

# The Breeze

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Monday, February 17, 2014

## SGA lobbies in Va. capital

Members discuss increased financial aid, stricter hazing laws, no out-of-state admission cap

By PATRICK MORTIERE  
The Breeze

Eleven members of the Student Government Association journeyed to Richmond on Feb. 6 to voice their concerns to lawmakers regarding legislation that affects university students.

Financial aid, university hazing and a proposed cap on the admissions of out-of-state students were the primary topics of discussion between the SGA members and Richmond legislators.

In an effort to divide and conquer, the 11 SGA members broke up into factions and targeted delegates and senators within the education committee to relay JMU's key concern over financial aid funding.

"It's important that our out-of-state student percentage doesn't decrease because so much of our diversity around campus comes from out-of-state."

**Julie Hirschhorn**  
SGA member and junior communication studies and writing, rhetoric and technical communication double major

"I told my group never to doubt what you had to say, and whatever concerns you have are important and are met with great empathy by the legislators," Adam Miner, an SGA senator and sophomore political science major, said.

Virginia's biennial budget for 2014-16, which was presented during the January Board of Visitors meeting, would allot JMU \$200,000 in state funding for financial aid, which is an underwhelming figure considering 54 percent of JMU students rely on this assistance, according to JMU's admissions site.

At the April 5, 2013 Board of Visitors meeting, the board approved a budget for the 2013-14 year that allotted \$12.1 million for financial aid. Associate director of communications Bill Wyatt explained that most money for financial aid, besides state funds, comes from the university's non-general fund, which is funded from sources such as tuition, fees, ticket sales and private donations.

While JMU students wait for action by the legislature, the SGA and JMU's Financial Education Committee, a board comprised of faculty and students, are working together with students to budget and plan their finances accordingly.

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## Working overtime

Students increasingly need to work more as minimum wage remains stagnant



BLAIR ROSEN / THE BREEZE  
SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

Percentage of hourly-paid wage workers with earnings at or below the prevailing federal minimum wage in Virginia, annual averages, 2003-12. In Virginia, there were 123,000 workers earning the federal minimum wage or less in 2012; 55 percent of these workers were women.

By MEGAN DIMAILO  
The Breeze

It takes 133 hours of working at a minimum wage job for a JMU student to buy the average \$960 worth of textbooks for two semesters, according to JMU's Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, 21 states have minimum wages that are set above the national minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour. Virginia is not one of them.

Both state and federal legislatures have been debating about raising the minimum wage. This past Wednesday, President Barack Obama signed an executive order raising the minimum wage for federal contractors from \$7.25 to \$10.10 an hour. On Thursday, a bill that would have raised the Virginia minimum wage to \$9.25 by 2015 died in a Virginia House committee, only two days after the bill had passed in the Virginia Senate.

Raising the minimum wage would not only

help junior vocal major Rachel Sandler pay for college, but also help with her studies. In addition to being a resident adviser in Logan Hall, Sandler also works at Chipotle and as a tutor in the music department. Last weekend, she worked 18 hours at Chipotle and had a 6-hour RA duty shift, along with planning her tutoring sessions for the upcoming week.

"If I hadn't been working, I would be able to get more school work done," Sandler said. "I'm taking 20 credits and working on a recital. So, it takes away from the typical college experience."

Being an out-of-state student, Sandler uses her three jobs to pay for tuition, living expenses and her school supplies. Out-of-state tuition is \$23,654 per year, and that's not including room and board which is about \$8,500 per year.

"The RA job is great, but it only pays about \$4,200 a year. All of that money goes straight to my school account," Sandler said. "I needed more jobs to supplement living expenses and ... to live a little bit."

In 2011, 25 percent of Virginia college

students worked while in school, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Amber Weaver, a student employment specialist in the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, said there has been an increase of students working and looking for work on campus.

"We have a lot more students wanting to work, needing to work now over the last probably couple years," Weaver said. "We have more students now qualifying for Federal Work Study, as well as wanting to work in the Federal Work Study positions ... because mom and dad can't support them any longer."

Weaver said there are currently about 3,500 students employed by JMU. Students are capped at working 20 hours per week, so that they can focus on their coursework.

"You're not here to earn money," Weaver said. "You're not here to work. You're here for academics. The majority of your time should

see WAGE, page 4



## Undercover agents

Male practice players demonstrate pride for JMU by helping the women's basketball team prepare for upcoming games.

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LAUREN GORDON / THE BREEZE

## The best pick

Alums collaborate to create online sales website that features best aspects of eBay and Craigslist



LAUREN GORDON / THE BREEZE

Mike Fulkerson, Brian Vaughn and Andy Harbick created Pickarious in May of 2013. The website features semi-interactive trading posts.

By JOANNA MORELLI  
The Breeze

Imagine an online trading post that is less anonymous than Craigslist and has buyers more committed to items than eBay; with Pickarious finally up and running for the Harrisonburg region, your online selling and buying woes may disappear.

It all began when Mike Fulkerson, one of the three co-founders of Pickarious, began watching the television show "American Pickers" on the History Channel. The show, featuring a pursuit in the Midwest for antiques and collectibles, gave Fulkerson a desire to do the same — but why not online?

"There's something kind of strangely compelling about it ["American Pickers"] to me," Fulkerson said. "They look for something interesting ... it's kind of a hunt. The idea of

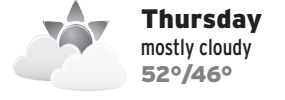
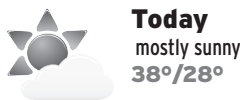
Pickarious is sort of to capture some of that." Last May Fulkerson and two of his co-workers at Rosetta Stone, JMU graduates Brian Vaughn ('05) and Andy Harbick ('96), began talking about the idea of a website where users could record footage of their products that they wished to sell. The official release of the website wasn't until October.

"Mike had the initial idea and Andy and I thought it was something we could build. All of us were excited about it and so we decided to go for it," Vaughn said. "In part it came from experiences like yard sales and flea markets — the excitement of exploring a bunch of stuff that may have something special hidden in it."

Video was an important aspect of the website to not only make it stand out, but make it appeal to users.

see PICKARIOUS, page 10





## The Breeze

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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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### Get involved.

The Breeze is looking for reporters, photographers and videographers.

Email breezeeeditor@gmail.com.

## Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Hedge row
  - 7 Fox's "X-Files" partner
  - 11 Rite Aid rival
  - 14 Cozy spot?
  - 15 Tiny tunes player
  - 17 Vessel storing a cash stash?
  - 19 Earlier
  - 20 Strong adhesive
  - 21 Some poker tells
  - 22 "Lady Jane Grey" playwright
  - 24 Farm cry
  - 25 Layered computer connections?
  - 31 Bundle
  - 32 Tracy/Hepburn battle-of-the-sexes film
  - 37 "You're on!"
  - 38 Sound effect
  - 40 Stoic philosopher
  - 41 Telescope sighting
  - 43 Hunter of myth
  - 44 Pet named for writer Sinclair?
  - 47 Sudden blow
  - 50 Lined up, with "in"
  - 51 Part of one's inheritance
  - 52 Tend
  - 55 Off-bruised item
  - 58 Tantrum that devolves into hysterical gibberish?
  - 62 "Lead the way!", and a phonetic hint to this puzzle's theme
  - 63 Actor Hugh
  - 64 Gathered dust
  - 65 2012 N.L. East champs
  - 66 Had dinner

- DOWN**
- 1 Handle for a chef?
  - 2 Juno, to Homer
  - 3 Chimed
  - 4 On the market
  - 5 Discontented cry
  - 6 Scattered
  - 7 T. Rex, e.g.
  - 8 Summit

By Xan Vongsathorn

### Friday's puzzle solved

B	A	T	H		G	A	S	H		T	O	W	N	S
A	S	H	E		A	G	H	A		O	N	E	U	P
H	E	R	R		R	A	I	L		N	O	B	L	Y
S	C	U	B	A	D	I	V	E	R	S		A	L	S
					A	R	E	N	A		K	I	D	D
B	E	R	L	I	N		S	O	L	E	D	A	D	
A	B	U	P	E	T	C	O	S	E	R	G	E		
L	O	B	S		R	O	A	C	H		M	E	G	A
E	L	A	N	D		O	R	K	I	N		S	I	N
D	A	D	A	I	S	T		L	E	A	S	E	S	
					U	G	L	I		A	S	F	O	R
A	L	B		B	R	E	A	K	I	N	G	B	A	D
C	A	D	G	E		C	R	A	G		Y	O	G	A
T	R	U	E	R		C	O	T	E		L	I	E	N
S	A	B	O	T		E	N	E	R		E	L	S	A

- 43 "Well, looky here!"
- 45 "Six Feet Under" son
- 46 High-tech troublemakers
- 47 Italian port on its own gulf
- 48 In its original form
- 49 Help beneficiary, at times
- 51 Blokes
- 52 First name in the freezer section
- 53 Once, in days past
- 54 CPR specialists
- 56 Hiker's supply
- 57 Boo-boo
- 59 A, in Stuttgart
- 60 St. Anthony's Cross shape
- 61 Nancy Drew's guy

## WORLD NEWS

### Syria peace talks end with no progression

Los Angeles Times

BEIRUT — he chief United Nations official at the Syrian peace talks apologized Saturday to the people of the embattled nation after a second round of negotiations ended without any progress toward resolving the almost three-year conflict.

"I am very, very sorry," Lakdhar Brahimi, U.N. mediator in the talks, told reporters in a downbeat closing note after the session adjourned in Geneva, Switzerland. "I apologize (to) the Syrian people. . . . But in these two rounds we haven't helped them very much."

Many Syrians' hopes were "very high" that that the talks could have represented "the beginning of the coming out of this horrible crisis," noted a somber Brahimi, who himself appeared emotionally drained.

Few observers, though, had expected any kind of breakthrough in Geneva to end the fighting, which has left more than 100,000 people dead and created a humanitarian catastrophe.

Brahimi seemed frustrated that the

two sides could not even agree on an agenda or a sequencing of items to be discussed. Still, he seemed to signal the likelihood that a third session of talks would be convened, asking each side to reflect on its positions. No date was set.

Neither side in the talks could get by a fundamental point of contention: the future of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

The Syrian government delegation insisted that Assad's future was not on the table. Negotiators said they didn't come to Geneva "to hand over the keys to Damascus," in the words of Faisal Mekdad, Syria's deputy foreign minister.

### Key al-Qaida members escape in prison break

McClatchey Foreign Staff

YEMEN — More than two dozen escaped prisoners, including several convicted members of al-Qaida's Yemen affiliate, remained at large Friday after a daring attack on Sanaa's Central Prison Thursday night.

Armed militants laid siege to the heavily fortified prison shortly after sunset, setting off two car bombs and exchanging

fire with soldiers guarding the prison, killing seven. One of the explosions blew a hole in the prison's wall near an area where inmates convicted of terrorism-related offenses were housed. By the time reinforcements arrived and sealed off the area, 29 prisoners had escaped, including 19 who were imprisoned on terrorism charges.

At least three of the escapees were convicted in December on charges related to an assassination attempt earlier in the year against Yemen's president, Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi. Five escapees had been sentenced to death, including Hisham Mohamed Assem, who was convicted for a 2010 attack on an oil company compound in Sanaa that left a French engineer dead, and Saleh al-Shawish, a skilled bomb maker who vowed revenge at his 2010 sentencing.

