly umped out of bushes at 1:17 p.m. by Taylor Hall and

> sure, which is a class one misdemeanor.

> > The victim

proceeded to call police from

her cell phone

as Lopez retreated back into the



Lopez, 48, was arrested Tuesday for allegedly exposing himself outside

Taylor Hall.

bushes.

"The officer was there detaining Lopez while she was still on the phone with the dispatcher," Shifflett said.

Police have not yet been able to connect Lopez to other indecent exposure cases in December and January, but have collected Lopez's DNA to compare withDNA collected from the other

'We can't tie to any other cases based on evewitness accounts," Shifflett said.

This is the first arrest in a series of crimes involving indecent exposures on

The first occurred on Dec. 13, when female witnesses reported a Hispanic male, 5 feet 7 inches tall, exposed himself

to them on the steps outside of Top Dog.

On Jan. 17, a Hispanic male was reported to expose himself to female witnesses between the Phillips Center and Hillcrest House, in close proximity to the first incident. The suspect was described as 5 feet 5 inches tall and approximately 30 years

On Jan. 24, a female witness reported a white male exposed himself in the C12 parking lot off Reservoir street and drove off in a silver Toyota Tundra. The suspect was described as 25 to 30 years old, heavy build, with black hair and black facial hair.

Shifflett said on Jan. 26 that he did not believe the incidents are related based on the suspect descriptions.

**CONTACT** John Sutter at breezenews@gmail.com.



MEREDYTH KIMM / THE BREEZE

Makai, 7, is one of about 800 local children that participate in Big Brothers Big Sisters. His "big" is John Wiskow, a junior communication studies major, who joined BBBS after a speaker came to his fraternity.

#### Students mentor local children through the 35-year-old branch of Big Brothers Big Sisters

#### By ADRIENNE LOWRY

contributing writer

Students at IMU are making a name for themselves in the Harrisonburg community, one kid at a time.

Mentors ("bigs") are matched up with younger children ("littles") of the same sex, according to Tish Harris, assistant director of the Rockingham County/Harrisonburg Big Brothers Big Sisters. Volunteers then either visit them at school for an hour a week or pick them up from their house and then spend time together for a few hours.

Big Brothers Big Sisters has been in Harrisonburg for 35 years and began as an outreach program in a church. The program has now grown to serve about 800 children, according to the organization.

"Here we all have a passion for children; no matter who you talk to, that's there," Harris said.

C.J. Friedman, a junior international business major, tutored a third grade class at Spotswood Elementary, where he bonded with one boy in particular.

"I asked the teacher what his home life was like, and when I heard it wasn't very good, I asked if the teacher could see if the family would be all right with us doing Big Brothers Big Sisters," Friedman said.

Before entering the mentoring program, many of the children are in need of something stable in their lives, Harris said. First-time littles often come from homes that are below the poverty line, have a parent in jail or come from a single-parent home.

Some of the children are referred to us fro counselors; some are acting out, are lonely, or have older siblings getting in trouble," Harris said.

'When they go to campus it opens their eyes to possibilities they don't usually see in their community. These kids don't think abou the possibility of going to college, so visiting JMU opens their eyes to that possibility."

#### **Tish Harris**

Assistant director, BBBS

For many of these children, having a mentor is exactly what they need to improve their lives, Har-

Even though the volunteers make a difference in the program, Big Brothers Big Sisters still needs help. The program faces a deficit of time and money.

According to Harris, most of the students who volunteer for Big Brothers Big Sisters are girls, causing a lack of boys to mentor younger boys.

"We are interested in all voluntee really need is men," Harris said. "We have 150 boys on a waiting list who want a mentor but have to wait."

John Wiskow, a junior communication studies major, started mentoring with Big Brothers Big Sisters after the program came to talk to his fraternity as part of the program's recruitment process.

He soon saw the impact of his mentoring as he spent more time with his little.

"My favorite part is what my little learns from me," Wiskow said. "He picks things up or says things I say. It's cool to see how I rub off on him."

Many mentors bring their littles to campus, show-

ing them UREC or showing them around. 'When they go to campus it opens their eyes to possibilities they don't usually see in their community," Harris said. "These kids don't think about the possibility of going to college, so visiting JMU opens their eyes to that possibility."

It is not only the mentors who see a change. After completing the program, more than 80 percent of children experience more self-confidence,

see BIG, page 4

# Police search six football players' dorm rooms

By JOHN SUTTER and KATIE THISDELL

The Breeze

Head football coach Mickey Matthews declined to comment Wednesday on the ongoing investigation for the Jan. 21 assault on South Main Street that now includes search warrants executed on six team members.

"I don't think it's appropriate to comment on an ongoing investigation," Matthews said at the press conference Wednesday for the JMU football sign-

Police seized laptops and cell phones from six freshmen JMU football players last week, according to search warrants filed in the Rockingham County clerk's

Two search warrants were executed on one player. The first warrant, issued on Jan. 24, was for his cell phone; on Friday, his laptop was confiscated following a second warrant. Search warrants were also executed on five other players Friday.

Police said Wednesday that no arrests have been made and no specific suspects have been identified. The Breeze is not reporting the names of the six players because no formal charges have been filed.

Jeff Bourne, director of Athletics, said Wednesday morning that no disciplinary action has been taken against any of the players. He said he was aware search warrants were executed on more than one player; on Friday, Bourne had said that one player was

being investigated. 'I know that investigation is ongoing and I was aware that there would be warrants," Bourne said Wednesday.

"Just because there's search warrants doesn't mean they're guilty."

The warrants were all related to Virginia State Code 18.2-41, which refers to offenses including assault by mob and gang participation.

"It is still an ongoing investigation and we are not going to get into specifics at this time," said Mary-Hope Vass, police spokeswoman.

The six warrants were executed on dorm rooms in the Hillside dorm area on Friday. Police recovered four laptops, two cell phones and a copy of the Jan. 24 issue of The Breeze, according to reports filed Monday.

The search warrants also specifically instructed police to search for biological evidence and gang paraphernalia, in addition to the cell phones and

see ASSAULT, page 4



ROBERT BOAG / THE BREEZE

By the end of the first half of Wednesday's basketball game, William & Mary was up 35 points to JMU's 21. For full game coverage, visit breezejmu.org.

2/3 INSIDE

**Honors scholars** 

16 Honors Program students have applied for prestigious scholarships.

Middle East mobilization Egyptian uprising may spark

similar action across regions.

New and Improv'd Campus comedy group is both funny and flexible.

Signing day 15 incoming freshmen join the Dukes' roster.

EDITORS Elizabeth Baugh & Megan Reichart E-MAIL breezecopy@gmail.com

Thursday, February 3, 2011

### The Breeze

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#### MISSION

The Breeze, the student-run newspaper of James Madison University, serves student, faculty and staff 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 First Amendment rights

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### **Teen birth rate** hits new low

WASHINGTON — The long decline in teen births, which had stalled for two years, seems to be back on track, federal health officials announced Wednesday.

The teen birth rate declined 8 percent between 2007 and 2009, hitting a historic low of 39.1 births per 1,000 teens ages 15 to 19, according to a new analysis from the National Center for Health Statistics

Moreover, the rates fell significantly for teens in all age groups and all racial and ethnic groups, pushing the rate for each age group and for nearly all race and ethnic groups to the lowest levels ever reported, according to the analysis.

