



# The Breeze

James Madison University's Student Newspaper

The third-annual  
Hip-hop Summit,  
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Vol. 84, Issue 26

Monday, December 4, 2006

## Opinion, page 5

The time has come for JMU to get its green thumb up.



## Sports, page 7

Women's basketball opens CAA play with win over VCU.



## A&E, page 9

JMU grad uses tragedy to spur his rap career.

## Colleges streamline core classes

### 4- and 2-year schools asked to work together

BY JORDAN FUNDERBURK  
staff writer

Future Virginia college students have just been given another green light in choosing community colleges over universities.

Virginia's Senate and House of Delegates have seen fit to push for smoother transitions between community colleges and four-year schools. Both the Senate Bill 538 and House Bill 57 have asked universities to reform their general education requirements to fall in step with community college classes.

Responsibility for enforcing these bills goes to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia. To respond to the bills, SCHEV ensures all Virginia's four-year colleges partner with the Virginia Community College System to match their course offerings with those of Virginia's community colleges.

By partnering with the VCCS, 13 Virginia colleges and universities have streamlined the transfer process to make two-year college courses and associate's degrees match up with their own courses.

Not on the list of four-year colleges signing systemwide agreements with VCCS is JMU. Madison does not offer guaranteed acceptance of graduates of community colleges, but instead has different methods in place to smooth the transfer process.

Craig Herndon, the associate for academic affairs at SCHEV, said guaranteed admissions is only one of many useful tools.

"What JMU has is articulation agreements," Herndon said. "These spell out to students exactly what courses they need to take. If they know they want to go to JMU, then they can simply follow that guideline."

JMU may still bring guaranteed admissions to JMU for transfer students with an associate's degree. The Virginia schools that have already signed agreements with VCCS are mostly using guaranteed admissions as a way of easily fulfilling the policies of the Senate and House bills.

"Guaranteed admissions act as an umbrella to articulated admissions and are enhanced by them. They go hand in hand," Herndon said.

This may not go over well with students who have already gone through the stressful admission process.

Freshman Caitlyn Plotkin instead favored JMU's current policy of reviewing a transfer student's transcript individually.

"It is a more fair way," Plotkin said. "A student that has done a more intensive first two years should receive preference over a student that took a less intensive two years."

But are community college courses actually less rigorous than four-year university general education courses?

"I think it is more of a money thing," freshman Blake Snyder said. "What you pay for is what you get."

However, Herndon saw the transfer process as more than just academic.

"College transfer is more than just about credits. It is about the social connection too. Our policy does not address this part, but we encourage universities to form policies that give transfer students equal status."



## 59 volunteers spent their Thanksgiving in New Orleans

BY BEN BAYNTON  
staff writer

When Katrina hit last summer, Kai Orenic wanted to do something, but couldn't—at least not until this last Thanksgiving Break. This was the first time a group from JMU went to New Orleans.

"When the chance came, I had to take it," said Orenic, who is a lead teacher at the English for Speakers of Other Languages School, which is part of JMU's Career Development Academy.

Orenic, and 58 others decided instead of taking a break from the stress of school and work, they would volunteer for a week in New Orleans. The trip was organized by associate professor Mary Slade and sponsored by the College of Education at JMU.

"I knew that was exactly how I wanted to spend my Thanksgiving—helping people and giving them the Thanksgiving they deserve," senior Rachel Halpin said.

All the volunteers had to pay nearly \$400 for the trip south. Some had already gone to New Orleans, but this trip was the first time for others.

"It was something new, challenging, and I was able to lend a hand in cleaning up the most devastating natural disaster in United States history," freshman Justin Broughman said.

The students who had gone before had not actually been into New Orleans, where standing water had destroyed houses and annihilated whole blocks. They had been working in places that had seen storm surges.

"I knew that it would be just as bad as last year," sophomore Stephany Herzog said. "But for some reason I was expecting a big change and things to be better, but they weren't and it was disheartening."

see **BREAK**, page 3

# Work & Thanks



ABOVE: Chelsea Skotchdopole and Carrie Miller help restore a house. BELOW: Melinda Harvey and Miller shovel debris.

## JMU's Grayson named Va. Professor of the Year

BY KIM HA  
contributing writer

Psychology professor Joann Grayson has something else to smile about this year, having been named the 2006 Virginia Professor of the Year for her efforts in child abuse prevention and field placement.

She said, "I wanted to challenge students to learn about the actual working conditions in the field."

The Carnegie Award is given to one professor in each state and is the only national award that recognizes college and university professors. Grayson received the honor as a "champion for child abuse prevention" by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support Education.

"My field placement experience is one I will continually learn from and never forget," senior Renae Columbe said. "I cannot think of a professor more deserving than Dr. Grayson to receive an award of such honor and prestige."

Grayson began her JMU career as an assistant professor in

the fall of 1976 and eventually started the psychology department's field placement program, which allows students to work with the Harrisonburg community in various areas such as in mental health facilities, tutoring foster children, Habitat for Humanity and private law offices.

Senior Erin Peacock said Grayson's program is one of the few classes that has given her practical, real-world experience.

"In the mental health profession, we have very challenging problems," Grayson said. "It is important to learn about the failures and difficulties, and learning to work with people who aren't always eager."

Grayson, a clinical psychologist, specializes in child abuse and neglect, family violence and child psychology. She is also the editor and publisher of the Virginia Child Protection newsletter.

In the 1960s, the government enacted the Child Abuse Mandatory Reporting law, and at that time Grayson was in charge of the children's unit at a mental

see **GRAYSON**, page 5



Psychology professor Joann Grayson was named the 2006 Virginia Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement of Support Education.

## Professors joining Facebook

### Faculty sign up to better connect with students

BY ASHLEY HOPKINS  
staff writer

JMU professors are jumping onto the technological bandwagon, joining Web sites such as Facebook, MySpace and Xanga in an effort to better connect with and understand their students.

"I believe that I will be a better teacher if I understand my students better," said David McGraw, associate professor in the department of integrated science and technology. "I think Facebook helps me keep in touch with the current generation of students in terms of their interests and outlook on life."

Like McGraw, Anna Umbreit, academic and career advisor in the Office of Academic Advising and Career Development, also uses the Web sites in an effort to keep up with the changing generation.

"I knew that a lot of the students were using it, and I like to keep up with what they are into," she said. "I think it is important to stay up-to-date with emerging technologies and trends among the students, so that I don't lose touch with the people I'm trying to help."

Many students appreciate the extra effort put forth by professors to get to know them and feel that reading an instructor's blog or profile helps them connect on a personal level.

"I think it's cool that professors are blogging," senior Katie Thierry said. "It makes them more personable. We see them in class every day, now we know what music they like, their interests and whatever else they might put online."

Other professors turn to sites such as Facebook as a tool for getting to know their students and keeping in touch with alumni.

"It allows me to connect faces with names, in addition to interacting with students outside a formal classroom environment," graduate coordinator for audiology Dan Halling said.

Andreas Broschied, assistant professor in the political science department, also uses these sites to reach out to students, saying that he joined in order to provide students with an easier way to contact him and to keep in touch with alumni who have moved on to grad school. He said he has found ways to use these sites for academic purposes as well.

"I usually forget to announce interesting news stories in class," he said. "On the blog, I can at least post the links and students can subscribe to the RSS feed."

Senior Kristen Letnick appreciates Broschied's blogs, and reads them in an effort to get to know him better.

"I value him as a professor, and I think it's interesting to see the personal side of him through reading his writing," she said.

There are, however, some professors who are apprehensive about blogging or the information they generate.

