

For a photo slideshow of Tuesday's Walker Bros. Circus at the Rockingham County Fair Grounds, visit BREEZEJMU.ORG.

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Vol. 87, No. 40
Thursday, February 24, 2011

COURT UPDATE

Springfest rioter pleads guilty to one charge, others dropped

By **AARON KOEPPER**
The Breeze

Hours after pleading guilty to one felony offense from April's Springfest riot, a Vienna, Va., man was released from jail after completing six months of his sentence.

Peter Morgner, 21, had six of his seven felonies dropped during a plea deal Tuesday in Rockingham County Circuit Court. Since he has been in custody since July, the six active months of his one-year sentence were already complete. The other six months were suspended. Morgner will be on supervised probation for two years.



Peter Morgner, 21, was arrested after April's Springfest riot. Six of Morgner's seven felonies were dropped Tuesday.

Morgner was one of 10 charged with felonies during the block party-turned-riot on April 10.

During what was originally scheduled to be a jury trial on Tuesday, Morgner's defense attorneys John Holloran and Chris Kowalczyk presented a plea

agreement.

Morgner was originally arrested on April 26 after a police taskforce identified him in photos in the April 12 edition of *The Breeze*.

He was released on bail, but was brought back in custody in July after violating conditions of his release. By Tuesday's originally scheduled jury trial date, he had already served his sentence, according to Holloran and Kowalczyk.

As part of the plea agreement, the Commonwealth of Virginia decided not to prosecute the six other felony

see **TRIAL**, page 2

CRIME

Student catches man viewing pornography in Carrier Library

By **MOLLY HAAS**
The Breeze

On a Sunday afternoon in Carrier Library, some people are studying or catching up on homework. But some are looking at pornography.

That is exactly what Stevie saw happening.

Stevie, who wants her last name be withheld, was working on a history paper in Carrier Library when she noticed a man at the table in front of her was not doing homework. Stevie had never seen anything like this before.

The man was looking at pornographic photos and videos on the computer, she said.

"At first, I thought no one would actually do that," Stevie said. "But he was flipping between the dirty pictures and chat windows."

The man looked older than the average JMU student and had attached a web cam to his computer that was pointed at his face, she said.

"I usually assume that older people on campus are faculty," Stevie said. "He didn't even care that I saw, he was just casually sitting back in his chair."

Complaints aren't frequent, but Sandy Maxfield, the associate dean of libraries at JMU, says sometimes offensive material is viewed.

"There are occasional incidents when users in the library complain about material that other users are viewing," Maxfield said.

The library policy states that users of public library computer and Internet resources should be aware that there may be offensive or controversial material on the workstations, according to the library website.

This disclaimer goes on to say that users should also only use the Internet for academic purposes and research.

"That is our umbrella policy," Maxfield said. "We then also follow the JMU policy for technology resources."

According to the JMU Information Technology Resources' policy, users should not monopolize resources for inappropriate reasons. Any inappropriate use should also be reported to abuse@jmu.edu.

Neither Carrier or East Campus Library use a filtering system to block online content, Maxfield said.

In cases when a student complains about offensive material, the library staff would ask the offender to close the material or leave the library. If they do not, the staff will call campus police, Maxfield said.

"Our goal is to have the library environment be a comfortable one for students," Maxfield said.

"He didn't even care that I saw, he was just casually sitting back in his chair."

Stevie
student

JMU Police receive about one or two calls a year from students or library staff regarding people viewing inappropriate materials on library computers, according to Lee Shifflett, JMU chief of police.

"We're usually called up by students because typically the library staff deal with it immediately," Shifflett said.

On that Sunday, Stevie was too uncomfortable to report the pornography to the librarian.

"He kept turning around and looking at me," she said of the man nearby. "He would have known that I had complained."

Stevie decided to go home soon after, but was still disgusted by what she had seen.

"I felt guilty about not saying anything," she said. "I would have reported it if he would have gone up to students and been bothering them."

Part of the reason that Stevie did not report the incident was because she views Carrier as a public space.

"Anyone can come in and use the library," she said. "It's a borderline question of who can come in and for what reason."

CONTACT Molly Haas at haasmr@dukes.jmu.edu.

LGBT

Reconciling sexuality with spirituality

Madison Equality's first film festival explores typically undisclosed topic

By **JEFF WADE**
The Breeze

Religion can be a touchy subject, but a recent film series delves into how those in the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community try to reconcile their religion with their identity.

Presented by Madison Equality, the films explore the complex relationship between individuals in the LGBT community and religions that often discriminate or perpetuate injustices based on sexual orientation.

Beginning Monday and running through the rest of the week, the films profile how members of the LGBT community cope with persecution from their religion that is often just as essential to their personality as their sexual orientation is.

JoAnna Raucci, a junior psychology major, serves as the education coordinator for Madison Equality. Raucci's responsibilities include organizing educational panels and events.

Raucci notes the inspiration for the series comes from her personal struggles with the two disparate parts of herself.

"I've always had the debate internally between the gay and religious aspects of me and wondered how they could exist at the same time," Raucci said.

Raucci said the idea for the event came from seeing the documentary "God and Gays: Bridging the Gap."



KATIE BAROODY / THE BREEZE

The second of the four films in Madison Equality's festival was "Prayers for Bobby," which was screened on Tuesday night.

The film examines gay and lesbian Christians and their struggle to reconcile their sexuality and their faith.

Fittingly, this film kicked off the series when it was screened on Monday. Tuesday had a screening of the Lifetime movie "Prayers for Bobby."

Raucci hopes the film can help people within and outside the LGBT communities understand those who struggle with these two seemingly incompatible ideals.

"It brings to light the issue that not all people of faith are unaccepting of the LGBT community," she said.

Raucci said that the goal of the

series is both to enlighten people and spark debate about a taboo subject.

Both nights culminated in extended question-and-answer sessions that allowed the audience members to share their reactions.

The impassioned conversation involved a handful of students sharing stories of their struggles, and how religion often both benefits and hinders their ability to come to terms with who they are.

"Before I started coming to Madison Equality, I had never thought of Christian gays," said Katie Chapman, a sophomore health sciences

see **LGBT**, page 5

UPCOMING FILMS:

"TREMBLING BEFORE G-D"
Tonight at 7 p.m. (HHS 1301)
"WE'RE ALL ANGELS"
Friday at 7 p.m. (HHS 1301)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Harrisonburg residents hope to improve traffic problems

By **RACHEL DOZIER**
The Breeze

Harrisonburg residents teamed up to slow down traffic at Tuesday night's city council meeting.

About 10 residents showed up in support of the Old Town Area Neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan, representing about half of the audience.

The proposed road changes would mainly occur on Paul Street, Franklin Street and South Mason Street, which are considered a part of the Old Town area. Additional changes have been proposed for roads throughout the area.

The city council approved the plan and arranged to meet in three months to discuss which elements to emphasize and where funding would come from.

The residents came together after a severe car accident on June 5, 2010 at the intersection of Franklin Street and Mason Street.

"The whole neighborhood heard the crash," said resident John McGehee. "I've lived in Old Town for two and a half years. I've personally seen

numerous misses of cars going at high speeds. Having small children myself, that accident really galvanized us. So there really wasn't the option of not doing this."

The day after the accident, the residents discussed solutions to what has been an ongoing traffic problem in the area.

Two traffic surveys were conducted, one in June and one in September, after JMU students returned. Not only was traffic exceedingly high at both times, but 85 percent of traffic through these residential streets was going at least 10 mph over the speed limit, according to assistant public works director Drew Williams. The speed limit on most of these streets is 25 mph.

Williams said during the meeting that the daily average for small residential roads such as the ones surveyed should be around 1,000 vehicles. But on some of the streets surveyed, daily traffic volumes reached more than 2,900 vehicles.

The plan residents adopted includes proposed improvements to the Old Town neighborhood streets, which many people use to connect to downtown Harrisonburg.