The new statistics confirm the government's preliminary analysis of the national data that was released in December. That showed the birth rate had dropped 6 percent between 2008 and 2009 — the second year in a row that the birthrate among teens fell. The 8 percent two-year decline bolstered hopes that an alarming 5 percent increase over the two previous years was an aberration.

The birth rate for young teens ages 15 to 17 fell 6 percent between 2008 and 2009, the largest single-year drop since 2001. The rate for older teens, ages 18 and 19, also fell 6 percent, which was the largest single-year decline since 1972. The number of births to teen-agers in 2009

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fell to 409,840, which is the fewest since 1946 and 36 percent fewer than in 1970, which was the highest in history.

The reason for the record low remains unclear. But some experts have attributed it to the recession, noting that the overall fertility rate as well as the total number of births in the United States fell a second straight year in 2009 as well. Others, however, suggested that the intense concern about the 2005 to 2007 increases and the attention it garnered may have gotten through to teens. Some data, for example, indicate that the use of birth control pills and other forms of contraception was increasing.

The rise in teen pregnancies had triggered an intense debate about whether increased funding for sex-education programs that focus on encouraging abstinence may be playing a role.

The Obama administration has launched a \$110 million teen pregnancy prevention effort that will support a range of programs, including those that teach about the risks of specific sexual activities and the benefits of contraception and others that focus primarily on encouraging teens to delay sex.

### **Google and Bing** fight search wars

WASHINGTON — You could say that Bing has been engaged in the sincerest form of flattery. But the company making this

do corporate

donations corrupt

observation — Google — would probably not phrase things so nicely.

Tuesday morning, Google alleged that Microsoft's Bing has been using that company's Internet Explorer browser and Bing toolbar to gather intelligence on Google's search results, then refine its own findings accordingly.

As explained in a long post by Search Engine Land editor Danny Sullivan, Google set out to prove this by artificially inserting search results in response to near-gibberish searches and then seeing if Bing would yield the same links in response to the same queries.

Sullivan's piece and a later item on Google's own blog show the results in pairs of screenshots. Each post illustrates how a search on a misspelled or made-up word — "torsoraphy" or "hiybbprqag," for instance yielded similar links both on an adulterated Google results page and in Bing's normal search.

Microsoft representatives didn't deny the practice to Sullivan but said it was only a minor ingredient in Bing's search stew. In a post on the Bing blog later Tuesday, Harry Shrum, a Microsoft vice president, called Google's expose "a spy-novelesque stunt to generate extreme outliers."

It's not sportsmanlike behavior for one search engine to copy another's results, but this isn't sports. It's a business with a lot of money at stake. Both sites would be stupid not to snoop on each

BUSINES!

by bill wood

don't

### CORRECTIONS

■ In the Jan. 31 issue, the article titled "University awarded for community engagement" reported that JMU "offers" CS-L. However, individual professors may choose to partner with CS-L, but the university has not created courses specifically designed through CS-L. There are about 30 courses that choose to incorporate service-learning.

Additionally, "Break Away 2010" was misreported as a JMU organization. Break Away is a national alternative break nonprofit organization that assists more than 150 colleges and universities with individual programs.

# noroscopes



IF YOU WERE BORN TODAY: Born today, you are likely to sav

and do a great many things in life that are remembered long after you have faded from memory. And this a notion that actually pleases you quite well, for you are confident that while you may ultimately be forgotten, good works and fine accomplishments are surely to be remembered for what they are.





solitary venture into a social event - and maximize your returns as a result.



can surely do so, provided your preparations are complete. **TAURUS** 





(May 21-June 20) A difficulty arises after you fail to anticipate just what you'll be facing when the competition

heats up. **CANCER** (June 21-July 22)

You have something to contribute that others cannot match. Be ready for

the invitations to come pouring in.



differing opinions, but only one

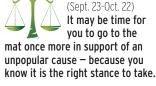
**LEO** 

(July 23-Aug. 22)

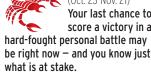
You can expect

others to have

looking at routine affairs will be appreciated. Grant someone an unusual favor. **LIBRA** 













your critics, at least temporarily, by doing precisely what you have been doing all along.

# **POLICE LOG**

#### Larcenv

- On Monday, a contractor reported the theft of a paint sprayer, valued at \$800, from Wayland
- On Tuesday, a student reported the theft of a parking pass, valued at \$212, in the R2 L of.
- On Monday, a student reported the theft of medication from Hanson

#### **Alcohol and Drugs** ■ On Sunday, a student

- was given a DUI charg on Cantrell Avenue and Paul Street.
- On Sunday, a student was given a drunk in public charge on Sully Drive.
- On Saturday, a student was given an underaged possession charge on Devon Lane.
- On Saturday, a student

#### possession charge on Sully Drive and Usman Circle. **Property Damage**

was given a drunk in

public and an underaged

#### ■ On Saturday, a student reported \$200 worth of damage to a hallway and vending machine in Rockingham Hall.

Bring this advertisement into Clementine and get a friend into a show for free with the purchase of your ticket! Thursday: Frontier Ruckus + Judy Chops | Folk + Americana | \$5

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### IN BRIEF

#### HARRISONBURG Panel to discuss **Egyptian** crisis

On Friday at 4:30 p.m. the Center for Faculty Innovation will hold a panel discussion about the protests in Egypt. The panel will include professors from the political science, sociology, history, art, integrated science and technology and communication studies departments. The event is open to the public in Showker 105.

#### Parking services adds more student spots

Beginning Feb. 7 the temporary gravel lot on Godwin Field and the second floor of the Champions Drive Parking Deck will change to commuter parking until May 6. The top level of the parking deck will not reopen until the stadium construction is complete in

# Alleged gun brandisher to face grand jury

A Ruther Glen, Va. man who allegedly waved a gun in a Fox Hills townhouse in the early morning of Oct. 31 will appear in front of a grand jury in Harrisonburg Circuit Court for two felony charges.

Mario Dominic Wright, 19, is charged with felony grand larceny and felony firearm larceny. Two other charges, underage possession of alcohol and concealed carry of a weapon, were dropped in Rockingham General District Court on Tuesday.

In exchange for the dropped charges, Wright agreed to waive his preliminary hearing, which would have allowed him to plea not guilty before appearing in front of a grand jury.

Wright arrested early Oct. 31 when police responded to a 2:11 a.m. call, according to police spokeswoman Mary-Hope Vass. Witness reports described Wright as drinking alcohol and waving around a gun inside the townhouse. Nearby individuals pointed out to Wright to the police, who then

Wright will appear in Harrisonburg Rockingham Circuit Court on Feb. 22.

staff reports

#### **ACADEMICS**

# Competing for greatness

JMU Honors Programs recruits, prepares students to compete for nation's top scholarships

#### By AARON KOEPPER

The Breeze

Deadlines just passed for 16 students vying for some of the country's most prestigious scholarships.

JMU has eight students competing for Fulbright Scholarships, which pays for students to study abroad. Two are competing to be Rhodes Scholars, two for the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship, two for the Udall Scholarship and two for the Harry S. Truman Scholarship.

One student is each competing for a Marshall Scholarship, Jacob K. Javits Scholarship, Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholarship and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-

All the scholarships are nationally competitive, meaning any college student who meets the basic requirements can apply. Most of the scholarships see more than a thousand students apply, and the scholarships accept only 100.

