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Vol. 92, No. 42 Thursday, March 6, 2014

Relentless winter

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Ihe Breeze

After snowstorm forces two-day closure of JMU, city struggles to keep roads clear with limited resources



A Facilities Management snow plow clears campus during the Jan. 21 snow storm.

By IJ CHAN The Breeze

The snowbanks around the Shenandoah Valley have built up to all time highs, and the JMU and Harrisonburg community have struggled to keep up with the weather.

Associate director of communications Bill Wyatt said with each school cancellation, JMU offers faculty the option of holding class on the designated Saturday make-up day. The designated make-up day for classes missed on Monday is Saturday, April 2. As of Tuesday afternoon, Wyatt said JMU hasn't decided on a make-up date for Tuesday yet. So far, Wyatt said JMU has had to cancel school because of two very different, but equally severe storms

The first storm, which caused JMU to close on Feb. 13 and 14, dumped more than a foot of snow on campus. Monday's storm may have left less snow on the ground, but there was a thick layer of ice underneath it.

On Monday night, JMU students received a MadisonAlert that said that JMU was going to open Tuesday morning at 11 a.m. But JMU students received

another MadisonAlert on Tuesday morning at around 9 a.m., saying that the university would again be closed for the day.

"We thought [Tuesday] morning that we would be able to operate under a delayed opening," Wyatt said. "But when we reassessed the situation [that] morning, it was obvious that the roads and the sidewalks and the apartment complexes and things like that weren't up to par, so the

see **SNOW**, page A4

Getting down to business

Women's basketball holds No. 1 seed in the CAA



Free wheelin'

Student uses a modified Segway to live life at JMU to the fullest



Ready for the big leagues

Debate team prepares to compete in National Debate Tournament

By CHRIS KENT The Breeze

On stage, heart pounding, palms sweating, mouth drying out with every escalated breath, debaters ponder the central argument: presidential war powers - should we increase or decrease them? This is what is going through the minds of the members of the JMU Public Policy Debate team as they belt out their arguments at speeds faster than one can normally comprehend. Now stop talking, it's time to listen to the other team's argument and prepare a rebuttal before the clock stops.

MATT SCHMACHTENBERG / THE BREEZE

JMU women's basketball prepare for the upcoming CAA tournament.

By WAYNE EPPS JR. The Breeze

For women's basketball, it's time to get down to the real business.

Week after week this season, opposing coaches have come to post-game press conferences at the Convocation Center acknowledging the talent the team has. And head coach Kenny Brooks and his players followed, acknowledging one of the larger goals in all of their success: a championship.

JMU has had the No.1 seed in the Colonial Athletic Association tournament locked up for two weeks already, and the regular season title locked up for a week and a half. But now, after a win at Northeastern University last night in it's season finale, tournament time is finally straight ahead.

'That's been the biggest goal all year long," redshirt senior forward Nikki Newman said. "Is to be cutting down nets on that Sunday. And I think, if we keep doing the things we've been doing, we have a very good chance of doing that."

The next week before the tournament starts will be about maintaining routine, while fine-tuning things that the Dukes (25-5, 15-1 CAA) have proven they can already do well on both ends of the floor. They will look more closely at an offense that is averaging a CAA-best 76.2 points per game, and sure up a defense that is limiting opponents to a CAA-best 55.5 points per game.

Assistant coach Jennifer Brown is familiar with that build-up to tourney time. She played under Brooks from 2006-08 after transferring from the University of Pittsburgh. She was then an assistant coach at Colgate University for two seasons before coming back to JMU, where she's been since 2010.

"The biggest thing is to make sure we stay in rhythm," Brown said.

see **BASKETBALL**, page B6

Tyler Rich has a form of cerebral palsy that makes walking a difficult task. He uses a modified Segway to get around. Rich enjoys being outdoors participating in activities like camping and off-roading in his Jeep.

By MOLLIE JONES The Breeze

Yep, that's Tyler — the guy we've all seen riding around campus on his Segway. Most people know him because of his choice of transportation, but what makes Tyler Rich so interesting is everything but his Segway.

A senior writing, rhetoric and technical communication major, Tyler Rich has a form of cerebral palsy characterized by spastic diplegia in the cerebellum - essentially, control over the muscles in his legs is particularly limited, making walking a difficult task. Rich used canes and walkers to combat this when he was younger and more active, but as more surgeries began to take their toll, an alternative mode of transportation was needed.

Rich didn't want to use a wheelchair because it would limit his mobility, and instead uses a modified Segway, a two-wheeled stand-up scooter company that his family had coincidentally owned a dealership at one point. His Segway was altered by adding a seat to it by the company SegVator, a Wisconsin-based company. However, it wasn't until his father saw a woman with multiple sclerosis using one that the Riches decided to try the idea out; coincidentally, it stuck.

Being physically restricted has had no bearing on defining who Rich is or how he sees himself.

'I look at it as a set of circumstances," Rich said. "Some people wake up in the morning and put their boots on. I wake up in the morning and put my wheels on."

Rich credits his independent mindset to his parents, who have always told him he can do whatever he wants, he just needs to figure out a way to do it.

Perhaps the best way to explain Rich is to give a little taste of his interests. When he's not at a Madison Libertarians meeting, you can most likely find him outdoors with the JMU Sportsman Club participating in activities like fishing, camping and off-roading (most likely in his gold '95 Jeep Wrangler on 31s with a 3-inch lift). Rich also spends a good chunk of his time on the water, kayaking or sailing, and often practices his aim with an old favorite, his .22 rifle.

Sam Stivers, a junior hospitality management major and a member of the Sportsman Club, can personally tell you that little can deter Rich from doing whatever he puts his mind to.

"Spend a few minutes talking to the guy, and it becomes quite clear he doesn't let too much stop him," Stivers said. "The thing I've realized

see SEGWAY, page B2

"When I first came to JMU. I didn't really plan on going to the NDT, it wasn't until last year that I fully became committed."

Elyssa Miller Senior communications

sciences and disorders major and JMU debate member

In 1992, JMU sent two teams to the National Debate Tournament hoping to sweep the tourney and take the win. That did not happen - Georgetown University came in first place.

This year, JMU gets the chance again on March 27, after two decades of competitions, two JMU teams are being sent to Bloomington, Ind. to compete. If they win, it will be the pinnacle accomplishment for a year that saw the JMU Debate team reach the top 10 in the nation.

"When I first came to JMU, I didn't really plan on going to the NDT," Elyssa Miller, a senior communication sciences and disorders major and JMU debate member, said. "It wasn't until last year that I fully became committed, unfortunately it was a very competitive year and we were not just able to do it."

Miller is one of the members heading to NDT with her debate partner, Nick Lepp, a sophomore philosophy and religion and communication studies double major. Miller said it's extremely difficult for teams to qualify for the NDT.

"There are only so many teams that get to go to the NDT," Miller said. "Especially out of our district — district seven — it is like really hard to get teams out of that. Only six teams out of the 16 in our district were able

see **DEBATE**, page A4

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A3 **Preserving nature** Hillside Project on East Campus creates diverse ecosystems.

NEWS

OPINION A6

Down with Keystone JMU E.A.R.T.H. club traveled to D.C. to protest the Keystone XL Pipeline.

LIFE

A Fatherland of culture Michael Trocchia's newest book release was a success. despite the snow.

SPORTS

Behind the scenes Walk-on Christian Pierce's career is coming to a close.



The Breeze

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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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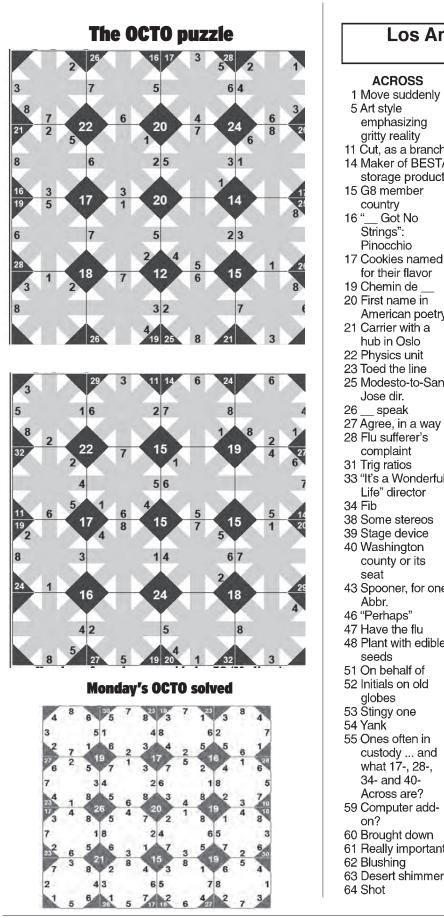
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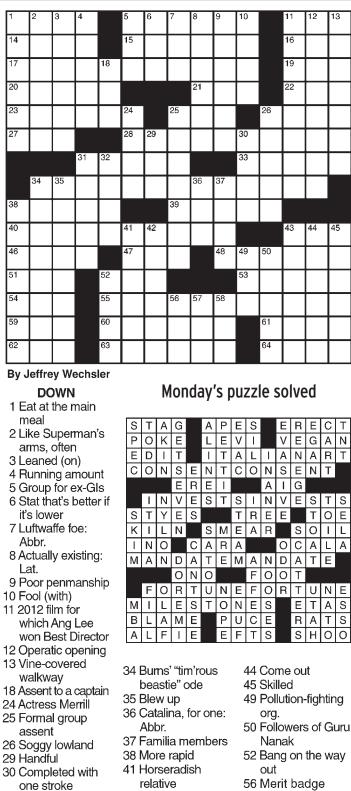
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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS 1 Move suddenly 5 Art style emphasizing gritty reality 11 Cut, as a branch 20 14 Maker of BESTA 23 storage products 15 G8 member country 16 " _ Got No Strings": Pinocchio 17 Cookies named for their flavor 19 Chemin de 20 First name in American poetry 46 21 Carrier with a hub in Oslo 22 Physics unit 54 23 Toed the line 25 Modesto-to-San 59 Jose dir. 26 <u>speak</u> 62 27 Agree, in a way 28 Flu sufferer's complaint 31 Trig ratios 33 "It's a Wonderful Life" director 34 Fib 38 Some stereos 39 Stage device 40 Washington county or its seat 43 Spooner, for one: Abbr. 46 "Perhaps" 47 Have the flu 48 Plant with edible seeds 51 On behalf of 52 Initials on old globes 53 Stingy one 54 Yank 55 Ones often in custody ... and what 17-, 28-, 34- and 40-Across are? 59 Computer addon? 60 Brought down 61 Really important



R

EU reveals \$15 billion aid package for Ukraine

a statement. An additional \$11 billion in financing would come from European financial institutions that invest in infrastructure and other development projects. The aid package is contingent on Kiev's agreement to implement economic reforms demanded by the International Monetary Fund.

afternoon, petting stray dogs and joking with a couple of young women in

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32 "As Time Goes

By" requester

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MARKETING & CIRCUI ATION COORDINATOR

Brianna Therkelsen

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Los Angeles Times

LONDON — Trying to forge a united response to the crisis in Ukraine, the European Union is preparing to offer the embattled country up to \$15 billion in grants and loans to help shore up its new government and improve its precarious financial position, a leading EU official said Wednesday.

The offer from Jose Manuel Barroso, head of the European Commission, followed the Obama administration's announcement a day earlier that it would give \$1 billion in energy subsidies to Ukraine. The cash-starved government in Kiev has been struggling to pay its bills, a financial predicament that helped precipitate the current crisis.

