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breezejmu.org

Postelection postcards

College Democrats, Bare Naked Ladies host postcard campaign to reach out to elected officials

By YASMINE MAGGIO
The Breeze

Postcards may be used to write home from far away places, but for the politically motivated it's a means of taking action.

Inspired by the Women's March campaign, JMU College Democrats and Bare Naked Ladies, a group of students dedicated to promoting positive body image and self-love, recently created a 10-week action campaign to kick off the new semester, and the new administration. Their first order of business: a postcard writing campaign for students to voice their concerns to Rep. Bob Goodlatte.

"Postelection, everybody wanted to do something but nobody knew really what to do or how to do it," Josh Roesch, a junior political science major and president of JMU College Democrats, said. "A lot of the point of this campaign is to try to channel that frustration into a productive thing, and this gives

people an opportunity to get involved in ways they might not otherwise."

The campaign is broken up into five, two-week mini-campaigns. The plan for action involves writing to Goodlatte and various media outlets — such as the Daily News-Record and The Breeze, who published an article last Thursday — criticizing Goodlatte's voting record and urging students to vote. The campaign will end with the Virginia Young Democrats Convention at JMU on March 17, and a city council forum in Harrisonburg.

Patrick Stott, a senior political science major and chairman of the JMU College Republicans, responded to Roesch's opinion piece in an email.

"Organization at the local level is a huge part of politics," Stott said. "That's why Republicans hold a two-thirds majority in the House of Delegates and a majority in the State Senate. It's also why Republicans hold an insurmountable amount of state legislatures and governor's mansions. The



ALEXIS MILLER / THE BREEZE

The postcard writing campaign is the first step in a 10-week plan dedicated to giving students an active voice.

Democrats have no bench because of this."

For Elvera Gurevich, a senior communication studies major, treasurer of Bare Naked Ladies and member of College Democrats, the decision to partner with College Democrats for the postcard writing campaign aligned with the values of Bare Naked Ladies.

"We're not technically a feminist organization,

but a lot of the things we talk about go hand-in-hand with what the Women's March was about," Gurevich said. "Bare Naked Ladies' mission is improving self-love and trying to get people more comfortable with themselves. I feel like equal pay for equal work kind of goes hand-in-hand with respecting yourself."

see MAIL, page 3

Recovery is possible

On-campus events increase knowledge of Eating Disorder Awareness Month

By KAREY GARDENER
The Breeze

The audience in the Wilson auditorium on Tuesday evening felt the emotion and loss as Ron George, father of former student Leslie George, stood up and spoke about his daughter's fatal eating disorder.

"We made her promise to tell the doctors about her eating disorder and her eating binge that night," George said in his speech. "In retrospect, that was probably a big mistake."

The doctors weren't convinced that Leslie had burst her stomach because of the state she was in. They believed she was having a psychotic episode

due to her behavior and refused to pump her stomach.

"It has been 16 years, four months and 22 days since my daughter died of an eating disorder," George said.

Eating disorders are the primary cause of deaths related to mental illness, and their prevalence is the reason why February is National Eating Disorder Awareness month.

Many JMU organizations, such as the Bare Naked Ladies and the JMU chapter of Sigma Sigma Sigma, are coming together in support of people suffering from any type of disordered eating condition.

see AWARENESS, page 4



LAURA VANDERMARK / THE BREEZE

Jeanette Suros was the keynote speaker at Tri Sigma's speakout. She spoke about her own experiences with anorexia as a survivor.

A respected man

Remembering Dean Ehlers' 22 years as JMU's athletic director

Omer "Dean" Ehlers, the first athletic director of JMU, died Sunday afternoon at the age of 87. Ehlers led JMU athletics for 22 years, taking over as the head of the department in 1971. Hired by then-president and former colleague Ronald E. Carrier, Ehlers built the sports program from the ground up.

During his tenure, the university made the shift to Division I, began offering athletic scholarships, joined the Colonial Athletic Association and began its football program. Ehlers is credited with leading JMU's movement to relevancy within the NCAA and was inducted into both the JMU Hall of Fame and the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame.

In an effort to reduce costs, Carrier also hired Ehlers as the men's basketball coach during his first year with the school. In the program's infancy, games were played in the Harrisonburg High School gym as the JMU Convocation Center hadn't been built yet.

While JMU's athletic budget for the year that ended on June 30, 2015, was over \$44 million, the school had just \$44,000 to work with in Ehlers' first year on the job. In addition to the limited funds, Ehlers operated without an official ticket office. After coming home from work in the evenings, he spent time mailing tickets to fans.

Ehlers also spent six years on the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Committee, served as the president of the CAA and was the head of the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference. He also was a member of the NCAA basketball rules committee that helped bring dunking back into the sport after it was banned from 1967-1976.

Ehlers, with the help of his staff and colleagues, laid the foundation for JMU's nationally acclaimed athletic program. He's survived by his children and their families.

-staff report



COURTESY OF JMU ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS

Dean Ehlers inducts JMU field hockey coach Christy Morgan into the JMU sports hall of fame in 2013.

DID YOU KNOW?

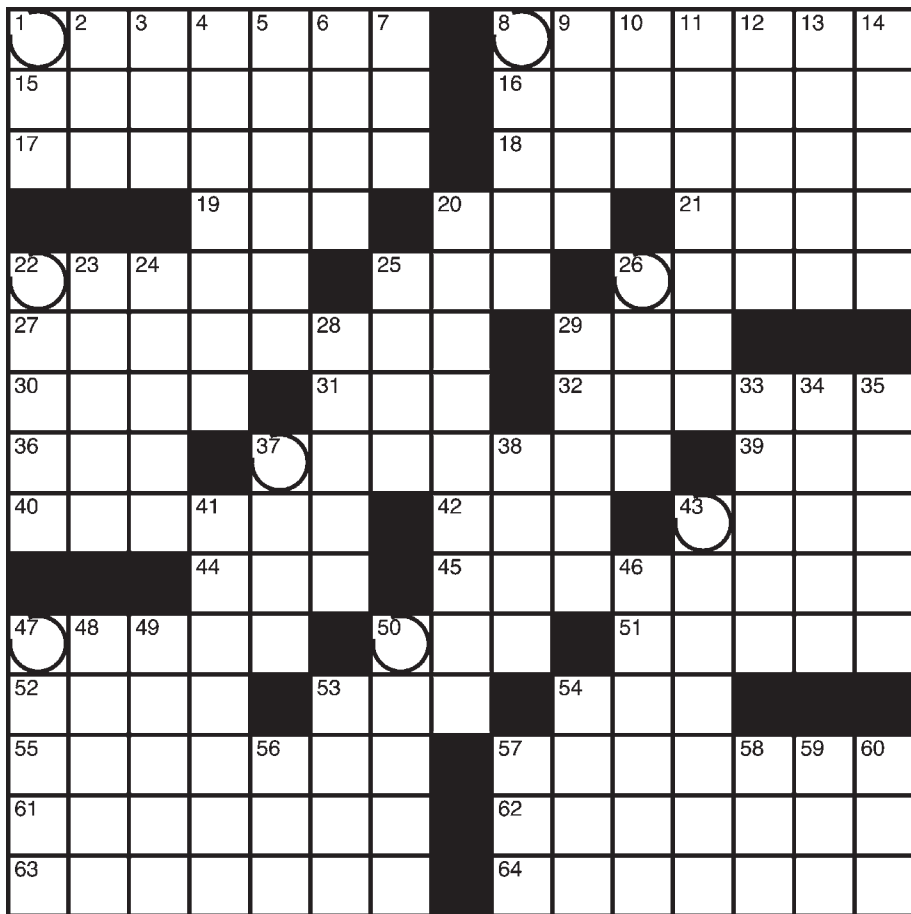
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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

