Melrose concerns
University Center

Lodge poses safety risks for students, Radcliffe says

ISA ROSATO
junior writer

For years, Melrose Caverns has been a popular place for student organizations to hold large-scale functions, but the administration has voiced concerns about the site.

The old lodge house offers expansive space, economic prices and a change of atmosphere from the usual party setting. Kristin Radcliffe, associate director of University Center, is afraid that groups too often picture Melrose as the land of the free — a place where no policies apply.

“Greek organizations are violating their insurance policies when they have a social function that isn’t strictly regulated,” Radcliffe said. “Anything that has a common source of alcohol, where minors are served, and people can bring in alcohol, the insurance is void. But any club, renting in the name of their organization is making themselves liable for risk.”

Any groups who use organizational money to purchase alcohol for a function where minors may be served and someone may be hurt are at risk, she said.

For Greeks, their insurance policies apply everywhere, Radcliffe said. For other groups, it may not be an insurance concern, as much as a legal problem. If they are considered a legal entity with a tax ID number then they are liable for alcohol related accidents as a result of their function, she said.

“Melrose is a humongous problem,” Radcliffe said. “If I could change one thing for all organizations, just for the safety of our members I would definitely say the best choice they could make would be not to go there because it is so remote; there’s no security, there’s no enforcement of any kind.”

Jim Yancey, a co-owner of Melrose, said that students interested in renting out the facility must sign a contract.

see MELROSE page 9

The impact of AIDS

Speaker captivates audience with life story

ARCIA APPERSON
senior writer

About 33.4 million people around the world are living with HIV or AIDS, according to estimates by the World Health Organization.

But that’s not what motivational speaker Denise Stokes discussed with more than 100 students in Grafton-Stovall Theatre Tuesday night.

“I want to talk to you from a personal perspective,” she said.

Stokes told the audience her life story, starting at the age of 13 when she was raped and infected with the disease. However, she didn’t let anyone know she had been raped and didn’t know she had HIV.

When Stokes was a senior in high school, she wanted to go to college but she didn’t have enough money. Stokes decided to enlist in the Army. When she had her medical tests done, Stokes was told she had AIDS and would probably not live past the age of 21.

“I could not fathom what he was telling me,” Stokes said. “I was stunned because I had never dealt with the concept of dying.”

Stokes said she thought the hardest thing she would have to deal with at that age was going to the prom and choosing a university.

During the mid-’80s, when Stokes found out she had AIDS, she said people didn’t want to talk about AIDS and she couldn’t find out many facts.

“I was the complete opposite of everything I thought AIDS to be,” she said. “To me AIDS was a gay, white male disease.”

Stokes stressed to the audience that anyone can be infected with HIV or AIDS. She said it crosses all boundaries and doesn’t discriminate based on intelligence, race, gender or class.

“AIDS happens to average American people,” Stokes said.

Stokes said there are days when she has been very sick, but she has never missed a speech.

“I have been so sick that I did not recognize myself when I looked at myself in the mirror.”

see AIDS page 9

Postseason Awards

In his first year as the Dukes’ football coach, Mickey Matthews, right, was named the Division IAA Coach of the Year on Monday. Page 35

Croc Talk

The most influential person of the Century is . . . here’s a hint: He went on a mission to handle the world’s 10 most venomous snakes. Pages 24-25
DUKE DAYS EVENTS CALENDAR

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9

• Bible Study, 8:15 p.m., 690 S. Mason St., sponsored by Wesley Foundation, call Ben at 434-3490
• Fellowship Dinner, 5:30 p.m., 690 S. Mason St., sponsored by Wesley Foundation, call Ben at 434-3490
• JMU Breakdancing Club, 6 to 8 p.m., Godwin racquetball courts
• JMU Student Composers Concert, 8 p.m., Anthony-Seeger Auditorium, call x3481 or x6863
• Young Democratic Socialists General Meeting, 8 p.m., Taylor 302, call Aaron at 433-6411

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10

• InterVarsity Large Group, 7 p.m., Miller 101, call Sarah at 574-4890
• JMU Breakdancing Club, 6 to 8 p.m., UREC aerobic studio

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

• JMU Symphonic Bands Concert, 3 p.m., Wilson Hall Auditorium, admission $2 at the door
• Mass, PC Ballroom, 11 a.m. and 5 p.m., CCM House (1052 S. Main St.), 9 p.m., sponsored by Catholic Campus Ministry

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15

• JMU Breakdancing Club fundraiser for multiple sclerosis, 12 to 1 p.m., the commons, call Turbo at 801-8493

POLICE LOG

MELISSA FORREST
police reporter

An unidentified white male subject about 5-foot-5 to 5-foot-7, clean shaven with light brown hair and dark eyes reportedly entered a suite shower room in Chandler Hall on Dec. 3 at 5:57 p.m. while a female resident was showering. The unidentified subject pulled the curtain aside and attempted to touch the victim, she screamed, he fled the building and she followed in pursuit of him.

In other matters, campus police report the following:

Possession of Marijuana
• Grant G. Edwards, 18, of Richmond, was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana on Dec. 4 in Degraline Hall.
• James A. Mathers, 18, of Richmond, was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana on Dec. 4 in Degraline Hall.

Underage Possession of Alcohol
• A JMU student was arrested and charged with under age possession of alcohol on Dec. 4 at 11:45 p.m. at the College Center on Carrier Drive, east campus. A police report did not provide the student's name.
• Brian T. Consolo, 18, of Virginia Beach, was arrested and charged with under age possession of alcohol on Dec. 4 at 11:59 p.m. on University Boulevard.
• Jeremy S. Fulkerson, 18, of Gainesville, was arrested and charged with under age possession of alcohol on Dec. 4 at 1:47 a.m. near Zane Showker Hall.
• James A. Mathers, 18, of

see POLICE LOG page 11

INFORMATION

The Breeze is published Monday and Thursday mornings and distributed throughout James Madison University and the local Harrisonburg community. Comments and complaints should be addressed to Courtney Crowley, editor.

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Focus: x7679
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JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

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

— James Madison
**Greeks, Habitat for Humanity sponsor fundraiser for house**

**Sarah Summers**
Contributing writer

JMU's Habitat for Humanity and Greek Habitat for Humanity have joined forces to build a house in the community. Furthermore, Greek Habitat for Humanity is sponsoring a basketball tournament as a fundraiser this weekend.

Work on the house is finishing up and is slated to be finished by early January, with the dedication planned for Jan. 16.

"There has been a lot of participation for the house," said senior Erin Smith, volunteer chair. "I am constantly speaking with the contact person in each sorority and fraternity so they can go back to their respective chapters and get volunteers, give the members information and keep them updated with the house in general."

Smith further praised the efforts of the organizations. "Overall the project has been an amazing experience," she said. "We have a core committee that has put their hearts into this project 100 percent. We are grateful to Habitat for Humanity for partnering up with Greek Life in a project that we hope to continue in the future. One of our mission statements in Greek Habitat for Humanity is to get involved in the community. This tournament does just that by asking high school students to get involved and play in the tournament."

The basketball tournament is scheduled for Dec. 11 at Godwin Hall. Registration for the high school students begins at 10 a.m. and the actual tournament begins at noon. Breakfast will be provided for the students. Four area high schools were asked to participate: Harrisonburg High School, Spotswood High School, Turner Ashby High School and Broadway High School. The core committee for Greek Habitat for Humanity for all of its kind. McMullen said his book was the first annual tuition raffle. As a fundraiser for the fraternity, part of the proceeds from the raffle will go toward Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Harrisonburg.

The second place winner is Shannon Doherty, a freshman planning to pursue a major in business. She will receive gift certificates for dinner at Chili's and a movie for two.

The third place winner is Lindsay O'Dell, a senior majoring in computer information systems and management. She wins five large pizzas from Domino's Pizza.

Quiet hours begin Friday

Beginning Friday at 12 a.m., in conjunction with exam week, 23-hours-a-day quiet hours will be in effect for all students living in campus residence halls. Loud hour will be 9 until 10 p.m.

**JMU biologist releases field guide**

"Flowering Plants of the Galapagos," a field guide published by Cornell University Press and written by a JMU assistant professor of biology takes a look at threatened plants that are in imminent danger of becoming extinct.

Conley McMullen's book on plant life in the Galapagos, a series of 13 islands off the coast of Ecuador, is the only one of its kind. McMullen said his book wasn't intended as an environmental manifesto, although it may become that should the plants it details become extinct.

"Many plants native to these islands are tremendously threatened right now," McMullen said. "Some of them are found nowhere else in the world. To lose them because of interference by humans would be a tragedy."

**Breeze audit raises financial questions**

**Keri Schwab**
Staff writer

While conducting an audit of The Breeze, JMU auditors found funds that were improperly used, according to Fred Hilton, director of media relations.

About $2,000, primarily from what was being called a petty cash fund, is being investigated, Hilton said.

Hilton would not say why The Breeze is being audited.

Cheryl Floyd, former general manager of The Breeze, left the employment on Nov. 29, but Hilton would not discuss why she left the employment on Nov. 29. Hilton said:

"The investigation is ongoing and no charges have been filed at this time.

Neither Richard Whitman, dean of the College of Arts and Letters nor George Johnson, director of the school of media arts and design, would comment on the audit.
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The Breeze

Madison Grill details given at SGA

TOM STEINFELDT
SGA reporter

The student representative to the Board of Visitors, senior Emily Couch, spoke at Tuesday's Student Government Association meeting to gather information on student concerns to present in her upcoming report to the BOV.

Two key issues addressed by several senators involved students' concerns with professors and the need for student involvement in all decisions affecting the student body.

"Our input is just as important as anyone else's," Sturtevant said.

Academic Affairs Chair Amanda Klein strongly recommended the need for more student involvement in major curriculum changes. Klein cited changes in the General Education program, changes in the B.A./B.S. requirements and the plus-minus system as issues that lacked proper student input.

Klein also said she thought students are ill-informed about problems in academic affairs.

Klein said the waning down of some GenEd courses is causing a backlash, causing students to feel unprepared in some areas.

Other issues and ideas raised included the concern that some professors have lower standards than what should be expected of a JMU student today. Some senators suggested that professors should stick to teaching subjects where their knowledge is concentrated, rather than tackle various subjects in their field.

Couch said JMU's image is unique from other schools.

"It's not all in the classroom, it's not all outside the classroom," Couch said. The center wants JMU to be seen as a place where academic and social activity combine to make up the JMU experience.

Couch is eager to hear students' concerns or suggestions to present to the board. Her e-mail is ecouches@jmu.edu.

Executive Chef Steve Mangan and John Brady, the director of dining services, presented Executive Chef Steve Mangan with a framed copy of a Breeze article highlighting the Shenandoah Hot Food Competition. Mangan said he was excited about the opening of JMU's own Madison Grill, on Jan. 10, 2000.

"A bistro is what I think of as a neighborhood restaurant," Mangan said. Students, faculty and staff can remove their lunch for lunch and to make dinner reservations. Mangan said he sees the grill as a place where faculty members can have a nice meal before going home to their families and where students can take their parents or enjoy an upscale meal with friends right on campus.

Lunch service runs from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner from 5 to 9 p.m.

Entree prices for lunch range from $4.95 to $7.95, with such options as salmon cakes, a grilled N.Y. strip sirloin sandwich, and fettucine with peas and country ham. The dinner menu offers some of the lunch delectibles along with more expensive items such as a shrimp and pasta dish for $11.95 and grilled salmon filet for $10.95. Burgers and sandwiches are served all day with prices between $3.25 to $6.25, and desserts from $1.95 to $3.25.

All meal plans come with the punch for the Madison Grill at a cash value of $8.50 per punch. The option to double punches is also available. Mangan explained the reduction from 10 punches at the Steakhouse to three is because the grill can only accommodate 140 people at a time. Fewer punches per meal plan makes the bistro available to more students. Also, students on average only used two punches a semester at the Steakhouse.

"We're making it more available by giving you less punches and we're making it more exciting," Mangan said.

He may try some theme nights in the bistro setting, which along with more expensive items such as a shrimp and pasta dish for $11.95 and grilled salmon filet for $10.95. Burgers and sandwiches are served all day with prices between $3.25 to $6.25, and desserts from $1.95 to $3.25.

