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# The Breeze

Serving James Madison University Since 1922



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Vol. 88, No. 32  
Thursday, January 26, 2012



GRIFFIN HARRINGTON / THE BREEZE

Of the 18,971 students enrolled at JMU, around 2,485 are from minority groups. Students widely disagree about the role of affirmative action.

JMU takes race into account during admissions process to increase low minority percent

>> Students' opinions on affirmative action, [page A5](#)

By **LISA WATSON**  
contributing writer

For some JMU's skewed gender ratio is a draw, however another issue is much more likely to alienate than attract. Universities have debated whether the use of affirmative action in admissions departments is necessary to increase diversity. Freshman Erin Holland thinks that diversity on campus helps make the college experience unique.

## JMU population

- 87.2 percent Caucasian
- 4.8 percent Asian American
- 4.1 percent African American
- 2.5 percent Hispanic American
- 1.4 percent international

(ACCORDING TO JMU ADMISSIONS)

"It's one of the things that separates college from high school," Holland said. John Briskey, a junior communication studies major, doesn't support affirmative action in the admissions process, but likes the idea of having a diverse student body. "Sure, I'd like to see more not-forced

diversity, like affirmative action," Briskey said. "Diversity is a good thing, but it should have to do with how well you're doing in school." Out of the 18,971 students enrolled in JMU, 13.1 percent, or about 2,485 students, are from minority groups, according to the JMU website. Virginia Tech and The University of Virginia both have a higher minority population than JMU with 25.3 percent (out of 28,650 total students) and 30 percent (out of 21,049 total students), respectively. Michael Walsh, dean of admissions, said the university does take race into consideration during the admissions process.

see **DIVERSITY**, page A4

## Copper Beech breach

Residents uninformed of break-in, struggle with management



MATT SCHMACHTENBERG / THE BREEZE

An unknown man entered the Copper Beech townhome of junior Catherine Schlegel early Friday morning.

By **ALISON PARKER**  
The Breeze

In the early morning hours on Friday, Catherine Schlegel awoke to the sound of her jewelry shuffling in her Copper Beech bedroom. She then heard the sound of heavy breathing, finding an unknown man staring back at her. "At first I thought it was a drunk guy mistakenly coming to our house thinking it was his own," she said. "He had a dark gray hoodie on that covered his face." When it dawned on her that it was an intruder, she immediately jolted awake and screamed. "He just casually walked out of my room," Schlegel said. "He didn't run, which was weird." Her room is in the basement of the townhome. From there, Schlegel followed the intruder, unable to clearly see him because she wasn't wearing her glasses. "He knew exactly where he was going even when all the lights were off," Schlegel said. "He didn't say anything and just headed up the stairs and walked out the front door, leaving it wide open." She called the police, who arrived around 4 a.m. Police confirmed there was no sign of forced entry. They added there have been several cases where someone who is heavily intoxicated will enter the wrong home. From Jan. 1, 2011 through Jan. 24, 2012, there were a total of five incidents in off-campus residences similar to Friday's, three of which involved the arrest of intoxicated offenders venturing into the wrong residence. The other two were residents' reports of an intruder in their apartments. "The police didn't know what could have happened or what his intentions were," Schlegel said of Friday. "They also thought it was a boy one of my roommates had over, but they aren't like that at all." Earlier in the evening, her roommates came back to the townhome at different times. Stephanie Veit, a senior international affairs major, arrived home a little before 10 p.m. "When I got home, I locked the door to the apartment," Veit said. "I went straight to bed and locked the door to my room. They tried to knock on my door to wake me up when this happened, but I didn't hear them." The second roommate, Sarah McKee, a junior health sciences major, entered the residence shortly after Veit arrived back. "I always lock the dead bolt to the house, so I don't know if I had forgotten." Courtney McKay, a senior marketing major, was the last roommate to enter the residence at around 11:45 p.m. and found the door unlocked. She immediately came inside, locked the door and went to bed. Schlegel thinks the man somehow entered the residence either between 10 p.m. and 11:45 p.m. or later into the night. Although the incident happened last week, it's not far behind Schlegel. She fought with Copper Beech to get her townhouse's locks changed.

see **COPPER**, page A4



>> Fencing club proves to be more than just a sword fight, [page B3](#)

ROBERT BOAG / THE BREEZE

## A numbers game

SGA to collect signatures for Virginia21 campaign to lower student tuition

By **GEORGINA BUCKLEY**  
The Breeze

Instead of betting on blackjack to pay tuition, SGA encourages students to place bets on a different kind of 21. This week SGA hopes to lower tuition by drumming up support for the Virginia21 "What's your number" campaign. Brittany Tyler, the Virginia21 deputy director, said all four-year colleges in Virginia are participating in the campaign to get 10,000 signatures to support Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell's fiscal year budget proposal incorporates an increase in funding for higher education, especially financial aid. "McDonnell's proposal is the first in 50 years to increase funding for higher education," Tyler said. SGA President Pat Watral has challenged SGA to get 1,000 signatures across campus to support the proposal. "You ask people about higher education, and they all agree that it's

one of the most important things in a person's life," he said. "Over the past few decades, politicians have prioritized money to other things." SGA's goal is to meet the needs of students and work to solve issues that are most important to them. "In October, when we surveyed student opinion on school things that are most important to them, students ranked financial aid and tuition No. 2," Watral said (aside from transportation). "Students took about \$2 million in financial aid, just to come to JMU." Not only will an increase in state funding provide more money for financial aid, but it will slow any tuition raise state schools would otherwise have to do without McDonnell's budget proposal, according to Watral. "Whatever is not paid for by the state must be made up by private donations or tuition," Watral said. "If we're not getting the money from the state, JMU is going to have to make up the money from somewhere, which means raising tuition."



KATIE BAROODY / THE BREEZE

SGA hopes to collect 1,730 signatures for the Virginia21 campaign. "If we're not getting the money from the state, JMU is going to have to make up the money from somewhere, which means raising tuition," said SGA President Pat Watral.

The Virginia21 campaign states that tuition could increase by as much as nine percent in the next couple of years without that proposal. SGA's goal is to get 1,730 signatures from JMU students, faculty and staff by Jan. 31.

JMU isn't alone in the signatures campaign. The University of Virginia and Christopher Newport University are just a few of many state schools that have joined.

see **SGA**, page A3

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Students have perfected their parking-spot-stalking skills.

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**Publicly Shmacked?**  
Online pictures and videos of students drinking will lower their chances of finding jobs.

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**Dating game**  
Advice columnist takes to the stage to deliver dating commandments.

B3 **SPORTS**  
**Three's a crowd**  
Track and field qualifies three relay teams for the ECACs in March.





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48°/45°



Friday  
rain  
48°/29°



Saturday  
partly cloudy  
53°/28°



Sunday  
flurries  
38°/22°

Thursday, January 26, 2012

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## 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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# horoscopes



### IF YOU WERE BORN TODAY:

You're exceptionally cute on your birthday, so take advantage and soak it up! Allow yourself to revel in love, beauty and art as long as you can manage. Drench yourself in delicious flavors, colors and smells. Drink in the loveliness.



### AQUARIUS

(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Not everything goes according to plan, but that's the beauty. It's really not worth losing your temper over.



### PISCES

(Feb. 19-March 20)

A beautiful transformation is underway. The reality may be quite distinct from how you fantasized it.



### ARIES

(March 21-April 19)

You may have some trouble making a quick start — in part because you have many options before you and not one has been singled out.



