



The Breeze

James Madison University's Student Newspaper

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Monday, December 5, 2005

ASB holds domestic sign-ups

BY BECKY MARTINEZ
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Students proved that the spirit of service is alive and well at the Alternative Spring Break's domestic trip signups on Thursday.

Each year, the ASB trips sponsored by the Community Service-Learning center draw a host of students eager to spend their spring break helping other communities and the environment. While the international and long-distance trips were selected earlier this semester, the domestic trips were more plentiful and drew a sizeable crowd of students hoping to participate in the service experiences.

Other organizations sponsor ASB trips as well including UREC and a number of faith-based communities like Wesleyan, Canterbury and Catholic Campus Ministry, who organized the first ASB trip more than 15 years ago.

CS-L will sponsor five international trips, three long-distance trips that require airfare and 15 domestic trips within the distance of a day's drive. Together, JMU students will provide volunteer aid to numerous regions of the U.S. and the Caribbean. The trips include opportunities to work in soup kitchens, mentor and tutor underprivileged children, construction, habitat restoration and hurricane relief.

"We're basically going to be dropped on an island and help restore the ecosystem," said junior psychology major Jenn Polasek, who will be working on a trip in the Florida Keys. "I love being by the water."

CS-L's ASB program works with a number of agencies that connect students with their service projects, according to Lorelei Esbenshade, associate director of CS-L. They have developed partnerships with some of the agencies who request that the students return year after year.

The aim of the work is that the benefit of the work is reciprocal, Esbenshade said.

"I learned not only a lot about myself while I was [on my last ASB trip], but also furthered my understanding on how broad the spectrum is in terms of how many different cultures and life perspectives can exist within the United States alone," said junior Lara Abel, who will be leading a trip to Winter Park, Fla., this spring.

"JMU has a culture of service on campus," Esbenshade said.

JMU students reveal a strong work ethic and are prepared for their ASB experiences, Esbenshade added. Many agencies specifically look forward to their arrival for the week.

Because the trips are student-led, their excitement draws the interest of the student population, Esbenshade said.

Each student had different needs and expectations during

see ASB, page 3

Student hit crossing S. Main St.

A JMU student crossing South Main Street was struck by a vehicle around 7 p.m. Thursday evening.

The student, who was reportedly wearing dark clothing, was walking across the center turning lane on South Main Street when a 1998 Ford sports car hit her. The car was traveling about 20 to 25 miles per hour.

A witness said the student hit the windshield of the car, then landed on the pavement.

She was taken by ambulance to Rockingham Memorial Hospital. Her injuries were not life-threatening.

— from staff reports

Alum sees Biloxi blues



photo courtesy OWEN USCHER

Though Ronald McDonald still grins, the city of Biloxi, Miss., was devastated by hurricanes in early September.

A 2005 JMU grad quits his job and heads south to volunteer rebuilding town's morale

BY DREW LEPP
NEWS EDITOR

It was under a pile of debris in Mississippi where recent JMU graduate saw his first dead bodies — two Vietnamese girls, ages 7 and 2 — victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Owen Uscher spent the past two months volunteering in the hurricane-ravaged city of Biloxi, Miss. When he decided to quit his job to volunteer, he got more than he expected, encountering people and situations he never would have otherwise.

Uscher had only been working as a law clerk roughly a month when it hit him. "I didn't want to sit in an office, I wanted to do something meaningful," he said.

At that time, he sifted through the classifieds advertised on the "Craig's list" Web site and found the answer to his

problem in the form of a group called "Hands-on USA."

The group was founded after the Dec. 2004 tsunami, and was looking for volunteers to travel to Biloxi to help clean up the damage left in Hurricane Katrina's wake.

From that moment he had made his decision, and within five days, he had quit his job and hit the road for Biloxi.

But nothing could have prepared him for what he saw when he entered the city two weeks after Katrina hit. What he saw was unlike anything he could have imagined. He expected to see destroyed homes, but the problems he saw were far greater than any destroyed structure — the people were destroyed as well.

He said, "Even if the storm hadn't come, these people were barely hanging on."

The city of Biloxi needed

help desperately.

East Biloxi, where he primarily worked, was a tourist destination — its Gulf Coast shore was lined with floating casinos and hotels. But among this, Uscher said the residents of Biloxi were some of the poorest in the country.

Even if the storm hadn't come, [some citizens of Biloxi] were barely hanging on.

— Owen Uscher
'05 JMU grad and volunteer

"The people who I am helping generally, even before Katrina hit, had very little," he said.

He said there were many reasons why Biloxi was especially in need of aid. For one, Biloxi was not evacuated, and the poor people of the city were left on their own. Crime was prevalent and order by officials was hard to maintain. He described what he experienced as being "Lord of the Flies type chaos." This stood in stark contrast to what Uscher was used to seeing at JMU or in his suburban New Jersey hometown.

During one of his first jobs with Hands-on USA, he saw a preview of what was to come within just 12 hours of being there. A woman had called for volunteers to remove debris from her yard. When they arrived, the woman was incoherent, and had scratched the skin off her arm. It turned out the woman was a crack addict and had not had a fix since the storm.

He said, "After I saw that,

I thought 'this place is bad.' I finally knew what I was getting myself into."

He said the first six days were emotionally draining, but he continued to work, doing things that he would have never done before.

The ages, backgrounds and duration of the stays of the volunteers range widely. However, they do have a few things in common. First, no one is paid, and their work is supported solely by donations. Their attitudes and work ethic are also similar. "We're all a little crazy — but focused," Uscher said.

With his group he began to help clean up the city. "We were going places the police didn't want to go because it was too dangerous."

In order to cope with the

see USCHER, page 5



AARON STEWART/contributing photographer

The front door of 1265 Hillcrest Drive where the fire occurred.

Fire takes boy's life

A fire broke out in 1265 Hillcrest Drive on Nov. 28 around 11 p.m., killing a young boy and leaving more than \$100,000 worth of damages.

The landlord, JMU French professor Mario Hamlet-Metz, escaped along with the mother and sister of 7-year-old Noah Terschuereen. The family lived in the upstairs part of the house, while Hamlet-Metz lived in the basement.

According to Harrisonburg Fire Chief Larry Shifflett, the fire was caused by combustible items being too close to a wood stove, whose flame is fairly open and can easily release sparks. An ember from the stove lighted debris on the first floor of the house. Fire fighters arrived at the scene shortly after 11 p.m. and had the fire contained within 15 minutes, but were on site for about five hours.

The majority of the fire damage was in the north end of the house, where the wood stove was

located. Smoke and water damage was prevalent throughout the three floors of the house. "The house is [inhabitable] at this time, but it is salvageable," Shifflett said.

Shifflett said HFD has about six "working fires" per year, meaning they are serious in nature and require a significant use of resources. He added that what he saw there was not an unusual occurrence.

"Had it not been for the smoke detectors, there would have been more fatalities," Shifflett said. "If you have one or two minutes to react, you're lucky." Shifflett added batteries in smoke detectors should be changed at least once per year. Currently, 10-year smoke detectors are becoming more prevalent, since batteries do not have to be changed nearly as often and because they are fairly inexpensive.

— from staff reports

Tree lighting on the Quad



EVIN SHOAP/senior photographer

The JMU Chorale and the JMU Symphonic Orchestra held the annual Holidayfest concert in Wilson Hall Sunday evening. The event was followed by the tree lighting ceremony sponsored by SGA.

The Breeze

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The Breeze, the student-run newspaper of James Madison University, serves student and faculty readership by reporting news involving the campus and local community. The Breeze strives to be impartial and fair in its reporting and firmly believes in its First Amendment rights.

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AMY PATERSON/photo editor

Dukes show their team spirit

(Left): Fans rush to the end of the basketball court Saturday night to cheer on the Dukes against Northeastern.

(Below): The student section was filled as fans yelled and cheered when Northeastern took penalty shots at the game, which ended with a Northeastern victory of 86-83.



AMY PATERSON/photo editor

DUKE DAYS Events Calendar

Social Work Students

A benefit concert for Hurricane Katrina relief will be held Wednesday, Dec. 7 at The Pub in Harrisonburg. This event will feature the popular band Midnight Spaghetti along with Middle Skewl, a '90s cover band. The show starts at 10 p.m. and ticket prices are \$5 for people age 21 and up and \$8 for people age 18 and up. All proceeds from this event will go toward rebuilding Harrisonburg's adopted town of Long Beach, Miss. Please come out, rock out and support a great cause. For more information, please contact gleasojr.

Senior Gala

Come celebrate your last year at JMU at the Second Annual Senior Gala on Friday, Jan. 27 at 6 p.m. in the Festival Center Grand Ballroom. Buy your ticket during the week of Dec. 5 through Dec. 9 and pay the reduced price of \$15 (tickets will be \$20 in January). Tickets are on sale in the University Business Office, located on the third floor of Warren Hall. You must be of senior status, 21 years old and present a valid ID and JAC Card to attend. Tickets are limited. Visit jmu.edu/seniorchallenge for more information or e-mail scc@jmu.edu with any questions.