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He may try some theme nights in the bistro setting, which

MATTHEW CARASSELLO

Contributing writer

Translators in high demand

Visiting professor details personal experience as a translator

LYSON ROTHSCCHILD
Contributing writer

A little foreign language can go a long way in today's shrinking world and JMU's new translation program is responding to that need.

Anne Cordero, a translator and professor at George Mason University, spoke for the department of foreign languages about the need for more foreign language translation and to teach important learning skills and additionally are useful for language development.

"The World Wide Web is a shining example of translation," Cordero said. "A translator needs to not only be bilingual, but also a business man.

"I came to hear Cordero to find out how the subject of translation is addressed at this forum, which is currently a minor and will be a major next year.

When Cordero moved from Europe to the United States she found that she was no longer needed and she became a professor and established the translation department at GMU.

Cordero said the majority of work for translators formerly could only be found in international industry and the United Nations.

"I was not aware of from the speech," Cordero said.

Cordero is a member of the American Translators Association (ATA).

The ATA is the only professional translation association in the United States. It is also the only group that administers accreditation tests for translation.

"You are never finished learning, it's a life-long process, the older you get the more you learn," she said. "Your reputation is only as good as the last job that you did."
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Diana Smyth
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Nikki Taylor
Kerrie Wudyka
Katie Weinstein
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Happy Holidays from The Breeze...
We have posted every professor’s exam keys on the Web as a thanks for reading The Breeze.
www.notachanceinhell.com

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ON THE ROAD TO STUDENT SUCCESS

With the goal of improving the delivery of services, 5th floor Warren Hall is now completing renovations....
Melrose safety concerns voiced by University Center

MELROSE, from page 1

contract states that Melrose cannot be held responsible for any accidents, injuries or personal property damage arising out of their agreement.

"It is the students' responsibility to monitor themselves," he said. "We can't tell them what they can and cannot do."

The contract dictates the number of hours and amount of people allowed in prior to the function to avoid overcrowding. It also states that those renting Melrose may not charge admission or open the room to the general public.

In addition, it states they cannot sell alcoholic beverages, food or merchandise of any kind, and that no one under the age of 21 shall be allowed to consume alcohol. However, Jim Yancey said Melrose personnel don't screen who's drinking and who's not drinking. It's up to the students having the function to regulate themselves.

He said Melrose has no plans to change their policy.

"We don't condone binge or underage drinking," said Elizabeth Yancey, Jim Yancey's assistant. "We do not give alcohol."

AIDS speaker hits home with real-life anecdotes

AIDS, from page 1

She said she didn't want to go through the pain of remembering someone got hurt or killed, because it's already too late," she said. "Preventing a lawsuit is not the main goal. Protecting students and preventing injury is."

Few groups recognize the need to exercise protection at Melrose, Radcliffe said. Numerous cases of alcohol poisoning, sexual assault and alcohol-related injuries occur due to lack of adequate safety.

She said she would also like to see Melrose require groups to have their own security, as part of the contract.

"I'm not out to get Melrose, but I'm just really concerned that someone will get hurt," Radcliffe said. "Melrose is making money and that is their business. I understand that, but I would like them to be concerned about what's going on on their property. Bottom line though, it is the group's responsibility [to work on these problems] not the owners."

Junior Kevin Gasque, president of Alpha Kappa Lambda fraternity, said he can understand Radcliffe's point of view.

"I can see where Kristin's concerns can come from," he said. "When we sign the contract, we are waiving all liabilities from the people who own it, there is no ABC regulation present, and a lot of things can go wrong," he said.

However, Gasque said he still thinks that Melrose is an ideal place for large gatherings.

"It's the only place of its kind, as far as the price, the way it's set up, and its size," he said. "I came in and we were going there and that's the way it's always been. It's just a good place to go to get a big group of people together."

Senior Allison Williams, president of Delta Gamma, said she also thinks Melrose is attractive because the group's concern about the issue and saw that there is no ABC regulation present, and a lot of things can go wrong, he said.

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Senior Allison Williams, president of Delta Gamma, said she also thinks Melrose is attractive because they were going there and that's the way it's always been. It's just a good place to go to get a big group of people together.

The event was sponsored by the University Program Board and put together by the Issues and Cultural Awareness Committee, Chris Stup, coordinator of Student Organization Services/UJPB, said.

Stup said the organization was very pleased with the student turnout, especially since the event was held on a cold night the week before exams.

"I didn't expect the impact that it did have, even though I knew she was an awesome speaker," said junior Dana Broadnax, director of the Issues and Cultural Awareness Committee. "... It puts in my mind that I need to count my blessings."

Stup said it was very impressive how Stokes' life began to unravel as she tried to deal with her illness, became homeless and addicted to drugs. She said she became a drug addict because she was looking for an absence of pain.

One day she said she decided to commit suicide. The same day she passed by a treatment center. The audience applauded Stokes when she said, "I've been clean for nine years and I'm 30."

"By the time I got around to dealing with it, I realized whole communities had been infected," she said.

Since she got clean, Stokes has been involved with AIDS prevention as a community activist, motivational speaker and AIDS education consultant to President Bill Clinton.

"I went from the crack house to the White House," Stokes said.

She is one of 30 members chosen from around the country to serve on Clinton's HIV/AIDS Advisory Council. Within the Council, she serves on the Prevention Committee.

Stokes told the students that HIV is 100 percent preventative. She said she thinks denial prevents people from protecting themselves against the disease.

When asked by a student, Stokes said she is an optimistic person but doesn't see there being a cure for AIDS in the next 10 to 15 years.

"One day I'm going to die with AIDS," Stokes said. "I know that I've accepted it."

She said the most important thing for her now is to speak out and reach people. Several students said they thought Stokes' message was strong and touched them.

Sophomore Meghan Weidied decided to come because she said she's always been concerned about the issue and saw signs up around campus.

"I think she's incredible," Weidied said. "If that's her story, it doesn't send a message, I don't know what does."

Junior Alicia Blake also said, "She took a more personal approach, which I really appreciated because I think people relate more to personal approaches. ... In my opinion she one of the best speakers I've ever seen, so I really enjoyed her a lot."

Senior Emily Wyatt said she agreed that Stokes telling her story on a personal level appealed to the students.

"I think people become almost numb to statistics," Wyatt said. "It's almost too hard for people to take in. But to hear a person, to see a person right in front of you who is living with HIV and AIDS brings it home more."

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Stup said it was very impressive how Stokes was blunt in admitting she had been addicted to drugs but then turned around and is now an adviser to the president.

"It [Stokes' life story] was pretty incredible," Stup said. "I definitely think that everybody that left, left affected."
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Bryan Watts
Texas couple finds $300,000 in paper bag

Although citizens routinely report finding sums of money in the hundreds and even thousands, department officials couldn’t cite an instance in which a Dallas resident found so much money at one time. Chief Garcia, who last month presented an award to a man who turned in $2,000 they found in an Oak Lawn apartment complex, termed this case “amazing.”

Police are now working to determine the origins of the money. Detectives will check robbery and missing property reports for any possible connections, as well as examining the money itself for any signs of narcotics. Investigators will also wait to see if anyone calls to claim the money. Although they’re certain that amount of money will attract more than a few phone calls, the claimant will have to know details about the money and have a credible story about how he lost it.

It’s no leap of logic to presume that the loot could be related to drugs, because the department’s narcotics division routinely executes search warrants that yield “extremely large amounts of money.”

Chief Garcia said if police can’t link the money to anyone within 60 days, state law says the investigation becomes a game of finders-keepers. The man and a woman in the home could officially apply to secure all of the nearly $300,000. The woman indicated that her family might place a claim on the money.

“The gun [in the bag] would lead the average citizen to believe that this was obviously from some kind of criminal case.”

Danny Garcia
deputy chief of police

The Breeze
Thursday, Dec. 9, 1999

News

500 E. Main St.
Richmond, VA 23219
379-1700

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$300,000 in paper bag

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FBI investigates Internet sexual predators of minors

Of all the millions of new jobs created by the Internet, Randy J. Aden has the one that is, arguably, the most completely not fun.

Aden is the supervisory special agent in charge of a squad that hunts down and arrests sexual predators of children — criminals who arguably, the most completely not fun.

Internet, Randy J. Aden has the one that is, arguably, the most completely not fun.

In an interview Monday, the woman described the Hollywood-like scenario, saying “I started hyperventilating” after examining the bag’s contents. The couple flagged down a Dallas officer, who himself gasped at the amount of money inside. He immediately called a supervisor to the scene, a police report states.

The woman stood across from a Christmas tree and a bevy of red stockings as she described feeling more fearful than proud. She didn’t want her identity revealed and sought no publicity for her actions.

The operation, called the SAFE team;
Killed by a drunk driver on Friday, March 29, 1991, at 5:30 PM in Meridian, Miss.

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Pictured Luke McGinty running for James McHone Jewelry in
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Technology tests aren’t the answer

The administrators of JMU, traditionally a liberal arts university, struggled cozily in the Shenandoah Valley with a strong College of Arts and Letters that produces hardworking, creative professionals, are in a tizzy because some of its incoming freshmen are having problems on portions of the new technology tests administered to those in the class of 2003.

Apparently some freshmen don’t have the necessary skills in Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and other general applications, as well as general knowledge of technology issues, according to the Dec. 6 issue of The Breeze.

Students couldn’t answer questions such as, “True or false: One megabyte is approximately 100 kilobytes.”

Heavens to morganoy! The end of the world is upon us because apparently if kids don’t know how to navigate their way through Word and PowerPoint. And to save us all, JMU is going to make darn sure that all these students pass the tests — by midterm in the spring. They can go to labs, and there are Web-based resources for them if they need help.

These kids of the technology generation are in deep trouble if they don’t know their Microsoft by the time they get to college, aren’t they?

But perhaps they do know what they’re doing and the tests are an inaccurate measure of their knowledge.

“We were surprised that the passing rate was not higher than it was, though that may be as much due to the testing circumstances as to stu-
dent knowledge and ability,” said Linda Halpern, dean of General Education.

If the dean herself thinks there might be flaws in the testing procedures, why is the administration making freshmen pass a flawed test?

Why are freshmen being forced to pass these tests?

All students should have a basic understanding of technology and the necessary skills to use technology effectively,” David Brunner, GenEd technology coordinator, said in the Dec. 6 Breeze.

But isn’t college a place where this type of knowledge should be taught?

Is it a necessary prerequisite to have knowledge of technology when enrolling in a liberal arts university?

How many seniors out there knew PowerPoint from top to bottom when they entered this institution?

The last time we checked, JMU was not CalTech. So why is the administration acting like we suddenly are? Is this a move to have more computer-based classes that would make JMU nothing but a virtual university where students spend all their time indoors on computers instead of interacting in the JMU community like the well-rounded students we are?

Perhaps ISAT majors and other students who work in fields in which technology is omnipresent should be required to take these tests so professors don’t have to spend time teaching the basics in advanced technology classes.

 However, what about those students who will never once use PowerPoint in a class in their four years here and will only use Word to write papers? Should those students who enroll in a liberal arts university be punished because they aren’t as into the technology thing for the sake of a uniform mandatory curriculum?

Topic: What is your favorite way to spend the time during the holidays?
Reflections of a late night Wal-Mart junkie

The other night I bought some of those multicolored blinking lights up at Wal-Mart to try and get my apartment decorated at least a little bit for another impending holiday season. When I got home and plugged them in, though, only half of the lights lit up, which of course makes sense because why would the whole string of lights work anyway? So last night I headed over to Wal-Mart to get my exchange, with my roommate in tow so I didn't have to go at it alone. When we got there I headed over to the customer service desk, where my roommate promptly disappeared to find computer disks.

I was standing in the customer service line, waiting behind a couple who were returning a bathroom rug; bear in mind it was going on midnight and these people were there returning a rug.

Except they knew the guy behind the counter and were talking about their bowling league or asbestos or something, I didn’t want to be nosy, so then I spied these two kids playing Pole Position or one of those games over by the door.

I walked over to them, they couldn’t have been older than 14, and asked them if they weren’t out a little late for a school night. They told me that if I wasn’t planning to go home with another crapped-out box of lights for the second night in a row.

Finding an outlet and finding these lights to be in proper working order, I set about finding my roommate, no small order in a store the size of Wal-Mart.

As I wandered around, I began to notice some very strange things happening in the store. In the shampoo section, two girls were pulling all of the shampoo bottles off of the shelves, just like the high school guidance counselor and the eggs in the movie “Clerks.”