### TAURUS

(April 20-May 20)

Love's the game and the prize. Be thankful for whatever you get, and there's no resisting you.



### GEMINI

(May 21-June 20)

A blissful moment sneaks up, and love gets revealed. Resist the temptation to forget all responsibility. Savor it, and keep moving. You're that big.



### CANCER

(June 21-July 22)

Elders are in a good mood. Take advantage and make a request, the granting of which could benefit everyone. Don't launch until ready. Rest up.



### LEO

(July 23-Aug. 22)

The job's more fun than you expected. Find the perfect plan going forward.



### VIRGO

(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Get more than you asked for. Count the benefits ... they outweigh any negatives. Slow down and think it over before saying something you regret.



### LIBRA

(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Find the perfect plan. Postpone a trip and avoid an expensive hassle. Take a quiet evening to kick back at home.



### SCORPIO

(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Edit your own romantic dream. You're lucky in love. It's a great time to be with friends, especially if it involves something artistic.



### SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Your home benefits from your creativity. Love flows freely. Relish a luxurious evening. Choose faith over doubt.



### CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Your mind paints stark colors against blank backgrounds. You see it clearly and say it so artfully. Passions run hot with intensity. Get it out there.

## GOP attacks Obama's State of the Union address

Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — As President Barack Obama called for economic fairness in this State of the Union speech, his Republican rivals blasted the president for spurring divisions.

"No feature of the Obama presidency has been sadder than its constant efforts to divide us, to curry favor with some Americans by castigating others," Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels said in the official GOP response to the speech. "We do not accept that ours will ever be a nation of 'haves' and 'have nots'; we must always be a nation of 'haves' and 'soon to have'."

Daniels, a popular economic conservative, blasted Obama's economic policies as a "grand experiment in trickle-down government" and "pro-poverty," policies that have hampered the economy

rather than helped. The governor, who took a pass on a presidential bid last year, cast the coming election as a critical moment.

"So 2012 is a year of true opportunity, maybe our last, to restore an America of hope and upward mobility, and greater equality," Daniels said.

The governor was joined by many Republican leaders in casting the president as a class warrior seeking to pit rich against poor in his quest for re-election, and many Republicans didn't wait to hear the president's remarks to weigh in.

Presidential hopeful Mitt Romney began the day with a "pre-buttal," in which, like Daniels, he accused the president of using the speech to "divide the nation."

"The president's agenda sounds less like 'built to last' and more like 'doomed to fail,'" the former Massachusetts governor said. What he's proposing is more of the same: more taxes, more spending and more regulation."

Romney's top rival for the GOP nomination took a harsher tone. Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich painted the president as a radical, out

of touch with America.

"You always have to wonder when Obama speaks, which country he thinks he's talking to. You also have to wonder what his source material is," Gingrich said at a campaign event earlier in the day. "You can really understand him best when you understand that he is a Saul Alinsky radical who taught radicalism in Chicago. I'm an old-fashioned American and I think the primary documents are the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Federalist Papers."

Gingrich predicted that the president would blame former President George W. Bush for the nation's woes. But the president pointed the figure more directly at Congress.

Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the Senate GOP leader, suggested Obama's proposals for the future should be weighed against his record of the past two years.

"The president may want to come here tonight and make it sound as if he just walked in the door," McConnell said. "A better approach is to admit that his three-year experiment in big-government has made our economy worse."

## Number of Americans with tablets doubled in last month

Seattle Times

The folks at the Pew Research Center have come out with a new report showing that the number of U.S. adults who own tablets and

e-book readers each jumped from 10 percent to 19 percent between mid-December and early January.

Overall, 29 percent of adults now own at least one of them, up from 18 percent in December according to Pew, which notes that "these findings are striking because they come after a period from mid-2011 into the autumn in which there was not much change in the ownership of tablets and e-book readers."

The report, from the Pew

Internet and American Life Project, attributed some of that change to the arrival of Amazon's Kindle Fire and Barnes & Noble's Nook Tablet, both of which cost less than other tablets on the market.

Microsoft is late coming into the tablet market. Its Windows 8 — the latest version of its flagship operating system that's designed to work on both tablets and desktop computers — comes out in beta next month.

## Facebook timeline coming for all users soon

Detroit Free Press

Many of Facebook's 800 million users are going to be in for a bit of a shock soon.

Facebook said Tuesday that its aggressively redesigned profile page, dubbed Timeline, will be forced on all its users in the "next few weeks."

Timeline, first showed off by

CEO Mark Zuckerberg in September, is a new profile view for Facebook users that makes it easier to go back in time and see posts from years ago.

It also allows users to upload a large cover photo, which stretches across the width of the profile page.

Facebook is hoping Timeline becomes a digital scrapbook of sorts, offering an easy peek back to nostalgic posts from the early days of the social network.

Some users have been fearful, though, that making old posts easier to find is not a good development.

Once a Facebook user is prompted to make the switch to Timeline, he or she has one week to go back through old posts and delete them or change the privacy settings to limit access to them before the user's Timeline is viewable to anyone else.

The best place to do this is inside Facebook's Activity Log, which shows all of a user's posts in one spot and is viewable after Timeline is activated.

Once a Facebook user has enabled Timeline, there is no opportunity to go back to the old profile.

Be sure to check out  
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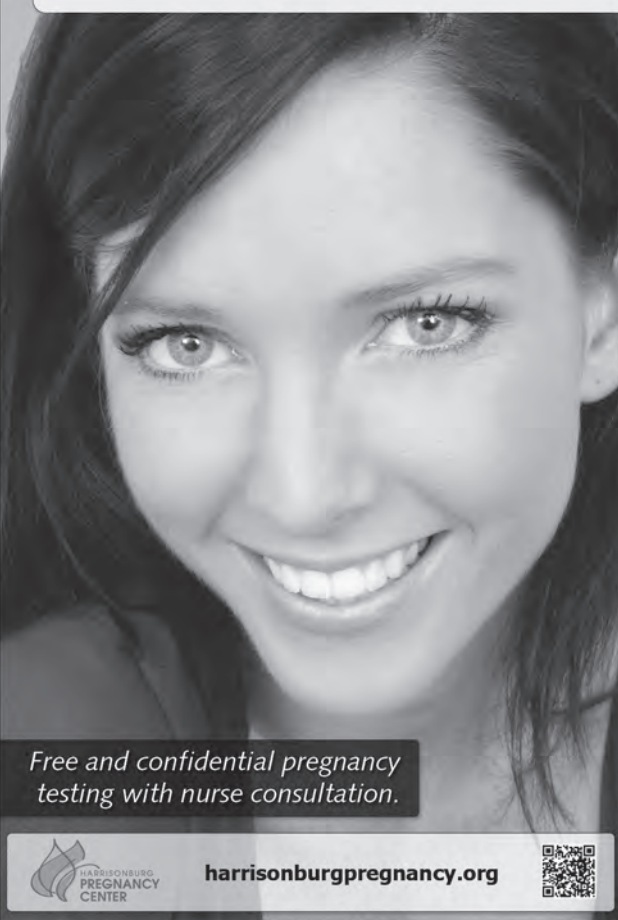
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# Parking wars



MATT SCHMACHTENBERG / THE BREEZE

*Students creatively compete for parking spots they find on short supply.*

By **DANIELLE ERB**  
contributing writer

Kyle Prendergast knows exactly how to maximize his chances of finding an on-campus parking spot.

