

POLICE LOG

BY SHELLEY NEEL/copy editor

Vandalism

A JMU officer discovered graffiti on the outside of the Music Building at an unknown time between Nov. 17 and 18.

A JMU officer discovered graffiti on a railroad trestle in C5-Lot at an unknown time on an unknown date.

A JMU employee reported graffiti on a parking sign on Lakeside Service Drive at an unknown time on an unknown date.

Larceny

A JMU employee reported the theft of a parking permit from a vehicle in W-Lot between 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on Nov. 29.

A JMU employee reported the theft of two pictures worth \$129.98 from a hallway in Godwin Hall at an unknown time on an unknown date.

A JMU student reported the theft of a 2007-08 composite valued at \$2600 from the first floor foyer of the Zeta Tau Alpha House at an unknown time between Nov. 30 and Dec. 1.

A JMU student reported the theft of a red Schwinn Varsity Bicycle worth \$100 at the Hillside Hall bike rack on Nov. 27 between 6:30 p.m. and 7:15 p.m.

A JMU student reported the theft of the front license plate from a vehicle at an unknown time on Nov. 18.

A JMU student reported the theft of money and an iPod nano from a dorm room in Dingleline Hall at an unknown time on Nov. 18.

A JMU officer reported the theft of a Centennial flag worth \$500 from Wilson Hall at an unknown time on Nov. 20.

A JMU student reported the theft of a commuter parking decal from a vehicle between noon and 2 p.m. on Nov. 26.

Possession of marijuana

A JMU student was charged with possession of marijuana in Frederickson Hall on Nov. 30 at 8:57 p.m.

A JMU student was charged with possession of marijuana in Eagle Hall on Nov. 15 at 11:45 p.m.

A JMU student was charged with possession of marijuana in Spruce House on Nov. 15 at 11:53 p.m.

A JMU student was charged with possession of marijuana in Wayland Hall on Nov. 19 at 8:33 p.m.

A JMU student was charged with possession of marijuana and a drug violation in Frederickson on Nov. 25 at 10 p.m.

A JMU student was charged with possession of marijuana and a drug violation in W-Lot on Nov. 26 at 11:52 p.m.

Property Damage

A JMU student reported \$30 in fire damage to a trashcan in a third floor bathroom of Chesapeake Hall at an unknown time on an unknown date.

A JMU student reports \$25 in damage to a dorm room door in Dingleline Hall at an unknown time on an unknown date.

A JMU employee reported \$100 in damage to the drive side mirror of a vehicle in P-Lot at an unknown time on Dec. 1.

Number of drunk in public since Aug. 27: **53**
Number of drunk in public at this time last year: **47**

Number of parking tickets since Aug. 27: **9600**
Number of parking tickets at this time last year: **8693**

the Breeze

James Madison University's Student Newspaper

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Shelly Neel
Aaron Stewart
Lauren Pack
Adrienne Hayden
Mike Grundmann
Roger Soenksen

Main Telephone:
(540) 568-6127
Fax: (540) 568-6736

Editor:
Mary Frances Czarsty
(540) 568-6749
editor@thebreeze.org
czarstmf@jmu.edu

Advertising Department:
(540) 568-6127

News Desk:
(540) 568-8041
news@thebreeze.org

Arts and Entertainment Desk:
ae@thebreeze.org

Sports Desk:
(540) 568-6709
sports@thebreeze.org

Opinion Desk:
(540) 568-3846
opinion@thebreeze.org

Photo/Graphics:
photo@thebreeze.org
graphics@thebreeze.org

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 Mary Frances Czarsty, editor.

MISSION

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.

How to place a classified:

- Go to www.thebreeze.org and click on the classified link or come into the office weekdays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- Cost:** \$5.00 for the first 10 words, \$3 for each additional 10 words; boxed classified, \$10 per column inch.
- Deadlines:** noon Friday for Monday issue, noon Tuesday for Thursday issue.
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A nontraditional holiday season

BY CAITLIN HARDGROVE
contributing writer

With the holidays quickly approaching, campus is slowly transforming into a Winter Wonderland. From the huge illuminated tree on the quad, to the blaring holiday music playing in the dining facilities, it's almost impossible not to be reminded that Christmas is on its way. Students at JMU are also spreading the holiday cheer, although some celebrations have nothing to do with Santa and Christmas carols.

Sophomore Sarah Kavianpour is one of the many non-Christian students at JMU. Being Muslim and following the religious traditions that go along with it, she does not celebrate Christmas.

"I usually go to my aunt's house around Christmas because her husband is Christian," Kavianpour said. "But we don't have a tree or anything in my house."

Muslims do not have a traditional holiday that consistently falls around the same time, like other winter holidays. However, Ramadan, the Islamic month of fasting, is some-

times celebrated close to the other holidays. It isn't at the same day every year because it changes based on the lunar calendar.

"It was around Christmas, Hannukkah and Kwanzaa a couple of years ago, which was cool because everyone was celebrating at the same time," Kavianpour said.

Kavianpour said she doesn't mind the Christmas decorations scattered throughout campus.

"I don't celebrate Christmas at home, but I don't mind the decorations around campus," she said. "They're making people happy and the tree looks festive, so it's fine. I realize that most people are Christian. They can't accommodate for everyone. There are a lot of religions out there."

JMU Hillel has its own traditions for the season.

"December 4th at sundown is the first night of Hanukkah," said sophomore Lindsay Eisberg, Hillel's religious event planner. "We're going to light the first candle on the Menorah and just hang out."

Hillel also celebrates Shabbat, or the Jewish day of rest, every Friday. Eisberg said members try to get together for

Shabbat once or twice a month by having a big dinner together.

"We are going to have dreidels and more Hanukkah related stuff at the one this Friday," she said.

Campus wide events are making efforts to be more all inclusive this year. The junior class hosted the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on the Quad Sunday evening.

"We're trying to be more inclusive of other religions," said junior class president Chiquita King, adding that JMU is trying to steer away from specific religions altogether.

King felt that the tree-lighting was an appropriate holiday celebration because the tree isn't a Christian symbol, even though it's only associated with Christmas.

"One of the main goals of this event is to unify the Harrisonburg and JMU community," King said.

Whether it is with a religious group, with family and friends, or just with the rest of the student body and staff, it's hard not to get into a holiday mood in one way or another at JMU.

As Kavianpour put it, "That stuff is contagious."



Hanukkah

Dec. 5-12



Christmas Eve

Dec. 24



Christmas

Dec. 25



Kwanzaa

Dec. 26 - Jan. 1



New Year's Eve

Dec. 31



New Year's

Jan. 1

JMU alum builds local green house to promote energy sustainability

BY KATIE THISELL
staff writer

Zach Fettig wants to change the environment, one green house at a time.

Fettig graduated from CISAT in Dec. 2006 with concentrations in biotechnology and environmental science. By May he began his business, Shenandoah Sustainable Technologies.

He is currently in the process of building a sustainable house. Located north of Harrisonburg, it will be completed in March, and four students will move in for the fall semester.

"This is unique because it will show you that you can have a self-sustaining house, that may eventually be off-grid," Fettig said.

The house will be tied to the ISAT department for student research. Fettig has been working with the department to have faculty involvement in order to give JMU a bigger role in the project.

"Zach has a great business model," department head Ronald Kander said. "He's being philanthropic to help ISAT but also has a smart business model on his part. This is a typical ISAT solution because he's thinking outside of the box."

The house is being built with a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design platinum certification, which requires minimal energy usage.

Fettig incorporated many green materials and designs into the house in order for it to be sustainable. These include bamboo flooring, local quarry tiles and low-flow showerheads and toilets. There will also be south-facing windows for heat, fans to circulate air, and Energy Star appliances. The house will also have its own water treatment facility, as well as wind turbines and solar panels for energy production.

"You can't pick up a paper today and not see something about technology," Fettig said. "There are only a few unique markets out there, and green housing is one of those. I think this is an important concept because it's been a long time coming. It's important that businesses and industries take the lead in making it mainstream."

To build his first house, Fettig's company obtained a loan from Summit Community Bank.

Fettig hopes to eventually make his product commercially available worldwide, and make

it affordable on the basis of economies of scale. Kander thinks that this is highly feasible due to his successes so far.

"He's ahead of the curve because people have marketed green houses with one or two elements, but he's combining them all," Kander said. "It's that integration factor that makes it more unique. No one has taken that on as a goal."

The first committed occupant of the house, Briana Carper, said she thinks that the house could lead to impressive results.

"I think it's definitely a start towards the future with new environmental standards," she said.

Carper has been an intern with Fettig and plans to do her senior thesis with the house next year.

"When I first heard about it, I thought that it was a great chance that not a lot of people have," Carper said. "I'll get to experience this first hand rather than just talk about it in class."

Kander agreed that this will be a valuable tool for the student occupants.

"By living in the house day-to-day, they'll see how small changes in their behavior causes big energy changes," Kander said. "Eventually they'll have a smaller carbon footprint, and it'll be a win-win situation because they'll leave living more sustainability."

Kander said that this idea has been developing for several years. Because ISAT students are required to take courses out of several different fields they receive a wide breadth of understanding of concepts.

"They can have an ownership of their curriculum path," Kander said. "I think that Zach has had this idea growing in his mind for awhile, maybe even since his sophomore year."

Fettig and Carper are interviewing prospective students who want to live in the house and participate in the research.

"They will be involved in something that can be pretty big," Fettig said.

Kander said that the house has the potential to tie into most departments at JMU, from the College of Business to Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies.

"There's all kinds of directions this could go," Kander said. "It's an organic, evolving project."

“When I first heard about it, I thought that it was a great chance that not a lot of people have.”

— BRIANA CARPER
Future occupant of sustainable house

Timber! Tree falls down on campus

A tree fell outside of Johnson Hall Monday around 4:00 p.m. The reason for the fall is currently under investigation, but strong winds could have been a factor.



ARION STEWART/Photo editor

JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

Commuter students lose level in Parking Deck

WHEN: Dec. 17 - Spring '08 semester
WHERE: Warsaw Avenue Parking Deck
WHAT: Level 2 of the Parking Deck will be reallocated as faculty parking to compensate for the 1 South Lot being permanently closed as construction of the Performing Arts Center begins. Levels 3 through 5 will remain commuter student parking. An overhead sign reading, "Commuter Parking Begins Here," will be displayed on the third level.

Hot Chocolate served on Commons today

WHEN: Today from 9 - 11 a.m.
WHERE: The Commons
WHAT: There will be free hot chocolate as part of the Senior Week Events to celebrate December Graduates. The event is being held courtesy of SGA.
Contact the Senior Class Officers at CentennialDukes@gmail.com with any questions.

JMU student faces charges for Nerf prank

A JMU student is currently facing charges after entering a campus building and shooting another student with a toy Nerf gun, according to Don Egle, university spokesperson.
Police have since labeled the incident a prank and have said that student's are not at risk. People with any questions are urged to speak with Egle.

VIRGINIA TECH

New tree species named for VT professor

A new species of yew tree, *Taxus Kingstonii*, was named in honor of Virginia Tech chemistry professor David Kingston. The tree was discovered in Taiwan, India and China by botanist Richard Spjut who named it after his former partner and friend, Kingston.
The *Collegiate Times* reports that Kingston believes Spjut named the species after him because of his extensive research into the cancer-fighting properties in the compounds of the yew tree.

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

Minority group tries to change cheer

Students at the university have been modifying the lyrics to the "Good Old Song," chanted by fans during football games. The lyrics are written as, "We come from old Virginia, where all is bright and gay," but some students and fans have taken to singing "where all is bright and not gay." Student groups, such as the Queer and Allied Activism group at UVa, are urging others to consider the seriousness of the lyrics.

MARY WASHINGTON

Philanthropy class grant big bucks to community

Students in a UWV awarded \$10,000 in grant money to the National Housing Trust/Enterprise Preservation Corporation and the Fredericksburg Counseling Services, Inc. The grants were funded by Doris Buffett's Sunshine Lady Foundation and the students received 26 applications for the funds. This is the third year the class has been offered.