It includes more than 20 proposed improvements including additional street parking, speed humps, raised intersection crosswalks and traffic islands. All improvements have the goal of slowing down and, in some cases, eliminating heavy traffic volumes.

Since council approved the plan after recommendation by the Transportation Safety and Advisory Commission, residents remain hopeful that their voices will be heard.

"I'm very encouraged by their reaction," McGehee said. "Nobody expected to go into this getting everything funded, and I think their vote shows that they consider this plan to be a legitimate solution to our problems."

City council members agreed the plan was well thought out.

"We've never had a community come up with this comprehensive of a plan," said council member Kai Degner. "It became very obvious that any change on one area would affect other parts of this."

CONTACT Rachel Dozier at dozierra@dukes.jmu.edu.

Proposed traffic changes for the Old Town neighborhood



GRAPHIC BY JENA THIELGES / THE BREEZE

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Delta Gamma and Alpha Epsilon Pi win Sorority and Fraternity of the Year.

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Two Harrisonburg natives are budding stars on JMU women's basketball team.

IN BRIEF

HARRISONBURG

JMU a 'Best Value' in 2011 Princeton Review

JMU was ranked in Princeton Review's Best Value Colleges for 2011 as one of the nation's top 50 public universities, according to Public Affairs. The survey criteria uses more than 30 factors that range from academics to cost of attendance, and financial aid. The data used for this survey was collected during the 2009-2010 school year.

Forest fire is 25 percent contained

The Coffman Fire that filled Harrisonburg with smoke Saturday continue to burn more than 2,565 acres as of Wednesday and fire crews have it about 25 percent contained, said Stephanie Bushong, spokeswoman for the fire department. High winds Saturday caused a tree to fall on a power line, which sparked the blaze about 10 miles outside of Harrisonburg. Approximately 113 firefighters from multiple local state and federal agencies have been working to contain the fire.

Police investigate Peeping Tom incident in Copper Beech

Two individuals reported an unknown male peeping into windows in the 400 block of Copper Beech Circle and 400 block of Arrowwood Drive on Feb. 23 at 12:32 a.m., according to Harrisonburg Police. The suspect is described as wearing a dark jacket and light-colored pants or jeans.

Motorcycle stolen from Charleston Townes

On Feb. 19, between 1 a.m. and 8 a.m., a blue and black 2007 Suzuki GSX-R600 motorcycle was stolen, according to police. The vehicle is valued as approximately \$5,000.

CORRECTION

■ The brief "Federal court date set for professor" incorrectly stated James Lesner Query is on administrative leave from the university. JMU no longer employs Query, according to Don Egle, university spokesman.

GREEK LIFE



GRAPHIC BY JENA THIELGES / THE BREEZE

Champions of Greek Life

Delta Gamma and Alpha Epsilon Pi recognized for service, character, leadership and scholarship

By NATALIE DOHNER
The Breeze

Delta Gamma and Alpha Epsilon Pi showed their Greek letters are simply not just for show, but they actually represent service, scholarship and leadership in the Greek community.

The two organizations were recently crowned JMU's sorority and fraternity of the year, a prestigious honor among the Greek life community at JMU.

All fraternities and sororities go through the annual report process involving a presentation to the Fraternity & Sorority Life Advisory Board followed by a meeting with each chapter.

"There are so many parts to the puzzle, but what we look for the most is that they are living by the values that we talk about," said Thad Herron, FSL advisory board chair.

The board evaluates each fraternity and sorority to see how well they meet the four pillars of excellence: character, leadership, scholarship, service.

Both Delta Gamma and AEPi received five-star ratings from the board.

Herron said the recognition comes down to which chapters stand out and have made improvements across the board, and not which chapter is the most popular.

"We continue to fight a lot of stereotypes across the country and those that set themselves apart don't feed into them," Herron said.

Jill Courson, assistant director of University Unions for Fraternity & Sorority Life, believes that Delta Gamma and AEPi hold themselves to a higher standard than the rest of Greek life.

"These are organizations that pride themselves on doing the right thing no matter what, even if that right thing is not the popular thing," Courson said. "This is how they are able to maintain their integrity and high standing."

AEPi has been chartered at JMU since 2008. They believe and follow the rules set in place by their founding fathers resulting in a cohesive brotherly bond, according to President Mark Tyson.

"We are focused on the rules in place at JMU and in our chapter nationally," said Tyson, a communication studies major. "This recognition is a testament to the quality of our brotherhood."

The brothers of AEPi take college boys and turn them into men who will be leaders, Tyson said.

"We pride ourselves on saying that we are not a 'frat,' that has a negative connotation to a lot of society. We are a group of gentlemen, we are a brotherhood," Tyson said. "When you put on those letters, you don't forget what they mean."

Being proud of the organization's Greek letters and what they symbolize is a common thread shared between AEPi and Delta Gamma.

"This year especially I have noticed that we take a lot more pride in sisterhood," said Katie Cole, a member of Delta Gamma.

Cole, a senior business management major, believes that increased leadership skills in her sorority have benefited their chapter.

The current president of Delta Gamma, Sarah Scholtz, recently attended the North American Interfraternity Conference to bring back ideas to improve their sorority.

"We have been a small chapter on JMU's campus but are involving ourselves more and really

made it our motto to 'do good,'" Cole said.

Delta Gamma was chartered at JMU in 1986 and last semester increased their organization size by about 70 percent. Sisters in Delta Gamma also have the highest new member grade point averages out of all other sororities on campus, as reported by Herron.

"This is a reflection of having a solid process in place for recruiting," Herron said.

According to Herron, Delta Gamma and AEPi are doing things within their chapters that go above and beyond community involvement, said Herron.

According to Herron, well-roundedness also contributes to being named sorority and fraternity of the year.

"We don't want our Greeks to just be Greek," Herron said. "We want them involved in other things as well across JMU's campus and the community."

Sisters of Delta Gamma are involved with more than 45 student clubs and organizations.

Grade point average, community service, campus involvement and philanthropy are all measured by the advisory board. According to Paul Whatley, FSL coordinator, the board is looking to see if the goals that each chapter makes are met and if not, what they are doing to improve.

"Some make strides and some maintain the status quo," Herron said. "Delta Gamma and AEPi are different from the rest in that they fight the status quo."

CONTACT Natalie Dohner at dohner@dukes.jmu.edu.

SGA

Organization petitions to add a sign language minor

By RYAN PLATT
The Breeze

One more step is being taken toward making JMU a more diverse campus.

At its meeting on Tuesday, the Student Government Association proposed putting its full support behind establishing American Sign Language as a minor at JMU.

Adam Hall, a senior senator, discussed a bill of opinion to gain student support for the new proposed minor.

According to the SGA constitution, a bill of opinion requires 200 student signatures on a petition before being officially presented to the SGA. After the SGA approves the first 200 signatures, the bill then requires 10 percent of the student body to sign a petition.

After getting approximately 2,000 signatures, the SGA can then debate and approve the bill, said Andrew Reese, president of SGA. If enough signatures are acquired, the bill then returns to SGA for voting. If approved in SGA, it is passed on to administration as a recommendation.

The bill is stronger and carries more weight than a normal resolution because of the popular student support for the bill.

"The goal is to create a new minor, and the bill is to show that SGA supports that," Hall said.

The Virginia Senate passed HB 1435 on Feb. 14, which requires Virginia public universities to accept ASL classes as foreign language credits. SGA had planned on lobbying for this bill during last week's trip to Richmond.

"Schools will already have to comply with it," said Hall, because of the bill passed by the Virginia assembly. "But we want to work to put ASL on the same playing field as other foreign languages, as well as showing



RYAN FREELAND / THE BREEZE

Kathleen Lee, senior class president, speaks to the student senate about bringing Laren Poole, of Invisible Children, to JMU as the May 2011 commencement speaker.

that we're enhancing the diversity that we're striving for."