Across

- 1 Oldest U.S. capital
- 8 Spade creator
- 15 Melodic movements
- 16 Ancient region now part of France
- 17 Is serious
- 18 Impulse conductors
- 19 Much toothpaste
- 20 U.S. neighbor
- 21 "Picnic" dramatist
- 22 Letter between November and Papa
- 25 Singer's warm-up syllables
- 26 Indy-winning family name
- 27 Swears by
- 29 66, e.g.: Abbr.
- 30 Metaphor for jobs
- 31 Lav, in London
- 32 Singer Kitt
- 36 "... _ quit!"
- 37 Kind of bath
- 39 "Just like that!"
- 40 Sign-off words
- 42 Director Lupino
- 43 Corny state?
- 44 MSN, for one
- 45 "I'm good"
- 47 Jazzy Jones
- 50 Miracle Mets manager Hodges
- 51 Frozen fruit-flavored drinks
- 52 Slanted piece

Down

- 1 _ Adams
- 2 "Who _ you kidding?"
- 3 Actress Vardalos
- 4 Polynesian archipelago natives
- 5 State as fact
- 6 Impede, as a plot
- 7 Guinness suffix
- 8 _ Her Way
- 9 "A Clockwork Orange" narrator
- 10 2015 Big Ten champs: Abbr.
- 11 Siren's victim
- 12 Waist-length jackets
- 13 Faint trace
- 14 Trademarked weapon
- 20 One-piece beachwear
- 22 Former #1 golfer Lorena who hosts an annual Guadalajara LPGA event
- 23 Heads up

24 Adorable one

- 25 Screen _
- 26 Four Corners state
- 28 Openly enjoy, as soup
- 29 Convened again
- 33 Rib eye alternative
- 34 Ethan of "Boyhood"
- 35 Gather up
- 37 John who composed the "NBA on NBC" theme song
- 38 Much-followed star
- 41 Gorge crosser
- 43 Former Chrysler head
- 46 Early Jewish scholar
- 47 116-year-old prize
- 48 Philip Glass' "Einstein on the Beach," e.g.
- 49 Kelly's ex-partner
- 50 Belgian treaty city
- 53 Jesus of baseball
- 54 She, in Cherbourg
- 56 Bar opening?
- 57 _ Lingus
- 58 DIRECTV parent
- 59 Ante-kin
- 60 Bummed out

By Jeff Stillman

2/23/17

Find the answers online at: breezejmu.org/site/crossword_answers



STEPHANIE MORALES / THE BREEZE

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Upcoming Events

Friday

- ☛ Yoga Happy Hour & Brews @ Shenendoah Yoga 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- ☛ Mardi Gras Celebration @ Jimmy Madison's 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Saturday

- ☛ FREE Brew Tour @ Brothers Craft Brewing, 12:15-2 p.m.
- ☛ Soul Food Dinner and Art Show @ Simms Center Auditorium, 5-8 p.m.

Sunday

- ☛ Sunday Brunch @ Bluestone Vineyard, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- ☛ Peter Pan Musical @ Broadway High School, 3-5 p.m.

Weekend Forecast

Friday

High: 75
Low: 57



Saturday

High: 73
Low: 38



Sunday

High: 50
Low: 36



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MISSION

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

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Grant to benefit free clinic

JMU's physician assistant program receives funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration



LAUREN SAMPSON / THE BREEZE

The JMU physician assistant program applied for one of the Health Resources and Services Administration's grants and received it. Funding from the grant will help the free clinic aid patients, teach students and improve community health.

By MADISSON HAYNES
The Breeze

JMU's physician assistant program and the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Free Clinic recently received an \$886,827 grant, provided by the Health Resources and Services Administration.

HRSA, a division of the Health and Human Services department, is a branch of the federal government. HRSA offers billions of dollars worth of grants each year, and these grants are used for different initiatives to improve the health of people in the U.S.

The grant that JMU's PA program and the free clinic received is the Primary Care and Training Enhancement Grant, which is competitive.

Jerry Weniger, the director of JMU's PA program, wrote the grant. The PA program applied for the grant in December 2015 and was awarded it in July 2016.

This grant will be dispersed to the PA program over a five-year period.

The grant establishes a connection with the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Free Clinic, and the PA students at JMU. Each PA student will have the opportunity to visit and work in the clinic 10 times each per year.

This grant creates a hands-on experience for JMU's PA program, and allows them to experience a clinic setting before clinicals even start.

"When they get down there, they spend an entire four-hour clinic with one of the preceptors," Weniger said. "The students just stay with the preceptor and go see the patients and learn clinical medicine."

The grant is broadening the scope of education for both the students and the staff at the clinic.

Money from the grant will also be used to pay preceptors that will supervise students, and to buy medical and office equipment for the clinic.

The Harrisonburg-Rockingham free clinic is a nonprofit organization, so this grant allows them to receive a new EKG machine, which tests for problems associated with the

electrical activity in the heart, blood pressure cuffs and other things they need.

Keith Gnagey, the executive director of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Free Clinic, believes that this grant is an opportunity to better serve patients, and to give students the opportunity to participate in health care that provides for individuals who haven't received adequate care.

The patient perspective of this grant is also important. "Obviously we are concerned with community health, overall health and our capacity to motivate and inspire future providers to willingly seek out opportunities to provide health care in underserved communities," Gnagey said. "That is a very important part of an education process."

Sharon Maiewski is a full-time associate professor at JMU, and is both the academic and admissions coordinator for the PA program. She's been volunteering at the clinic since 1998.

"The students will be interacting with a medically underserved community, and with people who don't have insurance," Maiewski said. "This is probably very different than the communities they've come from."

Maiewski believes that if the students become comfortable with different types of health care, it could open up new career paths for them.

"They will be familiar with the environment and with the culture, and with how medicine is practiced in under-served communities, and then they will be more willing to do it," Maiewski said. "That is what I'm hoping."

The HRSA grant opens a wide range of possibilities for the faculty and both JMU and the clinic. Gnagey believes that strong relationships can be formed throughout these clinical hours.

"Health care is not just a drive-by event," Gnagey said. "It is a relationship, a partnership, and it's an important sort of art: doing health care in the context of being the medical whole, the primary provider, and to build rapport and trust between the provider and patient."

CONTACT Madisson Haynes at haynesix@dukes.jmu.edu.



LAUREN SAMPSON / THE BREEZE

The Rockingham-Harrisonburg free clinic, located on 25 W. Water Street, works with JMU students.



ALEXIS MILLER / THE BREEZE

Elvera Gurevich helped with a collective effort to mail about 300 postcards to Rep. Goodlatte's office on Tuesday.

MAIL | Students go local with activism

from front

While the campaign is more of a call-to-action than an educational event, Roesch and Gurevich are hoping that it will encourage students to participate in politics on a state level, especially through voting. Lobbying directed toward the state legislature is likely to have a more direct and effective response than trying to reach out to President Donald Trump.

On Tuesday, the two organizations mailed about 300 postcards to Goodlatte's office.

"I would like to get students more motivated to be politically involved," Gurevich said. "With these action campaigns, people will feel more politically motivated to do anything."

The postcard campaign has received attention from a number of students. When senior psychology major Julia Johnston saw the campaign being promoted outside of Taylor Down Under, she jumped

at the opportunity to write to Goodlatte.

"I've been extremely concerned by the overall negligence of human rights by the new administration," Johnston said. "I think this campaign is crucial because it is giving us an opportunity to make our voices heard and to advocate for others. We cannot be bystanders to the injustices that are happening in our country."

Johnston's motivation to act is something that Roesch and Gurevich hope they can instill in others through this campaign.

"There's nothing more powerful than someone feeling like they made a difference in their political system," Roesch said. "I want to make people feel like they can make a difference in politics, make people feel like democracy works and their voice matters."

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AWARENESS | 'There's probably somebody you know that's going through it.'



LAURA VANDERMARK / THE BREEZE

Ron George spoke about his daughter Leslie, who died of an eating disorder, at Tri Sigma's event held in her memory.

from front

Leslie George died in 2000 and was a JMU Tri Sigma sister. Since her death, Tri Sigma has developed a dedication to positive body image and spreading beauty around campus.

Samantha Rohrbacher, a senior psychology major and philanthropy head of Tri Sigma, shares her sorority's dedication to Leslie's memory and struggle with anorexia.