Yemeni officials did not mince words when commenting on the potential implications of the prison break.

"It's a disaster," said an official briefed on security matters, speaking on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the topic. He noted that the escapees included "operational figures."

Yemeni officials and analysts were quick to point out that the attack bore the hallmarks of al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, the Yemen-based al-Qaida affiliate that U.S. officials have said poses the greatest terrorism threat to the U.S.

### Kerry looks to China to help out in nuclear arms race with N. Korea

Los Angeles Times

BEIJING — Secretary of State John F. Kerry on Friday appealed to China to rein in its North Korean ally and to ease its provocative territorial claims, but after a day of talks Beijing's response was unclear.

In meetings with President Xi Jinping and other top Chinese officials, Kerry urged them to use their special leverage to restrain Pyongyang, which experts fear is close to another test of a nuclear weapon or missile. He also pressed the leaders to give up controversial claims to territory based on historical maps that U.S. officials say aren't legal under international law.

"It's important to resolve these differences in a peaceful, nonconfrontational way," Kerry said of the claims, which have driven up tensions between China and neighbors such as Japan, South Korea and the Philippines.

Compiled from McClatchy-Tribune wire services

## OLYMPIC NEWS

### US still without speedskating medal

The Orange County Register

SOCHI — U.S. speedskaters wore a different suit to the same all too familiar results Saturday as an Olympic Games marked by disappointment and controversy continued for Team USA on the Adler Arena oval.

The Americans remained medal-less after they were shut out in an Olympic 1,500-meter event held against the backdrop of "Suitgate," the controversy over whether new Under Armour high-tech speed suits have been a drag on U.S. performances.

Zbigniew Brodka of Poland ended, most likely only briefly, the Netherlands' domination of the speedskating, claiming the 1,500 gold medal by 0.003 of a second.

Brodka was clocked in 1 minute, 45.006, barely denying Koen Verweij and the Dutch men a fourth gold medal in four men's events. Canada's Denny Morrison picked up his second medal of the Games, finishing third in 1:45.22. Brian Hansen, like his U.S. teammates skating

in an older, proven skinsuit, was seventh in 1:45.59.

"I wanted to switch more because it felt like this was a safer bet for me confidence-wise," Hansen said.

Shani Davis, the two-time Olympic champion in the 1,000, was 11th in 1:45.98 and Joey Mantia was 22nd in 1:48.01. Davis' time was more than four seconds off his world record of 1:41.04 set in 2009 at altitude in Kearns, Utah.

### Team USA's Oshie comes through in hockey vs. Russia

The Orange County Register

SOCHI — T.J. Oshie is a hard man to read. Yet as the U.S. and Russia's Olympic Games preliminary game was extended to a fifth, sixth and seventh round of a sudden-death shootout at the Bolshoy Ice Dome, even Oshie, the Team USA and St. Louis Blues forward, wondered how long he could continue to keep Russia goaltender Sergei Bobrovsky off balance.

"I was running out of moves there," Oshie said.

After U.S. and Kings goalie Jonathan Quick stopped Russia's Ilya Kovalchuk in the eighth round, Oshie slid the puck past Bobrovsky to give Team USA a 3-2 victory Saturday afternoon in which Russia and the U.S., delivering high-octane, high-impact hockey, added another dramatic chapter to this storied rivalry.

"It's a very fine line between winning and losing," Quick said, "and we were able to get the win tonight, which is great."

The difference was Oshie, who cemented his place in the lore of the Winter Olympics' most celebrated rivalry.

"I think you are going to see T.J. Oshie be a household name after that display he put on today," said U.S. forward David Backes, Oshie's teammate in St. Louis.

With Oshie's and Quick's heroics, not to mention a controversial call that wiped out a Russia goal, the U.S. further established itself as a gold-medal contender in a game with historical and political overtones that contributed to an electric and raucous atmosphere.

It was like going into the craziest building, Game 7 of the Stanley Cup," U.S. and Montreal Canadiens forward Max Pacioretty said.

### US skier finds canine connection in Sochi

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

SOCHI — Of all the places in the cold and hardened world, what were the odds this one — where stray dogs have allegedly been put down in the name of presenting a clean image — would be the spot where puppy love flourished on Valentine's Day?

It could be a great kids movie. Dudely American skier wins an Olympic silver medal, adopts a mother dog and her four puppies and brings them home to live out their days without fear.

Before he even won a medal, he instantly became the hero of these Olympics, which have been largely devoid so far of great athletic exploits from the American contingent.

Kenworthy, a 22-year-old Denver native, noticed the furry family near a security tent in the mountains. He began stopping by to feed and play with the dogs and became attached.

Compiled from McClatchy-Tribune wire services



### IN BRIEF

#### HARRISONBURG

#### Harrisonburg likely to refuse \$2 million grant

The city of Harrisonburg is likely to turn down a grant of \$2 million from the Virginia Department of Transportation to complete the last stage of Stone Spring Road-Erikson Avenue connector, according to the *Daily News-Record*.

According to City Manager Kurt Hodgen, because of the large volume of projects to fund in the next fiscal year he is "leaning against" recommending the Harrisonburg City Council to not accept a \$2 million revenue-sharing grant from the VDOT.

The grant would have to be matched with \$2 million in local dollars and would go toward the final piece to the connector.

This final section comprises from the entrance to Walmart on Erickson Avenue to the western city limits, widening it to a five-lane roadway with a center turn lane, bicycle lanes and sidewalk.

The first three phases realigned the intersection of Pear Street and Erickson; linked the road from South Main to the original Stone Spring Road, near Beery Road and connected South High and South Main Streets.

According to Hodgen since the project's fourth phase is taking place in the western part of the city, it can be delayed because the Harrisonburg is more currently more focused on the eastern part.

#### Police investigate string of break-ins

Deputies from the Rockingham County Sheriff's department are continuing to investigate more than a dozen home break-ins that have occurred over the last month, according to the *Daily News-Record*.

Police say 15 break-ins were reported in the county during the last three weeks, most of occurring between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.

They advise residents to be aware of and report any suspicious activity to police.

Tipsters who wish to remain anonymous may call Crime Solvers at 540-574-5050, or the sheriff's office at 564-3800. They can also submit suspicious activity at [www.rcso-va.com](http://www.rcso-va.com).

#### ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

#### Police searching for suspect in two shootings

The Rockingham County Sheriff's Department are looking for a "slender black man" who allegedly shot two people at a Clover Hill mom-and-pop store on Saturday night, before fleeing on foot toward Robertson Road, according to the *Daily News-Record*.

Police investigators arrived at the Dry River Store, located at 1228 Clover Hill Rd. around 5:30 p.m.

Police say that someone called 911 and told dispatchers that two victims, Jae Young Kim and his wife were found on the floor. Both victims had been shot at least once.

Kim's wife, Eun, died on the scene.

Kim was taken by ambulance to Clover Hill Volunteer Fire company, and then taken by helicopter to the University of Virginia Medical Center.

There, Kim underwent surgery. His current status is unknown.

Police say that they have a surveillance video of the crime. They say the suspect entered the store and shot both of the victims with a handgun. He was wearing a green vest with a red shirt underneath.

#### CHARLOTTESVILLE

#### U.Va. to offer free online class about Thomas Jefferson

A free online course about Thomas Jefferson will debut Monday at the University of Virginia, according to *The Washington Post*.

The course, titled "Age of Jefferson," is free to anyone with an Internet connection and is accessible through the website Coursera or the iTunes U app.

It will cover Jefferson's views on religious freedom, education, generational relationships, the Declaration, the emergence of an American people and slavery.

There will also be subtitled versions of "Age of Jefferson" in Chinese and Spanish, in hopes of attracting a more global presence for the class.

## Valley Mall makeover

\$1.5 million renovation to include new seating areas, entrances, flooring and furniture



LAUREN GORDON / THE BREEZE

The Valley Mall in Harrisonburg will be undergoing a \$1.5 million renovation this summer. It currently houses more than 50 different retailers.

By **SAMANTHA ELLIS**  
contributing writer

In the coming months, the Harrisonburg Valley Mall will begin its \$1.5 million renovation project.

"Our scope of work includes new flooring, new paint, three new entrances, soft seating areas with WiFi as well as new food court furniture," Cortney Carderelli, leasing development and marketing manager at the Valley Mall said.

For JMU students, additions to the local mall would be more than welcome.

The mall is currently home to over 50 retailers, with Belk, Target and JCPenney serving as its anchor stores. It first opened in 1978, and serves as the largest shopping center in the central Shenandoah Valley.

"I feel it is definitely lacking in terms of stores. The one at home is much bigger, and they'd only get more business by appealing to more college students," Kirstyn Cassidy, a JMU sophomore nursing major and sales associate at Victoria's Secret, said.

With just over 500,000 square feet of retail space, most already in use, students understand that there isn't much room for new additions.

"I know they can't add stores because of the already limited parking, but I'd love to see them somehow bring in something like a Forever 21. That alone would add a lot of business," Cassidy said.

"Victoria's Secret is easily one of the most popular places at the entire mall, so renovations could only bring in more customers. Unless they were to bring in some of our competitors," she said.

Emily Dick, a sophomore physics major and former American Eagle employee, is also excited for the expansion.

"I like the mall here," Dick said. "I grew up in Broadway, and I could come here if I ever needed clothes or a book. It's not Fair Oaks or Tysons, but it works. It's better than anything in close proximity to here. I am excited about the renovations, I've lived here since I was four and that place has always looked exactly the same."

Because the mall relies heavily on neighboring residents for business, renovations will be made after hours.

"We expect most of the work to take place overnight so it doesn't impact shoppers," Carderelli said.

The renovations are expected to be complete by the fall 2014.

CONTACT Samantha Ellis at [elliss1@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:elliss1@dukes.jmu.edu).

## CVS going smokeless

Store plans to get rid of all of its tobacco products in an effort to focus on customers' health

By **ERIN FLYNN**  
*The Breeze*

Last Wednesday, CVS announced that it will no longer be selling tobacco products.

According to the company's press release, the ban will take full effect in October at the more than 7,600 CVS locations nationwide and is meant to promote better health consciousness in its customers.

While there has been a significant improvement regarding the reduction of smokers, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 18 percent of adults are classified as smokers in 2014. This is 5 percent decrease from the amount of adults who smoked in 2000 and a 1 percent decrease since 2010.

HHS claims that smoking is the leading cause of preventable death, with links to coronary heart disease, strokes, multiple cancers and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, with 163,700 deaths caused by smoke-related cancers, 106,000 caused by COPD and 99,300 caused by coronary heart disease.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and HHS, more 480,000 deaths are caused by tobacco use, claiming the lives of 278,544 men and 201,733 women each year.