"Regarding blogging in general, I have little respect for it," said Michael Allain, an adjunct professor for the history department. "Although I am aware of some reliable sources that use blogs, much of what I read and hear about them

see **WEB**, page 3

### 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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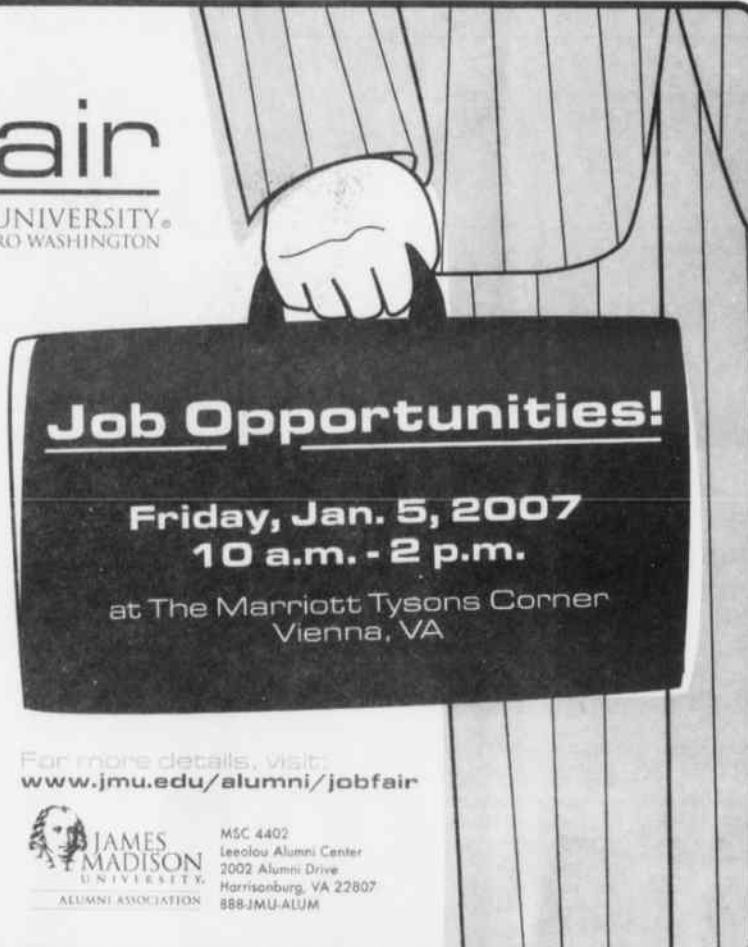
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7th annual

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## MISSING

Have you seen Santa?



**Name:** Kris Kringle  
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**Where:** Grafton

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## Around Campus

### Pham joins delegates to monitor Nigerian elections

Justice studies professor J. Peter Pham has been in Nigeria since Nov. 25 as a member of a six-member delegation on a pre-election assessment.

The delegation is led by the former head of the Office of War Crimes Issues of the U.S. Department of State, Ambassador Pierre-Richard Prosper and former Congressman Harry A. Johnston II, D-Fla.

In Nigeria, the six U.S. members joined four international delegates from Europe and Asia.

### Dance company to perform this week

JMU's nationally recognized Virginia Repertory Dance Company will perform in concert Dec. 7 to 9 at 8 p.m. in Latimer-Schaffer Theater in Duke Hall.

The company will perform Gotzkowsky's "Zero Grid" and Thompson's "Vignettes."

Tickets are \$8 for general admission and \$6 for children under 12, seniors and JAC Card holders.

## In the Valley

### Student helps Mount Crawford expand limits

**MOUNT CRAWFORD** — The *Daily News-Record* reported Saturday that JMU junior Travis Lindsey will help the town of Mount Crawford expand its limits by 320 acres.

Lindsey has been an intern for town officials, and was chosen by professor Douglas Skelley after Mount Crawford Town Manager Bob Holten asked Skelley, the *DN-R* reported.

In the *DN-R*, Lindsey said he has never been involved with a town annexing land.

## World & Nation

### President Bush looks for "Plan B" for Iraq

After a secret memo written by former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld was publicly released a day before the secretary resigned Nov. 7, President George Bush has been looking for a "Plan B" for Iraq.

Bush has been considering a partial withdrawal of troops from that country's particularly violent cities and building up troop numbers on the Syrian and Iranian borders, the *Washington Post* reported yesterday.

### Former Chilean dictator suffers from heart attack

**SANTIAGO, Chile** — Former dictator of Chile, Gen. Augusto Pinochet, suffered a heart attack yesterday. Pinochet, 91, underwent bypass surgery, the *Washington Post* reported.

Pinochet led a military coup that overthrew the popularly elected leftist President Salvador Allende in 1973. Pinochet held power until 1993.

Current President Michelle Bachelet did not immediately comment on the ex-dictator's condition.

### Texas Researcher to study Gulf War syndrome

The *Washington Post* reported yesterday that a Texas researcher is set to receive \$75 million in federal money to research "Gulf War syndrome."

Robert W. Haley, an epidemiologist, has been trying to prove that Gulf War veterans were poisoned by nerve gases, nerve-gas antidotes, pesticides and insect repellants.

According to the *Post*, "The Gulf War syndrome" is a "catch-all" name for non-life-threatening ailments that have been reported by up to 30 percent of veterans.

# Lecture caps hip-hop week

BY MARY FRANCES CZARSTY  
assistant news editor

P. Thandi Hicks Harper gave the keynote address during the third annual Hip-hop Summit at JMU Saturday, addressing students and faculty in Transitions on the positive influence of hip-hop on youth culture.

"Just because I'm of the black culture doesn't mean I wear my hair in locks and like fried chicken," Hicks Harper said. "And just because I say I like hip-hop doesn't mean I'm not walking on campus with my calculus book in my bag, listening to a little hip-hop on my iPod and thinking about how I just aced that biology test."

Hicks Harper, president of the Youth Popular Culture Institute Inc., also discussed the historical influences on hip-hop, including traditional African dance and drums and the severe living situation in the South Bronx that began in 1929 with the building of the Cross Bronx Expressway, displacing 60,000 residents and causing youth unemployment rate to peak at 60 to 80 percent.

"Hip-hop is amoeba-like in nature," Hicks Harper said. "It is always growing and evolving, and it's a reflection of what's going on around you."

Hip-hop is more than just music, according to Hicks Harper. It can be a tool to achieve positive results, because it goes beyond race, class, gender and ethnicity. She cited hip-hop artists that use their wealth to give back to their communities.

"There's a whole entrepreneurial

side to it," she said. "An entrepreneur solves other people's problems for profit. Poor people can't help poor people; they don't have the money or the resources."

During the panel discussion that took place after her speech, students addressed questions to JMU faculty members as well as Hicks Harper.

Some pointed out the contradictory nature of hip-hop as a movement that at once tries to gain momentum as a positive tool for youth while promoting violence, drugs and negative female stereotypes.

Nikitah Okembe Imani, a professor of sociology and anthropology, said these negative aspects of hip-hop may stem from the profit-based attitudes of record companies.

"In the '90s, when record companies saw they could make a lot of money off of [hip-hop], the heads of these conglomerates began signing those artists that would make the best employees," Imani said. "What comes out of that apparatus sometimes I wouldn't even call hip-hop."

Others also questioned the influence of the lyrics on children, because they are more impressionable than college students.

"They need someone to discuss the themes of the lyrics with," Imani said. "There's a difference between a college student listening to a song and an 8-year-old who gets his image of women from those lyrics."

