

From Interstate 95 to 81

Student launches luxury streetwear brand, targets JMU students



By **YASMINE MAGGIO**
The Breeze

Photos of friends wearing graphic T-shirts and tank tops flash across the laptop screen as “Never Be Like You” by Flume plays in the background. Within reach is a black Moleskine notebook filled with Sina Shahcheraghi’s inspiration and ideas.

“The way I think about it, it’s not just clothes,” Shahcheraghi said. “I’m selling you a lifestyle.”

That’s the idea behind his streetwear brand, 95 to Infinity. What started as a side job selling T-shirts out of the trunk of his car in high school has turned into Shahcheraghi’s passion. His brand relaunched last October.

“There was a point when I was a freshman where I was like, ‘What am I doing?’” Shahcheraghi, a junior computer information systems major, said. “But once I was planning for the relaunch, I started getting a better idea of what I needed to do. I started budgeting better and I had a solid plan.”

Rather than merely trying to sell products, Shahcheraghi’s main focus became creating a brand name and then generating popularity around it. From there, he could focus on

selling his products to fans of the label.

“Once I stopped worrying about making money, that’s when I had my ‘aha’ moment that this could go far,” Shahcheraghi said. “I’m just so motivated to make it succeed. The motivation and the determination is like my coffee. That’s what gets me going.”

Although Shahcheraghi markets his brand to those in big cities like New York and Los Angeles through social media posts, he has narrowed his focus to JMU students. As a result, the brand has gained much popularity on campus.

“I wake up, I go outside and I see some guy wearing my T-shirt,” Shahcheraghi said. “Whenever I see that, without knowing it, they’re complimenting me. They’re wearing a part of my personality as they’re walking around. I made it. That’s who I am and someone liked it enough to spend money and put it on their body, which reflects their image.”

Running a clothing line is no small feat. Shahcheraghi spends his summers working in order to save money and invest in his brand. He designs all the products himself, from T-shirts and tanks to hoodies and hats. After spending time perfecting them to his liking

and receiving samples from the printer, he sends them to a drop shipping company in Los Angeles for printing and shipping.

As for the name, both time and location are the motives behind it.

“I was born in ‘95” Shahcheraghi said. “It’s meaningful to me. ‘95 lives on forever.”

Location-wise, Shahcheraghi’s target audience is the East Coast. Many streetwear companies originated on the West Coast, but few call the East Coast home. Interstate 95 runs along the entire East Coast, from Canada to Florida, connecting different cities and their cultures. Right in the middle it hits Washington, D.C., a city not known for its fashion, but where Shahcheraghi’s company originated.

For Shahcheraghi, inspiration is all around him, from hip-hop and rap to graffiti and street art. But most importantly, he focuses on movements.

“I try to see what people are paying attention to and I put a cool spin on it,” Shahcheraghi said. “Trends, subcultures, movements; I see what’s cool, what falls in line with my vision and my style and what people would like to see.”

see **INFINITY**, page 7

The models are wearing lifestyle-inspired clothing geared toward the East Coast. COURTESY OF KYLE VAN FLEET

Showcasing for scouts

JMU football seniors strive to impress at pro day

By **HARRY HOLTZCLAW**
The Breeze

With the NFL Draft just over a month away, some of JMU’s best football players took Zane Showker Field at Bridgeforth Stadium one more time to try to leave a lasting impression on NFL scouts at JMU’s pro day. This is the best way for JMU’s top players to showcase their talents if they weren’t included in the NFL Combine.

Over 15 scouts scribbled notes as seniors Khalid Abdullah, Rashad Davis, Matt Frank, Gunnar Kane, Mitchell Kirsch, Brandon Ravenel, Taylor Reynolds, Gage Steele, Martez Stone, Domo Taylor and former star quarterback Vad Lee hit the weight room, tested vertical jumps, ran 40-yard dashes

and many other practice drills. Although the first half was completed in the weight room, the Harrisonburg weather eventually got its hands on the visiting scouts and provided a blisteringly cold afternoon.