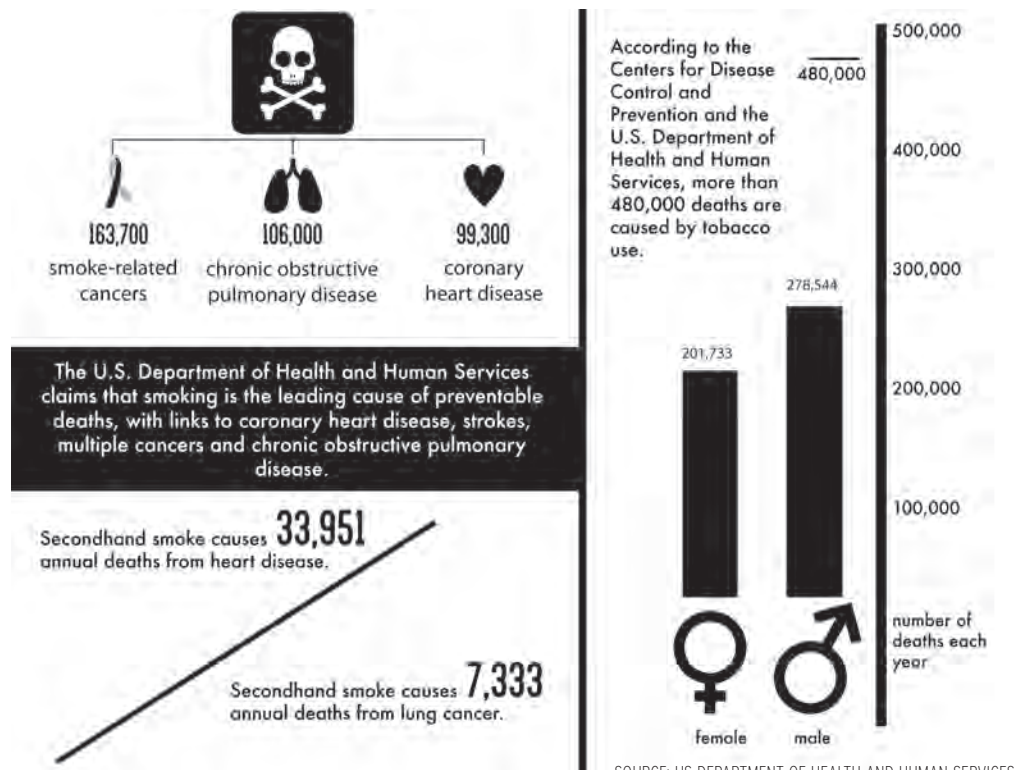
Even those who don't smoke experience the negative attributes associated with it.

"Secondhand smoke causes 33,951 annual deaths from heart disease," HHS stated. "Secondhand smoke causes 7,333 annual deaths from lung cancer."

According to the press release, with nearly 500,000 deaths caused by tobacco use annually, reducing the sale of tobacco products can play a significant role in the reduction of those deaths.

Aashna Dhayagude, a freshman marketing major, doesn't purchase tobacco products from CVS, but still believes that the ban will have a positive effect on JMU students.

"Even though I smoke, I think it's good that CVS is no longer selling tobacco products ... It reduces the amount of tobacco you can buy," Dhayagude said.



BLAIR ROSEN / THE BREEZE

She explained that if people don't have access to tobacco products, they're less likely to consume them, especially if they're unwilling to go somewhere else to purchase them.

However, some people aren't so sure.

Zach Carlson, a senior media arts and design major who smokes often, believes that CVS banning tobacco will have little impact on the amount of people who smoke.

"You can buy tobacco anywhere," he said. "If the ban were adopted by more stores, perhaps people would be upset at the added inconvenience, but any gas station, big box store or convenience store

still sells tobacco."

Carlson thinks that if certain people used to buy their tobacco from CVS, they will frequent the store less often which will result in decreased revenue.

He also views the ban as a "publicity stunt" used to enhance CVS' image, as opposed to an ethical decision.

"If they were really so concerned, this would have happened long ago," Carlson said.

While Carlson believes that initially this particular ban won't have much of an impact, he does



## WAGE | Virginia's minimum wage remains at the federal level

from front

be focused on homework, on classes."

Brittany Dunham, a junior Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies major, understands that she is at JMU to get an education. But she also knows that without saving money during the summer and working as a student assistant in Rose Library and Memorial Hall, jobs which both pay minimum wage, it would not be possible.

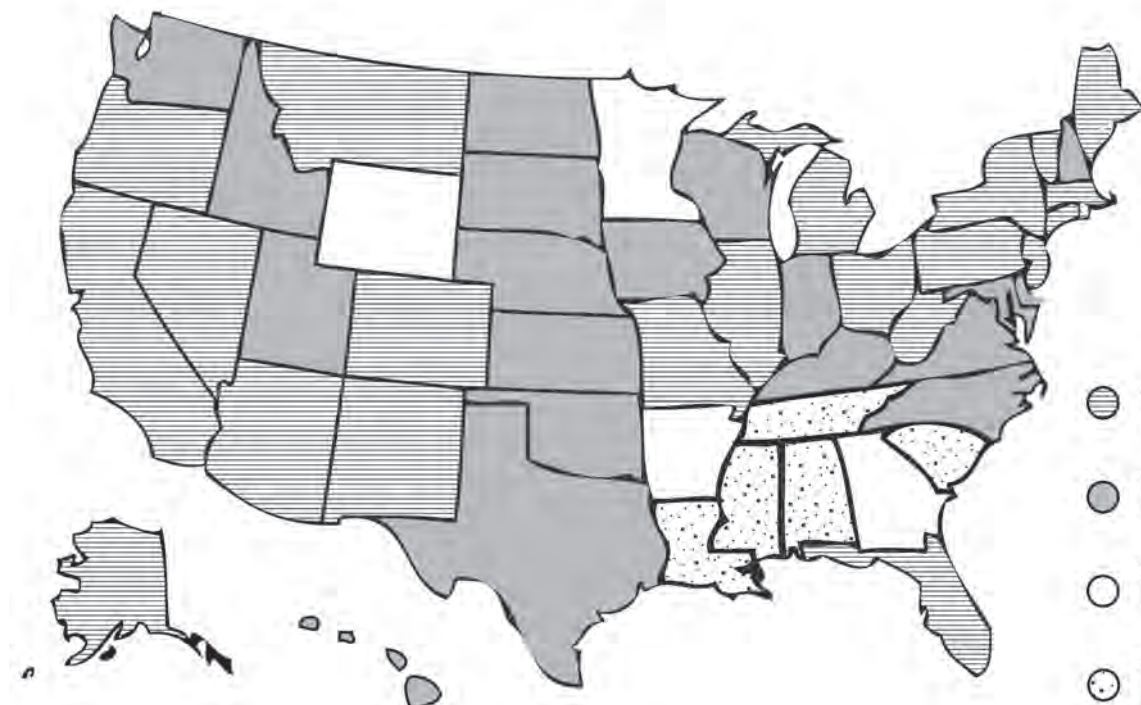
"I have had to really budget my money in order to make these two minimum wage jobs work. I really think about purchases and determine if they are going to be cost efficient," Dunham said. "The hardest part is not always being able to do things with my friends because I cannot always afford to spend money."

Brad Barnett, senior associate director of the office of financial aid and scholarships, teaches a concept called zero-based budgeting in his financial literacy class that he calls Dollars and Sense.

According to Barnett, most people can predict their income from month to month. So when you get to the end of a month you need to look at how much money you will have coming in for the next month.

"I'll make up a number, \$1,000 coming in for March. So you're job then, before March begins, is to sit down and, on paper, spend all that thousand dollars until you've spent it down to zero."

By doing this, Barnett said, students can look at their monthly



BLAIR ROSEN / THE BREEZE  
SOURCE: US DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

budget and split it up between rent, food and essential expenses.

"If you stay within that zero-based concept, you'll never over spend," Barnett said. "Creating it is the easy part."

Dunham said that a raise in the minimum wage would be beneficial, but there are two sides to the issue.

"If minimum wage was raised, it

would be great to have more free time, because I could work less, but I know that it does impact the economy," Dunham said. "Personally, I would be in favor of a raise, but there are so many other people that could be negatively impacted by it. So, it is a topic that requires both sides to address it."

Even with time commitment and living expenses on the rise, Sandler

sees the positives in working while in school.

"I think working in college is a really great thing," Sandler said. "It is definitely great for time management and life skills."

Dunham sees her experience working as part of her experience at JMU and is using it as a stepping stone for her future.

"I know I am receiving a great education so the extra work I have to do is worth it," Dunham said. "I try to remain positive and know that all of this will be worth it in the end when I am teaching in my own classroom doing what I love."

**CONTACT** Megan DiMaiolo at [dimaiomr@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:dimaiomr@dukes.jmu.edu).

## SGA | Proposed state bill would increase hazing penalties

from front

"There are so many talented, smart students who may not be able to attend [college] due to financial reasons ... it's about reaching out to those students who need a little extra help, and giving them that opportunity," Julie Hirschhorn, an SGA member and junior communication studies and writing rhetoric, and technical communication double major, said.

According to JMU's Office of Institutional Research, JMU is making preparations to increase enrollment by almost 1,000 students in the next five years, which could bring about greater financial woes for students already seeing cuts to financial aid.

State delegates Tim Hugo (R-Centreville) and Jackson Miller (R-Manassas) are seeking to put a limit on the enrollment and admission of out-of-state students to Virginia public schools.

House Bill No. 144, which could prove damaging to university revenue and tuition costs, would require that by the start of the 2019-20 academic year, at least 75 percent of undergraduate students admitted to public Virginia universities would have to be in-state residents.

"It's important that our out-of-state student percentage doesn't decrease because so much of our diversity around campus comes from out-of-state," Hirschhorn said. "Many of them are student leaders, critical thinkers and they help make James Madison the kind of place students want to attend."

The proposal calls for a 25 percent cap on the admission of out-of-state students, and would open up about 7,000 desks to in-state students, but could consequently cost public universities \$150 million in tuition revenue, according to Hugo.



COURTESY OF JOSH HUMPHRIES

**JMU students from the Student Government Association discussed issues such as in-state admissions and hazing with Virginia legislators.**

As a means of recovering lost revenue from the imposed cap, the amendment calls for increasing the amount of tuition charged to out-of-state undergraduate students.

As it stands now, approximately 28 percent of JMU students are out-of-state, and during a time when the university is making a concerted effort to diversify the student body, the proposal could potentially thwart such strides.

Aside from private universities, the only other schools

exempt from the bill would be the Virginia Military Institute, Norfolk State University and Virginia State University.

The trip gave SGA members an opportunity to have constructive, one-on-one conversations with lawmakers about legislation, and allowed them to provide input in the policymaking process.

"When students make their voices heard, legislators listen and it gives more weight to pieces of legislation," Joe Demski, an SGA member and

sophomore communications studies major, said.

Some of the officials that the SGA met with were JMU alumni, most notably Levar Stoney, JMU's student body president in 2002. Stoney, who was appointed by Governor Terry McAuliffe as Secretary to the Commonwealth, is responsible for the appointments of the 3,700 people within the governor's administration.

The SGA also spoke with legislators about the methods being used at JMU to

discourage hazing, and how those efforts make organizations and clubs more approachable to students.

As hazing continues across university campuses in Virginia — despite strict no-hazing policies put in place — the SGA members encouraged legislators to move forward with stricter legislative reform.

Senate Bill No. 448 is a piece of legislation that looks to exclusively amend current penalties for hazing and impose stricter, harsher

punishments to serve as a stronger deterrent for students.

"I think increasing the punishment for hazing will help students and organizations that may haze, across the country, realize that it is a serious ordeal that can cause major physical and psychological harm," Hirschhorn said.