The EU's assistance package would include \$4 billion in loans and development grants over the next several years, with a substantial portion to be made available immediately "to help Ukraine address its more urgent needs, including stabilizing the financial situation and supporting the functioning of the new administration," the EU said in

Ukrainian soldiers in Crimea reject **Russian allegiance**

Los Angeles Times

BAKHCHISARAY, Ukraine — The Russian soldiers outside an army base in this Crimean city had demands Monday for the Ukrainian soldiers inside: Pledge allegiance to the Russian military or put their weapons in storage, abandon their post and go home.

The Ukrainians refused.

"They must know that should they attempt to storm the base, we will fight back until the last drop of our blood," Col. Sergei Stashenko, the site's Ukrainian commander, told the Los Angeles Times. "Whatever they are up to, we will not allow them to get hold of our weapons." Outside the base, armed Russian

soldiers strolled around on a sunny

a nearby park. Over the barbed wire, armed Ukrainian soldiers watched their movements through binoculars.

Of the Russian demands, Stashenko was adamant: "This is absurd and totally unacceptable to us. We remain committed to the oath we took before our country and the Ukrainian people."

Throughout Ukraine's Crimea region Monday, Russia ratcheted up its pressure on Ukrainian forces, demanding their virtual surrender, even as Moscow continued to defy international demands that it withdraw its troops. A Ukrainian coastal defense unit in the town of Perevalnaya, under siege by Russian forces for three days, faced demands that it give up its weapons.

Russian naval forces, which have long leased a base in Crimea, blockaded two Ukrainian navy vessels in the port of Sevastopol and issued what was becoming a familiar demand to the sailors: Surrender and swear allegiance. The Interfax news agency in Moscow denied that the ultimatum had come from the Kremlin.

Russian troops also seized control of the commercial port of Kerch, on the far eastern point of the diamond-shaped peninsula, and shored up patrols of military installations throughout the region.

McClatchy Foreign Staff

42 Elevated conflict

43 Gather, as fallen

leaves

BEIJING - China's plans to increase its military spending by 12.2 percent this year, a boost over 2013, will surely agitate some neighbors but please Chinese nationalists who want their country to assert itself as a dominant Asian power.

The jump in military spending, announced Wednesday on the first day of the National People's Congress in Beijing, comes amid a war of words between Japan and China over disputed islands in the East China Sea. Relations between the trading partners have soured and analysts fear a full-blown war.

China spends less per capita on defense than the United States and many other countries do, but. Last year, the world's largest nation spent 10.7 percent of its budget on the military. This year's 12.2 percent increase means that China will spend nearly 808 billion yuan, or roughly \$132 billion, on defense, although many experts think the true figure is higher.

Compiled from McClatchy-Tribune wire services

NATIONAL NEWS

Facebook tightens policies on illegal gun sale posts

Los Angeles Times

SAN FANCISCO — Under intensifying pressure from gun control groups and New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, Facebook Inc. is tightening its policies to make it more difficult for people to illegally sell or trade guns on Facebook and Instagram, particularly to minors.

The giant social network will block minors from seeing posts about gun sales and trades, the company said Wednesday.

Facebook said it would limit access to posts about gun sales and trades to people 18 and older. And it said it would require Facebook pages primarily used to promote the private sale of regulated goods and services to include language that reminds them to comply with laws and regulations and limit access to people 18 and older in the case of goods such as alcohol.

Any time Facebook receives a report about a post promoting the private sale of regulated goods such as guns, it will send a message to that user reminding him or her to comply with laws and regulations, Facebook said. Anyone searching on Instagram for sales of firearms will be shown similar reminders.

Ellen DeGeneres' **Oscars selfie triumph** for Samsung

Los Angeles Times

SAN FRANCISCO — Samsung Electronics Co. struck social media gold when Oscars host Ellen DeGeneres used one of its smartphones to take what has now become the world's most famous selfie.

DeGeneres never mentioned Samsung, a major Academy Awards sponsor, but handed actor Bradley Cooper the company's Galaxy Note 3 for the celebrity-filled shot that included Meryl Streep, Jennifer Lawrence, Kevin Spacey, Jared Leto and Lupita Nyong'o.

The Oscars selfie was such a viral hit that it

crushed the previous record set by President Barack Obama after his re-election in 2012 and temporarily knocked Twitter's service offline as fans retweeted it more than 700,000 times in the first half hour alone.

"We crashed and broke Twitter," DeGeneres said from the stage. "We made history."

The selfie holds the record as the most popular tweet ever, making the picture worth every dollar Samsung paid for the sponsorship, said Peter Sealey, chief executive of the Sausalito Group strategic marketing company.

"That was a social media home run. It really was," Sealey said.

Samsung said Monday that the selfie was not scripted and that it would donate \$3 million total to two charities picked by DeGeneres to thank her. It also began running an ad on Twitter: "Recordbreaking selfie taken on (hashtag)TheNextBigThing! Noted.

US, Europe split over sanctions for Russia

McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. officials are struggling to get Europe on board for harsh punitive measures against Russia, whose incursion into neighboring Ukraine is putting trans-Atlantic relations to the test as nervous European states seek to avoid the fray.

Under pressure from U.S. lawmakers to issue a tough response to what they see as Russian President Vladimir Putin's challenge to U.S. resolve, Obama administration officials have said without much elaboration that a sanctions package is in the works.

But it took enormous wrangling to get the European Union to agree to the largely symbolic move of suspending preparations for the Group of 8's June meeting in Russia, and analysts who receive briefings on the diplomatic efforts said Tuesday that the American side, despite working around the clock, is having difficulty finding common ground with the Europeans.

So far, they say, Europe sees high risks for the continent and very little to suggest that any such action would sway a defiant Putin. The options, then, are the United States going the sanctions route alone or watering down the measures to mollify Europe_both scenarios that would please Putin, who has a reputation of exploiting any sign of trans-Atlantic splits.

Compiled from McClatchy-Tribune wire services

News

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Thursday, March 6, 2014 **A3**

EDITORS IJ Chan & William Mason EMAIL breezenews@gmail.com



MARK OWEN / THE BREEZE

The Hillside Project gives an idea of what the Shenandoah Valley used to look like, before the first European settlers arrived in the area. The Hillside Project showcases three different ecosystems.

By HEATHER HUNTER-NICKELS contributing writer

If you've ever found yourself walking by the Hillside Project that's near the ISAT Building you might have seen overgrown grasses, weeds and wild flowers. The Hillside Project was created as an educational space that gives a taste of what the Shenandoah Valley naturally looked like before Europeans settled and changed the landscape 200-300 years ago.

The Hillside Project, now in its fourth year, is a showcase of three different ecosystems: grassland, forest and riparian, (the land adjacent to water). Among its educational and ecological goals, like preventing erosion under heavy rain, the Hillside Project also cuts back the need for mowing. The grassland ecosystem, or native prairie, is the younger form of forests like the Edith J. Carrier Arboretum. Through succession, over time, woody mass would grow into young trees, but because the goal is to keep it a prairie, it must be mowed once a year.

This forest ecosystem is comprises 25 different species, mostly native to the area, and each planted twice.

"The trees were selected based on aesthetics and screening as well as usefulness for education," Christie-Joy Brodrick Hartman, executive director for the Office of Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability and Hillside Advisory Committee chair, said.

The riparian ecosystem is at the bottom of the hill, and is comprised of even more species, further diversifying the area. "The 1,000 feet of restored stream channel and associated riparian buffer provide valuable protection for the nearly 600 acre urbanized watershed that drains to this area," Hartman said.

The vision, according to Hartman is to "diversify the landscape aesthetic, provide educational programming for the campus and the broader community and demonstrate environmental stewardship."

Behind the simple landscape are four years of planning and preparation, starting from the presentation of the proposal in 2006 to its implementation in the 2010-11 school year, of collaboration and waiting for it to happen. The collaborative effort included faculty, staff, students and community members.

Comparing the wealth of nations

Political science professor Charles Blake is impressed with growth of knowledge of foreign cultures in the U.S.

By WILLIAM MASON The Breeze

Every Thursday, *The Breeze* will be running a Q&A with one of JMU's professors. This week we're featuring political science professor Charles "Chris" Blake. He has been at JMU since 1992 and has co-written a textbook on comparative public policy with fellow political science professor Jessica Adolino.

What are the most important events in the political science department since you've been at JMU?

There have been a lot of developments, since I've been here in 1992. JMU has doubled in size in terms of the undergraduate population and grown two-anda-half times over in terms of graduate study. Our department is reflective of that. When I first came here in 1992 there were 14 faculty members, and now there are 31 faculty members, this has enabled us to grow with the university, but also as a result as a faculty we cover a variety of specialization with regards to public affairs and we can do so in greater depth.

You're involved in a lot of study abroad trips can you tell us about those?

I think that for most of us involved in study abroad both as students, and as faculty, is that we think about study abroad as a chance to go and learn about another society, and people and language, but what we learn most about when we are living abroad is ourselves. Which of our habits that we're in do we like, which one of our habits can we change, getting out of our normal routines helps us re-examine what that normal routine is. It's a real opportunity to learn about our own society and ourselves, but other societies as well.

What countries have you visited with study abroad?

In terms of formal study abroad programs I've worked with JMU's study abroad program in Salamanca, Spain and I co-founded and still co-direct JMU's study abroad in Argentina. There have been other countries I have worked in formally, but I have not been part of study abroad. In Uruguay, Chile, Brazil, in Mexico – those are the major countries I've worked in.

What misconception do students and Americans have in regards to Central and South American politics? I think one of the challenges in that our focus and



MARK OWEN / THE BREEZE

Charles "Chris" Blake has enjoyed JMU's growth both at the undergraduate and graduate level since he arrived in 1992.

>> Watch the full interview with Blake online at breezejmu.org/multimedia

experience within the United States are framed by the countries closest to us. When people think about Latin America they think about people from Mexico, and depending on where they live, Central America, the Dominican Republic – Cuba because it's close. I think that's the first issue ... that we refer to less than half of the countries which are part of Latin America. There's a lot more in the bulk of the Latin American population which lies south of there. The second issue is that when we think about Latin America from a U.S. perspective, people associate it with poverty. The fact of the matter is from a global perspective several of them are upper-middle income countries. There's a reality in that perception in inequality – social inequality is important in Latin America – the societies as a whole, when compared to other countries around the world, are materially more prosperous than we think about. I think that the third thing that has happened with regards to people thinking about Latin America which has changed a lot during the last 20 years is that people have a lot more access to culture, music, film, images from a lot of Latin American countries. And even though some of these misconceptions exist there are not as great as they were when I was a college student or even further if you want to go back.

You co-wrote a textbook with another JMU professor, can you tell us a little bit about that?

I wrote a textbook, we're actually working on the third edition, on comparative public policy in the wealthiest, large economies of the world, so it looks at the U.S., Japan, the U.K., France, Germany, Italy and the European Union as the major cases to try and look at the commonalities and experiences of how those countries make public policy, with particular regard for different sectors of government activity whether it's economic policy, education policy, environmental policy, etc. One of the most exciting things about writing a textbook is you're communicating things to students when you write an upper-level textbook who have some interest and experience with the material. It's also a great opportunity to work with a friends and colleague on a project because it's something much better than what we could have done individually. We look at across those seven different types of political systems, and six different policy areas, so there are 42 case studies which have to be revised and largely rewritten that takes an overall process of about a year. That's just the research and writing component. Then it has to go into production and editing, etc. and then out to the finished product. So you're talking about 18-24 months for each edition.