"Our philanthropy came about from this and since then, Tri Sigma started spreading more awareness," Rohrbacher said. "It's really important to us because we want people to know how prevalent this really is."

In memory of George, Tri Sigma hosted its largest annual event, the Leslie George Eating Disorder Awareness Speak Out, on Tuesday with over 300 people in attendance.

Jeanette Suros, a member of the National Eating Disorder Association and an anorexia survivor, traveled to JMU and spoke at the event to share her personal experience and her thoughts on recovery.

"I just want everyone here to know that recovery is possible," Suros told the crowd that night. "Regardless if you have an eating disorder or not, know how beautiful you are."

Tri Sigma hosts multiple events throughout the month of February, such as having tables at Madison Union and Festival. They created a scale where the numbers have been replaced with words like "beautiful," "adorable" and "perfect." This shows students that the number on the scale doesn't matter.

Morgan Kolson, a junior media arts and design major and the philanthropy chair of Tri Sigma, said that eating disorders are common, but due to the fact that they are internal struggles, they're able to be hidden easily.

"There's probably somebody you know that's going through it," Kolson said. "Knowing people's stories and realizing what people go through every day is pretty amazing."

According to the National Institutes of Health, eating disorders currently affect over 30 million people in both males and females, and while they can affect

people of all ages, they're especially prominent among college students.

Help Overcome Problems with Eating and Exercise team, also known as the HOPE Team, provides JMU students with on-campus resources that allow people who are suffering from eating or exercise disorders to receive education, consultations and evaluations.

In an effort to eliminate negative self-perceptions, Tri Sigma asked students to write something that they hate about themselves and throw it in the trash. By doing this activity, Kolson hopes that there will be a positive outcome.

"We just want everybody to feel beautiful, and if we can save one person, then that's the goal," Kolson said. JMU hosted another event on Tuesday called Mirror, Mirror on the Wall where members of the Alliance for Eating Disorders Awareness came and spoke about how body image influences people's idea of their social identity.

The AEDA is a nonprofit organization that works with outreach, education, intervention and advocacy for eating disorders. The goal of the event was to explain how people today are being bombarded with unrealistic expectations of what the perfect body is.

Johanna Kandel, CEO of AEDA and eating disorder survivor, spoke at the event explaining that while eating disorders are a major problem among millions of people, no one is talking about them enough to create a solution.

"I think so often we feel that we are the only ones that think or act a certain way," Kandel said. "Our goal is to spark conversation between people to know that they are not alone with the thoughts and the feelings that they are having."

The early signs of an eating disorder can range from low energy levels and muscle weakness to visual signs such as hair loss and tooth decay.

Jamie Morris, vice president of the board of directors and associate director of clinical programming, understands the significance of facing the illness head on instead of hiding behind it.

"Early intervention can dramatically change the course of the illness," Morris said. "When we see someone being authentic and real, it inspires us to be the same and to act courageously."

According to a study done by the Multi-Service Eating Disorders Association, five to 20 percent of

college females and one to seven percent of college males have some form of an eating disorder.

Eating disorders, such as anorexia and bulimia, can cause damage to almost every organ in the body. These include the brain, heart, liver and kidneys. When left untreated, the disorder can result in stunted growth, osteoporosis, stomach ulcers and death.

The earlier a disorder is diagnosed and treated, the more likely the student will recover fully. However, many college students don't receive proper treatment until they reach the advanced stages of the eating disorder such as heart failure and brain shrinkage.

Shirley Cobb, the associate director of the Counseling Center, is a part of the HOPE Team and takes pride in the team's goal of treating these issues with positivity and reassurance.

"We focus on encouraging students to live a healthy lifestyle, specifically in the areas of self-esteem, positive body image, exercise and food," Cobb said.

The Counseling Center provides students with dietary recommendations, group therapy, physical exams and progress monitoring.

While many students seek help from the Counseling Center, other students may try to hide their eating disorder from friends and family.

"I think it's our job to spread awareness and make it known on campus that it's OK to tell somebody and it's good to tell somebody," Rohrbacher said.

While eating disorders cause many physical problems, they're rooted in psychological distress. Having the HOPE Team gives JMU students the opportunity to seek help and guidance during those tough times.

"It is rewarding to connect with students and support them in the recovery process and to see those students making healthier lifestyle choices and feeling better about themselves and their lives," Cobb said.

Eating disorders shouldn't be thought of as less important than any other illness. Jeanette Suros had personal experience with this problem and knows that now is the time for everyone to have a voice.

"It's time for us to speak up and to show everybody out there that this is an important issue," Suros said. "Put an end to the stigma. Put an end to eating disorders."

CONTACT Karey Gardner at gardneke@dukes.jmu.edu.

Cat's Cradle shelter relocates during renovations



WILL CARMACK / THE BREEZE

While Cat's Cradle undergoes updates, the cats up for adoption are temporarily residing in foster homes or a local PetSmart. The building Cat's Cradle is currently staying in doesn't allow animals, so a "kitty-cam" monitors the cats.

By **INGRID BASHEDA**
The Breeze

Cat's Cradle, a local rescue shelter, temporarily moved locations last month. The new location is at 128 W. Market St., a few streets over from its original location at 124 S. Main St.

The owner decided the building was due for complete renovations because of its old age.

The building had malfunctions like water pipe problems and airflow issues. This resulted in the facility needing extra fans in the summer and space-heaters in the winter, according to Matt Chan, manager of Harrisonburg's Cat's Cradle.

Cat's Cradle is known for housing cats in-shop so that people interested in adoption or fostering can play with them. However, their current temporary location doesn't allow that.

"We were trying to stay in downtown Harrisonburg and this is one [building] that we found that would be suitable for our needs because we do so many other things besides adoptions of cats," Chan said. "I didn't [want to] lose touch with the community."

The cats that are normally at Cat's Cradle are either in foster homes

or the Harrisonburg PetSmart on 1671 E. Market St. There are about 150 cats in foster care at the moment and Cat's Cradle is able to keep more than PetSmart usually allows them to since the cats can't reside at its new shop.

To keep an eye on the cats, Cat's Cradle has a "kitty-cam" set up in foster homes that's projected on a TV in the new building.

Cat's Cradle has been a foster-based rescue since 1998 and opened its Harrisonburg location in 2009. The number of adoptions has increased every year by about 100, according to Chan.

Although cats aren't at the Cat's Cradle shop, the number of felines being adopted this year is increasing. They had 51 adoptions last January and 57 this January.

"We're more than on pace to equal what we did last year and hopefully beat that, and I'm planning on beating that," Chan said.

Among the 100 volunteers at Cat's Cradle and the PetSmart adoption center is Carla Robertson. She's been volunteering at Cat's Cradle for five years and comes to the location once a week while also helping with spay-neuter phone calls from home.

"I think [the move] hasn't slowed down our adoption rate or the rate that we're saving cats from kill shelters so I'm fine with it," Robertson said.

Robertson said that she's always wanted to help animals, cats in particular, and has volunteered at another agency in Staunton in the past but felt that they weren't taking enough action.

"I just love being able to help find homes for cats and it's something I couldn't do on my own," Robertson said. "By helping Cat's Cradle, I'm able to do it successfully."

Jordan Engebret, a senior graphic design major, volunteered at Cat's Cradle her freshman and sophomore years, fostering cats her sophomore and junior years. Although the cats aren't at the temporary location, she's looking forward to the new one.

"It's going to be cool to have a big location that will be able to have more cats there," Engebret said.

The base price to adopt from Cat's Cradle is \$100, though cats five years and older are \$25. They have several specials throughout the year as well; the current February special is "Love Is All You Knead," for which adults are \$35 and kittens are \$50.

Chan hopes that the renovations will be done by fall 2017, where the cats will be back for playing time and adoption visits.

CONTACT Ingrid Basheda at bashedig@dukes.jmu.edu.

No space for hate

JMU students react to accusations of anti-Semitism in politics

On Tuesday, President Trump addressed previous statements he made about bigotry and anti-Semitism in a speech.