According to the National Study of Student Hazing, since 2008, 55 percent of college students involved in clubs, teams and organizations experience hazing; in 95 percent of the cases that students identified their experience as hazing, they did not report the events to campus officials.

Currently, hazing is defined as a class 1 misdemeanor and carries a maximum sentence of 12 months in jail and a fine of up to \$2,500.

Legislators want the conviction changed to a Class 6 felony, which could have guilty offenders facing up to five years in prison and a fine of up to \$2,500.

In the coming weeks and months, the SGA has made plans to better inform students about the legislative changes that could be affecting them.

"Right now JMU is only scheduled to receive about \$200,000 in financial aid from the state each year for the coming bi-annual budget cycle," Jake Jedlicka, student body president and senior political science and history double major, said. "Your student government will be focused on raising awareness of this issue on campus and collecting petitions to let our lawmakers know that JMU students believe increasing financial aid is the right thing to do."

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## CVS | Could affect other businesses

from page 3

believe it could lead to a potentially a larger one.

"The more important part of it is that this ban will influence other businesses to follow suit. One business eliminating tobacco from its inventory is insignificant," Carlson said. "Twenty different businesses doing the same would cause an uproar."

Tia Mann, the assistant director of the University Health Center's substance abuse prevention, agrees that CVS tobacco ban is "just the beginning."

"I can't imagine that numbers will change much, until other businesses follow CVS' lead, Mann said. "Research does show that tobacco use decreases with limited accessibility — especially in children. The less convenient it is to obtain, the less likely we are to obtain it."

Smoking can lead to serious health implications, including "diminished overall health," Mann explained. But despite these risks, many continue to smoke.

According to Mann, students smoke for

several reasons: to relieve stress, fit in, experiment or just to have something to do. Others smoke because they're addicted to nicotine, which is why many students find it difficult to quit.

In order for students to stop smoking, Mann explained, they must want to change, think it's important to change, and be confident that they can change.

However, she mentioned that it takes about six to 11 attempts to quit before smokers can stop for good. This can be discouraging for them and can cause a "dent" in their confidence to quit.

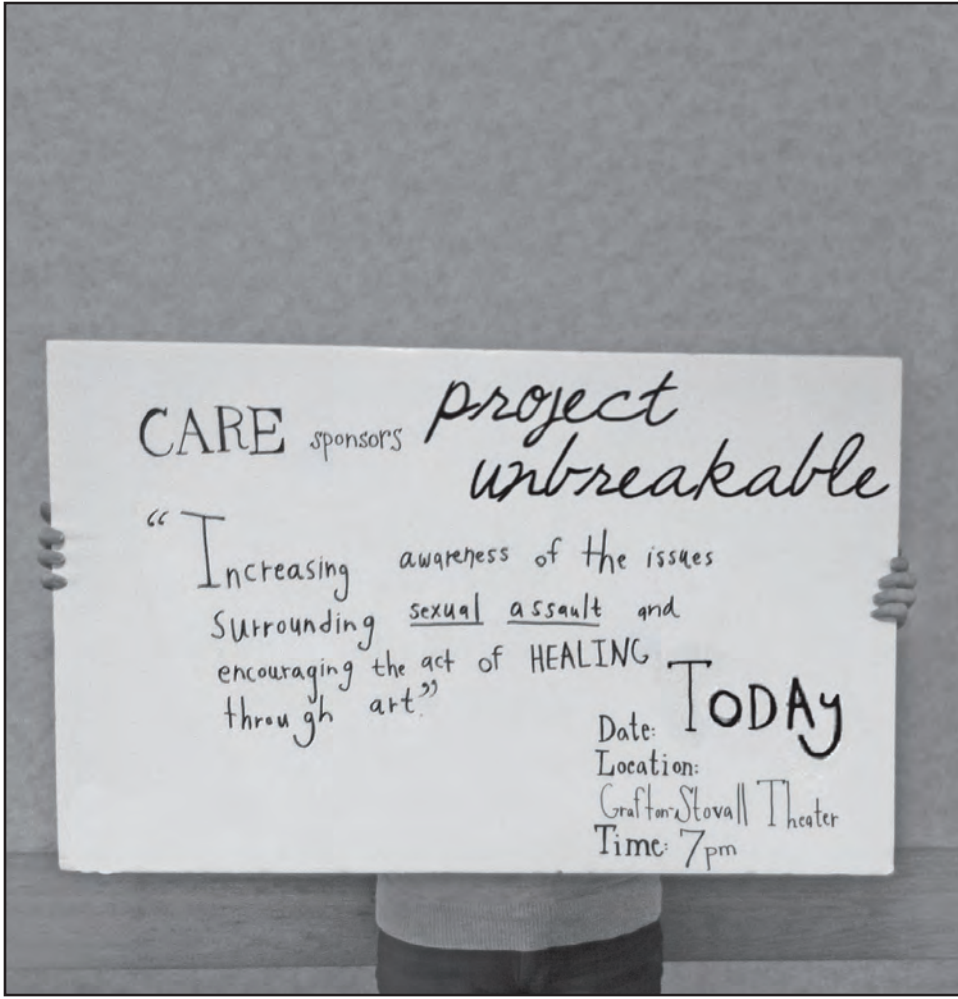
Despite the obstacles that smokers may face, Mann is confident that the ban can lead to positive results and says a lot about this generation.

"The ban represents a further shift in the social unacceptability of tobacco use [by] decreasing access to products that contain it," Mann said. "This continuing shift has future implications for people who choose to use tobacco."

**CONTACT** Erin Flynn at [flynnen@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:flynnen@dukes.jmu.edu).








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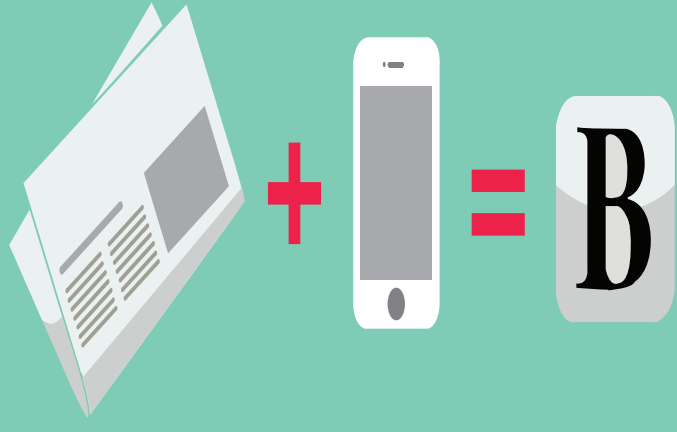
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KAT MCDERIS / THE BREEZE

# Is JMU truly a university of diversity?

Two students share their perspectives on being minorities at a school that is predominately white

**SHELBY WILTZ** | contributing columnist

Two weeks ago, I published a blog piece on Shoutout! JMU (a feminist blog) titled "Why I Quit Student Ambassadors: Discrimination at JMU" about racism in a prominent student organization. Never did I think it would receive the amount of attention and response that it did. Within a few hours it was clear that I had hit a nerve. In the days following, I spoke to current students, alumni, professors, administrators and student affairs professionals in Virginia and other states online and in-person about the issue of diversity on college campuses.

Writing this piece was an attempt to tell a story long overdue. It was time to speak up about the very real instances of intentional and unintentional discrimination happening at our school. I needed to speak my truth, but speaking up is never easy. Many were angered about the story I had to tell and attempted to discredit my reality in order to avoid a more difficult conversation.

While some were waiting for this issue to go away, many others were empowered to tell stories of their own. And this is where the discussion branches out. Since publication, my story has been echoed in the voices of students involved in other campus organizations. I have heard about students struggling to live comfortably in their dorms, to hear and see themselves in their classrooms and to prove that they deserve to be here.

JMU has a problem and it extends far beyond any single organization. This is something I have recognized for a long time as a student who has no choice but to be brown in every space on this campus. The article I wrote began a conversation that definitely needs to continue.

Racial diversity is not only lacking in our student organizations, but in our classrooms as well. In all of my classes I am either one of two people of color in the room, or the only person of color. I rarely find myself being taught by a person of color or even reading books by them. This is an issue for the fact that minority voices are invisible in an educational space. Our stories, histories and realities do not exist except for in the singular student who is often called upon to represent the views and experiences of an entire group. Diversity is critical in institutions of

higher learning from a social perspective as well. JMU needs to prepare its students to function in a world where people of color are becoming leaders and co-workers at an increasing rate. Don't parents want their children — regardless of race — to be prepared to thrive in a world that values diversity and social justice? Right now JMU is doing a disservice to its students by allowing us to avoid critical dialogue about race beyond freshman orientation.

While the administration claims to care deeply about diversity, students have yet to see meaningful change take place that demonstrates we are valued for more than our inclusion on a spreadsheet (or a sports team).

This is not only true for students of color. LGBT students have been asking for a full-time staff person in the LGBT & Ally Education program for the last four years and have yet to receive one. Some parts of this campus, I'd say, are inaccessible to students with disabilities. And while women make up a majority of the students on this campus, it has not ended sexual assault or sexism on campus.

Our mission statement says "We are a community committed to preparing students to be educated and enlightened citizens who lead productive and meaningful lives." Part of becoming enlightened means understanding concepts like privilege, oppression and microaggression. People of color are experiencing harm at this university because these things have gone largely unchecked and ignored by administration, faculty and students.

We are at a moment where we have the opportunity to seriously recommit ourselves to our mission by acknowledging that we have a problem and working overtime to fix it. We can do this by introducing diversity courses to our general education curriculum or developing programs for minority retention or mandating diversity awareness training for staff and faculty. Now is the time for big ideas and big action. We are done waiting.

Shelby Wiltz is a senior justice studies major. Contact Shelby at wiltzsc@dukes.jmu.edu.

**NAHLA ABOUTABL** | contributing columnist

I recently saw a video on BuzzFeed that was created by a group of African-American students at the University of California Los Angeles School of Law describing how it feels to be at a school that is predominantly white. I know this is a touchy subject for a campus like JMU, but that video inspired me share my thoughts on the matter. As a disclaimer, I would like to say that this is not my opinion on the admissions process or any type of affirmative action policy JMU might or might not abide by.

First let me introduce myself. I'm a 19-year-old Muslim-American woman. I'm a hijabi, meaning I wear the hijab (or scarf) to cover my hair. I was born and raised in America, but 20 years ago my parents emigrated from Egypt to Harrisonburg. My dad works here as a computer science professor and my mother works at a daycare center. I'm a sophomore and here thanks to the full-merit Dingedine Scholarship, and I'm double majoring in political science and international affairs. I'm fluent in both English and Arabic, although I find it easier to communicate in English.

I gave you that little excerpt describing who I am to help explain how it feels to be a racial/religious/ethnic minority, a feeling most JMU students might not be able to relate to. Picture yourself in a constant struggle to prove people wrong and you might have a slight understanding of how I feel. No, I'm not oppressed. Yes, I speak English. No, I wasn't born across the Atlantic. No, I'm not a close-minded conservative. Yes, you can approach me the same as you can approach anyone else. No, I'm not an international student. The list goes on and on.

You might not consciously have these questions but the way I'm treated by many students definitely reflects such thoughts. I've had people tell me, "Oh you don't seem like the typical Arab," to which I'm left wondering what exactly is the typical Arab and how will a person born and raised here know what that is. I've also been told I don't dress like a lot of Muslim hijabi girls and that I'm more "fashionable." Again, this alludes to some kind of assumption that Muslim girls and American fashion don't mix. I understand that these misconceptions come from people who don't personally know any Muslim girls, but come on now ... we're all in college and should know better than to say these things.

