

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE:



Check out thebreeze.org for the full text of Tony Spadaccia's opinion piece on Sen. John McCain.

the Breeze

James Madison University's Student Newspaper

Opinion 5
A&E 7
Sports 9

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Monday, February 4, 2008

Jahrling's condition improving at U.Va. : 'It's a miracle'



EVAN DYSON
senior writer

"It's a miracle that she's doing as well as she is."

That's what freshman Leah Hartman said about her friend, freshman Bria Jahrling, who was seriously injured after being struck by a car Tuesday on campus. Jahrling is improving and is in good condition at the University of Virginia Medical Center as of Sunday evening.

Since the accident, family members have been with Jahrling and she has received several visitors, including some from Weaver Hall, where she lives on campus.

Freshman Leigh Walsch, who lives near Jahrling in Weaver Hall, said she and several friends drove to Charlottesville on the day of the accident and that others, like Hartman, have visited more recently.

According to freshman Beau Dobson, Hartman delivered a card Friday that had been made and signed by his dance class.

"Everyone is really devastated that it happened and to a dance major," he said.

"I know that the family wants to thank everyone for supporting her," Hartman said, "and keeping her in your prayers."

Jahrling's sister, Yara, has established a Web site to update family and friends about her sister's status through carepages.com, under the name "BriaJahrling."

According to friends, Jahrling was on her way to ballet in Godwin Hall when the accident occurred.

Hartman, who met Jahrling through dance, described her friend as "very outgoing and dedicated to dancing." According to Hartman, Jahrling was chosen as one of a select group to visit the American College Dance Festival Association Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference at Goucher College in March. It is an honor for a freshman to be selected, she said, and now it is uncertain whether she will be able to attend.

Friends also said that Jahrling suffered

see ACCIDENT, page 3

UPB SPRING CONCERT

MAKING NOISE FOR T-PAIN



BY KATRINA BRAMHALL
contributing writer

"T-Painiiiiinnn!"

This scream, coming from sophomore Britnie Green, summed up University Program Board's spring concert announcement on the commons Thursday.

"I'm so excited it's going to be T-Pain," Green said. "I will be in attendance front and center."

Students on the commons were greeted with piping hot Swiss Miss, blasts of fake snow flurries and a monstrous inflatable couch when UPB revealed the bands coming to campus.

"Bartender" rapper T-Pain is performing with a surprise guest at the Convocation Center on April 18 at 8 p.m.

Punk band Say Anything is also coming to campus this semester. They will be playing on Feb. 25 at 8 p.m. in Wilson.

"I'd like people to know the reason we chose these artists," said Amanda Gibson,

director of the center stage committee for UPB. "These are the bands students voted for."

According to Gibson, a record number of people voted this year and the results were close. Although Rihanna came in 3 percentage points ahead of T-Pain, the Grammy nominee was unable to come due to her busy schedule.

T-Pain's Grammy nominations include "Best rap song" and "Best Rap/Sung Collaboration" for "Good Life" featuring Kanye West, "Best R&B Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocals" for "Bartender," with Akon and "Best Rap/Sung Collaboration" for "Kiss Kiss" with Chris Brown.

UPB President Allison Beisler said SGA allocated \$50,000 - \$60,000 to UPB for the event. According to Gibson, UPB doesn't make a profit from ticket sales; rather the organization strives to break even with

see CONCERT, page 3



AMY GWALDNEY/contributing photographer

Copies of the new coffee table book, which chronicle the history of the university, are currently available at the University Bookstore.

New book captures century in pages

BY KATE MCFARLAND
contributing writer

The Duke Dog made his first appearance as JMU's mascot in 1947. The men's basketball team needed funding and appealed to President Sam Duke for support. To prove their allegiance to the president they named themselves the "Dukes." The Duke Dog has changed a lot over the last 50 years since, resulting in the lovable bulldog we all know.

This anecdote can be found in the new coffee table book *Madison Century: Celebrating 100 Years*. The book was compiled to commemorate the first century of JMU's history. The book is organized by university president and includes special events that characterized each term. Each section includes photographs, features and timelines that allow the reader to quickly glance through.

Authors Martha Graham and Fred Hilton were responsible for most of the book. They included stories ranging from the mysteries of the infamous underground tunnels to rules that required students to gain permission before going on dates. While the authors could not include every aspect of JMU's history, they said they tried to include some of the most interesting elements.

Copies are currently being sold at the University Bookstore. While only 2,000 copies were originally published, more will come depending upon how many are sold. Hilton, who also serves as the Centennial director, expected the book to sell to all JMU constituents, but the bookstore staff said parents and alumnae were the main people purchasing the book.

Hilton was also responsible for the 75th anniversary book and saw this edition as a natural part of the century celebration.

"To me it's a tradition, a part of the century anniversary," he said. "It is a coffee table book designed for a casual read but also a continuing history."

JMU dips to 22nd spot on financial value scale

BY KALEIGH MAHER
news editor

JMU ranked 22 for best in-state value in public colleges this year, falling one spot from last year, according to *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* magazine.

The ranking was determined by an examination of educational quality and the cost of tuition, according to Kiplinger's Web site.

"I believe it shows JMU's commitment toward providing a top-notch education while trying to keep college as affordable and accessible as possible," said Brad Barnett, senior associate director of the office of financial aid and scholarships.

Kiplinger's top 100 schools were selected from a pool of more than 500 public four-year colleges and universities. Six other Virginia campuses cracked the top 100, including the University of Virginia ranking third, William & Mary fourth and Virginia Tech 17th.

The Office of Financial Aid plans to continue its efforts to increase grant and scholarship dollars available to students, according to Barnett.

"Paying for college can be a challenge," he said. "But there are financial aid programs available to assist many students in need."

Barnett added that FAFSA applications are due before March 1 and can be submitted online at fafsa.ed.gov.

>> For more information on financial aid and scholarships, check out jmu.edu/finaid

EXAMINING WORK OF A MASTER



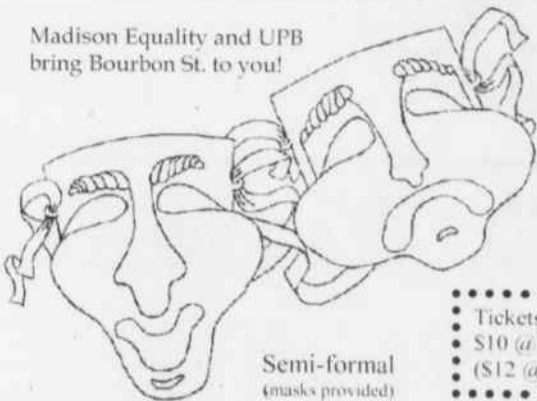
Sophomores Audrey Januszewicz and Ashley Hogan look at artist Xu Bing's exhibit at the Sawhill Gallery in Duke Hall. The world-renowned artist will visit JMU on Feb. 14 and 15 to lecture, visit classes and critique graduate student artists' work. The Sawhill exhibit chronicles 30 years of Bing's work.

JESSICA DODDS/
staff photographer

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.

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the Breeze

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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.
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CAMPUS ASSAULT RESPONSE

Do you
C.A.R.E.?

Campus Assault Response is now accepting applications to become a trained member for the sexual assault helpline.

Training will be held
February 16th, 17th, 23th, and 24th.

Applications are available online
(<http://www.jmu.edu/womensresource/care.shtml>)
or in the C.A.R.E. office in TDU
(112C), which are due
February 11th by 5pm.