The speech and discussion were part of a weeklong effort to educate students about hip-hop and was hosted by the Black Students Alliance.

"It's a movement. It's a consciousness," Hicks Harper said.



MINDI WESTHOFF/senior photographer

P. Thandi Hicks Harper spoke about positive effects of hip-hop on youth culture.

## GRAYSON: Professor creates tutoring program

GRAYSON, from front

health center in St. Louis. A clinician had brought her daughter to work and the father pounded on the door to get in. It was reported that the father abused his child, but it was after hours and none of the clinicians knew how to react.

After the incident, Grayson was asked to head a workshop educating employees about the child abuse law. She now teaches a course on the subject at JMU.

"I think [the award] is a wonderful reflection on our students because they're the ones out there doing the projects I coordinate," Grayson said, "and a reflection on our community and the relations we've forged."

Grayson said the application of skills is vital in the field. A culmination of academic pieces and fieldwork enable students to be better prepared after graduation.

"I wanted students to learn about best practice standards and evidence-based intervention," Grayson said. "Students have to learn about standards and the impediments to using them in the field."

The tutoring program allows students to work individually with 35 foster children a semester. The students go on site to the children's homes to work with them on a weekly basis.

"Not only has field placement helped me choose a career," Christina Wright said, "but I also feel it has given me an edge over other undergraduates going into graduate school who have not had the benefit of real-world experience."

# JMU not looking to partner with Google

BY KATIE GAAB  
contributing writer

Despite Google's latest addition, Book Search, JMU's Carrier Library does not see a partnership with the Web site in the future.

"You must think of all the time and effort and technology it would require to do that," said Ralph Alberico, dean of Libraries and Educational Technologies.

Book Search is a library that includes full texts of books. The University of Virginia was the most recent university to become library partners with Google in November.

There are currently eight other library partners using Google's Book Search, including Harvard University, the University of Michigan and Oxford University. The purpose of the project is to allow researchers to search books by relevancy.

Instead of following in U.Va.'s footsteps, JMU is taking another route.

"Our collection overlaps with other larger universities like University of Virginia," Alberico said. "We simply don't have the

resources or technology ourselves to do this, so we prefer to outsource our work. The strategy is to digitalize the more unique things."

This past fall, Carrier Library has added Eighteenth Century Collections Online and American History and Culture Online: Sabin Americana with documents ranging from 1500 to 1926.

The next biggest project is the Historical JMU collection. Among the documents digitized are poster collections, president papers, Board of Visitors minutes and diplomas. The availability of such information allows students and faculty to see what JMU was like during its first decade as an institution.

The digitizing of such unique documents is beneficial not only for the students, but for the documents themselves.

"We won't have to handle documents that are fragile," said Special Collections librarian Tracy Harter. "The big part of the reason we're doing this is for preservation."

Also, with the addition of e-Books, JMU has the license from publishers to allow students to view books and journals online. Jennifer Keach, head of Digital Services for

Carrier Library, said there are two ways to go about this.

"Some we will buy as one-time purchases and have perpetual access to, while the others we have to pay a certain amount each year," Keach said.

As a result of the addition of the online database, a librarian's duties are shifting away from the card catalog and more toward teaching.

"We now have to be much more concerned with the quality of online information and the way students get to it," Alberico said. "There are more people behind the scenes and jobs have become much more technical."

The student response to Carrier Library's online database is supportive so far.

"I think it would be beneficial, especially if they start to do this to the old books located in the stacks because they are usually really hard to find," freshman Tara Vaezi said.

Sophomore Sarah Esterbrook added, "I think this is a good idea, because it doesn't waste your time. You'll be able to find better sources through this."

## BREAK: Students' work not done

BREAK, from front

It was not only JMU students on the trip, though. Yuniel Vanega-Silvera and Eriane Vasquez, students from the Career Development Academy, also went with the group.

The CDA is a university institution that helps educate English learners in the community in language acquisition, literacy and career development, according to the academy's Web site.

"I went because I like to help people who have problems," Vasquez said. Vasquez emigrated from Cuba two months ago.

In order to raise the money necessary for the trip, Vasquez and Vanega-Silvera sold baked goods and T-shirts and auctioned handmade meals.

Family members and some local high school students also went with the group.

The first night they stayed at Camp Hope, in Violet, La. — a base camp for volunteers. It used to be an elementary school outside of New Orleans before the hurricane. After

leaving Camp Hope the next day, the group stayed in cabins at Fontainebleau State Park. Fontainebleau is across Lake Pontchartrain from New Orleans.

Then the real work began. "My group cleaned out a home in St. Bernard Parish," Broughman said. "By 'cleaned out,' I mean taking out all the of the belongings, removing all of the flooring and sub-flooring and knocking down all of the drywall."

On Wednesday, the whole group prepared food for families in the area. They produced more than 5,300 meals that day.

Work didn't stop on Thanksgiving Day for the group, though.

"On Thanksgiving, we spent the day finishing up jobs from earlier in the week," senior Emily Burt said. "The afternoon was spent serving meals to residents who didn't have the means to have Thanksgiving in their homes."

Although they were working all day, the volunteers were changed by their surroundings — especially Herzog.

"Every emotion comes out," Herzog said. "You are sad because of all the lives lost and how things haven't improved. You are angry and upset because not much has been done, and people are forgetting before any change has taken place. You are mad at the government for their lack of help. You are mad at the insurance companies that all they care about is money."

What brought the reality of the situation to the volunteers was meeting and talking to the few residents that were in New Orleans.

"One man told me about the six days he spent on a roof waiting to be rescued," Orenic said.

"Another story played out the exact opposite. A local law enforcement officer disobeyed orders and made numerous trips to rescue people that may have died otherwise."

Many students came back feeling as though they were not ready to leave just yet.

"It is hard to leave knowing that there is so much left to do," senior Taryn Goodwin said.

## WEB: Blogs not place for secrets

WEB, from front

through reliable news sources suggests that much of what appears in blogs are unsubstantiated cheap shots."


While Allan doesn't put much value in the information generated in the "blogosphere," others warn students about the dangers of posting private information or photos on the Internet.

"College students have had job offers rescinded, been fired or even arrested for what was in their profile or blog," Umbreit said. "If you want to keep something private, you shouldn't put it on one of these sites. It's like that old adage: tell no one the secret that you want to keep."

McGraw also thinks students have reason to be concerned with their privacy when posting information on the Internet.

"I think many students don't think through the potential impact of having the entire world view one's personal thoughts and other personal information," he said.


Despite its lack of privacy, professors are using these Web sites to keep in touch with alumni, post educational material or to learn students' names.



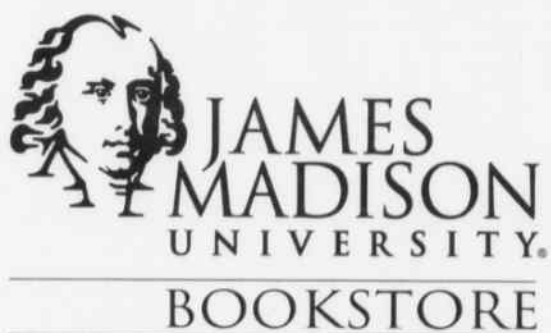
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## House Editorial

# Rumsfeld mismanages his way to the door

### The president's biggest mistake this year was not firing this guy in August

Even on the eve of his dismissal, Donald Rumsfeld is playing backseat driver. Two days before he resigned — and one day before the Election Day of reckoning — the former defense secretary sent a classified memo to the White House suggesting that the Bush administration's strategy in Iraq was increasingly ineffective. "Clearly," he said, "what U.S. forces are currently doing in Iraq is not working well enough or fast enough."