What is something interesting about you that your students may not know?

I was the lead singer for a punk-rock garage band in the late '70s and early '80s. I can't tell you the band's name because it involves expletives, but I can tell you our lead single was from our self-title yet, never wide-market released album was "Hellhole."

CONTACT William Mason at breezenews@gmail.com.

SNOW | Facilities Management must clear 29 miles of campus sidewalks

from front

decision was made to close university altogether." Wyatt added that the freezing temperatures after the storm on Monday night and Tuesday would have prevented salt from having a significant effect on the layer of ice.

In inclement weather situations, the Office of Public Safety usually goes out on the roads at around 3:30 to 4 a.m to monitor and evaluate each situation first according toWyatt. They consult with the city of Harrisonburg's offices including the Harrisonburg Department of Public Transportation. After the consultation, the goal of the Office of Public Safety is usually to make a recommendation to the administration by 5:30 a.m. The upper administrators ultimately makes the decision as to whether or not it's safe to have school and when.

"Safety is the No. 1 priority if people feel they can't get to and from their homes from campus or they can't traverse campus, they will make a decision to delay or close campus," Wyatt said.

While most students stayed inside on their days off, Wyatt said that JMU staff from Facilities Management continued to work around the clock to address the situation on campus.

JMU has a variety of plowing equipment to help clear the 29 miles of sidewalks (100+ parking lots) six miles of roads and the top levels of four parking decks.

This equipment includes 12 trucks, 10 tractors, two backhoes and other machinery with plows attached. JMU also has seven salt trucks and four salt spreaders.

JMU has about 40 staff members on the shovel crew who clear steps, sidewalks, crosswalks and loading docks. Outside contractors may also be called in for service to help clear the larger parking lots.

Despite all the snow, Wyatt said JMU isn't suffering financially. Money for salt and plows comes out of a larger facilities budget that covers other supplies.

"We plan for the winter," he said. "As the winter plays out, we evaluate our resources and we order more if necessary, but we're well within our budget."

The city of Harrisonburg, however, has gone over budget this year. According to Mary-Hope Vass, public information officer for Harrisonburg, \$236,551 was set aside for snow and ice operations in the 2013-14 budget. As of Feb. 18, \$322,484 has been spent in that area.

Vass said the city determines the budget for snow and ice operations based on the situations in previous years.

"It is impossible to predict one year in advance what the weather will bring to our area," Vass said. "Some years there is a shortfall and other years there is money left over."

If Harrisonburg runs out of its snow and ice operations funds, the Director of Public Works, Jim Baker, must go to the city council and request additional funds, which if granted, comes out of the general fund's un-appropriated fund balance. Vass said the city hasn't gone through with this yet.

The extra \$85,933 was borrowed from other maintenance funds within Public Works.

The city put grit on roadways after Monday's storm due to a limited supply of salt, according to a March 4 press release. Grit, Vass said, is a mixture of salt and gravel which is commonly used to coat roads when temperatures get below 20 degrees.

"... By supplementing with this combination, the city is able to extend the life of the salt material that is currently in stock," Vass said.

The city also has its own procedures in preparing for snow.

Vass said the Virgnia Department of Emergency Management and the National Weather Service continuously alert the city of pending inclement weather situations. Conference calls between these parties and the staff from public safety departments and the snow removal crew take place.

The city manager ultimately makes the decision on whether to keep city offices open based on reports on the road conditions, which are



BLAIR ROSEN / THE BREEZE

JMU has snow removal crews working all day during and after a snowstorm to make campus safe.

provided by public safety and public works. Certain essential departments such as police, fire and the emergency communications center, still report to work.

The snow storms also kept police busy. On Monday, the Virginia State Police received 2,952 total calls for service.

Statewide, VSP responded to 1,145 traffic crashes and 451 disabled vehicles from midnight to 6:30 p.m. on Monday, according to Corinne Geller, spokeswoman for the VSP.

In the fall, Vass said snow removal equipment is tested.

"Specifically for winter weather, a 'dry run' is held in the fall to ensure all of the equipment is operating and go over all plans before any weather arrives," Vass said. "If equipment is needed to be repaired, we will have plenty of time to do so."

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DEBATE | JMU competes against top-tier schools in national competition

from front

to make it."

According to the National Debate Tournament and Cross Examination Debate Association rankings, JMU's debate team is ranked sixth in the nation. JMU's main rivals, George Mason University and Liberty University, are also competing in the National Debate Tournament.

Only the best teams are able to make it to NDT, with only 87 teams from around the nation competing. Yet these teams come from the top schools in the nation, ranging from schools like Harvard University and Northwestern University, to the smaller schools like University of Redlands, in Redlands, Calif.

The act of debating is considered strenuous and nerve racking to members of the debate team. Though the team only meets twice a week officially, members often put in a grueling 40 to 60 hours a week in the forms practicing and researching.

a week in the forms practicing and researching. "Debating for IMU is really good because we are



The JMU debate team prepares for a competition during a meeting on Wednesday night.

makes JMU Debate so unique is its familiar connection and the social connections.

"It is absolutely a close-knit family— we hang out together, we do research with each other, we go out with each other," Bosley said, jokingly adding, "We even drink together."

Yet not all is fun and games. Alex Pickens, a freshman business management major, describes the typical debate as nerve-racking and exhilarating.

"Because public policy debate is done a hundred miles per hour, you have to speak as fast you can, because everything is timed," Pickens said. "In the end it's just a matter of how much you can get in."

For approximately eight rounds of arguments, debate teams square off head-to-head, with a single judge deliberating the winner of the debate. With the debate passing faster than typical rap stars spit rhymes, teams have to rely on their partnership to stay ahead of the game. Hurling their arguments like bullets, each team is looking for the one argument that will make the biggest splash and stifle the opposing teams arguments. On both sides, notes are being taken down in a frenzy to frame the debate and find the winning argument. Though JMU Debate is not focused on winning the debate and more focused on just being there. Back and forth this goes until all four have stated their main arguments. Then comes what Pickens describes as the real debate, the portion where both teams give their rebuttals. Though unlike their beginning arguments, the debaters have to form these on their feet using the opposite teams own argument against them. 'Mike Davis, he has always emphasized, which I think is really important, process or product. So Mike has always emphasized doing work and getting there, over winning. So Mike values people who are hard working over people who just win," Miller said. " I think that is something that is important in creating a really good team."

like a giant family. We are really close, and work really well together, and kind of complement each other. It is never really one person doing work, it is multiple people on the varsity team that work together" sophomore political science major Ellie Miller said. "I think that is why we are so successful this year."

For the upcoming tournament, Miller said she and her partner have been working on their arguments for the past month and will continue to do so until they are on stage giving their speeches. Lepp and Miller are currently considered junior varsity members, so they will be able to compete in both the NBT and the Novice Debate Tournament held the weekend of March 7. Not only have they been preparing for ultimate battle at the NDT, they have spent months researching presidential war powers and practicing for the novice tournament and qualifying for the NDT.

"We wanted it so badly that we were able to surpass everyone's expectations," Miller said. "It was one the most fulfilling moments ever because it

HOLLY WARFIELD / THE BREEZE

was just the culmination of everything I always wanted and everything I worked for I was able to accomplish."

Director of debate and assistant professor of communication studies, Mike Davis, described being on the team as having a job.

"Commitment is an action," Davis said. "It is the idea that you commit to each other. If we are at a tournament and we only have two coaches, sometimes the debaters have to help coach each other, they have to fill each other in on arguments, they have to help each other prepare. That sort of commitment really keeps debaters around."

The team specifically focuses on public policy debate, which is known for its faster-than-fast

arguments and the real-life solutions that are brought up. This year's subject of discussion is presidential war powers; as in what powers are available to a president directed toward war and the restrictions that follow these, which is particularly controversial as it includes everything from the recent Ukraine debacle, to the Iraq War and drone strikes. Subjects like this are continually updating and new information is always coming in.

So debaters have to be constantly refreshing CNN's website, joked senior political science major and varsity debate team member, Jacob Bosley. Bosley, who has been a part of the debate team since his freshman year, said that what

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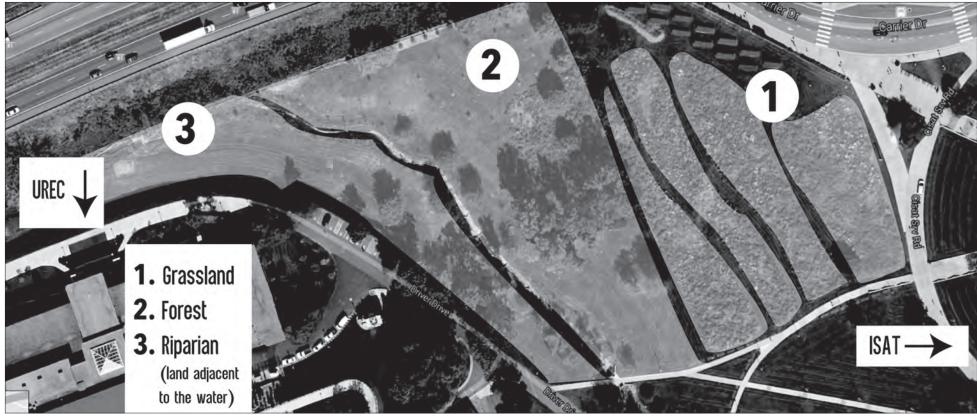
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HILLSIDE | Natural ecosystem supports many diverse types of wildlife



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The Hillside Project has three different ecosystems: grassland, forest and riparian (land that is adjacent to water). The Hillside Project, located near the ISAT/CS Building, has become an educational tool for students.

from page A3

"Even though I was the initiator, it never would have succeeded if [former] President Rose hadn't created the Office of Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability," Wayne Teel, ISAT professor and committee member, said. "It took a topdown order to change the culture of the university so that it could accept something like this."

Like Teel, Bobby Whitescarver, committee member and adjunct ISAT professor, agrees that the process was long and enduring.

"People don't like change and it's hard to go from the manicured lawn paradigm to a more sustainable paradigm where we're actually using the landscape instead of just looking at it."

According to Whitescarver, manicured lawn is a sterile environment that sustains fewer wildlife and pollinators.

The manicured lawn paradigm we know today dates back to European royalty in the 17th and 18th century where it was a display of luxury. According to Virginia Scott Jenkins, author of "The Lawn: A History of an American Obsession," lawns became part of the common household during "the development of suburban housing after the Civil War."

Today, the luxurious green lawn has become as common as owning a car. At JMU, the Quad is the perfect example of a lawn that is extensively enjoyed. However, there are many grassy locations on campus that are rarely used. Upon noticing the hillside's uselessness to student activity many years ago, Teel derived inspiration for launching the Hillside Project, turning what was once a sterile environment for wildlife into a habitat for native species.

"We are using the landscape instead of just looking at it," Whitescarver said.

Greg Dixon, a junior geographic science major, tested soil

acidity, or basicity, and soil type on the hillside in his integrated science and technology environmental lab with ISAT and geography professor Carole Nash. He finds the hillside to be an important contribution to JMU's campus because it strives for sustainability in development.

"The fact that we develop means we need to take into consideration the native ecosystem like climate, biotic and geologic factors," Dixon said. "We have to understand the environment we live in."

"Newman Lake is a disaster because they mow up to the edge of the lake. Nature doesn't like short stuff and when there's water, they like it thick and tall so that you can't see. That isn't what humans like. they like grass short so they can see, but unfortunately that isn't ecologically healthy."