Student Virginia Education Association

The final fall semester meeting of the Student Virginia Education Association will be held in Roop Hall, room 128, Dec. 5 at 7 p.m. Come out and meet your new officers and learn about reading strategies from Dr. Jetton. All education students are welcome to attend.

Operation: Santa Claus

Come out this holiday season for JMU's biggest extravaganza of the year, the sixth annual Operation: Santa Claus. Some of JMU's hottest groups will perform: Madison Project, Exit 245, Dukettes, Low Key, Madison Dance, New and Improv'd and Exit 247 B Flat Project, along with Duke Dog, The Bluestones, IntoHymn, Breakdance Club and Note-Ority. Come out Dec. 6 at 7 p.m. to Grafton-Stovall Theatre. Admission to the event is \$5 (cash or FLEX) or a small unwrapped toy. All proceeds benefit the children of Harrisonburg Social Services. Operation: Santa Claus is proudly brought to you by Student Ambassadors. For more information, contact Dan Boxer (boxerdc) or Tina Miller (millercv).

POLICE LOG

BY KELLY FISHER/SENIOR WRITER

Property damage

A JMU employee reported damage to three windows by BB pellets at Chandler Hall Nov. 28.

Vandalism

A JMU employee reported graffiti on the wall of a men's bathroom in Carrier Library Nov. 29 between 9:30 a.m. and 12 p.m.

Underage possession of alcohol

A JMU student was charged with underage possession of alcohol at Garber Hall Nov. 29 at 7:28 p.m.

Driving under the influence

A JMU student was charged with driving after illegally consuming alcohol at South Main Street and Bluestone Drive Dec. 1 at 3:52 a.m.

Number of drunk in public since Aug. 29: 45

Correction

In the Dec. 1 issue of The Breeze, the Biloxi article inaccurately reported that the National Relief Network helped to recruit students for the Katrina relief effort. The organization was not used for recruiting.



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Careful behavior essential for safe holiday season

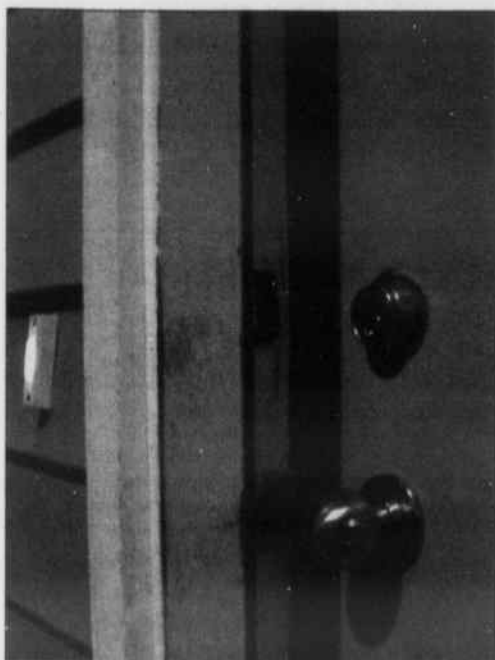


photo illustration by JUAN BIALET/contributing photographer

Unlocked doors are one of the leading causes for break-ins; most off-campus burglaries have not been forced entries.

BY APRIL KIM
STAFF WRITER

According to the Harrisonburg Police Department, the number of burglary and breaking/entering charges has been increasing during the holiday season.

"Over 55 apartments were broken into between Nov. 2004 and Jan. 2005," said Lt. Kurt Boshart of the Harrisonburg Police Department. Around this time last year, while students were gone for Thanksgiving and Winter Breaks, thousands of dollars worth of items were stolen. Most of these burglaries had not been forced entries — locking doors could have prevented most of these cases.

Since the holiday season is approaching and students are getting ready to go home for extended periods of time, students' knowledge about making their place look "lived in" is an important thing in order to keep the burglars away.

The police department suggests getting timers for lights, stopping mail for a certain period of time or having a trustworthy friend check on the apartment or house.

Students are also encouraged to take all their valuable belongings back home while going away for the break. Most wanted items

are, but not limited to, computers, electronics, money, jewelry and clothes. These items are in demand, easy to steal and quick to move on the street. Boshart encourages students to note serial numbers of valuable properties, especially of electronics and computers, and mark the properties with identifiable initials or labels.

Many students, especially those who have had open-door parties, are unaware of the fact that their residence may have been under the "casing-out" of potential burglars. Although according to the HPD, most break-ins are not preplanned, burglars are "casing-out" your place with intentions of coming back to steal your belongings.

Burglars are both "local and outside of town, from Staunton, Waynesboro and Charlottesville," Boshart said. He also noted that Devon Lane has had the highest averaging reports of break-ins.

In an effort to prevent burglaries, the HPD conducted a presentation for Shenandoah Valley Apartments Association. Police officers in "plain clothes" have been patrolling on foot, looking for any suspicious activities.

"Personal safety is everyone's responsibility," Boshart said. "Everyone should take as much precaution as they can."

Helpful Holiday Hints

During the holiday season, people are often more vulnerable to theft and other crimes. The following are tips from the Los Angeles Police Department to help people have a safer holiday season.

While driving:

- Keep all car doors locked and windows closed while in or out of your car.
- If you must shop at night, park in a well-lit area.
- Do not leave packages or valuables on the seat of your car. This creates a temptation for thieves.
- Be sure to locate your keys prior to going to your car.

While shopping:

- If you must use an ATM, choose one that is located inside a police station, mall or well-lit location.
- Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. At this time of year, "con-artists" may try various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.
- Be extra careful if carrying a wallet or purse. They are the prime targets of criminals in crowded shopping areas and transportation terminals.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Pay for purchases with a check or credit card when possible.

At home:

- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave the house, even for a few minutes.
- Don't leave valuables in front of windows.

Controversial class banned at U. Kansas

BY FRANK TANKARD
UNIVERSITY DAILY KANSAN

Paul Mirecki's "Special Topics in Religion: Intelligent Design and Creationism" class will not be taught next semester, University of Kansas officials announced Thursday.

Mirecki, chairman of the department of religious studies, said in a statement that he withdrew the course because of public controversy about e-mails he had posted on a yahoo.com list server since 2003.

The list server was a discussion board for the Society of Open-Minded Atheists and Agnostics, the 121-person student group for which Mirecki serves as faculty adviser.

"My concern is that students with a serious interest in this important subject matter would not be well-served by the learning environment my e-mails and the public distribution of them have created," he said in the statement. "It would not be fair to the students."

The class made national news when a Nov. 19 e-mail Mirecki wrote was disseminated to politicians and news organizations in which he referred to religious fundamentalists as "fundies" and said his class would serve as "a nice slap in their big fat face."

Older e-mails came to light when *National Review*, a conservative political magazine, published excerpts from Mirecki's past e-mails on Wednesday.

National Review printed one e-mail excerpt that was Mirecki's detailed description of starting to vomit after swallowing the Eucharist at a Catholic church service as a child because of the idea that he had swallowed the flesh of Jesus.

Chancellor Robert Hemenway issued a statement in which he said Mirecki made the right decision in withdrawing the course and

called Mirecki's e-mail comments "repugnant and vile."

"He has a right to free speech, but he has to realize the revelation of his past e-mails has tainted the environment for his course," he said. "He insulted both our students and the university's public, and he misrepresented beliefs of the university's faculty and staff."

Hemenway said the subject matter of Mirecki's class had no bearing on the withdrawal of the course.

"This unfortunate episode does not in any way diminish our belief that the course should be taught," he said. "It is the role of the university to take on such topics and to provide the civil, academic environment in which they can be honestly examined and discussed."

Andrew Stangl, president of SOMA, said the remarks that appeared in *National Review* were taken out of context by people searching through Mirecki's past posts with the intent of showing that he was biased against Christianity and unfit to teach a class on intelligent design.

"This shows the dedication they're going to, to ruin or discredit Dr. Mirecki," he said. "We had assumed the comments were between the list serve."

State Rep. Brenda Landwehr (R-Wichita), vice chairwoman of the Kansas House of Representatives appropriations committee, said the incident called into question the integrity of the university. She said legislators would likely discuss the class when they return to session Jan. 9.

"I still think the university should be accountable, both the chancellor and the professor, to respond to legislators during the session about this course or any other courses there are issues with," she said.

Pham addresses conflict resolution

BY KATIE O'DOWD
SENIOR WRITER

A JMU professor addressed legislators, including members of the U.S. Congress and the new Iraqi Parliament, during a speech about the role of religion in conflict resolution at a human rights conference in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 28.

Criminal justice professor J. Peter Pham spoke about how religious differences often perpetuate human conflict during the 2005 Interparliamentary Conference on Human Rights and Religious Freedom. In his speech, "Religion's Role in Conflict Resolution: Assessments of and Prospects for Some African Referents," Pham discussed the role of religion in human conflict and resolution, specifically in Africa.

"I was honored to be invited to address representatives from so many countries, especially



Pham

political representatives who represent the most democratic branch — the legislative," he said.

Glenn Hastedt, the director of the Center for Liberal and Applied Social Sciences and the justice studies major, said speaking at such venues benefits the JMU community.

"By making regular presentations at this and other venues, Dr. Pham succeeds in the difficult task of combining academic scholarship with an attention to real-world policy concerns," Hastedt said.