Over in the hardware section there was a woman, a 60-year-old woman, bending over and picking up cans of house paint off of a forklift. I moseyed over on the hunt section to look at guns and began to wonder if I could buy a hunting rifle at this time of night.

I found two workers trading Pokémon cards in the toy section nearby and quizzed them for a minute. They told me they didn’t know whether or not I could buy a gun at that time, but that I couldn’t buy bullets until 6 a.m.

I asked them if bullets came with the gun, and then I think they thought I was not taking them seriously and told me to go ask somebody at the customer service desk.

On my way out of the toy section I saw a mom taking toys off the racks and putting them in her shopping cart, all the while muttering something about Pokémon and day care.

Eventually I found my roommate, and we made our way out after paying (I paid for two-thirds of the batteries and will probably pick up the tab for our renewal for Marin). Heading through the doors, the two youths playing video games had been replaced by a security guard in tennis shoes not much older than the Pole Position kids.

I love it they give the guy a leather jacket with a security badge, a real nice pair of slacks and a belt with a gun on it, and the guy still wears Nikes to work. Ah, to be at Wal-Mart in the middle of the night.

Steve Glass is a junior SMAD major who occasionally needs a Wal-Mart fix.
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Who's really afraid of the Y2K monster?

While everyone is all decked out in their tuxedos and gowns on Dec. 31 getting tipsy off the bubbly to the point they see three balls drop from Times Square instead of one, I will be nowhere to be found. Why? Because I'll be hiding in my man-made bunker with unguent gallons of water and a year's supply of batteries, in fear of Y2K biting the world right where it counts. You think I'm silly, don't you?

Well, one of four things will happen at or around the stroke of midnight when Jan. 1, 2000 kicks in:

1) The stock market will crash, leaving lots of people very poor. While Wall Street will see its worst times since the 1929 Stock Market crash (you thought the 1967 crash was big? Puleezze), everyone who has cash hidden under their mattresses and in shoe boxes will jump for joy.

2) Any geek on the Internet after 11 p.m. Eastern Standard Time capitalize on New Year's Eve will be banished to purgatory forever. If you're in a chat room and in shoe boxes will jump for joy. has cash hidden under their mattresses and in shoe boxes will jump for joy.

3) Electricity will be lost forever. That means forget about the New Year's Day bowl games. If you didn't stock up on batteries for your flashlights, or tiny ones for your Indiglo watches, well, I feel for you. (Change of date note: The leap year will be eliminated. As for daylight savings time, the jury still out on that one.)

4) The world, as we know it, will blow up like the Death Star. All existence will cease to exist, except for those people hiding out in bunkers. Really. (All 10 female finalists to join me in the bunker are present and accounted for. Very lovely ladies. Each one at my disposal. Which one of you lucky 10 will be the lucky one?)

Why all of this concern, you ask? Well, it's simple.

One newspaper article scared the elastic off my Calvin Kleins. I was on an airplane on the way back from a glorious trip to Las Vegas which I was reading the USA Today. I saw this big cutout section on "How to protect yourself from the Y2K." I turned to my buddy who went right where it counts. You think there was a pattern. Could this be happening to you?

He was enthralled in a game of Tetris on Game Boy, and said, "What's that?" I guess he's not worried.

Naturally, I turned to someone who I knew would worry — mom. I handed her the cutout from the paper, but she threw it aside and said, "How much did you win in Vegas?" with this big smile like I was coming home a millionaire. (However, while sitting at roulette tables for hours on end, I did ask a few people if they were afraid of the turn of the century.)

A guy from Texas who owned an Internet shopping mall said it's all a hoax. I might have been able to tell if he was jerking my chain from the way he said it, but I couldn't take my eyes off of his $100 chips stacked like coins.

(These two nice ladies, who were a plumper version of Thelma and Louise, said two days before Y2K hits, they are worrying about the heart problem and safety deposit box, but leaving their husbands' money on the Stock Market. Makes ya go hmmm.)

So after telling mom I didn't clean up, but thought I saw Christina Aguilera, I started thinking, geez, now I have to make two Christmas lists this year. One for presents and one to prevent us from the Y2K. That's how I came about the bunker plan. But the more I checked into Y2K solutions, I started to see a pattern. Could this whole fissac be a marketing ploy?

I mean, shucks, the economy is booming and everybody has money. Are they trying to get us to spend it back? I'm glad I work on a campus where I had been in contact with New Bright Horizons, a Y2K prevention group, and they almost sold me three cases of ready-to-eat meals for the bag in basement-priced at $280. When I had bought them and nothing happened at the turn of the century? I probably would have sold them to freshmen. Ramen noodles are so 1995.

I guess this is what happens to people when they hear the words, "family survival" mentioned with a man-made date that is supposed to equal doomsday for civilization. This brings me to a tough decision. Do I ask for a Palm Pilot for the holidays? I mean, will it even be used if the calendars are all screwed up and there's nobody alive to put in my phone tree?

Jason McIntyre is a senior who will officially be back next semester.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

President thanks those who helped save registration

To the Editor:

Something occurred on campus recently that reminded me again of what a very special place James Madison University is.

Like many new computer systems, our Web registration program developed problems when we tried to first put it into service. The difficulties will be corrected but registration for spring classes will be in serious jeopardy.

In response to the problem, there was a tremendous show of campus wide teamwork. Students reacted to the situation with patience and good humor. Faculty and staff pitched in and worked in close harmony to quickly develop an alternative registration system. Staff members from all the university's operational divisions volunteered to help personnel from the information technology and registrar's offices in handling registration.

I commend and thank the many people — students, faculty and staff alike — who turned a potential crisis into yet another positive JMU experience. It was a very tangible demonstration of the "All Together One" spirit of our university.

Linwood H. Rose
President

No food policy in library important even during finals

To the Editor:

This semester's exams are nearly upon us, so it's an opportune moment to raise a concern that has been on the downtown tip of us — the effects of food and drink on resources in Carrier Library.

Anyone who walks into the library can't avoid noticing the posted policy meant to curb consumption: No food, and drinks only in reusable spill-proof containers. It's inevitable that some library users will ignore this policy due to the convenience of considering the building an extension of places where we can freely snack while studying.

But extreme behaviors — such as pizzas and beverages at dinner time — have high-pain-consequences.

Spilled food and drinks damage either library materials or the environment where they're housed and where you study. Books, media and equipment computers, VCRs can be damaged by drink and food spills. But accidents that are not actually in danger, spills can stain furnishings. You'd be surprised at the stains that can be fully removed and can clean trashcans and other bugs in the process.

The bugs themselves eventually do the work of attacking some of the library materials they favor, such as the binding adhesive in books. Even the garbage that does no physical damage can build up between the efforts of cleaning staff. The result is an unpleasant atmosphere for studying, especially in a high space for people, let alone collections, is not premium. Just this past week, third floor study rooms had small wastebaskets overflowing with pizza boxes, and even a sack with a leaking milk container left on the carpeted floor.

In a period when many students feel that Carrier Library does not have enough research materials, think about the events of their respective companies. That's how I came about the bunker plan. But the more I checked into Y2K solutions, I started to see a pattern. Could this whole fissac be a marketing ploy? And the unfavorable aspects of groups helps to disseminate hostility and promote understanding. Do I wish for clubs?

Organizations focused on discussing and supporting minority issues help me deal with life in general, but never should any group on campus be exclusive of other ideals and thoughts.

If people seek to spread the word about the events of their respective communities, who can denounce them for following an inherent human characteristic of wanting to communicate their thoughts to others? Discrimination is real, seeking to help others that don't have access to the same opportunity that some may enjoy is a noble cause. Affirmative action goes beyond the scope of just hiring practices.

Lamar Jones
Jr. history

Minority column draws response from student

To the Editor:

First and foremost, I would like to commend and thank the many people — students, faculty and staff alike — who turned a potential crisis into yet another positive JMU experience. It was a very tangible demonstration of the "All Together One" spirit of our university.

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Professor responds to student complaints

I really have more important things to do today than to laud Laura Palmigiano’s piece in last Thursday’s Breeze. Breeze demands a response.

A couple of points in her column are worth addressing. First, student evaluations are not always taken seriously by teachers and department heads than they are by many students. Those evaluations make up a large portion of the annual evaluations we already receive from our department heads.

I welcome constructively-phrased comments, but the only comments I receive are that I typically assign too much work. (I’d love to assign little or no work. It would certainly make my life easier.) Those I receive are that I typically assign too much work. (I’d love to assign little or no work. It would certainly make my life easier.)

More distressing was the final line in the column, that someone has to make sure the students are getting the knowledge they came here to get. Excuse me, but that is your responsibility, not your teachers’.

Our job is not to teach you, but to help you learn. That may seem like I’m placing the onus of learning on you, but there is an important distinction between the two.

Rather than try to counter the column item by item, I thought it might be useful to look from another perspective, namely the perspective of one who taught part-time for four years in the School of Music and is now in my third year in the College of Business. Of course, this is only my perspective; I make no claim that my colleagues at JMU share this perspective.

Having said that, I present the four types of students. Unlike students, who can typically choose from several teachers to take for a particular class, we have no say in who is allowed to enroll in my class. Therefore, I see what I receive.

The first type is the type that knows more about the subject matter than his teacher; just ask him. Those students are ones who don’t take any notes and rarely ask any questions in class, unless they’re trying to make me look stupid.

I can deal with that type because, believe it or not, I was once 20 and knew every damned thing in the world then, too. The second type is the student for whom attending class is an interruption to their otherwise hectic lives.

Those are the ones who whisper or pass notes to the person next to them the whole time, or come to class late, or leave because they can’t “hold it” for 20 minutes until class is over. Or worse, all of them, have “previous commitments” during class, then expect me to catch them up on what they missed.

A student’s cell phone went off in class the other day. The embarrassment on the student’s face indicated that it was truly an accident, so I made a joke out of it, but I’m sure there are some who would have answered the phone.

The third type is the “I don’t want to learn anything — just give me the path of least resistance to an ‘A’” type. You know the type. I ask a question, then give a bunch of blank stares, generally because many of them haven’t bothered to read the book because it’s “boring.”

Attending class means sitting idly and learning nothing.

The fourth type is the student who realizes that the things

Professor responds to student complaints

Ignorance, they say, is bliss, but by airing his in public without fully understanding or even taking the time to listen to the Progressive Coalition’s opposition to the World Trade Organization, Bill Butterfield has managed to display exactly what four years of college has done for him.

I am not not to trade; in fact, instead of giving my defense for activist organizations that form the Progressive Coalition. In 1948 the United States and other capitalist countries signed the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) as a coalition to promote capitalism and counter communism. As a rule book for fair trade, the GATT agreements were to make the rich richer and the poor poorer.

The Chinese government executes Tibetan labor camps whose inmates are monks and nuns whose only crime was to protest the Chinese government’s policies. The Chinese government executes those who protest the Chinese government’s policies.

This is the student who by the end of the semester, complains that I give too much work, that I’m boring, that I lecture too much, and that he or she should have to buy a book if I’m not going to lecture out of it.

I wish I could say that I only had a couple of students that were of this type, but I’d be lying. For those who fall into that category, education is not about memorizing the right answer. It’s about learning how to find answers and make a reasoned judgment on which is the right one.

That requires active participation in the learning process by all concerned, students and faculty. The fourth type is the student who realizes that the things worth having in this world require a lot of work, and is willing to put in the work. Most of those students do well in my class and many of them learn to use computers and how they impact our lives. They’re the ones that make teaching worthwhile and even fun.

In a perfect world, all courses except those in your major would be offered credit/no-credit, where students and teachers alike would focus on the acquisition and, more importantly, the application of knowledge. Of course, that will never happen.

What’s the solution? It’s not as simple as firing teachers who don’t get satisfactory results from their students. It’s not as simple as saying “grades aren’t really important.”

It is as simple as focusing on the nature and importance of education (as opposed to career training) and learning by doing.

And that’s something that everyone at JMU, from the Board of Visitors to an entering freshman needs to focus on every day we report here for work or school.

Tom McKenzie is a CIS/OM professor.

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Picking Our Century's Most Influential Person (From Down Under)

He's no Einstein, but this nonconventional 'modern-day Mick Dundee' rules more than just Animal Planet for adventure fans everywhere.