Scores show American teenagers are behind in science and math

BY MARIA GLOD
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — American teenagers have less mastery of science and mathematics than peers in many industrialized nations, according to scores on a major international exam released Tuesday.

Education experts say results of the 2006 Program for International Student Assessment highlight the need for changes in classrooms and in the federal No Child Left Behind law. The average science score of U.S. 15-year-olds lagged that of students in 16 of 30 countries in the Organization for

Economic Cooperation and Development, a Paris-based group that represents the world's richest countries. U.S. students were further behind in math, trailing counterparts in 23 countries.

"How are our children going to be able to compete with the children of the world? The answer is not well," said former Colorado governor Roy Romer, who is chairman of Strong American Schools, a nonpartisan group seeking to make education prominent in the 2008 presidential election.

The PISA test, given every three years, measures the ability of 15-year-olds to

answer math and science problems. About 400,000 students, including 5,600 in the United States, took the 2006 exam. There is also a reading portion, but the results for U.S. students were thrown out because the tests were printed incorrectly.

The PISA results underscore concern in some quarters that too few U.S. students are prepared to become engineers, scientists and physicians and that the nation may lose ground to economic competitors. An expert panel appointed last year by President Bush is preparing to recommend ways to improve public school math instruction, with a focus on algebra.

PISA, first administered in 2000, covers reading, math and science, but each time the test is given it focuses in depth on one subject. Last year's exam spotlighted science, covering concepts in physics, chemistry, biology, and earth and space science.

On the science portion, U.S. students, most of them 10th-graders, earned an average score of 489 on a 1,000-point scale, 11 points below the average of the 30 countries. Canada, Japan and Korea were among the countries in which students outperformed American counterparts. U.S. students were on par with eight coun-

tries and outperformed five.

In math, only four countries had average scores lower than the United States.

Education Secretary Margaret Spellings called the results disappointing but noted that the National Math Panel and other initiatives are in motion to improve math and science education. The ranking "speaks to what President Bush has long been advocating for: more rigor in our nation's high schools; additional resources for advanced courses to prepare students for college-level studies; and stronger math and science education," she said in a statement.

New Years Resolution: Read *The Breeze* every Monday and Thursday.
The Breeze will be back in 2008

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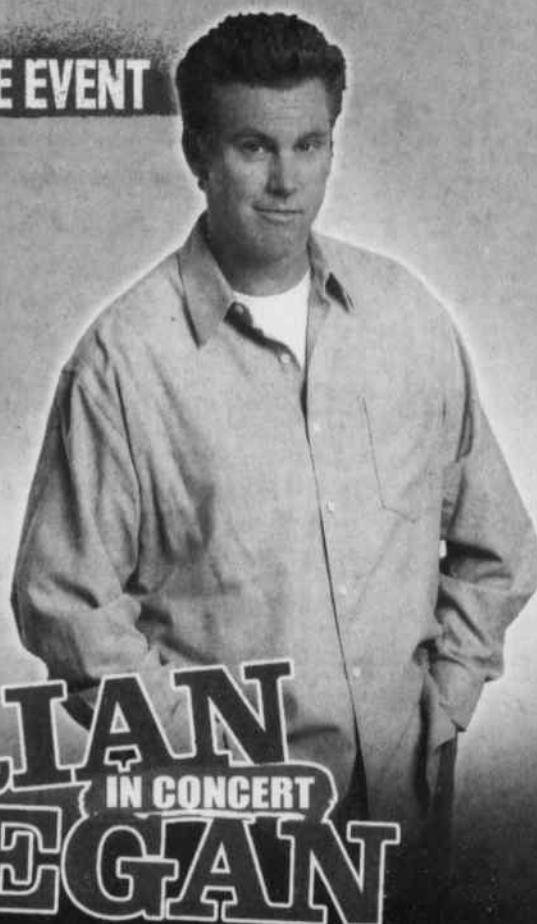
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University employee mediation program wins national award

BY VIVIAN YUN
contributing writer

JMU received the College and University Professional Association for Human Resources' 2007 Successful Practices Award in recognition of JMU's Employee Mediation Program, designed to help JMU employees resolve conflict.

"This is a service that was created because conflict and workplace issues range from coworkers to employees," said Yohna Cone, director of human resources. "This mediation program is an alternative dispute option to resolve conflict and is a mechanism or opportunity for employees."

Cone submitted the program to the association's chapter for the Southern region and it was nominated for the national award.

"I am extremely honored and proud of the department's accomplishments," Cone said.

Seventeen members of JMU's faculty and staff are volunteer mediators. Of these 17, five are certified by the Virginia Supreme Court as certified mediators, nine are in the process of completing the training necessary to become certified by the Virginia Supreme Court and three are in the process of completing 20 hours

of training to become a co-mediator. Mediation sessions are available for both individual and groups.

Human Resource Service Center representative Melinda Hardwick is one of the five certified by the Virginia Supreme Court and she feels honored to be associated with this program.

"I was assigned to research the feasibility of starting a mediation program," Hardwick said. "I pulled together a group of very capable people and we looked at other mediation programs."

Cone added that many other public universities do not have this type of service available.

"We have had much success," she said. "What's unique is that you don't typically find this program in other Human Resource Departments at other universities. We saw it as a wonderful way for employees to take ownership in resolving workplace issues," Cone said. "Folks feel good when they are part of a solution."

Although the program has no plans to expand, it will continue to provide mediation services.

"Hopefully it will mean that JMU will have a more positive environment for employees at the university," said Susan Wheeler, policy and legal affairs adviser.

"Folks feel good when they are part of a solution."

— YOHNA CONE
Director of Human Resources

INTERNET: Wireless to enable students to work outside of room

INTERNET, from front

and ready to go in the next few weeks, according to Hulvey. If things run smoothly, all the dorms' study lounges should have wireless by the end of the second semester.

While wireless is only being installed in the study lounges in most dorms, IT will be installing wireless throughout Hoffman Hall and any other new or renovated residence

halls.

Sophomore Eric Schramm, who lives in Chappellear, thinks this will be a great help to those who live on campus.

"If we have wireless, then we won't be forced to do homework that involves internet in our rooms," Schramm said. "Sometimes you just need to find a quiet place in the dorm."

NOONERS: Team more focused and improved than in past years

NOONERS, from front

Ken Newbold, ISAT professor, said that playing with people he works with means he knows them on a lot of levels. He and Noftinger recently authored a book in addition to playing together as centers.

"Being able to play on the same line as John means we can set each other up," Newbold said. "I know what he's thinking."

Of course, it's not always easy beating students.

"The problem is, every year we get a year

older. They stay the same age," Kolvoord said.

And then there's the issue of night games. "With the late games, its often past our bedtimes," Kolvoord said, laughing.

But, Noftinger said, this team was more focused than they had been in past years and improved by developing different lines with players that complement each other.

"It's nice to step out of my administrative role and be part of a different sort of team," he said.



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		1				6	4	
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7								6
			4		1		7	
	2	3				5		
		6			8		9	1
1				9			3	4

Rules: Fill in the grid with the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 so that in each row, each column, and each of the three-by-three squares, each number appears exactly once. There is only one correct way to fill in the grid.

Difficulty: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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The Spats

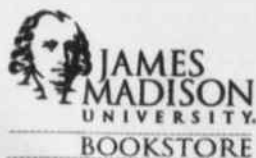


by Jeff Pickering

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BATTLE OF THE SEXES

What do you think about Ugg boots?

SEAN YOUNGBERG
staff writer

They come in black and in white, with spots and with stripes. They come in short and in tall, in winter and the fall. With skirts and with stockings, Uggs are a fashion most definitely worth rocking.

Like leg warmers of the '80s or LA Gear light-ups of the '90s, Uggs are a stylish force rapidly engulfing the fashion world today.

But where did it all start? Uggs can trace their beginnings back to Australia and New Zealand during World War I when pilots needed light but insulated boots to stay warm in the high altitudes. From heroic pilots to fashion divas, these boots have made their impact well known in Harrisonburg as well as around the globe.

As more than 60 percent of JMU's enrollment is female, this movement has become a trendy way of life right in front of our very own eyes.

I have researched this craze, and when I ask to see if you ladies own a pair of Uggs the overwhelming response was, "A pair of Uggs? I have a pair for each day of the week, sweetheart."

Considering I can't walk from the Quad to D-Hall without seeing at least five different women sporting this trend I have to believe that they are all telling the truth.

Now let me set this straight, contrary to popular belief, I am not a fashion guru. I am just a strong supporter and an admirer of the Uggs-wearing movement.

However, I have come to realize that the majority of my fellow men here do not see eye to eye with me, who call Uggs trashy, annoying and ridiculous, and even chant "u-g-g-l-y you ain't got no alibi." Guys, put aside the pride and jump on the bandwagon now! By no means am I telling you to buy a pair of zebra patterned boots with the little furry balls (in fact, don't ever do that) but just pretend that you like Uggs. At the very least it will give you a conversation topic.

If the girls here love them so much then it is safe to say that Uggs are officially a part of our every day life.

Uggs are a realization we all must face together. Like 'em, love 'em, or hate 'em, Uggs are here to turn the fashion world upside down.

Who knows if this trend will disperse, but as long as they are on Oprah's list of favorite things or here at JMU we might as well jump on the bandwagon and say we like them too!

Sean Youngberg is a sophomore SMAD major.

SARAH DELIA
senior writer

What I've never understood about Ugg boots is why anyone would want to wear a fashion accessory that sounds like a dramatic sigh.

These sheep skin shoes not only provide less-than-aesthetically-pleasing foot apparel but also contribute to the mindless killing of animals in order to supply the latest ugg-ly trend. Unless you're some kind of Eskimo who use Uggs for hiking in the snow or walking around your igloo (at least you will use all of the leftover parts of the animal resourcefully), chances are you may suffer from a severe case of wearing Uggs not for the sake of practicality but for "fashion."

Although I personally detest the sight of Uggs, I understand many people find them to be useful in the winter because of their interior wool lining, which provides toes with some extra relief from the cold. I would argue that many boots (sadly often the ones that are the most comfortable and provide the most amount of heat) are not necessarily the most chic, rendering fashion victims helpless.

However, in the case of the Australian-originated Ugg boots, if so many women make this expensive purchase to provide warmth and comfort for their feet during the winter, why do these tan hides suddenly reappear along with the first buds of spring? Seeing a woman walk by with a tiny piece of denim wrapped around her waist and a clunky pair of Uggs on her feet always confuses me. Wouldn't a pair of flip-flops or some sort of sandal be more weather-appropriate if the snow has melted and the birds have flown back north?

Normally I find I don't have much in common with Pamela Anderson, and I lack the desire to run in slow-motion on a beach. However, after realizing that the Ugg boots which graced her feet during the duration of her "Baywatch" days were responsible not only for setting off the trend but also for the cold-blooded deaths of animals, she has admirably started a campaign against Ugg boots, starting by throwing away her own pair.

"I feel so guilty...never realizing that they were skin," Anderson wrote on her Web site. Rest assured Ms. Anderson—I'm positive the entire JMU population has worn more skin on its feet than you showed throughout your entire "Baywatch" career.

Sarah Delia is a junior English and art history major.

Because I Said So | KATHRYN MANNING, staff writer

Merry *****mas

We only cheat ourselves when we take Christ out of Christmas

As Christmas draws nearer—oh, whoops, I'm so sorry, I just committed a huge taboo. I used the term "Christmas." Forgive me for invoking such an offensive word. I'm sure I've earned myself a phone call from the American Civil Liberties Union, because heaven forbid I use terminology other than "holiday"—or, even worse, I discuss the actual meaning of Christmas.