Some, such as the Javits Scholarship, are awarded by the Department of Education. Others, like the Goldwater Scholarship, are awarded by a pri-

Rewards for the scholarships can be paid trips to study abroad or research grants, or simply paying a student's tuition at school for the following

Barry Falk, director of JMU's Honors Program, said he believes they had very strong candidates competing this year.

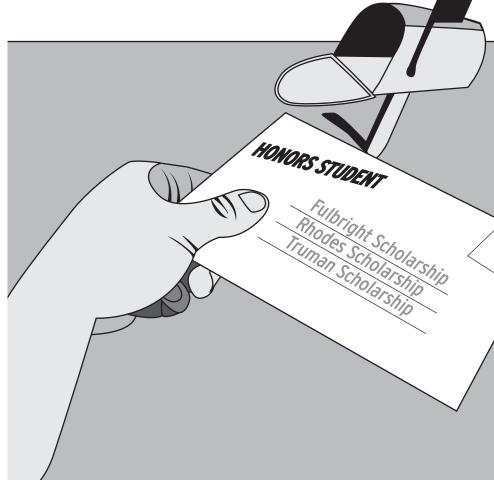
"I'm not sure JMU students give themselves enough credit and confidence that they ought to have," Falk said. "Part of the challenge over time is convincing students they can do it."

Melinda Adams, the Honors Program's prestigious scholarships coordinator, mentored the 16 students through the application process.

Some kinds of students are more independent and only come to me a couple times," Adams said. "For some of them, I might read four or five drafts of their application and give them very specific feedback. I get to know them pretty well."

While each scholarship has different application requirements, most of them require their school to nominate them to the national scholarship committee. They also require students answer multiple short answer questions or essays as to why they should receive the scholarship, and provide multiple references.

Amanda Kuhnley, an integrated science and technology and art double major, is competing for the Javits Scholarship, which pays for winners masters' level education in arts, humanities and



GRAPHIC BY JENA THIELGES / THE BREEZE

Kuhnley said the support she received from Adams helped her greatly throughout the appli-

"They were the best part," Kuhnley said. "They were so willing to help me with whatever I needed. They always had their doors open."

Kuhnley said it took her a month to get all the materials for the scholarship ready, which could provide up to \$30,000 to help her get a master's degree in art conservation from New York

Chelsea Cockburn, a junior biology and kinesiology double major, is applying for the Goldwater  $\,$ Scholarship, which would provide for her up to \$7,500 and allow her to stay at JMU a fifth year and

carry out research with the university. Cockburn said she spent months editing the research proposal that is part of the scholarship requirements.

Adams said the competitiveness associated with many of the scholarships made it difficult to

see HONORS, page 4

# Man died from smoke inhalation



TOP Firefighters examine a door at 2180 Reservoir St., where Archivaldo Marquez Romero, 62, was found dead on Monday. BOTTOM The fire department said the house filled with smoke, ultimately killing the victim.

#### By MATT SUTHERLAND

The Breeze

A 62-year-old man died Monday from smoke inhalation in a house on Reservoir Street.

Archivaldo Marquez Romero, was found dead inside his home on 2180 Reservoir St. after authorities responded to an emergency fire, according to Harrisonburg Fire Department

Shifflett said the fire was started on the kitchen stovetop, where Romero had left food unattended.

HFD said there were no smoke detectors in the house, which is owned by Timothy B. Whitmore. According to city records, Whitmore, who has owned the building since 1995, also owns a house at 2170 Reservoir St., as well as three condominiums on Mosby Court.

According to Harrisonburg city code Sec. 5-2-16, smoke detectors must be located in any building where a one or more person is living. Additionally, a landlord must provide a tenant with a certificate that states all smoke detectors are present and

At 2:20 p.m. Monday, police received a call asking them to perform a check on the welfare of Romero, according to a police press release. Neighbors told police that they had not seen Romero for a while.

About 30 minutes later, authorities received a second call reporting a fire at the same residence, which is positioned on the corner of Reservoir Street and Foley Road.

Shifflett said the fire probably occurred "several hours" before it was reported.

**CONTACT** Matt Sutherland at breezenews@gmail.com.



# **UPB** receives grant for alternative Springfest



CORY D'ORAZIO / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Andrew Reese, SGA president, reveals the May Commencement speaker as Laren Poole of Invisible Children at the Student Government Association's weekly meeting.

#### By TYLER McAVOY The Breeze

The Student Government Association revealed two university-wide planned events at its weekly meeting

Andrew Reese, president of the SGA, announced that the University Program Board received funding

for an event called an "alternative to Springfest." According to UPB Coordinator Carrie Martin, the event has been given

\$60,000 by the university and will be

student organized.

"This comes from a reaction of a lot of people that if they had something to go to other than Springfest last year, they would've gone to that instead," Martin said. "We really want students to feel ownership of this, and want students to be involved [with the event]."

According to Martin, the event will take place on the Festival lawn on April 30. Martin plans to have music, novelty entertainment, inflatables and student organization participation.

see SGA, page 4

# **HONORS** To be notified in March

from page 3

say whether or not students from JMU would win.

"It's one of those things where there's so many people applying from all across the country in any given year," Adams said. "You have great applicants but you're just not

Nevertheless, Adams said she was encouraged by JMU's successes in previous years.

At least five JMU students have won scholarships since the head coordinator position was created in spring 2007, according to Adams and the Honors Program's website.

The most recent winner was alumnus Eric Pasciuti in 2010, when he received a Fulbright Scholarship to teach English to elementary school children in

Ryan Powanda, a 2009 integrated science and technology alumnus, was one of 80 students nationwide who won the Udall Scholarship in 2007, according to the Honors Program's prestigious scholarship website.

Katherine Kross, a 2008 biology graduate, won the Goldwater Scholarship in 2007. Many of the recipients

**CONTACT** Aaron Koepper at koeppad@dukes.jmu.edu.

will be notified in March.

# **ASSAULT** | Affidavit details assault injuring eight people

from front

computers.

"Any and all clothing, to include shoes, believe to contain biological evidence to include DNA: blood stains: saliva," the search warrant reads.

The affidavit filed with the original Jan. 24 search warrant gives an account of the assault by mob that injured eight people at 1225 S. Main St., an unofficial Lambda Chi Alpha

"It has been determined through the investigation that an altercation took place between an invited guest of the party and an unknown white male where a window was broken and the unknown male was physically assaulted after having been asked to leave the residence a number of times." the affidavit states

After the white male left the party, the affidavit states that two unknown black males arrived at 1225 S. Main St. and told partygoers to not mess with the previous male. Shortly after, six to 10 unknown males broke down the basement door and assaulted eight victims in the house.

At least four victims were taken to Rockingham Memorial Hospital with non-life-threatening injuries, according to

**CONTACT** John Sutter and Katie Thisdell at breezeeditor@gmail.com.

# **SGA** | Co-founder of Invisible Children is May graduation speaker

from page 3

Additionally, SGA announced the May 2011 graduation speaker as Laren Poole, co-founder of Invisible

"We really want Laren to be involved on campus while he's here," Reese said. "We want him to do stuff with the chapter of Invisible Children, instead of just dropping in and

Diana Gates, a senior

Grand Duke

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international affairs major, is co-president of JMU's Invisible Children Chapter.

"We're really excited," Gates said. "The Invisible Children club at JMU will give him a tour of the campus and show him what JMU is all about."

Rachael Capone, a senior sociology major, was one of the members of JMU's Invisible Children chapter who suggested Poole as a candidate for graduation speaker.