"The anti-Semitic threats targeting our Jewish community and community centers are horrible and are painful, and a very sad reminder of the work that still must be done to root out hate and prejudice and evil," Trump said.

Last Thursday, President Trump held a press conference at the White House. He announced his new nominee for labor secretary, R. Alexander Acosta.

During the press conference, Jake Turx, an Orthodox Jewish reporter for Ami Magazine, stated that he hasn't seen any accusations from his community about Trump or his staff being anti-Semitic. He asked about how the government is going to take on anti-Semitism in the country, addressing that there have been 48 bomb threats against Jewish centers across the country in the last couple of weeks.

"No. I, I am the least anti-Semitic person that you've ever seen in your entire life," Trump said.

Trump continued to talk about how he's the least racist person and how he's known the prime

minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, for a long time. However, he never addressed the reporter's question about what the government was going to do about anti-Semitism in the country, and said that the reporter's question was "very insulting."

Edo Mor, a senior music major and member of JMjews Chabad, was shocked by the way Trump treated Turx.

"I think I speak for many people and our Jewish community and all over the nation when I say that we absolutely condemn the rise of anti-Semitic acts and a general growing of anti-Semitism since President Trump was elected into office," Mor said in a text message.

Mor continued to say that the reporter was polite and that his question for Trump was fair.

"This is a time when every single American, regardless of sex, age, skin color, religion, sexual orientation or economic standing needs to come together and stand as one and say that we will not stand for prejudice, discrimination or any action that catalyzes oppression," Mor said.

-staff report

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RISHMITA AICH | pride and prejudice

The pressure to be effortlessly fashionable



"How do I know if I should dress up for a party or not?" asked Dave, a Chinese international student who'd arrived in America only a month ago, as we drove past the bustling Boylan Heights, a college bar at the University of Virginia. Dave's dilemma is shared by thousands of college students every time they get

ready for school, club meetings or even a weekend party.

This confusion, shared by many domestic and foreign students alike, is inherent to American culture, where the fashion protocol is as jumbled as a bowl of quinoa salad. The rise of athletic apparel as the staple outfit for college students completely made sense before I realized that most girls would often wear a full face of makeup with sweatpants and sweatshirts and boys would wear a button down without an occasion on a regular school day. This blend of the athletic and trendy is quintessentially American and has slowly evolved to be what I call the "pretty, but not too pretty" look — the subtle balance between appearing presentable with little effort.

Americans are globally recognized for casual fashion, which is mostly devoid of style. However, nowadays, American college students seem to be striving to find the median between dressing up and down, which is a time consuming and demanding hack for an everyday school routine.

I think the contemporary shift in casual fashion creates a pressure on students to make a culturally appropriate fashion statement, even if it negates the very sense of fashion.

Especially in college, the difficulty in dress codes ends up in a muddle where, on a Friday night, a college town looks like no less than a three-ring circus with young women strutting in their high heels and flamboyant dresses and young men shirtless, roaming down the streets in subzero temperatures.

My only qualm with the athletic, effortless American dress code is that it takes more effort than any other kind of attire.

There's no defined fashion protocol that could make someone fit like a glove into the culture. However, the upside to it is that the clear trend toward individualization and not homogenization creates a liberal environment where you can dress more freely and individually.

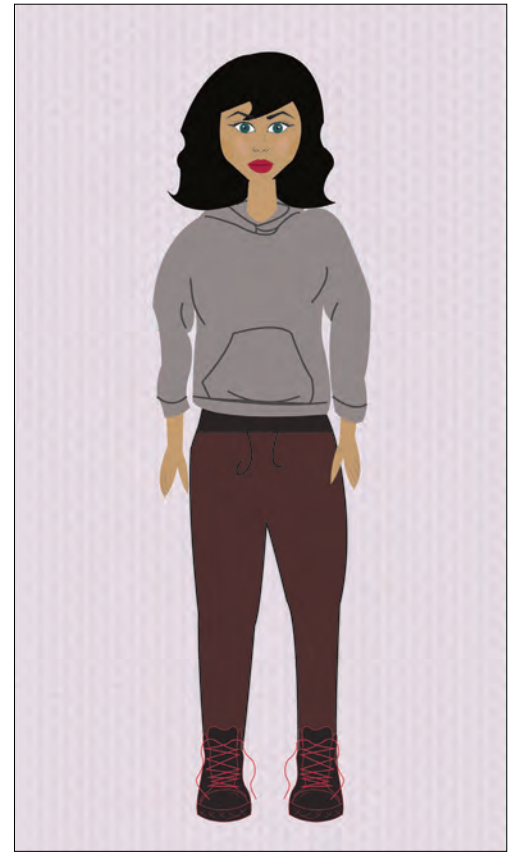
My only qualm with the athletic, effortless American dress code is that it takes more effort than any other kind of attire. Speaking solely from a feminine perspective, somewhere between maneuvering your outfit to match the weather,

hiding the dark circles from staying up late and still trying to pull off an aesthetically natural look, the sportswear fashion in college is actually more tedious than any other dress up routine. No wonder people from out of the country are often amused by the peculiar medley of fashion statements that one encounters on a college campus. Is the goal to maintain the "pretty, yet not too pretty" look really worth it? There's no shame in dressing up or down for school.

I think the strive to achieve the casual, yet appealing look points toward a bigger cultural shift. The casual sportswear look perfectly represents the bygone puritanical roots of Americans, where hard work supersedes material or visual appeal of things. However, in combination with accessorizing, it brings out the coming of age America, which is influenced by several cultures from around the world that bring color and vibrancy to their fashion.

I think the American notion of being unaffected by fashion has always been self-contradictory because choosing to look naturally attractive or dressing in sportswear or college gear is a personal choice and thus, a reaction to the visual culture. The anti-fashion in choosing to go casual is a kind of fashion, and this clash between the new and old, although confusing and wearisome for most of us, points toward a bigger cultural fusion and a newly evolving America.

Rishmita Aich is a junior media arts and design major. Contact Rishmita at aichrx@dukes.jmu.edu.



CHELSEA CROUCH / THE BREEZE

NAHLA ABOUTABL | respect the riot

It's our problem

Political awareness shouldn't be a choice



I recently received a survey from JMU asking alumnae (I'm a double Duke) to answer a few questions about our campus and the quality of our university as a whole. One of the questions asked if JMU does a good job at creating civically engaged citizens and honestly, the answer to that is a plain and

simple "no."

It seems as though most students on our campus approach current events and the politics of our country with a "not my problem" kind of attitude. I can't count the number of times I've heard people, even some of my own friends, say that they don't read the news or care about politics because they can't do anything about what they read and that it's not their problem. It is, in fact, our problem. And it's becoming a big one.

We live in an age where being politically involved and being aware of current events shouldn't be either a major you choose or something you choose to overlook. We don't have the option to sit back and pretend the world around us doesn't exist. That kind of attitude is why we've ended up with a president veering on dictatorship.

The best way to manipulate the public is to make it feel disconnected from the world it lives in — that it's incapable of making a difference. This feeling stems from being unaware and even

sometimes unconcerned with the events going on in the world around us.

Not only does being unaware make us disengaged, it also builds bigotry and intolerance. Not wanting to learn about the different people in the world and the struggles they go through builds a kind of entitlement many immigrants and first-generation Americans recognize all too well. What if you lived in a country where you had the potential to become a beacon of democracy and human rights, but for some reason the citizens of this country don't seem to value said potential? Wouldn't you call these people ungrateful for the rights and resources they have?

The more unaware and disconnected we become, the easier it is for evil demagogues to rise to power. This isn't a scenario. It's the reality we live today.

We skim over so many headlines, but do people really take the time to understand what's going on? You read about a police shooting, but do you understand what police brutality is? You skim over a headline about Syrian refugees, but do you even know why they're seeking asylum in the first place? Again, the more unaware we are of the world around us, the easier it is for our ignorance to be used against us by power hungry narcissists.

We don't get to choose to care about the world around us in the same way we didn't choose to be born in it.

Nahla Aboutabl is a communication and advocacy graduate student. Contact Nahla at aboutanm@dukes.jmu.edu.