“It’s great to be back in Harrisonburg, even with the weather as cold as it is,” Lee said. “Feels great to be with the champions and to be able to play with them one more time.”

Lee never once referred to JMU as “the Dukes,” but preferred to call his former teammates “the champs.” The former CAA Offensive Player of the Year was pleased with his performance and was happy he was fully healthy, unlike last year when a leg injury severely limited his pro day performance.

see **FOOTBALL**, page 9



Senior linebacker Gage Steele runs the 40-yard dash in front of a group of NFL talent evaluators. CONNOR WOISARD / THE BREEZE

Safer studies

Nasaruni Academy for Maasai Girls provides primary education for Kenyan youth

By **JULIA SMITH**
The Breeze

Students and faculty at JMU have been working for four years to gather support and raise funds to build a school for Maasai girls in Kenya.

The Maasai is a tribe that practices pastoralism and occasionally agriculture. Most Maasai girls don’t receive an education. Instead, they are married around the age of 13 and expected to build a home, cook and bear children. In addition, Maasai families rely on their ability to sell cattle, which can make money scarce, especially during droughts.

“Many families can’t afford to send anyone to school, but if they can afford one or two, it would be for the sons because they are the ones who come back to support their parents,” said Michelle Cude, an education programs associate professor at JMU.

The Maasai people are seeing a change in perspective. Many of the men and women are starting to see the importance of sending their daughters to school.

The Nasaruni Academy for Maasai Girls was the dream of Alice Sayo made real with the help of Cude. Sayo, born into a Maasai family, was an exchange teacher in the international learners and education program who participated in one of Cude’s classes six years ago. When Sayo started sharing her dream of bringing education to Maasai girls in Kenya, Cude and her students in the Future Social Studies Educators organization stepped up to make it a reality.

Nasaruni Academy provides girls with a primary school education that opens doors for further education in secondary school and potentially at a university. With an education, they will also become better candidates for employment. According to Cude, instead of selling products like potatoes or charcoal in the market, they can be clerks, nurses, shop owners and teachers. Not only will these girls learn crucial job skills, but they’ll also build self-confidence.

“The girls gain a sense of self-efficacy, a sense of self-worth that really without that, you don’t even have a dream,” Cude said.

Since 2013, the FSSE has been raising money to build the academy. Initially, it helped raise the money to purchase the five acres of land that the school would be built on. Since then, four temporary classrooms were built. Many of the girls must travel miles to attend class, which can be dangerous due to wild animals. Last year’s Empty Bowls event raised the money to build a dormitory that can hold up to 90 girls for the full term.

see **ACADEMY**, page 3



The school provides Kenyan girls with more career opportunities. COURTESY OF MOSES SAYO