Hall felt this was an opportunity for SGA to "move mountains" and really make an impact.

"The goal is to create a new minor, and the bill is to show that SGA supports that."

Adam Hall
senior senator

"We want to create a partnership with different groups, say this is our goal, and this is what we can do to help," Hall said.

According to Reese, the signatures

will be acquired through a combination of assembly members asking friends or people in other organizations to sign, as well as possibly asking for signatures on the commons.

Five other bills were passed by the SGA recognizing and supporting the efforts of several groups on campus, including the Office of Disability Services, the College of Education, the Foreign Language Department, as well as the Board of Visitors and the Quality Enhancement Program for their commitment to improving academics at JMU.

Additionally, SGA granted \$2,750 to the International Student Association for their upcoming culture festival to pay for costuming and audio visual equipment.

CONTACT Ryan Platt at plattrf@dukes.jmu.edu.

CRIME

Four football players indicted

A grand jury indicted four JMU football players Tuesday for charges stemming from a November assault.

Jonathan L. Rose, 22, Peter O. Rose, 20, Anthony I. Rose, 18, and Jonathan C. Williams, 22, are charged with felony malicious wounding by mob. The men are scheduled to appear in court on March 28 to set a trial date in Rockingham County Circuit Court. All the defendants are free on bond.

Williams was arrested on Dec. 4 and the three Rose brothers were arrested on Dec. 3 for alleged involvement in a Nov.

15 assault in the 1300 block of Bradley Drive in Hunters Ridge. The defendants allegedly got into a verbal altercation with three male victims outside a party. One was taken to Rockingham Memorial Hospital with non-life threatening injuries and later released.

Jeff Bourne, director of Athletics, said on Feb. 16 that the three players will remain suspended from all football-related activities until the court makes a final decision on the case.

— staff report

TRIAL | Prosecutor secures felony conviction in case

from front

charges in Morgner's case: three counts of assault on a police officer, one of count of conspiracy to incite a riot, destruction of property and wearing a mask in public.

Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Alycia Eldridge accepted the guilty plea agreement in Rockingham County Circuit Court.

"The defendant is seeking responsibility for his charges," Eldridge said in court. "We talked to officers in the case and they felt this was an appropriate end."

Eldridge also said the prosecution's goal was to secure a felony conviction, which she said the plea agreement includes.

Holloran and Kowalczyk said a guilty plea agreement was first considered after Rockingham Circuit Court failed to select a jury on Jan. 27, when the case was declared a mistrial and rescheduled for this week.

"The client decided from what observed of voir dire [jury selection] that he was uncomfortable with how the trial would play out in front of a Rockingham County jury," Holloran said.

That day, the jury selection process took more than six hours, because jurors were interviewed in groups of four, five and six, which is not usually done. Usually, both attorneys interview jurors in one large group.

Holloran also said one witness refused to speak with the defense before the jury trial, which made Morgner uncomfortable with a full trial.

"I'm not sure if my client could bear an ambush," Holloran said of what could have happened in the courtroom.

Eldridge cited video taken of Morgner during Springfest and testimonies of police officers as the Commonwealth's evidence.

"Several law enforcement officers ... will testify they saw the defendant approach the front of the crowd and throw glass bottles at police officers," Eldridge said in court.

Holloran said he agreed with Eldridge's evidence, but argued the bottles Morgner threw never actually hit the officers.

"At no time did anything that my client threw actually get close to the police line," Holloran said.

CONTACT Aaron Koepper at koeppaad@dukes.jmu.edu.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Poor choices on CHOICES

The past two times JMU has hosted CHOICES, *The Breeze* has published infuriatingly disparaging articles on the front page. This event provides a first impression of JMU for prospective students and their families, and these stories are not providing a positive image of our university.

Last April, *The Breeze* published a half-page image of the horrifying atmosphere at Springfest, showing flaming trashcans, broken glass and out-of-control students. Parents were appalled by the behavior exhibited at the event, as well as the publicity the riot received on our campus. Parents approached me asking why I was still paying for this "trash."

This past Monday, an article about a scandal regarding a professor sending

explicit photos to a minor greeted prospective students. I overheard parents questioning the safety of their children at JMU.

I understand these stories are newsworthy, but publishing them on our front page while prospective students are visiting is an embarrassment to the JMU community. Just below the fold was a story that stated JMU graduates more students in four years than the national average. Positive press like this should be the first thing parents see. We are trying to set a positive image for these families, yet all of their eyes were drawn to the degrading, humiliating stories presented as top news.

Cailee Helmick
sophomore psychology major

Thoughts on theatre

Amber Logsdon is *The Breeze's* theatre critic. With each review I become increasingly more disappointed, not only with her sophomoric writing style, but her inability to capture the productions' ideas as a whole. I am one of many who share these feelings.

To say her article "Shakespeare tames the Forbes Center: Elizabethan musical 'Kiss Me Kate' brings royal standard to Mainstage" on Feb. 13 was a disappointment "would be an understatement of the worst kind." Her incomplete sentences continually flip-flop between tenses, making the article difficult to follow.

Aside from her grammar mistakes, she neglected to check her facts. For example, she claims that the show within the show took place at the King Theatre when, in fact, it took place at Ford's Theatre. Not only was this

discussed through dialogue, but it was written in giant letters on the curtain seen throughout the show. This, as well as a plethora of other misnomers, makes me wonder if she even attended the show. These mistakes worry me.

Logsdon was so nitpicky as to magnify one performer's imperceptible faults, but then claimed that another performer was perfect in an almost-flirtatious manner. No one's perfect here. We're at a university and the point is to learn. This is not a personal attack, but a response to an article that employed contrived criticisms and factual errors in an attempt to portray intellectual depth, and in turn disregarded the spirit of the production. We're all here to learn; however, it's hard to learn if we aren't properly taught.

Brandon Duncan
senior theatre major

CAT ELSBY | contributing columnist

Stars cause starvation

It's that time of year again — and no I'm not talking about award show season. Or am I?

This week is National Eating Disorder Awareness week, which is ironically nestled smack dab in the middle of the Golden Globes and the Academy Awards. As the flawless movie stars pose for the camera in their figure-revealing gowns, millions of depressed Americans sit at home watching — many of them probably wondering why they don't look like that.

A study done by the National Eating Disorders Association showed that 80 percent of American women are not satisfied with the way they look. This has led to 10 million women and 1 million men fighting a potentially fatal battle against anorexia or bulimia and 25 million more struggling with binge eating disorder.

With such high numbers, it'd seem that the obvious answer would be to address this issue, but it seems that for most of the country it has become sort of a "don't ask, don't tell" deal.

NEDA stated that there are 10 million women with reported eating disorder cases, 4.5 million Alzheimer's cases and 2.2 million schizophrenia cases in America — but the research funds given out by the National Institutes of Health don't reflect those numbers.

The amount of money given to research eating disorders was only \$12 million, whereas Alzheimer's received

\$647 million, and schizophrenia received \$350 million.

So what's the issue? It seems that research directed toward eating disorders hasn't taken priority over research for other diseases, but the fatality rate demonstrates that it should.

Anorexia is one of the leading causes of death for women between the ages of 15 and 24, according to NEDA's statistics.

In addition to that, anorexia has a higher early-age death rate than any other mental illness.

What these women don't realize is that most of these models are thinner than 98 percent of American women.

This may come as a shock since many people might not even realize that eating disorders are considered mental illnesses. However, what is not shocking is the source of the problem — the Hollywood body image standard.

It's not just the actresses on the big screen; it's also the models on the runway. Millions of women flip through the pages of magazines, presumably longing for the stick-thin bodies of those who are staring back at them. What these women don't realize is that most of those models

are thinner than 98 percent of American women. According to NEDA, this is based on average body height and weight for women.