We don't have the option to sit back and pretend the world around us doesn't exist.

PATRICK STOTT | letter to the editor

Bob does his job

A counterargument about Rep. Goodlatte

The Breeze recently published an article attacking Rep. Bob Goodlatte for supposedly "failing to do his job." I'd like to clear up some facts surrounding Goodlatte.

Rep. Goodlatte authored an amendment to the House Rules at the beginning of this congressional session to reform and strengthen the Office of Congressional Ethics. This office is external from the House of Representatives and has no actual ability to penalize members of Congress or their staff.

That's what the House Committee on Ethics does. The Committee on Ethics polices members and their staffs and can actually enforce penalties against them. What the OCE does do, however, is trample on the rights of the accused to have a fair and confidential process to review claims against them.

Here at JMU, if a student is charged with an academic violation, we're afforded due process and are at least told what the charges against us are. The OCE doesn't follow basic due process, and Rep. Goodlatte tried to improve OCE by strengthening the rights of the accused, a hallmark of our democratic republic, guaranteed in the Fourth Amendment.

Unfortunately, knee-jerk headlines and reactions torpedoed this effort to actually hold our members of Congress more accountable while also strengthening due process rights.

Furthermore, the article pointed out that town halls are the be all and end all way to communicate with elected officials. Allow me to pose this question: Which of these two scenarios is better? Rep. Goodlatte hosts a public town hall meeting with 300 people yelling and screaming at him and demanding President Donald Trump be impeached, with nobody's concerns for life and death needs of the Congressman's office (read: help with the Veterans Administration or Social Security), or Goodlatte hosts smaller invitation-only events with 30-plus bipartisan community leaders

to have an hour-plus policy discussion and give and take where actual issues and concerns are allowed to be aired?

I think the answer is blatantly obvious. If you think the first scenario isn't what would happen were he to hold one, you only need to Google Congressman Scott Taylor of the 2nd District or Dave Brat of the 7th to see that a "town hall" would actually be a shouting match between constituents echoing the headline "do your job."

That doesn't help veterans get the services they rightfully deserve and need. That doesn't help a grandmother or grandfather get their Social Security check so they can buy groceries for the week.

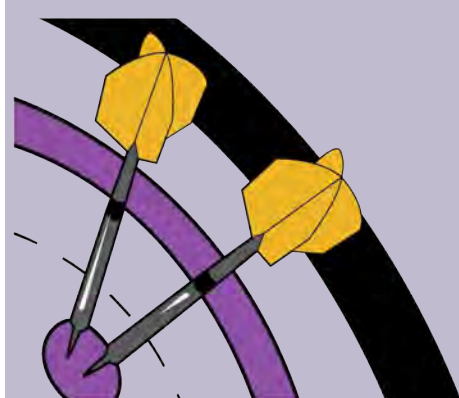
Is it important for the congressmen and women to be engaged in the community? Absolutely. That's a major reason I voted for Rep. Goodlatte in 2016. Rep. Goodlatte's office holds open-door meetings with a staff member so constituents can go and talk to the Congressman's staff about their Social Security check or their wait with the V.A. His office actually just held one as recently as three days ago on Feb. 20 in Waynesboro.

Rep. Goodlatte does his job. There's a reason he was re-elected with the highest margin and overall vote count of his entire tenure — against the most qualified challenger he's faced.

We're college students who take 15-18 credit hours a week. Some of us might have jobs after classes — I personally do. However, I'm guessing Rep. Goodlatte works 15-18 hours a day, if not more.

In a district with more than 700,000 people, I think Rep. Goodlatte is best equipped to make the decisions about where and how best to spend his limited time to reach the greatest number of his constituents in as positive a way as possible.

Patrick Stott is a senior political science major.



DARTS & PATS

A "thanks-for-balling-hard" pat to the Copper Beech ballers. *From someone who's glad to be back on the court.*

A "you're-ruining-the-legacy" dart to D-Hub for consistently having disappointing options whenever I visit. *From a disenchanting diner.*

A "see-ya-wouldn't-want-to-be-ya" dart to Ol' Man Winter on his way out early this year! *From someone who's enjoying the warm weather.*

A "you-really-pulled-through" pat to Megan Rzepka for guesting on our radio show with little notice. *From two co-hosts who were grateful you were there.*

A "thank-you" pat to Duke Hall for putting on a great gallery this month. *From a senior who tries his best to appreciate the arts.*

A "you're-a-shooting-star" pat to NASA for discovering seven planets yesterday. *From a science geek who just wants to explore our universe.*

Editorial Policies

The Breeze
1598 S. Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

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

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

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

ARMIN HARACIC | armchair anecdotes

The media labeling PewDiePie as 'anti-Semitic' is dishonest



Felix Kjellberg, better known as PewDiePie, is the most successful star on YouTube by a massive margin. He has around 53 million subscribers, a reported net worth of \$20 million and up until recently, a partnership with the Disney-owned Marker Studio, which produced his YouTube Red series "ScarePewDiePie."

Disney had reportedly cut ties with PewDiePie after The Wall Street Journal published a video and story showcasing what appeared to be him promoting anti-semitic behavior. With increasingly ominous steel drum-beats in the background, the video states that his content had featured Adolf Hitler and "explicit anti-Semitic commentary," accentuating the claim with footage of PewDiePie watching a Hitler speech while dressed in military garb. The video also featured two men known as the "Fiverr Funny Guys" holding up a sign that says "Death to All Jews" and saying "subscribe to Keemstar."

Regardless of how one wishes to interpret PewDiePie's content — either viewing it as offensive, humorous or a mixture of both — The Wall Street Journal's exposé piece grievously mischaracterized him. By leaving out the contexts behind the videos it used as examples of PewDiePie's supposed "anti-Semitism" as well as using deliberately intense music and editing to accentuate its angle, The Wall Street Journal crafted an inaccurate narrative behind PewDiePie's intent and beliefs. PewDiePie may not have communicated his humorous intent in the most effective manner, but thinking that the YouTuber is an advocate of anti-Semitism without knowing both his personal and creative history is a rather dishonest conclusion.

A good deal of the footage that The Wall Street Journal obtained for

the PewDiePie piece came from a video about the YouTuber exploring the website Fiverr. Fiverr specializes in providing various "services" that can be done for as low as \$5. PewDiePie's intent behind the video was to see how far he could push Fiverr users to do what he wanted. In fact, after showcasing the Fiverr Funny Guys, PewDiePie stated in the same video "I don't feel too proud of this ... It was a funny meme and I didn't think it would work."

Regardless of how one wishes to interpret PewDiePie's content — either viewing it as offensive, humorous or a mixture of both — The Wall Street Journal's exposé piece grievously mischaracterized him.

However, I don't appreciate how PewDiePie attempted to distance himself from the actions of the Fiverr Funny Guys by indicating that while he asked them to hold up a "Death to all Jews" sign, they actually did it and thus they were primarily to blame. PewDiePie isn't "partially," as he claims, but substantially responsible for what the Funny Guys did and any subsequent consequences that come from them fulfilling PewDiePie's request. I wouldn't call PewDiePie anti-Semitic, but based on what he was trying to communicate with his Fiverr video, being haphazard about his role in what the Fiverr Funny Guys did shows a lack of integrity.

Another video that The Wall Street Journal misrepresented was PewDiePie's "I'm Racist," where the YouTuber points out how quick the media is to characterize him as "racist" or a "Nazi" for clicks without understanding his intent. Him dressing up as a soldier and watching Hitler speeches was meant to be an exaggerated representation of how the media portrays him.

While it's possible that one can have issue with how PewDiePie went about his satire, it's inaccurate to point to the satire as evidence of PewDiePie's anti-Semitism and racism. Comedians like Louis CK and Sarah Silverman often use exaggerations of racism and Nazism to point out how absurd and ridiculous those very beliefs are. You may have a problem with how that humor is used, but to say the humor is conclusive evidence of PewDiePie's prejudice is hyperbolic and completely disregards its context.