Pham, the author of two books on the West African conflicts, "Liberia: Portrait of a Failed State" and "Child Soldiers, Adult Interests: Global Dimensions of the Sierra Leonean Tragedy," examined the effectiveness of conflict resolution in these areas in his speech.

"Despite a relatively thriving academic and political literature on various aspects of contemporary African politics, there has been little inclination to explore the relationship between religion and politics in Africa," Pham said.

He called religious differences a "potent force" in human conflict, and said conflict

see PHAM, page 5

Possible link found between pot and schizophrenia

BY JAMIE TALAN
NEWSDAY

A teenage brain on pot looks frighteningly similar to the brains of adolescents with schizophrenia, according to a new study.

While it's too early to prove a connection, researchers at North Shore University Hospital-Long Island Jewish Healthcare System caution that marijuana could be a match that ignites an underlying genetic vulnerability to schizophrenia.

Scientists have long debated whether drug abuse triggers schizophrenia, which in males usually appears in late adolescence, or whether the illness itself can lead to drug abuse.

"It is the story of nature versus nurture," said Manzar Ashtari, an associate professor in radiology and psychiatry at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and a scientist at LJI's Zucker Hillside Hospital. "If there are people who are vulnerable and smoke marijuana, they may be putting themselves at greater risk for developing severe mental illness."

Robert L. Balster, an endowed professor of pharmacology and toxicology at Virginia Commonwealth University, said that while more research is needed, "studies such as this are very important in providing new leads for possible brain mechanisms that could

be involved in drug abuse and its frequent association with mental illness."

The studies at Zucker Hillside were done only in males because females tend to develop schizophrenia later, in their mid-20s and beyond. "Whatever insult is happening, it is taking place in brain regions still under construction," said Ashtari, who presented her findings Wednesday at the Radiological Society of North America's annual meeting in Chicago.

The scientists conducted several brain scan studies in teenage marijuana smokers who used the drug daily for at least one year; in adolescent schizophrenia patients who didn't smoke marijuana; in schizophrenia patients who also use marijuana regularly, and in healthy, nonsmoking controls.

Ashtari and her co-investigator, child psychiatrist Dr. Sanjiv Kumar, found that a brain region called the arcuate nucleus, a bundle of fibers that connects the front of the brain to deeper regions, is underdeveloped in both schizophrenia patients and in marijuana users. While the lack of growth seems to be only on the left side in these teenagers, schizophrenia patients who also abuse marijuana showed problems on both sides of the brain.

Ashtari said the arcuate nucleus is critical to higher cognitive functions.

ASB: New lottery system a success

ASB, from page 1

their ASB experience, but a powerful part of each experience is the opportunity to develop new relationships, according to Esbenshade. Students are able to step outside their comfort zone into a new city, social situation and experience, but they are not on their own: the program's framework allows support and security.

Unfortunately, there is usually an overabundance of students who want to sign up for the trips and not enough spaces to accommodate them.

"Last year, people camped out in line to sign up for trips," Polasek said. "Students who really wanted to go would be first in line and could be guaranteed trips, but it was harder to

get a spot if you needed to be somewhere else while people were waiting."

This year, the domestic trip sign-ups took place in the Highlands room in Festival. Students received a lottery number upon arrival and after two hours of trip descriptions, numbers were randomly drawn.

Students with the numbers picked could then choose select trips and the remaining students could choose to be put on a waiting list, according to Esbenshade.

"I definitely think that the new lottery sign-up system was a complete success," Abel said. "Compared to previous years, it is certainly the most fair way to go about a sign-up process of this sort, as it gives everyone who is interested the same chance of being able to go on a trip."

On the 12th day of Christmas...



CASEY TEMPLETON/senior photographer

Senior Ian McCleary spends time at the 12 Days Project trailer. Brothers are collecting various items from Nov. 28 to Dec. 9 to benefit the less-fortunate children of Harrisonburg.

Event celebrates different holidays

Organizations sponsor 'Holiday Celebrations Around the World' in order to display different faiths and customs

BY KATIE KELLOGG
STAFF WRITER

Four organizations have joined forces to create an evening filled with music, food and fun in an event to celebrate winter holidays from around the world.

The "Holiday Celebrations Around the World" event featured winter holidays such as Christmas, Kwanza, Chinese New Year, Ramadan, Three Kings, Hanukkah and "X-mas," the name given to the holiday celebrated by people who celebrate Christmas in the traditional sense, but may not consider themselves to be Christians.

According to Dr. Celeste Thomas of the Counseling and Student Development Center, students were treated to displays of various holiday celebrations, a dinner that featured assorted ethnic cuisines catered by JMU Dining Services, oral presentations about different holidays, a jazz band and a performance by Zulu dancers.

Thomas said this is the first time that there has been a celebration of different winter holi-

days on this scale. "Last year there was a smaller version and it was a success, so this year we decided to expand it," Thomas said.

Arthur Dean, the interim director of the Center for Multicultural Student Services, said this event gave students who celebrate holidays other than Christmas a chance to share their faith and how they celebrate the holidays. Dean also believes that the event was a learning opportunity for JMU students. "Even though I might not believe the same thing as someone else, I can still learn to have respect and sensitivity for how other people celebrate the holidays," he said.

Thomas agreed that attending the event gave students a chance to broaden their knowledge of the ways that various that people around the world celebrate different holidays. "A lot of times we get so wrapped up in what we are celebrating that we don't realize that other people are celebrating different events," Thomas said.

The program was developed by CSD's Peer Mentor Program, CMSS, the University Program Board and the Centennial Scholars.

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USCHER: new grad works with Hands on USA

USCHER, from page 1

destroyed houses and remnants of residents memories, such as high school yearbooks and stuffed animals, differently.

"It's someone's life," he said. "But, you have to think about it only as debris."

Currently Uscher is working as a scout, a job that requires him to speak to homeowners and then decide what work needs to be done.

Uscher and Hands on USA do their best to live up to their name. He said organizations like the Red Cross or the government agency, FEMA, do not provide the help the people truly need. "Instead of filling out forms, I pick up a chainsaw, jump in a pickup truck and do what I've got to do," he said. "I have no boundaries, no grids."

Despite seeing sorts of devastation, he regards the experience as a positive one and will stay in Biloxi until January. "Everyday is a new story. There hasn't been one day that I have to ask myself what I'm doing with my life. Those questions are answered themselves," he said.

University president lifts standards, morale

BY STUART SILVERSTEIN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Robert C. Maxson was a beleaguered president when he stepped down from the helm of the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, in 1994.

He was still drawing criticism over his long-running feud with the hugely controversial but extremely successful basketball coach, Jerry Tarkanian, whom he ousted two years earlier.

Today, the story is vastly different. Maxson, 69, is preparing to step down in January from the presidency of California State University-Long Beach, but he is leaving as a widely admired, even beloved, leader with nary a public critic. And he is getting widespread praise for lifting the academic reputation of the school he has headed since leaving Las Vegas.

"I don't know of any other case in higher education where someone has stayed on the good side of virtually everybody for 11-and-a-half years. It just doesn't happen," said Margaret Merryfield, chairwoman of Cal State-Long Beach's academic sen-

ate and a chemistry professor.

Another sign of Maxson's popularity: When student leaders around the California State University system started picking a "university president of the year" in 1999, Maxson was the first to win. He won three more times in the next five years. Finally, in 2004, student leaders renamed the honor the "Robert C. Maxson President of the Year Award" and took Maxson out of the running so that the 22 other Cal State presidents could have a better chance.

Maxson's shining image in Long Beach partly stems from his outgoing personality and his folksy Southern manner. He and his wife, Sylvia, who has a joint appointment as an English and an education professor at Long Beach, often invite students to their university home for dinners. Maxson is a constant presence at campus activities, often sitting with undergraduates.

"There are three priorities here," Maxson is fond of saying. "No. 1 is students, No. 2 is students, No. 3 is students."

Maxson also brought extra mar-

keting savvy to the 34,500-student school, which is the third-biggest public university in California, behind the University of California, Los Angeles, and California State University-Fullerton. He is credited with popularizing the school nickname, "The Beach," and he regularly finishes his speeches with an emphatic "Go Beach." As he explained, "You tell me about any student who doesn't want to go to a university called 'The Beach.'"

Maxson, who earned his only national championship in 1990, but the next year the program was barred from postseason competition over suspected rules violations. Maxson, several months after leaving Las Vegas, drew further criticism over the revelation that he had agreed to a confidential deal to sweeten the salary of its new coach, Rolie Massimino, with \$375,000 a year in private funds.

Still, Maxson said, "I have absolutely no animosity, no ill feelings, about anyone or anything there. I did what I thought was right, and other people were doing what they thought they should do."

PHAM: Prof speaks to leaders

PHAM, from page 1
cannot be fully resolved without the involvement of religious groups.

"In all the cases, it is virtually certain that the conflicts would have been prolonged and the human toll substantially higher had the churches and other religious groups not been deeply involved," he said. "What I would conclude by suggesting is that there is not a religious response per se to human conflict, but rather a multiplicity of responses that religious groups can undertake."