Now, tell me if this sounds familiar — when you go out on a Friday night, do you go through 10 outfits just to find the one where your stomach looks the most flattering? Do you read the calorie count on the snacks that you eat during the day? Do you wear sweatshirts when you feel a little pudgy? If you answered "yes" to these questions, then you are going through exactly what I'm going through.

It's hard to be an average-sized girl on JMU's campus being that it's inevitable to pass hundreds, even thousands, of seemingly perfect girls every day. But I have news for you — someone thinks you're beautiful.

A NEDA survey showed that 91 percent of women on college campuses attempt to diet, even though they don't need to in some cases. This obsession with being thin and conforming to society's standards of beauty may cause unhealthy eating habits or disorders.

Therefore, my advice is this — next time you think someone's beautiful, tell them. You could be taking a small step in fighting the battle of eating disorders.

Catherine Elsby is a junior media arts & design major. Contact Catherine at elsbycc@dukes.jmu.edu.

DARTS & PATS

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 "but-I-don't-have-a-brain!" dart to the shamelessly loud sorority girls in the quiet sections of East Campus Library.

From the Lion who doesn't have a heart for your ignorance.

A "red-rover, red-rover, no-I-won't-come-over" dart to the couples who refuse to let go of their hands when people try to pass them.

From the students who try not to fall into the ditch while walking next to the Village.

A "you-stole-the-show" pat to the two gangsters in "Kiss Me, Kate" for being hilarious and great eye candy.

From a girl who would love to brush up on her Shakespeare with you.

A "way-to-start-that-pride-early" pat to all the CHOICES kids with JMU bookstore bags.

From a senior who thinks those overpriced sweatpants are the best buy a student can make.

Editorial Policies

The Breeze
MSC 6805 61
Anthony-Seeger Hall
Harrisonburg, VA 22807
breezeopinion@gmail.com

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.

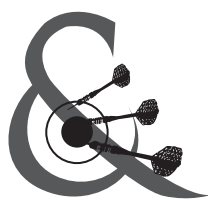
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— JAMES MADISON, 1800

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Living with a gift

Artist proves that determination, talent aren't dependent on mobility

By MALISSA WATTERSON
The Breeze

A white sketch pad, a No. 2 pencil and his mouth — these are all Bruce Dellinger needs to create detailed art pieces.

For more than 15 years, the 43-year-old self-taught artist has been honing his drawing skills from inside his home in Timberville, a town about 20 miles north of JMU.

Dellinger, who has C5-C6 quadriplegia and lacks motor or sensory function below his chest, says he spends an average of 40 to 180 hours on a single drawing.

"You've got to be diligent and purposeful," he said.

This past weekend, hundreds of Shenandoah Valley residents viewed Dellinger's artwork at the fifth annual Greater Virginia Sports & Game Show, a three-day event featuring activities and exhibits related to outdoor sports, such as hunting and fishing.

Dellinger was the featured artist at this year's show at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds.

Dellinger sold close to 40 prints of his "bread and butter" pieces: wildlife scenes of deer, birds and other animals he frequently sees in his native Shenandoah Valley.

He also gave three seminars at the show, where he spoke about his art and life.

As attendees walked past his 10-by-10 booth Sunday afternoon, Dellinger worked on one of his latest drawings from his motorized wheelchair. Dozens of tiny leaf outlines filled with light gray as he slowly and precisely moved his head from left to right.

"I'm blown away," said Linda Wonderley of Grottos. "I can't draw like that with my hands, much less my mouth."

Dellinger's artistic career began in the summer of 1982, a year after he fell 25 feet from a barn hayloft and permanently damaged the fifth and sixth vertebrae in his neck.

Because his wheelchair prevented him from



MEREDYTH KIMM / THE BREEZE

Bruce Dellinger, who has C5-C6 quadriplegia, uses his mouth to draw with oils, pastels and charcoals.

>> For more photos of Bruce Dellinger at work and of his art, visit breezejmu.org.

enjoying outdoor activities, Dellinger stayed inside during the months leading up to his sophomore year at Broadway High School.

It was at that time when his aunt suggested he pick up oil painting as a way to productively occupy time.

Oil painting eventually led Dellinger to pastels and then to the short-lived medium of charcoal.

"I got tired of having black lips and black nose and black eyebrows," said Dellinger with a laugh.

Eventually he was exposed to the artwork of Ken Schuler, an artist from Linville, Va., who specializes in pencil drawings.

Dellinger said the detail in Schuler's drawings inspired him to pick up a pencil.

In 1987, Dellinger enrolled at JMU, where he majored in psychology and minored in special education.

Upon graduation, Dellinger did not receive

his teaching certification for special education. At that time, he composed his first pencil drawing, "Call to Worship."

The piece, a small print of a deer standing near a church, now adorns a living room wall inside the one-story house where he and his 61-year-old mother live.

On the opposite side of the room stands a large metal display rack that holds 62 pieces Dellinger has for sale.

"Chick's Place," a chipmunk portrait that sits among other wildlife portraits, is the favorite of Melinda Burchard, a College of Education professor at JMU.

"It's very peaceful," said Burchard, a friend of Dellinger's for the last 17 years. "It reminds you of this valley."

Last semester, Burchard invited Dellinger to guest lecture in her EXED 200 Nature and Issues of Disabilities course, an overview of various disabilities.

"The best thing about Bruce isn't even the art," Burchard said. "When he tells his story he's

so comfortable and vulnerable."

Before his appearance in Burchard's course, Dellinger openly shared his story while working as an independent living specialist for Harrisonburg's Valley Associates for Independent Living, a nonprofit organization that offers assistance to disabled individuals in Rockingham County.

"I liked his ability to show firsthand the impact of living with a disability," said Gayl Brunk, VAIL's executive director.

Today, Dellinger works as a full-time artist from his home, creating new pieces and managing orders from throughout the country.

Several times each year, he shares his story and artwork with individuals, organizations and media outlets in the Valley.

Dellinger's message always stays the same. "Even though you have a disability, your life doesn't stop," he said.

CONTACT Malissa Watterson at wattermm@dukes.jmu.edu.

THEATRE REVIEW

'Peanuts' parody sets stage with somber satire

By NEAL HOLLOWELL
contributing writer

"Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead" is an unofficial sequel of the Classic Peanuts Cartoon Strip, but none of the cast members involved in this production can mention "Peanuts" or any of the character's names.

Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead

Director Mike Held
Tickets \$6
Runtime Tonight through Sunday at 8 p.m., Saturday matinee at 2 p.m.
Location Studio Theatre

The precaution was made for fear of copyright infringement.

"We actually signed a contract," said Glen North, a senior music theatre major who played C.B., the equivalent of Charlie Brown. "We're not allowed to say any of the Cashews characters."

The play asks what would become of the Peanut's kids if they were ever allowed to grow up. The answer comes in the form of playwright Bert V. Royal's social commentary.

"Dog Sees God" examines many issues that both plague and challenge today's youth. The Peanuts characters, now in high school, grapple with drugs, drinking, homosexuality, identity, institutionalization and loss. It is revealed that just before the events of the play, C.B.'s dog killed his bird friend (Woodstock) and had to be put down.

Mike Held, a fifth year senior music industry major and the director of the play, chose this play for several reasons.



ASHLEY GRISHAM / THE BREEZE

In "Dog Sees God," C.B. (senior Glen North) and his sister (sophomore Michelle Melton) reflect on the death of their dog (Snoopy).

"It hits home with some personal issues for myself," Held said. "Plus I loved the script."

Sean Fry, junior theatre major, who plays Beethoven (Schroeder), echoed this view.

"Me as Beethoven, it really hits close to home because of things in my past that I dealt with," Fry said. "I'm sure that every single person in the cast has something that they can relate to in each character."

The central plot device of the play is the prejudice against the homosexual characters.

"Prejudice against homosexuality is still very present in the U.S. today," Held said.