I also often find myself in situations where it seems as if people are scared to approach me. I feel isolated, misunderstood and sometimes uncomfortable as a minority on such a huge campus. I'm a pretty social person and I approach people quite often, at least more than people have ever approached me, so I can't blame myself for how I feel. Not only that, but I feel like I have to represent the American-Muslim woman in the best way I can because I am part of such a small minority. I personally know of three other American-Muslim hijabis on campus, while the rest are international students. I not only have to maintain my personal image, but the image of women in my community. I have to break people's misconceptions and be a good representative of women like me.

The difficulty of this challenge doesn't only stem from my responsibility to represent Muslim women, but also from an internal struggle. It's hard waking up every morning and looking in the mirror thinking "look how different I am from all my classmates." Different is good as long as people understand you, but it becomes a hassle when you feel like people aren't approaching you because you're different from them. It's also hard holding on to your identity and beliefs when you're surrounded by people who have a completely different outlook on life and know little to nothing about your experience.

Don't get me wrong, I'm very proud of who I am and I try to educate people as much as I can, but I would also appreciate it if people were to take it upon themselves to learn about those around them. Reaching out to others will broaden your horizons and introduce you to people with many different backgrounds, so don't hesitate to strike up a conversation with a stranger. Everyone should feel welcome on their campus, but the reality is that if you're a minority you've probably felt quite the opposite at times. Some argue that subcultures don't assimilate well, but people need to consider that maybe we're not allowed to fully assimilate because of how we're viewed — not by personal choice.

Nahla Aboutabl is a sophomore political science and international affairs double major. Contact Nahla at aboutanm@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 "thanks-for-the-ride" pat to the two girls sober-driving Friday night.  
From the seniors who didn't want to walk in the freezing weather and greatly appreciated the ride.

A "save-the-banjos" dart to WXJM for even considering getting rid of Possum Radio.  
From someone who thinks you should listen to WNRN if you want more indie music.

A "you-are-the-change" pat to all the Adapted Sports Day volunteers for doing an amazing job and being a true inspiration.  
From the girl who watched from the outside and saw you change lives in just two days.

A "really?!" dart to the guy who spit in Duke Dog Alley, where it will be less likely to get washed away.  
From someone who thinks you need to clean up your act.

A "what-a-relief" pat to JMU for canceling before 9:30 a.m. last week.  
From someone who appreciates the warning before actually leaving.

An "it-will-be-OK" pat to the delivery driver who hit a car in Pheasant Run on Wednesday night.  
From the house who helped you and hope that everything turned out alright.

A "you-are-the-best" pat to Shari and the wonderful MAD4U staff!  
From someone who appreciates your hard work!

An "I-wish-I-could-have-this-moment-for-life" pat to Walmart for having Red Lobster cheddar biscuit mix.  
From a student who is going to drown her leftover Valentine's Day sorrows in biscuits.

A "no-I-don't-want-to-make-a-snowman" dart to Mother Nature for ruining everyone's weekend plans.  
From a senior who is sick of the snow and the opportunity it gives people to quote "Frozen" incessantly.

## Editorial Policies

The Breeze welcomes and encourages readers to voice their opinions through letters and guest columns. Letters must be no longer than 250 words. Guest columns must be no more than 650 words.

The Breeze reserves the right to edit submissions for length, grammar and if material is libelous, factually inaccurate or unclear. The Breeze assumes the rights to any published work. Opinions expressed in this page, with the exception of editorials, are not necessarily those of The Breeze or its staff.

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

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WILLIAM SHOEMAKER | contributing columnist

## Not every shark bites like 'Jaws'

*The so-called dangerous sea creatures are actually in trouble*



COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

Sharks have always been a symbol of fear for humans, but now we're the ones that they need to fear.

This is a devastating time to be a shark or a ray. Recently the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) released a report based on pooled data and concluded that 25 percent of species comprising the phylogenetic order Chondrichthyes are at risk for extinction — a potentially significant cut to marine biodiversity.

The two biggest contributors toward the risk are forms of fishing: the first being the hunting of sharks to meet the growing demand for shark fin soup in Asia; the second is incidental catching (bycatching.)

Since this report was written, the Hong Kong-based conservation group Wildlife at Risk discovered an illegal whale shark processing factory that produces fish oil capsules to export to the United States. The factory is capable of processing up to 600 sharks yearly, a number greater than the known population of whale sharks. And then when you take into account that Australia is currently shooting sharks longer than three meters that get too close to shore, it looks as if the whole world is against sharks.

But what do sharks do for us? What use is biodiversity if it cannot be put in terms of flocks of songbirds or colorful coral reefs of fish? The answer is more fundamental than you might think.

It involves our own survival. A major point of the IUCN report was on the interactions sharks have as major predators in the marine food web, stating that in their absence, global fisheries could potentially crash. Simply put: sharks contribute to maintaining fish populations. Without sharks the ocean might not be an option for food for humans.

But what about the danger of shark attacks? Unprovoked attacks resulted in seven deaths in 2012, so there is some danger. But what relative danger is there in shark attacks when you are five times more likely to die simply by being

left-handed? We don't "correct" left-handed people to avoid accidents, why should we kill sharks to avoid attacks? In fact, we may be the ones ultimately responsible for the attacks. Shark researcher George Burgess recently proposed the hypothesis that shark attacks are a reflection of a successful tourism campaign.

Shark attacks may occur where they do because of the seasonal influx of tourists, not out of a shark's instinct. Here we might need to look at ourselves as the perpetrator, to see ourselves as playing a numbers-game with an apex predator. This might be difficult given our propensity to glamorize shark attack survivors as celebrities, using the term "survivor" as someone who lived due to inner strength (Bethany Hamilton) and not as someone whom an apex predator lost interest in.

What do we fear then? The fear of sharks might simply be a fear of the unknown. When you go into the ocean you are afraid of what is potentially below, sharks are just a scapegoat to ground our fear.

We are in a position between survival and fear. If we wish to continue on sustaining ourselves on the productivity of the ocean we must overcome our irrational fear of sharks and demand international protection to preserve global fisheries.

This involves a decision between a hatred of sharks due to the unintentional deaths of a handful of people, or to appreciate their essential role in the marine ecosystem, a role which maintains the fisheries we live off of. It's a different way to look at sharks; to approach them with scientific understanding rather than primordial fear. It won't be easy, because the right thing rarely is.

William Shoemaker is a senior biology major. Contact William at shoemawr@dukes.jmu.edu.

HAYLEY THOMPSON | *The Breeze*

## What you see is what you get

*Revealing new sides of yourself is the hardest part of dating*

Last week I wrote a column about my online dating experience. In it, I quoted a few messages I'd received on the site from interested men.

A couple days after it was posted on *The Breeze* website, I got a message from one of those men: "Really impressed with your column, by the way. Strong writing. Let me know if you ever choose to pursue fiction. I could use someone to bounce ideas off of. I used to be a columnist and editor too, so my hopefully my two cents isn't too cheap, hah!"

True to form, I went into panic mode. Apologies were flying his way faster than I could even figure out what I was apologizing for.

When you take the "strong-independent-woman-who-don't-need-no-man" approach to this situation, I shouldn't have to apologize for calling someone out on a creepy come-on line. Plus, I'm probably never going to meet this guy, and even if I do, he's pursuing me — and still is even after reading my column — so why should I care that he read it?

This past summer, I got one of my closest friends from JMU hired at the baseball stadium I work at. Being his boss was a weird dynamic in and of itself. But eventually the day came around that I had to sit down with him and do a somewhat negative performance evaluation. I'd be lying if I said the situation was resolved and everyone walked away happy, but what needed to be said was said and then it was done.

So why is it easier to confront a friend face-to-face with such a difficult conversation than it is to have one anonymously through a keyboard with someone I've never met?

I met that former intern here at JMU through SMAD and the University Program Board, where it was immediately evident that while I like to have fun, I have a no bulls\*\*\* policy when it comes to work and my career. This guy I met on the Internet has no clue about that side of me. The closest thing to my professional life he knows is what he read in that column. And while it's great to show that I have published work, an article referencing sex toys in the first line is hardly the way I'd frame my career thus far.

Like I said in my last column, I did have success with online dating, but up front, online dating is a pretty physical thing. Someone's profile pops up and if they're good-looking, you read on. This guy accepted me for who I was on my profile, but something about him discovering who I am past that site really struck a nerve.

If this is purely physical, let's keep the judgment on a physical level. Sure there's plenty more to me than what I put on my profile or what a few pictures show me as. But if I wanted to share that side of me, I'd have done it myself. As it turns out, my friend in Orlando who got me started on online dating actually knows the guy who messaged me and she was the reason he found out about my column. It also turns out that he was being sincere when he said he liked my writing.

It all boils down to where your insecurities lie, I guess. I can take being judged on a physical level. Being judged physically is such a norm, that I honestly don't even care anymore. Granted, that could be a result of the constant ridicule from men after getting this damn pixie cut and suffering through the current "grow out" stage, but even though objectification of women is worse than ever, our skin is getting thicker as a result.

I think that every female reaches a place where she starts to put more of her self worth into something other than looks. For me, that tipping point was this past summer when I had my first real professional job. Even though I am grateful that he enjoyed my column and appreciate the validation, I have an immense amount of pride in my work, so this hit home hard.

It's scary having someone find a part of you that you never wanted them to see; especially when it's something that you put the most of your self worth into. Could this be just an abrupt transition into adult life? Where we all become our career and our professional worth is valued higher than our personality? If so, I'm not quite sure I'm ready for this.

Hayley Thompson is a senior media arts and design major. Contact Hayley at thompshm@dukes.jmu.edu.