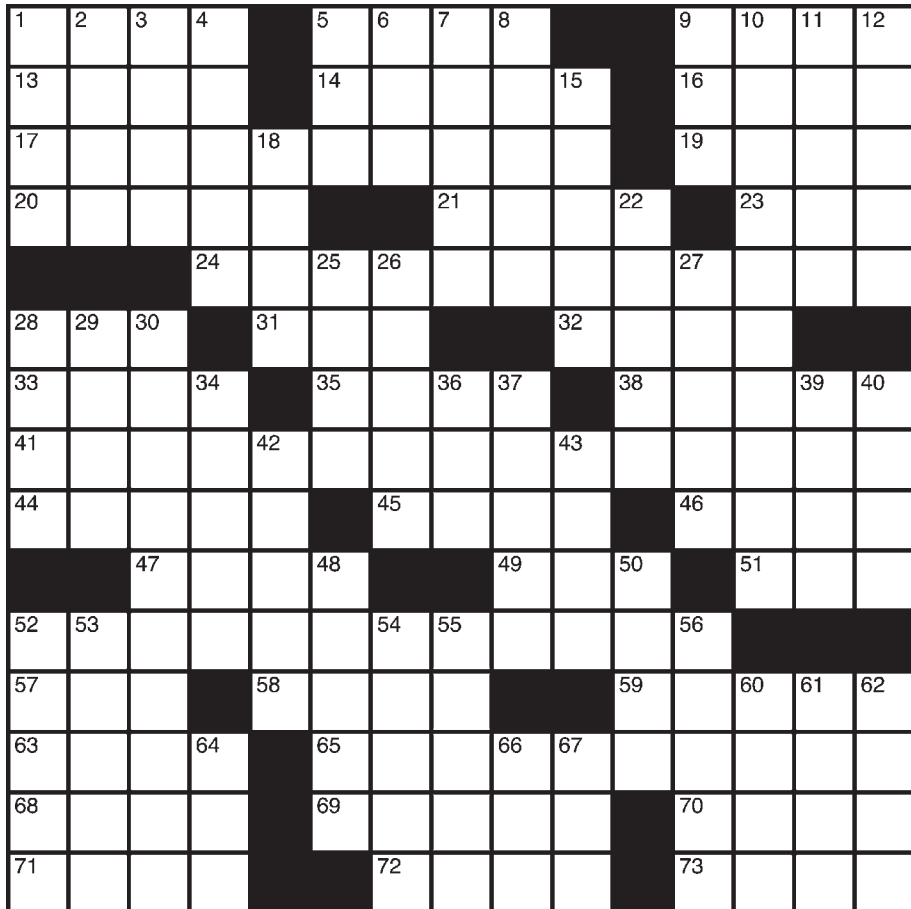
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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

Across

- 1 The Miners of the Lone Star St.
- 5 Eurasia's __ Mountains
- 9 Fundraising gps.
- 13 Caesar's France
- 14 Marner of fiction
- 16 Hindustani language
- 17 What Dobermans do for dinner?
- 19 Innocent
- 20 Retro wall unit
- 21 Titanic undoing
- 23 Not very bright
- 24 Super-cold concoction at Baskin-Robbins?
- 28 Yale alum
- 31 Longtime Yankees announcer __ Allen
- 32 First to play James
- 33 Tall and lean
- 35 "Sadly ..."
- 41 World's stealthiest detective?
- 44 Got out of bed
- 45 "So __ say"
- 46 Crowd-sourced review site
- 47 Asian takeover option
- 49 Little trickster
- 51 See 56-Down
- 52 Cutest Baby contest champion?
- 57 Security briefing org.
- 58 Clothing part that might split
- 59 Epic tales

Down

- 1 Brand of sheepskin boots
- 2 Biting
- 3 Italian capital
- 4 Fallback option
- 5 __ Today
- 6 Tease
- 7 "I was out of town," e.g.
- 8 Approach midnight
- 9 Place to hoist a pint
- 10 DBA followers
- 11 Madison Ave. field
- 12 In-your-face challenge
- 15 Feudal laborers
- 18 Protective barrier
- 22 El __
- 25 Authentic
- 26 Dole out
- 27 Like birds with worms, so it's said
- 28 Designer Schiaparelli
- 29 Cowardly Lion portrayer

30 Facing serious trouble

- 34 Singer who formerly stylized her name with a dollar sign
- 36 "__ du lieber!"
- 37 Yarn purchase
- 39 Squeal
- 40 Catch sight of
- 42 Raises
- 43 Many a gospel song
- 48 Brainstorms
- 50 Uruguayan money
- 52 Nail a test
- 53 Like Oscar Wilde
- 54 Mackerel relative
- 55 Beatnik's "With ya"
- 56 Repeating movie role for 51-Across
- 60 "Sheesh!"
- 61 Animated bug film
- 62 Time at a hotel
- 64 Org. for docs
- 66 Pint to drink
- 67 AOL alternative

By Jeff Stillman

3/16/17

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

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STEPHANIE MORALES / THE BREEZE

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Saturday

- ☛ An Evening with YARN @ Clementine Cafe, 9-11:30 p.m.