All students are welcome to attend
C.A.R.E. meetings on Wednesday
nights, 8pm in Taylor 311.

Contact Anna Applegate at applegak@jmu.edu,
if you have any questions.

**C
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James Madison University

DATE: TUESDAY, FEB. 5, 2008

TIME: 6-7PM

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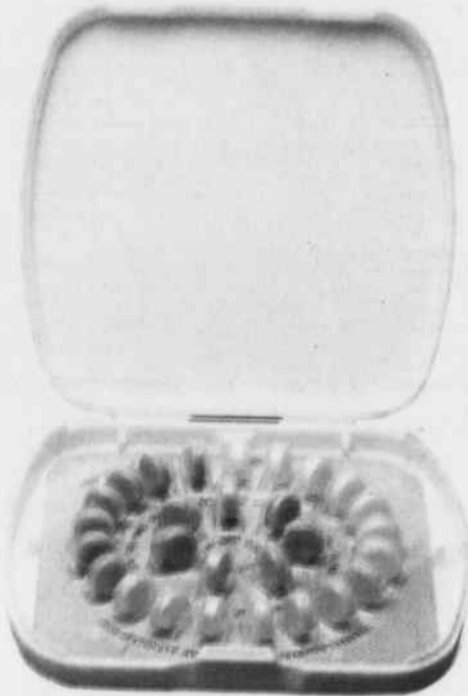
"Evaluating Total Compensation Packages"

SENIORS!

No more baby bumps or ovarian lumps?

A new study finds a link between taking oral contraceptives and a decrease in ovarian cancer

BY KATIE THISDELL
senior writer



Studies have shown that taking an oral contraceptive can cut the risk of contracting ovarian cancer in half. These benefits remain in effect for decades.

Ovarian cancer is the eighth most common cancer among women and is fifth in terms of deaths caused by cancer. In 2007, over 15,000 women died from the disease, according to the American Cancer Society.

"Like a lot of cancers, there's not a clear cause of why people get ovarian cancer," said Terry Wessel, a health sciences professor with a specialty in sexuality.

Even with routine doctors appointments, ovarian cancer is usually not detected until its later stages. The cancer is normally found in women over the age of 50.

British researchers at Oxford University published their results about the long-lasting effects of taking a birth control pill, analyzing data from 45 studies worldwide with over 100,000 women.

One possible reason scientists have studied the link between oral contraceptives and ovarian cancer is because of hormonal changes. Though the specific cause

is unknown, it may be connected to how the pill changes estrogen and progesterone levels and affects ovulation. This is similar to research that has shown that women who have had at least one pregnancy have a lower risk of developing ovarian cancer.

"With more research over time, it's logical they may find that other hormonal methods of contraceptives have similar effects," Wessel said.

Freshman Mandy Moomaw, an interdisciplinary liberal studies major, said that these benefits are an added incentive for using oral contraceptives.

"Taking birth control all depends on what stage you are in your life and if you want kids then or not, but ovarian cancer is so dangerous and aggressive that it's definitely something to consider," she said.

While the pill may help fend off ovarian cancer, there are cardiovascular risks to taking the pill. These can include high blood pressure, blood clots, heart attacks and strokes. These risks increase exponentially for women over 35, especially those who smoke, Wessel said. These risks only last as long as a woman takes the pill.

Wessel said, "The benefits of cancer protection last for years after someone stops taking the pill, but the risks of taking the pill immediately stop as well."

Alternative Spring Break program 'pays it forward'

BY ASHTON SMITH
staff writer

Last year's May Hurricane Katrina relief trip raised more than \$6,500, and with more than enough money for their next trip, they made a \$5,000 donation to the New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity.

The NOAAH is one of the many agencies volunteers work with during these trips. According to Interim Assistant Director for Alternative Breaks, Heather Roberts, deciding which agency should get the donation was fairly simple.

"We work with a lot of small organizations, so their tax coverage is not as good," Roberts said. "We know they are doing good things, but the NOAAH is the more stable agency."

Jeremy Hawkins, the learning partner on these trips, made the phone call to the NOAAH to tell them about the donation last week.

"Basically, I said, 'We are sending you a check with a letter telling about the donation,' and they said, 'OK, we'll take it,'" Hawkins said.

There will be no formal ceremony, just an under-the-radar contribution as a show of

support.

The rest of the money is going to need-based scholarships for students attending the trip in May.

"We are doing one scholarship in honor of our bus driver from JMU, Carol Miller, who died this past summer," Roberts said. "She went out and worked with us every day, even though she didn't have to."

The "pay it forward" method began after the first trip to New Orleans in November 2005. Students from each trip fundraised by writing letters to family, friends and those that might be interested in donating. Last May, Katrina trip students held a car wash and a Guitar Hero contest.

Although this year was the first year they have donated to agencies, Roberts said the increase in money has been steady since the beginning and hopes the funds will only continue to grow.

"I tell the participants, if every person on the trip gets five people to donate \$20 then that's \$5,000 right there," she said.

Roberts and Hawkins said the continual rise in proceeds just shows how dedicated JMU is to rebuilding New Orleans.

CONCERT: UPB expects T-Pain spring show to sell out quickly

CONCERT, from front
cost of the artist.

Prior to the announcement rumors circulated. Spectators walked the commons spreading the word about T-Pain before UPB's official broadcast.

"T-Pain really is coming!" freshman Jaimie Oglesaid after reading the stretched red and white banner that accompanied the announcement. Speakers blared "I Got Money in the Bank" and Oglesang along.

UPB members danced, jumped on the couch and sipped on cocoa to celebrate.

Small crowds formed on the commons to discuss the news. Two students stopped at the top of the stairs beside D-Hall, staring at the scene below, phones in hands.

"It looks like there's a party down there," junior Christina Pappafotis said, looking down from the steps. "I'm

definitely going to T-Pain. I'll walk it out for him."

UPB expects T-Pain tickets will go fast. The spring 2005 concert, Jimmy Eat World and Taking Back Sunday, was the last sold out show.

There will be two additional concerts this semester, according to Gibson; one in March held in Wilson Hall, and the other in April in Memorial Hall. More announcements will be made in the coming weeks.

Tickets for T-Pain go on sale March 18 at 7 p.m. in the Warren Box Office. Tickets are \$24 for general admission and \$28 for floor when purchased with a JAC card. Tickets for the general public are \$28 and will be \$32 the day of the show.

Tickets for Say Anything go on sale today at 8 a.m. in the Warren Hall Box Office. They will cost \$15 with a JAC Card and \$20 without.

MUSIC MAN



EVAN DYSON/senior photographer

Junior music major Jameson Carr practices xylophone Saturday evening in the Music Building in preparation for his weekly lesson. Percussionists play xylophones by striking wooden bars of various lengths with mallets made of plastic, rubber or wood.

ACCIDENT: Friend of pedestrian hit says speed should be enforced

ACCIDENT, from front

skull and brain injuries, but their exact extent is not yet known.

Authorities have not released any more information about the accident or the driver of the vehicle. According to JMU Spokesman Don Egle, the case has been sent to the Rockingham County Commonwealth's Attorney's Office for review.

Commonwealth's Attorney Marsha Garst could not be reached for comment over the weekend.