The Christmas that we know today, of course, is the product of centuries of mixing traditions. The holiday has its roots in the early years, when theologians began purporting theories on the birth date of Jesus.

In various regions the celebration was observed on different days, and historians believe that the Christmas feast was introduced in Constantinople in 379 A.D. and spread to other major cities within a few decades.

Over time the Christmas holiday continued to evolve. After Anglo-Saxons were converted to Christianity around the seventh century A.D., several pagan traditions were incorporated into the celebration, most notably the Christmas tree. The holiday took on its name, which literally means "Christ's mass," in the Middle Ages. Many medieval calendars were crafted around it (giving way to periods we know as Advent as well as the Twelve Days of Christmas), and the celebration began to include huge festivities that involved decorations, caroling and gift-giving.

Whatever the specifics, and whatever kind of evolution has occurred, it's clear that Christmas was based on one key element: Christ. It wasn't based on Santa Claus, "Jingle Bells," or sales at Macy's. It was based on—get ready for another taboo—Jesus Christ.

As much as our society has embraced the "holiday season" in all of its materialistic glory, it has run from any hint of Jesus. Countless lawsuits have been filed to ban school choirs from singing religious songs that make any mention of God, the Wise Men or Bethlehem.

In 2004, a Texas school district barred its students from handing out Christmas pencils as gifts with the word "Jesus" on them (the school district also forbade students from wearing red and green to a "Winter Party"). Regardless of

separation of church and state issues, we're just deathly afraid of using the name Jesus as anything more than the occasional swear word.

Hollywood seems to be afraid of the real meaning of Christmas, too. Remember that beloved cartoon from our childhood, "Rugrats"? The creators aired an episode about Passover that told the story of Moses leading his people out of Egypt, and an episode about Hanukkah that told the story of the Macabees. But when it came time for the Christmas episode, there was no baby Jesus, no Mary and Joseph, and no angels.

There was just a fat guy in a red suit. Apparently kids are free to hear the truth about every holiday as long as it's not Christmas—remember, we don't want to offend anyone.

By secularizing the Christmas holiday, we don't just earn ourselves extra stress and empty wallets. We dilute a beautiful message of love and salvation. I'm going to commit yet another taboo and tell you the true meaning of Christmas: God loved the world enough to send His son to earth, who would eventually die on the cross so that all who accept Him may have eternal life. Wow, I'll take that over a Best Buy gift card any day, even if it is politically incorrect.

This country is obsessed with gifts, especially this time of year, and the rule is always "the bigger, the better." But what's bigger or better than a gift from God Himself? Why wouldn't we want to welcome something

so wonderful that it could never be bought in the mayhem of Black Friday?

This isn't about issues of church and state, of legal versus illegal. This is about our society missing out on something beautiful because it's investing its time and energy in all the wrong places. Deep down, we know there's more to life—and the "holiday season"—than high credit card bills. We just choose not to see it.

So this year, I'm wishing the ACLU a very merry Christmas and reminding them that Jesus loves them. If that offends them, too bad, they can't get me—because I'm not singing about it in a school choir.

Kathryn Manning is a senior history and political science major.



Submit Darts & Pats online at thebreeze.org. Darts & Pats are submitted anonymously and are 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.

Darts & Pats

A "leave-the-station-where-it's-at" dart to the grinch of a clubhouse employee who insists on turning off the Christmas music every time she works.

From a senior who thinks that "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas" should at least be played on a snowy day.

An "I-love-the-eye-candy" pat to my male friend who gave me a life-size picture of himself as a holiday present.

From a senior who was more than willing to hang the picture at lip-level.

A "we-wish-you-a-merry-Christmas" pat to the girls dressed as Mary and Joseph guided by two mice on leashes walking down Mason Street.

From your delighted neighbors who think you are hilarious but may want to re-read the Nativity story.

A "the-most-violent-element-in-society-is-ignorance" dart to the girl behind me in my nutrition class who kept saying "that's crazy" when watching a movie about eating disorders.

From a girl who thinks you should keep your mouth shut and not prove her naivety.

An "at-least-you-had-your-socks-on" pat to the birthday boy displaying his birthday suit on the Quad Saturday night.

From a few amused spectators who loved the socks AND the suit.

A "thanks-for-making-my-morning-a-little-brighter" pat to my roommate who meets me with coffee in hand after my 8 a.m. class.

From a delighted friend who would probably pass out in class if it wasn't for the extra pick-me-up.

A "there-are-not-enough-spaces-already" dart to JMU for closing the top level of the parking decks instead of classes on Wednesday.

From a junior who was extremely upset with the anti-climatic "inclement weather" message yesterday morning.

A "don't-lie-to-our-face" dart to the Dukes employee who decided to visibly spit in a customer's food, and then denied it.

From a disgusted sophomore who doesn't want to catch your diseases.

A "way-to-get-in-the-holiday-spirit" pat to the ladies in the music office who always put together a gorgeous display in the hall's display case.

From a music student who always smiles when she sees the creativity put into your festive displays.

Breeze Perspectives | EMILY TAYLOR, contributing writer

Oh little town of Harrisonburg, what is there to do?

As students, many of us face the mundane monotony of college life: sleep, school, work and then the weekend. With the weekend comes the freedom from classes given to us two days out of the seemingly endless week of classes.

So how do we spend these weekends, these escapes from classes and work? Many of us go to parties, but what else do we do? That's where the problem lies. How many of you have asked your friends "What do you want to do tonight?" and how many of you had gotten the response that Mark, Matt, Caitlin or any other one of your friends is having a party?

While partying is fun, after a while it gets boring and repetitive just like the school week itself. However, trying to escape the party scene is not as easy as you may think, especially in Harrisonburg. In a town where there is more farm land than entertainment, we have few weekend alternatives for partying. With farms outnumbering buildings and bars being the more numerous and frequently visited locations, there are hardly any activities other than drinking.

Considering most JMU students don't hail from Harrisonburg and many of our homes are in big cities it is only sensible that there are other options for us on the weekends. We should be able to

"In a town where there is more farm land than entertainment, we have few weekend alternatives for partying."

find alternatives other than drinking and partying. I know drinking and partying are not our only options, but going to the movies, bowling or another equally lame idea only entertains you so much.

Because of this I propose that Harrisonburg should build a concert venue. I believe that a concert venue or at least a big arena for musicians to play at in Harrisonburg would give us another source of entertainment.

I know JMU offers a big concert every year on campus yet one concert can hardly fulfill all of our diverse tastes in music. Also many small concerts occur on campus and off campus in locations such as bars and even some parties. The issue is that these concerts only occur every so often and can only hold a certain number of fans; although I do appreciate all of Harrisonburg's local bands and JMU's (especially UPB's) effort to bring concerts to the school.

I think a concert venue would be extremely beneficial to Harrisonburg and to the JMU community. Most importantly it will add another activity for all of Harrisonburg's residents. Partying should not be the only fun thing we can think to do on the weekends and a venue would definitely fix that.

Emily Taylor is a junior communication studies major.

Breeze Perspectives | DAVID CRABTREE, contributing writer

Self-centered charity

Corporations give to philanthropic campaigns, but for own advancement

While waiting in line at Market One with my cup of steamy liquid energy, a pink-adorned sign proclaiming "Every Lid Matters" caught my sleepy eye. It was a Yoplait sign encouraging buyers of its yogurt to save the pink lids and send them back to the company. For every lid, Yoplait would donate ten cents to Susan G. Komen for the Cure, an organization that supports breast cancer research.

Good for Yoplait. Its generosity should be applauded and imitated. Oh, I forgot to mention that Yoplait don't accept lids that aren't pink, and if you happen to send them in after Dec. 31, you're out of luck. Also, be extra careful when opening your yogurt because, according to Yoplait's Web site, the company won't accept partial lids. So Yoplait might have a few picky rules, but at least it is doing something good, right?

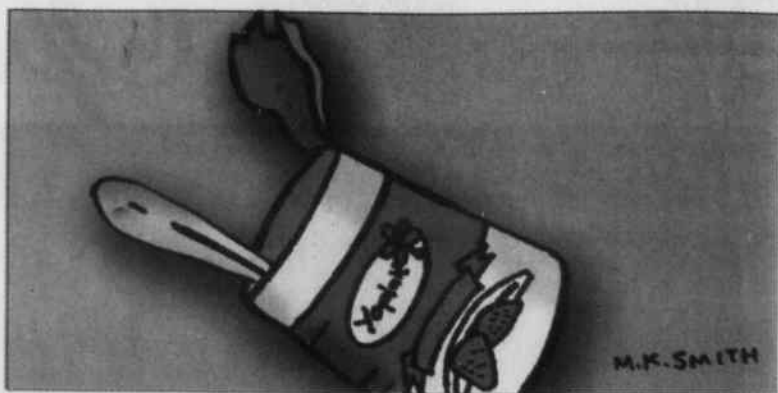
Consider this: women probably buy more yogurt than men, so for Yoplait, supporting breast cancer research is a smart marketing move, because women will naturally be more concerned about a typically-female disease. So, if Yoplait supports breast cancer research, then they might sell more yogurt than its competitors. If Yoplait found out that its primary-customer base was men, I guarantee that it would switch to donating ten cents for prostate cancer.

Instead of giving for the sake of giving, corporations are hiding behind the guise of charity to either sell more products or better their public im-

age. It's an issue of motives, and Yoplait isn't the only one with ulterior motives. Martin's grocery store which recently opened here in Harrisonburg decorated the front of their store with giant checks made out to various local organizations like the Harrisonburg Fire Department and Police Department. Does Martin's really care about the community it serves or does it just want us to feel warm and fuzzy inside? Perhaps I should start framing checks of donations that I have made and hang them around my house. People would see what a nice guy I am.

Apple sells a "Product Red" iPod to help fight AIDS in Africa. In his keynote address this past September, Apple CEO Steve Jobs said, "If you want to do something about these diseases in Africa, you can buy a Product Red [iPod] shuffle." So, spend an extravagant amount of money on an iPod and feel good about yourself because Apple will send a tiny fraction of that money for the AIDS epidemic. If you were an African child who was impoverished and dying of AIDS, would you believe that some North American was acting graciously toward you by buying an iPod? If so, I never knew giving could be so self-gratifying. Again, I inquire about motives: does Apple really care about AIDS or do they just want to project a good company image?

Finally, we must turn the mirror of truth to ourselves. Our reasons for giving aren't always rooted in



the purest of motives either. Even when doing something as selfless as volunteering at a soup kitchen, there are always hidden motives. Perhaps we are volunteering to satisfy a class requirement, or maybe we want to feel good about ourselves. These aren't the noblest of motives, but sometimes we can't help but have them. This doesn't mean that we should give up charity all together, but rather, we should align ourselves with the "good motives," while trying our best to mitigate any ulterior motives.

The corporate machine is a poor infrastructure for charity. Living in an industrialized consumerist

society, it is easy to forget that corporations don't care about you, me, or the AIDS crisis. They only care about the bottom line.

Yoplait will give no more than \$1.5 million for breast cancer research. If it receive extra lids totaling beyond that amount, it simply ignores them. In contrast, if only half of the U.S. population gave ten cents for breast cancer, we would raise over \$15 million. Buying products isn't the answer to solving the world's problems, we are.

David Crabtree is a senior philosophy and religion major.

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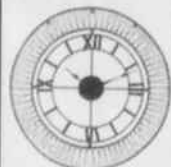
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We Love These Holiday Movies

Grab some warm chocolate chip cookies, snuggle up under the covers and relax with *The Breeze's* picks for the top holiday movies.

BY KELLY FISHER
a&e editor

It's a Wonderful Life (1946)

Nothing says "classic Christmas movie" better than Frank Capra's well-loved story of George Bailey and all of his trials and tribulations. We laugh and swoon in this beginning as George loses the moon for Mary, cringe when Uncle Billy loses the bank's money and we love to hate the evil Mr. Potter. When Clarence the angel shows George what the world would be like without him, we all can't help but to be thankful for the people we love in our lives. And as little Zuzu says at the end, "Every time a bell rings, an angel gets his wings."