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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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ALYSSA ANTONIO / THE BREEZE

During the second annual JMU Giving Day, organizers focused on school spirit following the football team's national championship to encourage students to donate, despite the snow day. They raised over half a million dollars this year.

By MATTHEW SASSER
The Breeze

While many Dukes enjoyed a snow day, the team behind JMU Giving Day didn't succumb to the snowy weather, raising money and awareness for an event that extended across JMU nation.

The second JMU Giving Day, a 24-hour event designed to get the entire JMU community involved in fundraising for the university, commenced on March 14, done in large part by the JMU Office of Annual Giving. Their efforts raised \$610,879 for JMU from 4,349 donors.

There are 32 funds that donors can choose from. These range from primary funds for each of the colleges, as well as funds directed toward the Duke Club, Madison Forever Scholarships and the Madison Forever Vision Fund.

"The idea of Giving Day is to get the word out that JMU is important and really to make giving fun," Gretchen Armentrout, the associate director of Annual Giving, said. "It is a great opportunity for us to educate our constituents about what giving is and why to give back to JMU."

Annual Giving at JMU reaches out to people and encourages people to support the university in any

way that they can. Giving Day is an attempt to grow the donor base as well as encourage Dukes to donate.

While the snow deterred some campus events, social media allowed for Giving Day to go on without issues. The scope of the event was designed to extend to everybody in JMU nation, not just those on campus.

"Social media is such a huge channel for reaching individuals that are associated with JMU," Chris Meyers, JMU's digital content manager, said. "It is a great channel to have fun with, to share information through and to engage our audience with."

Facebook Live was incorporated this year to focus on getting people involved who weren't in Harrisonburg. About 100 students in the Student Success Center gathered to help count down the official launch of the event in the seconds before it commenced.

"We want to engage as many people as possible," Justin Roth, a video producer for university communications, said. "Facebook Live has allowed us to do that to anybody that likes JMU on Facebook."

A second stream at noon featured an interview with President Alger and a video from Arthur Moats, an NFL linebacker for the Pittsburgh Steelers and this year's commencement speaker, who showcased his support for the event.

There were also highlights from tweets about how people in the JMU community had shared their own reasons and experiences as to why they donated on Giving Day.

"We were amazed and so proud of our JMU nation the way they showed up last year, so this year we just really wanted to challenge the JMU nation and see if they'll show up again," Kelly Snow, director of Annual Giving, said.

This year, Annual Giving set a goal of 4,000 donors and \$500,000. They surpassed both of these goals, with 349 more donors and \$110,879. While a dollar amount is important to the campaign, it's not the main target.

"Participation is our primary goal," Snow said. "We want everybody to come together collectively to move the university forward."

The slogan for this year's Giving Day is "We show up for days like this." It was inspired by the community that JMU has shown, especially in showing up for the FCS national championship game, as well as for each other.

The university is partially supported by tuition and state funding, but those funds can't fully support the university. In order to fill that gap, private funding is important.

This year, Giving Day focused on student scholarships, as well as programs students are directly involved in.

Challenges were directed toward student's dorms and Greek organizations to help bolster competition for the fundraising. Cash prizes were then given toward the top fundraising groups to enhance their future needs or events.

"It is a great day to see how big JMU nation is and see other alums still wanting to get engaged and that it is much bigger than just this physical campus," Sarah Orem, assistant director of alumni relations, said.

Alumni chapters from all over the country were hosting watch parties to watch Facebook Live and get together to celebrate Giving Day. There were parties in Boston, Pittsburgh, San Francisco and even one in London.

"I think learning this culture of philanthropy at JMU, from the time that they are freshmen or even coming in as applicants, that this is a place that is home for a lot of us," Cannie Campbell, associate vice president of constituent relations, said. "It is home for everybody here."