YouTubers who know PewDiePie personally like Ethan Klein and Casey Neistat vouch that in person, he appears to harbor no prejudiced beliefs. However, neither of them stated that viewers were wrong to criticize PewDiePie's humor, with Neistat stating that we need to be aware of the professional and personal consequences when putting out provocative content.

We need to first determine what the intent behind transgressive imagery and language is, whether it's satirical or legitimately malicious, and then determine for ourselves if said intent was communicated effectively. Cherry-picking someone's content in order to define them is dishonest, and the media needs to do more thorough research before showcasing future narratives on content creators.

Armin Haracic is a senior political science major. Contact Armin at haracix@dukes.jmu.edu.

SPENCER MUNSON | organized ramblings

Stray from the pack

Meaningless interactions ruin spring break



College students are notorious for their general lack of responsibility and unrestrained behaviors, most notably the sex, drugs and unquenchable thirst for alcohol. The once taboo — but now borderline encouraged — behaviors that are closely associated with college students have been a reality long before they were so comically portrayed in movies like "Animal House" and "Van Wilder."

These behaviors are now deeply ingrained in the culture of emerging young adults in America, further exacerbated by these youths' understanding that societal norms after college will make it less acceptable to partake in such behavior. In a sense, it's now or never. One particular area in which this lifestyle has permeated is in college spring break trips.

Last year, more than 55 percent of students planned to travel for their spring break, according to the Chicago Tribune. The most popular destinations for break were Las Vegas; Cancun, Mexico; and Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, all of which are traditional locations for typical college spring breakers. The appeal to these destinations is obvious: a plethora of alcohol, access to drugs and, most importantly, the promise of thousands of other people with similar agendas.

I'm not apt to make assumptions, but for this case, I'll venture to guess that in a situation outside of spring break, if offered an equal amount of money that was spent on average spring break trips to go anywhere in the world, these destinations wouldn't be at the top of the list. The explanation for this presumptive disparity lies in our fears

of leaving our comfort zones.

People have this inherent fear of doing things differently than the large groups with which they associate. From a scientific standpoint, this behavior points toward an evolutionary strategy for survival: Don't stray from the pack, for it increases your likelihood of death. Today we have a much more obtuse description of this fear: FOMO or the fear of missing out. College students often describe this unfounded fear as when they don't directly follow the actions of the larger group, they'll most likely miss out on an opportunity to experience something fun and interesting.

People have this inherent fear of doing things differently than the large groups with which they associate.

This angst is further perpetuated today by our ability to see everything that's happening with said group at all times. No matter where we may be, we have constant exposure to this virtual window from which we can watch the fun unfold before us, but we don't have the ability to immerse ourselves in such activities.

My concern is that this window isn't without its filters. We have this tendency to view the other side as the better side, and we feel that if we made this change or went to this place or hung out with those people, then we'd finally achieve this level of fulfillment. Our perception of the

activities of our friends and peers is skewed by our dissatisfaction with the perception of ourselves. We feel that if we see other people having fun, then surely an immersion into that group will fill our internal void and bring us to a similar level of happiness. The flaw in this assumption is that what makes other people happy will automatically satisfy your personal needs. This thought doesn't account for what those needs are or from what issue they're derived.

Spring break is a one week opportunity to break free from the traditional restraints of one's everyday routine. This routine for so many college students entails four to five days of constant studying followed by two to three days of drinking, partying and socializing with others. I feel that these spring break trips, the focus of which is to extend the partying days, don't offer any real fulfillment. They don't offer an opportunity for reflection and the formation of new and genuine relationships with others. Most of all, they pressure students to travel to any destination, regardless of the students' attitude toward such places, that promises the opportunity to be with "the crowd."

Don't squander this opportunity by prioritizing the need for "belonging" and thus the tendency to compromise on one's own passions and beliefs. Instead, focus on yourself, find what you've been longing to do, find a place that you've dreamed of going and go there. You may not be surrounded by hundreds of peers on this trip, but you'll find far greater connections with the people who choose to come with you and the people you meet along the way.

Spencer Munson is a senior management major. Contact Spencer at munsonsc@dukes.jmu.edu.

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Weighing Jalapeño Southwest Grill's menu items, eating for every diet

By **EMMA KORYNTA**
The Breeze

Herbivore
★★★★☆

Jalapeño Southwest Grill is a whopping three minutes away from my apartment, yet this was the first time I'd ever gone. Going out to restaurants with any restrictive diet can prove challenging. As a vegetarian, I have to make sure that not only are there vegetarian options, but that none of the seemingly safe options have some secret meat component in them. Nevertheless, I'm known for my love of food and won't let anything stop me from chowing down.

Before I was a vegetarian, my favorite Mexican dish used to be Arroz Con Pollo. Now, I found that I was a little more limited with my options here. There were fajitas, quesadillas, a make your own burrito section and a veggie burger. The restaurant was southwestern and not Mexican as I expected, but I nevertheless opted for a traditional Mexican restaurant favorite: fajitas.

I started out with chips and queso while waiting for my food. I'm a firm believer that cheese can fix most problems, but the queso just wasn't worth the money. It was a mild cheese with a perfect consistency, but was paired with the free chips that were already provided anyway. Thus, the price was too high for a simple serving of queso; it was almost as expensive as my dish. Luckily, I got so much more joy from the vegetarian fajitas.

The fajitas came out on a sizzling platter and were presented in front of me like a gift I didn't deserve. The aesthetics of it were so pleasing I almost didn't want to touch it, but the novelty wore off quickly as my hunger took over. I loaded red and green peppers, sauteed mushrooms, rice, lettuce and beans into the stack of hot tortillas and dug in. The flavor was simple but delicious. The lack of meat didn't hold the meal back, and I didn't make it past two fajitas before asking for a box to take home my leftovers. If you don't like mushrooms, you won't like these fajitas, but as a mushroom fiend, I was in heaven.

The atmosphere of the restaurant was more Tex-Mex than I expected, as pictures of icons like Elvis adorned the walls and classic rock played. When I first got there around five p.m., it was nearly empty. By the time I got my food it was absolutely packed with a line of excited and hungry customers out the door. All the while, I still felt that the waiter cared about my table in the middle of the swarm of hungry customers.

Even though it took me all too long in my college career to try out this restaurant, I'm proud to say it has won my patronage. I look forward to many more veggie fajitas and maybe even a crafty make-your-own burrito or two in my remaining time at JMU. What they lack in variety they make up for in flavor, and that's enough for me.

CONTACT Emma Korynta at korynten@dukes.jmu.edu.



By **JOANNA McNEILLY**
The Breeze

Omnivore
★★★★★

With dimly lit tables and walls decorated

with a Beatles album, a sign that read "EAT" and other whimsical knick-knacks, Jalapeño Southwest Grill fed my carnivorous cravings and kept me intrigued with my surroundings as I shoved queso-covered chips into my mouth without a single breath.

People were flooding in to take advantage of Thursday's special: \$5 for two quesadillas with ground beef, cheese or chicken. I came just in time to get a booth by the window, where I passed time waiting for my food by watching people on the outside peek in, presumably with jealousy in their eyes.

A young crowd works at Jalapeño, mostly college students who need extra cash. The waitress was charming and had a smile from laughing at a conversation she had right before she came to take my order. She kept my water filled and kindly dealt with my impatience to eat.

Regardless of the day, options are endless for meat-eaters: tacos with chicken, shrimp or beef; burgers and sandwiches with pork, chicken or beef. There's even a make-your-own section that gives picky eaters a chance to walk away satisfied.

As a carb-eater and meat-lover, I thoroughly enjoyed the plate I ordered at Jalapeño. After bottomless chips and salsa and an order of white, silky queso, I decided to finish the evening off with Arroz Con Pollo, a signature Jalapeño dish known to many as "ACP." I was mostly looking forward to having the rice drenched in white queso to blend with the smokiness of the fajita chicken. The peppers and onions married the spices, especially with the mild flavor of the queso that complemented the chicken. I don't usually like mushrooms, but the combination of rice, chicken and a soft mushroom worked here.