"You have to wait till people cross the street and see which way they face," he said. "Then, in my mind, I strategically map out the fastest route to get to them."

That's only the half of it.

"So you park on the side and creep up until you see what road they are on and then speed down and put your blinker on," the junior biology major said. "Also, you have to stay in the middle of the road, so no other cars get by."

Parking is an important issue for students. When the SGA surveyed more than 3,500 students in November, the top concern was transportation.

For many students, parking on campus is a daily struggle. The same routine of being late to class if they can't find a spot or are forced to drive all the way around campus to search for a spot is common among students.

Harrison Land, a biotechnology major, has resorted to waiting in anticipation.

"One time, I had already gone up and down the parking garage twice," Land said. "I was about to leave and skip class, and then I saw this girl at the bottom."

He approached the girl and asked her where she was parked, and then he scored the spot by following her to her car.

There are more than 10,000 parking spots in 70 lots and four parking decks on campus: 4,371 spots for commuters, 2,358 for residents and the rest for faculty and staff. Even with those spots available, students still complain about parking availability.

Stalking fellow students in order to take their spots isn't out of the ordinary either.

Whether it's driving up and down the decks, closely tailing those walking up the stairs or giving strangers rides to their cars, JMU students have been using their creativity to find that one parking spot.

In the Grace Street parking deck, students admit to waiting on the top deck for students to get out of the elevators.

"It's a little bit ridiculous," said Bailey Grove, a junior kinesiology major. "I have had my friend get out of the car and go run and stand in a spot."

Marissa McDaniel, a junior health sciences major, has been a victim to a "parking sniper" when she had her spot in the Champions Deck snatched from her.

"As I was coming around the corner, I saw this girl walking to her car," McDaniel said. "I put my blinker on, and the girl in the car in front of me reversed back down and stole my spot. I couldn't go to class because I was so late."

While students think this ongoing parking battle is because of the lack of spaces, Bill Yates, associate director of Parking Services, doesn't agree.

"There is an issue in terms of convenience, and that's just not a reasonable expectation on a college campus," Yates said. "You can find a parking space on this campus in 10 to 12 different locations at any given time."

While Parking Services insists it provides students with enough parking, Land opts for the bus to get to class this year.

"Everyone parks in Champions Deck," Land said. "I was always competing with other people."

**CONTACT** Danielle Erb at [erbd1@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:erbd1@dukes.jmu.edu).

## IN BRIEF

### HARRISONBURG

#### Man arrested for malicious wounding

Harrisonburg police have arrested Andrew Bartlett, 26, of Vancouver, Wash., for charges of felony aggravated malicious wounding in connection with the stabbing of 22-year-old Niko Montanez.

Police seized bloody clothing and three knives from the suspect's room, police haven't said that any of these knives were used during the stabbing.

Montanez is now in stable condition at the University of Virginia Medical Center in Charlottesville. Bartlett is being held without bond at Rockingham County Jail until his preliminary hearing on March 6, according to the *Daily News Record*.

### NATION

#### Department of Education admits using flawed data

The Department of Education has admitted to not including black students in its calculations in a study on the impact of race on student loan repayment rates, according to InsideHigherEd.

The study was done in December during a debate over gainful employment regulation from for-profit colleges.

By not counting black students, the study pointed to for-profit colleges having an average rate of students who default on their loans.

## SGA plans fallen Dukes memorial

By **GEORGINA BUCKLEY**  
and **YOONJI KIM**  
*The Breeze*

In memory of the seven Dukes who died last semester, a "JMUUnited" memorial in the Quad tunnel may be in the works.

It's not official yet, and Facilities Management has to be consulted according to freshman Morgan Miller, an SGA member.

"We're getting permission from the financial administrators, and we also want to talk to students to make sure they like the idea, just to get a sense,"

The tentative design for the memorial will be a painted or mosaicked mural in the tunnel connecting the Quad to the Forbes Center for the Performing Arts.

The SGA is partnering with Student Ambassadors to start the project.

Senior Pat Watral, SGA president, said nothing is set in stone, but if plans go ahead, SGA will be reaching out to the student community for help in designing and implementing the mural.

"I'd say it's pretty appropriate especially at a period of pretty significant loss in the JMU community," said Austin Shifflett, a sophomore theatre and dance major.

Since the project is only in its beginning stages, Thomas said the SGA is open to ideas from students



BRANDON PAYNE / FILE PHOTO

**The tentative idea for a memorial could be a mural in the Quad tunnel. However, SGA and Student Ambassadors are open to other ideas.**

"I'd say it's pretty appropriate especially at a period of pretty significant loss in the JMU community."

**Austin Shifflett**  
sophomore theatre  
and dance major

about the memorial and can submit them to the SGA office.

In order to raise money for the project, all proceeds from the Forever-A -Duke Charity Ball on Feb. 11

will go to the "JMUUnited" memorial.

The ball will be held at 7 p.m. in the Festival ballroom; tickets will be \$10 per person.

"JMUUnited" T-shirts, also \$10, will be sold by SGA and money from that will also go toward the memorial.

The T-shirts will have "JMUUnited" on the front, while the left sleeve will say "Forever a Duke" with a yellow ribbon on it.

The T-shirts will also become available after the ball on the Commons or in Warren Hall.

**CONTACT** Georgina Buckley and Yoonji Kim at [breezenews@gmail.com](mailto:breezenews@gmail.com).

## Steam plant contractor pronounced dead at RMH

An unidentified male around 60 years old was pronounced dead upon arrival at Rockingham Memorial Hospital on Tuesday.

The man, a contractor working with the steam plant on campus became ill and was feeling dizzy around 11:10 a.m. The man told his co-workers that he was going to his car parked in the upper Frye Building parking lot to rest.

About 15 minutes later, a co-worker went to check on the man, who was found unresponsive in his vehicle.

The fire department and rescue squad was notified and EMS personnel administered CPR on the scene. He was taken to RMH, where he was pronounced dead, according to Lee Shifflett, chief of JMU police.

University spokesman Don Egle said the man was in no way affiliated with the university but worked on the steam plant through an outside company.

Egle also said the man's name won't be released by the university out of respect for his family.

— staff report

## Madison Liberty holds primaries

Madison Liberty will hold its version of the primaries today on the commons.

The organization will conduct an open straw poll to see who students want to win the presidency from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Survey choices are current president Obama, former Massachusetts Gov. Romney, Congressman Paul, former Speaker of the House Gingrich, former Pennsylvania Senator Santorum and a write-in option.

Lukas Wachob, a junior public policy and administration major, is the president of Madison Liberty.

"We want to do this because we are very interested in politics," Wachob

said. "Everyone thinks that JMU lives in a bubble, but when you scratch the surface, students have really deep and well thought-out political views."

He added that it's been a while since anyone has measured students' interest in government.

"There is a much more radically different image of government, such as Ron Paul rising in the Republican party race," he said. "We come at this with an expectation with our position in academia as being fairly liberal, but we want to see if these views have changed since Obama came."

In Oct. 2008, Obama inspired the voters of JMU, many of whom voted

in that election for the very first time. Many students lined the streets waiting to greet him, chanted for him, and voted for him.

"We're interested in seeing where these opinions still reside," Wachob said. "Is there still that enthusiasm for him, is there confusion across the board or is there one candidate that is speaking a message that resonates with JMU students?"