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COURTESY OF ANYA CUDE

In the Empty Bowls Fundraiser, handcrafted bowls are filled with soup and sold to raise money for improvements to the academy. This year, funds will help build a new dining hall.



COURTESY OF MOSES SAYO

The academy has dormitories for the young girls.

ACADEMY | 'They are valuable, loved'

from front

"Although it felt like I was making only a small impact by raising 200 dollars, I know it really did make a difference to the girls and it made me feel good to help out in whatever way I could," Giovanna Trigg, a graduate student in teaching, said.

While Cude makes yearly trips to visit the Maasai, she hasn't been able to take students yet.

"You want to talk to the girls and see what impact you're having and have the inspiration," Amanda Dodge, president of FSSE and a senior history major, said. "They're very active on social media so they post a lot of pictures to keep

everyone updated. They're never too far away."

This year, Empty Bowls will take place on March 31. Attendees pay \$35 to receive a handcrafted bowl and eat soups donated by local restaurants. There will also be a silent auction and entertainment by local musical talent. The money raised will go toward building a dining hall.

Further goals for the academy include a pump for the well, permanent classrooms and solar panels. One of Cude's visions is Madison Camp Kenya, a small site in the corner of the five acres with Maasai-style huts where visitors, students and teachers who are

working at the academy can stay.

While sitting in her kitchen six years ago, Cude helped Sayo find a way to make her dream a reality. Inspired by a friend, Cude named her farm Haven Hill Farm to welcome anyone who needed help. She then carried this idea to the academy. "Nasaruni" means "haven" in Maai, the language spoken by the Maasai. The academy is meant to be a haven for the Maasai girls.

"We want them to hold their head up high," Cude said. "We want our girls to know that they are valuable, loved and beautiful."

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Learning in the labs

By KATELYN MERRIMAN
contributing writer

National security initiatives are making their way onto JMU's campus through a new course. Hacking 4 Defense was developed to give students the chance to work with the United States Department of Defense to create a prototype that will assist the security of the military. The course uses live stream videos and blog posts to engage students from a wide variety of majors.

"Groups in the defense system are working to solve the same problems the students are," Erica Lewis, a nursing professor at JMU, said. "They need fresh eyes and an unconventional approach to find these solutions. A diverse, unique group of students is [well-positioned] to do that."

Lewis said the nursing branch of science is significant for H4D because nurses are particularly good at identifying key pain points and are able to use that in finding solutions that will ease the concern of national security.

"This course allows students to become exposed to real-world problems and work towards creating innovative solutions at a rapid pace," Jack O'Neill, a senior intelligence analysis major and student coordinator for the course said.

Lakeview Hall, formerly known as WVPT

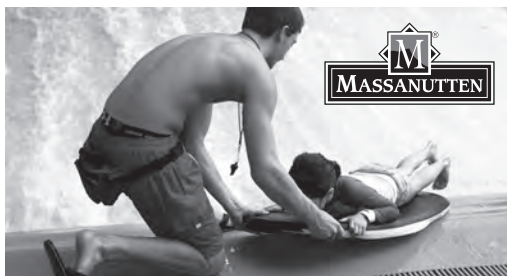
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HACKING | Students tackle complex problems and create solutions in X-Labs

from page 3

studios, is home to the JMU X-Labs. X-Labs is a series of classes in which the university provides students the opportunity to get hands-on experience with new innovation. Many X-Lab courses require specific majors to participate. Last semester, JMU X-Labs students examined the use of lifesaving drones and created a product that can detect landmines.

Multidisciplinary student teams were presented with challenges currently faced by the United States Department of Defense. To tackle these problems, they used the "Lean Launchpad," a methodology used to create successful start-up companies. This is a rigorous way to tackle complex problems and design solutions. It also helps the students outline how to find the solution that best fits the customer's needs through trial and error.

The military sponsor within the related field that the group decides to work with provides the students with information and gives them a short timeline to find a solution that works. Each group creates a

different solution to aim for. One of the prototypes that a group is currently working toward is to train hawks to be able to take harmful drones out of the sky.