"Invisible Children relies

heavily on youth activism, and Laren really helped redefine it," Capone said. "Once you catch the bug, you just want to get involved in everything you can."

In other business, SGA also approved a total of \$6,353 in funding for Sister Speak, the Vietnamese Student Association and Occupational Therapy Association.

**CONTACT** Tyler McAvoy at mcavoytl@dukes.jmu.edu.



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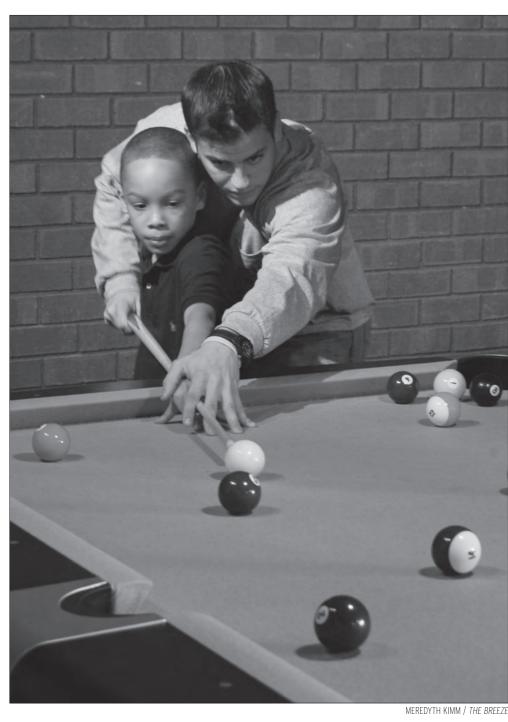
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Work for The Breeze.

**BIG** Mentors notice a change in the attitudes of themselves, their littles



Junior John Wiskow and his little, Makai, 7, play billiards during their time together at 865 East. As part of the Big Brothers Big Sisters program, Wiskow spends four to six hours per week with Makai.

from front

feel more positive about their futures, improve their schoolwork, avoid illegal substances and form greater relationships with their family and peers, according to a 2010 study done by Big Brothers Big Sisters.

"We love college students because they're closer in age, and especially with the young men, they say, 'You get me, you're young,' "Harris said.

Junior Brooke Garrity, a nursing major, always knew she wanted to mentor, so when she saw the advertisement asking for mentors on a table tent her freshman year, she applied right away.

"I wanted to be a mentor to someone younger where I could really make a greater impact," Garrity said.

Being a mentor has let her take a closer look at the person she wants to be.

"Big Brothers Big Sisters has made me more conscious of the type of person I project when I am around other people, especially children," Garrity said.

Some mentors see a change in themselves, something they never expected when they began the mentoring process. "It taught me how to man-

age my time," Wiskow said. "You learn that your time is not the most important thing and that your little comes first." Not only does the program

effect how the mentors act, it effects how they see their surroundings "It has opened my eyes to

the misfortunes in this country and even in Harrisonburg area, Friedman said.

"You learn that your time is not the most important thing and that your little comes first."

**John Wiskow** 

Spending an additional four to six hours a week, mentoring can be a lot of work, but most mentors enjoy themselves too much to consider it work.

"Many volunteers say that they feel like they get just as much out of mentoring as the kids," Harris said.

Once the mentor and the little get to know each other more and spend time together, the mentors tend to find themselves enjoying their time as much as their littles.

"I get to do more kid stuff again, which is always great," Garrity said. "My favorite part is spending time with her and seeing how excited she is when I come to get her. One time I went over there and her mom told me she had been excited all day and had said 'My big sister is coming!"

Not only does Big Brothers Big Sisters help the people involved. it helps with JMU's image in the community.

"A lot of people in the community bash JMU but we are on the opposite side of the spectrum," Harris said. "These students come and volunteer and really make a difference in these child's lives and people are beginning to take notice."

**CONTACT** Adrienne Lowry at lowry3am@dukes.jmu.edu.



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– Thursday, February 3, 2011 **5** 

**CONNOR GWIN** | contributing columnist

# Revolutions may cause chain reaction

The aroma of revolution quickly drifted from Tunisia to the streets of Egypt

Following the successful expulsion of the dictator Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali in Tunis, the call went out on Facebook for an Egyptian revolution.

Seemingly overnight, the Twitter and Facebook generation successfully rallied hundreds of thousands to its cause, across the nation of Egypt. Most were young people who had not been politically active, and did not belong to the traditional circle of political opposition, such as the Society of Muslim Brothers. What protestors lacked in experience, they made up for in enthusiasm and commitment to the cause: a free and democratic government in Egypt.

Since Jan. 25, the Egyptian government has chosen to deal with the protestors with the utmost violence and brutality, possibly to protect current Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak's regime from the same fate as the government in Tunisia. The protests in Egypt prove that oppression, however it manifests itself, cannot survive unchecked and the voice of the people is louder than any form of tyranny. The government in Cairo failed to realize the people were not simply reacting to the Tunisian revolt, but also had a laundry list of complaints against the regime.

The list of grievances for the Egyptian protesters was long focused on legal and political issues including police brutality, state of emergency laws, lack of free elections and free speech and corruption, as well as economic issues including high unemployment, food price inflation and low minimum wages. Demands from protest organizers included rights of freedom and justice, the end of the Mubarak regime and a new government that represents the interests of the Egyptian people.

With the announcement on Tuesday that the president will not seek re-election in the upcoming election, the protestors have achieved their main goal. Mubarak may have realized that history was not on his side in this fight. As evidenced by previous independence efforts, citizens who are pushed to the breaking point by their government are no longer afraid to stand up and fight. There is only so much oppression that people will stomach without speaking up. It is as if the Egyptian people stood together and said in a loud voice, "Enough!"

EDITOR Kaleigh Somers E-MAIL breezeopinion@gmail.com —

As evidenced by previous independence efforts, citizens who are pushed to the breaking point by their government are no longer afraid to stand up and fight.

The revolution in Tunisia and the current protests in Egypt add tension to an already stressed situation in the Middle East. In a region marked by strict governments and tight control of expression, people are standing up and rallying for freedom, which is fundamental to humanity. Protests are springing up in Yemen, Algeria and Jordan, and rumblings of revolution are being heard in Saudi Arabia, Syria, Libya and Oman, according to The Washington Post.

The future of the Middle East may be shaped by Mubarak's response to the protests. His might not be the last government challenged by its people. In the coming weeks and months there may be efforts around the world to impose democracy and liberty.

Last week, Mohammad ElBaradei, leader of the opposition movement in Egypt, said, "If you keep closing the door to peaceful change then don't be surprised if the scenes we saw in Tunisia spread across the region."

Connor Gwin is a junior religion major. Contact Connor at gwincb@dukes.jmu.edu.



sarily reflect the truth.

Submit Darts & Pats at breezejmu.org

A "you-done-left-fingerprints**and-all"** dart to the girl who my friend caught red-handed snooping through my wallet in Festival.

From a disappointed junior who suggests you read the JMU Values Statement.

A "do-you-like-what-you-see?" pat to the inquisitive girl who ventured into the men's bathroom in

Carrier Library. From a boy who wants to know if you girls really have couches in the women's bathroom.

A "know-the-limitations-ofyour-car" dart to the person who attempted to park on a snow bank and failed.

From a regular C10 Lot driver who knows not to do that.