Results to the survey will be posted on Madison Liberty's blog, [madisonliberty.blogspot.com](http://madisonliberty.blogspot.com).

— staff report

## SGA | 'Everyone has debt'

### from front

As of 1 p.m. on Wednesday they had 782 signatures.

"JMU sets it tuition consistent with state funding," Watral said.

Virginia21 will present the signatures in front of the General Assembly on Feb 9. which has the power to make changes to what money McDonnell has allocated to higher education.

Kelly Johnson, SGA member, said that by signing the petition, students are increasing their ability to get higher grants, scholarships and loans.

Senior Kathleen Murphy, an SGA member and a political science and German double major said that in the last year JMU students have taken out \$20 million in loans.

"Everyone has debt," Murphy said. "If signing doesn't help [the student] personally, it'll help someone they know."

Students can go to the SGA office and sign petition forms on the office door in Taylor Hall.

**CONTACT** Georgina Buckley at [breezenews@gmail.com](mailto:breezenews@gmail.com).



DIVERSITY

Efforts made to reach minorities

from front

“Yes, affirmative action is alive and well,” Walsh said. “It starts at the very beginning when we are looking at students. If you want a diverse campus, you need to attract students who will come and stay.”

Many students have a negative view of affirmative action as they assume that the students accepted through it take the place of other, more deserving students. However, Walsh said this isn’t the case.

“When you start looking at questions of diversity it’s not as simple as some people think it is,” Walsh said. “Ethnicity is one of the many factors that can be considered. We have multiple tie-breakers. We can’t admit all of them.”

Junior Brandon Hope, an ISAT major, said he supports some form of affirmative action.

“To say that there is no imbalance between different groups as people is untrue,” Hope said.

Christina Grier, a senior

political science major, has conflicting views about affirmative action. She said she thinks it’s helpful because she knows people who wouldn’t be here without it, but she also sees the other side of the issue.

“I feel it is good for the people it does help, but there are people who can be hurt by it because they are in the racial majority,” Grier said.

Walsh explained the admission process through a hypothetical situation in which an employer has hired mostly males for his company. When asked why the employer doesn’t have more females working for him, he shows a large number of males applied and only a few females applied.

“A similar situation can be found with college admissions,” Walsh said. “JMU can’t accept students who don’t apply, so efforts have to be made to reach out to these students.”

When the university is recruiting, it tries to reach out to make students from

different backgrounds feel comfortable with the campus.

Walsh believes that having a diverse campus is important in order to give the students a more fulfilling experience.

“The more diverse the campus, the richer the experience for the student,” Walsh said. “It prepares you for your life after college.”

Junior T.J. Kirk, a geographic sciences major, doesn’t believe in affirmative action.

“I think diversity is going to appear no matter what we do,” Kirk said in reference to whether diversity on campus should be actively pursued.

Mark Warner, vice president of student affairs, also believes in the benefits of a diverse population.

“We all will be working with people who are different than we are,” Warner said. “Working and studying in a diverse environment prepares all of us to be more successful in an ever-changing world — a multicultural world.”

**CONTACT** Lisa Watson at watso2lm@dukes.jmu.edu.

COPPER

No ‘timely notice’ sent

from front

Police said they are looking into this case and will obtain as much information as they possibly can.

Schlegel’s also concerned that the HPD, JMU or Copper Beech didn’t notify students that this happened.

The incident, however, was just filed as trespassing of property, which does not constitute a “timely notice,” according to Lee Shifflett,

JMU’s chief of police. Those notices are only used to notify the public of an immediate threat.

Although some students are cautious, others are completely out of the loop.

Kelsey Beattie, a senior SMAD major and resident of Copper Beech, hadn’t heard about Schlegel’s scare.

“Copper doesn’t notify us of anything that goes on,” she said. “The blast emails they send us are just for

maintenance stuff,” Beattie said.

The most recent break-in she knows about was an incident last year, when she also lived in Copper Beech.

“In terms of people breaking in now, I haven’t heard anything, and we wouldn’t have any way of knowing,” Beattie said.

**CONTACT** Alison Parker at breezenews@gmail.com.

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## CONVERSATION CORNER

Do you think affirmative action should be used in college admissions processes?

### TRISTAN KIRKMAN

Those . . . against affirmative action tend to be completely ignorant of the fact that they have received "affirmative action" in all other areas of life . . . since they were born.

### @DAVISITODO

Oh sure! Why not reinforce racial judgment?

### EMILY MEYERS

Affirmative action is ABSOLUTELY necessary, otherwise we'd go straight back to the 1940s when it was extremely difficult for any minority group to get into college or get a good job.

### @GOWDIZZLE

Honestly, No. College acceptance should not be based on ethnic background.

### CARRIE WESTERFIELD

Absolutely not I was denied so many college scholarships I was more than qualified for because I was a white middle class girl and not of a different race or economic standing.

### @JCARPEDIEMSS

yes because research shows that although those students may not start off as well as others, they end up just as successful

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Cut 'Shmacked' some slack

I wanted to write in response to the "I'm Shmacked" video that was done this past weekend and the article written about it. Although I was not in support of the video originally, there are some interesting points to make after seeing it.

If you take a look at most of the interviews, they correlate with a lot of other JMU promotional videos of why this university is a great place to be. Personally, I'm not a fan of seeing JMU promoted as mainly a party school. There's no way to deny that's part of what's here.

But even in the video, you can see signs that JMU is much more than the party school element. We are big on service. We are big on being

friendly and willing to help. We are big on alternative ways of having fun and being involved without alcohol. The video showed our love for JMU athletics and for our awesome food.

Long story short, we are JMU. The "I'm Shmacked" guys saw a glimpse of that. As an avid promoter of JMU, I feel that, while I don't agree with all the videos posted, there are parts that show why JMU is the special place it is.

So even with some negative reaction throughout the weekend and the article published Monday, don't dismiss it completely. Take a deeper look, and you will see some positives.

**Anthony Bowman**  
senior music education major

## LEWIS CREECH | guest columnist

# Leno's late-night fight

*Golden Temple joke upset Sikhs, sparking controversy*

Presidential hopeful Newt Gingrich has an estate in Virginia. Ron Paul owned a ranch house in Texas. And Mitt Romney? Well, according to Jay Leno, his summer home is the holiest Sikh shrine, the Golden Temple of Amritsar.

Hello, international controversy. Indians are extremely frustrated that their holiest shrine was compared to a rich, luxurious palace for a politician.

Let me start by saying that legally, Leno did nothing wrong. Living in this country, he was exerting his constitutional right to free speech. I only bring into question his ethical choice in using the holy temple for the purpose of this joke.

After watching "The Tonight Show," it was clear to me that the joke would've held the same weight if another extremely large, expensive building was used, like Hogwarts. The joke would've satirized Romney's wealth, and no wizards would've been offended.

Instead, Leno chose to use a holy temple, perhaps expecting to create controversy by upsetting religious Indians. They were likely attempting to use the controversial element for publicity, but it wasn't in good taste.

Too often, shows today are purposely offensive just to draw in an audience. But if a show is actually good, people will watch it. People don't necessarily need controversy to tune in, especially on a late-night talk show.

If you tune into "South Park," you know what you're going to get. The show attempts to satirize everyone, and people who will get offended know not to tune in. A late-night talk show, in contrast, attracts different types of audiences. A program on a major network, like "The Tonight Show," should be extremely careful about comments. More thought should be given to who might be offended.