Some students say that accidents like Jahrling's could be avoided by reducing traffic on campus. At the University of Virginia, a system is in place to limit the number of vehicles on campus. U.Va. senior Nick Jalbert said that during the day gates are closed along the main road. Buses and maintenance vehicles are able to enter, but students in cars, unless they work on-campus, generally can't. Students park away from central campus, Jalbert said, and the gates open after 5 p.m.

JMU freshman Melanie Pommer said a similar system here could be beneficial, but only if the buses go to all the buildings necessary for students.

The university analyzes traffic, both vehicular and pedestrian, as well as traffic flow on a consistent basis each year and is currently in the planning process, according to Egle. He would not elaborate on what plans may be instituted in the future, but said there are a variety of options available. He did not state when any plans would be made available to the public.

Other students feel that the issue is not traffic density but the actions of individual drivers or pedestrians.

"I think speed should definitely be enforced," Walsch said.

Other possible dangers include iPods. Some students say they make pedestrians less aware of their surroundings.

Walsch said of Jahrling, "In this specific case, it wasn't a matter of iPods."

Resume round-up in Transitions tomorrow

When: Feb. 5, 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Where: Transitions

What: Career and Academic Planning is hosting a resume round-up tomorrow providing students with the opportunity to have their resumes critiqued by real employers. Dress is casual. Students are asked to arrive with a draft of their resume, and will be met with on a first come, first serve basis.

Talk on evaluating job offers held tomorrow

When: Feb. 5, 6-7 p.m.

Where: Sonner Hall

What: Ms. Wynn Reece of Circuit City is presenting "The Big Picture: Evaluating Total Compensation Packages," tomorrow evening. The presentation is geared toward effectively evaluating a job offer. Contact Career and Academic Planning with any questions at jmu.edu/cap/.

Volunteers needed to assist with CHOICES

The admissions office is looking for volunteers to assist with CHOICES on Mon. Feb. 18, Fri. April 11 and Mon. April 14. Last year more than 600 JMU students assisted with this event. CHOICES volunteers must attend one of two mandatory training sessions on either Mon. Feb. 4 at 6 p.m. in Grafton-Stovall Theater or Thurs. Feb. 7 at 6 p.m. in Festival Ballroom A. E-mail choices@jmu.edu with any questions.

Va. Tech to establish April 16, 2007 archives

Virginia Tech's university library is working to establish archives for materials related to the April 16, 2007 shootings. The research archives will preserve relevant materials in analog and digital formats and provide primary source material on how people grieve. The university is guided by consultants from the Library of Congress and is working with the university community.

Two professors to cover 'Super Tuesday'

Two U.Va. politics professors will play key roles in network coverage on "Super Tuesday." Larry J. Sabato will co-anchor the BBC's election coverage and Paul Freedman will serve as an election analyst for ABC News, reports *UvaToday*. Both Sabato and Freedman have authored books on campaigns and politics.

Senator John Warner to be commencement speaker

Senator John Warner is the University of Mary Washington's 2008 commencement speaker. He served as a petty officer in the U.S. Navy during World War II, an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean War, and was a captain in the Marine Corps Reserve for 10 years after his active service.

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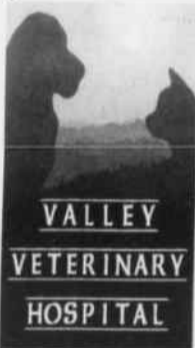
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ICE ICE BABY



JESSICA DODDS/staff photographer

A quarter inch of ice closed Rockingham County Schools on Friday, but JMU remained open. Power outages occurred throughout the city and neighboring counties. A traffic light fell at the intersection of Market and Mason streets on Friday, due in part to the ice and other damages included fallen trees and branches. While the groundhog saw his shadow Saturday, predicting six more weeks of winter, average temperatures are expected to be warmer this week.

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UPB presents **FEBRUARY** movies

<p>WED/THUR</p> <p>BEE MOVIE</p> <p>Feb. 6 & 7</p> <p>7 & 9:30pm</p>	<p>FRI/SAT</p> <p>AMERICAN GANGSTER</p> <p>Feb. 8 & 9</p> <p>7 & 10:30pm</p>
<p>AUGUST RUSH</p> <p>Feb. 13 & 14</p> <p>7 & 9:30pm</p>	<p>INTO THE WILD</p> <p>Feb. 15 & 16</p> <p>7 & 10pm</p>
<p>MICHAEL CLAYTON</p> <p>Feb. 20 & 21</p> <p>7 & 9:30pm</p>	<p>OFFICE SPACE</p> <p>Feb. 22 & 23</p> <p>7 & 9:30pm</p>
<p>Feb. 27 & 28</p> <p>7 & 10pm</p>	<p>Office Space</p> <p>Fri, Feb. 22 @ 11:59pm</p>

UPB University Program Board James Madison University <http://upb.jmu.edu/>

Box Office opens a half-hour before showtime

TICKET \$2.50

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A "way-to-slip-up" dart to JMU officials for not delaying classes on Friday.

From an unhappy student with bruises and scraped-up hands from slipping after she had to wake up and go to classes in the extremely icy conditions.

An "I-know-the-real-reason-you-took-the-class" pat to the elderly men learning how to delete temporary internet files off their computers on last week's front page.

From a junior who would not have gotten a lecture from his dad if he knew how to delete those scandalous Web sites.

An "I'm-blind-I'm-deaf-I-wanna-be-a-ref" dart to the brainless and laughable referees at last Wednesday's basketball game against William & Mary.

From an angry senior who will definitely be giving the NCAA a call so the Dukes can finally catch a break.

A "Bush's-approval-rate-might-be-24-percent-but-I-bet-yours-is-lower" dart to the liberal professor who trashed a mug that was capped and tucked away.

From a student who expected more compassion from a fellow liberal and whose mug was a gift from her summer internship.

A "thanks-for-shaking-your-groove-thing" pat to the energetic residents of Wampler Hall who throw regular dance parties that all can see and hear.

From two seniors who always stop to dance on the Quad when we hear the music from your windows.

A "do-you-have-anything-better-to-do?" dart to the disrespectful drunks who spent the majority of Wednesday afternoon smashing bottles outside our apartment.

From your neighbors who hope you pop your own tire on the glass before our nice maintenance people clean up after you.

A "do-I-need-the-extra-exercise?" dart to JMU for making JMU's most spirited basketball fans park the farthest from the Convocation Center.

From a group of juniors who would rather get their daily workout at UREC than from walking to and from the basketball games.

A "what-happened-to-the-good-stuff?" dart to UPB for thinking T-Pain would be a good choice for the spring Convocation Center show.

From a senior who remembers once upon a time when UPB brought Black Eyed Peas, Taking Back Sunday, Jimmy Eat World and Guster to JMU.

A "maybe-the-kids-do-stand-a-chance" pat to the rave review of the Vampire Weekend CD in Thursday's issue of *The Breeze*.

From a junior girl who is relieved that maybe the population isn't doomed to an eternity of Soulja Boy and Nickelback.

A "jaywalking-is-illegal-too" to the pedestrians who apparently think it's OK to walk without a crosswalk into traffic.

From drivers on campus who can't always see everyone popping out of the bushes.

An "all-science-nerds-should-be-so-cute" pat to my guitar-playing professor who had us sing in class to help us memorize Grignard reactions for our exam.

From a student who appreciates your enthusiasm and how you go the extra mile to help us understand one of the hardest classes JMU has to offer.