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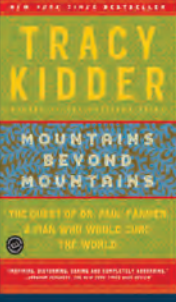
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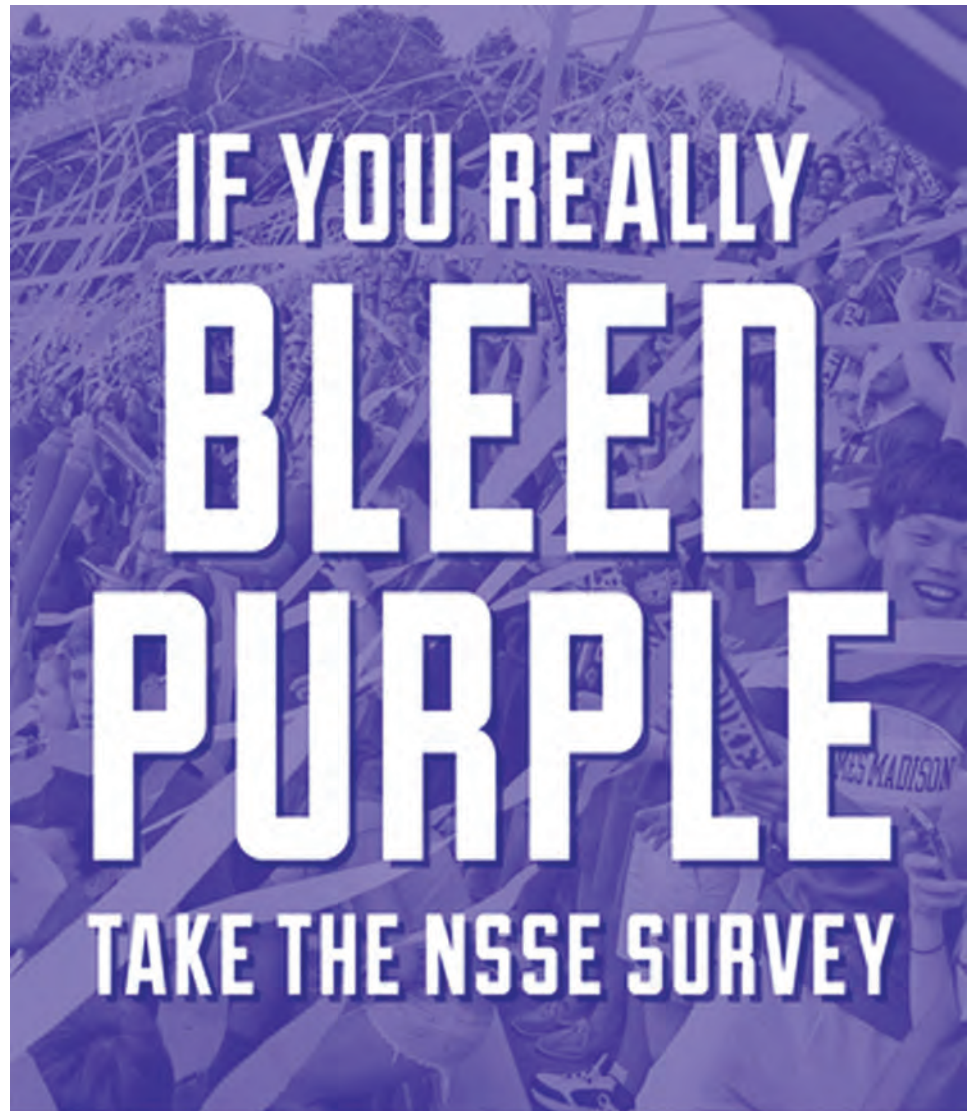
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- MAR 3** The Whole Community/The Whole Child: A Summit to Build Networks of Care for Children in Harrisonburg  
7:00PM, Memorial Hall Forum
- MAR 21** Civically Engaged Students Conference & Community Organizing Workshop  
9:00AM, Montpelier Room, East Campus Dining Hall
- MAR 27** From Communities to Countries: Making Health Systems Sustainable—Alumna Lecture  
5:30PM, Highlands Room, Festival Conference & Student Center
- MAR 29** Saving the Lives of Mothers and Babies in Haiti: The Midwives for Haiti Project  
2:00PM, Strite Conference Room, EMU Campus Center
- APR 2** Access to Health: It's Political—A Community Dialogue  
5:30PM, Flex Space, JMU Rose Library
- APR 14** Furious Flower Poetry Reading with Nadine Pinede  
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# Snow

Students will always love their school cancellations, but how they enjoy them has changed



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MARK OWEN

Snow days used to be about going outside and enjoying classic, frozen fun with snowball fights, snow forts and snowmen. But these days, students are staying in with movies and homework.

By **KATIE WOOD**  
contributing writer

Thanks to 13 inches of snow on Wednesday, students got a Valentine's Day gift much sweeter than a cheap box of chocolates: a four-day weekend.

On Wednesday night at 9:19 p.m., students received the text message they had been waiting for since the first snowflake fell: Campus would be closed Thursday.

The elation following a school cancellation is nothing new to most of us. I'm sure we all remember those nights when we paced around the house, clad in our inside out and backward pajamas, nervously watching the local news' cancellations list. When we saw our school's name on the marquee, we rejoiced — especially because we got to stay up past 8:30 p.m.

And while the hope and joy of a snowstorm remains the same, what we do with our snow days has changed.

"It's a lot different. When I was a kid, I would go outside, play in the snow and have snowball fights," Maribel Perez, a junior media arts and design major, said. "Now, all I did was stay inside. It's definitely less active compared to when I was younger."

When we were kids, we looked forward to sledding and building snowmen with friends, snowball fights against our neighbors and drinking hot cocoa. Now, it seems that many of us look forward to watching the entire second season of "House of Cards," lying in bed all day or even taking the opportunity to catch up on school work.

Is the death of snow activities upon us? Have we traded

sledding and snow pants for Netflix and sweatpants? As college students with busy schedules, it seems that many of us opted for a relaxing few days, rather than one spent trekking through the snow.

Many students living off campus had to focus less on their actual snow day plans and more on being prepared for the impending storm. While students living on campus were lucky enough to have a dedicated dining staff to feed them, off-campus students had to fend for themselves.

"When I was a kid, I would go outside, play in the snow and have snowball fights. Now, all I did was stay inside."

**Maribel Perez**  
junior media arts and design major

"I knew it was coming earlier in the week, so I tried to plan out my meals," Andrew Funkhouser, a sophomore integrated science and technology major who lives in the Sunchase, said. "I made sure I used a ton of meal punches early and stocked up on the essentials for at-home meals."

Many students viewed their snow day not so much as

a day off, but an opportunity to catch up or get ahead on school work.

"I spent most of my time writing an essay," Kitty Kijbarnrungrarp, a junior quantitative finance major, said. "I used to go out and play with my friends, building snowmen. Yes, it has changed because I am grown up now. I am a busy man. I have jobs and responsibilities that I have to take care of."

It may seem that all of us JMU students have grown up and moved on passed the childhood days of snow forts and snowmen. However, if you took the time to walk around campus on either of the snow days, chances are you saw people spending the day in traditional snow day fashion: throwing snowballs on the Quad, sledding down the ISAT hill or building a snowman in the Village.

"I went out with a lot of people from my dorm, and we made snowmen, had a snowball fight and made a snow fort," Christian Rubio, a junior justice studies, said. "It's always been the same for me. Snow day means no school, no school means you go outside and play."

We all chose to spend our snow days in different ways. Some of us spent hours sledding down the ISAT hill, others spent all day curled up in bed with the Olympics on TV and some even tried to get ahead on our class readings.

Although our snow day routines may have changed since elementary school, in essence it is the same: a day of no school, obligations or responsibilities. It was a day spent however we wanted and, no doubt, enjoyed by all.

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# LINKing students together

Freshman international students rely on their own version of FrOGs for guidance

By **LAUREN HUNT**  
The Breeze

Ask just about any JMU student and they'll tell you that the transition from home to college — although fun and exciting — is scary and sometimes hard. You have to adjust to sharing a room with another person and a bathroom with about 30 other people, and that's in addition to taking college classes. On top of all of that, some students have to adjust to a different country, a different culture and a different language.

There are roughly 425 international students from 75 countries, including Korea, China, India, Vietnam and the countries of the United Kingdom currently attending JMU, according to the JMU international student application page. Some international students come for as little as a year, but most tend to stay for four years.

"I didn't know how it would be. At first it was like I was in a movie," Anastasiya Chervinskaya, a junior international affairs major from Kazakhstan, said.

Helping students like Chervinskaya deal with the sudden change in environment, the Leader for International Networking and Knowledge (LINK) program eases the transition to JMU life. LINK has 10 student representatives, called LINKers, and they act as FrOGs for international students. LINKers also serve as role models for incoming international students and try to positively impact the students' acclimation to life on campus.

LINKers first participate as hosts for

the International Student Leadership Conference to learn techniques for helping international students adjust. They also arrive two days before 1787 orientation to help students apply for their student visas, check into JMU and get in touch with their parents.

"The first time that you come to the States, you have a lot of questions and don't know what's going on. You have to learn a lot," Pamela Denisse Sánchez-Ycaza, a junior business management major and former LINKer from Ecuador, said. "We help them out with anything. That's the relationship that we have, and I think that's what makes the transition smooth."

Having someone who can answer any questions a student may have — from ordering textbooks to buying food — can help calm anxious students that feel overwhelmed with change.

"Being so far away from home, in unfamiliar surroundings with people you don't know yet, it's really nice to have approachable people that can help you," Chervinskaya said. "My LINKer was really attentive and it was obvious that he really cared about the people he was assigned to."

Along with LINKers, the International Student Association and the Office of International Programs work to help international students adjust to their new surroundings. The hardest part of the transition for many students is being in such a different culture so far away from home.

"A lot of international students come into the U.S. and straight to JMU. It's hard for them to break the barriers," Duc Tam Nguyen, president of the ISA and

sophomore finance major from Vietnam, said. "It's not that people aren't welcoming them, they're just not opened up."

The ISA strives to change this. It organizes numerous events throughout the year for students to showcase their respective cultures; this gives them a chance to share their cultures with other students and begin to make connections outside of the international program.

"We encourage people to show that they're different and not be ashamed of who they are," Sánchez-Ycaza said. "We want them to show the diversity they bring to JMU."

They also are able to connect with people from their home country and bond over similarities.

"It's kind of like, during FrOG week you identify with certain folks that you went to high school with. You can relate and start conversations. International students are the same," Nguyen said. "You know that you're not alone."

Once international students are able to adjust to life in the states, they come to love JMU as much as any other student. "I like the spirit of JMU. From the beginning it felt like a big family," Chervinskaya said.

Although international students love JMU's spirit, it seems that what they miss the most from home is the food. It seems like a No. 2 ranking in the nation for dining can't persuade these students.

"It's not bad, but I like the food from my home country better," Chervinskaya said.

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LAUREN GORDON / THE BREEZE

International students are led in a team-building exercise by their LINK group on the Quad during 1787 Orientation in 2013.



## movie review

# Leave it in the '80s

*José Padilha's rendition of 'Robocop' does no justice to the original*



COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

**Joel Kinnaman plays Alex Murphy, a cop that is badly injured and given the opportunity to become part man and part robot.**

By **TRAVIS BARBOUR**  
*The Breeze*

Among the slew of revamped '80s movies released this past weekend ("About Last Night" and "Endless Love") comes José Padilha's remake of Paul Verhoeven's 1987 hit, "Robocop."

With U.S. foreign interference and policing as a backdrop (and a not-so-subtle jab at our country's foreign policies), the story centers around a struggle in the U.S. Senate between Raymond Sellars (Michael Keaton), the man responsible for robotic law enforcement droids stationed in the Middle East (more social commentary?) and Senator Hubert Dreyfus (Zach Grenier), the man preventing these drones from policing on U.S. streets.

Dreyfus and the American public are concerned that a robot lacks the emotional safeguards and judgements needed to handle crime. In order to garner public support, Sellars must merge humanity and robotics into one. But who will become this cyborg?

Alex Murphy (Joel Kinnaman) is a family man, with a wife and young son. After being discovered by a big-time drug dealer while working an undercover mission, he becomes a target. After an attempt on his life leaves Murphy almost entirely incapacitated and near death, Sellars finds his new specimen.

The film attempts to make some pretty bold statements about our society. From the drones the United States uses in the Middle East to the propaganda-pressing news organizations that saturate the TV.

The film opens with Pat Novak (Samuel L. Jackson), a Rush Limbaugh-like talking head who clearly doesn't argue for both sides of the conflict, and attempts to sway public opinion to the totally efficient, albeit emotionless police drones. Jackson's character is simply there to question these talking heads that are constantly spouting their personal agendas and biases on TV.