COLUMN BY MICHAEL OLSON

Well, the century's winding down, and with its conclusion comes a lot of debate about who has been the most influential person in the last 100 years. Many fine publications dedicate entire issues to the pursuit of naming such a person, but it seems to me their efforts are all for naught. As far as I'm concerned (or most people I know for that matter), the human being who has had the greatest influence on the 20th century has been Steve Irwin, the Crocodile Hunter.

Hear me out. As a society we are often too willing to write off pop icons as people who contribute nothing of substance to society. And, while this is true in many cases, it just doesn't work that way with the Crocodile Hunter. Sure, his contributions are on "Animal Planet" and come complete with commercial breaks, but this is not justification for ignoring his immense impact on society.

Perhaps the best way to truly appreciate the Crocodile Hunter's worth is to compare him to some of the other candidates for man of the century. Would Mahatma Gandhi's practice of passive resistance work with a vicious copperhead? Would any equation from the brilliant mind of Albert Einstein keep a croc from biting a chunk out of FDR's butt?

Ironically, the very categories in which these men don't stack up are what make the Crocodile Hunter the most valuable contributor to the modern world.

In many ways Steve Irwin represents what everyone should be. Unimpressed by societal conventions, he is a modern-day Mick Dundee who is more than happy tearing it up down under. He doesn't need technology to prove his worth, opting for plain machismo. Hell, he probably doesn't even have an e-mail account and when the Y2K problem hits, he'll just keep doing things Aborigine style. Steve has an enthusiasm for his work that goes above and beyond the call of duty, an enthusiasm that is all too rare in a culture that often foregoes its dreams in lieu of money and stability.

Throw in the responsibility of his "don't do this at home, kids" message and you are damn close to perfection.

But, like many men in power, it seems that much of Steve's appeal comes from the animal magnetism he exudes. Any guy would love to have the biscuits to do what Steve does daily and chicks obviously dig him. This is epitomized by junior Sara Chapman, who openly admits that she would marry the Crocodile Hunter but "[he] just seems too attached to his wife." Who can blame Sara? She is one of many who have fallen for Steve and his combination of bulging calf muscles and beige active wear. What woman can honestly say she isn't intrigued by a man willing to crawl through the bush for hours in search of a feral pig?

Come to think of it, I'm pretty sure that was one of Miss October's turn-ons.

After speaking with friends, I've seen that another aspect of the Crocodile Hunter's charm is that not one person shares the same favorite of his insane adventures.

One friend fondly remembered Steve's exploits in Virginia, recalling the time when he was plucking rattlesnakes from the side of the Blue Ridge Parkway like so many blown tire treads.

Another reminisced about the time Steve was trying to catch wild camels and sliced his ear in the process. A true warrior, he simply rubbed dirt on the wound to stop the bleeding and moved on. A roommate recalled when Steve accidentally knocked his wife Terri off their boat and was subsequently forced to stop the attack of a merciless crocodile.

Personally, I will never forget the time that he was on a mission to...
handle the world's 10 most venomous snakes. In pursuit of number three, he went into marshland armed only with a flashlight on his head and a durable pair of khaki shorts. Did he succeed? The answer is obvious.

These are the memories that warm our hearts as we approach a new millennium, the moments we will recall when, with grandchildren on our knee, we wax fantastic about the days of yore.

I believe people are not empty bottles to be filled but candles to be lit,” Mark Warner, Vice-President of Student Affairs said last Sunday evening as he spoke before an attentive audience of anxious students. Warner was encouraging the students to take the holiday spirit into their hearts and give it to other people.

Holidays On the Quad" portrayed this magical holiday spirit by showcasing the diversity of student musical talent at JMU through a seasonal concert. The performing musicians let their candles shine before a full audience at Wilson Hall in addition to a crowd of students on the Quad.

The event began in Wilson Hall as the JMU Chorale, elegantly dressed in formal attire, began with a series of three songs entitled “Personem Hodie,” “O Magnum Mysterium” and “Alleluia.” The choir was later accompanied by the JMU Symphony Orchestra, in addition to four guest soloists Sonya Baker and Kelli Burke, sopranos, Sandra Cryder, alto, John Little, tenor and In Dal Choi, bass.

Following a brief intermission, the performance took on a new effect as the chorale began the second half of the show with a vibrant celebration titled “Betelehemu,” a Nigerian carol featuring senior Daniel Ozment, bass soloist, and sophomore Kristen Hawley, soprano soloist. Added instruments such as the tambourine and the bongo drums gave the selection a distinct cultural sound. The group's next selection, “La Nanita Nana,” a Spanish carol, complemented the cultural atmosphere.

The JMU Symphony Orchestra then took over the show with three selections from the Nutcracker — “Marche,” “Danses Chinoise” and “Danses Russe Trepak,” before encouraging audience participation in a holiday carols starting with The Twelve Days of Christmas, in addition to other popular favorites such as “Jingle Bells,” “Joy to the World” and “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear.” The popular Christmas selections also featured the voices of soloists.

The JMU Chorale and JMU Symphony Orchestra performed a variety of songs, including English, Nigerian and Spanish holiday carols.

Virginia Along, soprano, for “O Holy Night” and senior Sherry Montgomery, soprano, for “O Come all Ye Faithful.”

Before the last selection was performed, the Chorale and the Symphony Orchestra invited alumni to come to the front of the stage and sing the final tune “Hark, the Herald Angels Sing.”

The Chorale and the Symphony Orchestra were not the only groups that let their talent shine. Sunday evening, after the seasonal concert, the JMU Gospel Choir performed on the Quad for a crowd full of fervent carolers.

The choir and quartet opened with a fast, hand-clapping version of “O Come All Ye Faithful,” inviting the audience to join them in singing popular holiday carols like “Joy to the World,” “Jingle Bells,” “O Holy Night” and “Deck the Halls.” Carolers were graciously aided in singing by candles passed through the audience and a carol sing-a-long song sheet, which provided the words.

The evening ended as the Christmas tree, displayed on the lawn was lit, giving light to the many students who came out for an evening of holiday fun and professional music entertainment.
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**Concert to offer ‘Reasons for Knocking’**

*International choreographer works with Virginia Dance Company*

**Alison Snow**

High-energy dance moves will be performed at Latimer-Shaeffer Theatre when the School of Theatre and Dance presents the Virginia Repertory Dance Company along with Yates faculty and guest artists in concert at 8 tonight through Saturday. “This is the first time the company has worked with an international choreographer in preparation for the concert,” said Kate Trammel, associate professor of dance. “It brings a new element of excitement to the show.” The company began rehearsing in January for this concert that will feature works like the quartet “Reasons for Knocking” choreographed by London-based choreographer Fin Walker. Walker worked with the company when she visited JMU last month. She is an independent dance maker, performer and teacher who works nationally and internationally.

“Water Landings,” by New York choreographer Lisa Race, will also be performed. Race is a choreographer who dances on her hands and her feet. For the 1999-2000 school year she is serving as the artist-in-residence at JMU. Race is currently touring his latest movement monologue, “Travelogue,” across the U.S. Senior Tara McNeely will perform a solo titled “Embrace” choreographed by associate professor of dance Shane O’Hara.

*Nicole Caddigan*

How many 20 year olds are hand picked to sing for Donald Trump? Well, one JMU student was. Sophomore Jaimie Standish will open for Brenda Lee and Tony Orlando at the Taj Mahal in Atlantic City for Trump’s New Year’s party. Not only that, but she has also won the Middle Atlantic Region competition for the Metropolitan Opera National Council auditions and will compete in the finals in February. “It was a big, big surprise,” Standish said. “This was a really big competition and going into it, I wasn’t expecting to get as far as I did. I was hoping and praying because I had worked hard, but these are professional people that I’m competing against.”

Standish is the youngest contender this year to make it this far. Seventy performers competed at the district level in November, after the first cut, 18 competed in the semifinals. Ten performers advance to the finals in Washington, D.C. in February to compete for first, second and third places.

Winners receive a cash reward, and the first place winner will move on to the nationals, which is held in March on the Met Stage in New York City.

“The next competition could be a ticket to a professional career,” Standish said. “It means a lot. Just getting this far takes some people a long, long time. Just making it this far is a blessing.”

In Dal Choi, Standish’s voice teacher, is ecstatic. “This has never happened before,” Choi said. “It’s the first time in JMU’s history.”

Standish, who played Laetitia the maid in last month’s opera at Wilson Hall, “The Old Maid and the Thief,” sang five different arias (operas) for the competition, two of which were in Italian. (Contestants were required to sing two of them in a different language.)

“I’m required to take diction classes,” said Standish of the voice manager. “He suggested I learn to read the phonetic alphabet so I know how to pronounce things. I don’t know what the lyrics mean until I look them up and translate.”

“Water Landings,” by New York choreographer Lisa Race, will also be performed. Race is a choreographer who dances on her hands and her feet. For the 1999-2000 school year she is serving as the artist-in-residence at JMU. Race is currently touring his latest movement monologue, “Travelogue,” across the U.S. Senior Tara McNeely will perform a solo titled “Embrace” choreographed by associate professor of dance Shane O’Hara.
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Movie release frenzy will keep viewers busy over Christmas break

ANTHONY MARCHEGIANO staff writer

As 1999 comes to an end, Hollywood brings on its bombardment of films for the holiday season. From now to the end of December, about 30 movies will be released. That is more than one movie a day! It is hard to choose which flick to shell out $7 to see in the theater, so I am going to preview the movies and tell you which ones to catch.

But first, two movies to watch after they’re out on video or on HBO.

Robin Williams plays a nanny in “Bicentennial Man,” which I liked this better than the first time I saw it when it was called “Mrs. Doubtfire.” It’s the same concept, except for it is a futuristic look at the same story; this time Williams is a robot nanny who is trying to reveal a magic gift that is both mysterious and miraculous.

If you have time and money, here’s the show for you. Oliver Stone and Al Pacino come together in the football drama “Any Given Sunday.” The film takes a look at the game as a whole: the players and coaches, their families, the owners, business men, sports media and those hanging on for the glamour of it all. Stone put together an all-star cast: Pacino is the coach, Dennis Quaid is the aging quarterback, Jamie Foxx is the young quarterback vying for Quaid’s starting position and Cameron Diaz is the owner of the team who wants to see the new young superstar in the saddle. Also making appearances are Johnny Daniels, (L.C. Uniforms), Charlton Heston and numerous real-life gridiron superstars. Funny side note to this film; music mogul Sean “Puffy” Combs (Puff Daddy) was originally in the running for the role as the new young quarterback (Foxx) but lost out due to lack of athletic ability. Don’t miss this one when it hits theaters on Dec. 22.

“Bicentennial Man”
Dec. 17

“The Green Mile”
Dec. 10

“Any Given Sunday”
Dec. 22

“The Hurricane”
Dec. 29

“The Talented Mr. Ripley”
Dec. 24

Coming to a theater near you

PICKS

“Man on the Moon”
Dec. 22

“The Green Mile”
Dec. 10

“At Any Given Sunday”
Dec. 22

“The Hurricane”
Dec. 29

“The Talented Mr. Ripley”
Dec. 24

CAMEO

“Man on the Moon”
Dec. 22

“The Green Mile”
Dec. 10

“At Any Given Sunday”
Dec. 22

“The Hurricane”
Dec. 29

“The Talented Mr. Ripley”
Dec. 24

This week at the box office:

‘Toys’ are still not old

Buzz Lightyear doesn’t falter; Allen, Fiennes, Penn hope to take the reigns

ANTHONY MARCHEGIANO staff writer

The kids didn’t get bored with their new toys this past weekend, as “Toy Story 2” led all movies. The top four films this weekend stayed in their same spot as last weekend, due to no major film releases this past weekend.

Even though Buzz and Woody’s attendance dropped 51 percent from their record Thanksgiving weekend opening, they were still able to pull in $28.3 million to bring its total to $117.3 million. “Toy Story 2” played in 3,263 sites with an $8,734 average.

Bond continued to dazzle audiences while bringing in $10.6 million. “Tomorrow Never Dies” has made $90.4 million after being out for three weeks. Arnold Schwarzenegger’s comeback, “End of Days” is looking like an apocalypse of its own. The Armageddon-based thriller only mustered $9.7 million and is falling fast. Its two-week total is at an average $45.9 million.