Wayne Teel

ISAT professor and committee member of the Hillside Advisory Committee

In associate professor of geographic science Amy Goodall's geography senior seminar, "Global Diversity," fall semester students striving to understand their environment found that the prairie has encouraged certain species to return to the area such as 11 different kinds of butterflies.

"We would have all kind of different birds and butterflies if they would just allow clover to grow," Goodall said. "We would have rabbits. We would have other small mammals."

Much lies on the road ahead in terms of JMU's ecologically sustainable potential like Newman Lake, which Teel believes would benefit from best management practices like a riparian buffer.

"Newman Lake is a disaster because they mow up to the edge of the lake," Teel said. "Nature doesn't like short stuff and when there's water, they like it thick and tall so that you can't see. That isn't what humans like. They like grass short so they can see, but unfortunately that isn't ecologically healthy."

Other management practices have been changed around campus like the recent improvement to retention ponds. An initiation by Abe Kaufman, energy conservation and sustainability manager for Facilities Management, resulted in Facilities Management not mowing the edges of the retention ponds. A move that has allowed grasses to grow the beginning of a riparian buffer and reduce time and energy spent mowing.

"Before they would mow right up to the edge of the ponds," Teel said. " It took a long time to get them not to mow [around] the retention ponds."

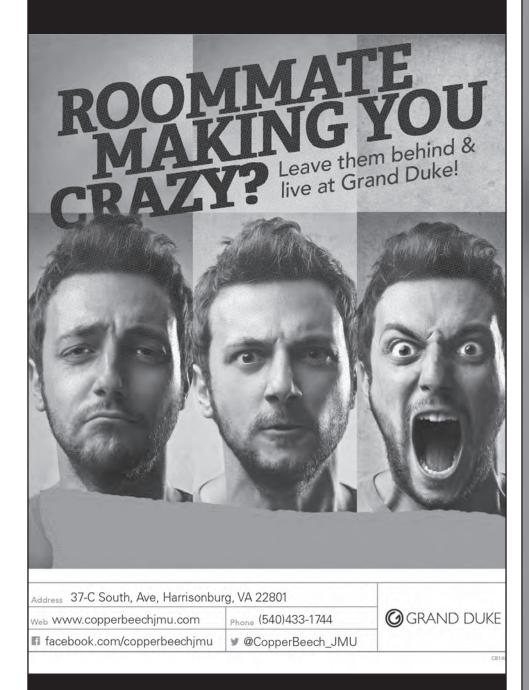
These steps forward in sustainable practices seem to go well with JMU's motto of, "Be the change."

"JMU has taken huge strides in sustainability. My hats off to the administration and to faculty and students," Whitescarver said.

As a word of advice to students in relation to initiating change, Teel said, "We are an organization designed to teach, and if students are wanting to learn particular things and want hands on stuff then they have to put pressure on the university to move in that direction."

CONTACT Heather Hunter-Nickels at hunterhd@dukes.jmu.edu.





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JMU E.A.R.T.H. CLUB | guest columnists

What do we want? Change! When do we want it? Now!

JMU students join other colleges in D.C. to rally against the Keystone XL Pipeline



JMU E.A.R.T.H. Club members gather with other students for a march from Georgetown University to the White House to protest against the Keystone XL Pipeline.

Tar sand mining is the largest and most destructive project on Earth, second only to the deforestation of the Amazon.

This past Sunday, 10 JMU students attended "XL Dissent," a rally hosted by Georgetown University, which included a march through the D.C. streets and culminated in a White House sit-in. 398 protesters voluntarily risked arrest to voice dissent of the XL pipeline extension.

It was the largest act of youth-led civil disobedience at the White House in a generation. Those who were arrested were charged with an infraction for blocking passage in the "Picture

Senior anthropology major Kelley Grenn, sophomore anthropology major Rosie Lynch and multiple other JMU students that attended the protest were arrested. Students were handcuffed and processed. They were fined \$50 and released hours later.

I really wanted to go to the protest last year," Grenn said. "This has been a paramount, emotional issue for me for many years and this issue is undoubtedly worth fighting for."

We also hope that this action raises awareness within JMU and ther student communities, inspiring our peers to make a livable

society."

It's important to us that this was a youth-led action, because this is our future, and it is up to those who will inherit this Earth to guard it responsibly. Even if President Barack Obama reneges on his promise to make environmentally responsible decisions and approves the extension to the pipeline, we will not give up.

JMU's E.A.R.T.H. club is the leading campus organization that discusses and plans action for environmental issues. Many of the students who attended the protest are members of the organization.

Postcard Zone" in front of the White House.

Many people have asked us why we, 10 JMU students, were willing to risk arrest as well as what we hoped to accomplish with this kind of civil disobedience.

By putting ourselves in the spotlight and getting as much attention as possible, with as many arrests as possible, we attempted to give a voice to those who could not afford to be there, who are most affected by the pipeline, such as indigenous communities in Canada and the socioeconomically disadvantaged throughout the United States.

future. It was incredibly empowering to stand in solidarity facing this problem with our contemporaries from schools all across the country and, for many of us, this was only the beginning.

"Even though I was uncertain about how this choice would affect my future, I felt obligated to stand up against the system that is, on its current path, ignoring youths opinions and creating problems for future America," Lynch said. "I felt that using my body to stand for the importance of this issue was a good way to express dissent about our government making political and economic decisions that do not promise a healthy future for our

This is an issue worth fighting for, and our experience at XL

Dissent has reinforced our dedication to have a meaningful impact. Our lives and future depend on it.

As the temperature rises, so do we. In the end, there is no "Planet B.'

E.A.R.T.H. Club is a JMU student organization devoted to teaching campus and the community about environmental issues. Contact its members at jmuearth@googlegroups.com.





Darts & Pats are anonymously submitted and printed on a space-available basis. Submissions creatively depict a given situation, person or event and do not necessarily reflect the truth. Submit Darts & Pats at breezejmu.org

A "can't-wait-to-see-what-wehave-all-accomplished" pat to The Breeze staff for winning Virginia Press Association awards.

From your biggest and most loyal fan.

An "award-for-best-professor" pat goes to my professor who canceled my only Friday class.

From a junior who enjoyed sleeping in after a long week.

A "go-away" dart to the snow. It's now March.

From JMU students' sanity and eagerness for spring weather.

A "you-are-awesome-and-then-

some" pat to the student working on the scholarship 5k in April for a student with cancer.

From someone who will work with you on any project.

An "I-don't-think-you-understand-

how-it-works" dart to the outrageous amount of criticism directed toward Parking Services. Many of the things people complain about are not something parking even controls. As for tickets, they do not have a personal vendetta to settle with all the people they write tickets to, it's just a job.

From someone who thinks people should operate with an internal locus of control, rather than external.

A "come-on-now-dude" dart to bus driver for making cars miss the green arrow off Devon Lane because you let two buses turn out of Ashby on red.

From someone who knew you were looking out for your buddies, but wished you would moved for traffic.

A "random-act-of-kindness" pat to the girl who offered to carry the coffee of another girl who was on crutches.

From a senior whose faith in humanity has been restored.

Editorial Policies The Breeze

MSC 6805 G1 Anthony-Seeger Hall Harrisonburg, VA 22807 breezeopinion@gmail.com

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.

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The Breeze

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"To the press alone, chequered as it is with abuses, the world is indebted for all the triumphs which have been gained by reason and humanity over error and oppression."

— JAMES MADISON, 1800

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BRIANA ELLISON | off topic

Dorm matching needs reform

JMU could ask more questions when pairing freshman roommates

As college students, one of the most exciting and terrifying experiences is choosing to live with another



person. Roommate situations and stories range from the perfect and harmonious to the stressful and disturbing. The problem begins with the questionnaire that we fill out. Sure, it's helpful in establishing the basics of a person, but when you really look at it, it is hilariously vague. Just because you and a

potential roomie both answer

"No" to "Do you smoke?" doesn't mean you're going to live peacefully and your experience will be akin to a younger version of "Friends."

However, this does not mean I'm discrediting the questionnaire as a whole. The questions can be helpful, but answering uncomfortably simple questions is not the way to go. Also, if I remember correctly, the actual questionnaire doesn't include a lot of questions. In my opinion then, it would be helpful if more complex questions were added. Through this addition, you can get a more concise sketch of a person before you jump in and decide to live with them for a whole year.

Similarly, we can benefit from filling out an expanded questionnaire. This casual form of self-reflection allows us to investigate our own personality.

In most cases, we are answering the questions in a way that we believe will be the most acceptable to other people, although we believe we are simply giving others a rough look at our personalities. Due to this, we may not be completely honest in our answers. This is not to see that we are purposely deceiving others, just that we have multiple dimensions to our personality, and some of these may not come across in such a simple questionnaire.

Coming from experience (and common sense) not even friends get along perfectly with each other. Everyone has a number of vices to balance with their more positive tendencies. Let's say you happen to be a clean freak. The roommate you are paired with happens to like chaos, and they work well in it. Both of you are reluctant and stubborn in letting go of your tendencies. Multiple times, you may find that the two of you find it impossible to get along, and eventually, you can't live together. Had both of your tendencies been mentioned in your roommate profile, you would have known that that may not be the ideal fit for you.

However, this is not the only option. Instead of bitterly arguing, you and your roommate could have engaged in a civil discussion and come to a compromise. This example leads to the other problem with "accurate" roommate matching.

When it comes down to it, people are very diverse. Due to this, not everyone will get along perfectly. In some instances, individuals may go in with high expectations. Yes, it is common for roommates to become friends, and that may be what you're looking for. As in all cases, you cannot make friends without getting to know them first. You cannot expect that just because you read briefly about this person on a roommate profile, that you know everything about them. Some people may be more forthcoming than others, but always know that it takes time to get to fully know someone.

Also, there is a massive difference between knowing someone, and living with them. Just because you are friends (close or not) does not mean that living with each other for extended periods of time will be smooth sailing.

Vague questioning is not the only reason for roommate horror stories. Those who have experienced it are quick to blame the other side as well as the matching process. However, a conflict will always be fueled by both sides.

Similarly, it is with commitment from both sides that a conflict is resolved. Although our roommate matching questions do need to be more specific and complex rather than laughably simple, we have to make an effort to self-reflect, and realize that living with another person takes more work than we may have originally believed.

Briana Ellison is a freshman media arts and design-declared major. Contact Briana at ellisobr@ dukes.jmu.edu.

TESS SIMILA | contributing columnist

Please clean up your act

Organizations are giving JMU a bad name while wearing club apparel

When I think of JMU, I think of its overall emphasis on giving back to others, to the university and to the community. However, as a senior on the cusp of graduation, I am worried about the future attitude portrayed by my fellow Dukes creating a negative legacy. I have recently been subject to the most shocking and rude behaviors I have ever encountered at JMU by those proudly representing their campus or Greek organizations etched onto their oversized sweatshirts and quarter-zips I have no problem with Greek organizations in general. In fact, to be clear, I have many friends in social sororities. I think it's great that each social Greek organization is heavily involved with its philanthropy, representing an amazing cause. I also recognize the importance of sisterhood and brotherhood within these organizations; without a college family how can you really enjoy the "best four years of your life?" Many involved with these organizations, however, send devastatingly wrong messages to other students. I have tried extremely hard not to allow my prejudices to blur my vision of many of the students on campus, but unfortunately, I find myself rolling my eyes, thinking "My God, they are clones of each other. Shallow clones." It does not need to be this way though. The actions I have witnessed all four years at JMU have put me in this predicament. Only days ago in Carrier Library I was studying in a designated quiet area. A group of Greek letter-clad female students spoke as if they were the only ones in the building. Politely, I went up to their conversation, which had been going on for a total of 45 minutes, and told them I was trying to study. Appalled that I had interrupted them, one replied with a snide, sour tone, "We'll be done soon." A similar instance caught me off guard while in line for food. A tall young man decorated in his social fraternity letters nudged me out of the way to see if his food was ready. No apology, no "Excuse me." This person treated me as if I were invisible. I remember

muttering under my breath, "Umm. I'm a person. I exist."