The plate came with two tortillas wrapped in silver foil, a gift I didn't need to open. The flavors materialized in just the fajitas and spices alone, there was no need to wrap it up like a taco. The problem was that doughy tortilla would just fill me up and leave me unable to finish the delightful dish, especially after all that chips and queso.

Belly full and content, I walked out of Jalapeño with my leftovers in hand and a huge grin on my face. Not only was I eager to eat the leftovers during the late hours of the night, I was ready to turn around and try another meaty item from the menu.

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Best Picture	"Moonlight"	"La La Land"	"Moonlight"	"La La Land"	"La La Land"	"La La Land"	"Moonlight"
Best Leading Actor	Denzel Washington	Denzel Washington	Ryan Gosling	Casey Affleck	Andrew Garfield	Ryan Gosling	Denzel Washington
Best Leading Actress	Natalie Portman	Emma Stone	Meryl Streep	Emma Stone	Emma Stone	Emma Stone	Emma Stone
Best Supporting Actor	Mahershala Ali	Mahershala Ali	Dev Patel	Mahershala Ali	Mahershala Ali	Michael Shannon	Mahershala Ali
Best Supporting Actress	Viola Davis	Viola Davis	Octavia Spencer	Viola Davis	Octavia Spencer	Viola Davis	Michelle Williams
Best Animated Film	"The Red Turtle"	"Zootopia"	"Kubo and the Two Strings"	"Zootopia"	"Zootopia"	"Zootopia"	"Zootopia"
Best Director	Damien Chazelle	Damien Chazelle	Mel Gibson	Damien Chazelle	Denis Villeneuve	Barry Jenkins	Kenneth Lonergan

Future's past burns brighter

By **MATTHEW CALLAHAN**
The Breeze

"FUTURE"



Released Feb. 17, 2017
Future

without any features to break up the monotony. There's an ominous beat, and a heavily auto-tuned Future comes in to tell me how much money he has. The song ends, another beat comes up and Future comes back to tell me, once again, about his Maybach.

Has Future peaked? His height of commercial success came with "What a Time to Be Alive," a joint project with Drake. His height of creative success almost certainly came with "DS 2," a 2015 album featuring hits such as "Where Ya At" and "F--- Up Some Commas." I say "almost certainly" because if all of Future's new music sounds like this last album, then it's all downhill.

That's not to say that Future will be going anywhere soon; he's still firmly atop the rap game. Just last year he had three

On Friday, Future dropped his new self-titled album. Sporting no features and clocking in at just over an hour, Future fans surely rejoiced, but should everyone else?

All the songs on the album sound the same, especially

Overall, is it a good album? Yes, but good is the enemy of great.

separate projects debut at No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 charts and went on tour with Drake. Just this weekend, he had a commercial produced by Spotify, advertising his album release during the high-profile NBA All-Star game. But we may be left with mediocre releases where the quality gets lost in the hype that surrounds Future as a celebrity.

Due solely to Future's popularity, a couple of songs from this project will likely get radio play, but saying which songs are "hits" can only really be gauged by the producers. Because of Future's standing, he can get any producer to work with him. "Rent Money" is a DJ Khaled produced beat, and everything that man touches turns to gold. "Mask Off" and "Scrape" both feature a beat by Metro Boomin, a frequent Future collaborator.

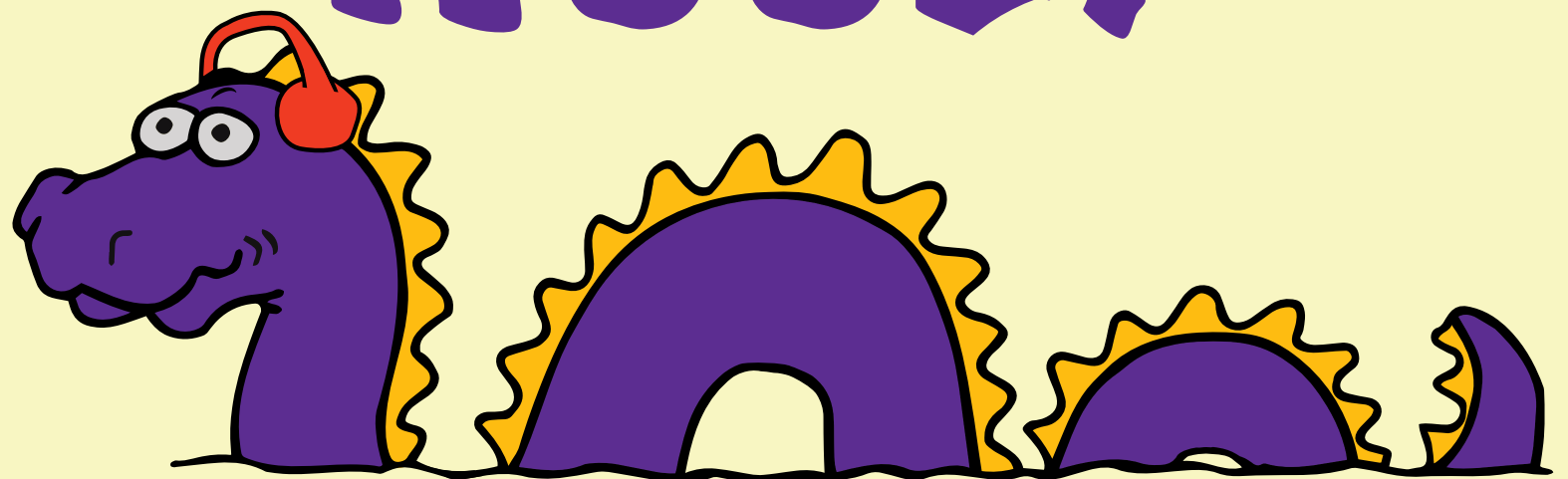
Overall, is it a good album? Yes, but good is the enemy of great. But, it has already been confirmed that another Future album, titled "HNRXX," will drop on Friday, February 24. It has been announced that there will be features by The Weeknd and Rihanna, so maybe "FUTURE" was for the fans and "HNRXX" will be for a wider audience.

Matthew Callahan is a junior media arts and design and writing, rhetoric and technical communication double major. Contact Matthew at callahmx@dukes.jmu.edu.



CHELSEA CROUCH / THE BREEZE

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SCOREBOARD

MEN'S BASKETBALL



JAMES ALLEN / THE BREEZE

(8-21, 6-10 CAA)

LAST WEEK

WIN vs. William & Mary 95-92 (OT)
LOSS vs. Towson 75-65

THIS WEEK

Today at Towson
Feb. 25 vs. Hofstra

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



LAURA VANDEMARK / THE BREEZE

(20-6, 13-2 CAA)

LAST WEEK

WIN vs. UNCW 70-59
WIN vs. C of C 84-78

THIS WEEK

Feb. 24 at Delaware
Feb. 26 vs. William & Mary

BASEBALL



CONNOR WOISARD / THE BREEZE

(3-1, 0-0 CAA)

LAST WEEK

LOSS vs. St. John's 13-1
WIN vs. Coastal Carolina 11-3

THIS WEEK

WIN at Longwood 4-3
Feb. 24 vs. Wofford
Feb. 25 vs. UNC Asheville
Feb. 26 vs. USC Upstate

SOFTBALL



CONNOR WOISARD / THE BREEZE

(8-1, 0-0 CAA)

LAST WEEK

WIN vs. Binghamton 8-0
WIN vs. St. Joseph's 8-0

THIS WEEK

Feb. 24-26 at the Tiger Invitational
Feb. 25 and 26 at No. 2 Auburn

LACROSSE



CONNOR WOISARD / THE BREEZE

(3-1, 0-0 CAA)

LAST WEEK

WIN at Virginia Tech 9-6
WIN vs. UConn 11-10

THIS WEEK

Feb. 25 vs. High Point

Always on

All-CAA senior outfielder Ky Parrott is a consistent threat from leadoff position for JMU baseball



CONNOR WOISARD / THE BREEZE

Through four games this season, Ky Parrott is batting .333 with an on-base percentage of .412. The senior outfielder is also one of seven JMU players with a perfect fielding percentage.