“Sleepy Hollow” and “The Bone Collector” rounded out the top five with $9.0 and $3.1 million respectively. There were no nationwide releases this weekend, however, two films came out in limited release (so they can be considered for this year’s Oscars).

Ralph Fiennes and Julianne Moore are paired in the World War II love story, “The End of the Affair.” The romance played in only seven theaters, but averaged an impressive $29,000 per screen. “Affair” will open nationally in January.

Woody Allen’s newest film, “Honeymoon in Vegas” opened in three New York theaters. The flick that stars Sean Penn as a 1930s jazz guitarist raked in a remarkable $34,000 average.

Next weekend brings the bombardment of Oscar contenders. Most notably Tom Hanks stars in the adaptation of Stephen King’s “The Green Mile.” The prison drama comes from the same director as “Shawshank Redemption,” which interestingly enough also came from a King short story. For the light hearted, there is the comedy that stars Rob Schneider as “Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo.” This comedian’s attempt to follow the footsteps of fellow comedian Chris Farley. If you have time and money, here’s the show for you. Oliver Stone and Al Pacino come together in the football drama “Any Given Sunday.” The film takes a look at the game as a whole: the players and coaches, their families, the owners, businessmen, sports media and those hanging on for the glamour of it all. Stone put together an all-star cast: Pacino is the coach, Dennis Quaid is the aging quarterback, Jamie Foxx is the young quarterback vying for Quaid’s starting position and Cameron Diaz is the owner of the team who wants to see the new young superstar in the saddle. Also making appearances are Johnny Daniels, (L.C. Uniforms), Charlton Heston and numerous real-life gridiron superstars. Funny side note to this film; music mogul Sean “Puffy” Combs (Puff Daddy) was originally in the running for the role as the new young quarterback (Foxx) but lost out due to lack of athletic ability. Don’t miss this one when it hits theaters on Dec. 22.

Bob Dylan’s song told his story and now Denzel Washington is starring in the movie, showing Rubin “Hurricane” Carter’s struggle. “The Hurricane” tells the story of the middleweight boxer who was wrongly arrested and sentenced to three life terms for a murder he didn’t commit in 1966. It wasn’t until a young boy and three Canadian activists pursued the truth and fought for Carter’s freedom in 1985. “The Hurricane” enters the ring on Dec. 29.

His previous film, “The English Patient” was a huge success, and Anthony Minghella can only hope for that in his newest “The Talented Mr. Ripley.” Matt Damon, Gwyneth Paltrow and Cate Blanchett star in this adaptation of the 1955 novel. Damon plays Mr. Ripley, a deceiving young man who is sent to Italy to retrieve an old school friend named Dickie Greenleaf (Jude Law). When Ripley finds him, he falls in love with both Dickie’s high-class life and Dickie himself, so he decides to kill him and assume his identity. An interesting side note to this: Minghella can take stars of his flick before they were cast in major motion pictures — He had Damon before “Good Will Hunting,” Paltrow before “Shakespeare In Love” and Blanchett before “Elizabeth.” “The Talented Mr. Ripley” opens Dec. 21.

Well there are plenty of movies to choose from this holiday season, so hope you catch one that is worth your time and money.
Students to direct 14 one-act plays

Alex Sarnowski
Contributing writer

Students enrolled in directing for theatre (Theater 355) will showcase their work starting tonight. The Big Honkin’ Director’s Fest gives them a chance to produce, act and direct in their own work.

Fourteen one-act plays will be performed, including “Crackers and Cheese,” the only play written by a student. About 50 students from introduction to theatre, basic acting and upper level classes will act in the plays.

The plays will run tonight through Saturday in Theatre II on South Main Street. Today and Saturday, Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. a set of three plays will be performed. Sophomore Gabriel Fry directs Tom Stoppard’s “A Separate Peace.” “Wuzel-Flummery,” by A.A. Milne; is directed by senior Todd Grogan, “A Kind Of Maska,” by Harold Pinter; directed by sophomore Tad Mosel, is directed by junior Vikram Weet.

Today and Saturday, Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. a set of three plays will be performed. “Impromptu,” by Charlie Schulman, directed by senior Todd Grogan, “A Kind Of Maska,” by Harold Pinter; directed by sophomore Shannon Listol and “Lone Star,” by James Mclure, directed by special student Matt Wray, will be performed.

Tomorrow at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 2 p.m., “Variations on the Death of Trotsky,” by David Ives, directed by junior Geoffrey A. Ehrlich, “Foreplay, or the Art of the Fugue,” by Ives, directed by junior Camille Piaaza, “Phillip Glass Buys a Loaf of Bread,” by Ives, directed by junior J.A. Xystus Messenger and “Story in Harlem Slang,” directed by senior Ashlynn Brooks will be performed.

The musical “Here’s Love,” based on the novel and movie “Miracle on 34th Street,” will be performed on the Wilson Hall stage today at 7:30 p.m. Student rush tickets are available at the Harrison Hall Box office today from 1 to 5 p.m. for $11. General admission is $21, $11 for children and $19 for JAC card holders at the door.

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Deadline: Wednesday, Dec. 15, 1999
A ‘Phantom’ reflection

‘Star Wars’ saga deserves second, tenth, hundredth... look

BRENT ANDREW BOWLES
Breeze film critic

Nearly seven months have passed since “The Phantom Menace,” the first episode in writer-director George Lucas’ “Star Wars” saga, appeared in cinemas across the country. On that Wednesday in May, cries of joy could be heard from fans coast to coast, as Lucas finally made good on a 15 year old promise to complete the story with a trilogy of prequels. Immediately following that release, however, came the criticism. Did “The Phantom Menace” live up to the hype? Would it become as much an immortal part of America’s cinematic history as the original trilogy? Do the film’s pervasive digital visual effects prove a roadblock to narrative success? If hindsight is indeed 20-20, then here, in the final weeks of the century, let’s have a look back and see what all the fuss was about.

While most protests lobbed against the film during its initial run dealt with Jar Jar Binks, the comic relief character, whom many called not only racist but childish and annoying (my response: get over it, babies), the remaining criticism can be summed up by saying “The Phantom Menace” wasn’t as good as all the hype made it out to be.

Hold on a sec. The hype made it out to be a movie everyone should see. You made it out to be a good one.

The most astute criticisms of “The Phantom Menace” examine its success not only as the first film to (either successfully or unsuccessfully) use digital visual effects in nearly every shot, but as an example of poor writing, direction and acting. Many scenes fall emotionally flat. The relationship between young Anakin Skywalker (Jake Lloyd) and Amidala, Queen of Naboo (Natalie Portman) is surprisingly ineffectual, and features none of the ominous sense of prophecy and anticipation the first meeting between Luke and Leia’s mom and dad should carry.

The actors do manage to salvage a good deal of what could be unbearably awful scenes. Liam Neeson and Pernilla August, as venerable Jedi Qui-Gon Jinn and Anakin’s mother Shmi Skywalker, respectively, deliver the film’s best performances. While Neeson makes a formidable and convincing purveyor of young Anakin’s trust, August is wonderful as the boy’s pensive, sad mother. In the film’s best scene, the two discuss the child’s virgin birth and latent Force ability, and the sequence positively crackles. The characters in “The Phantom Menace” are about as straightforward as they can be, but when you’re dealing with a ideologically complex reworking of cultural mythology and religious iconography, archetypes are par for the course. The villainous Darth Maul (while a big fat wimp) is an amalgamation of every Satanic conceit that the “Star Wars” movies are principally science fiction, but fantasy) it is as much about balls-to-the-wall heroism as serious philosophical inquisition; any movie with such a thrillingly choreographed three-way duel between Qui-Gon, Darth Maul and young Obi-Wan Kenobi (Ewan McGregor), however, cannot fail to entertain. Although it’s not an excuse, “The Phantom Menace” may prove to be a better movie when viewed in tandem with Episodes II and III (scheduled to appear in 2002 and 2005, respectively) since, unlike the original trilogy, it was composed with the next installments’ events in mind.

Lucas may be a brainiac, but he creates spectacular entertainment. Many complain that “The Phantom Menace” is aimed too squarely at children, but since the original films were aimed at children (it’s only a fan-gen-
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**Some proposals for Y2K**

The Breeze offers a list of changes aimed at the new year

As 1999 comes to a close it seems that everyone has an All-Century list. They are lists of players, teams, moments and anything else anyone can think of to praise the accomplishments of the last 100 years. Everyone has their own opinion and feels the need to put it on display.

I do not feel that I am above this form of journalism. Instead of praising the past, though, I look to the future of sport and offer my own suggestions for the millennium. The following is a list of changes I feel need to be made in their respective sports.

**Major League Baseball (MLB)**
1. Due to expansion, the league has experienced a "watering down" of talent. To solve the problem MLB needs to throw the Royals, Twins, Devil Rays, Brewers, Expos and Marlins out of the league. Turn them into minor league organizations and divvy their players out to the remaining 22 teams. I apologize to their fans, but baseball is going in a different direction than these six teams. It's time you face reality and buy a Yankees hat.
2. Extend the ULL Softball Home Run Rule on MLB. Five home runs per game, any home run after that counts as an out. Sure, offenses will suffer, but at least Jay Bell won't hit 40 home runs next season.

**National Football League (NFL)**
1. Over the last several years, many NFL players have been suspended for violating the league's drug policy. The problem has a simple solution. Show each NFL rookie a videotape of Lawrence Taylor's last interview, and state bluntly, "This is your brain on drugs." If that doesn't scare them away from crack...
2. Allow referees to voice their opinions and life problems over the PA speakers. I know it won't speed the game up any, but just once I want to hear one of them turn on their microphone and say "Personal Foul — number 25, you fat moron. You know, while I have the mike, I just had something to get off my chest to the 57,000 people sitting here today. It's just lately, I feel like... I don't know... like a woman trapped inside a man's body. That's all I have to say. Giants' ball — first down."

**Bowling over the competition**

In nearly 10 days college football will begin crowning their prized teams, declaring champions and the world will see who is the best college football team. Okay, so maybe I was a little dramatic, maybe "the real bowl games" do not start till the end of the month. But that still gives you no right to down the ever so exciting Las Vegas Bowl. Anyway, without further ado, my College Bowl predictions.

Does Virginia Tech deserve to be in the most important bowl game, the Nokia Sugar Bowl? After weeks of trying to sneak Tennessee and Nebraska past the Hokies in the rankings, the BCS Coalition finally conceded that Tech was to be crowned the No. 2 ranking and face Florida State. I say great. They were undefeated, and they did destroy Syracuse and convincingly beat Miami. Do I think that Tech has a chance? Absolutely not. Michael Vick is a good quarterback, but he is a young quarterback, and I don't think he will be ready for a game as big as this. Although Corey Moore on defense is naughty. I think that the Florida State defense is just too powerful. Look for Chris Weinke to be composed and play with confidence after their victory down in the swamp. After getting passed over for the Heisman, coupled with a dismal performance in last year's bowl game, Peter Warrick has something to prove. Weinek will go to him early and often as Warrick will finally prove he is the best receiver in college football.

On to the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl, Nebraska, capable of running two different plays, (option to the right and option to the left) will prove to be a better team, and a much more boring team in defeating Tennessee. Unless Tennessee manages to stop the option and get Nebraska's quarterback Eric Crouch to throw, Nebraska will win. On to what I think will be the best bowl game played out of the whole lot of field goals made and attempted. It may not be exciting, but I bet they'd stay in college longer.

**National Hockey League**
1. Force Wayne Gretzky to play one game for each team every year. This way everyone gets to see the "Great One" play. Plus, the way the NHL expands, Gretzky will be playing a full 82 game season again by 2002.
2. Stop importing all the stars. Americans don't know what makes a good hockey player anyway. We just want to be able to pronounce his last name when we threaten him and his family after he fans on a shot with the goalie's stick side wide open.

**National Collegiate Basketball Association (NBA)**
1. Have Magic Johnson and Michael Jordan replace Pat Riley and Phil Jackson as the league's most respected personalities. I just think that people want to see the two men who actually won all those championships, not the two who were lucky enough to have courtside seats when they did it.
2. Keep a running tally on how many times each NBA player refers to himself in the third person. The eight teams from each conference with the lowest total amount advance to the playoffs. In their run for the championship, no team will actually play basketball. Instead they will be given a series of postgame interviews. Points will be scored for correct use of language, comparisons between their game and a personality from American History, and their ability to effectively figure out their shot percentage given the number of...
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Playing for a cause
Flag football team to play for title

ANGELA HAIN
Staff writer

The “God Squad” flag football team is preparing to go to the national flag football championships in New Orleans, Dec. 26-29. The team will be one of the few teams from JMU to attend the national event at the University of New Orleans.