I feel this way often with those in Greek and other popular campus organizations. I feel that I don't matter as a fellow Duke because I don't have the right letters or logo mounted on my chest. I write about these two specific instances because they are the most fresh in my mind. Unfortunately however, I witness these instances constantly.

From time to time, I think about the conversation I witnessed last year, shortly after the chaos known as Rush was over.

MOLLY ROSSBERG | contributing columnist

What's my age again?

An identity is finding what makes you happy

I don't know about you, but I had the best time watching the Winter Olympics. The #Sochiproblems, the pink eye drama that befell Bob Costas and the angelic voice of Morgan Freeman narrating the VISA commercials — all captivated my attention. But of course I loved watching the athletes compete most of all. I watched them flip, jump, soar, ski and skate — all in the name of competition and maybe, just maybe, a medal.

We have to think of how we are going to handle our futures, but more importantly we have to think about what will make us happy along the way.

When the closing ceremonies were over, I was a little bummed. The three hours I had reserved every night for two weeks to watch (or at least listen to) Olympic coverage was over. More than that, I began to think about the athletes who had just finished their last Olympics and the ones who had trained so hard for so long only to go home feeling disappointed with their performances. I'm sure their identities are somewhat rooted in the fact that they are Olympic athletes. Now, they've either retired or been left with the choice of whether or not to train for four more years in an attempt to get another shot in the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

This got me thinking about the much bigger question at hand. What happens when something you've invested so much time and energy in is taken away from you? In other words, what do you do when something that is such a big part of who you is abruptly gone?

Wow. That's a depressing thought. To all you seniors out there — I'm sorry. It's not my intent to say, "Hey, you were a college student for four years. But in about two-and-a-half months, you won't be anymore." However, it is food for thought. If I had a dime for every time an adult has said to me. "College was the best four years of my life," I'd be rich. I don't want to be the type of person who is 40-something and still views their time in college through such rose-colored glasses. I just want to shake those people. Has nothing good happened to them since they were 22? No kids were born? They didn't have great friends? They didn't move to a great city? They didn't do anything cool?

Whitbourne, a psychology professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, says that, "... Just because you experience a period of identity exploration ... doesn't mean that you are set for life. It's healthy to keep exploring your values, roles and sense of self, regardless of your age." This point really resonated with me. We have to think of how we are going to handle our futures, but more importantly we have to think about what will make us happy along the way. We need try new things to diversify how we make up our identity. That way, if we lose one thing, the blow won't be as harsh.

I'll use my older brother Daniel as an example. He won't mind because I only have great things to say about him and his life after college. He graduated from JMU in 2009 with a B.A. in public relations and a minor in film studies. His graduating year was one of the worst for graduating from college. The job market was in the toilet because of the recession that started in 2008. Instead of stressing out about that, in true Daniel fashion, he adapted. He took jobs and saved money so he could travel. He went on a crosscountry road trip with his friends. He bought a one-way ticket to the Virgin Islands and stayed there for eight months. Currently, he's almost at the end of a twoyear stay in Australia and New Zealand. He would be the first person to tell you that being half a world away from his home and family for two years hasn't always been easy. But, again, Daniel has adapted. He's made friends, made time to read classic books, gone to surf camp, explored the jungle, seen the Outback and even lived in a pretty cool tree house for a while (just like the Swiss Family Robinson — no joke). I could go on forever about all the cool things he's done. He just landed a job with an eco-tourism company in Milford Sound off the coast of New Zealand. The pictures of the scenery he posts are unbelievable.

The lesson here is to always find a way to be yourself and never put all your eggs in one "identity basket."

Take up new things, find new connections or try something that truly frightens you. Learn how to take care of your soul. Figure out what calms you down after a stressful day, what makes you excited about the next day and how to keep in touch with the people you love. Find a way to be at peace with your current situation, no matter where you are. After all, you have the rest of your life to live. You owe it to yourself to make it good.

While standing in line, minding my own business, two girls in front of me very audibly began speaking about the sorority they had recently joined; they were talking about hazing.

"I know JMU is super anti-hazing," the girl on the left said. "But, oh my God, it definitely happens."

To which the girl on the right replied, "Yeah, I was literally forced into the trunk of a car last night."

My mouth dropped open. I have no idea what occurs during these enigmatic initiations, but what was most shocking to me is how they were so freely speaking about being hazed on a campus that is so vehemently against hazing, all while wearing their beloved letters.

But my faith is restored at certain times in my school. Just this morning in the Carrier Library Starbucks, a complete stranger approached another student on crutches asking if she could carry her coffee for her to wherever she was sitting.

"I was on crutches last month, so I completely understand!" the stranger said. This is the school I love. This is why I bleed purple. I write this as almost a plea — a plea to all organizations on JMU's campus to always be mindful of how you are representing yourself, your organization and James Madison University.

Tess Simila is a senior writing, rhetoric and technical communication major. Contact Tess at similate@ dukes.jmu.edu.



Mercifully, identity is a very malleable concept. Susan Krauss

Letter to the Editor Arizona bill has positives and negatives

The latest "anti-gay bill" struck down in Arizona by Governor Jan Brewer was faced with widespread criticism, most of which was more than legitimate. However, the whole controversy surrounding the measure was not completely black and white, something the media attempted to portray. Being against the bill did not automatically entail lack of support for the autonomy of private businesses, as I shall explain.

I objected to the bill on the basis that it was already legal for private businesses in the state to refuse service to any individual or group of individuals. A further law was not only completely unnecessary, but also rather bigoted as this piece of legislation strictly addressed homosexuals and no other social group.

At the same time, I do believe that non-public businesses should have the liberty to turn anybody away for any reason, whether it be for religious, cultural or personal reasons. No, I am not religious, and no, this notion is not comparable to the Jim Crow laws, contrary to popular opinion.

Those particular laws put into place state-mandated racial segregation in public facilities, as opposed to private businesses having the choice, free from the coercive power of the state, to serve or not to serve whomever Molly Rossberg is a graduate student in writing, rhetoric and technical communication. Contact Molly at rossbema® jmu.edu.

they please — as any individual would have the freedom to do in their own home.

This is why I happen to wholeheartedly support states and the federal government being required to recognize same-sex marriages, but am also against forcing churches and other private businesses to provide services to same-sex couples if doing so would violate their religious beliefs.

A further law was not only completely unnecessary, but also rather bigoted as this piece of legislation strictly addressed homosexuals and no other social group.

Let's say a gay baker was obligated to serve a couple who attends the Westboro Baptist Church. This may not be the best comparison for me to use, but ask yourself this: Would the compulsion used in this scenario be morally fair to the baker, in the name of equality and justice for all? To me, it would most certainly not.

When you try to force equality, you unfortunately end up with no equality at all.

Nicholas Farrar

class of 2015 international affairs major president of Madison Liberty

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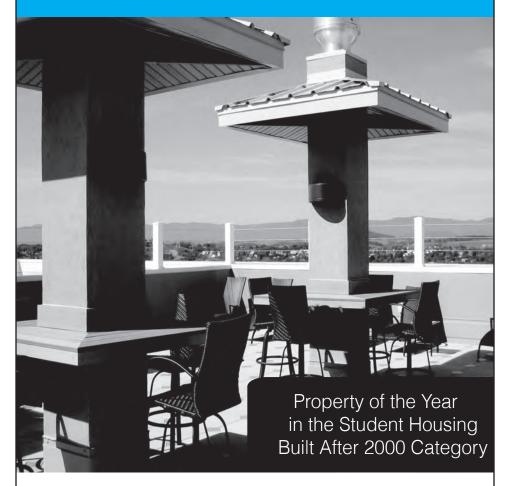
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Finding 'Fatherlands'

Local poet and philosophy professor Michael Trocchia releases book of poetry



HOLLY WARFIELD / THE BREEZE

Author Michael Trocchia reads a piece from his newly published book, "The Fatherlands," at the release party at Blue Nile on Tuesday.

By MELANIE FARRELL

contributing writer

The Shenandoah Valley has supplied its residents with inspiration and spiritual sustenance for hundreds of years. One might call this area our local fatherland.

On Tuesday 4 at 7 p.m., a small community of poets honored the book release of "The Fatherlands." This work of short stories and prose was written by Michael Trocchia, a JMU adjunct professor of philosophy, and published by Monkey Puzzle Press.

"The mystery in Mike's poetry always grips me and inspires me ... [he] could describe something as simple as two people sitting at a table over breakfast and make it seem so incredibly intriguing and wrought," Paul Somers, a local poet and organizer of the event, said. From shooting films for the Super Gr8 Film Festival in Court Square Theater to adapting and directing Stephen Crane's "The Blue Hotel," Trocchia is no newbie to the arts scene of Harrisonburg. "I think his poetry is lyrical and descriptive ... not being a big writer and looking at [his book], it was very easy to pull imagery from [his] writing," local artist and graphic designer Lynda Bostrom said.

should be supported. Somers and Trocchia agreed to make this reading a collaborative effort.

"I've always been interested in the point where different arts converge, and it is happening all the time here," Trocchia said.

Trocchia mentioned Bostrom's poster design, as well as the different kinds of artists who had planned to perform at the event. Local musicians Neal Carter and Rob P-Claggett even put some of Trocchia's spoken poetry into music.

host the event at.

In order to obtain the full effect desired for these readings, the location of the event had to be decided; The Blue Nile was an easy choice to

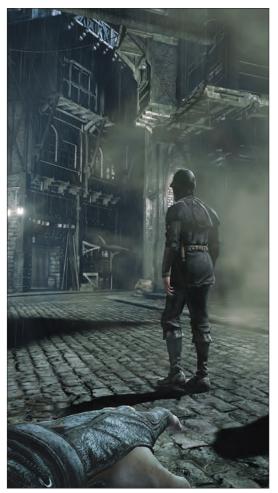
"[My] hope is that one might catch sight of the exquisite fleetingness of things, of life's absurdities and charms, its bent formulas and finalities." ad to be decideasy choice to

"The Nile has always been a great host for our poetry readings ... [it] is a hub of

video game review

A steal or just theft?

Latest installment of the decade-old 'Thief' series not worth the money



COURTESY OF SQUARE ENIX

The titular thief, Garett, pursues a guard in the Victorianera dystopia of Square Enix's recent reboot of "Thief."

By TREVOR COCKBURN contributing writer

Back in 1998, a game called "Thief: The Dark Project" arrived on PC. This game was widely loved and managed to produce two more sequels: "Thief II: The Metal Age" in 2000 and "Thief: Deadly Shadows" in 2004. But the attempt to reboot the series this year comes as a failure, disappointing loyal fans as it strays away from the formula that made the original series great.

The poster for the event was a visual

representation of one of Trocchia's new poems about a glass house being watched by tourists as a woman inside makes a quilt. Bostrom's simple, clean design reflects the poem's understated emotional complexity.

Trocchia read the poem, "XV," which inspired Bostrom's art at the event, and said his work is, at times, inspired by life in the Shenandoah Valley.