"Diplomacy is the art of trying to resolve conflicts by accommodating interests, while religion makes an appeal to higher aspirations," he said.

The conference, which attracted members from the U.S. Congress to the new Iraqi Parliament, addressed religion and conflict resolution, law, terrorism and international poverty and development.

"I think [the conference] has proven to be a very interesting exchange of views between people who are not only very opinionated, but very experienced," Pham said. "Everyone had a mutual concern for working across national borders for issues of human rights and religious freedom."

Where in the United States is Biloxi, Miss.?

One of the places Hurricane Katrina left her mark



LAUREN PACK/art director

Help was needed in Biloxi because the city, directly on the Gulf coast, was not evacuated. Many of the tourist attractions like casinos, and major industries such as shrimping and fishing and were destroyed.

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HOUSE EDITORIAL

Students need to take GWALK 101 before crossing Main St.



Daily, hundreds — if not thousands — of JMU students, faculty and staff illustrate their love of the classic game “Frogger” in their foregoing of crosswalks on South Main Street. But eventually, the convenience of crossing there needs to be re-evaluated in terms of pedestrian safety.

Thursday night, a student was crossing South Main Street from Anthony-Seeger Hall. Wearing dark clothing and standing in the center lane, she was struck by a vehicle going an estimated 20 to 25 mph. She was taken to Rockingham Memorial Hospital and is in stable condition.

If you ask any student on campus, it is possible that he or she will know someone struck by a vehicle on South Main Street. The occurrence is more common than one might think. That is why it is important to take a few more minutes and walk to the street corners to use the crosswalks — that’s what they’re there for.

But those who are struck by vehicles are not solely to blame for crossing the street at a bad time. The practice is done in such a prominent area by such a number of people that everyone is led to think that crossing the street illegally to save time is an acceptable practice. Now that the days are getting shorter and it’s dark by 5 p.m., it’s important to think about how rush hour will factor into one’s decision to cross South Main Street at a lower visibility to drivers. And there is no doubt from what happened on Thursday that this needs to be considered.

Those who heard of Thursday’s accident may think how awful that was for the victim, and then go and cross South Main anyway on the way to their next 8 a.m. But this time, think of the consequences. If you cross the street several times a day, you’re eventually going to do so on autopilot, just as those driving to class the same way for the 5-millionth time. And eventually, there could be a consequence to that calculated risk.

The best way to cross South Main Street may take a few more minutes, but think of Nike and “Just do it.” Walking in the crosswalks guarantees greater safety and is certainly worth the extra effort.

LOVER OF WOMEN, CONQUERER OF NATIONS

It must be asked: What would Jack Bauer do?

BY BOBBY MCMAHON
SENIOR WRITER

In the dangerous and tempestuous time in which we live, a hero must rise from the masses to lead America through the jungle of global politics and to guide us through the challenges of the day. This man must stand like a lighthouse on a cliff, safely guiding ships into the harbor of moral behavior and enlightened thinking. This man is Jack Bauer, the government agent played by uber-mensch Kiefer Sutherland on Fox’s hit drama “24.” In the same way we look to great men like Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. for guidance, we too should look to Jack Bauer on how to handle ourselves in the brave new world in which we live.

For those you poor unfortunate souls without access to network television, each season of “24” follows Jack Bauer trying to stop a cataclysmic event over a single day, with each episode allotted one hour in time. In four seasons, Bauer has thwarted two presidential assassinations, the detonation of a nuclear device over Los Angeles, the release of a weaponized virus across the urban centers of the United States (including Los Angeles), and a nuclear missile strike on Los Angeles. It is noteworthy to mention that after season four, the city of Los Angeles asked the producers of “24” to stop placing the city in fictional imminent danger, as the constant fictional threat has substantially driven down tourism revenue.

While Bauer has been successful in all his attempted thwartings, the constant fighting with terrorists and need for plot twists have been at great personal expense to Bauer. In the 96 hours of show thus far, Bauer has been shot, stabbed, tortured, widowed, killed (twice) and finally forced to choose exile over internment in a Chinese jail. Jack Bauer’s leadership and guidance should be respected above all other television characters, as no man or woman has given more to their nation while being subjected to such great personal strife than Jack Bauer. If humanity asks “What would Jack Bauer do?” and follow his example, then we can determine the best response to any situation.

For example, Jack Bauer would not have stood for the recent riots in Paris, France. Armed only with his trusty governmental issue handgun and loyal wingman Tony Almeida, Jack Bauer would have swept the streets of Paris and quelled the riots faster than you can say “We’re out of time!” It took French authorities almost three weeks to stop the riots. Three weeks? Bauer would have this done in less than three hours, with enough time left over for an emotional scene with his love interest whom he will ultimately disown after she comes between him and fighting for America.

Asking the question “What would Jack Bauer do?” will not only improve the world as a whole but also improve your everyday life. Ever waited for a computer in the library and seen Johnny Ballcap checking his fantasy football team? Jack Bauer wouldn’t stand for that. An emphatic cocking of your firearm and a stern “Get off the computer, or I will be the last thing you’ll ever see!” will get the job done with little collateral damage. Someone getting fresh with your sorority sister at a party? A solid head butt to the perpetrator’s nose will do the trick. Believe your roommate Frank ate all the peanut butter? Tie Frank to a chair and say, “You probably don’t think that I can force this towel down your throat. But trust me, I can.” A fresh can of peanut butter will be in your kitchen too sweet.

While some may consider Jack Bauer’s tactics barbaric and violent, we cannot ignore one staggering fact: Jack Bauer has a 100 percent success rate in defense of his country, playing error-free ball throughout four seasons of fictional government service. This rate of action to success is higher than any other TV government agent, besting Sydney Bristow of “Alias” by almost 20 percentage points. This standard of excellence alone justifies our search for ultimate wisdom and truth in Jack Bauer, and through the examination of his words and deeds, we can live a fuller life. Follow Jack Bauer, and he will set you free.

I’m senior political science major Bobby McMahon, and today is the longest day of my life.

W.W.J.B.D?



ALUMNI PERSPECTIVES

U.S. history should be mandatory

BY REESS KENNEDY
ALUMNUS '04

Although “GHIST 225, U.S. history” is an option under the GenEd program, I believe it ought to be mandatory. My recent study of our country’s past is having a tremendous impact on my interaction with and outlook on the world. And never has the future looked so promising.

I graduated from JMU a little over a year ago without a very thorough understanding of American history (I chose to take government my freshman year instead). And while I believe I got a great education at JMU, I entered the “real world” without a sufficient grasp of the historical events that led to my current place in time. Concerned by my ignorance, I chose to rectify the situation.

After a year of working in a law firm in New York, I left and set out West on a month-long, 8,000-mile road trip tour of the United States. On the trip, I toted around a bulky textbook on American history I had held onto since middle school. My mission for the trip: see as many states as possible, and spend my idle time at night around the campfire poring over the pages of my text, learning about the vast union of states that surrounded me.

Reading the text became a tremendously liberating experience. It gave me a feeling of mental and physical lightness, as if a great weight had been taken off my shoulders. This was the weight of confusion and uncertainty. Now, however, I felt grounded and secure in my more fully developed understanding of the past, and consequently, my more fully developed understanding of how I fit into this world. Learning about my country’s past became a vehicle for self-realization and the stimulator of a renewed belief in the very American ideal that the future is boundless.

From reading the text, I learned something that is important for every college student to fully affirm: nothing is stagnant. The world is in a state of perpetual progression. In a time in which information flows so freely and in such great abundance, I had lost sight of this. I had begun to resign myself to the notion that the age of innovation had come and gone; that most things had already been thought of; that Google had all the answers. But while I lay in my tent one night while camping in Wyoming at the base of the Grand Tetons, I read about the first steamboat and the first telegraph machine and I was forced to think about how much has occurred in this country in such a short period of time. At that moment, I decided that our capacity to innovate is infinite and that we have only just begun to create. Only now was I rejuvenated by the new found conviction that I have the opportunity to be a part of this innovation — to be a contributor to the continued progression of this country.

I believe it is the responsibility of academic institutions like JMU to engender a degree of intellectual self-confidence in students by equipping them with a firm understanding of their place in the world. And I believe it’s impossible for an individual to truly understand his place without a strong background in the history of his country. No matter how talented or ambitious you are, graduating college can be a difficult time; a time fraught with doubt and questions about the future. These things are natural, but I believe one of the greatest weapons we have to combat doubt and fear and to aid us in making important decisions about ourselves and our future is a rich understanding of our current place in the world through a strong and earnest study of the history that led to it.

Reess Kennedy graduated from JMU in 2004 with a B.A. in philosophy.



E-mail darts and pats to breezeop@hotmail.com.

Darts & Pats are submitted anonymously and printed on a space-available basis. Submissions are based upon one person’s opinion of a given situation, person or event and do not necessarily reflect the truth.

A “never-take-our-freedom” pat to the face-painted kilt-wearing entertainers providing a genius study break in the library that most certainly should be repeated.

From a girl quickly developing a new love for Scotland and wanting to know what men really do wear under their kilts.

A “thanks-for-your-lap” pat to the girl who let me sit on her while riding the crowded drunk bus Friday night.