“Going to nationals would be a lot of fun and we would like to see how some of the other teams play across the country,” team captain Jon Jordan said.

The team was 9-1 during the regular season, and went undefeated in the Championships to claim the All-University title. Sophomore Jake Edwards, first year member of the “God Squad”, said that it did not surprise him that his team won the championship.

“I couldn’t believe that we did it, but it did not surprise me,” Edwards said. “We did not have trouble playing up to other teams’ levels and we did not have any weak spots on the field. All of our positions were covered by someone who was good at their position.”

Jordan said he was pleased their team won for several reasons. “I was really excited because we had a lot of seniors on our team and this was their last chance to win the title, and I was excited to win because of what our team is all about,” Jordan said. “We are a Christian group of men who are playing for a different purpose than the other teams, and God has been blessing us. We want other people to realize that Christians can play sports and are not just dorks.”

After winning the All-University Championship, the God Squad attended the flag football championships at the University of Maryland on Nov. 19-20, all expenses paid by UREC.

Golson said that any team could attend regionals; however, UREC only sponsors the All University Champion team.

Although the team did not come away with a regional title, Jordan said they were pleased with their efforts at the regional event. The team plans to pay the fee and enter the national championships the end of this month.

“Everyone felt good about regionals,” Jordan said. “We had not gotten any sleep before the second game so it was not like we lost knowing that we deserved to lose. We feel we could have done much better if we were rested.”

Golson attended his first regional championship event last month as well with the God Squad team.

“Overall, I felt the team played well considering that this was their first time at one of these events,” Golson said. “Attending the event made me thankful for the JMU intramural program but also gave me something to look at to improve in our program,” Golson said.

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Equestrian
JMU placed fifth out of nine teams at Randolph Macon Women’s College Nov. 4. Jennifer Milligan received a first place in Advanced Walk-Trot-Canter class.

Roller Hockey
Roller hockey played a tournament in Fredericksburg this past weekend. JMU lost to Rochester Institute of Technology 9-5, defeated Vermont 14-6, beat Virginia Tech 4-3, and defeated Penn State University-Altoona 4-2. Their record is now 10-4-2. The “B” team went 2-2 in Canton, Ohio, defeating the University of Pittsburgh and Southampton College.

Goalie Mike Gottschalle stopped a penalty shot in the list five seconds to secure the win. The club’s record is 4-7-1.

Women’s Soccer
Went to Nationals in Georgia and defeated Oregon in the Quarterfinals 2-0, defeated UVA. in the Semifinals 4-0, and defeated Florida State in the finals 2-0. This was the first National Soccer Title for JMU.

Four JMU men made the all-tournament team: Christian Lefreniere, Greg Warwick, Cameron Stoddart and Sean Mannion.

Women’s Water Polo
Defeated UVA. 12-2 and defeated Virginia Tech 11-0. Finished this semester 3-2.
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SPORTS
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OF THE
WEEK

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Season total .......... 80-52
Last week .......... 5-6
Winning percentage ..... .606

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copy editor

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sports editor

Courtney Crowley
editor

Seth Burton
POTW legend

Guest
Predictor

Ol
WEEK

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Oakland at Tennessee
Tennessee
Tennessee
Tennessee

Cleveland at Cincinnati
Cincinnati
Cleveland
Cleveland

New England at Indianapolis
Indianapolis
Indianapolis
New England

Arizona at Washington
Washington
Washington
Washington

Miami at N.Y. Jets
Miami
Miami
Miami

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Cincinnati
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Tennessee
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Miami

NFL

Denver at Jacksonville
Jacksonville
Jacksonville
Denver

Jackson State at Southern
Southern
Southern
Southern

Florida A&M at Youngstown State
Youngstown St.
Youngstown St.
Youngstown St.

Illinois State at Georgia Southern
Ga. Southern
Ga. Southern
Ga. Southern

Carson-Newman vs. NW Missouri St.
Carson - N
NW Missouri St.
NW Missouri St.

Mount Union at Rowan
Mount Union
Mount Union
Mount Union

Mt Union

COLLEGE

Let's take a trip into the future and see what lies ahead for our four seniors...

J. Mac and his supermodel wife live in Southampton, N.Y. He writes for Sports Illustrated because he needs something besides sitting in the jacuzzi to pass the time. Above the fireplace in his 17-bedroom waterfront home rest his favorite possessions — his autographed picture from the cast of 90210 and his two POTW trophies.

Marshay lives on her daddy's farm and owns Ma & Pa's Diner on Highway 60. She is talking about going to law school. She built a guest house on the farm so a young man from Jersey can visit when her architect husband goes away on business trips.

Mike G. retired from his job at the New York Daily News at an early age — he said his knees simply couldn't take the walk from the car to the Yankee Stadium entrance any more. Now he sits on the porch of his Point Pleasant, N.J., home singing Sinatra tunes, gawking at the pretty girls walking by and watching the waves roll in.

Courtney led a hectic life at first — moving up in the newspaper world to eventually become Executive Editor of the Washington Post. Her life settled down after a few years though, as she reluctantly accepted the duties of First Lady when husband J.C. Watts was elected president. A book is forthcoming.

After successful careers as a towel boy for the Boston Celtics and as a professional wrestler, former Breeze sports editor Seth Burton returned to his native Virginia to find love and seek his fortune. He's still looking for one of them. Their POTW careers are coming to an end, but their dreams lie ahead and their legacies will forever live on.

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Today's Birthday — Wealth and security could be yours, and education's the key. Study your options in December. An older coworker steers you toward profits in December. Tackle a tough subject with enthusiasm in February. Love's more interesting than money in April. Settle into an old routine in May. Far horizons beckon in August, and lovers' secrets stir you up in November. Make a choice then and ease your mind.

Daily rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19)
Today is a 7 — It's what you do rather than what you know that will get you the bonus points now. Who you know could be helpful, too. Don't spend all day figuring it out. Move quickly.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)
Today is a 7 — Your experience is useful to another person and vice versa. The two of you swap stories, and you both learn something. If you've been wheeling and dealing lately, have that be your topic.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)
Today is a 5 — If you're stuck, maybe it's because you're studying the wrong thing. You're not going to find this answer in the books. You'd be better off to listen to the advice of an older person who's been there.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)
Today is a 7 — If you feel a little under the weather, don't despair. Ask a partner to take over for a while, instead. You've had a lot to deal with lately, so accept the support that's offered.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)
Today is a 6 — The job looks not easy, and it may feel like you're not getting paid what you're worth. Be patient. Your financial rewards may come later, but you're making a priceless impression now.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Today is an 8 — You've still got a lot of hassles, but they don't seem as awful as they did. That's partly because the worst is over and partly because of your good attitude. You're relaxing!

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
Today is a 5 — Changes at home may be a tad stressful, but don't despair. Don't talk about them yet, either. You can let a good friend in on what's happening, but let the press speculate a while longer.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)
Today is a 7 — You're learning quickly now, so study something that will make you rich. Why not? Somebody's got to do it. Start by improving your skills.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Today is a 7 — You're growing by leaps and bounds, and that's just the beginning. As you outgrow your old box, you could qualify for more income. Keep studying and working toward your dreams. They're manifesting!

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Today is an 8 — Things aren't the way you thought they were. Sometimes that's a relief, and sometimes it's an upset. It's a natural part of the process, however. It means you're getting smarter.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Today is a 7 — You and your friends are playing out on the skinny branches. Some of your ideas will be magnificent, and some will fall flat. Don't jump off without a parachute that you know will open!

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)
Today is a 7 — You could be trying to do something that feels unfamiliar. Luckily, you're good at pretending that you know what you're doing. You may find other people who are in the same situation.

— Tribune Media Services

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**CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

Today's crossword brought to you by Court Square

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Across</th>
<th>Down</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Yet to be paid</td>
<td>33. &quot;Daniel Deronda&quot; author</td>
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<td>6. Municipal vehicle</td>
<td>34. Pitcher McLain</td>
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<td>9. Rho-tau separator</td>
<td>35. Rounded up</td>
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<td>15. Exactly suitable</td>
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<td>16. Was mistaken</td>
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<td>18. London W.C.</td>
<td>45. Used tire</td>
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<td>22. Livability</td>
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<td>23. Vivacity</td>
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<td>24. Amazon</td>
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<td>25. Old salt</td>
<td>52. &quot;Some circus performers&quot;</td>
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<td>26. Fuse together</td>
<td>53. Zac-tee</td>
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<td>30. Enlarged (a hole)</td>
<td>55. Do-others separator</td>
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<td>35. Paddle</td>
<td>56. Full of doubts</td>
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<td>36. Highlanders</td>
<td>57. Rustler's last stand</td>
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<td>45. Chinese pan</td>
<td>58. Rustler's last stand</td>
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<td>46. Duchess of York</td>
<td>59. Rustler's last stand</td>
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**Answers to last Thursday's puzzle:**

- RADE
- REL
- TLS
- IRLS
- OME
- LET
- EEE
- NOSE
- RELISH
- PARTIBLE
- PLOT
- ENTREATIES
- DOA
- SLAIN
- DIN
- DADDY
- BLED
- ASIA
- ERR
- ERECTORS
- PARTIES
- SALINES
- OPERANTS
- REV
- DELI
- TETS
- FEARS
- EMU
- PURS
- VET
- ROGER
- MOORE
- COMA
- CHANNING
- SLOWER
- MITTLE
- TALENT
- POES
- ETS
- SWARDS

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New Year's

2000

A Look into the New Millennium
Dear Readers,

As part of our SMAD 320 Newspaper Production class, we created this supplement to provide students with some insight into what’s going on both in the new millennium and the celebrations that surround it.

Over the past 15 weeks we have learned a lot about ourselves, each other, and what goes into making a good newspaper. This supplement started out as the brain child of a class of people who all had different ideas of where this project should go. After countless revisions and contributions by many, we are pleased to present to you, the readers, our New Year’s supplement.

Many thanks to the SMAD 320 class, our advisor Dr. David Wendelken, and all those who had a hand in completing this supplement. We hope you are as proud of it as we are.

And to you, the readers, we hope you enjoy reading it as much as we enjoyed creating it.

Steven Glass
Co-Editor

Chrystral Jones
Co-Editor

Amber Cason
Managing Editor

More than just the bubbly
A closer look at the history and tradition of New Year’s

BY BRIAN WESTLEY & COLLEEN CASEY

HISTORY

New Year’s is the oldest and most widely celebrated holiday in existence, crossing the boundaries of religion and culture. But not all people celebrate this holiday at the same time or in the same way.

The origins of New Year’s celebrations date back too far to be traced, but it is widely believed that the Chinese were one of the first groups to mark the new year, celebrating it as a spring festival, signaling a rebirth.

One of the earliest records of New Year’s celebrations dates back to the Sumerians and the year 3000 B.C. The Sumerians, located in what is today the nation of Iraq, recognized the New Year at the time of the spring equinox.

After the decline of the Sumerians in the Middle East region, the ancient Babylonians emerged and began to observe the New Year around 2000 B.C. They held their festivities on March 23 with spring signaling a new beginning, as crops were planted and vegetation began to grow. The celebration lasted for eleven days, with each day having and individual celebration. Today, many parts of Asia still celebrate the New Year in the spring.

In the West, however, the beginning of the New Year is recognized on January 1st, stemming from the calendar of the Roman Empire. Initially, the Romans, like many other ancient cultures, recognized spring as a time to celebrate the new year. March 25 signified the New Year until 153 B.C., when the Roman Senate declared January 1st to be the official date of the New Year. In order to synchronize this new calendar with the sun, the previous year lasted for 445 days.

In the first centuries after the birth of Christ, the Catholic Church disapproved of New Year’s celebrations and labeled them pagan. However, as the church began to grow, it began holding its own celebrations at the same time as the pagan festivities. For example, many people began to celebrate New Year’s Day as the Feast of Christ’s circumcision. For hundreds of years, the Catholic Church opposed the New Year’s holiday. For this reason, much of the Western world has only celebrated New Years for the last 400 years.

TRADITIONS

New Year’s has been celebrated since before recorded history and many traditions have become associated with the holiday.