His master plan, however, hinges primarily on the idea that the administration should lower public expectations, the same game plan Karl Rove used to "win" the Bush-Gore debates in 2000. Rumsfeld said, "This will give us the ability to readjust and move to another course, if necessary, and therefore not 'lose.'"

It was a brilliant strategy six years ago, though it is hopelessly misapplied in this case. Unlike elections (directly), significant numbers of people, including American soldiers, are dying as a result of policies in Iraq. And the Iraq war is in a very different place in our national consciousness; to think the American public will respond to a lowering of standards is to grossly underestimate our intelligence. Not to mention that to lower standards in order to call something a "success" is to cheat.

As for Iraq, Rumsfeld's suggestions hinged on the consistently patronizing ideas he has stated about the Iraqis since the war began. When suggesting a moderate troop withdrawal (apparently the makeup of Congress wasn't the only thing to dramatically change that week), he did so, "so Iraqis know they have to pull up their socks, step up and take



responsibility for their country."

Another option called for punishing uncooperative provinces with a withdrawal of economic assistance and security. This ingenious gem of an idea will work as well as punishing underperforming schools by cutting their funding, effectively punishing them by removing the necessary infrastructure needed to bring about the ideal behavior. And even that is predicated upon the idea that we can punish Iraq like a disrespectful child who uses potty language. "Who's your daddy?" does not make for effective international policy.

What Rumsfeld's memo does suggest, however, is that the administration should "announce that whatever new approach the U.S. decides on, the U.S. is doing so on a trial basis." Sure. That way, no one can really be blamed for the fallout because it was, after all, just an experiment. This designated M.O. of the Bush administration is getting a little old.

First, Bush needs to take the wheel. Second, he does need to slow things down in Iraq. Third, we need to buckle our seat belts — even with Rumsfeld gone, it's gonna be a bumpy ride until November 2008, at the very least.

## Breeze Horoscopes

by Brian Goodman  
mouthpiece of the cosmos

**LIBRA:** Be careful not to read any newspapers today; any newspaper, especially student papers named after forms of wind, will today give you the papercut of a lifetime.

**SCORPIO:** You will form an organization for the sole purpose of making people "aware" of something, and then promptly forget why.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Beware the sushi at Dukes. Signs indicate that ex-KGB operatives have been there recently.

**CAPRICORN:** You will have an epiphany while using the toilet today. You won't want to miss this one — do not get off the toilet until the epiphany arrives.

**AQUARIUS:** Pegasus indicates that your study habits for this upcoming exam period will consist solely of calculating what your final grade will be if you don't show up for the tests.

**PISCES:** The position of an asteroid in relation to Mars will result in you initiating a passionate love affair with Kevin "K-Fed" Federline, complete with the requisite divorce a few months later.

**ARIES:** You're still here?

**TAURUS:** The position of Ursa Major indicates that you will suffer a sharp blow to the head, from which you will awake purporting to know what the "sanctity of marriage" actually means.

**GEMINI:** Mercury's relation to Venus is a strong sign that you will finally get your big acting break, making a cameo in one of those Geico "caveman" commercials.

**CANCER:** For reasons inexplicable by science or stars, today the music from "South Park: Bigger, Longer and Uncut" will serve as the soundtrack of your life.

**LEO:** Jupiter says that you will stop on Interstate 81 today and pick up a hitchhiker, who will turn out to be none other than the comedic genius Carrot Top. Throwing Mr. Top out of the car will earn you a Nobel Prize.

**VIRGO:** The position of Orion suggests that you will drop kick a puppy in anger after hearing Newsong's "The Christmas Shoes."

## The Best of What's Around



# The laughs fail to enlighten

### As 'Borat' takes on anti-Semitism, Sacha Baron Cohen proves he is no Mel Brooks

BY CRAIG FINKELSTEIN  
staff writer

Seemingly overnight, TV comedian Sacha Baron Cohen has burst onto the scene with his new film "Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan," in which he portrays Kazakh journalist Borat Sagdiyev who journeys to America in order to grasp the essence of American culture. His objective changes when Borat falls in love with actress Pamela Anderson and alters his quest in the hopes of locating and marrying her. Cohen's film was riddled with hilarious altercations and uncanny interactions that I thoroughly enjoyed. In addition to the comedic performance that is displayed, Cohen, who is Jewish, also makes several anti-Semitic references to common Jewish stereotypes in an effort to satirize how widespread and prevalent anti-Semitism is throughout the world. While I was in no way offended by Cohen's attempt as I understood the satire involved, I do feel that Cohen's efforts will not achieve his goal of truly educating people about the existence of anti-Semitism.

Several problems exist in how people will react to Cohen's use of anti-Semitism. On one hand, Cohen is relying on the general population to see through the anti-Semitism and to understand that it is not funny but in fact morally wrong. The problem here is that if Cohen hopes to educate an audience that he feels is already not smart enough to realize the issue of anti-Semitism, then how does he expect them to not simply laugh when he makes fun of Jews on screen? Many people who go and see "Borat," like those featured in the film, will actually think that the Jewish jokes are funny and as a result will not be intelligent enough to learn anything from this.

A second problem results from Borat's growing popularity. His thick Kazakh accent and one-liners are starting to become a staple of conversation, much like Dave Chappelle's quotes were at

the height of his popularity. Those who view Borat making jokes about Jews and singing songs entitled "Throw the Jew down the Well," are going to believe that since Cohen is Jewish and is making these jokes, then it must be OK for me to make them. While hoping to root out widespread anti-Semitism, he instead has contributed to the problem because his jokes will now be thrust into mainstream society that tends to enjoy impersonating celebrities like Cohen for entertainment.

Cohen's subtlety additionally hinders his ability to convey his message. While some may find it easy to interpret his negative references to Jews, others may not be so bright. Consider instead how director Mel Brooks approached the issues of extreme racism toward blacks in his classic film "Blazing Saddles." In Brooks' movie, the references to racism were so over the top, slapstick and wildly outrageous that the audience could clearly see the ridiculousness of racism, and thus took away more from the film. With Cohen's film, it is not so blatant.

"Blazing Saddles" was also filmed in 1974 and made social commentary on a time period nearly 100 years prior to the actual movie — society of the 1970s had clearly advanced beyond such extreme and open racism that was prevalent during the 1800s. "Borat," however, attempts to commentate on an issue that is still going on and is a common occurrence around the world, especially in the Middle East. Is it really fair to attempt to satirize something as dangerous as anti-Semitism when it still exists so heavily today? Would it have been morally appropriate for Brooks to satirize racism toward blacks the way he did if it were during the height of its existence?

Certainly, it is expected to laugh excessively at the film as it is quite humorous. The true test is whether or not one can also choose to not laugh when Borat makes fun of Jews, but instead feel uncomfortable at the commentary made on the ignorant hatred of a group of people.

Craig Finkelstein is a senior international affairs major.

## Through Murky Waters

# New student activists work to bring clean energy

### The greening of JMU, part one

BY ALEX SIRNEY  
senior writer

Ryan Powanda and Emily Thomas don't fit the stereotype of environmental activists. They are shod and clothed. Powanda is clean shaven, and neither of them looks like they've just come back from the interior of the Amazon.

Nevertheless, they have become the de facto leaders of the Clean Energy Coalition at JMU, an association of student organizations dedicated to convincing the university to purchase environmentally friendly electricity. The average appearance of them and the new wave of activists like them signifies what their message will hopefully become — mainstream, accepted and common practice.