So the biggest question you're having has to be "well, how does it compare to the original?" Like most remakes, "Robocop" fails to make the grade.

Though the film hinges on some excellent ideas (e.g. human vs. machine, ethics vs. profit), they are executed quite poorly. With about 45 minutes of exposition, I grew bored with the film pretty quickly. Even when Murphy becomes a killing machine, there still is a lack of balance between futuristic a\*\*kicking and ideological debate.

One element that made the original "Robocop" such a success was the shock of it all. Back in the '80s, modern technology was still in its infantile stages and the idea of cyborg police cleaning up the streets was innovative and cool. Now, with almost everyone possessing a powerful computer in his or her pocket, this idea seems more palpable and believable, taking away a key element from the original.

I will admit, Padilha's remake of "Robocop" has some pretty awesome action sequences and effects. Murphy's visor in his sleek robotic suit allows him to access criminal records, facial recognition, retina scanners and all sorts of fun technical implementations, and who doesn't love a half-man, half-robot kicking a\*\* and taking names?

However, the high-speed editing and overabundance of visuals in the film gave me slight motion sickness. Oftentimes there are so many different images and videos happening overtop of each other, it's an attack on the senses that's hard to keep up with. Though highly stylized and respectable, it may be a tad too much.

Despite many missteps (such as trying to recycle dialogue from the original), "Robocop" surprisingly has an A-list group of actors at its disposal, including a typically-amazing performance from Gary Oldman who plays the doctor in charge of Murphy's transition. But for goodness sake, can we please stop casting Samuel L. Jackson just to cuss on screen? We get it already.

Though it doesn't live up to the original, Padilha's "Robocop" still makes some interesting arguments about our society. But as for me, I think I'll stick with the original.

Travis Barbour is a senior media arts and design major. Contact him at [barboutw@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:barboutw@dukes.jmu.edu).

## series review

# The darker side of D.C.

Netflix's original series 'House of Cards' kept JMU students entertained through the wintry weather with the release of its second season



COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

**Kevin Spacey stars as conniving Vice President Frank Underwood in this dark political drama set in modern-day Washington, D.C.**

By **MARY KATE WHITE**  
*The Breeze*

Last week, the laziest stars of the universe aligned and brought us a trifecta: National Self-Pity Day (Valentine's Day), a snow day and the release of the entire second season of the Netflix-original political-thriller, "House of Cards."

Season two of "House of Cards," released on Feb. 14 exclusively on Netflix, follows the conniving mastermind Frank Underwood as he takes up his newly-acquired post as the vice president of the United States. Calling upon last season's cast of lobbyists, congressmen and journalists, the plot thickens into a bloody, murky porridge of American politics.

Like any red-blooded college student with too much homework to even consider doing, I decided to watch the entire new season in two days. And I'm glad I did, as the plot and subtle double-crossing of Capitol Hill would be too much to follow if I didn't just sit there and watch it all in lengthy chunks.

Maybe if you're a political science major or even just an avid fan of "The West Wing," you could breeze through this series as if it were a dark, intense daytime drama. But, being a political ignoramus, I found myself getting lost in the lingo as characters spoke entirely too quickly as a way to illustrate the urgency of just about every conversation.

As with the previous season, Vice President Underwood (Kevin Spacey) addresses the camera and the audience with short monologues — a technique that draws the viewer even closer while simultaneously explaining complicated nuances.

It's interactions like these that cast Underwood in the light of an anti-hero, similar to Walter White of "Breaking Bad." We're let in on all of Underwood's secrets, making

us feel close to him, but you're never sure of whether or not that's a good thing.

Despite all the subtleties that you might miss in conversation, there are plenty of cues from the director to set the mood. "House of Cards" is one of the darkest shows I've ever seen, psychologically and visually. Most of the show is shot at night, casting dramatic shadows and causing general discomfort. Even in scenes taking place during the day, Washington, D.C. seems to be eternally overcast.

The lighting, slow zooms and music offer the perfect framing for such delicate subject matter. Conversations that otherwise could be interpreted as basic political protocol are made dramatic and sinister. Long, deep cello notes make the audience lean in and hang on to every word of the vice president's cell phone conversations.

This season, we see less of the eye-candy journalist Zoey Barnes (Kate Mara) with an increased focus on the eerily logical relationship between Francis and his wife, Claire. In a twisted kind of feminism, it's nice to see a woman playing the game just as well as her frighteningly-clever husband as she fights her own campaign against sexual assault in the military. The two are literally a "power couple," which is as awe-inspiring as it is chilling.

I once accidentally called this show "Game of Cards," but I think that Freudian slip was just an accurate description: "House of Cards" is Netflix's "Game of Thrones," but cleaned up and modernized. If you love a show that blurs the lines of right and wrong, leaving you with an inability to trust anyone, I recommend this show to you.

Mary Kate White is a senior media arts and design major. Contact her at [breezearts@gmail.com](mailto:breezearts@gmail.com).

## PICKARIOUS | New online trading post features user-interactive video

from front

"Part of it is it's [video] an attractive media and one people resonate with ... also, you know what you're getting. I think it builds trust between the buyer and the seller," Harbick said.

The video aspect of the website allows users to talk about the items they're selling; users' narration in their videos can be translated to text and found by search engines. Such in-depth technology requires a good team, however.

With Vaughn as the software developer and designer, Harbick as the coder and business manager and Fulkerson as the manager of finance and legalities, the trio hoped to combat what many users found frustrating in eBay and Craigslist.

Unlike eBay, where users can only sell one item or large "lots" of items grouped together, Pickarious is much more flexible with their selling options. Users can sell one item or large groups of items. But, Pickarious allows buyers to single out items within large lots and comment on the items they wish to buy by making annotations on seller's videos.

"Pickarious is much more local, and doesn't have crazy categories or spam like the other sites do."

**Yvette Meaney**  
Harrisonburg local and Pickarious user

Pickarious also does not charge the sellers, unlike eBay. A virtual currency, called coins (worth 10 cents each), is used to buy an item. When a buyer places an offer or asks a seller a question, they are charged one coin; if they successfully agree to buy the item, however, they earn all of their coins back.

"[From] my Craigslist experience, I find that if you just want to sell a used couch, it kind of works but not really because of the unsavory part of the site," Harbick said.



BLAIR ROSEN / THE BREEZE

**What is said in Pickarious seller videos can be found in search engines online. Videos can also be annotated by future buyers.**

"Also, there are unreliable buyers ... because there's no commitment. If you've made an investment in it, you're more likely to follow through with it. It also makes sure you're serious about it."

The website is currently only serves the Harrisonburg region, with buyers and sellers mainly stemming from or around the Harrisonburg region. Users have been satisfied with the website's attributes.

"I like that it is video based — [it's] easier on the eyes and [there's] less sifting through text," Yvette Meaney, a Harrisonburg local and user of Pickarious, said. "Pickarious is much more local, and doesn't have crazy categories or spam like the other sites do."

Pickarious has already had about twenty successful sales on its website since it has opened, Harbick said. As time passes, Pickarious will grow in late spring or early summer.

"We're in the process right now of raising some additional funds to go national," Fulkerson said. "We're very close to having a mobile app ready to release on android and iOS. We'll try to do a push to go out more nationally at the same time that we launch those apps."

Pickarious has been open for months, but its first online yard sale will occur on Feb. 22 and 23, during which users are encouraged to put up large collections of items for sale.

**CONTACT** Joanna Morelli at [breezearts@gmail.com](mailto:breezearts@gmail.com).



**MEN'S BASKETBALL**

## Dukes slide past Seahawks

Curry scores go-ahead jumper with 32 seconds left

By **STEPHEN PROFFITT**  
The Breeze

Familiarity inside the Convocation Center helped JMU survive against the University of North Carolina at Wilmington Saturday with a 64-62 victory.

For head coach Matt Brady, there's just something about the 7,156-seat arena.

"I'm not sure this is a game we would've won anywhere besides the Convocation Center," Brady said. "I think it's comfort now. I think the ball happens to climb over the rim one more time than it might when we're on the road."

Tied at 62 with under a minute to play, sophomore guard Ron Curry drove to the right side of the lane and got a friendly roll on the back block, putting the Dukes up two with half a minute remaining.

"I have a lot of confidence that Ron can make a play at the end of the game," Brady said. "He's done it now a few times. We were fortunate that that ball had a little bit of english and rolled in at the end."

Off of a UNCW timeout, the Dukes played 22 seconds of lock-down defense, forcing UNCW head coach Buzz Peterson to use another timeout with six seconds remaining.

The plan was to get the ball down low to junior Seahawk forward Cedrick Williams and go for the tie. Senior guard Tanner Milson wasn't the first or second option when the play was drawn up, but the shot came down to him. With seconds ticking off, Milson got a look from the right wing for the win, but it was short and to the right. A crowd of 3,262 let out a triumphant cheer as JMU locked in its 10th win of the season.

"I think we survived right there at the end," Brady said. "From where I was standing, I thought Tanner's three looked like it was going in. I thought we did a reasonable job defending anyone on the three-point line."

Curry finished with 13 points and eight rebounds. He's becoming an essential part to this team down the stretch in close ball games.

"Hopefully we can keep going to him and he'll keep coming through," Brady said of Curry.

JMU led 34-26 at half and opened it up to a 13-point lead early in the second. But as time has proven, the middle of the second half seems to bite JMU every time.

"Forcing us to make jump shots," Curry said of the UNCW's second half defensive adjustments. "That was the toughest thing about that."

The Dukes went over six minutes without a field goal midway through the second half.

As Brady predicted back in January, most of these conference games — especially those at home — would come down to the wire. Saturday did just that with nine lead changes and four ties. Well-rounded defense and a comfortable setting helped the Dukes closeout a streaking UNCW team.

"They were hot too," Curry said of UNCW. "It's very important that we got this win. Trying to start a winning streak."

The team watched the U.S. vs. Russia Olympic hockey game prior to the noon tip-off on Saturday. Word was that redshirt senior Andrey Semenov, a St. Petersburg, Russia native was quite upset over the Russian loss in a shootout.

"Go USA, I guess," Brady said smiling when asked if the team gave him a hard time on the Russian defeat.

He managed to take his fandom-frustrations out on the Seahawks later that afternoon. While he's struggled to find his stroke and offensive consistency through the season, Semenov made his third to last game inside the Convo a good one. He finished with a game high 18 points on 4-7 shooting from downtown.

"It feels good," Semenov said. "It really helps to stretch the defense out."

Wednesday he passed former guard, Pierre Curtis (2006-10) for first on the games-played list; he played in his 128th game Saturday.

see **BASKETBALL**, page 12

# Secret weapons

Male practice players help women's basketball stay sharp



PHOTOS BY LAUREN GORDON / THE BREEZE

Freshman Walker Aspinwall (left), junior Alex Holler (center) and junior McKinley Johnson are three of the 13 current players on the women's practice squad.

By **WAYNE EPPS JR.**  
The Breeze

They're almost undercover. You won't see their names on the roster or their faces on the bench during games. But take a glance at women's basketball practice on any given afternoon, and you're bound to notice them.

They're the male practice players that simulate opposing teams' schemes to help the Dukes prepare for what they should see against any given opponent. And this season, they're one quiet piece of a team that's off to its best start in conference play in seven years.