A "this-is-not-the-love-shack" dart to the couple on the third floor of East Campus Library who felt the need to make out every 5 minutes.

From an irritated senior who thinks you need to find a better place to spend your free time.

A "Stairway-to-seven" dart to all the Steelers haters.

From a lifelong Pittsburgh fan who didn't "jump on the bandwagon' along with the rest of Steeler Nation.

An "I-thought-I-told-you,we're-over!" dart to calculus for making an appearance in my chemistry class on Monday morning. From a girl who doesn't want her

two enemies joining forces.

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A "did-I-look-cold-to-you?" dart

to whoever put a scarf on me. From the James Madison statue

who says, "Thanks, but no thanks."

A "keep-the-chemicals-in-thechemistry-lab" dart to the girl who decided it was a good idea to remove her nail polish on the bus.

From a girl who wishes she smelled a cup of coffee in your hand at 9 a.m. rather than nail polish remover.

A "teach-me-how-to-jerk" pat to the fine men of "Dance Move Fridays" on YouTube.

From a senior girl who's still trying to perfect her "reject."

A "follow-your-heart" pat to the boys who will muster up the courage to ask their sweethearts out for Valentine's Day.

From someone who's hoping her sweetheart will have the courage sometime soon.

A "sometimes-sharing-is-NOTcaring" dart to the boys above us for blasting their techno music.

From the sickly girls downstairs whose headaches would be cured with a little less techno and a little more sleep.

A "this-is-not-a-winterwonderland" dart to the girls sledding down the Village hill on Sunday night.

From a Chappelear Hall resident who wouldn't have minded the laughing had there actually been snow on the ground.



**FURBANK** | contributing columnist

# Pepsi chooses charity over commercials

Imagine you just won the lottery. What would you do with \$2.5 million? Maybe you'd buy a huge house or a bunch of expensive cars. Some might invest. Others might help the poor. There are countless possibilities. As a list of luxurious fantasies ran through your heads, I'd be willing to bet that none of you thought, "I'd buy a 30 second Super Bowl ad spot!"

It's shocking to think that in order to promote your company or cause for just 30 seconds on Sunday, you'd have to shell out an average of \$2.5 million. And that doesn't even account for the production cost of the ad. This ridiculous price gets justified because of the limited ad space and the massive audience tuning in every year to watch the big game. This year alone, more than 100 million people are expected to watch. In 2008, there were 63 ad spots sold. Over the past 20 years, more than 200 advertisers have spent \$1.84 billion on commercials.

This is one of the most tragic examples of wasted money I've ever witnessed. Many will argue the revenue companies make from this advertising outweighs the cost, but there are no concrete results to prove this isn't just an excuse for networks to overcharge for prime airtime.

Others defend the entertainment factor of the ads. I, on the other hand, think the Super Bowl should be able to stand alone as entertainment. If we already pay athletes millions of dollars, shouldn't they be the main focus of the event? In addition, the singers, bands and celebrities who grace the game with their presence provide an entirely different level of entertainment. If we can't find merit in either the game or the halftime show and rely on commercials to entertain us, then maybe we shouldn't even have a Super Bowl

anymore. We should find a better use of the millions of dollars spent annually to advertise products for companies that already make more money than they

know what to do with. Last year, in a bold and daring effort, PepsiCo launched a charitable initiative called "Pepsi Refresh." Instead of spending nearly \$20 million on ads, the company provided grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$250,000 to local initiatives positively impacting the community

We should find a better use of the millions of dollars spent annually to advertise products for companies that already make more money than they know what to do with.

PepsiCo set up an application and opened it to anyone with an idea who needed help with funding to apply for the grants and needed help to get the ball rolling. Individuals, groups, companies and organizations are continually able to sign up for different categories: health, arts and culture, food and shelter, the planet, neighborhoods and education. Anyone can log on to RefreshEverything.com and vote for the projects they think are most deserving of a grant. PepsiCo accepts 1,000 project ideas and award up to 32 grants per month. To date, 352 projects have received grant funding from

PepsiCo, and the project is still going

strong and has granted \$14.5 million. Thanks to PepsiCo's initiative, there are countless success stories. In Richmond, Va., Healthy Happy Children, Inc. received \$5,000 to provide students with nutritious bag lunches and school supplies. Heartwood Elementary in Fredericksburg, Va. received \$5,000 to purchase iTouches and provide teachers with educational applications. The Instrumental Music Parent's Association won a \$25,000 grant to provide musical instruments for Lewis and Clark High School in

Spokane, Wa. Grant applicants used social networking, community outreach and many other strategies to garner support for various causes. PepsiCo was thrilled with this, not only because it turned heads by refraining from commercial advertising in the Super Bowl, but it also had thousands of people bringing new traffic to its site. This increased brand awareness, strengthened its relationship with customers and painted a charitable image of PepsiCo in the eyes of the community. PepsiCo was also able to better understand what's important to communities across America and how to help them.

The project was a smashing success. If more monster companies, who frequently throw away millions of dollars on Super Bowl airtime, were to follow in PepsiCo's footsteps, the community and the companies would benefit. We might even come to respect these multi-national corporations, instead of complaining about the monopolies held over industries.

Lani Furbank is a freshman media arts & design major. Contact Lani at furbanlf@dukes.jmu.edu.

# Editorial Policies

The Breeze welcomes and encourages readers to voice their opinions through letters and guest columns. Letters must be no longer than 250 words. Guest columns must be no more than 650 words. The Breeze reserves the right to edit submissions for length, grammar and

if material is libelous, factually inaccurate or unclear. *The Breeze* assumes the rights to any published work. Opinions expressed in this page, with the exception of editorials, are not necessarily those of The Breeze or its staff.

Letters and guest columns should be submitted in print or via e-mail and must include name, phone number, major/year if author is a current student (or year of graduation), professional title (if applicable) and place of residence if author is not a JMU student.

"To the press alone, chequered as it is with abuses, the world is indebted for all the triumphs which have been gained by reason and humanity over error and oppression.

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EDITORS Torie Foster & Pamela Kidd E-MAIL breezearts@gmail.com —











# the **COMEDY** bunch











PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY RYAN FREELAND AND KRISTIN McGREGOR / THE BREEZE

The twelve members of New and Improv'd include senior K.B. McNichol (from left on top row), freshman Adrian Jarvis, senior Heather McCollum and senior Alan Linic.

#### Student improvious tackles stage with little preparation, but with guaranteed laughs

By NEAL HOLLOWELL

contributing writer

Senior Alan Linic intends to join the ranks of improv pros Tina Fey, John Belushi and Steve Carrell.

Linic, an English major, directs the JMU improvisational comedy group New and Improv'd. The group includes a variety of students, everyone from a math major to a Zeta Tau Alpha sister.

He led the group in a performance Saturday evening that packed Taylor Down Under with more than 100 students. Ten of the 12-member team performed a variety of sketches so entertaining that an encore presentation extended the performance by 45 minutes.

"You had to be there" was probably the most appropriate way of describing New and Improv'd performance. Skits included a man throwing shoes at sharks and a spelling bee in which spelling wasn't

counted. It was difficult to imagine it without sounding ridiculous.

Fortunately, ridiculous was just what this team aims for, as they often asked the audience to suspend reality for the duration of the show while they create on-the-spot, outrageous characters that populate absurd worlds sparked by audience suggestions.

see CLUB, page 8

**ANDY FRAM** | that's so college

# Forget about football

### Superbowl means beer, junk food and a day on the couch

As all real Americans know, Super Bowl Sunday is once again upon us. Millions of people across the country are gearing up for an exciting day of beer, food, funny commercials and the Black Eyed Peas.