Environmental activism is nothing new to the JMU community — the seven groups that have joined the CEC already existed before the coalition was formed in April, but now they are united with the common goal to gather enough student, faculty and community support by the end of the academic year to have JMU President Rose commit JMU to buying 100 percent clean energy within a certain timeframe.

This is a reasonable and modest goal; the plans the coalition has right now involve a trivial increase in student fees to pay for the switch. In return for a slight dip into the wallet — Tennessee Tech did it for \$8 per student per semester — JMU would become a national leader in environmental friendliness, and more importantly, would

be drastically decreasing the negative environmental impact of the university.

Most power in the United States still comes from coal power plants, which throws smog and greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere. These, in turn, lead to a range of local health effects, like asthma, cancer and even birth defects. An energy consumer as large as JMU backing out of the traditional power grid would not only reduce some of these effects but provide an example for other major institutions to follow.

Leaders like Powanda and Thomas are the ones that JMU should be looking to for direction, people with a sense not only of the issues, but how to garner support from students and administration.

Junior Aaron Sobel is another of these new environmental leaders. He is working, through his Natural Resource Conservation class (GEOG 240) to find ways to make buildings on campus more energy efficient through green building practices. His group is looking closely at the Potomac Hall dorms because of the planned construction of two new dorms of the same style.

Sobel's goals, like the Coalition's, don't sound like the shockingly extreme, social-revolution variety that many people expect from environmentalist groups. Rather, they're common-sense measures that should be adopted as soon as possible.

The administration has been supportive, although Sobel noted a reluctance to try anything new and untested. "Everything is considered on current costs, not

future costs," he said. "That's an attitude that needs to change."

Thomas is optimistic, however. "We're hopeful that JMU can set an example of students and administration working together," she said.

These groups are clearly on the right track to bring about a change on campus. Students like Sobel are investigating how to change JMU for the greener, and Thomas and Powanda are leading the effort to get the university to commit to that change. The groups they've brought together are as committed as they are. Marley Green, a leader in Earth Club, said his group — a Coalition member — is ready and dedicated, and Powanda hopes for an even broader level of support.

"[The issue] is really global, so I think we should have every group on campus [involved]," he said.

Every group on campus should get behind this cause — one of the strengths of the coalition is that all its member groups work on their own sustainability projects, so there is a place for any group to find a home. Groups are nothing without their members, however, and it is the responsibility of students to take action.

This action isn't extreme; all that is needed is to show support for the administration. Sign the petitions when they come up and, if you want to get involved, head to the ecoSymposium tonight where the coalition groups will be presenting at 5:30 in HHS, room 2301, about these issues.

Alex Sirney is a senior anthropology/SMAD major.

Submit Darts & Pats online at thebreeze.org, or e-mail submissions to breezedp@hotmail.com.

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



A "vehicular-pick-up-lines-are-creepy" dart to the guy near Buffalo Wild Wings who hit on us from his SUV.  
From two girls who thought the drive-by was flattering at first, but hauled booty when you followed us into the parking lot.

A "you-can-do-better-than-this" dart to the JMU admissions folks for accepting too many students who do not deserve to be at a school of this caliber.  
From a faculty member who is leaving if the level of stupidity shown by students on this campus continues or worsens.

A "save-your-theology-for-when-you're-not-seeing-two-of-me" dart to the drunken dude who should be charged with PUI — proselytizing under the influence.  
From an atheist who doesn't need your input on whether or not he should believe in your god, especially when your friends are holding you upright.

A "thanks-for-not-holding-back-on-my-account" dart to the couple kissing and talking relationship status in the library computer lab.  
From a disgusted senior who almost puked on her keyboard, and could have stayed home if she wanted to watch a soap opera.

A "the-red-octagon-is-not-for-decoration" dart to the speed-demon biker who almost left tread on our faces by Warren Hall.  
From two startled senior girls who were surprised that your bike was the biggest threat at that precarious crosswalk.

A "you've-climbed-into-my-heart" pat to the guy in my rock-climbing class who makes sure to cheer on and encourage every single person in the class every time they climb.  
From an appreciative female classmate who likes your enthusiasm and selflessness, and will betray you anytime, anywhere.

A "one-hamburger-please — hold-the-mold" dart to D-hall for serving a perfectly good meat patty on a less-than-perfect bun.  
From a senior guy who was having a lovely meal until he noticed the lovely bluish spot on the bottom of his hamburger bun.

Letters to the Editor

**Complaining about education teaches us nothing about what to do**

All people in this country do is complain about what other people are doing wrong. Rather than complaining about what is wrong, why not go out and make a difference or suggest new ideas to fix the problem?

If the school systems are a problem and teachers aren't good enough in the inner cities, get people together and push the government to make teaching in inner cities more rewarding monetarily. Suggest that all teachers are required to get more education so the teachers out there are more educated and more capable of dealing with problems and getting through to all children. Rather than supporting ideas that only hold the bright young minds of the country back (No Child Left Behind), come up with an idea that is more beneficial to all children. There are a few schools scattered across the country that allow bright students to take advanced classes where they can thrive while still taking other classes at normal levels. This way all students can make leaps and bounds in areas where they excel while still gaining a sound foundation in all of their other courses. My last suggestion is to stop complaining about what other people have

done wrong when you are not willing to work for the change you want to see.

Sean Simonds  
senior exercise science major

**Editorial Policies**

Responses to all articles and opinions published in *The Breeze* are welcomed and encouraged. Letters should be no longer than 250 words, must include a phone number for verification and can be e-mailed to [opinions@thebreeze.org](mailto:opinions@thebreeze.org) 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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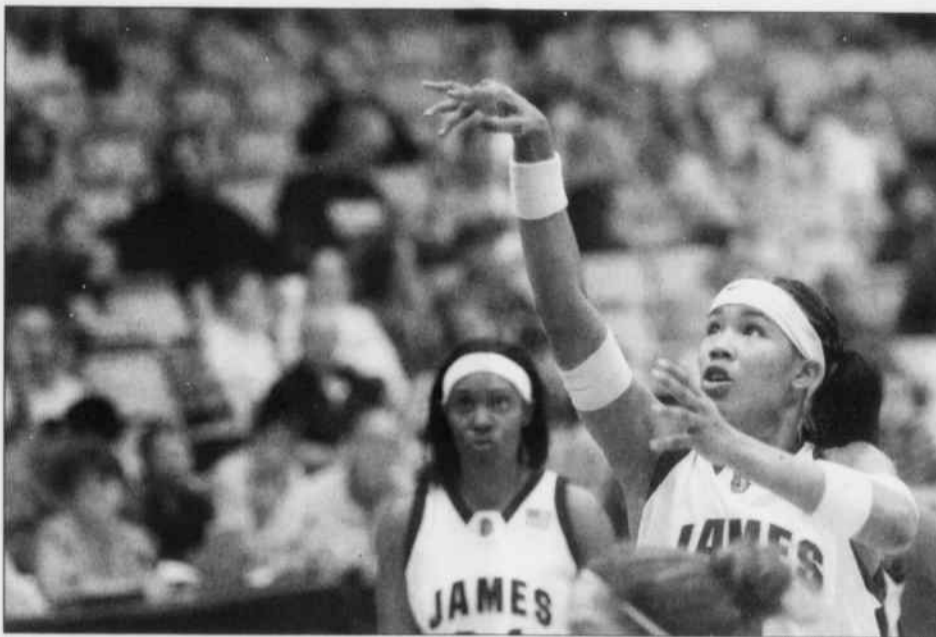


## Dukes topple Rams

JMU hands VCU first loss of season, improves to 4-1

BY BRIAN HANSEN  
 sports editor

Junior forward Tamera Young tied her career high with 28 points as the JMU women's basketball team (4-1 overall, 1-0 in the Colonial Athletic Association) won its CAA opener 73-63 over Virginia Commonwealth (6-1, 0-1) yesterday. The 6-foot-2 forward made 10 of her 12 free throws along and late in



EVAN DYSON/photo editor

JMU junior guard Tamera Young takes a free throw against the visiting Rams. She was 10 of 12 from the stripe and 9 of 23 from the field on her way to tying her career high of 28 points on the day.

the second half scored eight straight Dukes points, to help JMU pull away from the Rams.