Making resolutions is a tradition popular in Western culture today, but its origins date back to the ancient Babylonians. However, unlike resolutions made in contemporary culture, such as losing weight or doing good deeds, it was common for the Babylonians to resolve to return borrowed farm equipment.

The baby is a popular New Year’s symbol in Western culture, but its origin dates back to Greece in 600 B.C. The Greeks would praise Dionysus, god of wine, by parading a baby around in a basket. The baby was thought to represent the rebirth of Dionysus and it soon came to symbolize the birth of a new year. The Christian Church later used the baby to symbolize Jesus after deciding that it was not a pagan practice.

The image of a baby along with a New Year’s banner was brought to America by the Germans. The Germanic people had been using this effigy since the fourteenth century. Non-Western cultures, such as in China and Vietnam have New Year’s customs that include buying and wearing new clothes, cleaning the house and paying off debts. It is considered embarrassing by the Chinese to start off the New Year with debts. Houses are cleaned to rid of evil spirits.

In China, preparation for the New Year is similar to the Christmas season in the West, with preparations for the holiday beginning more than a month in advance! In Japan, a rope of straw is hung across the front of homes and stands for happiness and good luck for the New Year. And in parts of India, people wear flowers in a variety of colors to ring in the New Year. Women typically dress in yellow, which symbolizes the spring.

One New Year’s tradition unique to the United States is the Tournament of Roses Parade. This dates back to 1890 when members of the Valley Hunt Club in California decorated their carriages with flowers. This was done to signify the ripening of the orange crop. Today, the parade is one of the most popular in the country and is broadcast nationwide to millions of people.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY
AUSTIN CRAMER

What’s Inside...

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- One student’s predictions and one more satirical view on the future that doesn’t deal with Y2K . . . page 8
A glimpse into the psychic realm

By Kathleen Reuschle

Nicholas' office

A statue of Buddha in Mrs. Nicholas' office

Driving down South Main Street at night, you may have seen the colorful, fluorescent "Psychic Readings" sign of Mrs. Claire Nicholas, Harrisonburg's only psychic. A peculiar sight for such a quaint town, I just had to check it out for myself.

Mrs. Nicholas offers a variety of psychic services, including palm, tarot, and crystal readings. The palm reading, the most general, lasts between 10-15 minutes while the more in-depth crystal reading can last for up to an hour. I decided to focus my questions on the crystal reading, since that was the type of reading I was most unfamiliar with.

Mrs. Nicholas uses quartz crystals which "are the most pure crystals to use for psychic purposes," she said. The client holds the crystal, which is basically a cluster of tiny crystals in their hand, and meditates on all the issues that are affecting their lives. Then Mrs. Nicholas takes the crystal and meditates with it.

After meditating, she reads back to the client what she infers from the energy in the crystal. "The crystal will actually get warm from all the energy released into it," Mrs. Nicholas said. She also displayed her tarot cards for me, which are similar to the kind you see in the movies or variety shops. Her cards looked very powerful in conjunction with the crystals and other things in the room.

The atmosphere of the room was very interesting as well. If you have never been in a psychic's chamber, you might be quite intrigued by all of the interesting things in and around the room.

In Mrs. Nicholas' room there is a Buddha statue standing close to the door and a stone astrology chart on the wall. On her glass table there are a variety of objects: a sphinx, a pyramid, assorted elephant figurines, several crystals, and a gold Bible, all atop a cloth zodiacal scarab.

These elements all made for what could be called an Ouija experience; when you're not sure if you're moving the Ouija piece or some spirit is moving your hand.

I felt a strange feeling while I was in the room. I couldn't tell if this was a self-filling prophecy whereby I should feel this way in the presence of a psychic, or whether it was a result of the energy and spirit surrounding me.

After speaking with Mrs. Nicholas, I learned a little about her life. She came to Harrisonburg five years ago. Previously she studied metaphysics in California, and then moved to Florida where she lived with her new husband.

She came to Harrisonburg to raise her family in a place with a hometown atmosphere where she could also be closer to her extended family. Mrs. Nicholas now has her office in her home and is enjoying the more leisurely life that Harrisonburg has to offer.

How did she discover her special psychic ability? Mrs. Nicholas would not go into detail about her own discovery, but did tell me she had an experience 15 years ago in which she saw a vast light. "It was something very personal," she said. "I can see angels and energy around objects and people ... in many forms."

So what does Mrs. Nicholas predict for Harrisonburg in the millennium? Here's what she told us.

"Harrisonburg will be expanding. Many businesses will come and develop in this area. This will mean more jobs for people who venture here. A particular major corporation will be expanding here and their production will rise."

"Harrisonburg on the whole has a very positive aura. Energy is very important to the area we live in and reflects on the people who live in it. The area will get busier as the city population will continue to rise. Many people will relocate to Harrisonburg."

"In general, people will pick Harrisonburg to raise their families because of its strong Karma energy. In all, many positive changes are coming for the people of this community."

Waterford crystallizes the new millennium

By Andrew Harman

There is one scene that has been a mainstay of every New Year's Eve celebration in America since 1907 — the dropping of the ball over Times Square at midnight. The event has become synonymous with New Year's as the traditional glass of champagne.

The next ball that drops over New York's Times Square on New Year's Eve will be a far cry from the original iron ball that debuted in 1907. The new ball will be made from Waterford Crystal, straight from Waterford, Ireland. To say that considerable effort went into the construction of Waterford's ball would be an understatement. It would be, in fact, the understatement of the millennium.

When the clock strikes midnight and rings in the new year, America will get its first real glimpse of the masterpiece. With a six-foot diameter and a weight of 1,070 pounds, it is the largest and heaviest New Year's Eve ball ever.

One hundred and sixty-eight translucent triangular panels are attached to the ball's aluminum frame. Each of these triangular panels features three Waterford crystal triangles, ranging in length from 4.75 to 5.75 inches, each of which is decorated with the "Star of Hope" design.

The three sides of this design stand for the past, present and future. Inside of the Star of Hope, there is a seven-pointed star that represents the seven continents. The seven points all meet at one point which symbolizes the world.

As if the dazzling display of crystal wasn't enough, Waterford has included an intense lighting arrangement to complement the ball. The ball's exterior will be illuminated by 168 Phillips Halogen 2000 watt light bulbs, made exclusively for the occasion.

The interior of the Waterford ball features 208 clear light bulbs, 224 colored bulbs (56 each of red, blue, green and yellow) and 96 high intensity strobe lights. According to a Times Square fact sheet, these lights will create bright, bubbling bursts of color.

To top things off, 92 rotating pyramid mirrors are mounted on the ball's exterior to reflect light back into the audience at Times Square. The 696 lights, as well as the rotating mirrors are controlled by computer, enabling the ball to produce "a state-of-the-art light show of eye-dazzling colorful patterns and a spectacular kaleidoscope effect atop One Times Square," says the Times Square fact sheet. The lighting and special effects are engineered by Con Edison.

The old ball, a rhinestone-halogen-strobe-encrusted sphere, may be displayed naturally on tour or auctioned off, presumably for a very large sum of money. Imagine having the old New Year's Eve ball transformed into your dining room chandelier!

JMU students have mixed reactions about the new Waterford Crystal Ball. Sophomore Jamie Carty said, "I've only seen the artist's rendition of it, but from what I have heard it sounds like an impressive chunk of glass."

Sophomore Patrick Mulligan said, "I'll watch it, but it's not going to distract me from the true meaning of New Year's: peace and love. Oh, and partying, lots of partying!"
New Year’s Eve Destinations

Where will you be when the ball drops?

Compiled by Kristy Woollum
Photos by Kristy Woollum and Steven Glass

“I am going to celebrate the millennium in Paris with my sister who is studying there. It should be ultrasonic!”
Amal Akbar
junior

“I am probably going to get blitzed and go see 2 Skinny J’s in Baltimore.”
Syd Severino
junior

“Unfortunately, I have to work but I hope to get off early and make it to D.C. by midnight.”
Erin Matusek
senior

“I am going to Times Square to party with all other psychos.”
Tim Pierson
senior

“I don’t know, but what I do know is the mother ship will land and the intergalactic disco space warrior monkeys will take the chosen ones home.”
Deirdre McConnell
senior
"I am going to the MCI Center in D.C. with a bunch of my high school friends. They are creating the whole MCI Center into "The Millennial City."

Patty Yussefieh
junior

"I am going to Connecticut to visit with friends. I know it's not the most happening place, but I'll be with the people I love."

Margaret Barbour
junior

"I will be at First Night Harrisonburg ringing in the New Year with the rest of the town."

Dr. Diane Foucar-Szocki
Coordinator of adult education and HRD

"I am going to Atlanta to go drinking at the bars in Buckhead and to hang out with my ex-girlfriend Lindsy."

Ryan Downey
junior

"I am going to New York City but staying outside of Time Square in a friend's apartment."

Nancy Sherman
junior

"I am going to party in New York with my friends."

Michael Alfonso
junior

"I am going to Marco Island, Florida with fourteen of my friends."

John Brady
senior

"Me and my fiance are going to celebrate on the beach with a little romance in Virginia Beach."

Ross Winfield
senior

"I am hanging out with friends and fam."

Misty Noel
sophomore

"I'm going to the Phish show in Florida and I'm going to dance my #$@ off till dawn."

Kimberly Miller
junior

"I am going home to Chicago to party at Lincoln Avenue."

Lisa Wolf
junior

"I am going back to Vermont to spend time with my family."

Todd Tihen
Let's Go worker

"If you only knew..."

Eric J. Pollyn
junior

"I am going to Marco Island, Florida with all of my friends in good old Manchester, Connecticut."

Katie Norton
junior

"Arf, arf. Arf, arf."

Duke Dog
JMU Mascot

"I am getting a bottle of moonshine and playing racquetball by myself."

Austin Horbaly
junior

"I am going to Hawaii with the wife and kids."

Rich "Gio" Giordano
senior

"I am going to a huge bash with all of my friends in good old Manchester, Connecticut."

Katie Norton
junior

"I'm getting a bottle of moonshine and playing racquetball by myself."

Austin Horbaly
junior
New York

Times Square 2000, The Global Celebration at the Crossroads of the World, will be the largest New Year's Eve celebration ever held in Times Square's 95-year history.

The live program will incorporate music, special effects and video broadcasts from around the globe, as well as hundreds of costumed dancers and actors. All of these performances will take place over a half-square mile area of Times Square. Cultural celebrations in Times Square will change according to time zones. When a new time zone reaches the millennium, celebrations will change accordingly. The South Pacific will be the first zone to celebrate the year 2000 and therefore the first to be featured in Times Square.

As the clock strikes 6 p.m. (EST) on December 31st, 41 European and African countries will enter the New Year. Dozens of puppeteers will hoist up banners made of silhouette cutouts created by students of the New York City Public Schools. The silhouettes represent the children of the 41 different countries. The dramatic sounds of a children’s choir will fill Times Square, as streamers rain down on the crowd.

At 10 p.m. (EST), midnight will reach South America and a soundtrack of thundering tribal percussion will fill Times Square. At this point, a fantasy world will be portrayed using fanciful processional puppets such as a spry "Baby Time" and a sprawling Chinese dragon. There will also be ant, butterfly and exotic snake puppets from the tropics.

Also included are 400 dancers, actors and musicians as well as five giant Panasonic Astrovision screens which will broadcast live images from Year’s Eve celebrations worldwide.

In addition to the performers, a nearly 10-hour long sound score of indigenous and original music will be broadcast over Times Square. The broadcast will play over 18 speaker stacks and a state-of-the-art 18-channel surround sound system.

Miami

Gloria Estefan and American Airlines Arena are hosting a Concert Spectacular Extravaganza to ring in the millennium in Miami. Tickets begin at $150.

The Radisson Hotel will host a Cuban theme party and the theaters on Lincoln Road will be debuting their First Night performances.

In addition, nightclubs will be open to patrons for a relatively inexpensive cover charge.

Las Vegas

Pat Benatar, performing at the Hilton, will not be the only out-of-town guest to find her way to Las Vegas this year. Other performers include Rodney Dangerfield and Barbara Streisand at the MGM Grand; Elton John and Tina Turner at the Thomas and Mack Center; Bette Midler at the Mandalay Events Center; REO Speedwagon, Creedence Clearwater Revisited, Starship, and The Guess Who at Fremont Street; and Santana at the Hard Rock Hotel.