A "why-don't-you-clean-up-your-mess?" dart to the person in Memorial Hall who can't make a cup of hot chocolate without spilling it all over the coffee machine in the Butterfly Cafe.

From one of many folks who frequent that machine daily who is appalled by your irresponsibility to leave it for the wonderful housekeeping staff to clean up.

A "you-really-must-be-ninjas-for-getting-up-and-down-our-icy-stairs-without-getting-caught" pat to the cooking ninjas who left us cookies at 2 a.m. on Saturday.

From the maid who found the yummy cookies and wants to thank you.

A "this-is-the-opposite-of-bed-rest" dart to JMU for not allotting more spots for patients going to the Health Center and expecting them to walk from far away when they are sick or injured.

From a sick senior who had to walk from Hillside just to get to see a doctor.

Through the Looking Glass | SARAH DELIA, senior writer

A Carnival full of carnage and hate? This year's celebration tests the limits on what defines 'distasteful'

Dancers, painted bodies and naked women are just a few of the spectacles one is guaranteed to experience when attending Rio De Janeiro's annual Carnival. Similar to Louisiana's Mardi Gras, the idea behind the street gathering is to create the biggest party possible for all to participate in.

Although Carnival now includes a parade of labor-intensive floats and sequined dancers, the essence of the original festivities, which dates back to 1723, remains the same: the more nudity and provocative dancing, the better.

One of the signature characteristics to come out of Carnival is the shock and awe factor the parade tries to uphold each year. The annual street party is considered risqué, not only because of the sexual dancing and little or no clothing worn by both females and males, but because of the controversial themes and content of the floats.

Yesterday's festivities have had an immense amount of debate surrounded by one float in particular, which featured the theme of the Holocaust. The event is supposed to be cheery and joyful—not exploit tragic parts of the world's history.

Originally, the float created by the Viradouro samba organization consisted of realistic-looking "dead" bodies modeled after victims of World War II's concentration camps. Paulo Barros, the artistic director of Carnival described the float as "extremely respectful" and as a "warning" so that history may not

repeat itself.

However, the dancers who were scheduled to prance around another nearby float while wearing uniforms with swastikas on them pushed the envelope even further. One part of the parade was even named after Hitler. If that wasn't enough, the group hired an actor to dress and act like Hitler for the day while standing on top of the float which had the

the float and an additional \$28,000 for the Hitler impersonator or cancel the float altogether. The judge stated, "Carnival should not be used as an instrument of hatred, any kind of racism, and clear trivialization or barbaric and unjustified acts against minorities," especially when the parade is televised globally—and by naked dancers at that.

The protesting efforts of the Israelite Federation in Rio de Janeiro and the Simon Wiesenthal Center (an international Jewish human rights group) have hopefully put a stop to the tactless intentions of the parade for good.

This isn't the first time that Carnival, a Catholic celebration, has been questioned in its opinion of taste. Members of the Roman Catholic Church had banned certain floats which portrayed Jesus and the Virgin Mary in provocative ways. The samba schools were faced with a similar situation: either clothe the holy figures or take the floats down altogether.

Hiding behind artistic expression and cultural relativism, members of the samba group felt that outsiders to Carnival tradition were too quick to judge their intentions. But when there is a man hired to re-enact a ruthless dictator who killed millions of people on a day that is meant to be a celebration—I wonder how one cannot judge a culture that is reopening old wounds for another.

Sarah Delia is a junior English and art history major.

“ The event is supposed to be cheery and joyful—not exploit tragic parts of the world's history. ”

dead body models piled high. Barros insisted that the only way this could be offensive was if the float had "people dancing on top of dead bodies." Apparently, Barros thought he found a loophole by calling the work one of expression instead of what it truly was: undeniable insensitivity.

Fortunately, on Jan. 31, state judge Juliana Kalichsztein ruled that the Viradouro samba group either pay a \$110,000 fine for

Breeze Perspectives | RACHAEL MCDANIEL, contributing writer



Appalled at the apparel now tailored for youngsters

Recently I went into Hollister and held up my size in a sweatshirt, only to find that it covered only half of me. I began to look around and noticed that I was closer to the age of the mothers than half of the customers in there. Most of the girls I saw appeared to be about 8 to 12 years old. I then ventured into American Eagle where I found the same phenomenon. I remember commenting to myself, "Am I too old to be shopping here now?"

Since when are stores like American Eagle, Hollister and Abercrombie & Fitch for children? When I was younger, I don't remember me or anyone else my age wearing this clothing. I remember the "cool" clothing for that age when we were younger was stores like Limited Too. I did not start shopping in these stores until I was 14 or 15 years old. At that time, I was one of the younger ones in there. Now I go into these stores and feel old.

I'm not sure if children are just growing up faster now or if these stores are targeting their marketing toward younger children. I still love the clothing of all of these stores, but it makes me wonder whether I am too old to shop there. I have had several friends notice the same thing. They have all said that over the last few months, they have noticed a change in the ages of the average shoppers at these stores.

Many people who are college-aged seem to be switching to Express, New York & Company, the Limited and various other clothing stores. Though some of the switch may just be that we are entering the workforce and favor this type of clothing, I believe a lot of this is also due to the demographics of many stores gradually becoming younger. Some

stores like the ones mentioned previously aim their clothing toward college-aged consumers, which makes it feel more suitable to shop there.

Some stores, such as American Eagle, do not seem to be changing their clothing in order to adopt to these younger demographics. I do not know if it is just me, but I have found that some other stores seem to be changing their sizes to adjust to this change. Since there is such a variation in the appeal to this younger demographic, it leaves me divided as to whether it is the stores or the children.

I have started to notice that even some of the advertising campaigns for some of these stores contain younger models. So when I examine these changes, it makes me think that the stores are out to change their demographics. I do not know if this change was intentional or if it has just come about over time.

At the same time, I see young children acting a lot older than our generation did at that age, which makes me think children are growing up faster now. This makes me wonder if stores will continually have to lower their demographics to accommodate this trend of children growing up faster.

Either way, this change seems to be gradually booting our generation out in order to make way for the next one. I hope that these stores will not completely change their sizing and styles to accommodate younger shoppers to the point where college-aged people cannot shop in these stores at all. It is OK for them to bring the demographics down to a point to get a fresher perspective, but I hope they do not surpass this point.

Rachael McDaniel is a senior SMAD major.

“ Since when are stores like American Eagle, Hollister and Abercrombie & Fitch for children? ”

Letter to the Editor

One-hit wonders don't belong

University Program Board unveiled another concert on the commons Thursday, and the announcement was met with a mixture of polite applause and palpable disappointment. Though by this point, it probably came as little surprise to UPB.

I was one of the many who heard rumors earlier this week about the possibility of T-Pain doing the spring Convocation Center show. I disregarded this rumor for two reasons. First, I've heard the ridiculous rumors about Dave Matthews at Bridgforth Stadium, Dane Cook in Wilson and Van Halen reunions in TDU. Second, it can't be possible that the members of UPB are that out of touch with JMU.

I fill out those fliers, normally more than one, about whom we would pay to see, and how much we would be willing to pay. I was a sophomore before I read the fine

print at the bottom that essentially says, "We don't really care."

We love R&B but we're tired of flavor-of-the-week acts that come to JMU. T-Pain is just another one-hit wonder added to the list of Gym Class Heroes and Motion City Soundtrack who have come in the past two years. This is JMU's Centennial year and that excuse has justified countless luncheons and galas for the higher-ups at the university.