"The first couple of games this season I wasn't really driving as much," Young said. "They were playing a tight

man [defense] and that gave me the opportunity to drive."

Senior center Meredith Alexis picked up her 45th career double double, as she added 17 points and 14 rebounds, despite a tight VCU zone designed to

keep the ball out of her hands.

The Dukes were able to take advantage of the Rams' defense by gathering offensive rebounds and putting

see HOOPS, page 10

## Monarchs mangle Dukes on late run

JMU falls to 2-4 after losing CAA opener to ODU

NORFOLK — For the second straight game, the JMU basketball team suffered a loss due to an opponent's strong showing behind the arc, falling 70-57 at Old Dominion University Saturday in the Colonial Athletic Association opener for both teams.

JMU sophomore forward Juwan James had team highs of 14 points and eight rebounds, while sophomore guard Joe Posey contributed 11 points. Both reached double figures in scoring for the sixth straight game for JMU.

James had 12 second-half points after having to sit with two early fouls.

ODU's Drew Williamson led the Monarchs with 15 second-half points, including 12 from three-point field goals. He also had four rebounds, four assists and two steals.

As a team, ODU hit on 10 of 22 3-point shots overall and six of 10 during the second half. JMU, on the other hand, hit on just three of 15 3-point shots and missed on all seven second-half attempts.

The Dukes forced 17 turnovers, while committing 15 turnovers themselves.

ODU improved to 6-2 for the season, while JMU fell to 2-4.

Neither team led by more than four points during the opening half until ODU's Abdi Lidonde came off the bench and put up a pair of three-pointers to spark an 8-2 closing run.

The host Monarchs led 32-25 at halftime.

ODU increased its lead 44-33 with 12:58 remaining, but JMU answered with a 9-0 run that featured four different scorers, capped by freshman guard Pierre Curtis. Midway through the second half, the Dukes had cut the deficit to two points. Then, Old Dominion hit 3-pointers on three straight possessions to increase the lead to 53-46 with 8:42 remaining and didn't allow JMU any closer there on out.

The Dukes will be back in action on the road tomorrow to take on Georgetown at 7:30 p.m.

JMU	25	32	—	57
ODU	32	38	—	70

JMU: James 7-14 0-1 14, Posey 4-13 2-2 11, Curtis 3-10 2-4 8, Chami 4-6 0-3 8

ODU: Vasylius 5-11 7-10 18, Williamson 6-12 1-2 17, Lidonde (3-4 0-0 9.

Three-point goals — JMU 3-15 (Swanston 2-3, Posey 1-8, Curtis 0-3). ODU 10-22 (Williamson 4-9, Lidonde 3-4, Henderson 2-5). Fouled out — none. Rebounds — JMU 30 (James 8, Swanston 5, Carter 5). ODU 38 (Vasylius 13, Adams 6, Williamson 4, Henderson 4, Lee 4).

— from staff reports



LAYNE CHAPPELL/file photo

JMU junior forward Terrance Carter shoots over a defender. Carter is averaging 6.8 rebounds per game.

## So fresh, so clean

Freshman guard performs in clutch for Dukes

BY TIM CHAPMAN  
 staff writer

After converting on two free throws in a back-and-forth battle with Virginia Military Institute, freshman point guard Pierre Curtis gave the JMU faithful a taste of the clutch play he expects to deliver for years to come.



Curtis

On the ensuing possession, Curtis stole the ball and sunk a floater as time expired to give the JMU men's basketball team its first victory of the season.

"As a point guard, I need to get the team set up on plays, but Coach Keener also tells me to be aggressive at the offensive end," Curtis said. "It felt good to hit that shot, my teammates were jumping on me and everyone was happy

for that win no matter how we got it."

The 6-foot-3, 165-pounder from Denver hasn't just shown flashes of his abilities, but has impressed his coaches and teammates with his poise and consistency, things that aren't always characteristic of a first-year player.

"We knew when we first looked at him he loved the game and he's proven he wants to get better," Keener said.

Keener and the team aren't the only ones noticing Curtis' promise, as he picked up Colonial Athletic Association Rookie of the Week honors for the week of Nov 19.

In his first two outings at the Convocation Center, Curtis led Madison to victories against VMI and Wofford while averaging 15.5 points, three rebounds, three assists and three steals. JMU sophomore swingman Kyle Swanston has been working out with his new point guard since the summer and knew he would make an immediate impact.

"He's a real clutch player and, for a guy his size, is real strong with the ball," Swanston said. "He understands time and score, and his great decision making will make him a great candidate for freshman of the year."

Through Saturday's loss to Old Dominion, Curtis is third on the team in scoring with 11.8 points per game, trailing only sophomores Juwan James and Joe Posey, who are averaging 16.2 and 16, respectively. Although he played the two-guard through high school and a year at prep school, Curtis attributes his comfort in his new role to Keener's system.

"The coaches have helped make it easy, but I have always been a confident kid maybe even on the bubble of being cocky," Curtis said.

Getting off to a quick start has been bittersweet for Curtis, though, as the majority of his family lives in Denver and Chicago and hasn't had a chance to see the blossoming guard play. He reminisces about his first experiences with basketball and credits his interest in the game to his grandmother, Norma Curtis.

"She was the first to get me into it; we'd watch games together and she even bought me my first ball," Curtis said.

Curtis and the Dukes (2-4 overall, 0-1 in the CAA) travel to Washington, D.C., to face Georgetown tomorrow.

"It feels good to get the recognition, but I'll be happier winning more games," Curtis said.



LAYNE CHAPPELL/file photo

JMU freshman guard Pierre Curtis lays it up around an Eastern Kentucky defender.

## Dukes' guard to transfer

Lampley leaves Madison's men's basketball team

According to the *Daily News-Record*, sophomore point guard Lewis Lampley is leaving the team due to personal issues.

Lampley would not say what the personal issues were, just that he needed to be closer to his St. Petersburg, Fla., home.

He made the decision late Thursday night and discussed it with coach Dean Keener Friday. Lampley did not make the trip to Old Dominion Saturday.

The 6-foot-3, 185-pounder had been averaging just 10 minutes a game this season, but both Keener and Lampley

said the decision was based purely on his need to be closer to home, due to personal issues.

Last year, Lampley was considered the future for JMU's point guard position with the departure of Jomo Belfor, but Pierre Curtis beat him out of that role in the pre-season.

Lampley told the *Daily News-Record* that the issues at home were affecting his play. He was averaging just 0.6 points per game while adding just seven rebounds and four assists in the Dukes' first five games this season.

Last season, Lampley averaged 1.6 points per game and 1.7 rebounds, in 11.4 minutes. The NCAA rules about transferring to another Division-I school requires Lampley to sit out a season before being eligible again. However, if he were able to find a school closer to his home in Florida to go to by the spring semester, he would be available to play in January 2008.