Despite the shift in tone, the production still manages to pay homage to its source material. Lucy's parallel character (Christina Ferrari, a senior theatre and psychology double major) still dishes out psychiatric advice, C.B. consistently wears a yellow shirt, and a dance scene plays out much like the one in "A Charlie Brown Christmas."

However, several massive liberties were taken with many of the

characters. Matt (Pig Pen) has become a germaphobic homophobe. Jesse Bhamrah, a freshman business major, plays an intimidating antagonist as Matt, particularly in his later scenes as the plot intensifies, and his rage grows.

Van (Linus, played by freshman theatre major Skip Lazenby) retains the spirituality that defines his character in the strips, though Buddhism substitutes Christianity. Van provides the only comedic relief in an otherwise drama-driven production. His embodiment as a stoner allows some respite from the

seriousness of the plot — he steals every scene he's in.

"Dog Sees God," an experimental play in the Studio Theatre, ran with a \$200 budget.

"It forced me to think outside the box and really focus a lot on the actors and getting the story across that way," Held said — an ironic statement considering most of the sets were made of only boxes.

The cast unanimously agreed that a limited budget did not affect its enthusiasm in the project.

"It made it even more exciting and challenging because it's like we have to bring our A-game," said Michelle Melton, a sophomore theatre and communication sciences and disorders double major.

But the play does take some time to get going, as nearly the first 40 minutes don't include the central story line. Many scenes in this section seem to trudge along, save for those with Van's comedic dialogue.

Several subplots that did not progress stopped the story dead. Scenes develop romantic relationships that aren't followed through, and two scenes involving C.B.'s sister in a one-woman play are unrelated to the narrative.

These are no reasons to skip out on a play that is superbly acted and directed, even if it lacks the showiness of other theatre productions.

"Dog Sees God" runs through Sunday at 8 p.m. in the Studio Theatre of the Forbes Center for the Performing Arts, with a matinee on Saturday at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$6.

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

LGBT | Filmmaker discusses Jewish film tonight as film series continues

from front

major and LGBT supporter.

Chapman said that the film series and attendance of Madison Equality meetings helped change her opinions.

Many who spoke found that the events in films felt accurate to events in their lives.

"It really spoke to the mixed message

from people where they feel you are supposed to be one way, and the film definitely reflected on that experience," said Marjorie Cook, president of Madison Equality and a junior modern foreign languages major.

Much of the conversation questioned many of the biblical verses commonly used to condemn homosexuals.

"There is a lot of ambiguity in the

Bible and a lot of what is said is based on very modern translations," said freshman Myles Matalavage, a music education major. "And even if it wasn't, the Bible is pretty clear that loving and supporting is what people need to do."

For as personal and potentially polarizing as the conversations on both nights were, they always remained respectful.

"Both issues are very heated and combining them can be very volatile," Raucci said.

The series continues tonight with a discussion about Jewish LGBT individuals with "Trembling Before G-d." The film comes complete with an appearance by Sandi DuBowski, a filmmaker acclaimed for his work on the intersection of homosexuality and religion.

The event will conclude on Friday with "We're All Angels," which chronicles a Christian pop duo who fall in love with each other.

Both events will be held in HHS 1301 at 7 p.m. For more info about the films, visit orgs.jmu.edu/madisonequality.

CONTACT Jeff Wade at wadeja@dukes.jmu.edu.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

LOCAL STARS

Two Turner Ashby graduates continue success at JMU

By CAT ELSBY
contributing writer

Trading in their black and white jerseys for purple and gold, two JMU women's basketball players have added a bit of local flare to the court this season.

After having played apart for a year, sophomore Nikki Newman has been reunited with freshman Kirby Burkholder — and although it may be reminiscent of their days at Turner Ashby High School, it's definitely not déjà vu.

"Coming from high school, we were two of the best players, but now in college we're playing against the girls who were the best at their high schools," Newman said.

Their high school coach, Rob Lovell, is proud of the transition they've made so far.

"I think the major difference I see in both Nikki and Kirby is that they are physically a lot stronger than when they played for me," Lovell said. "That's not to say that they were weak players in high school, but a college strength training program has really helped them become even stronger — both have adjusted well to the pace and intensity of college basketball."

Finishing as TAHS's fifth leading all-time scorer and holding a record of 103-9 in her four years on the varsity team, Newman's transition last year wasn't noticeably difficult as she snagged the JMU team's Most Improved Player Award and was among the Colonial Athletic Association leaders in blocked shots at the end of the season.

Burkholder's future doesn't look too cloudy either with TAHS's all-time leading scorer title and a career record of 102-8 with three appearances in the state final-four in her four years.

JMU head coach Kenny Brooks compared the two last year when his 2010 recruiting class was announced.

"Kirby can score a little bit better than Nikki," he said last March. "I think Nikki's probably a better passer and rebounder. She's going to bring size to the guard position."

This season, Newman is third on the team for assists (44) and fourth in average rebounds (5.7). She is also second in steals (30) and blocks (22).

Burkholder has 22 points in 18 appearances and is third on the team in field goal percentage with 46.7 percent.

"Kirby had a big setback with her pre-season injury, but I think given time she will be a major contributor to Coach Brooks' team," Lovell said of Burkholder's shin splints.

Numerous CAA conference schools recruited the two, but they said JMU seemed to be the best fit — and according to them, proximity wasn't the main factor.

"It felt like home, even though it is home," Newman said.

With purple and gold running through her family's blood, Newman's acceptance made

her the fourth player in the family to become a JMU athlete, following her mother (field hockey and lacrosse), father (football) and brother (football).

Burkholder is a different story.

"In Kirby's case, I think the fact that she impressed Coach Brooks over the summer before her senior year was the most important factor," Lovell said.

Although the familiarity of home wasn't necessarily the reason for their decision, both agree it has its perks.

"It would be different if I went far away in the fact that family and friends couldn't attend games as easily," Burkholder said.

Newman enjoys the fanbase, and Lovell tries to be part of that fanbase and attend games often.

"It is difficult for me to watch them play as much as I'd like because there are so many scheduling conflicts while I'm coaching my own team," he said. "It is a big thrill for me to attend JMU games to watch them play."

Being close to home allows the pair to support the Knights at some TAHS home games, which demonstrates the team spirit that Lovell credits their high school victories to.

"Often in high school you will see players of their caliber have their own agendas that do not always have the best interests of the team in mind," Lovell said. "This was never the case with Nikki and Kirby, and it is a big reason why our team enjoyed so much success while they played here — they cared little about stats, just winning."

This dedication to the sport led the girls to be two of three to sign Division I basketball scholarships during Lovell's 19 years of coaching and is the reason for his level of respect and praise for both of them.

CONTACT Cat Elsby at
elsbycc@dukes.jmu.edu.

KIRBY BURKHOLDER >>>

- Freshman
- 6-foot
- Guard
- 46.7 percent field goal shooting



BLAIR BOSWELL / THE BREEZE

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Last home game to air on ESPNU

By THOMAS ESTES
The Breeze

Following a 40-point outburst by senior forward Denzel Bowles last Tuesday against Towson University and a one-point thrilling victory over Miami University of Ohio on Saturday, the JMU men's basketball team is gaining momentum as the regular season wraps up.

JMU's faithful fans bid farewell to Bowles and senior guard Ben Louis as the Dukes' game versus Old Dominion University tonight at their final home game.

"Emotions are probably going to be high," Bowles said. "I just want to win. I haven't beat ODU. I'm 0-3 against them, so this will be a big win for me if we can get the win."

Bowles, a Virginia Beach native, will be playing against his hometown school, while Louis looks to take pleasure in the atmosphere created by the JMU faithful one last time.

"I have been here for four years and most of the fans have seen me," Louis said. "I enjoy the fans here and I'm definitely going to miss them, so I like being the fan favorite."

JMU (20-9, 9-7 in the Colonial Athletic Association) will enter its final home game of the season with an 11-3 record at the JMU Convocation Center — their best home record since going 13-0 during the 1999-2000 season.