From a grateful junior girl who is glad that you allowed me to invade your personal bubble to avoid getting puke on my clothes.

A “you-are-my-hero” pat to the guy who went up to two girls, asked one if she liked to dance, and when she said yes, replied, “Well, go dance over there while I talk to your friend.”

From an amazed bystander.

A “you’ve-got-an-A-in-my-heart” pat to all the kind students who hold the doors to my building for me.

From a grateful chemistry professor who doesn’t move as well as he used to.

A “thanks-for-sharing” dart to the girl who tripped behind me in a lecture hall, spilled her coffee on my head and decided to laugh instead of apologize.

From an annoyed classmate who was angry enough that I smelled like coffee, but was even more appalled at the lack of respect and dignity you have.

A “way-to-end-the-night-with-a-bang” pat to the guys launching water balloons in the freezing cold at 3 a.m.

From two juniors who couldn’t sleep that night because we were laughing so hard at how much fun it was to watch you act like juvenile delinquents.

OFF THE WIRE

Self-confidence — along with knowledge — tested during finals week

BY AMBERLA TEPE
THE DAILY O'COLLEGIAN

As we approach finals week, I think now is a good time to reflect on a very important concept called self-confidence.

Most of us are probably starting to lose bits of it as the clock ticks down, but I want you to stop right now and put everything in perspective.

We've all had our cynical moments. "When am I ever going to need this junk?" tends to be the mantra spoken by every student in every Gen-Ed class to anyone who's dumb enough to listen.

Guess what — you may not ever need what you're being tested on.

But you will learn from your ability (or lack thereof) to calmly and formulaically organize the materials, both physically and mentally. These skills are more important than you may ever be aware of.

Essentially, you are being tested on your authority of the material, and your confidence in your authority.

One thing I have learned is how to b.s. until it led to reality, to something meaningful and worthwhile. In a cuter phrase, I learned to "act as if" I was a scholar.

Here's a personal story of mine that taught me just how helpful acting as if could be.

About two years ago, I was dead set on becoming a filmmaker. (FYI, I've changed my mind since meeting my love and realizing that 16-hour days on a set wouldn't allow me to spend much time with him. But at the time, I was all about it). And because I'm an open book, I had to tell everybody.

For the first few weeks, every single response was a warning. "Oh, that's really hard to do," they'd say. As if they knew. And for the first few weeks, this really pissed me off. Didn't they

know that I knew that and was willing to try anyway? Didn't they see my ambition?

And then it hit me — they couldn't. It was my job to show them. You can't expect people to know, or even assume things about you — they won't do it.

They don't have the time (or rather, attention span) to figure you out. The whole notion of first impressions is true, they only last so long. And after that light-bulb moment of mine, I changed my tone when I told people my goal.

No longer did I merely "want" to go to film school, I was "going" to go to film school. No longer did I say it with a cute, girly shrug. I said it with womanly confidence. And no longer did people not believe me. Instead of "that's hard," I got "that's cool!" People believed me and believed in me. Why? Because essentially, I told them to.

Now that I'm checking out different career paths, every once in a while they'll still tell me

how hard everything is.

Again, as if they know. No matter how easy a job could be, someone will tell you otherwise.

I've determined that these people will always be around. They're in your classes now, griping. "When will we need this junk?" right along with you.

Do not listen to them.

Instead, know that the struggle is worth it. Know that you can handle anything. Because what if you tell yourself that you can't? You still have to take the test.

Know that half the battle, in both finals and in life, is assuming the right amount of confidence.

This confidence, whether shown to tests or employers, will carry you where you need to go. Act as if you are a good studier. Act as if you are a master of the material, and you will be.

Amberla Tepe is a columnist for Oklahoma State University's The Daily O'Collegian.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Smaller representation would still voice all opinions

I'm writing in response to the House Editorial "Smart voting on reconstruction bill," in the Dec. 1 issue, regarding the vote on the proposed amendment to the number of SGA senators. As an impartial observer of this debate, I was disappointed to see *The Breeze* staff align itself with such a poorly thought-out position. The idea that in order to represent the student body effectively the SGA must grow is simply bad logic. According to that logic, the United States Congress is in desperate need of a substantial increase in its membership. Currently 104 senators represent the 14,000-plus undergraduate students, in comparison with the 535 members of Congress who represent more than 250 million Americans. As it stands, there are numerous open seats in the SGA. This, combined with the lack of attendance of many current senators makes me question the wisdom of expanding the Senate when the current seats are not being effectively filled, if they're being filled at all.

The House Editorial points out that "an aspect of a growing campus is an increase in opinions," which is certainly true, but the idea that the only way for each opinion to be expressed is to expand the Senate is antithetical to the principle of representative government. The point of having representatives is that each representative offers the opinion of a large and varying group of constituents. Unchecked growth in the Senate will do nothing more than make it impossible for any single opinion to be heard over the dozens of others that are represented by far too many voices. I congratulate *The Breeze* for voicing an opinion on such an important issue, but I hope that in the future you will consider these issues more thoughtfully, rather than endorsing a position based on poor reasoning and even worse evidence.

Brian Coy, senior
political science major

Editorial policies

Responses to all articles and opinions published in *The Breeze* are welcome and encouraged. Letters should be no longer than 250 words, must include a phone number for verification and can be e-mailed to breezeopinion@hotmail.com or mailed to MSC 6805 G1, Anthony-Seeger Hall, Harrisonburg, VA 22807. *The Breeze* reserves the right to edit all submissions for length or grammatical style.

The house editorial reflects the opinion of the editorial board as a whole, and is not necessarily the opinion of any individual staff member of *The Breeze*.

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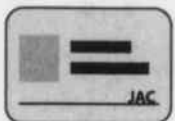
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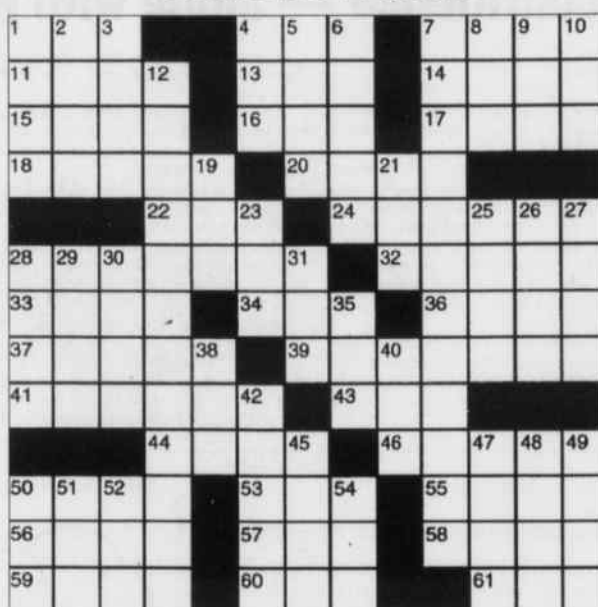
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Carr drives away to NCAAs

Men's track star first Duke to qualify since 2000

BY CAROLINE MORRIS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

JMU senior cross-country runner Allen Carr can finally rest. His hard work over the last four years culminated in a fifth-place finish at the NCAA Southeast Regional at East Carolina University Nov. 12 and a bid to the NCAA Championships at Indiana State University.

"I knew, going into the race, he had a good chance to make it [to the championships] as an individual," JMU cross-country coach Dave Rinker said. "My reaction was one of elation and excitement for Allen. A coach plans and plans, while an athlete works very hard for years to put themselves in the position to do something extraordinary, like going to nationals. It was gratifying to have Allen make the team for both of us."

For Carr, the road to success wasn't easy. His college career has been paved with injuries due to a late growth spurt and adjustments competing at the Division I level.

"It took a couple of years for him to understand what he could and could not do," recalls Rinker. "Now that his body is catching up to his desires, he is developing into an excellent runner."

Carr was able to showcase those desires and his ability when he ran the 10,000-kilometer race course at Indiana State in 30:01 minutes, coming in 107th out of a field of 253 runners. He is the first member of the men's cross-country team to run in a national race since 2000, when Mike Fox competed in the NCAA Championships.

"This was the first time where I could remember saying that without a doubt that something was the greatest accomplishment of my life," Carr said. "I was never disappointed after the race, which is extremely rare for me."

While Carr was happy with his time for the race, he was surprised that it landed him in the middle of the pack.

"The race was actually more competitive than I expected," Carr said. "I really expected that if I ran the time I did, I would have placed a lot higher."

Rinker knew of the competition at nationals and said Carr's only flaw in the race came at the very beginning.

"At the NCAA meet there is not a lot of movement in the top 75," Rinker said. "The start was so fast, he made the decision to back off, thinking it was too fast and they would come back. Some did, but not enough. However, that being said, if you had asked me going in what I thought would be a very good time for him, I would have said 31 minutes. So he did an extremely good job."

The faster pace of the race could partly be attributed to the weather in Terre Haute, Ind., which had been dry the previous week. The winner of the race finished an entire 45 seconds ahead of the previous year's fastest time.

Out of the 13 Division I schools in Virginia, only the University of Virginia, the College of William & Mary and JMU sent runners to the championships.