By **SAMMY CRISCITELLO**
The Breeze

Fresh off receiving First Team All-Colonial Athletic Association and VaSID First Team All-State honors at the conclusion of last season, the accolades have continued to pour in for senior outfielder Ky Parrott, as he was named Preseason First Team All-CAA last month.

Parrott led the Dukes' offense in 2016 with a CAA-best 61 walks, the fourth most bases on balls in all of Division I. Parrott also topped JMU hitters in on-base percentage (.496) — a clip good for second-best in the CAA and 15th in Division I. The speedy left-hander reached base in 37 of his first 38 games of the year and boasted an impressive 16-game hit streak to start his 2016 campaign.

While the Herndon, Virginia, native is proud of his previous accomplishments, Parrott is focused on the season ahead and helping his team advance to the NCAA regional tournament for the first time since 2011.

"As much as it was an honor, it's in the past," Parrott said of being named First Team All-CAA. "This is a new season, a new slate."

Through the first four games of the Dukes' regular season, Parrott has hit .333 in the leadoff spot. While he's essentially a five-tool player, Parrott believes his greatest contribution to the team is his innate ability to get on base.

"I'm leading off and that role hasn't changed in hundreds of years of baseball," Parrott said. "More often than not I'll be on base for guys behind me to drive me in, and to just be a spark plug for our lineup."

Parrott's been a part of the JMU community his entire life. His father, Chris Parrott, played football for JMU from 1989-92, and his mother, Kerri Meslah, was a member of the women's basketball program from 1987-91.

Like their son, his parents enjoyed accomplished runs as Dukes. His father was a third team All-American free safety in 1992, and his mother helped her team advance to the NCAA Sweet Sixteen in 1991.

After Parrott hit .363 his senior year at Herndon High School, the Milwaukee

Brewers drafted him in the 26th round of the 2013 MLB amateur draft. Had it not been for his lifelong love for JMU, Parrott might've pursued his first chance at fulfilling his big league dream.

"I was in JMU Dukes shorts since I could barely even walk," Parrott said. "Growing up I was always around James Madison and on the campus. My family bleeds purple and gold."

For head coach Marlin Ikenberry, the team would be incomplete without its leadoff man.

"The strongest part of Ky's game is his plate discipline," Ikenberry said. "He's going to get on base, he's going to drive in runs when guys are on base. When he strikes out looking you know the pitch might be off the plate by a few inches because he doesn't usually miss pitches like that."

Beyond Parrott's capabilities on the field, the four-year veteran is one of the most respected players in the clubhouse. He works hard to guide and shape the younger players of the program for years to come.

"He goes about his business the right way: he's kind of a silent leader," Ikenberry said. "When he does speak, guys listen. He's not speaking all the time, he speaks at the right times. When he's going good, we're going to go good."

Parrott's teammate, junior outfielder Adam Sisk, whose two home runs on Sunday helped fuel JMU to an 11-3 victory over the defending NCAA champion Coastal Carolina University, echoes Ikenberry's words.

"Ky is one of the best teammates I have ever had," Sisk said. "He's a total team guy, he'll do anything for you. He's always getting on base, he's always doing the right things on and off the field."

Parrott and the Dukes will look to continue their hot start in Spartanburg, South Carolina, this weekend, as they'll face Wofford College on Friday, the University of North Carolina at Asheville on Saturday and the University of South Carolina Upstate on Sunday at Russell C. King Field.

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KY PARROTT

2016 Accolades

BY THE NUMBERS

Career hits: **125**

Career batting average: **.300**

Career fielding percentage: **.975**

Career on-base percentage: **.439**

- First Team All-CAA
- VaSID First Team All-State
- Led CAA and ranked fourth nationally with **61** walks
- **.496** on-base percentage was second-best mark in CAA
- Only Duke to play in all **55** games, started **54** of the **55**
- **17**-game hitting streak

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DOUBLE TAKE

Should athletes root for local teams?



GRAPHICS BY CHELSEA CROUCH / THE BREEZE

By T.J. GOUTERMAN
contributing writer

Athletes are men and women who earn millions of dollars by demonstrating their prowess in front of millions of people. They're responsible for representing themselves in a positive light to keep a successful career. Personal antics and public ridicule throughout careers have shown to leave players' legacies in negative lights.

Raised in Las Vegas, Bryce Harper was recognized as a tremendous athlete, and in the first round of the MLB draft, the Washington Nationals drafted him at the age of 18. Currently, Harper's hometown doesn't have any prominent sports teams that can unite the city. There's the new NHL team the Las Vegas Golden Knights premiering in October. Without a baseball team, and the lost possibility of the Oakland Raiders moving, the city is stuck in an identity crisis when deciding to root for a team.

Harper's infamous in the MLB for his on-field antics, and now he's the subject of scrutiny for displaying allegiance to both the Washington Redskins and the Dallas Cowboys, one of the most heated rivalries in sports. This ultimately hurts the athlete's image by having no consistent dedication, as fans feel alienated because they can't identify with their heroes.

The same thing happened with

Washington Wizards point guard John Wall. A week after the Wizards Twitter account posted a picture of Wall in a Redskins jersey, he made an appearance at FedEx Field in a Cowboys jersey. Although there's a rocky relationship between the D.C. franchises, the athletes have shown historical distaste for the Redskins, choosing instead to join the bandwagon of a winning team.

Harper admits to this wide fanaticism. He also claims to have rooted for the New York Yankees, the Los Angeles Lakers and the Duke University Blue Devils his whole life. It's feasible to assume that Harper has a self-serving issue where, because he was raised in a city where it's appropriate to root for those teams, he hops on a new bandwagon because he's used to profiting off victories.

"I wear [the Cowboys hat] every day," Harper said to the Associated Press on Feb. 18. "I mean, I'm from Vegas, so I'll gamble on the best every single day, and that's what I do."

Inconsistent favoritism hurts his public image by revealing an unsupportive attitude toward his professional city. With these factors combined, Harper's hurting his overall image by, rather than sucking up his pride and devoting himself to Washington, D.C., forging an unnecessary distraction with fans and press.

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COURTESY OF TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

By CATIE HARPER
The Breeze

When it comes to professional athletes, there's this idea that they're going to be the biggest fans of the other teams that play in the same city as them. However, that isn't always true.

Recently, Washington Nationals outfielder Bryce Harper sparked a conversation about where professional athletes' loyalties lie when it comes to cheering for other sports. Last week, Harper said that he'd cheer for the new NHL team — the Las Vegas Golden Knights — even when the team plays the Washington Capitals. Harper's declaration left many die-hard Washington fans angry. In their eyes, Harper should be cheering for the teams in the city he plays for.

Harper isn't the only athlete who's faced the scrutiny of angry fans in the past few months. Kansas City Royals first baseman Eric Hosmer posted a photo on Instagram of him at the NFL playoff game between the Dallas Cowboys and Green Bay Packers on Jan. 15. Royals fans took to Twitter to voice their complaints of him attending a game that didn't include the Kansas City Chiefs. Tweets compiled in an SB Nation article read, "They should be representing the Chiefs at Arrowhead instead!!" and "Probably shoulda kept this post to yourselves. You should be in

KC supporting the Chiefs. Just my opinion!"

While it may be hard for some fans to accept, athletes shouldn't be forced into cheering for teams in the city they play in. For a lot of athletes — and specifically in Harper's case — the teams they're cheering for are from the city they grew up in. It isn't fair to say that an athlete needs to leave their hometown roots behind when they sign with a team in a different city. While it may be nice to see athletes supporting other teams in the city they represent on the field, it shouldn't be at the cost of them ditching teams they've supported their entire lives.

When it comes to teams in the same city, professional athletes should support them for the most part. While they don't need to be the team's biggest fan, they shouldn't go around bashing them and rooting against them every time they play. There should be a common ground where fans are OK with athletes having favorite teams elsewhere while the athletes still support the teams in the city they play in.

Loyalties are important in sports. Sometimes it isn't easy to understand why a person cheers for a certain team, but it's important to let them support whoever they choose, even if they're a professional athlete.

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