The people most offended by this joke have created an online petition against Leno and have allegedly contacted the U.S. Embassy in India, according to BBC News yesterday. They argue that Leno has been offensive for far too long and that they need to stand up to him.

This seems like a knee-jerk reaction. The embassy can't do anything because he was within his First Amendment rights. The best thing that they could do in this case would be to ask Jay Leno to be more cautious in his jokes and to keep in mind that they could offend people.

Because Leno largely benefits from this publicity, he probably feels like the joke was a success. Using the holy temple for this joke wasn't the most ethical choice. But because of the nature of late-night TV, it isn't likely off-color jokes will stop anytime soon.

Lewis Creech is a freshman media arts & design declared major. Contact Lewis at [creechl@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:creechl@dukes.jmu.edu).

## SARAH LOCKWOOD | guest columnist

# Future shmuture

*Students with unfiltered Facebook photos and videos will struggle to get jobs*

I'm not sure whether "I'm Shmacked" filmmaker Arya Toufanian's whining about *The Breeze's* accuracy is warranted or not. And I don't really care. What people should be caring about is how bad "I'm Shmacked" made our university look.

I know enough about the documentary project to know that students shouldn't be so quick to defend these young cameramen, or worse, step in front of their cameras.

More than 200 liked Toufanian's rant about *The Breeze's* "inaccurate" article. Shmacked's pictures promoting JMU's portion of the video received another couple hundred likes and encouraging posts.

Requests like "just f---ing upload it already" and "anticipation is killing meeee" riddle the filmmakers' teasing photos of nearly naked JMU girls. But I wonder if others are feeling a different kind of anxiety. Are some fingers tightly crossed in the restless hope their faces don't appear on these YouTube releases? Because they should be.

I love JMU's approach to hospitality. We know how to show guests a good time — whether that includes partying, musical entertainment, fine dining or gorgeous hikes. But when guests hold a video camera, I think we should be a little more cautious.

I'm all for college students enjoying themselves. If you know how to have a good time safely and still be a successful, involved, happy member of the community, then good for you. And if you don't, well, you'll learn someday or reap the consequences.

Despite my open-mindedness about a person's right to do their own

thing in college, I just can't hold up my jaw when I see what my fellow students are willing to tweet, post, photograph and now, put on video.

I've heard some pretty stubborn arguments defending these social media practices. So here's my counterargument: why you're wrong in thinking you're protecting yourself online. And why appearing on "I'm Shmacked" could ruin your future.

### I only take pictures with red Solo cups, and no one can prove what's in them.

It doesn't matter. Even if they are just "props." Employers don't care whether you're drinking water or jungle juice. They don't care if you're underage or of legal drinking age. What they see is an atmosphere that should not be part of your public image. They have a whole stack of applications below yours.

### Employers will understand. They had a good time in college, too.

False. It's not a fair world out there, as journalist Bob Sullivan pointed out as part of his "The Red Tape Chronicles" on MSNBC.com. Seventy percent of employers said they'd rejected applicants based on information they found online, according to a 2010 Microsoft study. Heck, new social intelligence companies are popping up all over to compile data on you based on your web activity.

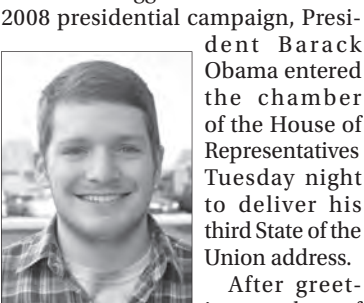
And they're making a nice living off of it — something you won't do if you don't think about what you're posting. Or, if you're in "Shmacked."

## CONNOR GWIN | stuck in the middle

# President has high hopes

*While Obama's address was filled with optimism, he must carry out promises*

With a swagger not seen since the 2008 presidential campaign, President Barack Obama entered the chamber of the House of Representatives Tuesday night to deliver his third State of the Union address.



After greeting members of Congress, most notably Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords (whom he embraced in a powerfully emotional moment), the speech began.

What came next was a 90-minute address that was part cheerleading, part scolding and part tent-revival sermon. Obama delivered what was, perhaps, the most clear and forceful State of the Union address of his presidency. In an overtly political move that would be repeated several times in the speech — Obama made broad statements of national, bipartisan appeal, forcing the Republicans to stand or at least applaud.

At times, Obama sounded like a high school football coach at halftime, stating to the American people that "we can do this" and "America will always win," while other times Obama sounded like the only adult in a room of misbehaving kindergartners. He called the economic policies of the past "wrong" and "irresponsible," while blaming them for "plunging our economy into a crisis."

Even while the president called for unity, Republican leaders John Boehner and Eric Cantor sat with expressions similar to that of a father

meeting his daughter's first date.

It seems the most relevant portion of the speech for students came at the halfway point. Obama proposed making it a requirement for high school students to graduate, or stay enrolled until turning eighteen. On the topic of higher education, the president grew more passionate.

He recommended a halt to interest rate increases on student loans, an extension of the tuition tax credit, and a doubling of work study opportunities.

If Washington isn't repaired, Obama will have to answer to the American people.



His strongest words came for university administrations. "Let me put colleges and universities on notice: If you can't stop tuition from going up, the funding you get from taxpayers will go down," the president proclaimed to collective applause. While these all sound like great ideas, we will judge the tree by its fruit — we'll have to wait and see if these ideas are realized.

The president remained positive for the majority of the speech, saying that the nation needs to return to American values, such as fairness and opportunity for all. It became clear as the speech reached the 60-minute mark that Obama was kicking his reelection campaign into gear.

### I'm not applying for jobs now. I'll clean up my profile later.

Once you or anyone else uploads something to the Internet, it's there forever. Sure, Facebook has tried to deny the residual of photos you thought you deleted. But some argue otherwise. Facebook pictures are rarely permanently deleted, according to ARS Technica, a news and technology website. Don't count on deleting now. The best practice is prevention.

### I'm not tagged. No one will know that photo's of me.

Wrong again. You know how when you upload photos to Facebook, it guesses who everyone is — and does a pretty good job? This is called facial recognition. Long ago, it was a dream-of-only technology built into glasses in spy movies.

But today, it's real. So even if you don't tag yourself, it won't be long before employers will search you based on an already existing picture of you on the Internet. It will find you in your drunk pictures. It will find you in "I'm Shmacked" videos.

At the end of the day, what you do on your Twitter, Facebook and "Shmacked" videos is your decision. But know the facts before you get "Shmacked" in front of cameras. JMU students are better than this.

Sarah Lockwood is a junior media arts & design major. Contact Sarah at [lockwosl@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:lockwosl@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](http://breezejmu.org)

A "thanks-for-being awesome" pat to JMU Dining Services for being, well, awesome.

From an appreciative Duke who can't get through the day without you.

A "put-a-pillow-behind-the-headboard" dart to my upstairs neighbor.

From a girl who's OK with a little bump and grind, but not at 7 a.m.

A "you're-beautiful-on-the-inside-and-out" pat to my female English professor.

From a female junior who doesn't swing that way but just wanted to get that out there.

A "have-a-little-self-respect"

dart to all the tasteless photos posted on the "I'm Shmacked" Facebook page.

From a girl who is disappointed in her fellow JMU students and their poor choices.

A "you're-less-respectful-than-a-6-year-old" dart to the giggly girls sitting behind us in the Forbes Center on Saturday night.

From the parents of the kid who asked during the show why the people behind him were talking.