The Dukes will face the CAA's No. 2 team ODU (22-6, 12-4 in the CAA), who defeated JMU 64-58 on Jan. 19 of this season and ended the Dukes' season's best nine-game winning streak.

After tonight's game, JMU will finish its regular season Saturday at Virginia Commonwealth University (21-8, 12-4). The Dukes fell to the Rams 70-66 on Feb. 5.

The Dukes are 0-5 against the CAA's top four teams: George Mason University, ODU, VCU and Hofstra University.

"Every game you play in this league is critical. These two are critical," head coach Matt Brady said. "If we can play our best game here on Thursday and give ourselves a chance to win, then maybe we can get fifth place."

The Dukes are currently fifth in the CAA as they hold the tiebreaker over Drexel University (18-9, 9-7) and can fall no lower than sixth place.

With the top four and a first-round bye out of reach, the Dukes will have to win four games in four nights to win the CAA championship. If they were to get past the first round, JMU will have to play one of the top four teams in the second round.

"Should we make it to the second round, we're really confident," Brady said. "We're resilient and have been in every game against the top four teams."

JMU lost those five games to the CAA's top four teams by an average margin of defeat of 5.6 points-per-game.

Bowles averaged 20.4 points and 10.6 rebounds in those five games but is currently hampered by a sprained left ankle.

According to Brady, Bowles' ankle is at about 60 percent and he is receiving treatment three times a day in order to get him close to 100 percent for tonight.

The CAA tournament starts March 4 in Richmond, but the Dukes aren't focusing on that yet.

"We're not really looking at the CAA tournament right now," Bowles said. "We just want to win these two games against ODU and VCU."

CONTACT Thomas Estes at
estesto@dukes.jmu.edu



RYAN FREELAND / FILE PHOTO

Seniors Ben Louise, guard, and Denzel Bowles, forward, are set to play their last home game at the Convocation Center tonight.

FEB. 17 - 23
CLUB SPORTS RESULTS*

Equestrian

- Third place at Randolph College
- Sixth place at Sweetbriar College and Randolph College
- Seventh place at Hollins University
- Fifth place in the region
- Regional champion, intermediate fences: Devon Williams
- Regional reserve champion, novice fences: Catherine Vaughan

Ski & Snowboarding

- Women's ski, second place
- Men and women snowboarding, second place
- Regional Champion and GS winner at Hunter Mountain: Peter Jackson
- Third place at regionals: Ryan Hollander
- All athletes who qualified will be racing in Sun Valley, Idaho over spring break at nationals

Gymnastics

Duke Dog Classic at JMU

- Men's team: first place overall
- Men's floor: Beck Shasky — tie for first, Matt Huckfeldt — fifth
- Men's pommel horse: Matt Huckfeldt — first, Beck Shasky — fifth
- Men's rings: Matt Huckfeldt — second
- Men's vault: Beck Shasky — second, Matt Huckfeldt — fourth
- Men's parallel bars: Beck Shasky — first, Matt Huckfeldt — fourth
- All around: Matt Huckfeldt — second, Beck Shasky — third
- Women's team: third place overall
- Women's bars: Maria Hayden — fifth
- Women's beam: Allison Burkett — first
- Women's floor: Maria Hayden — third, Kelly Stiger — fifth

*The Breeze does not vet the results provided by the clubs. We encourage all JMU sports clubs to report results to Allie Krafft at jmuscvicepresident@gmail.com every Monday; results are printed Thursdays.

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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. Published Monday and Thursday mornings, *The Breeze* is distributed throughout James Madison University and the local Harrisonburg community. Comments and complaints should be addressed to Katie Thisdell, editor.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Katie Thisdell

MANAGING EDITOR

Drew Beggs

COPY DESK

Megan Reichart

Elizabeth Baugh

DESIGN

Rachel Dozier

LIFE DESK

Torie Foster

Pamela Kidd

OPINION DESK

Kaleigh Somers

PHOTO/GRAPHICS

Robert Boag

Jena Thielges

Kristin McGregor

ADS MANAGER

Nicole Ort

ASST. ADS MANAGER

Cliff Stanley

ADS CREATIVE DIRECTOR

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ASST. ADS CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Michelle Hamson

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Frank Batres-Lanaeta

Nathan Chua

Kathryn Crowley

Dan Devine

Samantha Platania

Carson Stanley

David Wales

MARKETING & CIRCULATION

COORDINATOR

Destine' Windon

AD DESIGNERS

Sarah Elliot

Evan Floyd

Anthony Frederick

And the winners are ...

The Best of the 'Burg survey was created by the advertising staff of *The Breeze*. About 386 people responded to the online survey earlier this month. *Breeze* writers then reviewed the winners.

- 3** Best Vegetarian Dish: Little Grill Collective
- 5** Best Grocery Store: Martin's
Best Department Store: Target
Best Auto Repair Shop: Jiffy Lube
- 7** Best Place to Live: Copper Beech Townhomes
Best Italian Restaurant: L'Italia

- 9** Best Happy Hour: Dave's Taverna
Best Coffee Shop: Organic Grounds
Best Hair Salon: The Studio
- 10** Best Mexican Restaurant: El Charro
Best Electronics: Best Buy
- 11** Best Pizza: Franco's Pizza
Best Oriental Restaurant: Taste of Thai
- 13** Best Date Night: Clementine Cafe
Best Night Life: Jimdel Restaurant & Lounge

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BEST OF THE 'BURG

BEST VEGETARIAN DISH

621 N. Main St.
540-434-3594

LITTLE GRILL COLLECTIVE



LAURA WEEKS / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

By EMILY WINTERS
The Breeze

Hidden along North Main Street a couple miles past Court Square is The Little Grill Collective. This friendly co-op serves up some of the best vegetarian dishes. With dishes ranging from Indian to Mexican to traditional Southern-style cooking, there is something on the menu for everyone.

If you're feeling adventurous, try soysage, groovy gravy or BBQ tempeh coated with

The Little Grill's homemade BBQ sauce. For those who tend to be a little more traditional, the pancakes are sure to please. With a different kind of pancake each month (this month features cherry chip sour cream and whole wheat blue monkey pancakes), The Little Grill will satisfy anyone's cravings.

The Little Grill uses locally grown, organic products with free-range chicken and local grass-fed beef for the non-vegetarian.

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BEST GROCERY STORE

MARTIN'S

2035 E. Market St.
540-442-7576

By **NEAL HOLLOWELL**
contributing writer

If you are looking to refill on ramen or Easy Mac, Wal-Mart is your best bet, but if you prefer to eat something that takes time, and doesn't taste like cardboard, Martin's is the place to go. It may seem out of the way for some JMU students, but it is at most a 10-minute drive from campus and a five-minute walk from the Target Bus stop. However, it beats the competition by selling all

types of food. If you are like me, and demand certain brands, chances are Martin's has them. But what really sets Martin's apart is the availability of fresh food. They (or it?) have an extensive fresh produce section, but even more impressive is the fact that lining the back of the store, is a bakery, deli, and seafood market, complete with live lobsters. Admittedly martin's is slightly more expensive, but your money goes toward better food, and admirable customer service.



MEREDYTH KIMM / THE BREEZE



ZACH SOULIERE / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

BEST DEPARTMENT STORE

TARGET

1995 E. Market St.
540-432-1708

By **JAMIE LOSE**
The Breeze

It's not surprising that readers voted Target best department store here in the 'Burg. It's conveniently located next to Valley Mall and Martin's, making shopping done in one easy trip. Plus, Target is all-inclusive when it comes to merchandise. Inside you'll find everything from trendy, college-priced

clothing and furniture to groceries, electronics, school supplies and a pharmacy.

While the stock remains affordable, the quality of Target items is not sacrificed. Located inside is a small Starbucks and Pizza Hut — two necessities when it comes to us college customers. Next time you're short a pair of jeans, Cheerios, shampoo and the movie "Dark Knight" — stop by Target for all your shopping needs.