The Centennial students only want two things: an awesome spring show and an awesome graduation speaker. UPB failed at the first, making me think that money is instead going to be spent getting Justin Timberlake to speak at graduation. Get it together, UPB, or get used to handing tickets out at the door.

John Farris
senior English major

Editorial Policies

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

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The Real Story | TONY SPADACCIA, staff writer

The resurgence of John McCain

Senator is blazing through the primary trail with fresh steam

Last summer, John McCain's presidential campaign was practically dead. His fundraising had dried up and he was polling in the single digits in most states. In the fall, many political experts expected McCain to end his campaign at any time. But instead of calling it quits, he kept fighting and it resulted in one of the most remarkable comebacks in recent political history.

Early last year, our military faced the possibility of being caught in the middle of a civil war between al-Qaeda-backed Sunni and Iranian-backed Shiite Muslims in Iraq. Yet, while the Democratic leadership in Congress did all it could to undermine the war effort and withdraw our troops in defeat, McCain fought for victory so our soldiers could "come home with honor." He criticized the mismanagement of the war by former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and led the call for an increase in troop levels before President Bush adopted the strategy.

At the time, even Republicans had their doubts over whether victory was possible in Iraq and McCain's steadfast support for the war caused his poll numbers to suffer greatly. Risking his political future, he held his ground saying that he'd "much rather lose a campaign than a war."

But today the situation is much different. Our soldiers have done a remarkable job in securing Iraq. Violence has dropped dramatically all over the country and, as of this week, only one al-Qaeda stronghold remains.

As a result of the success, McCain's poll numbers have skyrocketed. He holds leads over his Republican rivals in almost every state left in the primary season as well as head-to-head leads over Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama.

McCain's revival can also be credited to another

cause: his own personality. He may not be the smoothest talker in the race for the White House, but he is by far the most straightforward and honest of any other remaining candidate. Throughout his campaign, he has been willing and eager to defend his beliefs on issues of which he is at odds with Republicans. Instead of trying to fool voters by telling them what they want to hear, like Mitt Romney, McCain wants to win votes by earning the voters' respect.

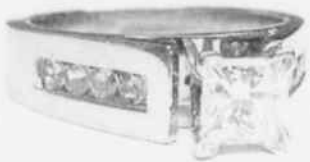
At his townhall meetings, McCain doesn't brush voters off with sound bite answers; instead, he lets them ask follow-up questions. Between campaign stops, he often sits and talks with the reporters he travels with on his bus. His accessibility to the media and to voters has helped to grow his support by giving voters a better understanding of him.

In 2008, America finds itself at a crossroads. We are a war with Islamic extremists who, guided by their ideology of bigotry and hatred, wish to rule the world and replace our freedom with fear. Our economy is failing, Americans have lost faith in their government, millions live without health care and our laws are continually undermined by activist judges who legislate from the bench.

I support McCain because he is a true American hero who stands on principle, not politics. He has dedicated his life to serving our country and has a record of courage and leadership. He will keep our country on the offense against the terrorists and make our government accountable to the people it serves by eliminating wasteful porkbarrel spending, as well as protect the dignity and sanctity of human life and the values that make this country great.

Tony Spadaccia is a freshman political science and business management major.

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Governor's Fellows Program

Program Goals

The historic and prestigious Virginia Governor's Fellows Program offers a select group of outstanding and highly motivated individuals the opportunity to experience firsthand the administration of state government in the Commonwealth. Established in 1982, the Governor's Fellows Program brings exceptional students with creative ideas to state government — an experience that often leads to careers in public service.

Eligibility Requirements

Qualified applicants must be graduating college seniors or enrolled as degree candidates in a graduate or professional school. Applicants must be enrolled in a Virginia college or university or must be a Virginia resident if enrolled in an out-of-state institution. They must also have a demonstrated commitment to excellence in academics, proven leadership ability, and involvement in extracurricular activities and community service. The selection of Fellows will be based solely on merit, without regard to race, sex, national origin, religion, age, disability, or political affiliation.

Length of Program

Fellows will be required to work full-time in Virginia state government. The 2008 Governor's Fellows Program will begin Monday, June 2, 2008 and continue through Friday, August 1, 2008.

Assignments

Participants are placed in different positions in the Governor's Office and in various agencies throughout the Executive Branch. The program attempts to match Fellows with compatible assignments according to background, interests and future goals.

Funding

State funds are not allocated for the Governor's Fellows Program. However, in previous years, colleges and universities have distributed stipends to the Fellows selected from their institutions. Institutions are urged to make summer grants available. Applicants who will require financial assistance in order to participate in the program should discuss this matter with school officials before applying. Office of the Senior Vice President for Student Affairs and University Planning 568-3685.

Application

The deadline for applying online for the 2008 Fellows Program is 5 p.m. February 29, 2008.

For application and additional information please see this website:
<http://www.governor.virginia.gov/ServingVirginia/fellows.cfm>

Read the full version of Tony Spadaccia's column online at thebreeze.org.

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Changing the face of thrift stores

Harrisonburg stores updating the image of thrift shopping with trendy clothes, unique experiences



Collectible plates (above) are among the many unique items sold at Tried and True. Second Edition (below) is a modern take on the thrift store, selling up-to-date clothing and accessories such as Nine West and Max Azria. Second Edition's funky atmosphere (right) sets it apart from other thrift stores.



photos by JESSICA DODDS/staff photographer

BY SARAH MEAD
contributing writer

The key to finding a great place to shop is to think outside the box. The abundance of thrift stores and antique shops in Harrisonburg is overwhelming, but all of the merchandise is unique, affordable and surprisingly stylish.

Second Time Around has been in Harrisonburg for around 16 years and has a pleasant ambience accompanied by an unexpected and friendly greeting from a parrot as you walk through the door.

When asked what distinguishes her store from others, owner Rachel Hinegardener said, "The quality of our selection and the shopping environment ... Our customer service is above other thrift and consignment shops."

The merchandise at Second Time Around includes shoes, casual and more fancy apparel, belts, handbags, jewelry, scarves as well as home décor and books. The merchandise selection process involves sorting through what is brought in and the most current styles and brand names are selected. A few of the brand names observed were Abercrombie & Fitch, Vera Bradley, Nine West, Jessica McClintock and French Connection, and the average price for an item is around \$20.

Tried and True is a quaint and friendly store run by Ken and Deb Layman. All of the proceeds benefit relief programs of the Church of the Brethren Global food crises fund and the Mennonite Church HIV/AIDS fund.

"People don't realize they can fight world hunger and AIDS just by giving used items in good shape that they don't need," owner Deb Layman said. "Just by doing this you can benefit so many people."

Tried and True accepts all merchandise brought to them according to the owners. This includes all donations of clothing, household items and books. More information on Tried and True can be found at triedandtruethrift.org.

Rolling Hills Antique Mall is owned by Jeff Bradfield and managed by Betty Smith and has over 50 dealers. It is an enormous store with many rooms loaded with antique jewelry, post cards, magazines, posters, calendars, ads, license plates, books, oil lamps, glassware, furniture, primitive handmade pieces, quilts, bottles, vintage clothes and hats, Civil War and World War II collectibles, kitchenware and more: One thing that particularly stood out was the copious supply of Life magazines dating back to 1939.

"Our quality and how things are displayed; they are easy to get to and the store is well lit," Bradfield said when asked what makes his antique store unique. "We have true antiques and higher quality, not a lot of reproduction."