"There is a collaborative spirit here, where various kinds of artists not only support one another with their respective projects, but also push one another's creative efforts across different kinds of arts," Trocchia said.

The artists share a common belief in that every artistic achievement made in the community is noteworthy and

Mike Trocchia author of "The Fatherlands" local culture, music and art and that's what attracted us I think in the beginning," Somers, who also works at Blue Nile, said.

Somers stated that he expected to see the majority of Blue Nile's basement filled with friends and supporters of Trocchia. Although the snow appeared to be an issue for some who wanted to attend, the turn out of the event was still impressive. About 37 attendees fought through the chilled weather and showed up to support the arts.

Ultimately, this event was designed to honor and support the talent that Trocchia is showcasing in his new book, through readings and discussions of his work.

This event and of all the support that this particular author seems to have made "The Fatherlands" poised to entertain and inspire many readers in the coming months.

"[My] hope is that one might catch sight of the exquisite fleetingness of things, of life's absurdities and charms, its bent formulas and finalities," Trocchia said.

For more information or to purchase Trocchia's book, visit http://monkeypuzzlepress.com/books/the-fatherlands/.

CONTACT Melanie Farrell at farre2ma@dukes.jmu.edu.

The following is an excerpt of Michael Trocchia's new book, "The Fatherlands." The prose poem "XV" served as the inspiration for local artist Lynda Bostrom's flyer design.



COURTESY OF LYNDA BOSTROM

Lynda Bostrom's illustration of the "see-through house" prose poem drew on Trocchia's simple, understated tone.

t is the end of the day and the tourists arrive at the seethrough house. From the sidewalk, they see into the kitchen where there is a man of round shoulders and mind wielding a large instrument in circular fashion. Three unlit bulbs hang from the ceiling. Stripped are the walls, the cabinets, the floors of the room. The oven is missing and the refrigerator is on its side; a porcelain sink hangs over the edge of the table. The man sets down his tools and rests for a minute, breathing out a dusty piece of existence. He stands among the room's exposed wires and pipes and his eyes are full of fractured light. He looks up and calls what sounds like a woman's name. Upstairs, a woman goes into each room, checking for the work of spiders and well-lit angles, the webs and geometries of which she might find soothing. But she finds nothing and reluctantly returns to her own work, a quilt and the stories she would like for it to tell. The patch she is working on now is to tell of a palace and a prince who lived within its thick walls. The prince was something of a defeatist, yet so charming in his failings he could draw almost anyone into a show of pity for him. She is growing tired of his story though, and is already thinking of the next patch. It will tell the tale of the man downstairs, the illegitimate son of a count, and a seducer in his own right. The tourists, gazing into the house, shuffle up and down the walk, dazzled by the intricate patterns and immensity of the woman's quilt, speculating about its size to each other in low voices. "Might it be large enough to drape over the entire house?" one asks another. "Perhaps so." It's been many days of sightseeing though and the see-through house might easily be just what it is or what it might be: a house covered in quilt, into which is sown a patch telling the tale of the woman making it."

"Thief" is set in a Victorian fantasy world inspired by steampunk aesthetics. It follows Garrett, a master thief, who returns to his hometown, The City, to find that it's now controlled by an oppressive ruler named The Baron. A plague has swept across The City and the rich live prosperously while the poor struggle daily for survival. Garrett follows the Robin Hood way of life and helps the poor by stealing from the rich.

"Thief" ★★☆☆☆☆ Square Enix Feb. 25, Rated M

Although it could be considered a disappointment, this game is by no means terrible. One thing that "Thief" does well is make you use your head. It

requires you to think before you steal — whether you should use this shadowy path or if you should go head-on and use brute force against the guards.

"Thief" also allows you to choose the difficulty level. You can play through the game as a true thief with challenges being nearly impossible, or play the game where all of your enemies seem oblivious to everything. Playing through a master-level without auto-save, crosshairs or focus makes this game incredibly difficult and long — giving you the bragging rights you were probably trying to earn by playing this game as a master.

These types of scenarios make the game worth finishing, but the uneven story and excruciatingly dull characters contribute nothing to the game.

The story was always an important factor for the "Thief" series of old, but in the reboot there's nothing there. It's all the same: go steal this, go steal that. It eventually becomes a mundane process that leaves you asking: Why? What's the motive behind all of this? Along with the disappearance of a story there is also the lack of interesting characters even Garrett himself doesn't seem like the proper thief he's supposed to be.

The level design, or the overall design of the game's background and missions, of "Thief" is, at times, good, but when it's not good, it's really not good. The design is very linear and simple, forcing any thought of creativity out of the picture. "Thief" is a hard game already and with there only being one way to complete most levels it becomes incredibly difficult. You'll find yourself saving and reloading the game constantly as you have to keep forcing yourself to push through the level. I'll be honest, "Thief" isn't worth its \$60 price tag.

I'll be honest, "Thief" isn't worth its \$60 price tag. If you still really want to try it, wait for the price to drop. Inconsistent is the perfect word to describe this game and everything it stands for. During the brief moments when "Thief" is good, it's really fun, but the feeling of enjoyment is quickly washed away with the boring level design, choppy story and awkward characters.

Trevor Cockburn is a freshman writing, rhetoric and technical communication major. Contact him at cockbuta@dukes.jmu.edu.



Something missing? Email us at breezearts@gmail.com.

SEGWAY | Tyler Rich empowers others through the Office of Disability Services

from front

most about hanging out with Tyler is that nothing stops an individual with a good personality and a motivation to succeed."

Rich is also what you could call a connoisseur when it comes to beer.

"He's pretty knowledgeable and passionate about beers," Stivers said. "He's also a 'notcher' at Jack Brown's and has tried over 200 different types of beer."

Rich uses his own personal experience to help others by being a peer access advocate at the Office of Disability Services at JMU. His job is to help students with the adjustments of coming to college, and act as a source of guidance. Peer access advocates are registered with the Office of Disability Services themselves, so they know what their mentees are going through.

"Peer access advocates work under the motto 'by students, for students' meaning generally, we serve the JMU disability community by being a voice," Keri Vandeberg, a junior social work major and a peer access advocate, explained. "We do so by mentoring registered students, serving in outreach projects such as panel discussion, resource fairs, etc. And we also play a large role in the planning and implementation of the office's annual Disability Awareness Week (March 24 - 27)."

Rich's ability to connect with students isn'



HAYLEY THOMPSON #NoFilter

What women want

A look at what sets women's and men's desires apart

By HAYLEY THOMPSON

The Breeze

There are things I will just never understand about women.

It's a long list, and I'm certain it stems from growing up very sheltered, away from middle and high school environments with cliques, makeup, a party crowd and generally normal people.

Like when females get mad that a guy left the toilet seat up. God forbid he try to be hygienic and not take a leak all over where you're about to sit. Or when they order a salad while on a dinner date because "that's what skinny girls do" but end up starving before the subsequent trip to the movies is half over. Or when their significant other doesn't want to watch a sappy romantic comedy with them. Watching "The Notebook"



with your sub-par lover will not make him any better. I promise you. Jokes aside, women are pretty confusing; as one, I can barely understand them myself.

The belief that men will never understand women is entirely accurate. I say this because we are not all easily appeased by the same things. Nor do we all want the same things from men.

No matter what man you're after, at this age he can probably be satisfied by one of two things. A majority of my close friends are guys, and while they each have their own little things that they desire in a woman, generally a good body and easy going (low maintenance) personality are the keys to snaring a man at this age.

just a part of his job, it's his lifestyle. As Rich's friend Stivers put it, "Take the time to start a conversation with the guy, and you'll know exactly what I mean. He's about as friendly as they come."

I have to attest, Stivers was correct.

CONTACT Mollie Jones at jones2mj@dukes.jmu.edu.

TOP Tyler Rich said he has not had any issues adjusting to JMU with his disability. BOTTOM Rich is an avid member of the JMU Sportsman's Club where he partakes in outdoor activities.



COURTESY OF SAM STIVERS

Feminists unite! You know this to be true.

But I have to show some sympathy for the men out there. They aren't really given a guideline as to how they should try to look to attract women in the masses. It's easy for us to don a bandage skirt and scoopn eck tank top on a Friday night, and roll up to Fox or Forest (or wherever the kids go these days) and get men interested.

So for the men, what is the equivalent of beer and boobs?

I had a professor in high school give me a piece of advice once that didn't resonate with me until sometime last year. I was mourning a break-up and he asked me if I were to walk on to a used car lot right now, would I know what kind of car I was looking for? I didn't even have my license at this point, so anything I could drive sounded A-OK to me.

It wasn't until after my next long term relationship — and the fleeting few that followed — that I began to understand what he meant.

I want an automatic — someone who can function on their own without me having to push them into gear. I want a mid-size SUV, something that screams upper middle class, practical but fun. I want a service deal, because I don't always know how to fix things, that's the man's job.

When it comes to a standard for men, I don't think there is one. Not one as basic as the one we have grown to understand men to want from women. A strong argument could be made for the Gosling/young Clooney type; but, then again, I'd hazard a guess that Joseph Gordon Levitt has just as many admirers. Tall, dark and handsome plays just as well as a well-dressed nerd nowadays

Clearly I don't frequent the party scene like I did in my freshman days, but at the ones I've been to this semester I was shocked by which guys ended up against a wall with a booty in their lap and which ones were stuck playing beer pong all night, trying to act like they didn't care that they would be going home alone.

Whether confidence is the key or if there's really no set standard and women are just winging it, that's up for you to decide. But for now, I'm just glad I'm not on the other side of this coin.

Hayley Thompson is a senior media arts and design major. Contact Hayley at thompshm@dukes.jmu.edu.



1. "MORNING" by BECK 2. "CRIME"

by REAL ESTATE

3. "DAY DREAM" by AVA LUNA

4. "YOU NEVER CAME BACK" by TACO CAT

5. "DIGITAL WITNESS" by ST. VINCENT

6. "ACROSS THE WATER" by NENEH CHERRY

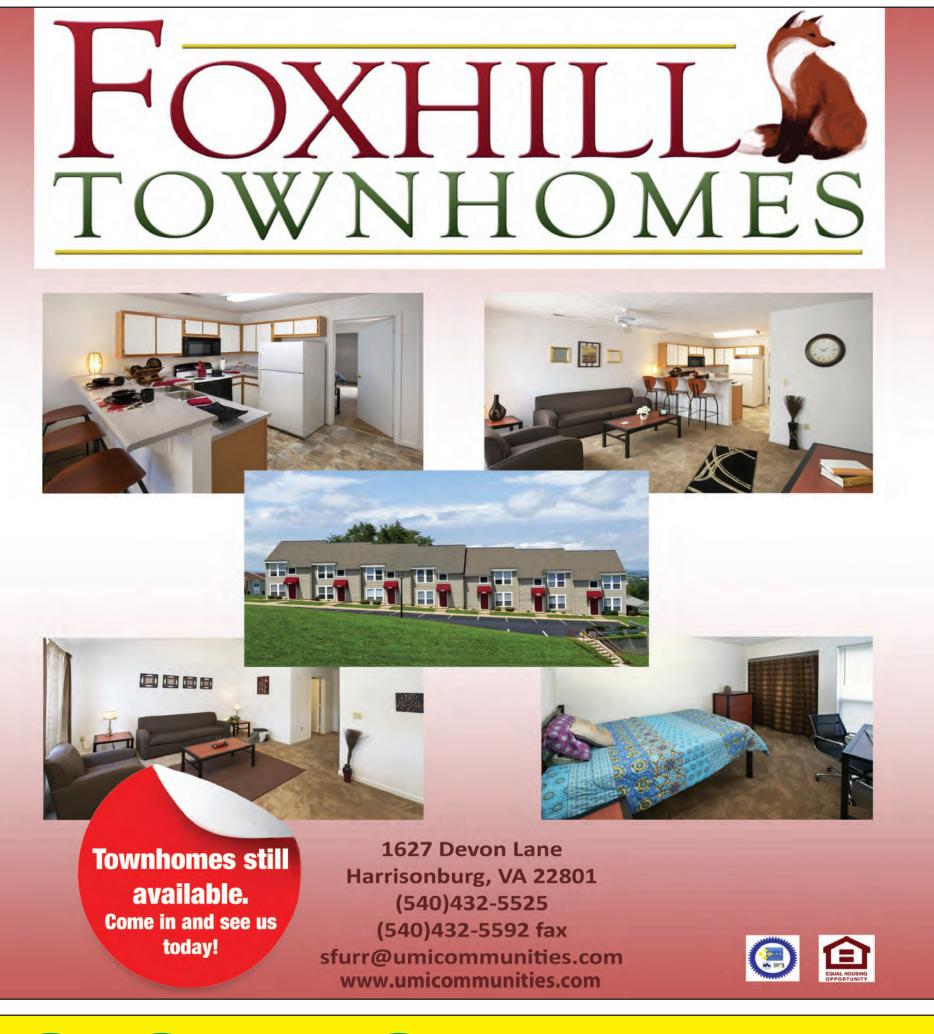
7. "ATM"