Miracle on 34th Street (1947)

Although this movie was remade in 1994, nothing could replace Maureen O'Hara and Natalie Wood in the story that makes everyone believe in good ol' Saint Nick, if only for a little while. From the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade to scoring a gig as the in-store Santa Claus, Kris Kringle claims his is the real Santa Claus - and finds himself on trial for insanity. We all know what happens in the end: "Since the United States government declares this man to be Santa Claus, we will not dispute it. Case dismissed."

A Christmas Story (1983)

Perhaps no Christmas movie has achieved pop-culture status like this 1983 classic. From the movie's signature leg lamp now making an appearance for sale in Urban Outfitter catalogs to TBS's 24-hour Christmas day marathon of the film, its status as a Christmas classic is assured in American pop culture. Maybe it's because we all cuss at our ancient furnace, or because we've all received some sort of heinous article of clothing from an out-of-touch-with-reality relative, or to Ralphie's "deranged Easter bunny" get-up from his aunt, but America seems to love every dysfunctional minute of it.

Home Alone (1990)

The famous scene of Macaulay Culkin screaming in the bathroom mirror will forever be remembered by everyone who sees this movie. A unique take on the Christmas movie genre, "Home Alone" follows Culkin as he defends his house from burglars after his family forgot to take him on vacation to France. Because of this movie, the line "keep the change, you filthy animal" takes on a whole new meaning. The soundtrack itself is enough to get anyone in the holiday mood, and what says "Happy Holidays" more than Danny Devito getting beat up?

Elf (2003)

Thanks to this movie, maple syrup on spaghetti never looked so appetizing. Will Ferrell plays Buddy, an orphaned elf who goes to New York City in search of his father. But once he gets to the city, he realizes that - uh oh - the Big Apple has lost the Christmas spirit, not to mention his birth father is on the "naughty" list. So as he learns about human culture and gritty reality, Buddy aims to return the holiday spirit to one of the world's biggest cities. And he succeeds, because according to Buddy, "The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear."

The Santa Clause (1994)

Imagine witnessing Santa Claus fall to his demise. Then to complicate matters, you must become the next St. Nick, according to the "Santa Clause." That's the situation Tim Allen's character finds himself in one of the more recent holiday films. It has all the ingredients for a great family movie: the magic of Santa, the love between a father and child and the comedy of Allen's character transforming into an overweight old man. We'll just forget about the two sequels they made to follow up with the story - or at least we'll try to forget them.

Other Great Movies

The Holiday
Love Actually

The Grinch
A Christmas Carol

Va. Repertory Dance Company to showcase talent this weekend

Dancers perform in end-of-term show in Latimer-Schaeffer Theatre

BY LAURA BECKER
contributing writer

Many people will be hiding out in the library cramming for finals this weekend. But for eight dance majors, their final is on stage.

The eight girls make up the Virginia Repertory Dance Company and will shuffle, leap, bend and shimmy their way across the Latimer-Schaeffer stage Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m. for their end-of-the-semester show.

The company was formed in 1983 to showcase upper-level dancers who are versatile, dedicated, responsible and able to keep their grades up while

working grueling hours, according to dance professor Kate Trammell. The company focuses on modern dance, which Trammell refers to as a "term of convenience."

Called both modern and contemporary, this unique form of dance is different from the comfortable styles of ballet and jazz.

"There's a different relationship between the dance and the music," junior Ilana Burger said. "With jazz and hip-hop it's about dancing to the count or the lyrics. With modern, it's about finding music that conveys the same feelings and intentions as the dance."

The performance this weekend is composed of six pieces, two by JMU dance faculty and four by guest artists from Washington, D.C.

"It is quite the interesting blend of darker subject matter, bright colors, Caribbean music, and hilarious puns," senior Kate Yow said. "One

piece, a duet by local D.C. artist Miesha Bosma, is performed to a poem by Sylvia Plath, entitled 'In Plaster.'"

"In Plaster" is senior Jillian Boelte's favorite piece. Boelte has studied dance since she was six and recently attended a summer program with American Dance Festival at Duke University, where she had the opportunity to learn from famous choreographers. She was exposed to modern dance in high school and is used to getting mixed responses about the new form. She recommends not interpreting the dancing literally, but to instead enjoy each separate piece.

Yow will be "In Plaster" with Boelte and also credits it as her favorite. She has been dancing

since she was two-years-old and fell in love with modern dance as a teenager.

"Our only hope is that the concert moves the audience in some way, whether they laugh or cry or leave the theatre furious, we don't care as long as they feel something," Yow said.

Trammell says the differences in each piece is astounding and shares Yow's belief that the pieces have the ability to move a person.

"Dance, for me, is life energy," Trammell said. "You can experience a lot of sensations that are central to experiencing being alive."

The dancers have been rehearsing four days a week since the beginning of the semester and look forward to showing the JMU community what they have learned.

"We have been eating, sleeping, and dreaming Va. Rep," Yow said. "We have all worked very hard for this concert and we hope people enjoy it."

Va. Rep. Dance Show

Thursday - Saturday

\$10 general, \$8 w/ JAC
8 p.m.
Latimer-Schaeffer

THURSDAY The Machine

Want to jam out with a Pink Floyd tribute band? The Machine is rocking out in Memorial Hall at 7:30 p.m. The performance is being sponsored by Blame It. On the Train Productions and part of the proceeds will go to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure foundation. Tickets are \$15 at the door.



THURSDAY Slam Qualifying Competition

The Furious Flower Poetry Center is having a spoken word and poetry performance at 8 p.m. at TDU. Take a break from studying for finals to hear some poetry read aloud to take the stress of finals week away.



FRIDAY Harrisonburg Christmas Parade

Bundle up and head downtown because the Marching Royal Dukes are performing in the annual Harrisonburg Christmas parade. The parade is free for the public and will take place at 7 p.m. A concert on Court Square by the MRDs will follow the parade.



Friday Exit 245 presents: Next!

The members of Exit 245, one of JMU's all-male a cappella groups, present their end-of-the-semester concert at 8 p.m. in the Festival Center Grand Ballroom. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$3 with a JAC Card and \$5 regular admission.



out
&
about
What's happening
around the 'Burg

Gibson to release robotic guitar in December

BY CHRIS DAVIES
The Daily Vidette

NORMAL, Ill. — Guitarists around the world, rejoice. After more than 15 years of research Gibson is launching their new robotic guitar in a limited run next month.

The robot guitar will be able to keep itself in tune and also offers six nonstandard tunings, all available at the touch of a button.

This technology incorporates many of the standard Gibson appointments, updated. Under the Tune-O-Matic bridge, a staple on Gibson guitars, is a tiny circuit board that measures the tuning of each individual string, and then transmits this info to the main CPU. Each part of the guitar

works in-sync to control the tuning.

C.V. Loyde is an authorized Gibson retailer in Champaign, however, manager Robert Martz is not sure whether his store will be stocking the robot guitar yet.

"[The robot guitar] is a cool thing and a neat idea. I think that it will be like the iPhone, and Gibson will hype it enough to sell this run of 4,000 quickly," Martz said. "For me, I would question whether it was worth \$2,400, is a self-tuning studio really worth that? But I think it will have a fair amount of success quick."

Among the non-standard tunings included with the guitar are those used in songs like "Going to California" by Led Zeppelin, "Voodoo Child" by Jimi Hendrix and "Honky Tonk Woman" by

The Rolling Stones, among others.

These tunings are available by using the new tuning knob. At first glance this knob looks just like any other, and when not pulled up works like a standard tone control. The knob is called a "push-pull" knob, because when it is lifted up it activates the robot guitar's tuning function. An LED lets the user know which tuning is being used, if all the strings are in tune or which strings are out of tune.

Freshman business administration major Andy Kalish, an avid guitarist, sees benefits and drawbacks to the new robotic guitar.

"It could end up being worth it in the end. It has a lot of real benefits and convenient features. It's crazy that it actually strings up the guitar for you," Kalish added.

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New indie comedy, 'Juno,' turns out unrealistic humor, characters

BY JOHN WHEELER
Daily Trojan

LOS ANGELES — The girl shakes her pregnancy test half forcefully, half resignedly. She seems to know what's coming. The convenience store clerk offers sardonically:

"That ain't no Etch-A-Sketch. This is one doodle that can't be undid, homeskillet."

For all aspiring screenwriters, the realistic reply from the clerk is actually "respectful silence."

"Juno," the new film from "Thank You for Smoking" director Jason Reitman, suffers from the same plague as many indie comedies saturating theaters do these days: Nobody has ever, and hopefully will never, talk like these characters. The film substitutes weirdness in character for genuine humor of situation in the hopes that we will chuckle enough to find it all endearing.

"Juno" feels like a by-the-numbers indie sensation primed for a long run in smaller theaters. The title character (Ellen Page) is a self-described "weird" 16-year-old girl who gets pregnant by her equally self-described "quirky" friend Bleeker (Michael Cera — the skinny one in "Superbad").

Instead of getting an abortion, she makes the noble, impractical choice to have the baby — a popular decision at the movies this year — and give it up for adoption. The potential parents are a rich couple in a failing marriage: cool former rocker Mark (Jason Bateman) and cold, stuffy Vanessa (Jennifer Garner).

Part of the reason why indie comedies such as "Juno" or Wes Anderson's films feel so dark is because the screenwriter is trying to portray "quirky" (read: disaffected and witty about it) characters within tragic or dramatic situations. This is also why they're starting to feel horribly repetitive — "Juno" cannot be as fresh as "Rushmore" was 10 years ago.

The formula always yields appropriately fake results. Imagine a pregnant teenager dragging an armchair out to her boyfriend's front lawn to casually confess her pregnancy with a pipe in hand. Really? An armchair? Juno takes her pregnancy sort of seriously, but scenes like that make it seem like she is not really emotionally aware of it at all.

The screenwriter, tagged with the appropriately annoying pseudonym Diablo Cody, comes from the same school of prehistoric feminist filmmaking as the late Adrienne Shelly, director of the significantly worse "Waitress."

For Cody, the most important thematic character may actually be Garner's Vanessa, the initially cold and unlikely woman who suggests that many women are merely distant beings until they become mothers and find a woman's only

true happiness.

Cody's past as a phone sex operator probably skewed her view of the male sex, creating a monster in Mark who cannot understand his wife's "crazy" desire to have children. Vanessa, wanting so desperately to be a mother, is eventually painted as a victim of Mark's insecurities about being a father.

But "Juno" also belongs to Juno, who has no interest in being a mother at her age. The film drifts from a horrible first half of self-consciously "indie" comedy and inane dialogue to an uneasy mixture of that and some heavy drama.

"Juno" gains a lot of emotional honesty in scenes projecting the disintegration of Vanessa and Mark's marriage, for which Juno is a helpless observer. Here the girl seems more like a pregnant teenager thrown into an adult's world than like an unrealistically witty movie character with a sardonic comment for every situation, no matter how tragic.

These late moments of Juno trying to understand Mark's role-reversal from good to evil are coupled with scenes of her difficulty coping with the distance developing between her and Bleeker.

I'll admit I bought into some of the film's later scenes of humor a little more, probably because they reached a more natural mixture of tragedy and comedy — maybe because the characters just wore me down. There is no doubt that some humor can be found in the everyday survival of the most awful situations.

But still, there is only so much sarcasm and wit one can display in the face of the situations Juno sees, which are, as the girl says in one of the film's most poignant moments: "way beyond my maturity level."

That line, as with most of the successful ones in "Juno," is all delivery and no substance. Page has been rightfully tagged as a wonderful young actress, and I know from her other films that she is capable of a range that actors her age only dream of. "Juno" is not exactly a misstep, but her character is so perfectly manufactured to be unique that she can only instill so much emotional depth.