EVAN DYSON/
senior
photographer

JMU sophomore forward Tamera Young goes for a layup Sunday afternoon against VCU. Young finished with 22 points while going 9 of 21 from the floor.



JMU takes CAA opener

Dukes turn back Rams Sunday after eight-day break

BY JAMES IRWIN
SENIOR WRITER

It wasn't the cleanest game JMU has played all season, but for their conference opener, the Dukes will take it.

Playing for the first time in eight days, the JMU women's basketball team (4-1, 1-0 Colonial Athletic Association) overcame 18 turnovers, poor free throw shooting and slowly pulled away in the second half for a 69-54 win over Virginia Commonwealth University Sunday at the Convocation Center.

"That's pretty much what you expect when you play an early-season conference game," JMU coach Kenny

Brooks said. "But we played well enough to get a win."

JMU did so by attacking the boards. In what has become a staple for their success, the Dukes held a 47-30 rebounding advantage, including a 19-8 edge on the offensive glass. Junior center Meredith Alexis led JMU with 15.

"They killed us on the boards," VCU coach Beth Cunningham said. "We knew that was their strength. [Alexis] is a big inside presence. They had too many second-chance points."

But Alexis wasn't the only one giving VCU fits inside. Junior forward Shirley McCall recorded her first double-double of the season, scoring a season-high 17 points and adding 10 rebounds. She shot 50 per-

cent from the floor.

"We knew she'd crash the boards," Cunningham said. "She's become more of an offensive threat. She was relentless."

McCall and the Dukes were relentless, but they were also sloppy, especially in the first half, when they turned the ball over 11 times. 2:35 into the game, JMU and VCU had combined for zero points, three jump balls and an offensive foul.

"U-G-L-Y," Brooks said. "We were a bit out of sync. They came out with a lot of zone defense and we hadn't seen that a lot this season. It was tough from an execution standpoint."

Maybe so. But the Dukes didn't rattle easily. They took a 29-22 lead into halftime and made necessary adjustments. After a tentative approach in the first half, JMU came out of the locker room and went right after VCU's zone.

see WIN, page 10

Huskies edge Dukes

Barea scores 17 after half to beat Dukes

BY MATTHEW STOSS
SPORTS EDITOR

With 14 seconds left and his Dukes down by four to Northeastern University, JMU men's basketball coach Dean Keener implemented a unique — and possibly illegal — strategy in hopes of distracting Huskies' guard Adrian Martinez at the free-throw line who as fouled to stop the clock.

The play, dubbed after the game as "student body left," involved Keener orchestrating the mass-migration of the student section from the JMU basket to the barker Northeastern basket below the JMU Pep Band.

The result? Martinez shooting two free throws while the entirety of the Madison student section rushed down the left side of the court with a wayward few straying onto the floor.

"I could've sworn it was illegal," Northeastern coach Ron Everhart said. "The ruling is still pending. There were empty seats down there and I thought the students could fill in and distract the free-throw shooter," Keener said. "I guess you'd call it 'student body left.'"

"There weren't as many students, there weren't as many fans on the other end and I thought, 'let's cause some havoc.'"

It wasn't enough. The Huskies made 3 of 4 from the line after the seat-changing and went on to drop the Dukes 86-83 in front of 4,454 Saturday night at the Convocation Center.

"You get into any situation and you have to make the shot," Martinez said.

He even felt the breeze. "I felt it, but I didn't think about it."

The game was the first for Northeastern (5-1, 1-0 Colonial Athletic Association) as a member of the CAA after joining the conference this year.

see HOOPS, page 12



PHOTOS BY AMY PATERSON/photo editor

LEFT: JMU freshman forward Juvann James puts the ball up while Northeastern's Janon Cole contests the shot. TOP: JMU coach Dean Keener directs student traffic as they move from one side of the court to the other in the final 14 seconds.

Madison employs sixth man in completely new fashion

BY JOHN GALLE
SENIOR WRITER

With just seconds remaining, JMU was down by just three points (83-80) and was looking to foul Northeastern University to possibly force overtime Saturday night at the Convocation Center. In anticipation, JMU men's basketball coach Dean Keener left his bench, walked up into the stands of the packed student section and urged them to run to the other side where Northeastern would be shooting the four most important free throws of the game.

"I asked the ref and he said there's no rule against people changing seats," Northeastern coach Ron Everhart said.

Witnessing the flow of students along the perimeter of the floor was as exciting as the traditional storming of the field — and JMU didn't even win.

The gust of wind created by the rush was so strong that it blew away papers on press row. The Electric Zoo was alive and well, ignited by Keener and a JMU basketball team that is beginning to emerge

from the ashes of last year's awful season.

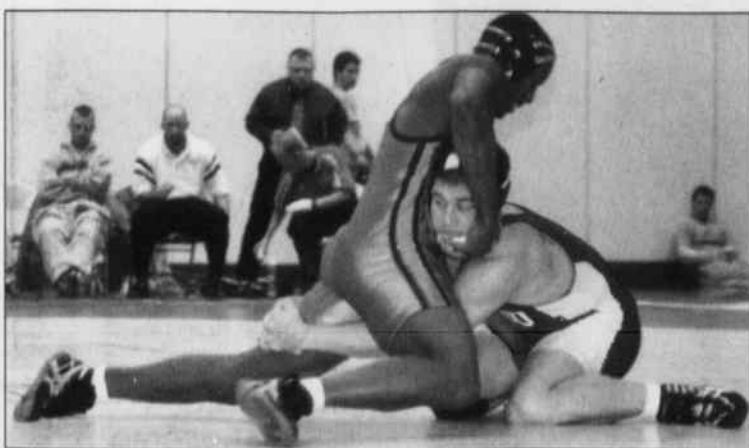
"It's an unbelievable environment," Everhart said. "It's as hostile as we've seen. We just played out of [the University of California] and JMU's crowd and their fans and their whole basketball environment here is much better than Cal's — much louder, much more intimidating."

Northeastern guard Adrian Martinez was the first to step up to the foul line while the students were sprinting across the floor. The rest of the Northeastern squad was caught up in confusion. They weren't even lining up right. Martinez missed his first shot.

"I felt [the pressure]," Martinez said. "It's tough when you miss the first one, [and] I knew I had to make the second one."

When the second shot went down, the Dukes drove down court and gave the ball to junior guard Ray Barbosa. He drained a 3-pointer with three seconds remaining to make it 83-84 Northeastern. The crowd went nuts.

see GAME, page 12



JMU 184-pounder Brian Lambert grapples with G-WU's Brandon Beach. Lambert won 11-9.

RAISA ISON/contributing photographer

Madison not Sweet enough

Dukes can't come up with needed pin in final bout

BY MATTHEW STOSS
SPORTS EDITOR

Down 18-13 going into the final bout against Gardner-Webb University, the JMU wrestling team looked to sophomore 125-pounder Louis Sweet for the win.

The Dukes needed a pin and the six points that came with it — or at least a tech fall for five points and the tie.

Twenty seconds in, Sweet nailed a fireman's carry that re-

sulted in a near fall on Gardner-Webb's Cortney Roberts, but that was as close as JMU got. Sweet won a major victory

14-4, but fell a point shy of the tie and two of the win as the Dukes lost 18-17 to the Bulldogs Thursday night at Sinclair Gymnasium in Godwin Hall.

"[I just wanted] to go nuts and go off on him," Sweet said. "That's the only thing you can do. You've got nothing to lose."

After the loss, the Dukes fall to 1-3 — their only win coming Nov. 13 in the JMU Quad against Binghamton University. It was the Bulldogs' first win, as they improved

to 1-5, despite Sweet's effort.

"He basically did what we asked him to," Madison coach Josh Hutchens said of Sweet's performance. "We asked him to go out there and be aggressive and bang the head and hit the fireman carry. But it's a hard position to have to look for a pin, but he had him on his back a couple of times. It was a great effort. You can't put in more effort than that — he just came up short."

For Sweet, wrestling the last match is something new. Usually, it's the heavyweights that go last, but Thursday, the Dukes and Bulldogs opted to start with the 133-pounders, setting up the lowest-weight class as the deciding bout.

see WRESTLING, page 10

Wrestling
Thursday
G-WU 18
JMU 17

WRESTLING: Dukes lose tight match to Bulldogs Thursday at home

WRESTLING, from page 9

"It's the first time I've ever gone last," Sweet said.

Sweet's match was set up by JMU senior heavyweight Chris Cvitan, who in his bout prior scored three points, defeating Brandon Schweitzer to bring Madison within a pin of the victory.

"[Sweet] was great," Cvitan said. "He had the guy on his back early and almost won it for us. He did a great job and had a great match."

Also picking up wins for the Dukes was senior 141-pounder Brian Kibler, who took the second bout of the night with 9-4 decision and two bouts later, 165-pounder Mike Meagher scored a major decision, winning 11-2.

"All of the matches started the same way — with [Gardner-Webb] getting the take down," Hutchens said. "At the end, [our guys] realized they should be

killing this kid. It's good though that the last match was the last match, or we wouldn't have much to say. Mentally, we need to be in it for the whole match."