An "Occupy-APL" dart to whoever decided to replace the historic airport lounge with an art gallery.

From a disturbed and disappointed student who thinks this is a disservice to the Dukes.

A "this-is-not-the-farm-you-were-raised-on" dart to the girl who knocked over my coffee and then just looked at it.

From the coffee drinker who's mad you left me to clean it.

A "why-you-gotta-leave-me-starving?" dart to Sunchase for failing to delivery the pizza we won in its Papa John's contest.

From a sad, hungry resident who looked forward to that yummy pizza.

## Editorial Policies

The Breeze  
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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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Time to get **NAKED**

JORDAN CMEYLA / THE BREEZE

Fully clothed  
advice columnist talks  
tribulations, triumphs  
in love**By NEAL HOLLOWELL**  
*The Breeze*

Advice columnist Harlan Cohen wasn't afraid to expose himself when it comes to relationships — metaphorically, that is.

Despite appearances on "The Today Show" and his book, "The Naked Roommate" being a *New York Times* bestseller, Cohen likes to think of himself as a "regular person."

Tuesday evening, Cohen gave a presentation titled "Naked Dating" to a crowded Grafton-Stovall Theatre about dating and relationships, particularly in college, a novel idea to introduce to JMU.

The choice of the term "naked" was a metaphorical one.

"It's exposing everything and anything about dating and relationships in college and beyond," Cohan said.

Cohen wasn't always a love guru. Over the course of the evening, he revealed his romantic history, listing a series of disappointments and rejections, topping it off with a story from his high school years.

"We had the big Valentine's Day flower exchange. I sent seven flowers, I got one," he

said. "The one flower I got was from someone who wrote, 'Dear Harlan I think you're really hot, love your secret admirer,' and I sent it to myself."

He struggled with insecurities, developing an eating disorder during his freshman year of high school, explaining that he finally got involved with a girl — Little Debbie.

"The more uncomfortable I was, the harder it was to take risks, and I stopped even trying to find a date," Cohen said. "If you're too uncomfortable or too afraid to talk to someone, then don't. Don't do nothing, get some help, turn to someone who can help you get over your fear."

After college and a failed relationship, Cohen set out to find out how dating and relationships really worked.

"I wanted to find the love of my life," he said.

Cohen writes a nationally syndicated advice column, "Help Me, Harlan!" Through thousands of interviews and his own experiences, Cohen has observed certain patterns.

"I have cracked the code when it comes to dating and relationships, I'm sure of it. And it's

see **NAKED**, page B2**Harlan Cohen's skinny on naked dating****On hooking up:**

"If you are in a room long enough, you will hook up. That's what the college experience is. You're in lots of rooms with lots of alcohol, it becomes really easy to hook up."

**On taking risks:**

"You can be totally uncomfortable with taking risks. You can be horrible at sharing your feelings. You could think you're totally defective. But you can have a relationship."

**On failed relationships:**

"We learn that men are a--holes, women are b----es, and couples in love suck."

"There are thousands of people who will want you, and millions who will not. You have options."

"It is a deep, dark dangerous place, where you think everyone you like should like you, and when someone doesn't like you, you will hate them."

**On taking criticism:**

"People who are going to remind you how hot you are," he said. "People who are going to remind you to keep your pants on when you take them off too quickly. People who are going to tell you what you need to hear, not just what you want to hear."

**On excuses:**

"Excuses are just things we use to cover up insecurities. If you want something, you go after it."

"If you're too uncomfortable or too afraid to talk to someone, then don't. If you can't do that, don't do nothing. Get some help, turn to someone who can help you get over your fear."

**On getting over it:**

"It doesn't matter what the results are, you've done it, and if it fails, reflect. Ask yourself why it failed. Ask them why."

**COMMENTARY**

## Oscar highs, lows

Nostalgic nominations exclude bolder, more exciting films, performances

**By JEFF WADE**  
*The Breeze*

Do you like old things? Because according to Tuesday's Oscar nominations, old things are the best.

Between the two frontrunners, Martin Scorsese's ode to early cinema in "Hugo" and the silent-film-stars-are-people-too drama "The Artist," Academy voters seem to want to return to Hollywood's golden years of the 1930s (which may or may not be their birth years).

A similar trend can be seen in the rest of the nominations for Best Picture, with much of them looking back with nostalgia.

Even the star turns provided by the usual Hollywood A-listers, like Brad Pitt's exhausted crankiness in "Moneyball" and George Clooney's distant "Descendants" dad seem to show an aged nature.

In a very typical field of

nominations, it's nice to see something as bold and polarizing as Terrence Malick's "Tree of Life" sitting pretty up top with the more conventional fare.

Of course, the Oscars are just as much, if not more, about getting the chance to complain about what isn't being honored. Which is a lot this year.

The Academy has always been much like a prospective first date — it would much rather go for something light and fun. So the sparse and gritty "Drive" and sex-addiction drama "Shame" are pushed to the side for more (unearned) sentimental fare like "War Horse," "The Help," and "Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close."

This is made doubly confusing by the fact that only nine movies made this year's list for Best Picture — odd considering the current (arbitrary and esoteric) rules for the category allows anywhere from

five to 10 films to be considered for the top prize, depending on the year. I mean, there has to be some award we can find a little extra room for Michael Fassbender's Fassbender.

But there are some pleasant surprises to be found among this year's nominees.

Gary Oldman gets his first nomination for his role in "Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy," the animation category calls Pixar out on forgoing quality for toy sales in "Cars 2" and the Best Original Song category exists solely to make sure that this year's best piece of felt existentialism gets a nod with "Man or Muppet?"

What kind of monkey business is it that Andy Serkis didn't get a nod for his performance work in "Rise of the Planet of the Apes?" Answer: Its bananas.

**CONTACT** Jeff Wade at [breezearts@gmail.com](mailto:breezearts@gmail.com).**By MARY CLAIRE JONES**  
*The Breeze*

At this point, the Oscar nominations are almost always a grab bag of predictable nominations, baffling missteps and confusing omissions.

For example: No one is shocked by "Hugo" getting the most nominations, followed closely by "The Artist." But the fact that "Puss in Boots" got an Oscar nomination makes me want to cry. (See also: "Kung Fu Panda 2.")

I know by this point it's just white noise, but Ryan Gosling is an undeniable babe. That being said, he also delivered not one, not two, but three remarkable performances this year in "Drive," "The Ides of March" and "Crazy, Stupid, Love." He already lost People's Sexiest Man Alive — to Bradley Cooper, of all people — so couldn't the Academy have given him a nomination as a consolation prize?

This is probably also white noise, but I loved "Bridesmaids."

However, the reason I'm pulling for "Bridesmaids" to win Best Original Screenplay isn't solely because it was one of the year's best screenplays (which it was), but mostly because it's so rare for a movie as massively popular as "Bridesmaids" to get any sort of recognition from the Academy. (See also: the film's exclusion from the Best Film category.)

Ryan Gosling "already lost People's Sexiest Man Alive ... so couldn't the Academy have given him a nomination as a consolation prize?"

Melissa McCarthy getting a Best Supporting Actress nomination for "Bridesmaids" restores my faith in humanity. She was the best part about that movie (which is saying something considering how good

it was), and I've been waiting for people to discover her for a long, long time.

Similarly, as a lifelong "Harry Potter" fan, I've been waiting for the franchise to get any sort of recognition from the Academy. With the exception of a few nominations in the technical categories, it hasn't happened. And even though I wasn't a huge fan of the last film (sue me), Alan Rickman gave a performance both wrenching and poignant and that definitely deserved a nomination.