Bateman, Garner and especially Cera turn in solid work but run into the same problem as Page: Good acting usually cannot salvage bad writing.

The characters of "Juno" could not exist anywhere outside of a screenwriter's imagination. I probably sound like a curmudgeon, but these kinds of unrealistic indie comedies are so annoying precisely because they are so cloyingly offbeat. This year, "Knocked Up" showed us that pregnancy can be hilarious. When it's a teenager, I'm not so sure that a whole lot about that situation is really that funny. Yes, even if the girl does talk in a really, really weird way.

Albums to be released on USB drives as well as CDs

Record companies use devices to appeal to students

BY ADAM PHLEIDER
The Daily Reveille

BATON ROUGE, La. — USB flash drives, the thumb sticks that store students' classwork and other media, are becoming a new medium for purchasing music.

Record companies are introducing the flash drives to market their music digitally.

Matchbox Twenty released its new album *Exile on Mainstream* on a flash drive exclusively at Best Buy stores at a price of \$35 in October, higher than the CD's retail price of about \$13.

In the United Kingdom, where Universal Music Group began marketing this new format, releases from Amy Winehouse, Kanye West and Rihanna came out late this year.

Jeanne Meyer, junior vice president of corporate communications for EMI Records, said her company is making music available through different formats and experimenting with new business models.

The introduction of the flash drive is not intended to replace the formats of CDs, she said. The company is reaching out to its digital consumers who still want a physical format for their music.

"We're just increasing the number of platforms for making [our artists'] music available," she said.

EMI announced in November that Radiohead's back catalog of full-length albums, including the live *I Might Be Wrong* record, would be available on a flash drive for preorder and a Dec. 10 release. The flash drive, shaped like the Radiohead bear head logo, retails at 79.99 pounds or \$164.65.

According to the United Kingdom's *The Times*, Universal Music Group started selling USB flash drives with singles in late October as a new format of music in the United Kingdom.

Brian Rose, commercial director for Uni-

versal Music Group-UK, told *The Times* that USB drives "are aimed at younger 12- to 24-year-olds, who no longer believe that the CD is as cool as it used to be."

According to *The Times*, Warner Bros. Records and EMI Records are on board to follow suit with this marketing idea.

According to EMI, digital revenues grew 50 percent in the U.S. during the 2006-2007 fiscal year.

"It gets down to a gadget mentality that the record companies are looking for when providing a tangible medium for their media," said Stephen Beck, University music professor and head of cultural computing at the Center for Computation and Technology.

Interest in physical media stems from customers' concerns in storing and protecting their digital media, whether music or movies, he said.

For consumers to move away from physical media to a digital media, digital formats such as online music stores, Internet connections and other network sources must constantly work, he said.

"I don't think this is going to solve the digital problem that the music companies are running into," he said. "They can try a new package, but it all depends on what the bonus features package with it."

Beck said flash drives provide a way for the record companies to control the distribution model and form an interesting approach to add value to digital music. He said this approach to record companies' digital distribution of their music may not work, and the online model is where the industry is going to end up.

Jamal Saulsbury, biology junior, said the format of the flash drives would be a good way to get music and share among friends. He is concerned about the higher price of the flash drives and whether there will be great sum of bonus content to make up for the added price.

"I'd be inclined to get it if the drives had a lot of good content for just the single," he said. "If a whole record would be about the same as a cost of a CD, then I may be inclined more to get it."

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Turning Loss into Life: A Pierre Curtis Story

Part III: From the Rockies to the Valley — JMU basketball player deals with mother's passing

BY TIM CHAPMAN
sports editor

JMU basketball coach Dean Keener was coming off his second losing season in as many years at the helm and needed a true point guard to help lead the Dukes in a winning direction.

With the help of assistant coach Michael Kelly, Keener convinced Pierre Curtis to make an official visit to the school.

Convincing the young and eager-to-play Curtis was only half of the project. Keener would have to impress upon Pierre's mother, Carolyn Curtis Rice that traveling over 1,595 miles to rural Virginia was the best thing for her son.

"She was so happy for him that we were recruiting him," Kelly said. "And then when he actually picked JMU, I think she was relieved because she knew Pierre was happy."

"It was almost like an insurance policy for Pierre to bounce it off his mom that JMU was okay and once she said go ahead, I think he felt relieved that he could just go ahead and focus on school."

Not one to miss Pierre play basketball, Carolyn made it to Harrisonburg as soon as she could. The week of Pierre's birthday — Jan. 29, 1987 — she flew to JMU and saw him play against Towson and George Mason.

Pierre played an average of 36 minutes in the two games and averaged 8.5 points when the Dukes lost to Mason but beat Towson.

Upon further contact with Carolyn during her trip, Keener grew even fonder of the woman who helped groom his star guard.

"[She was] a wonderful lady," Keener said. "One of those people that you would say, 'If you had a problem with her, then you had a problem.' She always had a smile on her face. You would never know when you met her that she was on dialysis."

Carolyn was resilient through her illness and lived six years longer than the five predicted by doctors when Pierre was only nine.

But Pierre knew she wasn't well and knew he had to be prepared for the worst. He had no idea the worst would be multiplied by three.

Life through Loss

In April, Curtis lost his grandfather to natural causes. Jimmy Bailey died at the age of 77, leaving Pierre without the strongest tie on his father's side of the family.

Despite having virtually no relationship with his father, Pierre was "real, real close" with his paternal grandfather and would make it a point to see him whenever he visited Chicago.

"He would never miss a birthday," Pierre said. "Even if my dad didn't call, my grandfather always called. He always sent something no matter where he was."

It was painful for the loving grandson to have to bury one of his mentors, but he continued to let his grandfather motivate him.

"I knew I had to make him proud," Pierre said. "I was one of the only grandkids that wasn't in trouble. I was actually doing something, with my life."

He had no idea he would have to do it all again early in the fall semester.

He spent the summer with his mom in Denver and visited family in Chicago. Although he knew his mother's condition wasn't going to improve, her overall attitude was always comforting. Pierre was always aware that she would tell him what she wanted him to hear.

"I would ask her if she's okay and she'd tell me she just had a cold when

she had pneumonia," Pierre said. "So it was kind of hard, 'cause I had to weed out the truth."

He later found out that Carolyn told her sister during a summer vacation in Chicago that she wouldn't be coming back.

As proudly as she went through life raising Pierre, she really just wanted to go out peacefully, knowing that her only son was now a man and could be on his own.

On Sept. 7, Carolyn passed away when complications with her dialysis led to heart failure.

The hospital initially called Pierre — who had just finished a pre-season practice — and told him they were trying to save his mother's life and that they had stabilized her in the Intensive Care Unit.

Pierre remembered frantically calling his sisters to inform them of the hospital call, although his voice was barely comprehensible through his fear.

"The hospital calls my sister and says my mom is fine," Pierre said. "My sister calls me and tells me mom is fine, so I eased [up] a little bit."

Pierre was in his Chandler Hall dorm room and had called his girlfriend, JMU junior Rashonda Roberson, to come over when the hospital called back.

"They said we're sorry, your mom is gone," Pierre retold in heavy breaths. "I said what the hell do you mean, 'my mom is gone?'"

"From then on I was kind of out of it, I didn't know what to do or what to expect. It was always me and my mom."

Pierre's roommate, JMU junior Juwann James was one of the first people to have contact with Pierre that night. James, a starting forward on the basketball team, quickly took on a more brotherly relationship with his teammate.

"I was one of the only people he was talking to besides his girl," James said. "So every day I talked to him and let him know I was there. You know, I can't feel his pain and know exactly

what he's going through, but I know how it is to lose someone. I was just making sure I was that person that was gonna comfort him if he needed that."

James and Roberson didn't support Pierre alone.

Within minutes of receiving the news the basketball program responded and made its point guard the number one priority.

"When I received the call that Friday night it took me about 10 minutes to get from my home to Chandler," Keener said. "And every team member was standing out in that bus stop area. There was a moment where I kind of knew we had a team that cared about each other."

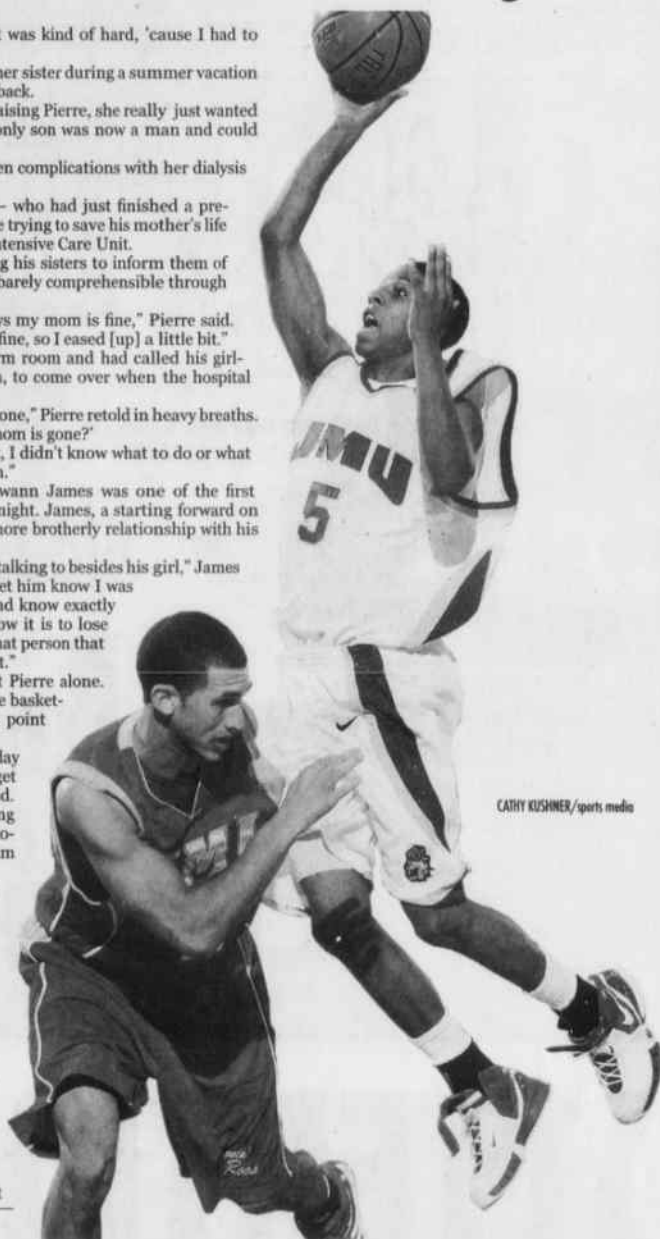
A day later the team was shocked and heart-broken again to hear that yet another family member of Pierre's had passed.

Pierre's cousin and Godbrother Donnell Easterling, 27, had been in a fatal car accident as he rushed home to be with his family following his Aunt Caroline's death.

"I lived with him for a long time," Pierre said. "He even moved out to Denver to live with us. We were closer than cousins. He was really my brother."

Pierre returned to Chicago, leaving basketball and school behind to tend to his family — a challenge that

see CURTIS, page 14



CATHY KUSHNER/sports media

TV helping mid-majors

BY MATTHEW MCGOVERN
assistant sports editor

Conventional wisdom says television hinders productivity, but in the realm of college basketball, television exposure can infuse life into a program. Just ask George Mason coach Jim Larranaga.

"I think one question that every coach gets asked sometime during the recruiting process is 'How many games do you play on TV,'" Larranaga said in a phone interview. "And the Colonial Athletic Association for many years had to kind of sidetrack that question because we weren't getting a lot of television exposure."

For the past few years, the hot topic in NCAA Division I basketball has been "parity." You hear analysts talking about it throughout the year — during in-season tournaments like the EA Sports Maui Invitational and especially during the NCAA tournament. Television exposure has been a key factor in the growth of parity.