Senior 184-pounder Brian Lambert picked up the Dukes' final win of the night, winning 11-9 over Brandon Beach to bring JMU within four, 14-10, setting up Cvitan and Sweet to win it.

"Personally, I thought I should've done better," Lambert said. "I had the guy on his back. If we could've had my six, we could've won the match."

"It was my first three-minute first period in a while and the extra minute really paid a toll on me. I'm a veteran and feel like I need to do what I need to do to get the 'W.'"

The Dukes will look for another "W" Saturday when they travel to Fairfax to take on the University of Delaware and

George Mason University.

G-WU — 18
JMU — 17

125 — Louis Sweet (J) m.d. Cortney Roberts, 14-4

*133 — Josh Pniwski (G) d. Rich Gebaur, 12-6

141 — Brian Kibler (J) d. A.J. Renteria, 9-4

149 — Daniel Elliott (G) d. Jon DiVello, 6-2

165 — Mike Meagher (J) m.d. Paul Florio, 11-2

174 — Chad Davis (G) d. Bucky Anderson, 5-1

184 — Brian Lambert (J) d. Brandon Beach, 11-9

197 — Brent Blackwell (G) m.d. John Bauman, 12-4

HWT — Chris Cvitan (J) d. Brandon Schweitzer, 6-5

Records: Gardner-Webb (1-5), JMU (1-3).

WIN: JMU defeats VCU Sunday at the Convo Center

WIN, from page 9

"Coach told us we needed to attack the zone more," sophomore forward Tamera Young said. "We were more aggressive in the second half."

Young was a primary contributor to that aggressive-

We were more aggressive in the second half.

— Tamera Young
JMU basketball

ness. She cut and drove to the basket all half and finished with a game-high 22 points.

"We were smarter with the way we attacked the zone

in the second half," McCall said. "We got into a rhythm."

The Dukes never looked back. Despite shooting better from the floor than from the free-throw line, JMU built a double-digit lead on the strength of its rebounding and cruised from there.

"[The rebounding advantage] isn't something that's done by accident," Brooks said. "We talk about it all the time."

VCU guard Michele Cosel led the Rams with a career-high 20 points including 3 of 6 shooting from beyond the arc.

VCU 22 32 — 54
JMU 29 40 — 69

VCU — Krystal Vaughn 4-8 3-4 11, Quanitra Holling-

sworth 6-13 2-7 14, Michele Cosel 8-12 1-5 20, Vera Christova 0-4 0-0 0, LaKea Jones 2-9 0-0 4, Shanea Williams 1-1 0-0 2, Stephanie Merlo 1-4 0-0 3, Brittany Pinkey 0-3 0-0 0. Totals 22-54 6-16 54. 3-point goals 4-10: Cosel 3-6, Christova 0-1, Jones 0-2, Merlo 1-3.

JMU — Shirley McCall 8-16 1-5 17, Meredith Alexis 3-9 0-3 6, Andrea Benvenuto 3-7 0-1 8, Tamera Young 9-21 1-4 22, Lesley Dickinson 2-4 4-6 8, Kisha Stokes 2-3 2-3 6, Shameena Felix 0-0 0-0 0, Jasmin Lawrence 0-1 2-2 2. Totals 27-61 10-24 69. 3-point goals 5-12: Benvenuto 2-3, Young 3-8, Lawrence 0-1.

Records: VCU (4-1, 0-1 CAA), JMU (4-1, 1-0 CAA).

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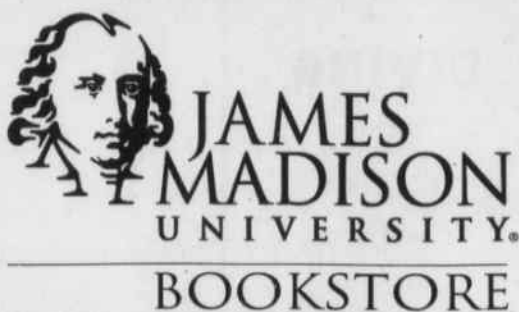
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HOOPS: Dukes drop game to Northeastern

HOOPS, from page 9

"This guy is a hell of a coach and he's got this program going much sooner than anyone expected," Everhart said of Keener and JMU. "With this team, where it was last year compared to this year, Dean has done a phenomenal job."

The Dukes (2-2, 0-1 CAA) led to start the second half, but relinquished the lead four minutes in much in part to the play of NBA prospect and Northeastern point guard Jose Juan Barea, who came into Saturday's contest averaging 23.6 points and 9.3 assists a game. In the first half, Barea shot 2 of 14. After the intermission, the senior went 7 of 13 and scored 17 points. He finished with a team-high 22.

"He's a good player," said JMU senior point guard Jomo Belfor, who guarded Barea most of the night. "I tried to slow him down, but good players find their groove and he found his groove. Credit him; he played a lot better in the second half."

With 2:54 to play, JMU fell to 10 behind — it was the largest deficit of the evening, but battled back to get it within one with four seconds to go after Madison junior guard Ray Barbosa hit a 3-pointer.

"Depth; it's one of the biggest things. It's the depth of our bench," JMU junior forward Cavell Johnson said. "Last year, we'd lose this game by 12, and this year, we have the ammo to keep going."

Some of that ammo is named Juwann James. For the second-straight game, the freshman forward posted a double-double, scoring a game-high 23 points and grabbing 15 rebounds.

"It always starts on the practice court," James said. "You just have to give it your all and bring your lunch box to work and with all those guys behind you, it brings it out of me."

Madison had four players with double-digit points. Johnson and Barbosa both scored 17, while Belfor added 13.

"Good teams bounce back from losses," Belfor said. "And that's what we're going to do."

"It's behind us, but it burns inside you and you got to take it out on the court the next day."

Northeastern 38 48 - 86
JMU 41 42 - 83

Northeastern — Bennet Davis 1-2 1-2 3, Shawn James 3-6 7-8 13, Jose Juan Barea 9-27 1-2 22, Aaron Davis 5-10 2-4 14, Bobby Kelly 2-4 4-4 8, Chris Cyprian 0-0 0-0 0, Adrian Martinez 3-5 1-2 8, Jeff Farmer 0-1 0-0 0, Janon Cole 7-10 3-6 17, Mark Washington 0-0 1-2 1. Totals 30-65 20-30 86. 3-point goals 6-22: Davis 0-1, Barea 3-10, Davis 2-6, Kelly 0-2, Martinez 1-2, Farmer 0-1.

JMU — Juwann James 9-15 5-7 23, Cavell Johnson 7-13 3-5 17, Jomo Belfor 3-8 6-9 13, Colbey Santos 1-1 0-0 3, Ray Barbosa 7-18 0-2 17, Kyle Swanston 0-1 0-0 0, Joe Posey 0-0 0-1 0, Lewis Lampley 1-1 0-0 2, Gabriel Chami 0-5 0-0 0, Daniel Freeman 1-6 1-2 4, Chris Cathlin 1-1 2-3 4. Totals 30-69 17-29 83. 3-point goals 6-18: Johnson 0-1, Belfor 1-3, Santos 1-1, Barbosa 3-8, Swanston 0-1, Freeman 1-4.

Records: Northeastern (5-1, 1-0 CAA), JMU (2-2, 0-1 CAA).



AMY PATERSON/photo editor

Junior guard Ray Barbosa challenges Northeastern's Jose Juan Barea. Barbosa finished the night with 17 points, Barea led the Huskies with 22 points. Despite falling to Northeastern, the Dukes came within a point with four seconds left when Barbosa hit a 3-pointer from downtown.

GAME: JMU fans help out men's team

GAME, from page 9

After a quick foul, JMU sent junior guard Bobby Kelly to the foul line with two seconds left, facing a wall of screaming purple and gold. Unfortunately, Kelly sunk both of his shots and maintained a perfect free throw percentage on the night (4-4). As time expired, the Dukes lobbed up a prayer to force overtime that just wasn't answered.

After an attendance of 5,566 in the home opener against Georgetown, e-mails of thanks from Keener following the game and a home victory over Appalachian State University in double overtime — fans start to take note. With stories floating around all week about JMU basketball, fans responded by nearly packing the Convocation Center last Saturday night. They were rewarded with a thrilling grudge match that featured seven lead changes.

When the starting lineup for Northeastern was introduced, about half of the student section turned their backs to the court and started reading newspapers. On the other side of the court, a sign read "Beat Worst eastern" in purple lettering. On top of that, the fans made their presence heard shouting "de-fense" chants on nearly every Northeastern possession, along with "o-ver-rated," "high school ref" and "let us play" — among other things — throughout the game. They even booed the visiting team into the locker room with the Dukes up 41-38 at halftime.

"This year, we have the luxury of that," JMU senior point guard Jomo Belfor said. "We have the student section come out and support us."

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REVIEW



'Magical' book dark, comical

Burroughs compiles eccentric memories from childhood

BY SHALINI DUA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

"Magical Thinking" is a collection of humorous, satirical essays based on the author's fascinating yet somewhat twisted life. Augusten Burroughs paints a vivid picture of his experiences, which are at times sad, at times funny and always scarily realistic through pulling interesting anecdotes out of the everyday aspects of life.