— from staff reports

## JMU linebacker finalist for state's top football award

Senior Akeem Jordan up for Dudley Award with 140-tackle year

JMU senior linebacker Akeem Jordan is a finalist for the Dudley award, which is presented annually to Virginia's most-outstanding Division I college football player.

This season, Jordan was the Defensive Player of the Year in the Atlantic 10 Football Conference and the leading tackler in the league (140). He led JMU's defense to a 9-3 record and an NCAA Division I Championship play-off berth.

The Dudley Award will be presented Wednesday at a banquet at the Sheraton Richmond West hotel at 6:30 p.m.

Other finalists for the award include junior linebacker Vince Hall of Virginia

Tech and junior defensive end Chris Long of the University of Virginia. Junior running back Ra'Shad Morgan of Virginia-Wise and junior defensive back Mark Snoddy of Washington & Lee are finalists for the Division II/III/NAIA award that goes to the player of the year in those classifications.

Each football-playing school in Virginia is allowed to nominate a player for the award. A panel of 15 sports writers and broadcasters from around the state votes for three players in each division, with points given on a 5-3-1 basis. The top three in Division I and the top two in Division II/III/NAIA become finalists for their respective award.

Jordan's 140 tackles this season tied him for second nationally in the category, as he averaged 11.67 per game, according to the NCAA's most recent statistics. He had 69 solo stops, 17 tackles for loss, 5.5 sacks, an interception, four pass break-ups, a forced fumble and a fumble recovery during his recently completed season.

Jordan was a first-team All-Atlantic 10 selection this year after being a second-team All-League honoree in 2005.

— from staff reports



Jordan



Lampley

# GAMES AND PUZZLES



## Sudoku

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

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

Difficulty: ★★☆☆☆

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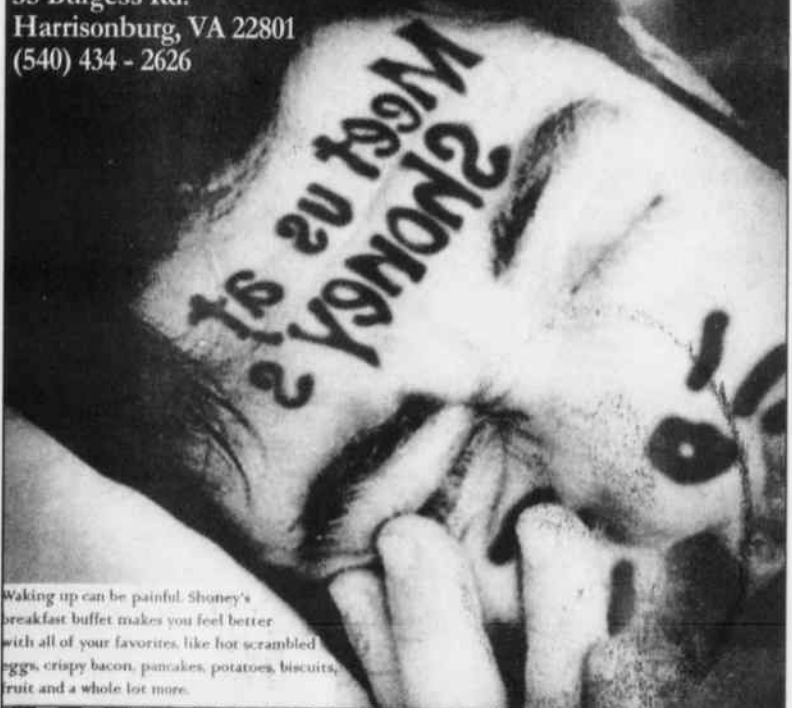
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After a tragic car accident that killed his best friend, Reid poured himself into his music career.

photos courtesy of THAD REID

## JMU alumnus makes his dream a reality: Rapper Thad Reid overcomes tragedy to fulfill a promise

BY KAITLIN TAMBUCCIO  
 contributing writer

When Thad Reid graduated from JMU in 2000, he had earned a degree in media arts and design with the intent of working in the sports broadcasting field. However, that was only if he was not able to make it in the music industry. Reid has faced some roadblocks along the way, but the bottom line is, you will not hear him broadcasting a Redskins game anytime soon.

He has put his sports broadcasting career on hold to pursue his true passion. Reid is a budding rap artist whose number one desire is to become a success in the music industry — and there's no doubt that he's already on his way.

Reid was born and raised in Lynchburg. He became interested in rap at a very early age at the influence of his older sister, and when Reid was 17 years old, he began free-styling and making mix tapes on a karaoke machine with one of his friends. According to Reid, it was during this time that he realized dabbling in music would become much more than a hobby.

Immediately following his graduation from JMU, Reid faced a tragedy that would come to affect his everyday life and his music. While driving from a Memorial Day party in Washington, D.C., to his best friend Demetrick's home in Harrisburg, Pa., Reid fell asleep at the wheel. He awoke and abruptly jerked the wheel. The car flipped and caught fire. Demetrick managed to push both Reid and his own cousin out of the car, but could not escape the car himself before it burst into flames. Demetrick died instantly and his cousin died three months later in a hospital. Reid escaped the burning vehicle safely.

"Ironically, the night that [Demetrick] died, we were walking down the street and I told him that I was going to make it [as a rap artist] and that I was going to take him with me," Reid said. "Those were the last words I said to him. At this point, I'm doing this not only for myself, but for him too."

Reid's focus is to make it big in the music industry to fulfill the promise that he made to his best friend the night he died.

Reid's first LP, *Memorial Day*, is a tribute to Demetrick. The title track, "Memorial Day," is an emotionally charged song in which Reid chronicles his friendship with Demetrick, the day of the accident and how it has

affected his day-to-day life.

"Memorial Day" begins with a preacher asking his congregation, "Have you ever had to walk through a fire? Is there anyone who's gone through a refining process? But as you came out of the fire, God's power was increased in you."

Reid then sings, "I'd be a lie if I say I didn't blame myself / Change myself / So I try to save myself / From the long guilt normally consume my mind / A time bomb waitin' to explode at times."

In addition to "Memorial Day," the LP contains 14 other tracks that are diverse in both subject matter and sound. Each song portrays a different aspect of the artist's life.

"The album touches on what I've been through in my life as a whole," Reid said. "The human being is complicated in that there are a lot of different sides to people. You aren't always going to be hard, and you aren't always going to be happy all the time." Reid said his album translates all the emotions that a person may experience throughout his or her life into music.

Reid's favorite song on the album is "They Don't Like Me." Reid said it is a song that is basically dedicated to people who are people he calls "haters."

"When you're doing something for yourself and when you achieve your goals, there are a lot of people out there who want to see you fail just because you are doing well," Reid said. "[The song] is pretty much based on that."

Recently, Reid released a free-for-download, 18-track mix tape that can be downloaded from his Web site, [thadreid.com](http://thadreid.com), or his MySpace Web site, [myspace.com/thadreid](http://myspace.com/thadreid). His album can also be purchased on his Web site. He is currently living outside of Washington, D.C., working to promote his music by performing and promoting *Memorial Day*. Sometime this summer, he is expecting to release the follow-up album to *Memorial Day*, which is still untitled.

Reid's success can be attributed to an important piece of advice he received from his parents.

"My parents used to tell me that if you shoot for the moon, you will land amongst the stars," Reid said. "There is nothing that you can't achieve if you set a goal. You can strive for greatness and even if you don't make it, you will land at the top of the game. You may not be the best, but you will be among the best. I'm just trying to be the best that I can be."

As Reid explains, for him, the cards have fallen into place.