James Madison coach Dean Keener said, "With the advent of ESPN and Comcast and others, a lot of teams are able to be on television. That, in turn, entices recruits and helps the mid-majors."

Television exposure has helped mid-majors improve their NCAA tournament play despite inherent advantages that continue to exist for higher-profile programs.

Until the past few seasons, between six and eight television appearances would be considered good exposure for a CAA team. The conference just didn't attract very much interest from TV networks. But the CAA has changed things drastically for some teams in the 2007-08 season. While JMU only makes seven television appearances in the regular season, other teams have experienced drastic improvement in exposure.

"The Colonial Athletic Association stepped up. In George Mason's case, we're on TV 22 times this year," Larranaga said. "That kind of exposure makes kids more aware of your program, more aware of your success, and more aware of the success of the league in the postseason."

The Patriots were selected for the 2006 NCAA tournament as an at-large team, meaning they didn't win their conference tournament. Although they didn't win the CAA tournament, they built an impressive record in non-conference games. Their only losses were to major conference opponents.

"We knew we had played a very competitive non-conference schedule and went 7-2, with our only losses being on the road in overtime at Wake Forest and a tip-in at the buzzer at Mississippi State," Larranaga said. "That was a major selling point for us."

Two CAA teams have made the 65-team field in each of the past two seasons. George Mason and VCU upset "major" conference opponents, with GMU beating Michigan State, North Carolina, and Connecticut on its way to the 2006 Final Four. VCU defeated Duke in the first round of the 2007 NAAs.

The mid-majors have used chemistry developed by veteran players to their advantage in the NCAA tournament. "If you look at the mid-majors that have advanced the last couple years in the NCAA tournament, they have been junior and senior-laden," Keener said. "Two years ago George Mason had [Tony] Skinn, Jai Lewis and Lamar Butler that were all seniors, so there's certainly something to that."

see TV, page 14

Looking back on baseball standout Kulbacki

BY KATHY LEUTNER
contributing writer

Former JMU outfielder Kellen Kulbacki is only 21, but he's made it into the minor leagues.

Within just a few months of leaving Harrisonburg for the summer, he was drafted by the San Diego Padres. Kulbacki went No. 40 overall in the Major League Baseball draft, becoming the third-highest draft pick in JMU history.

That places the Hershey, Pa. native among a handful of JMU athletes who have made it into professional sports.

In an interview conducted by e-mail, Kulbacki recounted the experiences that led to his success.

"I began playing baseball as soon as I could pick up a bat and glove," Kulbacki said. "My father and grandfather played baseball, so it has been in our family for generations."

He also played soccer, basketball and

golf but found baseball to be the sport he loved the most.

During his youth, Kulbacki attended summer baseball camps and spent his spare time outside throwing baseballs with his father or hitting in the batting cages with his grandfather and brother.

He considered Georgia Tech, Maryland and East Carolina, but chose JMU. "The baseball program has been very successful in the past," said Kulbacki. "I knew I had a chance to be an impact player."

"He was a pretty good player," JMU baseball coach Joe "Spanky" McFarland said of Kulbacki as a freshman. "He developed well over time, plus his mental game improved, helping him to say focused. It all came together for him and formed a perfect storm."

While at JMU, Kulbacki set the freshman record for number of hits at bat and doubles in a single season. As a sophomore, he was Virginia Sports Information Directors (V-SID) State Player of the Year and Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) player of the year.

Before entering the draft following his junior season he was named First Team All-American by the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association (NCBWA).

During the off-seasons, Kulbacki played in competitive summer leagues such as the Clark Griffith League in Northern Virginia and the Cape Cod League in Massachusetts.

There are three major league players — Boston Red Sox slugger Manny Ramirez, David Ortiz, and Cincinnati's Ken Griffey Jr. — who are known for having a "sweet batting swing," and according to a Cape Cod Baseball Organization press release, Kulbacki's batting style is like theirs.

Kulbacki doesn't mind the pressure, using it as motivation to improve.

"Pressure is essential for me, because it requires discipline and motivation to work harder," Kulbacki said.

During the MLB draft last June, Kulbacki was at home with friends and family when

see KULBACKI, page 14

Picks of the Week



Tim The Bachelor
57
50%



Matt McJeezy
93
60%



Mary Pioneer
84
61%



Kelly K. Fish
75
59%



Lauren The Blonde
93
63%



Erin Guest
57
57%

	Last Week	Total Percentage						
Bears @ Redskins	Redskins	Bears	Redskins	Redskins	Redskins	Redskins	Redskins	Redskins
Panthers @ Jaguars	Jaguars	Jaguars	Panthers	Panthers	Jaguars	Jaguars	Jaguars	Jaguars
Giants @ Eagles	Giants	Eagles	Giants	Giants	Giants	Giants	Giants	Giants
Raiders @ Packers	Packers	Raiders	Raiders	Packers	Packers	Packers	Raiders	Raiders
Cowboys @ Lions	Lions	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys
Chargers @ Titans	Chargers	Chargers	Titans	Titans	Titans	Titans	Titans	Titans
Vikings @ 49ers	Vikings	Vikings	49ers	Vikings	Vikings	Vikings	49ers	49ers
Cardinals @ Seahawks	Seahawks	Seahawks	Seahawks	Cardinals	Seahawks	Cardinals	Cardinals	Cardinals
Steelers @ Patriots	Steelers	Steelers	Patriots	Patriots	Patriots	Patriots	Patriots	Patriots
Chiefs @ Broncos	Broncos	Broncos	Chiefs	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos
Colts @ Ravens	Ravens	Colts	Colts	Colts	Colts	Colts	Ravens	Ravens
Saints @ Falcons	Saints	Saints	Saints	Falcons	Saints	Saints	Saints	Saints

CURTIS: No. 51 returns inspired

CURTIS, from page 13

forced the 20-year-old to transform and mature.

"At that point he wasn't the man I know he is," Pierre's sister Ryan Rice said. "He was just my little brother."

Pierre's sisters had little doubt that Pierre would recover and return to basketball and school.

He returned to JMU in late September and began practicing and attending classes again. Pierre had fallen considerably behind before mid-terms but carried on with a smile just like his mother always had.

"She died with a smirk on her face knowing that her son was okay and that I could take care of myself," Pierre said with a vintage smile of his own. "That was probably the thing that helped me the most through this whole process."

Ryan keeps in touch with Keener and is expecting her younger brother to finish the semester with a Grade Point Average above 3.0.

On the court, Curtis is averaging 11 points, 3.2 rebounds and 3.3 assists through six games and is ninth in the conference in field goal percentage at 53.8 percent.

Keener attributes Pierre's ability to bounce back to the characteristics he picked up from Carolyn.

"She was always very appreciative to us as a staff for what we were doing, but we were more appreciative for what she had done," Keener said.

At 5-1, JMU's best start since the 1986-87 season, CAA opponents may want to take a close look at the lanky guard wearing the No. 51 because he's playing for more than just himself and his team.

"I have no worries," Ryan said. "He knows she's watching and he can't mess up."

10 interviews were conducted over two weeks for this series either in person or over the phone. Parts 1 and 2 can be viewed at thebreeze.org.

TV: JMU gets seven games

TV, from page 13

Mid-majors received more exposure when ESPN introduced its "Bracketbusters" weekend in 2003. The mid-season matchups take place in February each year and give the mid-majors an opportunity to get recognition on national television.

"There are six or seven BCS-type conferences that are always going to have some built-in advantages," Keener said. "They've got the money to build facilities and so forth, but even with some of those built-in advantages, the parity in college basketball just continues to get better."

Keener knows about the recruiting advantages major schools have based on his assistant coaching experience at Georgia Tech. He coached some very successful teams in Atlanta while taking on much of the recruiting duties from 2000-2004. In 2004, the Yellow Jackets made it to the NCAA championship game.

During the 2002-03 season, Keener coached current Toronto Raptors forward Chris Bosh, who was chosen fourth overall in the 2003 NBA Draft. Bosh left for the NBA after one year playing with the Yellow Jackets, following a trend that has become even more prevalent in recent years.

While Keener coached at Georgia Tech, JMU assistant coach John Babul played there from 1997-2001, and saw his coaches competing for top recruits.

"When you're at a Georgia Tech, or a Duke, or a Carolina, you understand as a coach going into it that if you recruit a Greg Oden or a Kevin Durant you're probably only going to have him for a year," Babul said. "You gotta use it as a positive and hopefully you can get a McDonald's All-American every year."

The phrase "one and done" gained new meaning in the 2005-06 season, when the NBA declared that players must wait at least a year after they graduate high school before declaring for the NBA Draft. The NBA felt for multiple reasons that college experience should be mandatory, and its new rule has led to an epidemic of one-year wonders jumping to the NBA.

"The high-majors are not going to stop recruiting the kids that are slotted for the NBA after one year," Keener said. "You can ask all those coaches, I think they would take those guys for that one year. They're still going to get those elite players, and that's one area that'll keep them on top."

Although the major conferences will continue to garner the top recruits each year, many of those top recruits will bolt for the NBA after one season and break their college team's sense of continuity. And while teams have succeeded in spite of this phenomenon, the mid-majors will certainly use experience to their advantage in years to come.

KULBACKI: Beyond JMU

KULBACKI, from page 13

he got "The Call" from the Padres' scout who had recruited him.

"It was certainly one of the best moments of my life because I was given a chance to continue playing the game I love most," Kulbacki said.

After the contract was finalized he headed out to Eugene, Ore. for the beginning of the Class A Short Season with the Eugene Emeralds, a farm team of San Diego. The season was much more demanding than his years playing college ball. His team played 66 games in 80 days.

"It was a big adjustment playing everyday, along with much tougher competition and the level of play," Kulbacki said. "Everyone is a gifted athlete, instead of only a handful."

After the season ended Sept. 5, Kulbacki returned to Harrisonburg to work out and condition before spring training in March.

"After a long season, I want to make sure I take some time to relax and enjoy having days off," said Kulbacki, who has not reenrolled at JMU.

"It will be weird not finishing up school with my fellow teammates," Kulbacki said. "But I have moved on to the next step of my career, and that is what I need to focus on."

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CORRECTION

In the Dec. 3 issue of *The Breeze* the caption on the feature photo "Brighten the Lights of Madison" incorrectly described the planned Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. The tree was lit, but the ceremony did not take place.

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Results of the online poll: How are you planning to handle text- book buyback season?

Heading to Outpost
- 27

Heading for the
bookstore - 21

Trying an online route
- 17

I'm hanging on to most
of my books - 13

Total votes: 78

The Next Poll Question:

If given an option,
what type of exams
would you prefer?