According to the Everything 2000 website, 1000 religious activists will converge on Las Vegas at midnight on New Year’s Eve to participate in an event titled Walking the Ways of Peace.

Those visitors wanting to forgo the religious experience, and concentrate on the party, can see Benatar perform at the Las Vegas Hilton. The price of this concert is yet to be announced but included is a champagne toast and party favors.
New Orleans

Several area hotels and restaurants will feature various millennium events for visitors and residents of this culturally flavorful city.

Le Meridian, a local hotel, offers a complete New Year's package that includes limousine pick-ups, wine, champagne, french themed gifts, and a black tie evening event. The four-night package sells for $4,000 per two people.

The historic French Quarter Lanaux House is planning tour packages that will present New Orleans tradition and history. Some of the city tours will offer a cruise on the Mississippi and continental breakfasts for all guests.

Los Angeles

To mark the year 2000, there will be a huge laser, light, and fireworks display at the Hollywood Sign in the Los Angeles hills. For those who have large sums of money, the Eagles, Jackson Browne and Linda Ronstadt will be performing at the Staples Center, with tickets ranging in price from $50 to $1000.

Given the most publicity in Los Angeles newspapers is the LA Millennium Show - a mix of people, lights, sound and special effects meant to convey emotions of excitement, hope and brotherhood.

Tokyo, Japan

The Park Hyatt, one of the premier hotels in all of Japan, will close to everyone but the 850 guests who have bought the $5,000 Yen ($61) millennium party ticket. Each of the hotel's six dining locations will be decorated with individual themes from different cities around the world. One room will be modeled after the Copacabana seashore resort, famous in the 1940s as a playground for the rich. Men and women in Mardi Gras theme costumes will mingle with guests as they dance to the sounds of live Brazilian music.

The guests will feast on a menu that includes caviar, lobster and pheasant. Acrobats in Algerian inspired costumes will swing overhead as exotic birds in golden rings, while contortionists show their talents on the ground.

Another room will have Paris in the 1920s as its theme. Signature dishes of the top chefs of France will be paired with vintage wines and champagnes. Set in the café tradition that is synonymous with the spirit of Paris, this party will be staffed by people in 1920s costumes, while entertainment will be provided by violinists, accordionists, pantomimes, and artists at tableside.

The Park Hyatt ballroom will become an elegant ball set in 1930s Shanghai. The party will include professional ballroom dancers and a nine-piece band, as well as the drama of a traditional Chinese lion dance.

There will also be rooms depicting the Renaissance era of Florence, Italy, a Japanese Edo-Period street, and a New York grill.

San Francisco

Nearly all of the city's hotels, restaurants and nightclubs will have special events and parties. Some will be open to the public, others will be exclusive affairs.

The Ritz-Carlton Hotel is taking reservations for "The Ultimate Experience" package. This includes a night in the Ritz-Carlton Presidential Suite, an 18-karat gold Bulgari watch, Taittinger champagne, and use of a brand-new Jaguar, among many other luxuries. The package sells for $100,000. Seven other millennium packages, requiring a three-night minimum, start at $2,800.

Washington D.C.

Quincy Jones and George Stevens, Jr. have been asked by the president and the first lady to produce "America's Millennium Gala."

Steven Spielberg will produce a feature film called "The Midnight Moment" complete with an original musical score by John Williams, composer of the Star Wars movie scores. The Smithsonian will sponsor a "Millennium on the Mall: Traditions and Tomorrow" complete with parades, lectures, and exhibits. Each monument will host special events throughout the day.

Paris, France

The mayor of Paris has decided on a millennium celebration with the theme of "Le Choix du Cœur," which in English translates to "Choice of Heart." The celebration, which has been running since July and will continue until December 2000, will include around 45 special events that include exhibitions, attractions, and competitions.

Eiffel Tower, Paris, France courtesy of Christie Messina

The celebration has two meanings, according to the mayor. The first is a reaffirmation of the physical beauty of Paris, to emphasize the importance of the city's beauty in the lives and minds of Paris residents.

The second purpose of the celebration is to embody the overall New Year's "resolution" of the city. The resolution consists of the desire to become more environmentally friendly, and the goal to improve the quality of living.

Overall, the events will symbolize ideas of youth, fraternity, peace, knowledge, and creativity. The mayor decided that this approach would be a positive reflection on the past, present, and future ideals of the city of Paris.

Cairo, Egypt

The desert will come alive on December 31, 1999 for a black tie symphony affair. The Great Pyramid at Cheops will be the backdrop for a host of millennium activities. The Millennium Society is hosting a World Millennium Celebration that will feature a variety of festive events topped off by a truly crowning finale. The Great Pyramid will don a nine-meter gold cap that will return the structure to its original height of 137 meters.

London, England

Anyone wanting to experience a European version of Times Square would do well to be in London for New Year's Eve.

Trafalgar Square is the London equivalent of the Times Square Celebration and there will be plenty of entertainment and other festivities that will ensue on the Thames River.

The Queen of England will also participate in the celebration on the Thames River. Amidst the entertainment, the Queen will help fire a laser beam across the river that will start a chain reaction that eventually ignites the world's largest beacon. This event, The British Gas Millennium, is part of a larger event, London's Big Time Party.

Impresario Cameron Mackintosh will produce an inaugural extravaganza to ring in 2000. Included in the festivities is a special Millennium Wheel. This 500-ft. structure will be wined and dined while watching feature stars of Opera Australia in a performance of some operatic highlights.

RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

Rio De Janeiro, rumored to be among the wildest cities in the world, is keeping a tight lid on its city's plans for the Millennium.

Even though the details are being kept somewhat of a secret, visitors and residents can expect to look forward to a beach party where the dress code will probably consist of bikinis and glitter. Copacabana and Ipanema, two hot spots of Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, will feature concerts and unannounced fireworks shows that will commemorate the year 2000.

Sydney, Australia

The Sydney Opera House is the place to be when the clock strikes midnight. Starting at $800, one can buy tickets to various Millennium events being held all day and night.

One event is "Fanfare for the Millennium."

You will be wine and dined while watching feature stars of Opera Australia in a performance of some operatic highlights.
The year is 2015. Harrisonburg is still nothing more than a stop on a carnival tour and the reigning champion of poultry production. It still rains often, because ISAT hasn't figured out how to control the weather yet. It also still smells like a mixture of Puppy Chow and chicken feed whenever it rains in the Valley.

**HUMOR**

Unfortunately, the Valley no longer exists as we once remembered. Wal-Mart built a Superstore in Dayton so large that it is actually considered a mountain by geologists, and thus closes off what we consider to be the Shenandoah Valley.

Speaking of Wal-Mart, they are now the controlling group of James Madison University and are petitioning to have the name changed to "Big Yellow Rolling Back the Prices University."

All of this followed Wal-Mart's emergency takeover of the school after an attempted coup of President Rose's administration. Rose, following up with his plan for an "All Together One University," unveiled his plan for every JMU student to live in Godwin gym in what his administration called a "communal setting."

Students, upset with the idea, attempted an overthrow of his administration in January of 2013. However, the attempt failed due to a lack of interest blamed on the scarcity of campus parking.

"Dude, I was all psyched about an overthrow," one would-be overthrower said. "But when I got in my car to go to campus I couldn't find a spot anywhere. Besides, by that time all I really wanted to do was go home and watch Sportscenter."

The leaders of the overthrow, found to be in violation of JMU's Honor Code and expelled, also blame campus parking for the failed coup.

"I tried to park in the parking deck by the lake, but the man said I couldn't until after 7:00 p.m." Hoyt Rothchild said. The former leader of the Militant Dukes Student Liberation Army is now a blacksmith at the Frontier Culture Museum in Staunton.

President Rose survived the overthrow attempt and carries on confidently. He has found a new hobby raising alpacas in New Market in his spare time. The SMAD department now finds itself sharing Harrison Hall with the history majors. In a freak accident the Anthony-Seeger building was sucked into the ground while crews were trying to pave the gravel pit. The SMAD department said they should have a new building whenever Harrisonburg abandons their current elementary school.

Meanwhile, the original ISAT building across I-81 has gradually begun to resemble a haunted castle, with ivy growing up the sides and bats that "swarm people whenever they buy Peanut M&M's out of the vending machines," one student claims. ISAT also offers classes now taught in the middle of the night by professors who hang upside down by their ankles.

All of this has prompted ISAT officials to play with the idea of renting it out to the city of Harrisonburg to be used as a haunted house for Halloween.

The Greek community has fallen on hard times after misfortune struck during dry rush last year. Brothers from the newly chartered fraternity Tappa Kegga Daley were reportedly launching rhuses over Newman Lake in empty containers. The administration reported that the students were not "drunk on alcohol," and refused to speculate on the possibility that the containers were beer kegs.

According to police reports, the brothers accidentally shot one of the rhuses over the lake and onto Interstate 81, where upon some minutes later he was found "not intoxicated."

The student was then thrown to within an inch of his life by chickens that were propelled from the overturned truck that swerved to avoid the boy.

This prompted the university to severely sanction the Greek community, to the point that many fraternities either folded or moved off campus.

The Port Republic hill still offers many mediocre off campus living choices at prices that would even stun Bill Gates, who by the way will own all of the purple Monopoly properties once he buys the state of Virginia.

However, in order to pass through the woods between Ashby Crossing and Stone Gate, one must pay a toll to Robin Hood and his merry men, who guard the forest when they are not out writing parking tickets. Dining services were forced to cancel their punch based dining plan some years ago after it was found by marketing professors, according to a report they submitted, "utterly the most back wards and ill thought out structure of campus dining ever to be concocted by paid individuals."

To eat on campus now, students simply show up and convince the people working the registers that they really are hungry enough to eat the food provided by JMU. According to some students, this has proven to be a much more daunting task than trying to figure out when they could and couldn't punch in the past.

The nurses in the infirmary succumbed to an entrepreneurial fever, and now run a salt water taffy business out of the back doors of the Health Center.

"We had an awful lot of salt and water laying around," one nurse said. "The idea just went from there."

The crystal ball has big changes on tap for JMU in the coming years. Many new classes will be offered as the university continues to expand. The ISAT college announced its newest concentration, the Fundamentals of Lego Construction. The Science Department has promised a GSCI 101 class that, according to some students who have previewed it, will no longer make it the hardest, most pointless GenEd class at the university.

Over in the SMAD department plans are underway for a class focusing specifically on the dynamics of watching "Wheel of Fortune." And, in a stunning change of curriculam, the Art department has promised to become more "arty."

On the social front, the university pulled a 180 by announcing that kegs will be available to purchase at Mr. Chips beginning in the spring semester. In addition, students will be allotted two beer tickets at dinner time at both Gibbons Hall and PC Dukes. Naturally, that number will be bumped up to six on nights when there is karaoke in Gibbons Hall.

The university also promised that students in the future would not be ashamed to say they live in Eagle Hall. Unfortunately, they would not elaborate any further on the matter.

Other than that, things are still pretty much the same.

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**Top 10 Predictions**

**Prediction #10:** UPB finally gets the Dave Matthews Band to perform at JMU as part of the band's 30th anniversary tour.

**Prediction #9:** Wilson hall is leveled in favor of a 4th parking garage.

**Prediction #8:** JMU students get the day off from classes in observance of the inauguration of JMU's new head chef. Freshmen are required to attend, of course.

**Prediction #7:** Beer vending machines are installed in residence halls.

**Prediction #6:** On the JMU application for admission, there are two choices for preferred major: 1- ISAT or 2- whatever else we still offer.

**Prediction #5:** Dining services introduces PC (Personal Computers) Dukes, where food is delivered to your room via the internet.

**Prediction #4:** Godwin Hall is demolished in order to plant the largest chrysanthemum garden in college history.

**Prediction #3:** Jim Bruer makes a return visit to JMU and performs in front of a sold-out crowd in Jackson 107.

**Prediction #2:** On campus McDonald’s, Taco Bell, Chick-Fil-A and Arby’s all agree to accept meal punches. D-hall is converted to a museum.

**Prediction #1:** There will be no more science classes. (No, I’m only kidding you. You didn’t think I’d end it on that did you?)

**Real Prediction #1:** JMU buys Rockingham Memorial Hospital in order to accommodate for it’s enrollment expansion to 30,000 students.