Second Edition is a chic and up-to-date thrift store owned by Golda Rexrode and has a new, trendy vibe from the moment customers walk through the door, with racks and racks of clothing and accessories that are extremely well organized.

The store opened about three years ago and is very picky in what it chooses to sell, which is certainly reflected through the quality and brand of clothing, jewelry, handbags, belts, shoes, perfume and books sold. Some of the brands sold are Banana Republic, J Crew, Nine West, Seven, Max Azria, Hot Kiss and Lucky.

2nd Time Around

1153 South High St.
(540) 564-2773

Tried and True

600 University Blvd
(540) 442-7250

Rolling Hills Antique Mall

779 E Market St.
(540) 433-8988

Second Edition

1824 South Main St.
(540) 564-1130



2nd Time Around (top), located on South High St., sells clothes, shoes and accessories. Customers (above) browse through the many racks of second hand clothing. Tried and True (left) located on University Blvd., accepts anything brought to them. Racks of clothing stand outside the store to draw the eyes of passersby.

Horror film remake, 'The Eye,' proves not worth seeing

BY JUSTIN THURMOND
staff writer

'The Eye'

Starring Jessica Alba. Released Feb. 1.

Seen "The Ring," "The Grudge," "Dark Water" or any other movie of that type, you have already seen

"The Eye."

In this remake of the original "Jian Gui," Jessica Alba stars as Sydney Wells in the creepy tale of a blind violin player who has cornea transplants that restore her sight. While trying to get used to seeing the world again, Sydney seems to see something else as well. Something horrible. She can see dead people and what appears to be some kind of Grim Reaper character hauling them off to wherever dead people in movie land go. She tries to figure out how, why and what is going on with her new eyes, while everyone else seems to

think she's losing it and is just afraid of having her sight back.

Alba delivers a note-worthy performance but it just so happens to be in the most generic, typical movie. It's all loud sounds and quick camera movements. Why does Hollywood continue to make these awful PG-13 horror remakes?

The fact that it is a remake of an overseas movie makes it bad, but this one also has a few more problems that lie just within this particular horror flick. Alba's character gets her sight back in the beginning of the movie but it takes her over

half an hour to get focus back. The two directors of this motion picture (David Moreau and Xavier Palud) thought it would be a good idea to show us what's she's going through by blurring the images. This gets old fast and actually makes your own eyes hurt after a while. After rubbing your eyes for most of the evening you get to the climax of the movie. It's lame, anticlimactic and just plain stupid.

If Americans can't come up with anything better than remaking horror films from the '80s or from overseas, we should just stop altogether.

'Rock Band,' 'Guitar Hero' games allow players to become rock stars

Video games centering around music groups prove addictive

BY RACHEL CARTER
The Tiger

CLEMSON, S.C. — Those who still foster youthful reveries of belting out bass-heavy tunes or rocking out on highly-priced guitars should not abandon those ambitious dreams just yet.

In fact, all closeted rock stars have to look no further

than the local Wal-Mart for a copy of "Guitar Hero" or "Rock Band," two musical video games that have become the latest craze in electronic entertainment.

Video games like these have become overwhelmingly popular since their release in 2005 and 2007, respectively, and sales show no signs of slowing any time soon.

"Guitar Hero," developed by Harmonix Music Systems for PlayStation 2, features a controller in the shape of a guitar and allows players to "play" songs by pushing various buttons on the controller.

Players simultaneously "strum" the guitar with one hand while pressing various colored buttons

that correspond to the colors displayed on the screen. Players can compete against one another, form a multiplayer team or play individually.

The game incorporates both classic and modern rock songs including "Take Me Out" by Franz Ferdinand, "Spanish Castle Magic" by Jimi Hendrix and "Bark at the Moon" by Ozzy Osbourne.

Besides the original version, "Guitar Hero" has released three other games, "Guitar Hero II," "Guitar Hero III: Legends of Rock" and "Guitar Hero Encore: Rocks the 80s." "Guitar Hero III" is even available on mobile phones.

"Guitar Hero" is not the only interactive video game helping consumers live out their rock star dreams. If guitars aren't the forte of choice, "Rock Band" includes a guitar, bass, drums and a microphone enabling players to simulate an entire live band. Similar to "Guitar Hero," players must "play" their instruments in sync with the notes scrolling down the screen.

"It most definitely is addicting, especially if you're really into music," said Samantha Dohmeier, a sophomore who owns "Guitar Hero." "I like it because you can compete against your friends or play with them in co-op mode."

Dohmeier was first attracted to the game at a Wal-Mart where she and her friends often played until she finally bought it.

The recently released "Rock Band," also created by Harmonix Music Systems, was originally created for the Xbox 360 and PlayStation 3, although a version compatible with PlayStation 2 is available now. Anyone remotely familiar with the realm of video games would agree that "Guitar Hero" has flooded the pop culture mainstream.

Now a fixture at many parties, it has been featured in television shows such as "South Park" and "Gossip Girl," and has garnered its very own "Guitar Hero nights" in living rooms and bars alike.

Not only that, Dohmeier believes the game's popularity stems from boredom consumers may have with other video games. "I think [video games] are popular because they appeal to music lovers," said Dohmeier. "They're new and interesting. People were getting tired of the same old kind of games they've beaten numerous times."

Freshman Amanda Wenzell owns both "Guitar Hero" and "Rock Band." "A friend brought it over one day this past summer and I've been hooked ever since," said Wenzell.

"Both games take you to another dimension, one where the dream of becoming a rock star comes true," said Wenzell. "It's pure magic."

Freshman Jared Stokes also owns both games.

"It's a challenging game with a unique style of game play that hasn't been done before," Stokes said. "The game appeals to pretty much everybody out there because everybody loves music."

Because "Rock Band" was not released until this past November, it has not yet achieved the mass popularity of "Guitar Hero." However, it is well on its way to reaching the status of its musical predecessor.

"I prefer 'Rock Band' because it offers more instruments to play and has awesome support in the way of downloadable songs," Stokes said.

Wenzell was already unable to choose between the two video games. "That is an impossible decision," he said.

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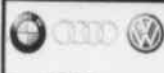
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This Week In JMU Sports

Wednesday, Feb. 6
— Men's basketball vs. Towson, 7 p.m.

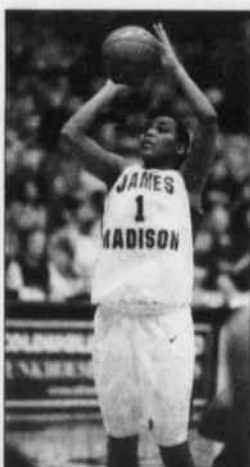
Thursday, Feb. 7
— Women's basketball @ Northeastern, 7 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 8
— Women's track & field @ Armory Invitational, All day

Saturday, Feb. 9
— Women's track & field @ Armory Invitational, All day
— Men's basketball @ UNC-Wilmington, 7 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 10
— Women's basketball vs. Towson, 2 p.m.

Women beat W&M



AARON STEWART/file photo

JMU junior Kisha Stokes had 14 rebounds.

Senior guard Tamera Young led JMU with 17 points Sunday as the Dukes beat William & Mary 69-53.

JMU outrebounded the Tribe 53-44 with junior Kisha Stokes ripping down 14 while senior Jennifer Brown got 13.

Despite shooting 38 percent from the field, JMU shot 66 percent from beyond-the-arc. Senior guard Jasmine Lawrence connected on three of her four attempts from long-range.