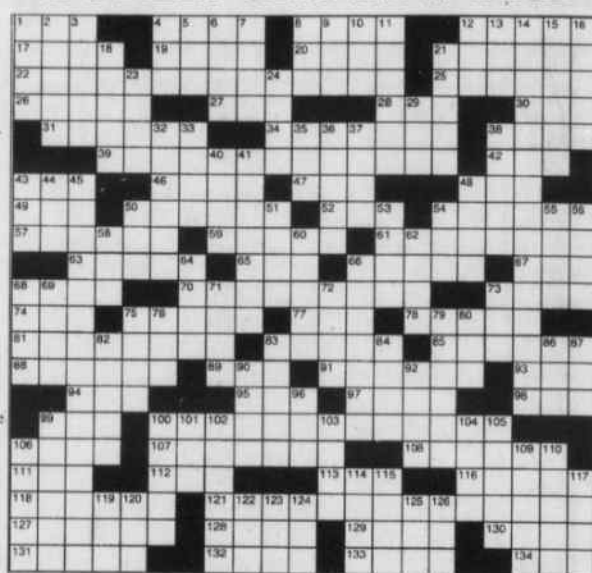
Vote at thebreeze.org

IN CHARGE

ACROSS

- 1 Weaken
- 4 O'Connor's "The - Hurrah"
- 8 Composer Bartok
- 12 "Ad - per aspera" (Kansas' motto)
- 17 Meadow mamas
- 19 Pro foe
- 20 Sleep like -
- 21 Wide belts
- 22 Comic-book hero
- 25 "Oh, How I - Get Up"
- 26 Error's partner
- 27 Procure
- 28 - Paulo, Brazil
- 30 Tons of time
- 31 Box up
- 34 Masters Tournament site
- 38 Urban problem
- 39 Animated TV series
- 42 Hwy.
- 43 Bud
- 46 Taj town
- 47 Tallahassee sch.
- 48 Rita - Brown
- 49 Tankard filler
- 50 Step parts
- 52 Even if, informally
- 54 Durango district
- 57 Maestro Lorin
- 59 Rent
- 61 "The Hustler" setting
- 63 Crowded
- 65 "Just - thought!"
- 66 Petite pest
- 67 Genetic info
- 68 Actress Anna
- 70 Tammany Hall name
- 73 Left open
- 74 Item in a lock
- 75 Premiere
- 77 Baby butter
- 78 Fracas
- 81 Advance
- 83 "This - Moment" ('60 hit)
- 85 Hut
- 88 Van of "Shane"
- 89 Cycle starter
- 91 Barely there
- 93 Baseball stat
- 94 Pinnacle
- 95 - roll
- 97 Bailiwick
- 98 TV's "My Sister -"
- 99 "Gotcha!"
- 100 '80 Stevie Wonder hit
- 106 Worry
- 107 Result
- 108 Singer Stratas
- 111 Knock
- 112 Russian river
- 113 Superlative suffix
- 116 Sans emotion

SUPER CROSSWORD



- 118 Lets up
- 121 "F Troop" role
- 127 Kidman of "To Die For"
- 128 Columnist Bombeck
- 129 Notion
- 130 Silvers or Spector
- 131 Hardened
- 132 "- of the Cat" ('77 hit)
- 133 Side
- 134 - Aviv
- 37 "No dice!"
- 38 Bandit Belle
- 40 City on 112 Across
- 41 Polo's place
- 43 Shriver of tennis
- 44 Dothan's st.
- 45 '64 Shangri-Las hit
- 48 Boy or boar
- 50 Cartoon canine
- 51 Lip lash?
- 53 Mayberry moppet
- 54 Marsh
- 55 New Rochelle college
- 56 General Bradley
- 58 - Buddhism
- 60 Alaskan city
- 62 "Against All -" ('84 film)
- 64 Recedes
- 66 Curative
- 68 Frosh's superior
- 69 Grocer's measure
- 71 Eject
- 72 Assumed manes?
- 73 - standstill
- 75 Wet blanket
- 76 Velvet finish
- 79 Graceland, for one
- 80 Yesterday's your
- 82 Rub it in
- 83 Sal of "Exodus"
- 84 Irene of "Fame" fame
- 86 La-la lead-in
- 87 Tasty tuber
- 90 Coll. cadets
- 92 Tree house?
- 96 Jacket part
- 99 Lawrence's locale
- 100 "Archie" character
- 101 Great bird?
- 102 Dash of "Clueless"
- 103 Fast-for-d favorite
- 104 Cleveland's lake
- 105 Summarize
- 106 French bread?
- 109 Vision
- 110 TV's "Kate & -"
- 114 "M*A*S*H"
- Emmy winner
- 115 "The - Is High" ('80 hit)
- 117 Say "Hey!"
- 119 Low digit
- 120 Knight time
- 122 Hapsburg dom.
- 123 "- Believer" ('66 hit)
- 124 Corn portion
- 125 Grazing ground
- 126 Rin Tin Tin's mother

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Take a Break...ald Duck comics were banned from Finland. It's illegal to wear pants. there are no words in the dictionary that rhyme with orange, purple and silver. The San Francisco cable cars are the only mobile National Monuments. "I am" is the shortest complete sentence in the English language. Hershey's kisses are called that because the machine that makes them looks like it's kissing the conveyor belt.

INSIDE:

Study Tips
UREC stress relievers
Study diversions



The Breeze
James Madison University's Student Newspaper



Exam Relief Guide

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EXAM RELIEF GUIDE

WHAT'S INSIDE

2 - UREC Stress Relievers
 3 - Study Tips
 4 and 5 - DVD Reviews
 6 and 7 - Recipes

UREC offers resources to help combat stress during exam week

BY ANTHONY BOOTZ
 contributing writer

December is here once again, and with it comes the all-nighters, lengthy coffee lines and the study-induced hermitage of finals week.

Stress runs high this last leg of the semester, and many of us are ignorant of the effect that this stress has on our bodies. More importantly, many of us are missing out on the important ways to combat it and may be missing out on the myriad of benefits to both our health and studying.

Luckily, the good folks down at the University Recreation Center have our best interest in mind.

Weight gain or loss, fatigue, change in appetite and headaches are among a few of the many symptoms that stress produces in the body, said Holly Wade, coordinator of Group Fitness and Wellness at UREC.

"We offer several things throughout the semester that are related to stress relief," said Wade. "There are different avenues."

Wade mentions massage therapy, a class on meditation and yoga.

"Yoga is really a nice way to exercise because its taking the body out of stress mode completely," said Wade. "It pulls the chemicals that were overexerted to a normal level."

"I take it once or twice a week," said junior Hillary Stetson. "It's a good mental relaxation, but you get kind of a work out at the same time."

Yoga classes are held throughout the week at different times, with most sessions occurring on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Students must register for these classes 24 hours in advance.

Some of these avenues of stress relief are relatively unknown to students, such as massage therapy and fitness assessments.

"I get a lot of seniors coming here for the first time who have no idea that we've been here for seven years," said massage therapist Steven A. Banks, who works at UREC and off campus.

The benefits of this therapy range from stress relief (its key component) and enhanced athletic performance, to the increase of blood flow in deprived areas, said Banks.

The cost is between \$25-\$40, and depends on the duration of massage. Like the yoga classes, registration is required by at least 24 hours before a session. It is open until usually 11 p.m. when UREC is open, said Banks.

One of the last but potent arsenals UREC personal trainers to combat stress-related symptoms is routine exercise.

"We do try to encourage students to stick with their exercise programs, especially during their most stressful times," said personal trainer Megan Eicholtz. "Exercise can help in regulating sleep patterns, getting adequate blood supply to the brain, and producing endorphins."

Even if your stressed-out schedule doesn't allow enough time for you to hit the gym or

get a massage, there are still ways to lower stress. Doing things you enjoy, like watching your favorite movie and hanging out with your friends, said Wade.

"Students can get too focused on their exams," Wade said. "Doing these things can help keep the balance in their life."

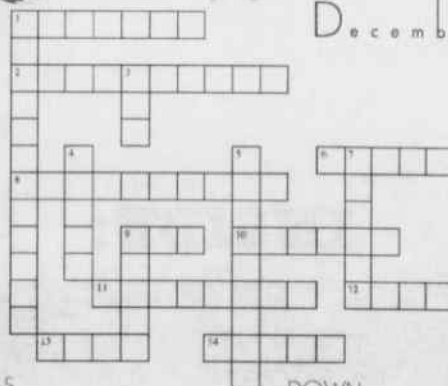
*The Breeze wishes you
 luck on your exams!*

UREC Exam Week Hours:

Monday, Dec. 10 - Thursday, Dec. 13
 6:30 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.
 Friday, Dec. 14:
 6:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Saturday, Dec. 15:
 Noon - 5:00 p.m.
 Sunday, Dec. 16:
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WORLD AIDS DAY

December 1



ACROSS

- 1 Protects the most against HIV
- 2 Famous 1950's male movie star who died of AIDS
- 3 Retired NBA player with HIV
- 4 HIV evolved from a similar virus in this animal
- 5 The first drug approved for treating AIDS
- 6 Country with the largest HIV/AIDS epidemic in Europe
- 7 World AIDS Day is on the first of this month
- 8 Acronym for "Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome"
- 9 Musical turned movie that addresses the issue of AIDS
- 10 People that can't be infected with AIDS

DOWN

- 1 Shown to reduce HIV infection among heterosexual men
- 2 Sexual intercourse without a condom, injecting drugs and blood transfusions are all ways to contract
- 3 HIV is a _____
- 4 International symbol of AIDS awareness
- 5 Continent with the highest number of AIDS contractions
- 6 This AIDS charity was set up in 1986

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Study help available during finals at learning centers and Web site

BY BRITTANY WILSON
contributing writer

As exam week approaches and the semester comes to an end, students begin to stress about making the grades on their final exams. If students are struggling with preparing for your final exams, papers, or presentations, or perhaps just need some pointers, JMU offers a number of resources that will help them best prepare for their final exams.

If students need some assistance with writing a paper, presenting a speech or figuring out difficult material from math or science courses there are several learning centers throughout campus designed to help. The University Reading and Writing Center and the Communication Resource Center are located on the fourth floor of Wilson Hall. These learning centers will help with reading, writing and study techniques as well as speech delivery and preparation.

Michelle A. Moreau, coordinator of the Communication Resource Center, says, "We are here to make the process easier." Moreau also points out that you don't need to have a finished paper or speech before you visit the resource centers because they can help get you started. If students need extra help they can make an appointment with these learning centers in Wilson Hall, Room 417.

The Science and Math Resource Center is another learning facility designed to help. They can assist with all first-year math classes as well as the following science courses: GI-

SAT 151, 152, GSCI 101, 121, 161, 162, 163, 164, PHYS 125, 126m 140m 150m 240m 250, CHEM 120, 131, 132 and their respective labs. If students need help with any of these subjects the Science and Math Resource Center is located in Roop Hall, Room 200 without an appointment.

During this time of the semester these resources centers tend to be very busy. However, if they are having trouble making an appointment or to getting help on campus, there are several great online resources that can help them prepare for your final exams. One source in particular, coe.jmu.edu/Strategic_Learning/, offers links to Web sites that have helpful strategies for getting ready for their exams. Some of these links include time management help and test strategies for certain types of tests. Melinda Burchard, the learning strategies coordinator, said that the 5 Day Test Prep is a particularly helpful link for students. This link has suggestions, provided by Stanford University, on how students should prepare in the five days leading up to your exam:

Five days before: Organize. Organize and reviewing class notes and text that will be included on the exam.

Four days before: Review and Recall. Review and recall all class notes and the important information.

Three days before: Rewrite. Rewrite all the important information from class and continue reviewing all class notes.

Two days before: Question? Students

should make a list of potential test questions from the class material.

One day before: Prepare. Keep reviewing class notes and the rewritten notes.

In addition to this Web site JMU also has a Learning Toolbox Web site that provides three different types of study tips: CRAM, RAINS, and SQUID. CRAM is useful for multiple choice tests that usually require only one answer, RAINS is useful for tests that require you to choose the BEST answer, and SQUID is useful for true/false test strategies. All three of these strategies can be found on JMU's Learning Toolbox Web site, coe.jmu.edu/Learning-Toolbox/.

The Counseling and Student Development Center can also be a great source of help for students while they are preparing for their final exams. This can be a stressful time for students and the counseling center virtual student pamphlet has links and advice on stress management and stress reducers. The virtual pamphlet can be found on this Web site: jmu.edu/counselingctr/pamphlets/wm_preview/index.shtml.

Resources on campus:

Science and Math Resource Center
University Reading and Writing Center
Communication Resources Center

5 days before:

ORGANIZE

4 days before:

REVIEW AND RECALL

3 days before:

REWRITE

2 days before:

QUESTION?