Also, there's a football game. But the most important thing about Super



**Bowl Sunday** is that it's one of those classic traditions that best represents what it means to be American. And what better way to celebrate being American

than by getting drunk, eating unhealthy food and enjoying football without even leaving your couch?

Now, some of you out there might not be so excited. Maybe you don't follow football or you consider yourself "cultured" because there's something already called fútbol out there where they actually use their feet and football is just another stupid American innovation. Well, let me tell you something: That's actually a decent

If you don't follow football, you might also be ticked because even though you don't want to, you know you'll end up watching the game with your overenthusiastic friends and finding yourself in the middle of a conversation with nothing intelligent to add. Luckily, as someone who has had to fake liking sports for years so my family doesn't disown me, I've provided some basic explanations and generic football phrases that you can throw in whenever you run out of

First of all, I'm not entirely sure who's playing. I think it's the Steelers and the Packers, but I figure the odds are with me if I root for the Yankees. If it is the Steelers and Packers, then

there are a couple important things you should know.

First, don't root for the Steelers. They are an AFC team, which no one cares about. Their fans are loud, paint their faces yellow and sometimes wear armor, which makes them look similar to a sickly, jaundiced version of Kiss.

Second, don't root for the Packers. Their fans are loud, paint their faces green and wear cheese on their heads, which quite frankly, just makes them

look insane.

For those who don't watch football, you might also be taken aback by players who flex their muscles, clash helmets in a celebratory fashion and goose-step around the field after making dinky little 6-yard catches.

That's because football players are extremely insecure and need constant validation. You wouldn't think it, but there's a whole mess of crying in the NFL. I think Brett Favre alone cried 18 times last season, although, maybe that's just him. Anyway, like any good fan, just politely whoop and applaud whenever a player on the team you root for does the job he's paid millions of dollars to do.

Now, the key to speaking intelligently about something you don't know anything about is to be specific yet vague. If you've ever had to give a class presentation that you forgot to prepare for ahead of time, you'll know what I'm talking about.

First of all, always include yourself as part of the team by employing an "us versus them" mentality. This can be achieved by saying things like: "We were on fire in the second quarter," or "Our quarterback is so awesome he's escaped two whole accusations of rape."

One phrase you can use is "red zone." The red zone refers to the area between the 20-yard line and the end zone of the defensive team. It gets its name from the color your face turns when your team fails to do anything.

For instance, you might want to say something like: "Man, these red zone possessions are killing us," or "Damn, we're looking hot in the red zone today" — a nice neutral comment that is sure to be received with nods and grunts of approval.

Another thing you can do is express visible disappointment/ jubilation whenever your team does, well, anything. Cursing loudly and saying, "C'mon guys, you had four chances to get a first down" is always appropriate, and touchdowns should be accompanied by a cocky grunt and some sort of mini-dance. Taking the initiative like this shows your friends that yes, you are loving football right

Andy Fram is a senior media arts & design major and a humor columnist at The Breeze. Contact him at framap@dukes.jmu.edu.



KELSEY FISHER / FILE PHOTO

Last February, students found entertainment sledding down ISAT hill, holding snowball fights and building igloos.

# Prescription for snow boredom

Avoid cabin fever by taking advantage of these winter activities

By BETH COLE, PAMELA KIDD and JEFF WADE The Breeze

JMU has already overcome one snowstorm, but that doesn't mean students shouldn't prepare for more. Here are some suggestions to enjoy the range of winter weather to come.

#### Ski resorts

Massanutten Resort offers ski and snowboard lessons for those new to the slopes. Espeically for students, the resort hosts student specials, including student night every Wednesday and Friday, where students can get eighthour lift tickets for \$30 and rentals for \$20. On Monday nights through Feb. 28, students can get lift tickets for \$17 and rentals for \$17, with a free beginner group lesson at 5 p.m. or 6 p.m. Otherwise, prices range from \$79 to \$89 on weekdays and \$99 to \$109 on the

weekends. For those who aren't keen on strapping a board to their feet and zooming down a mountainside, Massanutten also offers snow tubing. Every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, students can tube for only \$10. On the week-

days, tubing is normally \$20 and on the weekends, it costs \$24. Aside from skiing and snowboarding, Massanutten also has a water park,

horseback riding, golf, restaurants and

Other relatively close resorts include Wintergreen Resort in Wintergreen, Va. and Bryce Mountain Resort in Bayse,

#### Ice rinks

About an hour away from campus, students can lace up and step into the

The nearest ice skating rink, Main Street Arena, is located on Charlottesville's Downtown Mall. Previously called the Charlottesville Ice Park, the rink recently switched ownership. The newly renovated rink now features a resaurant and a bar. It also hosts mixed martial arts events.

With a sheet of fresh ice on the rink, skaters can enjoy one hour and 45-minute session of high-speed twirling or low-key wobbling on blades, depending on skill level. For those who don't visualize themselves as the next Michelle Kwan, the rink has walkers and utility buckets to use as a stabilizer.

Public skate hours are available on the rink's website, www.mainstarena. com. Admission is \$10 and skate rent-

On-campus sled spots On snow days, the rolling hills of

ance to a sledder's paradise.

JMU transform from a tiring annoy-

The main sled spot for most students is the hill in front of the ISAT complex. Steep with plenty curves and an unobstructed bottom, it is obvious why it is

If you want to head off the beaten path, a spot off of the Village hill or the banks behind sorority row make excellent alternatives.

the de-facto sled spot.

When you come in from a full day of sledding, be sure to check those Facebook invites, as late night mass snowball fights are quickly becoming a JMU tradition.

### Bars within walking distance

For those bored, thirsty and of age, take comfort in many apartment complexes' proximity to bars. Some are located less than a 15-minute walk from popular lounges and bars.

Downtown apartments such as Urban Exchange are a five-minute walk from the Artful Dodger and Jack

Residents of The Mill and Pheasant Run can enjoy a 10-minute walk to Jimdels and Bourbon Street.

Additionally, A.J. Gators is conveniently located five to 10 minutes from Fox Hills, The Commons and other Port Republic Road/Devon Lane locations.

**CONTACT** Beth Cole, Jeff Wade and Pamela Kidd at breezearts@gmail.com.

TV SHOW PREVIEW

# Law and disorder: New cop show takes on Chicago crime

**By JEFF WADE** The Breeze

Television lacks cop shows. Bear with me here. The television landscape contains a plethora of programs that could be described as "just another cop show."

#### The Chicago Code ★★★☆

FOX Mondays at 9 p.m. Premieres Feb. 7 Starring Jennifer Beals, Jason Clarke, Delroy Lindo

But "The Chicago Code" premiere Monday at 9 p.m. on FOX serves as a homecoming of sorts for the kind of police that used to patrol the streets of TV.

"The Chicago Code" lines up more with older police shows, like "NYPD Blue" or "Hill Street Blues," than any of its

contemporaries.

This results in a grittier show more grounded in reality than the borderline magic of the lab techs in the various "CSI" shows or the tropical escapism

of "Hawaii Five-0." Filmed on location, the show focuses on Chicago's finest, ranging from the top brass all the way down to pavementpounding detectives.