As for Best Picture, "Hugo" and "The Artist" are likely to be the two frontrunners, if for no other reason than the Academy gets over-excited for films that reek of sentimentality for bygone eras. (See also: everything about "Midnight in Paris.")

And Gary Oldman. King of my heart. It's about damn time.

**CONTACT** Mary Claire Jones at [breezecopy2@gmail.com](mailto:breezecopy2@gmail.com).**ALBUM REVIEW**

## Michaelson only human

**By JACK KNETEMANN**  
*The Breeze***Ingrid Michaelson**  
**Human Again**

★★★★☆

**Released Jan. 24**

Don't expect to hear the same ukulele and piano that accompanied Ingrid Michaelson's voice at the Wilson Hall Concert in December.

By thickening her sound on "Human Again," Michaelson has proven she's capable of much more than campfire songs.

The album eschews the

plinks and strums that formerly dominated Michaelson's sound in favor of lush production. After four albums using the same musical palette, the time is right for a

see **HUMAN**, page B2

PAUL JONES / THE BREEZE

**A cheesy affair**

At RISE United Methodist Faith Community's second Mac and Cheese-Off on Sunday, Amy Byers, a senior communication sciences and disorders major, poses with her winning recipe. The triumphant concoction is a trio of cottage cheese, sharp cheddar and Muenster.

Byers donated \$100 to LOVE146, an organization that works toward the abolition of child sex slavery and exploitation.

The Mac and Cheese-Off featured 34 entries, more than 150 attendees and raised about \$160 for Love Packs.

Those who attended the event paid a \$3 entrance fee, which allowed them to eat as much mac-and-cheese as they wanted and participate in the judging.

All of the proceeds from the night went to local missions.



NAKED

| ‘As qualified as anyone’

from B1

helped me to find the love of my life,” he said. “I can help millions of people find the love of their lives.”

Cohen admits that those who follow his system will find it may not work right away, or even soon. If you don’t put forth effort, you won’t see results. He can’t perform miracles — after all, he’s a regular

“I can help millions of people find the love of their lives”

**Harlan Cohen**  
Author and columnist

guy.

“He’s researched this, and he’s as qualified as

anyone to tell us about dating,” said freshman Rebecca Richardson.

His newest book, “Naked Dating: Five Steps to Finding the Love of Your Life,” comes out April 10.

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

HUMAN

| Has new style, maturity

from B1

change — something found within the first notes of opener “Fire.” It isn’t built on Michaelson’s usual chords, but the rush and crash of strings and drums. This creativity holds up for the entire record: Not one track is without some sonic wrinkle.

This ambition is surprising for an artist who made her name on peppy pop nuggets. To be sure, many fans will miss the charm of previous singles like “The Way I Am.”

For such a departure, the results are remarkably seamless. Most artists of Michaelson’s stock resort to fancy production as a

The only part holding “Human Again” back is the lack of dynamics.

way of hiding diminished songwriting. But singles “Ghost” and “I’m Through” would be counted among her greatest work even if they were just piano ballads. The embellishments, like the echo on Michaelson’s voice in “Blood Brothers,” are similarly masterful.

The only part holding “Human Again” back is the lack of dynamics.

Listening to Michaelson has never been an

overwhelming experience, which perfectly suited the goals of her songs. “Human Again” is meant to be taken much more seriously than her past work, and it succeeds in holding your attention.

What it lacks is the full cathartic release that can make an album great. Once she capitalizes on her inner Carole King, Michaelson could create her defining moment.

**CONTACT** Jack Knetemann at knetemjw@dukes.jmu.edu.

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## CLUB FENCING

WHO SAID  
CHIVALRY  
IS DEAD?

ROBERT BOAG / THE BREEZE

Members of the Fencing Club practice Monday through Thursday in Memorial Hall's auxiliary gym. The team will participate against rivals Virginia Tech, University of Virginia and William & Mary for the Virginia Cup.

After gaining four medals from its last competition in October, fencing club looks to improve, expand

By **TONY SCHAFFNER**  
*The Breeze*

Fencing is about more than people seemingly prancing around and poking each other with swords. It's about physical agility and mental acuity.

"A big misconception about fencing is that it's going to be exactly [what] people see in the movies like 'Pirates of the Caribbean,'" said club adviser and JMU alumni Will Brown. "It's not as crazy or haphazard as that."

Despite its popularity in Italy, France, Russia and Germany, the United States commonly misunderstands the sport. Fencing, along with cycling, swimming and gymnastics, has been featured at the summer Olympics since it began in Athens in 1896.

Fencing bouts consist of four-minute rounds in which the winner is decided by whoever accumulates the most points, or "touches," at the end of the round. Each fencer is also attached to an electrical apparatus that triggers an audible sound and a red or green light when touched. This method of scoring, as opposed to

the side judges of the past, proves a much more accurate and efficient way to keep score.

"It's taking the old art of dueling and turning it into a modern sport," said Devan Maddox, junior English major and secretary of the club. "So it's physical, but also very mental, like playing chess as fast as you can."

Fencing consists of three different weapons a fencer can specialize in: the foil, the épée and the sabre. Each weapon dramatically differs and has its own set of scoring rules.

"I would say that the biggest thing, aside from target area, is the tactics you would use [for each weapon] — they're almost completely different games," said Christiaan Firmani, a sophomore political science and philosophy and religion double major.

The foil is light and flexible and a touch only counts when thrusting into an opponent in the torso, excluding the arms. The épée resembles a small, heavy sword and a valid touch will score if thrust anywhere on the body. Lastly, the sabre allows a fencer to score a touch by slashing instead of thrusting and limits a valid touch to the upper torso, including the head, arms and

chest.

"Sabre, which is the slashing weapon, is the only weapon you can use the entire blade to slash with," Brown said. "Differences between foil and épée are a little trickier. Foil is a lot thinner; you have to be a lot more tactical because you can't just hit anywhere. Épée is more realistic ... if someone hits you in your leg you get a point for that."

Fencing harkens back to the days of the aristocrats in the Victorian Era, and many of the traditions still exist in the sport today.

"My favorite part of the sport is the chivalry that goes along with it," said Bobby Merther, a junior history major. "You could go through a really tough match and they'll be grinning at the end and shake your hand."

While the sport may be more gallant in nature compared to football and basketball, fencing provides an athlete with an intimate look into an opponent's psyche.

"My favorite part of the sport is that no two people fence the same," said James Blanks, junior psychology major and club president. "Your personality really pokes through in your

individual style. For example, people that are extroverted tend to be really aggressive fencers and really quick on their feet versus more quiet people who are a lot more calculating and defensive."

The future for the fencing club is bright as the team took home four medals from its last competition at Hollins University on Oct. 22 in the men's and women's events for each weapon. The members have their eyes set on The Virginia Cup held in Williamsburg on Feb. 25 and 26 in which the dueling Dukes will face rivals Virginia Tech, University of Virginia and William & Mary.

"This year I think we're doing really well," Brown said. "We've got a decent amount of people in the club, and we have a large amount of equipment that is new. We're going to a lot more tournaments than we have previously. I think the momentum of the club is going forward — we're progressing."

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schaffaj@dukes.jmu.edu.