Lawrence's first three-pointer less than four minutes into the game gave JMU a 9-6 advantage and the Tribe didn't lead again the rest of the way.

JMU went into the half with a 34-24 lead as seven players scored.

William & Mary saw three players score in double figures but the fourth-highest scorer had only five points.

Senior guard Kyra Kaylor scored a game-high 19 points for the Tribe on 7-for-17 shooting. Classmate Devin James chipped in 15 points and seven steals and sophomore Tiffany Benson scored 10 points.

James's seven steals contributed to JMU's 26 turnovers. The Tribe committed only 14, but couldn't match the scoring balance of Madison coach Kenny Brooks' team.

Freshman guard Courtney Hamner registered a career-high 12 points, including two three-pointers.

The Dukes have won four straight games since a one-point overtime loss to VCU on Jan. 20. In the four wins JMU has won by an average of 16 points.

— from staff reports

JMU 'rival' makes it nine straight

Junior Juwann James scores 1,000th point in 72-46 loss to Patriots

BY TIM CHAPMAN
sports editor

FAIRFAX — George Mason basketball players Jordan Carter, Folarin Campbell and Will Thomas will have an array of accomplishments to look back on when their final season finishes this spring.

Most notably the trio played instrumental roles in Mason's improbable Final Four run in 2005-06. Campbell and Thomas started for that team and Carter appeared in four of the five NCAA tournament games.

Thomas has been named to the Colonial Athletic Association All-Defensive team twice and both he and Campbell averaged over 10 points a game in their first three seasons. This season they are posting 16 and 13.7 points, respectively.

The three seniors added another highlight to their careers Saturday with a 72-46 dismantling of JMU: a perfect 9-0 record against the Dukes in what Campbell considers a "personal" rivalry.

"My freshman year I didn't know anything about the rivalry until coach 'L' emphasized how important it was," Campbell said. "Ever since that day I took it to heart."

JMU (10-11 overall, 3-8 in CAA) is the only in-conference team Mason hasn't lost to in the last four seasons, although the Patriots can still go 6-0 against Towson with a win over the Tigers on Feb. 13.

The Dukes' latest loss in the series wasn't even close as JMU led only once after junior Juwann James scored the game's first basket on his way to breaking his career 1000-point mark.

The Patriots (16-6, 8-3) got going like they tend to do against JMU, scoring 11 straight points for Mason coach Jim Larranaga's 200th career victory in front of a record crowd of 9,840 at Patriot Center.

JMU didn't even come close to responding in the hostile environment, shooting a dismal 28.6 percent in the first half. James scored the Dukes' first five baskets of the game and junior guard Abdulai Jalloh registered the only other field goal of the half on a deep three-pointer with 1:35 left.

Sophomore guard Pierre Curtis left the game with a knee injury less than eight minutes into the game, leaving the Dukes without their pri-



DAVID LONNGUEST/file photo

Juwann James (right) scored five of JMU's six first-half field goals, finishing the game with 17 points.

mary ball-handler.

"I just went up to block the shot and I came down...all my weight was on my left leg," Curtis said.

Before the break Mason shot 61.1 percent on 11-for-18 shooting, but led by only nine points.

The Patriots opened the half with a seven-point run started by junior guard John Vaughn's three-pointer. Vaughn scored 19 points in the contest, just behind Campbell, who scored a game-high 20 points on 8-for-11 shooting, including 3-for-3 from three-point range.

James finished the game with team-highs of 17 points and 11 rebounds for JMU but continued to receive little help offensively. Jalloh scored 16, but took 16 shots, making only five.

During the team's current six-game losing streak, Jalloh has shot 32 percent on 85 attempts and has gone 12-for-40 from beyond-the-arc with 25 turnovers to 22 assists.

Junior Kyle Swanston was the Dukes leading three-point threat before going down with a knee injury eight games ago. Classmate Joe Posey — another outside shooter — has missed the last four games after being indefinitely suspended. Jalloh has tried to pick up the slack without the two shooters but has struggled to keep his scoring high while keeping the turnovers low.

"I've never been in this position in my life," Jalloh said. "We've had adversity this season. But I feel like this is what's gonna determine what kind of man I turn out to be in life; how I bounce back, how we bounce back."

The game also marked Larranaga's 19th career win over Madison in 11 seasons. JMU coach Dean Keener has never beat the "rival" Patriots in nine tries and has lost by an average of 19.6 points with the closest margin 11, in last season's first round CAA tournament game.

P.J. leads Dukes over neighbor, Richmond

JMU women's swimming completed its regular season of dual meets Saturday with a 163-124 win over Richmond on Senior Day.

After struggling last year to a 1-8 record, coach Samantha Smith's Dukes posted an impressive turnaround at 8-4.

Sophomore P.J. Naber had a part in 40 of JMU's points with two wins in individual events and two wins in relays.

The Chantilly, Va. native anchored the first-place 200-yard medley relay team of freshmen Morgan McCarthy, Lisa Colapietro and Layne Eidemiller, that finished in 1:48.52.

She then cruised to victory in both the 50 and 100-yard freestyle events, inching Spiders' sophomore Katie Sieben by just 38 hundredths of a second in the 50-yard.

Naber helped the Dukes finish the day the way it started with another relay win. This time she started the 200-yard freestyle relay that included Eidemiller, sophomore Aman-

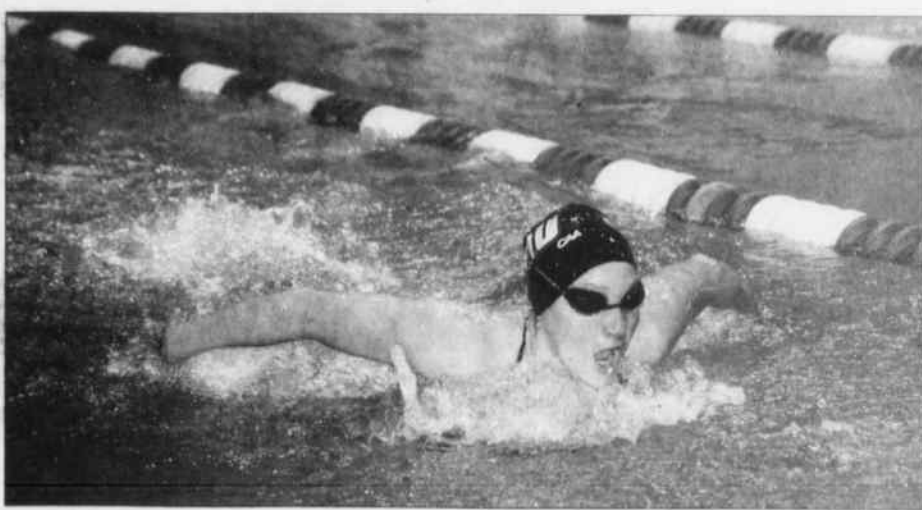
da Hauck and junior Meghan Heil. In the second leg, Heil swam the fastest split at 24.38 seconds, as the team finished in 1:38.04.

Senior diver Jamie Coyle notched her record high scores of 268.2 in the one-meter springboard and 253.00 in the three-meter.

Senior swimmers Grace deMarrais and Gailey Walters also competed for the last time at Godwin Hall's Savage Natatorium. Walters was fifth in her highest individual finish of the day in the 200-yard backstroke, posting 2:13.64 to score a point. deMarrais finished third in the 500-yard freestyle in 5:12.42 for her highest individual finish and three points. Both Walters and deMarrais also competed in a relay event.