by ANALOG REBELLION

8. "LIGHTS GO OUT" by AGES AND AGES

9. "BOYS IN THE WOOD" by BLACK LIPS

10. "THE EAST COAST BLACKOUT OF 2003" by THE BODIES



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– Thursday, March 6, 2014

B4

STEPHEN PROFFITT estimated proffitt

Give me liberty

Fans should always have the right to storm the basketball court

Sunday, I participated in a "March on Washington" per se, as I proudly attended "XL Dissent," protesting the implementation of the Keystone XL Pipeline.

"Show me what democracy looks like!" "This is what democracy looks like!" This response chant resonated down D.C. streets from Georgetown University to the White House on Pennsylvania Avenue.

More than 1,200 students from more than 40 states and 80 universities voiced their anger with a national oil pipeline that I believe has minimal surface benefits, but beneath the surface could ruin this country, literally



and figuratively. It would pump thousands of barrels of crude oil from Alberta, Canada into the heartland of America. Coincidentally this weekend, thousands of

Coincidentally this weekend, thousands of fans across the nation piped onto basketball

courts around the country, conjuring up the annual debate that is pointless and rhetorical: court storming.

Seth Davis, a college basketball writer said on *Sports Illustrated's* website that this action needs to be stopped. I fully disagree because of the simple principle of democracy.

New Mexico State University at Utah Valley University, the game a week ago that culminated in an ugly brawl on the court, is an anomaly. Weeks ago, Oklahoma State University's Marcus Smart was basically called mentally unstable when he shoved a fan in retaliation to a questionable remark made by the fan. But why?

The topic can, in reality, broaden quite a bit to outside the realm of collegiate sports.

Schools only have these athletes for a certain period of time. They are not paid for their services. They are expected to perform at a high level to justify the influx of donor dollars. And lastly, they are expected to have a squeakyclean image. The disturbing thing is I'm talking about college student-athletes. The rule over college athletes these days is, in essence, fascism. That word surely comes off strong, and I'm not here to comment on whether that's really right or wrong. However, the relationship between fans and the National Collegiate Athletic Association should be far from fascist. Fans are why the NCAA exists. I'm here to say if students want to rush the court following a huge upset, marking the conclusion of an unbeaten season or a 65-foot buzzer beater, they have every right to. Now, sure safety should be monitored, but there's definitely a way the two can co-exist. Isn't that what those people in the yellow shirts are for? Nothing beats storming a court as a fan. I remember the high school days of buzzer beaters, and the jubilation that ensued made it clear as to why fandom is so special. The Southeastern Conference fined the University of South Carolina \$25,000 after its student section stormed the court following a win over nationallyranked Kentucky. Protesters in D.C. Sunday had the choice to get arrested or not. If they refused to remove themselves from the "picture zone" in front of the White House, they were arrested and charged with a minor infraction for blocking passage If you didn't want to "risk arrest," you stood on the outside looking in. That inside is the court and the outside is the stands. There should always be a choice. **MEN'S BASKETBALL (11-19)**

Quiet contributor

Walk-on Christian Pierce wraps up his three-year basketball career



While he's played just 28 minutes in his career, redshirt junior Christian Pierce, an academic senior, has proven to be a respected player for the Dukes.

By STEPHEN PROFFITT The Breeze

Christian Pierce has watched 98 games from the JMU bench over his three-year career. He's played just 28 minutes, but thinking back on his life as a walk-on, he's accepted his role and thinks it was "100 percent worth it."

"[I was] still having fun just being out there," Pierce said.

there," Pierce said. Graduating high school just 46 miles from the Convocation Center, Pierce always knew he wanted to end up at JMU. His

brother Andy played for the Dukes during the 2005-06 season as a walk-on. "Whether I played basketball or not, I was going to go to JMU," he said. He received offers from multiple Division III programs, but his mind was set on JMU. "Christian's been awesome," head coach

Matt Brady said. "He's been a guy everybody likes, and we all appreciate his work ethic. More importantly, he's been a guy that everybody that's come through this program during his time has enjoyed his company."

"Whether I played basketball or not, I was going to go to JMU."

. . .

he hopes they don't read this. Showing up and making a concerted effort paid off. Despite not making the team that year, Brady alerted Pierce of offseason workouts and scrimmages following his freshman year. He participated in those, and it led to an open door.

"I kind of knew that he would give me a spot for the following year, which he did," Pierce said. "Just having my name kind of in their head led to it."

During the 2011-12 season, his first on the team, Pierce played in 13 games, logging 14 minutes. He went 2-5 from the field that season, but drained a three from downtown in a Dec. 29, 2011 game against Rhode Island University in a holiday tournament. It stands today as his career high. He has five career points.

Hunter S. Thompson, an author notorious for his wild antics famously said, "Buy the ticket, take the ride."

Just as the government can't strip someone's right to protest, the NCAA or any conference should not be allowed to strip a student or fans' right to storm the court. Yes, I called it a right.

Davis said the players, coaches and officials have earned a right to be on the floor. I say, whose money paid for that floor, that arena? Now we're at a juxtaposition. They have every right when facilitated properly.

USC president Harris Pastides said once he knew he'd be paying the fine, he rushed the court himself.

Court storming does not solve world issues in any means. It's an emotional reaction centered around an athletic outcome. It's not completely necessary, but take JMU's win over Northeastern University for the Colonial Athletic During his senior year at Western Albemarle High School, Pierce averaged 20.7 points per game and 9.8 rebounds. These stats earned him the Jefferson District Player of the Year award as the Warriors set a school record for wins and won the district and regional titles.

"As my senior year of high school progressed, I knew they weren't going to recruit me, which I was understanding of, but I still wanted to play here in some capacity," Pierce said. "I was willing to just come here for school." 9----9----

Christian Pierce

redshirt junior guard

Pierce's freshman year, he came to walkon tryouts even though the program had already recruited a walk-on player. Luckily for Pierce, the Saturday 6 a.m. call time helped thin out the group. He recalls the other few players hoping to earn a spot were "not particularly good." He also stated that Pierce recalled the team being down by 30 points or so when he was put in. JMU lost 79-60.

Last season, he was redshirted because of a foot injury. He said that the best thing he's visualized in his time was JMU winning the Colonial Athletic Association championship and going to the National Collegiate Athletic Association Tournament.

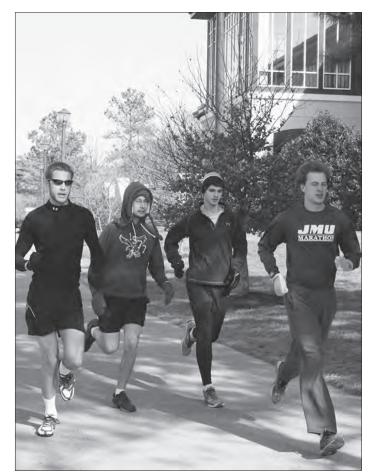
"I think we still would've won the CAA

see **PIERCE**, page B5

CLUB TRACK

Cool runnings

Club track athletes embrace competition and more relaxed atmosphere



MARK OWEN / THE BREEZE

Members of the club track team run during practice Friday. Club track is made up of about 50 runners, and practices throughout the week, Monday-Friday.

By RICHARD BOZEK The Breeze

As the cold winter will soon be coming to an end, the JMU club cross country track and field season will be heating up. With a couple of big meets coming up after the return from spring break, the club will be looking to race to success. While competing in meets is one of their primary activities, the club as a whole is much more than that.

JMU club cross country and track is an organization comprised of about 50 students who all enjoy the sport of running at all different skill levels. In the fall, the club competes in cross-country events, but in the current season of spring it competes in track events.

The club provides the same experience of competing in tracks meets, only not at the same competitive and pressure levels as the varsity level. Competing in the National Intercollegiate Running Club Association, the club participates in about five meets, give or take a few, per season.

The beginning of its spring season has fallen victim to the recent winter weather. The cold weather and snow has affected the club's practice schedule and canceled its only official meet this season. However, the club has a full calendar ahead of it in the next couple of weeks.

The Dukes will be hosting the JMU Track Invite on March 22, which the club has big plans for. After hosting last year's meet during Madipalooza, the club is working on producing the same environment by having live music and businesses in the Harrisonburg area come out for the meet.

The following weekend the Dukes will head up to Philadelphia to compete in the Club Penn Relays, hosted by the University of Pennsylvania. Then, they will travel 12 hours to Bloomington, Ind. for the NIRCA Track and Field Nationals April 4-6.

"We have a busy yet rewarding schedule ahead of us," club president and senior economics major Scott Beatty said. "We anticipate that this will be one of the best seasons we have had to date."

Though the atmosphere of these meets is typically relaxed and pressure free, the athletes remain competitive come race time.

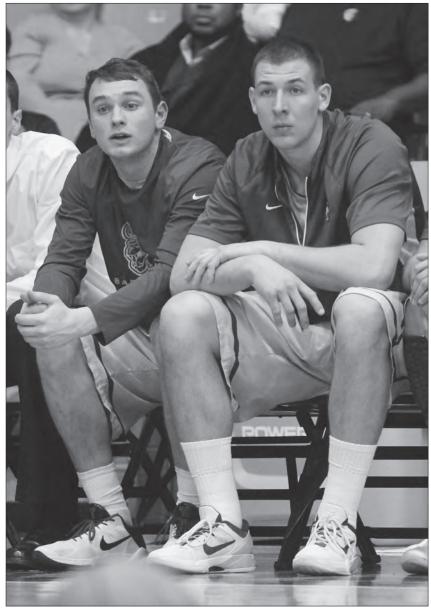
"Everybody wants to run their race the best they can, but it is not make or break like varsity level," Beatty said.

The NIRCA Nationals is expected to be the most competitive race of the season.

"We will be racing against some of the best athletes in the country in their given events," junior business major and club treasurer Alex Richards said. A couple different things will contribute to the competitive nature of this competition.

see COURT STORMING, page B6

PIERCE (100 percent, when I look back, no question it's been worth it'



LAUREN GORDON / THE BREEZE

Christian Pierce, left, a walk-on player, is set to graduate with a degree in public policy in May.