## TRACK &amp; FIELD

## Leaping hurdles into championships

Women's track qualifies three relay teams for season-end races

By **EMMIE CLEVELAND**  
*The Breeze*

Newfound depth and a healthy team led three different relay squads to qualify for the Eastern College Athletic Conference meet.

JMU took the first and second place finishes in the 4x800 race. Freshmen Kelsey Langton, Tiel Westbrook and Morgan Sheaffer and sophomore Erin Lopresti crossed the line first, with a time of 9:05.26.

Lopresti wasn't able to compete as much as she would've liked last season because of an injury, so racing and taking first in the relay was a highlight.

"Well it's a great feeling for me," Lopresti said. "I'm just very happy to be competing again, because I battled injury most of last year, so to be doing the 800 again even in a relay is awesome."

Qualifying for second place, sophomore Kelsey Seymour and juniors Katie Harman, Annie Reiner and Stacey Nobles finished within a second of the first-place team, with a time of 9:05.77.

"We've never had the depth, really, to even run two 4x800 teams at once," Reiner said. "So to have two of them qualify this early in the season was just really exciting to see."

Schools are only allowed to run one relay team in each event at ECACs, and coach Ta' Frias believes it's helpful to have two teams qualify. "This allows us to kind of figure out which legs work best," she said. "So to have two teams on the 4x800 go well under the ECAC qualifying mark shows us the strength we have in the middle distance."

The two JMU teams that practice together every day motivated each other during the race.

"We're all really competitive, and we want to beat each other," Reiner said. "But it was really fun at the same time. The Dukes had its 4x400 team



PAUL JONES / THE BREEZE

**Freshman Jasmine Waddell overcomes a hurdle during practice on Tuesday. Morris was part of one of the three relay teams that qualified for the ECAC Indoor**

qualify for ECACs during the Hokie Invitational this weekend, too.

Senior Jaclyn Smith, junior Whitney Staton, sophomore Ciarra Morris and Sheaffer combined for a time of 3:50.25 and finished in fifth place.

JMU will finish the rest of the season tweaking the relay teams a little, but mostly concentrating on having individuals qualify.

"We did a great job at coming together as a team at Virginia Tech," Frias said. "All of the ladies were very supportive of each other in the different events. Keep that going. So we have that sense of Duke pride when we're out there but also just come together as a team."

The Dukes have already had a few women qualify for individual events. Junior Marissa McDonald qualified in the 200-meter dash with a time of 25.03 at the Hokie Invitational. She also qualified in the long jump (5.74 meters) at the Navy Invitational on Jan. 14.

In the Navy meet, sophomore Jordan Simmons qualified in the 60-meter and 200-meter dash, with

times of 7.64 and 24.95, respectively. Freshman Rachel Hagen finished the 3,000-meter competition with a qualifying time of 10:58.19.

This weekend JMU will compete in the Liberty Invitational and will travel to State College, Pa., for the Sykes-Sabock Challenge Cup on Feb. 4 and 5.

"We do have quite a few people competing at Liberty," Frias said. "It's a smaller group than we took to Va. Tech and that we'll take to Penn State, but it also gives those girls that competed the past two weekends kind of a break going into that bigger meeting at Penn State."

Lopresti said the most important thing the team can do is stay healthy.

"They're working us pretty hard right now," she said. "So we need to make sure that we're getting enough sleep and eating properly and stuff so we don't end up getting injured."

The Dukes have more than a month of regular season competition to prepare for ECACs, March 3 and 4 in Boston.

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## COMMENTARY

*Paterno's scandal  
shouldn't cloud success*

By **CHASE KIDDY**  
*The Breeze*

I sometimes fantasize about living in the world of Harry Potter. It would be a magical place to live in, and though you would have to deal with larger-than-life bad guys who have no conscience and leave creepy signs hanging in the sky, at least you would know where everyone stood. You could follow the incorruptible Harry Potter, or you could follow Lord Voldemort. There's good, and there's evil. It's that simple.

Instead, we're stuck in reality with its brain-scrambling complexities. No magic, just nonfiction. In this world, concepts like "good" and "bad" are occasionally easy to assign to the 6 billion people living here. Mother Teresa pretty squarely falls in line with good people. Bernie Madoff is probably not so good. Most everyone else is somewhere in the middle.

And that's where we find Joe Paterno.

Paterno coached his first game as head coach of the Penn State University football team in 1966. Lyndon B. Johnson was president and gas prices averaged 32 cents per gallon. Forty years later, Paterno was still coaching. In fact, it wasn't until just a few weeks ago that the Nittany Lions would play a football game led by someone other than the now-legendary JoePa. He was 85 years old and had been with Penn State for the better part of a century. He loved what he did and put all that he had into the Penn State football program. Yet on Nov. 9, 2011, he was removed from his position by the Penn State Board of Trustees after his involvement in the massive

Jerry Sandusky child molestation scandal, by failing to report allegations to the police.

By the time Sandusky came to Penn State, Paterno had certainly reached a level of power in Happy Valley that's probably unrivaled by any single figure in sports history. He was a god not among men but boys. This is the source of his folly — Paterno wasn't ever charged with any sort of illegal action; he may or may not have been in collusion with Sandusky. But at the height of his power, as a major sports figure of the 20th century, he didn't do enough to stop the destruction of lives going on around him. Paterno was guilty of moral negligence because he was capable of so much more than merely passing the information along to the proper people.

But Paterno as a whole was so much more than whatever part he played in the Sandusky scandal. He was a father to countless players, raising not just football players but young men. He made a living off tough-love, mental toughness and fairness in all things. By and large, he practiced what he preached — on and off the football field. He was a devout man and always supported his family and community. He did more for Penn State academics than any one professor probably ever did.

Ever since Paterno's alleged negligent actions have become public knowledge, a debate has raged in workplace cafeterias and ESPN green rooms alike. Everyone within 500 feet of a water cooler has an opinion. Depending on who you ask, Paterno is either a startling victim of his own greatness or a corrupt tyrant who

see **PATERNO**, page B4



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ART HOUSE

# PATERNO | ‘Goodness is a spectrum, not a line in the sand’

from page B3

doesn’t know when to quit. My question is why? Does he have to be one or the other? In real life, people aren’t Disney movie villains, clearly good or evil. In reality, goodness is a spectrum, not a line in the sand.

This philosophy aside, I think that our society loses sight of why sports are so important. It’s not wins and losses that matter most; it’s the ability to shine a light on issues and questions that might otherwise go unanswered. Paterno’s alleged inaction is shocking and, to some, even horrifying, but it shouldn’t undo the entire body of his work. He was responsible for so much that’s good and right with the world. We can all learn from his example, both by living virtuously and by trying to right wrongs that are in our power of correcting.

Most of all, we can stop trying to assign a category to the man who was JoePa. He doesn’t need to be canonized any more than he needs to be demonized. He was an imperfect man, capable of and maybe even responsible for both right and wrong. If fans and media want an honest assessment of Paterno’s work, take the good with the bad and assign the appropriate levels of gravity to his actions. Condemn him for his actions if you wish, but don’t forget to praise him for the countless scholarships he funded, libraries he built and lives he touched.

By his own account, Paterno wished he had done more in the aftermath of the Sandusky affair. Unlike countless other after-the-fact apologies, his sentiment seemed genuine. It’s entirely possible to commit such an egregious error in judgment and feel genuine remorse for it. After all, we don’t live in a world of cartoon bad guys.

**CONTACT** Chase Kiddy at [kiddyca@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:kiddyca@dukes.jmu.edu).

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