1 day before:

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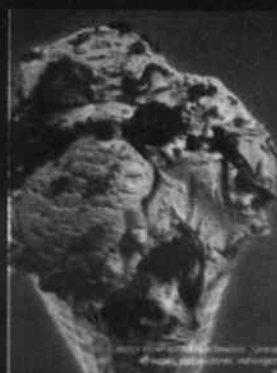


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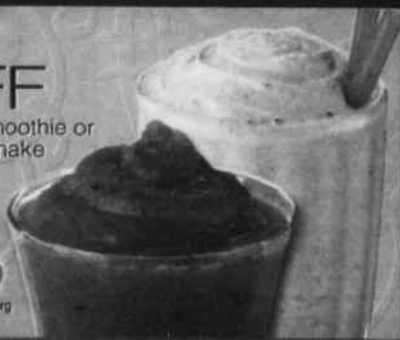
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'Spiderman 3' offers new twists

WARNING: SPOILERS AHEAD

BY SEAN YOUNGBERG
Staff writer

Calling all superhero fanatics! Get out there and grab your copy of "Spider-Man 3" on DVD today.

"Spider-Man 3," based on the legendary Marvel Comic book series, is the third, and presumably final action packed movie in the comic book trilogy.

Director Sam Raimi (Spider-Man 1 and 2) has upped the ante in nearly every aspect of his latest superhero chartbuster.

The intense new film includes plenty of new twists, intense fight sequences, the next-generation of unbelievable computer-generated special effects and several implausible villains.

If that's not enough to satisfy you, a new romantic interest, a love triangle, impeccable comic relief and a couple of musical performances (including a dancing and singing Spider-Man) added in should make any movie viewer content.

Peter Parker has finally managed to strike a balance between his devotion to M.J. and his duties as a superhero.

We find Peter Parker (Tobey Maguire) and Mary Jane (Kirsten Dunst) right where we last left them, ecstatically in love-but afraid to make the big commitment.

The citizens of New York have finally come to appreciate the heroic deeds of Spider-Man.

MJ has finally landed her big role on Broadway, as Parker manages dual jobs as

both a superhero and a bottom of the pack photographer for the Daily Bugle.

The seemingly perfect love story comes to an abrupt end, when Parker finds out that his uncle's murderer, Flint Marko (Thomas Haden Church), has escaped from prison.

With vengeance on his mind Parker makes Marko his new archenemy.

Marko becomes the indestructible villain Sandman after he's exposed to a demolecularization sand pit during a scientific experiment gone horribly wrong.

To add insult to injury, Parker's best friend turned adversary Harry Osborn (James Franco) seeks revenge for his father's death by trying several times to savagely end Spider-Man's life.

Parker bonds with an unusual black symbiote that unleashes a darker side of him and threatens to destroy everything he holds dear.

Parker isolates himself from everything he holds dear as revenge viciously takes over him.

Spider-Man must deal not only with villains and love but also with himself.

Once again the fate of New York City falls on the shoulders of Spidey to save the day.

A very good superhero movie well deserving of a 3 out of 4 star rating, and well worth the time of geeks and nerds alike.

Spider-Man 3 is rated PG-13 for intense action sequences. The movie runs for 140 minutes and includes a 2-Disc DVD filled with extras: audio commentary, outtakes, a music video, a half-dozen featurettes and more.

'1408' provides thrills and chills 'Chuck and Larry' relies on cliches

BY KRISTINA MORRIS
staff writer

Stephen King did it again. In the midst of all the blood and guts type of horror movies out today, "1408" provides a good old-fashioned scary movie that is sure to leave you cringing at the edge of your seats.

Don't get me wrong, gore has had its place in the recent group of scary box office hits, but "1408" provides a refreshing change of pace while still offering plenty of chills and thrills.

The movie starts by introducing Michael Enslin (played by John Cusack) as a talented writer who has become cynical and bitter since the death of his daughter. Enslin travels around the country to different infamous haunted locations, writing about the supernatural, yet not actually believing in anything himself.

That is, until he receives a post card warning him not to go into room 1408 of the Dolphin Hotel. Hotel manager, Gerald Olin (played by Samuel L. Jackson), insists that Enslin not stay in the room because of the unusual number of grisly deaths that have occurred, but Enslin eventually is handed the old-fashioned key. Once in the room, his paranormal experiences begin.

"1408" provides the viewer with plenty of good jumpy scares and enough creepy scenes to leave the hair on the back of your neck standing up throughout the entire

movie. From the moment that the door of "1408" closes behind Enslin, the viewer is trapped inside with him to experience one haunting scene after another.

Cusack manages to pull off his character perfectly. Even though most of the movie is based in one room, Cusack shows the reader his change from a cynical non-believer, to a man on the brink of insanity.

Samuel L. Jackson's part is small; however his role as the confusing hotel manager leaves the viewer wondering if he's a good guy or simply a participant in the evil activities of room "1408."

Director Mikael Hafstrom also does an amazing job at keeping the viewer scared, while at the same time not going overboard with special effects and staying with some unobtrusive, old-fashioned camera techniques.

Yet, some people may find that the movie is slowly developed and certain scenes linger longer than needed. And for those who have read the novel 1408, you may also be disappointed to find that the movie is lacking in the actual psychological fear and horror that the book provides.

Still, for those who have not read the novel, you'll find yourself tensing and tearing up throughout the movie. It is both haunting and clever at providing a classic scary and heart-breaking account of one of Stephen King's great works.

BY KRISTINA MORRIS
staff writer

In "I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry," Adam Sandler (Chuck) and Kevin James (Larry) play two New York City firefighters who pretend to be gay by registering as "domestic partners" in order to receive the city benefits. Originally, the two try to keep their partnership a secret until government inspectors start searching around to prove the validity of their relationship.

The movie aims to preach to the audience about tolerance and acceptance of all people, yet ends up lacking in its convictions. "I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry" wants to show that it's wrong to tell gay jokes, yet tells them throughout the entire movie.

Unfortunately, gays are not the only ones parodied throughout the film either. Rob Schneider parallels Mickey Rooney's infamous Breakfast at Tiffany's character in his role as the Asian wedding chapel owner who marries Chuck and Larry. The movie definitely does not treat these issues tenderly; so some people may find it offensive.

Although the movie wasn't really all that bad; it wasn't really that good either. About half the jokes make you fall off your chair laughing, while the other half leaves you wondering what the writers were thinking.

Sandler tones down his bonehead act a little bit for this role and James' character

is just as sweet and cuddly as a teddy bear. Yet, the movie is fairly predictable and forgettable. Chuck and Larry get over their homophobia, Larry finally deals with the loss of his wife and moves on, Chuck gets the hot girl (surprise surprise) and all is made right in the end.

Oh, and Sandler is depicted as a chick magnet who turns into a one-woman type of man in the end. But what else do you expect from an Adam Sandler movie?

Still, one of the main strengths of this film isn't necessarily the leading characters. Sandler and James are definitely funny and create a few laughs, but it's the supporting cast that really makes this movie hilarious.

Dan Aykroyd shines as Chuck and Larry's captain, Steve Buscemi is brilliant in the small part of the city investigator, and I've always had a soft spot for the crazy guys that make up Sandler's extensive family. However, it's Nick Swardson and Ving Rhames who really steal the show in their revealing roles.

If you're not easily offended and can get over the predictable script, then "I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry" will actually seem pretty funny. If you're looking for some easy laughs to help pass the time, then this movie will probably satisfy your needs.

**Tired of sitting around the apartment or the dorm?
Head to the movie theater for some entertainment:**

Currently in theaters:

- "American Gangster" - Washington. Crowe. Enough said.
- "Beowulf" - animated version of the literary classic.
- "Fred Claus" - Vince Vaughn as Santa Claus' younger brother.
- "Enchanted" - fairy tale transplanted to New York city.
- "No Country for Old Men" - McCarthy's novel adapted by the Coen brothers.

Coming soon:

- "The Golden Compass" - fantasy adaptation of Pullman's novel.
- "I Am Legend" - Will Smith as the last man on earth.
- "Juno" - quirky indie comedy about a pregnant teenager.
- "National Treasure 2: Book of Secrets" - sequel to the action original.
- "Walk Hard" - musical parody from the creators of "Knocked Up."

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Oreo Balls

BY NICKI UNDERWOOD
staff writer

All of us need a break sometimes, especially during exams, and of course, the first thing we go for is chocolate: the all forgiving goodness that is sold in wide variety. Well, here's a fun way to get to that chocolate:

They're called oreo balls, and they are exactly what they sound like: balls made of oreo.

They are rather easy to make because all you need is a package of your ordinary cream cheese and a package of oreos.

Take the oreos and place them in a large gallon bag and close the bag securely. Then, lay the bag down and stomp all over it to crush the oreos into little pieces.

After the oreos are crushed, dump them into a large mixing bowl and add the package of cream cheese. Then take a large spoon and pound the cream cheese into the oreos until well mixed. Then scoop some of the mixture up in your hands and roll it into a ball. Then place the ball on a piece of wax paper.

After all the mixture is gone and on wax paper carefully slide the balls into the refrigerator and let them chill for half a hour. Then, after they are chilled, take them out and find a batch of almond bark chocolate. If you don't feel like using almond bark, any type of melting chocolate will suffice.

Melt the chocolate in a bowl until it is creamy, then take each oreo ball and dip them into the chocolate. Let them dry on wax paper, add any decoration you want and they are ready to go! Enjoy!

Ingredients:

- 1 Package of cream cheese
- 1 Package of oreos
- Almond bark
- Wax paper

Directions:

- Smash the oreos
- Mix oreos with cream cheese
- Roll them into balls
- Put them on wax paper
- Put in fridge for a half hour
- Melt almond bark
- Dip balls in chocolate
- Put balls on wax paper to dry



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Rice Krispie Treats

BY KATIE THISDELL
staff writer

Snap out of study mode for fifteen minutes. Crackle open a box of sugary kid cereal. Pop out some sweet treats with your friends.

Rice Krispies Treats are an easy snack to make when you just can't look at those textbooks any longer. They only require three ingredients, and three dishes. And they are fun to make with at least three friends!

First, melt three or four tablespoons of butter in a large pot over low heat. As soon as it melts, add one bag of marshmallows. Stir with a large spoon until they all melt. The mixture should look like marshmallow crème. The miniature kind melts the fastest and most evenly, but the large ones work too.

If you don't have a stove or a pot, you can also use the microwave. Mix the butter and bag of marshmallows in a large microwave-safe bowl. Heat them together in the microwave on high heat for two minutes and then stir. If the marshmallows are not melted thoroughly, heat them for another minute or two, stirring often.

After the marshmallows are melted using either method, it's time to stir in the Rice Krispies cereal. Measure out six cups, or use about half of the regular-sized (12 oz.) box. Gently stir the cereal into the pot or bowl of marshmallows.

One of the best ways to eat the treats is at this step. Just take some spoons out of the drawer, give one to each of your friends, and enjoy!

Or, you can make them into standard bars.

Pour the mixture into a 9x13 pan. Press them down gently, let cool, and then cut into bars.

In less than fifteen minutes, you can relieve a little stress and put some sugar into your blood. Once you've washed the bowl and spoons, you and your friends can snap, crackle, and pop back to your textbooks.

Thanks for reading
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CAROLINE DWIS/staff photographer

JMU freshman Kristin Joseph browses an issue of *The Breeze* while relaxing at Greenberry's.

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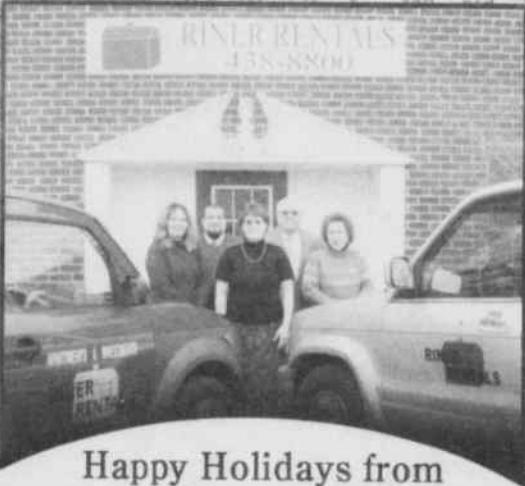
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