The CAA championships will be held Feb. 27- March 1 at George Mason.

— from staff reports



DAVID LONNGUEST/staff photographer

JMU swimming completed a drastic turnaround in the regular season from a year ago with an 8-4 record capped by Saturday's win over the Richmond Spiders.

Yeah... I said it.

TIM CHAPMAN, sports editor

Pardon the ensuing football analogies, but the Super Bowl was yesterday and I can't resist.

On Saturday the New England Patriots of Colonial Athletic Association basketball (aka the George Mason Patriots) romped the equivalent to the Miami Dolphins (aka the James Madison Dukes) 72-46 in front of a record crowd of 9,840 at Mason.

Like the football Pats, Mason dominated the lowly Dukes for the second time this season, like New England did the 1-15 Dolphins.

Although the Dukes' (10-11 overall, 3-8 in CAA) record isn't quite as atrocious as Miami, their overall record against Mason in coach Dean Keener's era is.

Keener's squads are not only 0-9 against America's darling from the 2006 Final Four, but they have lost by an average of 19.6 points. The largest margin of defeat was 27 points on Feb. 25, 2006 and the lowest margin 11 points in last year's CAA tournament — not even single digits.

The sad thing is that this matchup is considered a rivalry.

Dictionary.com defines a rival as "a person or thing that is in a position to dispute another's preeminence or superiority."

JMU hasn't been in position to dispute Mason's preeminence and superiority for at least 11 years — the length of current Mason coach Jim Larranaga's tenure. Although JMU leads the overall series 48-35, Larranaga has gone 18-6 against the Dukes. JMU's last win came Feb. 7, 2004 and the last time the Dukes swept Mason in a season was Lety Driesell's last year in 1996-97.

The root of the "rivalry" is in the school's proximity. Harrisonburg is only 115 miles southwest of Fairfax, a less-than-two-hour drive. The Mason fans made it quite clear with two minutes left in the game how familiar they are with JMU as they began chanting "66 West, 81 South," sarcastically giving the Dukes directions back home.

The two schools compete for in-state and out-of-state students and obviously play in the same conference for most sports.

Mason has a considerably higher undergraduate enrollment hovering around 30,000 students compared to Madison's nearly 17,000.

Mason is also right outside Washington, D.C., which is more attractive to recruits than the Valley and Harrisonburg's weaker media market.

But that excuse can only fly for so long. JMU football coach Mickey Matthews has guided his program to national prominence on the 1-AA level.

Conversely, Mason doesn't have a football program, which can allow it to invest more money and attention in basketball. They also gained national attention with its much-publicized run to the Final Four.

But JMU has improved upon its facilities since Keener's arrival in 2004, by adding the Plocker Athletic Performance Center, and cut 10 sports last year which surely benefits the school's bigger programs.

In year four Keener has no hangovers from previous coach Sherman Dillard's seven-year reign. The coaching staff brought in quality recruits and attracted notable transfers including Abdulai Jalloh from St. Josephs, Dazzmond Thornton from Texas Tech and Terrence Carter, an honorable mention All-American in junior college. But JMU still can't come close to Mason.

Mason is clearly a better team with better players, but a rival is a rival and the Dukes should at least be able to make it a ballgame. Instead, they have made a mockery of their 7-1 start this season by being blown out at home and on the road.

Mason senior guard Dre Smith embarrassed the Dukes at the Convocation Center on Jan. 19 when he set an NCAA record with his 10-for-10 three-point shooting performance, while scoring a career-high 34 points. JMU was without starting forward junior Kyle Swanston, but Mason was with out starting senior forward Darryl Monroe whose 6-foot-7, 260-pound frame creates slightly more of a match-up problem than the 6-foot-7, 175-pound injured Duke.

In the rematch, both players were still inactive and the Dukes didn't have service of suspended junior guard Joe Posey — who hasn't played since an argument with assistant coach Louis Rowe during the first Mason game. Sophomore guard Pierre Curtis also left Saturday's game with a knee injury less than eight minutes in.

Curtis's injury undoubtedly affected the Dukes' backcourt play, but JMU didn't even put up a fight for its injured floor-general except for Juwann James' 8-for-9, 17-point effort.

Mason senior guard Folarin Campbell was the antithesis of JMU's effort in the game. With 5:17 left in the game, Campbell assisted a Will Thomas' layup that put the Patriots ahead 61-33. The game was already far out of reach, but Campbell jumped up and down like he had dishd the game-winning assist against Duke or North Carolina.

Because of the enthusiasm George Mason plays with, JMU continually loses by Blue Devil and Tar Heel-like margins.

It's no secret Keener is in the hot seat despite having one year remaining on his contract. It doesn't help that most teams are measured against their "rivals." Simply put, JMU is just not measuring up.

Tim Chapman is a sophomore SMAD major with a print journalism concentration.

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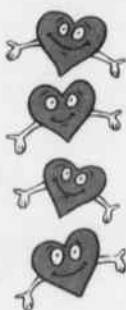


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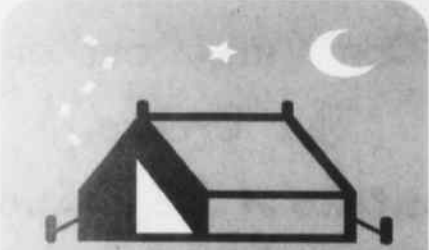
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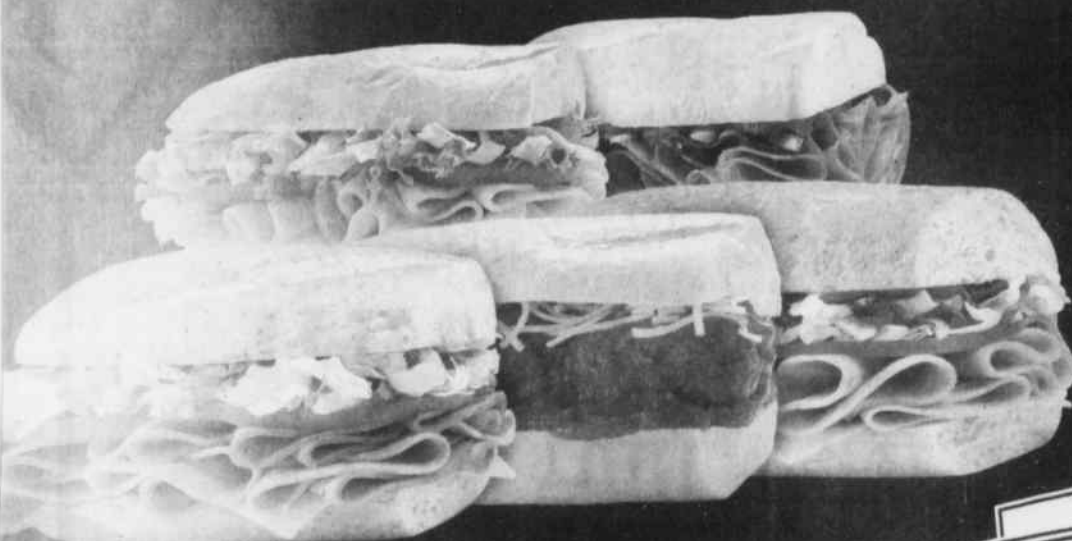
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