BEST AUTO REPAIR SHOP

JIFFY LUBE

1870 E. Market St.
540-433-8599



EBEN KNOWLTON / THE BREEZE

By **MALISSA WATTERSON**
The Breeze

Students can make sure their cars run smoothly this semester by visiting Jiffy Lube on East Market Street, voted this year's best automotive repair in the Best of the 'Burg Survey.

The 'Burg's only Jiffy Lube, located across from Valley Mall, specializes in preventative service maintenance.

For \$34.99, Jiffy Lube offers a "signature service" package, which includes an oil change up to five quarts, installation of a new oil filter

and an exterior window wash. All of the underhood fluid levels are also checked and filled as needed.

Three months or 3,000 miles after this package is performed, whichever comes first, customers are offered a free "top off." This service includes an exterior window wash and a vacuum of the interior. Underhood fluid levels are once again checked and filled as needed.

Students will receive \$5 off of their total bill with a JACard.

Jiffy Lube is open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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BEST PLACE TO LIVE

COPPER BEECH TOWNHOMES

410 Copper Beech Circle
540-438-0401

By **NICK SLOANE**
contributing writer

Though Copper Beech is one of the largest off-campus complexes in Harrisonburg, it would be hard to find an available townhome to rent after September. With its abundance of amenities, reasonable rent and spacious bedrooms, it's not surprising it's a highly desired complex. The complex features houses ranging from one to four bedrooms. Some critics may say that Copper Beech may be a little far from campus, but with its convenient proximity to both off-campus shopping and East Campus, living on the "other side of Port Republic" becomes not only bearable, but ideal.



HANNAH HANKS / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER



KATIE BAROODY / THE BREEZE

BEST ITALIAN RESTAURANT

L'ITALIA
815 E. Market St.
540-433-0961

By **NEAL HOLLOWELL**
contributing writer

When you think of Italian food you might think Macaroni Grill or Olive Garden, but L'Italia Restaurant blows these out of the Mediterranean. The first thing that stands out is the atmosphere: dimly lit, quiet and relatively small. This creates a cozy setting rare among restaurants in Harrisonburg, earning it a Best of the 'Burg recognition from readers.

The staff is professional and polite, and they accommodate with genuine interest. The food is your basic Italian fare, with entrées ranging from marinara or alfredo pasta to the more exotic calamari. Unlike most Italian places, the portions are not outrageous, and you'll most likely leave satisfied, not stuffed.

L'Italia also has dozens of different wines to choose from for those 21 and older. The atmosphere, menu and service make L'Italia a treat. The prices are a little steep to eat here everyday, so L'Italia is probably best reserved for a special occasion.

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KATIE BAROODY / THE BREEZE

BEST HAPPY HOUR

DAVE'S TAVERNA

121 S. Main St.
540-564-1487

By **BETH COLE**
The Breeze

When 5 p.m. hits, Dave's Taverna is where it's at for great happy hour deals and a good time. Located on South Main Street, the bar matches the downtown style with lofty ceilings, exposed brick walls, a spiral staircase and a dark granite bar.

Recently, the restaurant opened up its rooftop Taratza, an open patio with an

outdoor bar area. It will be open every day through the summer.

The bar also hosts a collection of the most popular bottled and draft domestic, import, craft and seasonal beers. Happy hour is from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. every night, with \$1 off all pitchers and rail drinks starting at \$2.75.

Dave's also has a special on its "Beer of the Month." The March winner is Harp Lager, which starts at \$3.50 for a draft.

BEST COFFEE SHOP

**ORGANIC
GROUNDS** 625 Mount Clinton Pike # P
540-434-1800

By **JEFF WADE**
The Breeze

For an alternative to the chain coffee shops that litter that national landscape, turn to the local coffee shop, Organic Grounds.

Organic Grounds has everything you would expect, with a rich selection of brews and drinks. Fresh baked sandwiches and bakery treats round out the menu and serve as a

great complement to the drinks, helping it to be named as a Best of the 'Burg winner.

Perhaps the most impressive aspect of Organic Grounds is its commitment to its organic namesake as well as being a community hub.

The store sells bags of organic fair trade coffee and local products such as candies and syrups that make for treats that you can indulge in without feeling guilty.



LAURA WEEKS / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER



KATIE BROWN / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

BEST HAIR SALON

THE STUDIO

380 E. Market St.
540-434-8188

By **KELSEY PETERS**
The Breeze

For students who are missing their regular hair stylist from home, turn to The Studio, which provides clients with top quality haircuts, styling, facials, make-up and skin care, massages and waxing. Beauty does come with a price, but The Studio

offers manicure and pedicure specials to JMU students with JACards. With young, up-to-date stylists, students do not have to worry about having the scissor-happy grandma that gives the same haircut to everyone. With its convenient location, both male and female students don't have to make the trek all the way home to get exceptional salon treatment.



HANNAH HANKS / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

BEST MEXICAN RESTAURANT

EL CHARRO

1570 E. Market St.

540-564-0386

1580 S. Main St.

540-433-3189

By **KELSEY PETERS**

The Breeze

When it comes to El Charro, bigger is better. The difference between a small and a large burrito and a small and a large margarita is exponential, but the price isn't. If guests are not too stuffed from the free, satisfying chips and salsa served within 30 seconds of arrival, they will definitely be unbuttoning their pants by the time they finish their Mexican dish.

To get the full experience, guests must try the fried ice cream dessert. With a great selection of beers and liquors for those 21 and older, El Charro makes a perfect Friday or Saturday night dinner. The friendly service will have guests coming back to either the South Main or the East Market location. Guests will leave with full stomachs and without empty wallets.

BEST ELECTRONICS

BEST BUY

259 Burgess Road

540-574-9549

By **JEFF WADE**

The Breeze

The summer opening of a local store in a large electronics chain has finally given Harrisonburg a one-stop shop for all of its electronics needs.

The large store is a spacious sanctuary with extensive selections of movies, music and everything in between, helping it to earn a Best of the 'Burg title.

Full of demo areas that allow customers to be hands-on with new gadgets, the store also hosts community events with extended hours for midnight releases of hot titles and early openings for demands.

All of this makes the store and its wall-to-wall celebration of high-end tech the best place to buy the supplies you've been saving your money all semester for.



BLAIR BOSWELL / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

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BEST PIZZA

FRANCO'S PIZZA

225 Burgess Road
540-564-0105

By **JEFF WADE**
The Breeze

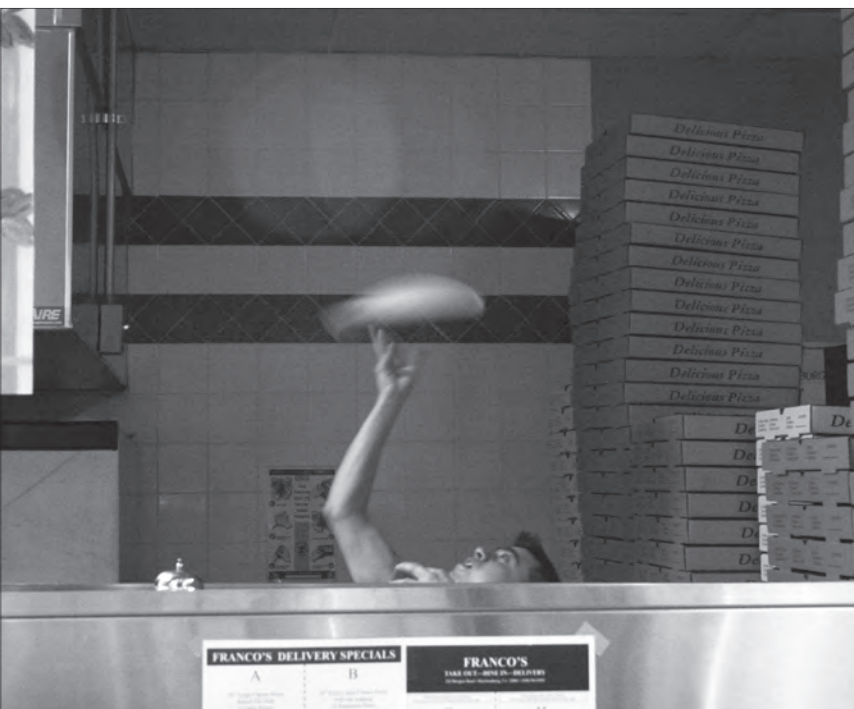
When delivery chains aren't quite satisfying your pizza cravings, a trip to Franco's Pizza is in order.