Teresa Colvin (Jennifer Beals) works at the top as the youngest (and most feminine) police superintendent Chicago has ever seen. Enraged by the backroom dealings that destroyed her father's business, she uses her new authority to wage a one-woman war against the city's corruption.

In support of this crusade, she enlists former partner Jarek Wysocki. While the character fits comfortably into the archetypal cop who plays by his own rules, Jason Clarke gives enough of a charismatic performance that this stereotype doesn't call too much attention to itself.

Delroy Lindo gives the most compelling performance as the corrupt Alderman Gibbons. A former businessman turned politician, Gibbons and his shady connections to the Chicago crime scene make him a formidable antagonist.

Always cool, collected and threatening while starkly professional, Gibbons has some scheming moments in the first few episodes, quickly establishing his worth as a villain.

Gibbons has to carry a lot of the show, because if the character doesn't work, the show won't either.

Fortunately, based on the first three episodes, it seems like he will be able to carry the weight that a character like Gibbons needs. And thankfully, the character is written with enough ambiguity and understandable motivation to keep the character far enough from clichés.

What makes it work is how all these pieces come together with layers of push-and-pull dynamics.

The chess game among Gibbons and Colvin is the primary force that drives much of the material along. This results in some fantastic scenes wrought with tension in which characters cooperate on the surface, while actively working to sabotage each other.

To the show's credit, none of this overwhelms, especially considering the unmentioned periphery characters such as



COURTESY OF PETER SOREL / FOX

Superintendent Teresa Colvin and Detective Jarek Wysocki (right) confront the corrupt Alderman Gibbons (left).

Wysocki's rookie partner and his cop niece.

"The Chicago Code" suffers only when it ventures too far from its strong overarching plot. This isn't too obvious in the first two episodes, but the background cop case in the third episode is far less interesting than the ongoing battle between Colvin and

Aside from that, "The Chicago Code" is a great

mixture of cable and vintage police procedurals — and worth viewers' attention come Monday night.

CONTACT Jeff Wade at

wadeja@dukes.jmu.edu.

# **CLUB** | Practice has no 'boundaries'

from page 7

The Saturday show was divided into a series of games or scenes with given rules. In "Shoulda Said," two team members performed a sketch, while a third offstage member "rewound" the scene and demanded different dialogue, providing some interesting direction.

In "Fortune Cookies," the members performed in an audience-suggested scene, while they read lines from a notecard written before the sketch.

Fortune Cookies provided some interesting dialogue. In one scene, a wife, while making breakfast for her husband, confessed to having an adolescent love affair with New York Jets coach Rex Ryan.

Considering the club practices twice a week, it's hard to imagine that the performance wasn't

planned before getting on stage, but Linic assured that this is their routine for every show.

"None of the dialogue, none of the character choices and none of the plotlines are pre-planned," Linic said.

According to Linic, the only thing the team considered before taking the stage is a set list that described what games or themes guided their sketches.

"We practice by using exercises that push us outside of our boundaries," said Kelsey Shore, a sophomore math major. "This helps us get more comfortable with each other."

Kelsey described the airplane exercise, in which two team members are on an airplane and create their own scene through dialogue from there. She said practice is much more free form than

performances and tends to focus more on character development than comedy.

One would expect that a group based solely on "on-the-spot" creation would have hiccups; but this wasn't the case. As long as the members kept on with the scene, the laughs kept coming.

"I love these guys," said Rosie Grant, a junior English major. "I was crying I was laughing so

Even when a cast member drew a blank, the awkward silences still managed to amuse.

"There's no such thing as messing up in improv," Shore said.

New and Improv'd's next performance is Feb. 14 at 8 p.m. in the Grafton-Stovall Theatre.

**CONTACT** Neal Hollowell at hollownr@dukes.jmu.edu.

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

- Georgia State @JMU
- Today, 7 p.m. **Old Dominion @JMU**
- Sunday, 2 p.m.

JMU is currently 8-1 and tied for first place in the conference with  $OD\tilde{U}$ .

**MEN'S BASKETBALL** 

VCU @JMU Saturday, 12 p.m. The Dukes were receiving votes in the Associated Press poll for the

week of Jan. 16, before their losses

to Old Dominion, George Mason

and Hofstra later that week.

"37-24 Packers and Greg Jennings will be MVP."

- Corey Burton, junior

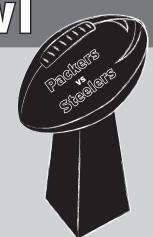
EDITOR Emmie Cleveland E-MAIL breezesports@gmail.com

"The Packers are so well trimmed for cold weather that they will be better conditioned going to a hot climate, and the fast pace indoor Dallas setting will aid the Packers on both sides of the ball. 31-28 Packers."

- Kevin Robb, sophomore

"Packers! Aaron Rodgers got SWAG."

- Cj Sapong, senior



"17-13 Steelers. Steelers 'D' is huge and experienced and will be even bigger than Texas."

- Sam Williams, junior

"27-21 Steelers. They are almost the same team defensively, but the Packers lack of a running game will allow the Steelers to focus more on not letting Aaron Rodgers get into a rhythm and keep him under pressure all game."

- Stephen Barraco, junior

# signing into

JMU adds 15 Dukes to next year's football roster

#### By DAVID BARTON

The Breeze

The football team received official commitments from 15 players yesterday, seven of whom are Virginians.

The signing class reflects JMU's student population as the remaining recruits come from Pennsylvania, New York, Maryland and New Jersey

"I feel like we signed a good balanced class," head coach Mickey Matthews said. "We were selective in who we signed because we didn't have many scholarships to give."

One of the more intriguing signings was Billy Cosh, a transfer from Kansas State, who signed in early January. Cosh is more of a prototypical pocket passer as opposed to the usual run-first style quarterback JMU has seen over the past few years.

"We felt at the end of last season that we

had to get better at the quarterback position," Matthews said. "When the word gets out that you're looking for a transfer you become very popular, and we had a lot of quarterbacks that contacted us over the break. We felt that Cosh was the best available."

One of the top defensive signees was Sage Harold. He is the only recruit from the Virginia Beach area, where so many colleges have focused their attention recently. Playing outside linebacker in high school, he has a reported knack for rushing the quarterback.

To get him was a huge catch for us," Matthews said. "It's always been our philosophy, get as many defensive linemen as you can, and if they can't play defense then move them to offense."

**CONTACT** David Barton at bartonde@dukes.jmu.edu.

## >> 2011 SIGNING CLASS «

NAME	POSITION	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	HOMETOWN
Billy Cosh	QB	6 ft 2 inches	215 pounds	Arundel, Md.
Andre Coble	QB	5 ft 10 inches	175 pounds	Richmond, Va.
Casey Kroll	OL	6 ft 5 inches	265 pounds	Nokesville, Va.
Sage Harold	DE	6 ft 4 inches	205 pounds	Virginia Beach, Va.
Terrell Mickens	DB	5 ft 9 inches	170 pounds	Staunton, Va.
Deane Cheatham	RB	6 ft 1 inch	215 pounds	Mechanicsville, Va.
Wray Fucci	OL	6 ft 6 inches	260 pounds	Oyster Bay, NY
Derek Hart	WR	6 ft 4 inches	200 pounds	Manheim, Pa.
DeAndre Smith	DB	5 ft 10 inches	175 pounds	District Heights, Md.
Andrew Baumgardner	OL	6 ft 3 inches	240 pounds	Longport, NJ
Ascene Jacques	LB	6 ft 2 inches	200 pounds	Springdale, Md.
Dominick Richards	TE	6 ft 6 inches	225 pounds	Tamaqua, Pa.
Claudy Mathieu	DE	6 ft 6 inches	220 pounds	Philadelphia, Pa.
Alex Mosley	DL	6 ft 3 inches	265 pounds	Highland Springs, Va.
Amir Waller	WR	6 ft 1 inch	185 pounds	Orange, Va.