CLUB TRACK | Spring season heating up

and Thursday practices.

said.

team."

miles. Although practices are not obligato-

ry, especially if one is injured, there is still a

significant turnout especially at the Monday

"The hard work we have put in the early

The club takes pride in many things such

"On the track everybody is hard-working

and supportive of each other," Beatty said.

"I feel that because we are a co-ed team that

helps makes us more diverse, when other

sports split into both a men's and women's

These two aspects are developed and

stages of the season will hopefully result in

great performances in competition," Beatty

as their team-bonding and diversity.

from page B4

"The aspect of traveling 12 hours to a race that is host hosted by a national organization, with schools from the east to west coast competing against each other really adds to the competitiveness," Beatty said.

To prepare for these meets, the club practices every Monday and Thursday on the track, along with other unofficial workouts during the week. Monday and Thursday practices include sprinting workouts of 500 meters or less and distance workouts of 800 meters or more - members choose whether they would like to be a sprinter or distance runner.

Tuesday and Friday workouts consist of a run of three to five miles, and Wednesday

from page B4

without me last year," Pierce joked. Maybe it's true, but his presence in the program has been helpful and quite relevant.

For three years he's seen players come through the program, succeed and move on to careers in Europe or even the NBA D-League. While there may be a slight amount of doubt in Pierce's mind, he is comfortable to be where he is today.

"I try to remind myself that this is always what I wanted to do," Pierce said. "I think you play the game with the hope that you're going to play, but for me, I came to a realization early on that I wasn't going to get much playing time."

Just as the likes of great players past — A.J. Davis, Humpty Hitchens and Devon Moore - Pierce had the privilege of running down the ramp every game. He's a part of the team.

"He can actually play," redshirt senior Andrey Semenov said. "Not every walk-on gets buckets, but Chris gets buckets."

He shows up to every practice and plays just as hard as any starter. He is comfortable with his role and knows one of his main objectives and responsibilities is to challenge JMU starters, for the betterment of the team.

"He's had some days when he's been an absolute handful for our guys to guard," Brady said. "He's been everything you can ask for in a walk-on."

At this point, there's no pressure for Pierce, an extremely laid back guy.

"I don't go out there and try to prove [myself] anymore to the coaches," he said. "I know that my job is to emulate the other team."

He's sometimes referred to by fans as "CP14," a nod to NBA star, Chris Paul (CP3) combining initials and jersey number. Last Wednesday, on senior night, CP14 got called for his first career start.

"I think Charles [Cooke] or Ron [Curry] said, 'Hey Chris, you made it," Semenov said. "He sat down on the bench to get introduced and Chris let out a huge smile. That was pretty cool to see."

Starting that game was an honor for someone who has invested the last three years for a sitcom's amount of playing time. His objective was to guard Towson University's Jerrelle Benimon, arguably the CAA's most dominant forward and frontrunner for Player of

the Year.

"They actually really didn't tell me till the day before," Pierce said of his matchup. "I went into the conference room, I was laughing, joking around before practice and coach [Mike] Deane came in and got kind of mad like, 'Are you ready."

For three minutes, Pierce didn't seem phased. Plus, he kept Benimon scoreless.

"We thought Chris is all-defensive team because the minutes he played in CAA play, he didn't let his man score at all," Semenov said.

The task reminded Pierce of his past success and any nerves were quickly put to rest.

"The one thing that kind of surprised me that at the end of the day it was basketball," Pierce said. "I've done that my whole life. It wasn't anything surreal."

In May he'll graduate with a degree in public policy. With a year of eligibility remaining, Pierce would like to pursue another opportunity in basketball, likely at the DIII level, but he is also interested in pursuing a graduate degree. He is not completely sure where and if basketball will fit in, but the experience has been worth it.

'One thing that has surfaced for me is after like these three years, one thing that I really, really have missed is playing," Pierce said.

As they say, there is no "I" in team. It's a fundamental in sports, and something that Pierce will take away from his experience with the Dukes.

I don't think a regular student knows what it means to be responsible and accountable for 13 guys every single day," Pierce said.

All the practices, all the cramped bus rides, all the weekends on the road living in hotels, all the late nights, all the schoolwork struggles — one might wonder if it was worth it. In fact, Pierce asks himself the same question often.

"People that hang around me a lot have heard me complain more than they've heard me talk about the benefits and the positives," he said. "It definitely changes your entire life and your entire schedule. This has required more time than any activity I've ever done. Being more kind of a student than an athlete, it's definitely a difficult balance, but 100 percent when I look back, no question it's been worth it."

CONTACT Stephen Proffitt at proffittjs@gmail.com.

shown on the track as well as off of it. workouts are a distance run of six to 11

"Over the past couple years we have really focused on the social aspect," club vice president and nursing and kinesiology double major senior Kelsey Harman said. "We do things such as hiking trips, trips to Blue Hole, team dinners at E-Hall and semi-formal dances."

These things help form what every successful group needs: chemistry.

"We are close-knit and family-like," Richards said.

Club track will continue to race towards a successful season, but they will be having a good time regardless of their results.

CONTACT Richard Bozek at bozekrj@dukes.jmu.edu.

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Thursday, March 6, 2014 **B5**

BASKETBALL | First game Friday, March 14 in Md.



MATT SCHMACHTENBERG / THE BREEZE Senior guard Kirby Burkholder celebrated her final regular season game inside the Convo Sunday. The team drew 6,590 people for the senior game.

from front

"So, we'll definitely have a lot of shooting practices, and kind of review our offense. It's a great time before tournament time to kind of work on us."

The coaching staff hasn't settled on a hard schedule for the next week yet. But the players will likely get a little time off, and definitely will get to rest their bodies a bit before the grind of what could end up being three games in three days in the tournament.

"I always think it can be a good thing and a bad thing ... But the coaches do a really good job of knowing when to get us in here, how to prepare us," Newman said. "So I think everybody's looking forward to a little bit of a break before we get into pretty much another postseason play. But I think it'll be beneficial for us."

Last season, JMU lost to Drexel University in the semifinals of the CAA tournament. As a freshman, it was guard Angela Mickens' first time dealing with the atmosphere and demands of a conference tournament

This season, Mickens has played significant minutes off the bench for JMU (27.2 per game), and has been an important spark and facilitator in the Dukes' rotation. She's tied with Newman for the team lead in assists per game with 4.3. While she didn't play a ton of minutes in last year's tourney, she learned since then what it takes.

And that should prove important as she looks to continue giving JMU that extra energy during that weekend.

"Just the mentality, a good mentality," Mickens said about what she learned last year. "You're going to have to work, and everybody's going to be tired. You just got to push through it, through everything. The next game, and then the game after that."

JMU had a bit of a blip in the radar last Thursday if what was an otherwise perfect conference slate. The Dukes lost at third-place College of Charleston 85-78. The loss ended a 13-game win-streak, and the 85 points was the most any CAA opponent scored on JMU this season.

But after Sunday's win over the College of William & Mary, Brooks said his team was right back where they were before.

The Dukes' first game at the Show Place Arena in Upper Marlboro, Md. next week will be on Friday, March 14 at noon. They will play the winner of the Thursday game between the No. 9 seed University of North Carolina Wilmington and the No. 8 seed William & Mary (8-20, 5-11).

There's eight days until the Dukes can start playing for the prize. And they're definitely glad the time is almost here.

Newman won a CAA championship in each of her first two seasons, in 2010 and 2011, but one this year would top the cake.

"It's very exciting. Definitely very, very exciting. For Kirby [Burkholder] and I, obviously, it's our last go around," Newman said. "So I think that makes the ante a little bit higher to really want to do well in the tournament. But, I mean, if we continue to play like we did on Sunday, and finish the regular season off right [Wednesday]. And going into the tournament with momentum like that, I think it'll be a good turnout for us."

CONTACT Wayne Epps Jr. at breezesports@gmail.com.

COURT STORMING More than a tradition

from page B4

Association Championship inside the Richmond Coliseum almost a year ago. A purple sea rolled over the court as the buzzer sounded and the Dukes were officially dancing. As a reporter, I witnessed and immersed myself in the high tide of purple on the court. No one was hurt, it was handled properly by its participants and it was necessary court storming is a release of tension. Symbolically, the storming of the court in Richmond represented 19 years of tension that was finally set off.

Tension needs to be released to remain healthy. There are many unwritten codes on when a court storm can be justified. The one thing that remains is that it can be rationalized and that's why it doesn't need to go anywhere.

It is completely unsustainable for President Obama to allow this pipeline to be built. While in a different realm and on a far lower level consequently, it is too unsustainable to keep thousands of emotionally charged students bottled up in a section of seats following a historical victory.

Tradition is not a good enough argument to support court storming. Safety is not a good enough one to negate it. Democracy works quite effectively.

The people have spoken and court storming is what democracy looks like.

Stephen Proffitt is a junior media arts and design major. Contact Stephen at proffittjs@gmail.com.

Gearing up for another

Coach Frias ready to take JMU to league championship

By ANDY LOHMAN The Breeze

JMU women's track & field will be competing in the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference Indoor Championships this weekend. The Dukes have 18 athletes qualified for the championships including the 4x800 meter relay team, who are defending champions. We talked to fifth-year head coach Ta' Frias about the upcoming meet.

You've already competed in multiple events this season, how would you assess your team so far? Pretty well. We're going into this indoor championship meet pretty strong. I think we have a they've been very composed. They've been very excited to go out competing and I want to take that same exact excitement into this meet and come together as a team. I think if we can do that, they will definitely reap the benefits of it.

What are some keys to your success at this event? Just the athletes. They are just a great group of athletes; they work hard, they train hard, they're devoted, they enjoy what they're doing. Any success we have is because of them.

Which athletes do you see breaking out at these championships? I think [redshirt senior distance runner] Katie Harman is



lot of individual qualifiers as well as two very capable relays for scoring. I'm pretty excited about overall where we are.

How is the indoor competition different than outdoor? Well you're inside, so the track is smaller. Instead of a 400-meter track you're running on sometimes a 200-meter track. Because of that, the times do tend to be a little bit slower than outdoor. For the ECAC Championships, there are more events that are contested indoors than outdoors. We have a distance medley relay that we don't traditionally see in the outdoor season. We also have the 1,000-meter run and the 500-meter run that aren't contested outdoors.

How do you feel about your chances going into the ECAC Championships this weekend? I think we have a strong opportunity to do pretty well at the meet. It's a super conference, so there's a lot of schools there. Any time we can be in the top 20 at that meet I think we've done a very good job.

What kind of mindset do you want your team to have going into an event like this? The same as we've had all season, going to have a pretty good meet. The 4x800 [relay team] won last year, so they're returning champions. I think [redshirt senior distance runner] Stacey Nobles in her last competition will have a good meet. And who knows what the freshmen or some of the younger girls are going to come up and do. This is their first time at this championship meet; they may take to it and do very well.

Do you see any of your athletes qualifying for an NCAA time? Not this year necessarily, but I do foresee it in the future with this group.

How do you look to transition into the outdoor season after this meet? It's just kind of regrouping a little bit; looking at our indoor season, assessing our goals and seeing what we accomplished and then kind of, like I said, regrouping as we prepare for outdoor. Not much will change. It's a different venue, we're outside a lot more than the indoor season and hopefully the weather will cooperate and we can get out on the outdoor track a lot more.

CONTACT Andy Lohman at lohmanar@dukes.jmu.edu.

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Coach Ta' Frias helped lead the 2012 JMU outdoor track & field team to the CAA Championship.

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