"Because of the accident, I'm not even supposed to be here, so I figured that God spared my life for a reason," Reid said. "He wants me to serve as a testimony for the people that want what I went through in my life. He spared me so I could do it through music, and that's what I'm going to continue to do."

## CHECK IT OUT

**A Certain Slant of Light:  
 Interpreting Emily Dickinson**

Where:  
 Taylor Hall, room 400

When:  
 Monday, Dec. 4 from 4 to 6:30 p.m.

Why:  
 Explore the work of Emily Dickinson through essays and creative works of students in ENG 410.

Not only will there be free food, but students will present 10 to 20-minute essays on the life and work of Emily Dickinson. There will also be a display of students' creative works inspired by Dickinson.



LAUREN PACK/art director

## CD Review

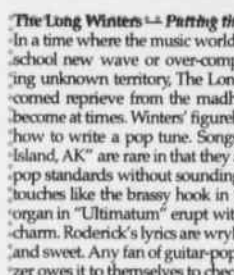
# Five must-have albums of 2006

BY KRIS KING  
 contributing writer

The time has come to reminisce over a year that truly provided music fans with many fantastic albums and some so bad that they come back around and become good again (here's looking at you, Kevin Federline). The selection process is both difficult and time-consuming, but the following albums represent something truly great. Be it Girl Talk's ability to tear the roof off of a party, The Futureheads' venture toward maturity or The Hold Steady's opus of being young in the 21st century. This was a great year for music, and here are the reasons why.



**The Hold Steady — Boys and Girls in America**  
 At most shows you catch drumsticks. At Hold Steady shows, you catch cigarettes. The Hold Steady sounds like the kind of group one would see playing at a broken-down rowdy bar with a chicken-wire barricade in front of the stage. They're loud, unruly and more interested in playing music than looking hip. In *Boys and Girls in America*, singer Craig Finn captures an uncanny portrait of life at the point between youth and adulthood — that glimpse of freedom from the restraints of parents and before the chains of responsibility tighten. This album is for the kids out to revel in what little bit of life they can in the time provided and it celebrates both the glory and the drawbacks. Released Oct. 3.



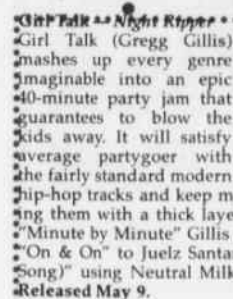
**The Long Winters — Putting the Days to Bed**  
 In a time where the music world seems dominated by new school new wave or over-complicated attempts at charting unknown territory, The Long Winters serves as a welcomed reprieve from the madhouse that new music can become at times. Winters' figurehead John Rodenick knows how to write a pop tune. Songs like "Teaspoon" or "Fire Island, AK" are rare in that they adhere to traditional indie-pop standards without sounding tired or derivative. Small touches like the brassy hook in "Teaspoon" or the soaring organ in "Ultimatum" erupt with an accessible and likable charm. Rodenick's lyrics are wryly clever, irreverent, wistful and sweet. Any fan of guitar-pop in the vein of Ted Leo or Pre-Green Album Weezer owes it to themselves to check out this album. Released July 26.



**The Pipettes — We Are the Pipettes**  
 The 21st century answer to The Crystals or The Shangri-La's, The Pipettes give the '60s girl-group formula an upgrade with an album that seethes irresistible sass. Backed by the all-male group The Cassettes, The Pipettes are three polka-dot-clad English girls with an ear for the past coupled with a modern mind-set. The girls sing about one-night stands, breaking hearts, and, of course, how they're the prettiest girls you've ever met. Tracks are succinct and infectious and draw obvious inspiration from Phil Spector and Motown while avoiding any hints of tepid derivation. Released July 17.



**The Futureheads — News and Tributes**  
 Coming off of their strong first album memorable for its break-neck pacing and relentless energy, England's The Futureheads hardly sound like themselves on their sophomore release. For most of *News*, the boys slow down and concentrate on crafting more mature guitar-pop tunes without completely abandoning their fan base. In short, The Futureheads are all grown up. They've escaped the "let's play as fast as we can for an entire album" stigma that lingers throughout their first album. Faster songs like "Cope" and "Return of the Berserker" sound out of place and notably weak when compared to tunes like the atmospheric "Back to the Sea" or the upbeat, and devilishly catchy, "Skip to the End." While the evolved sound of *News and Tributes* may shock established fans, the album shows a distinct forward movement and diversity in songwriting that showcases the band achieving its full potential. Released June 13.



**Girl Talk — All Star**  
 Girl Talk (Gregg Gillis) mashes up every genre imaginable into an epic 40-minute party jam that guarantees to blow the kids away. It will satisfy average partygoer with the fairly standard modern hip-hop tracks and keep music nerds happy by sugarcoating them with a thick layer of eclectic tunes. In the track "Minute by Minute" Gillis uses mixes from Missy Elliott's "On & On" to Juelz Santana's "There It Go (The Whistle Song)" using Neutral Milk Hotel and Jefferson Airplane. Released May 9.

# HOOPS: Women's basketball opens conference play with win over VCU

HOOPS, from page 7  
in second-chance points.

"That's one of the things that I think is one of their biggest strengths," VCU coach Beth Cunningham said. "They get a log of offensive production off first and second-chance points. We just gave them way too many opportunities."

The Dukes out-rebounded VCU 37-30, including 15-9 on the offensive end.

"That's a part of what we do," JMU coach Kenny Brooks said. "One of the things we do well is offensive rebound."

Aside from leading scorers Alexis and Young, scoring 22.5 and 16 points per game respectively, the Dukes also got a big contribution from junior guard Jasmin Lawrence, who scored in double figures for the first time all season, scoring 12 points in 22 minutes.

"I was just trying to be aggressive," Lawrence said. "[Alexis and Young] were hitting their shots and that kind of opened things up for me."

Added Alexis, "It helps us out because other teams will see the film, and now they have another person they need to be worried about, now maybe they aren't able to deny me the ball as much."

The Rams shot 50 percent from the field going 24 of 48, including getting a career-high 26 points from forward Krystal Vaughn. Vaughn's hot shooting inside forced Brooks to switch his defense to a 2-3 zone defense that attempted to force the Rams to shoot more from the outside.

"We had planned on doubling [Vaughn] a lot in the game," Brooks said. "However, she's such a tough double because she catches it quickly and turns and shoots so quickly."

JMU overcame the excellent shooting by forcing 24 VCU turnovers.

"That's something we stress," Cunningham said. "We want 16 or less every game, and today we had 11 by halftime. Give credit to their defense, but I think we made a lot of careless mistakes."

Sunday's game was the second-straight game where the Dukes were able to defend their home court against a team that came into the game undefeated. On Wednesday they were able to defeat Liberty University 74-64.

The win also pushes JMU's home winning streak to 16 games. The last time they lost at home was March 3, 2005 against Delaware.

"Every game we look at it like, we're not trying to let anyone break our undefeated record at home," Lawrence said. "It becomes one of our goals to go undefeated at home for the whole season."

Added Alexis, "I think it's a hostile atmosphere. The pep band looks for the insecurities and they really heckle the other team."

Alexis's 14 rebounds gives her 991 in her career. She is JMU's all-time career leader in rebounds. She will have an opportunity to go for rebound 1,000 in JMU's next game, which will be Wednesday as the Dukes take on the Atlantic Coast Conference's Clemson Tigers.



EVAN DYSON/photo editor

Senior center Meredith Alexis goes up for a layup in yesterday's game against VCU. Alexis scored 17 points and grabbed 14 rebounds for the Dukes. Alexis is leading the team in both categories this season.

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