Head coach Mickey Matthews discussed the improvements the team hopes to make with the new additions in the fall during his press conference on Wednesday.

#### James Madison Football **2011 Schedule**



Times are TBA

\* Colonial Athletic Association Game

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL** 

# Taking it one game at a time

Team wants 40 minutes of 'hard and smart basketball' to stay at top

**By MEGAN HARMAN** 

contributing writer

Knocking on wood is a superstition, but for JMU women's basketball coach Kenny Brooks, why risk it?

"If we can stay healthy and confident, I think we have a good chance of beating anyone, regardless of who we play," Brooks said, knocking on a wood table in regard to tonight's game against Georgia State University (2-7 in the Colonial Athletic Association, 7-13 overall)

As of now, the majority of the team is injury-free, including senior center Lauren Jimenez, who has fully recovered from her concussion and is playing more minutes than ever before.

When asked if she thinks this is the best she has played in her JMU career, Jimenez said, "Definitely in my JMU career, but do I feel like I could do a lot

better? Yeah." Jimenez will be a large part of the team's quest to remain at the top of the conference as they take on two conference foes this weekend. Following tonight's game, the Dukes (8-1, 15-6) have a daunting opponent Sunday as the Old Dominion University Mon-

archs come to Harrisonburg. But for

now, Brooks keeps his team focused

on the task at hand.

"It doesn't matter if we're playing Georgia State [tonight] or Old Dominion on Sunday," Brooks said. "The most important game is the next one and this one happens to be Georgia State."

Brooks feels confident going into the game, not because of the Panthers' dismal record (currently 10th in the conference), but because of how the Dukes are performing.

JMU's six-game winning streak, coupled with their conference-leading record, makes them a target for everyone else, according to senior guard

"We have that first seed right now so everyone is out to get us," Evans said. "We know we have to focus and play

even harder to keep that seed and our head above water." GSU began this season with a new coach and a roster made of mostly underclassmen. Even though they may

not have the chemistry of previous seasons, Brooks sees the Panthers as a very athletic team that can jump, block and rebound the basketball well.

Last season, JMU was able to pull out wins in both meetings between the teams, defeating the Panthers 67-61

each time. They've had a couple of good wins this year and we've got to be prepared

because if not, it could definitely be

dangerous," he said.

The Panthers' most dangerous threat is junior forward Chandra Harris, their leading scorer and rebounder. Harris could be the biggest detractor from one of the Dukes' biggest weaknesses: putting together a complete 40-minute game. Evans, still the nation's leading scorer at 24.2 points per game, said the team continues to struggle with this.

'We come out and we'll have a really good half, then we won't play well the second half, so we just need to play 40 minutes of hard and smart basketball,"

With the conference season roughly halfway over, fans of last year's conference champions could be experiencing a sense of déjà vu, but the team insists on staying focused.

"It is hard in a way," Jimenez said about not letting postseason dreams be a distraction.

Going into the game tonight, JMU will put records and conference standings behind them and focus on what

"As a senior, you want to make sure you go out with a bang," Evans said. "So you take advantage of every game that you have."

**CONTACT** Megan Harman at harmanmt@dukes.jmu.edu.

Senior center Lauren Jimenez has made a full recovery from her concussion. She and the rest of the Dukes will look to avenge their only in-conference loss this season against Old Dominion University on Sunday.

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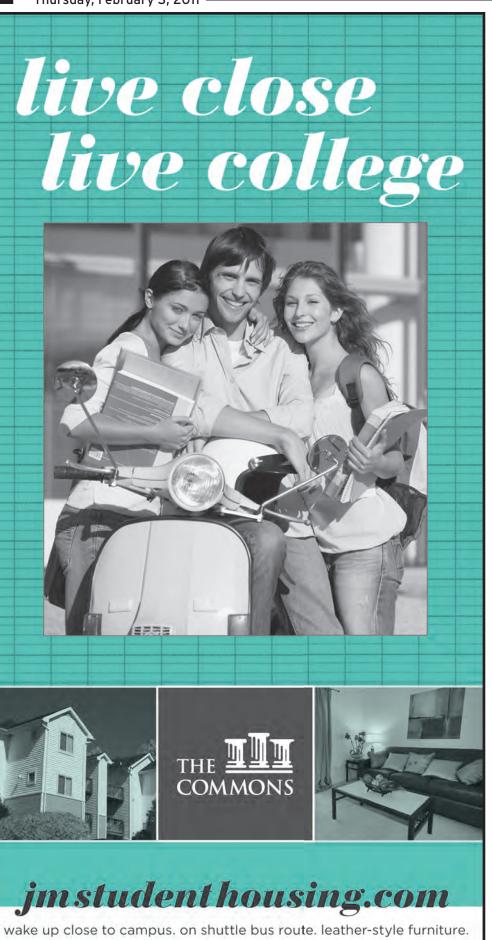
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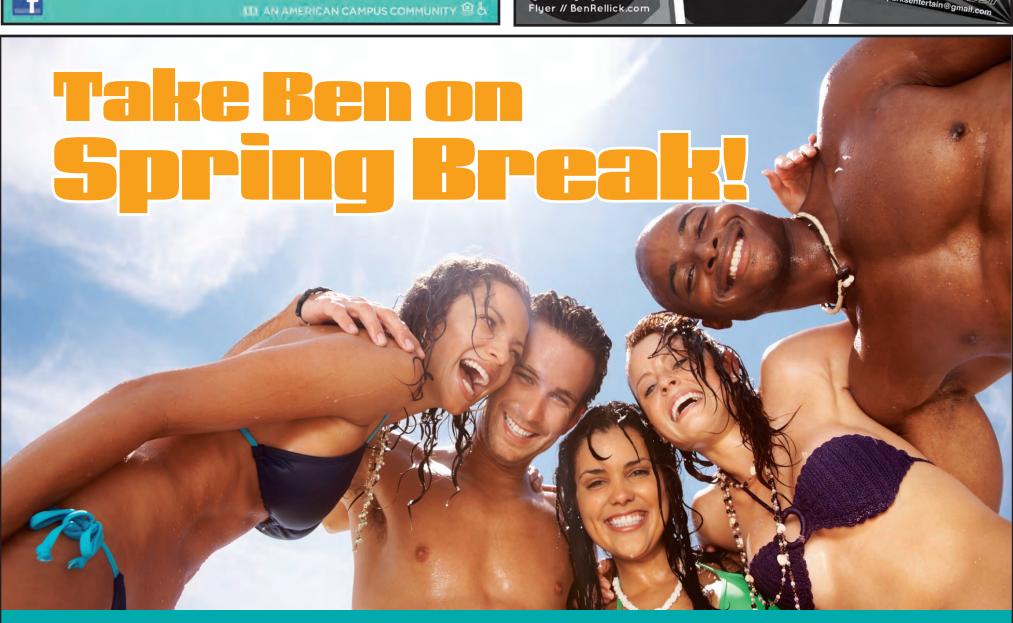
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