Male practice players are common across women's college basketball, and it's a strategy head coach Kenny Brooks has always used.

"It's been a staple of our program since I took over. We've had male practice players from day one," Brooks said. "It's been a tremendous plus for our program, because my philosophy is to try to build as much chemistry as I can. And I like to have my first group playing on a team together."

Having those male practice players on tap gives Brooks more flexibility to have his starters scrimmage together while still having a competitive balance on the scout team. Anywhere from one to six of the players may show up to practice each day. There's a group of about 13 players that are cleared to come out.

On any particular day, the players there morph into an upcoming opponent for a couple hours. Leading up to Thursday, it'll be the University of Delaware. Next week, the College of Charleston. These players push the Dukes — they're really unlike anything they'll see on game day, but in a good way.

"They're not accurate at all, because they're a lot more athletic than the girls," sophomore guard Precious Hall said. "They're jumping everywhere, they're faster, stronger."

And that, according to women's basketball director of operations Tim Clark, is further explanation for bringing in male players in particular.

"If our girls can play against them and compete against them, playing against the other

teams in our league should be easier," Clark said.

The practice squad begins to come together in mid-August, before the start of the fall semester. Clark sends out a campus-wide email around that time to advertise the opportunity. He said he receives roughly 75 responses to that email, but they're filtered down to those 13 or so guys who fit the bill.

There are no official tryouts, but Clark does hold a kind of interest meeting at UREC within the first weeks of the semester where those who want to be a part of the squad play in pickup games. From those games, Clark gauges who has, "a clear, basic knowledge of basketball."

"That's what's key ... They have very limited time to learn the plays, and they have very limited time to play with each other," Clark said. "So we have to make sure that they have just a good, solid understanding. Have been coached before, so that they're receptive to that."

Maybe more importantly, the players have to stand up to the health and academic standards of the NCAA, as if they too were varsity athletes.

"They're technically Division I athletes. They're just not active," Clark said. "So they have to do all the academic stuff, all the compliance stuff, all the health and physical stuff, their concussion tests, their physicals. They got to go through the whole shebang."

Once the players are cleared, it's time to get down to business. At which point, Brooks lays out the ground rules.

"I bring all of them in from day one, and the first thing I tell them is, 'If you hurt my girls, I'll kill you,'" Brooks said. "But they do a really good job as a balance of coming out and challenging them, but at the same time, not doing anything that would hurt them."

Forget whatever physical advantage that exists, playing with the women's basketball team is by no means easy.

see **PRACTICE**, page 12



Junior McKinley Johnson said pride in JMU is a major motivating factor for him being a practice player.

**LACROSSE (1-0)**

# Starting off on the right foot

JMU fends off Virginia Tech to win season debut Saturday



MATT SCHMACHTENBERG / THE BREEZE

Sophomore midfielder Jaci Gordon takes a shot on Virginia Tech's goal Saturday.

By **WAYNE EPPS JR.**  
The Breeze

A 30 degree windchill and leftover snow forced the first lacrosse game of the season onto University Park's turf practice field Saturday afternoon. But JMU still found a way to get comfortable.

JMU used a 6-1 run at the end of the first half and beginning of the second to turn a tie into a four-goal lead. The Dukes eventually went on to beat Virginia Tech 14-11. Junior midfielder Ali Curwin and redshirt junior attacker Emily Rhoads led JMU with four goals apiece. Junior attacker Stephanie Finley added three goals and three assists.

But despite the final result, there were some early first-game jitters apparent in the first half. Curwin got the scoring started with a goal just 40 seconds in, but the Hokies responded by scoring two of their own goals in the next eight minutes.

"Twelve people have to come together to win one game. I think it is a jitters thing," head coach Shelley Klaes-Bawcombe said. "It's an early season, both team's first game. I just think that there were a lot of nerves that people were working through."

In her first career start, Rhoads tied the game up with a goal at the 20:44 mark. But the back-and-forth scoring continued toward the end of the half. The Dukes and Hokies traded two more goals apiece over 12 minutes to tie the game 4-4.

With 1:32 to play before the break, sophomore midfielder Jaci Gordon scored the first of her two goals to give JMU a 5-4 halftime lead. At halftime, Klaes-Bawcombe told her team to settle down and play at the level they're capable of.

"We just asked them to stop thinking so much. We felt like every movement was scripted," Klaes-Bawcombe said. "And we're a pretty fast, aggressive, quick team. And when we're thinking too much, we lose some of that athleticism. So I asked them to just play."

Right out of the half, a momentum shift was apparent. The Dukes scored three goals over the first three minutes of the second half to balloon their lead to 8-4 with 27:14 to play.

Draw control and transition offense proved to be key in the beginning of the second half. The Dukes won the opening draw of the half and then the next two draws after scoring. Finally, the third goal was scored after sophomore midfielder Taylor Gress regained possession for the Dukes after a Virginia Tech shot hit the post and sparked the transition.

"We've really been working on transition in practice," Rhoads said. "And I think, clearly, today it really showed how strong we can be in transition. So that's really exciting."

The Hokies never stopped knocking on the door though. They scored two goals in 52 seconds to cut JMU's lead

see **LACROSSE**, page 12



# BASKETBALL | Drexel up next

from page 11

"It hasn't hit me yet," he said on winding down a storied career. "It'll hit me the next game or the game after that. I might cry during the anthem [Feb. 26 vs. Towson]"

An unexpected spark in the form of freshman forward Yohanny Dalembert has given the Dukes some post presence. Wednesday against the University of Delaware, Dalembert had his first double-double and career highs. He finished with 15 points and 13 rebounds against the Blue Hens. His performance led to his first career start Saturday over sophomore forward Taylor Bessick.

"He's playing as hard as anyone on our team," Brady said. "He's been doing that for about six weeks. I think he should be rewarded."

Dalembert got 24 minutes of floor time against UNCW. He finished with seven points and three rebounds, but struggled with fouls, picking up two early in the first half and battling with four down the stretch of the second half.

"I want to thank the coaching staff for the opportunity," Dalembert said.

Brady is in need of post production as the Dukes tend to struggle for rebounds at times.

"We needed more productivity on the glass," Brady said. "More energy and a little more toughness and he's given it to us."

Brady said Dalembert has given them a lot of toughness in the center position. It's something they needed.

"We have to have some toughness at that spot," Brady said.

Brady has voiced frustration concerning Bessick's effort and performance, and believes

Dalembert is the current solution.

"Running to both glasses," Brady said. "He just runs and makes plays. He's running every time whereas Taylor runs when he thinks he might have a chance."

Sophomore guard Andre Nation turned in a solid performance with 10 points and five rebounds. He went back to his defensive ways that got him noticed as a freshman, logging seven steals, a career high that also ties the single-game school record.

Nation's sophomore counterpart and third member of the triumvirate, guard Charles Cooke, finished with 10 points. It's his 20th game of the season in double figures. He's now averaging 14.3 per game.

Saturday marked JMU's sixth game in a mere 14-day stretch. Over that period, the Dukes (10-17, 5-8 Colonial Athletic Association) are 2-4. They now have three days off to prepare for Drexel University's appearance at the Convo Wednesday night. JMU will look to forget the 78-60 drugging the Dragons gave them in Philadelphia a week back.

The win is big in a subtle way for JMU, as it keeps UNCW at bay, stuck with the nine seed, while the Dukes move up to seventh place behind the College of Charleston. Drexel and Charleston have five wins in conference play too, but the Dragons have six losses and the Cougars seven.

The standings are so jumbled, every win comes at a premium.

"We're just trying to get every one of these games and it started with today," Curry said.

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# PRACTICE | Provides challenge

from page 11

"I think right away we found out how good the girls are," junior finance major Alex Holler said.

It is Division I basketball after all, so it's quite a few steps up from whatever these guys were used to playing high school and American Athletic Union basketball growing up.

"I definitely came into it thinking it was going to be a lot different. Their practices are a lot harder than our high school practices were," junior psychology major McKinley Johnson said. "When we jumped in with plays and stuff, they taught us like five or six plays in one day. We were so confused and they killed us the first couple days, because we had no idea."

Work begins shortly before the start of each practice. One of Brooks' assistants, whoever's heading the scout team that day, meets with the practice players on the top cement courts behind the stationary seats in the Convocation Center.

There, according to Clark, the players are briefed on an opponent's simple "bread-and-butter" offensive sets. They're also prepped on a defensive scheme if JMU is expecting to see something different from usual.

"They'll give us the strengths and the weaknesses of the girls that we'll be emulating for that day," Holler said. "So we'll know if they're jump shooters, or like to drive a little more, and then we can kind of focus ourselves off of that."

On the court, the Dukes and their practice compatriots maintain a friendly, but competitive relationship. The varsity athletes recognize the value of the other players in helping them get better. But that doesn't mean there isn't room for

a little trash talk.

"They'll let you know if they're beating you," freshman business management major Walker Aspinwall said. "Which is good, it makes you want to practice harder, which gets them better."

The same holds true off the court. The players acknowledge each other around campus — teammates in spirit.

"You're invested in them, so you want them to do well, so you have to play your best to help them out," Aspinwall said.

Every bit counts. So there's no denying the practice players' influence on JMU's success this season. The size of that influence depends on who you let tell it.

"I'm probably the team's MVP honestly," Holler joked.

"They do a great job of challenging the kids. They've been like that since I started this program," Brooks said. "They come out and they'll compete, they'll challenge them, they'll root for them. They come to our games and they root. They do special things."

Brooks admitted that the players don't get much for their efforts. They get official JMU basketball practice shorts and jerseys, plus priority scheduling to be available for practice. But for these guys, it's not about the perks. It's about being a part of something bigger.

And this season, it could end up being bigger than they imagined.

"Duke Dog pride," Johnson said. "Trying to make our team better, we got a great women's team. So, any way we can help out."

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# LACROSSE | JMU heads to Florida for two games this weekend

from page 11

to 8-6 with 26 minutes to play.

JMU then proceeded to score four of the next five goals to pad its lead and make it 12-7 with 14 and a half minutes left.

That's when things got interesting again, as Virginia Tech scored three straight goals to cut JMU's lead to two with just three minutes to play. But Finley and Rhoads stepped up again to score two straight JMU goals in 26 seconds to assure the win.

Klaes-Bawcombe was pleased with how the Dukes handled adversity throughout the game.

"I felt that here today, even when Virginia Tech went on its runs, I didn't get the sense from this group that they were worried about those," she said. "They just wanted to stop them. And that's a huge mental adjustment that we're making."

She also said that she was pleased with the balanced scoring effort, but will continue to search for offensive leadership.

Klaes-Bawcombe would like to see her defense "tightens things up in key moments," and play with more confidence.

But with just one game under its belt, this group is already feeling the cohesion.

"I can't even begin to tell you," Gordon said. "But we can finally take risks, all over the field. So not only do we just have like a couple of people on defense ... We have everyone to trust."

This week, JMU will head south to face the University of Florida (2-1) on Thursday and Jacksonville University (1-2) Saturday. Over the next few days, the Dukes will work on developing that offensive leadership and defensive confidence, and ultimately strengthening the chemistry that they already feel.

"Just have each other's back, more communication," Rhoads said. "Just having trust in each other, and it'll all come together through that."

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