The restaurant offers up New York style pizza by the pie or by the slice, with all the standard toppings and fixings that

you would want with a price that is just as delicious.

If you're not in the mood for a slice, the pizzeria also offers subs and pastas that are just as satisfying.

While the restaurant's spacious booths invite you to stay and chat while you enjoy a pie, the location also offers speedy carry-out for those on the go.



BLAIR BOSWELL / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

BEST ORIENTAL RESTAURANT

TASTE OF THAI

917 S. High St.
540-801-8878



BRANDON PAYNE / THE BREEZE

By **AMBER LOGSDON**
The Breeze

Inside your refrigerator, there may be about four little takeout boxes. They've been sitting there for a week going to waste because you're sick of continually eating the same chicken and broccoli. Grab a taste of Taste of Thai — named by readers as a Best of the 'Burg winner — and your problems are solved.

Located on South High Street, Taste of Thai offers a wide selection of traditional Oriental dishes that will satisfy cravings for the exotic. Taste of Thai

gives options for even the pickiest eaters. Their menu boasts more than 70 dishes, including curries, seafood and vegetarian entrées. Though some of the prices may be steep (the lobster special goes for \$25.95), diners get what they pay for.

The food is served in large portions, with enough to take home. On top of that, the dining rooms are large and comfortable, with a large flat-screen TV in one of the dining rooms. The friendly staff caters to the guests whether its a couple on a date or a large wedding party. So go ahead and throw out last week's leftovers. Your palate — and fridge — will thank you.

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BRANDON PAYNE / THE BREEZE

BEST DATE NIGHT

CLEMENTINE CAFE

153 S. Main St.
540-801-8881

By **AMBER LOGSDON**
contributing writer

So you've used all three of your Madison Grill punches for the semester and you're stuck on where to go on your date tonight. Luckily, there's Clementine Cafe, located downtown. The restaurant's interior radiates with a warm, citrus glow, similar to its namesake.

One thing Clementine is proud of is its constantly rotating menu, allowing a different dining experience on almost every visit. The menu has a wide variety of options, from New York Strip entrées to falafel burgers. Even better, the food is reasonably priced, so there's no

need to make your date pay for their own meal.

Clementine also allows for more than just a classy place to have a dinner date. The restaurant houses a lounge and a stage, both of which can be rented out for events. Tuesday's weekly team trivia nights are held on the main floor for prizes. It's also used as one of the venues for WXJM's annual MACRoCK festival. Local artists are promoted throughout the building with their works displayed on the walls.

Instead of sticking to the played-out dinner and a movie routine, Clementine will offer an experience that will put some flavor back into dating.

BEST NIGHT LIFE

JIMDEL RESTAURANT & LOUNGE

1594 South Main St.
540-801-0808

By **JAMIE LOSE**
The Breeze

There really isn't any way around it: Jimdels is the best uninhibited, irrational, explicit and cheap fun. Located conveniently next to El Charro on South Main Street, this nightclub embodies everything college students are all about: cheap beer, loud music and an

excuse to get sweaty and touch each other. Thursday night is the biggest night to hit it up, but be sure to get there early to avoid the long wait. In the past, Jimdels has been so popular that they had to turn people away at the door due to overcrowding. So strap on your dancing shoes and check your self-respect at the door — readers agree, Jimdels is the place to be.



KRISTIN MCGREGOR / THE BREEZE

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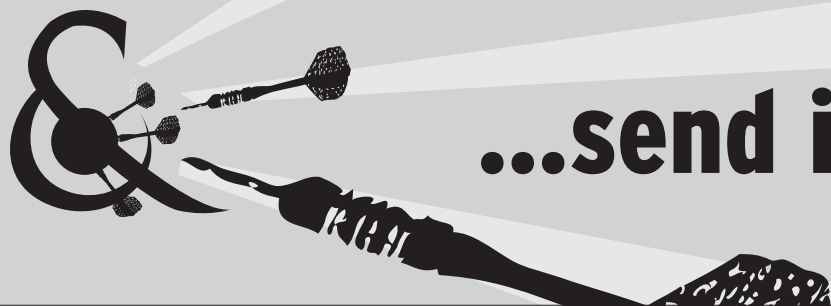
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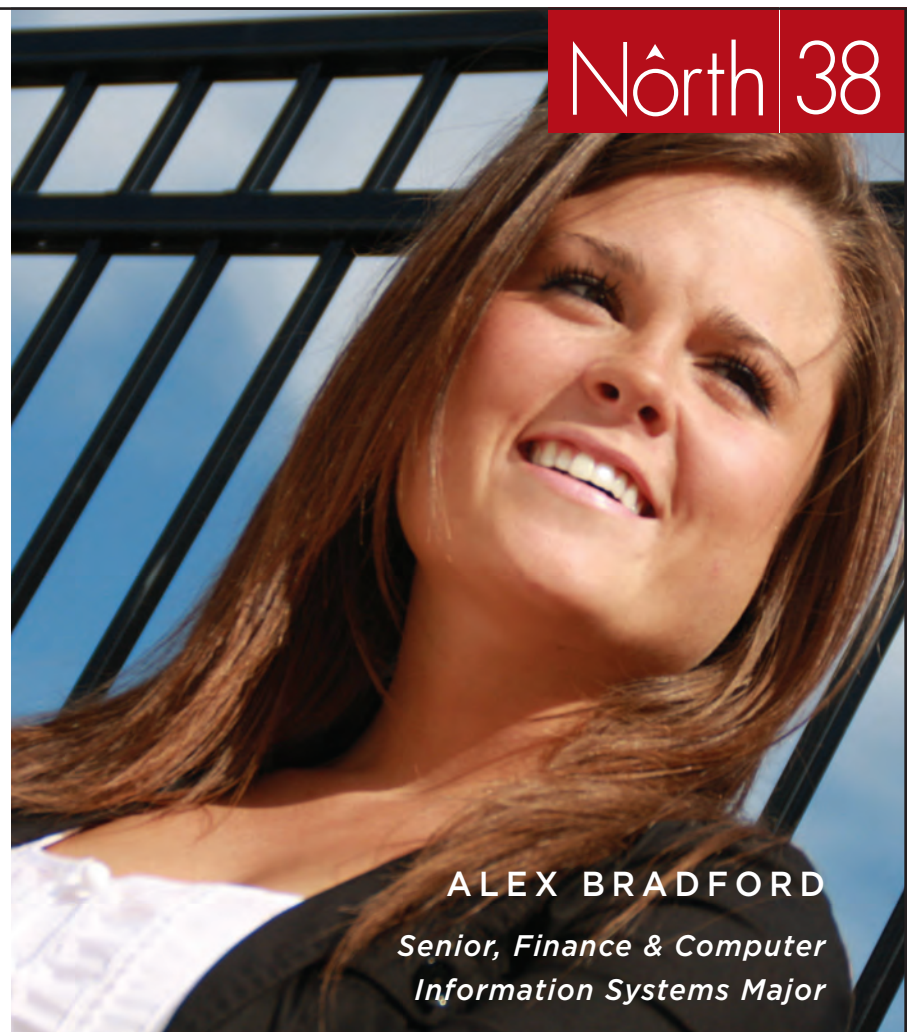
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