The book is dark and at times incredibly depressing, but Burroughs manages to throw in an ironic twist or humorous observation to lighten the mood. His stories will shock readers and, yet, at the same time, readers find themselves strangely sympathizing with him — even relating to his thought process.

Burroughs has a knack for putting to words the thoughts people would never admit. His comical observations will actually cause you to laugh out loud. The book is brutally honest and the author is open about the experiences that have shaped his life. He somehow manages to put a comical spin on dealing with a troubled relationship with his parents, dropping out of school at a young age and even alcoholism. There are, of course, less serious issues dealt with in the book, including dating and even rats.

This is the third memoir written by Burroughs and fourth book to be published. Born in Pittsburgh and raised in Massachusetts, he had an unconventional upbringing that shaped him as a person and gave him most of his material as a writer. The author gives gradual insights into his childhood, giving the reader a deep understanding of the person he has become.

The book is an open examination of his life and attempts to explain him as an adult. Based on his memoirs, it is surprising that Burroughs managed to grow up to be as normal as he is. Burroughs is a talented writer and readers find themselves rooting for him more and more as the book goes on. From the time he was chosen to be in a TV commercial as a young child, to when he refuses to speak to his parents because he is convinced that he is a Vanderbilt and was kidnapped as a baby, to the bad dates of his adult life and the revenge he managed to impart upon an unsuspecting telemarketer — this book will keep you intrigued.

"Magical Thinking" is basically what someone would expect from a collection of memoirs by a sarcastic author. The book is best described as a typical book of memoirs written today in chick-lit form but from the perspective of a man. I would recommend this book as an easy and enjoyable read if you have some time to kill. There are some disturbing and graphic passages but these passages are dealt with in a light manner and should be tolerable even to the weak of heart, but despite its dark parts, the book is basically funny, sarcastic and gets more enjoyable as the story proceeds.

PREVIEW

Theater class to test directing skills in Fest

Students' production open to the public, promises to be comical

BY ORLIN KONHEIM
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The result of one of the most unconventional courses offered at James Madison University will be on display this week at the Director's Festival.

Taking place from Dec. 6 to 9, the 11 students of the THEA355, or "Directing for Theater," course will be showcasing what they've learned this semester in half-hour one-act plays they have directed.

"Director's Fest is a culmination of the things we have learned throughout the semester," said senior Kristine Cobb.

The class's professor, Dennis Beck, gave the students free reign to choose any play they wanted for

their project with just three parameters: the play's cast is to be between three and six people, it must run between 15 and 35 minutes and they must be able to secure the rights for its reproduction.

The students selected their plays at the beginning of the semester and some even started looking for ideas over the summer. They oversaw everything from casting to production.

The plays, however, were completed in conjunction with a classroom component to the course. There, they studied techniques for directing and read more than a dozen plays in order to get the feel of the content.

"The classroom part helped me and taught me just how to interpret

breaking up the beats, the actions, the subtexts and the objectives for the actors," said junior Nick Lazo.

Of the 11 students, all are theater majors or minors except Lazo, who is a cinematic studies major and film minor with aspirations of being a film director.

"What's the same is the actors and the ways you analyze the script," said Lazo. "[I learned about] how to work with actors — various techniques, different rehearsal techniques that you could employ."

The plays are probably not going to be ones that the audience has heard of, mostly because one-act plays aren't as famous as full-length plays. However, Cobb ensures she can vouch for their quality.

"There are some more well-known plays such as 'Pitching the Star' and 'For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls,' but I think, for the most part, a great deal of us have chosen plays that really have something to say to the audience in terms of how to view the world in some way, be it in a comedic way or a dramatic way," she said.

The other students whose plays will be performed are seniors Alice Shen, Erin Rafferty, Michelle Crouse, Jimmy Lawlor, Cassie Sauer, Colleen Pettie and Maya Cantu, and juniors Kourtney Merricks and Katie Culligan. Tickets go on sale in Theatre II for \$3 today from 4 to 7 p.m. and performances run from the Dec. 6 to 9 in Theatre II.

Five Guys burger joint opens in Harrisonburg

BY MOLLY LITTLE
SENIOR WRITER

Harrisonburg can now add another restaurant to its repertoire — Five Guys has moved in on Burgess Road. Accurately boasting "Famous Burgers and Fries," this East-Coast favorite has customers driving for miles in search of a Five Guys burger.

The menu offers double-pattied hamburgers, cheeseburgers and bacon burgers for anyone with a big appetite. And for those who aren't quite as hungry, Five Guys offers single-pattied "Little" hamburgers, cheeseburgers and bacon burgers.

Burgers can be topped with a wide variety of free toppings that goes way beyond the classic lettuce, tomato, onion, mustard, ketchup and pickle. At Five Guys, customers also can add fried onions, sautéed mushrooms, jalapeño peppers, A1 steak sauce, barbecue sauce and more. To accompany your meal, you can order fries Cajun or Five Guys-style, but be warned — a regular sized order of fries is more than enough for three or four people. In true relaxed Five Guys style, the fries are served in a brown lunch bag about three-quarters of the way full. And that's a regular ... I wasn't brave enough (or hungry enough) to try the large.

Five Guys also provides hot dogs, topped with your choice of cheese or bacon for those who prefer it to a burger. And for the vegetarian in the group, they offer a grilled cheese or grilled vegetable sandwich.

Five Guys also can boast another unique and appealing feature — free all-you-can-eat-shelled peanuts are in boxes around the restaurant. Consider them your appetizer or dessert — or both.

Menu prices vary from location to location, but in Harrisonburg, you can get a burger, fries and a drink for about \$8, making Five Guys a perfect restaurant for a college student with a college budget.

The relaxed family friendly atmosphere is perfect for grabbing a bite to eat with friends, and the restaurant's open design is excellent for a large group. Meals are ordered at the counter, and when it's ready, your number is called — making the hassle of splitting checks with friends and frazzling the waitress a thing of the past.

Five Guys is open seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and is well worth the trip. So grab a friend and enjoy your meal — I know I really did.

doesn't this look yummy?



CASEY TEMPLETON/senior photographer



TOP: Five Guys — which just opened in Harrisonburg on Burgess Road near O'Charleys and Panera — offers toppings that differ from the normal mustard, pickle, onion combo. Diners can enjoy other toppings like sautéed mushrooms, jalapeño peppers and A1 steak sauce on their burger. For a burger, fries and a drink, the bill is about \$8 (although the price varies at each location).

LEFT: Elvin Ortiz fills bags with fries. If this common side dish doesn't interest you, the restaurant — which is open seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. — also serves free shelled peanuts — all you can eat.

NBC anchor skeptical of new advances in technology, weary of TV viewership

Williams says, however, after tragedy, viewers turn to big media networks for information

BY MATEA GOLD
LOS ANGELES TIMES

NBC anchor Brian Williams was leaving his third-floor studio at Rockefeller Center after a recent broadcast when he was confronted with yet another reminder of his industry's precarious footing.

This time, it came in the form of a dozen Bard College undergraduates touring the NBC newsroom for a journalism class.

"Anyone grow up in a household where people actually watched the news at 6:30?" asked the anchor, stopping to chat with them. The students shuffled their feet. One young woman tentatively raised her hand.

"One?" asked Williams, smiling wryly. "Well, without sounding like a commercial announcement, the broadcast you just saw is the single largest source of news in the United States."

"A lot of people are out there writing early obituaries and saying it's all going to Google," he added. "I don't believe that. I think we have a power that they don't."

You can't blame Williams for sounding a little defensive. Friday marks his first anniversary in the anchor chair since inheriting the job from Tom Brokaw, and while the new NBC anchor has earned plaudits and healthy ratings, he's also had to contend with a growing uncertainty about the future of the evening newscast.

As overall viewership continues to ebb, the industry has been awash in predictions about the demise of the traditional 6:30 p.m. broadcast. The rapid-fire departure of Brokaw, Dan Rather, Peter Jennings and Ted Koppel only heightened a general sense of unease about the future, especially as ABC and CBS are still in limbo about who will take over their flagship broadcasts.

Still a relative newcomer, the 46-year-old Williams is now

the dean of network news and the only permanent anchor of an evening newscast. Despite the upheaval, he remains bullish about the genre.

"This is the closest thing you can really come to really hitting a swath of the American viewing audience," he said. "And when a Katrina happens or God forbid a 9/11, people come back to the so-called Big Three over-the-air networks in droves."

But that doesn't mean that he's counting on the stature of the network news to prevail against the tide of new technology. In his new role, Williams has worked to straddle the worlds of Old Media and New Media.

Since May, he's posted daily entries on his MSNBC.com blog, "The Daily Nightly," about the makings of the newscast — some

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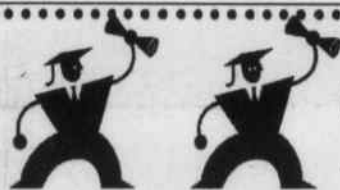
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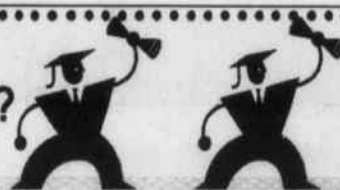
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