Junior computer science major Bailey Swayne's experience with drones has led him and his group to work on a product that will protect soldiers from hostile drones.

Swayne said one of the biggest challenges is doing the research and design process without the benefit of classified resources that the military and defense contractors have.

"Each team is challenged to complete at least 10 new interviews each week of the semester to better understand the challenge from the users' perspective," Keith Holland, an associate professor in the engineering department, said.

Last fall, Swayne was in the drone class within X-Labs in which the sole focus was solving real-world problems. Some of these problems include finding solutions for alerting people in a humanitarian disaster, creating a digital overlay with detailed

situational information and developing sensors to help soldiers better understand complex buildings and cave systems.

Swayne and his group created a drone that detects antipersonnel landmines and uses a pneumatic device to destroy them with a laser before they do harm.

Entrepreneur and Stanford University faculty member Steve Blank, along with several colleagues, first created the H4D concept. O'Neill learned about the H4D course at Stanford and suggested bringing it to JMU.

"Students are really doing all of the heavy lifting," Sean McCarthy, a writing, rhetoric and technical communication professor, said. "In a way, we are just there to support them."

Another course offered at JMU through X-Labs similar to H4D is Interprofessional Innovations, which focuses on the medical side of problem solving.

"From the biology prospective, H4D is still medical innovation," Ludwig said. "It is a different version of

that class but that has not changed."

The students and professors participating in H4D are seeing positive results. Other similar courses are to be offered in the fall, such as a Medical Innovations — for nursing, biology and engineering students — and a H4D course that is open to interprofessional students.

Other X-Labs courses include Fueled — a combination of biology's approach to sustainable food and farm-to-table meals on campus incorporated with food truck technology. The X-Labs programs also offer a Virtual Reality/Augmented Reality course taught in conjunction with George Mason University's Serious Game Institute, which was developed by JMU student Skylar Wolen.

These courses develop practical, real-life skills for students of all disciplines.

"It will happen as it goes," Lewis said. "That's what makes this class so exciting."

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REEL CHANGE DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL

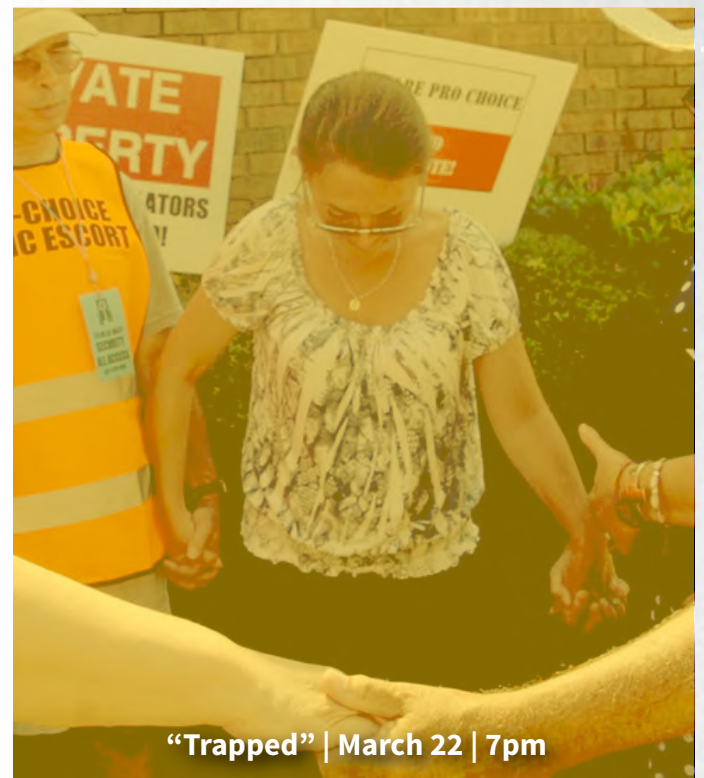
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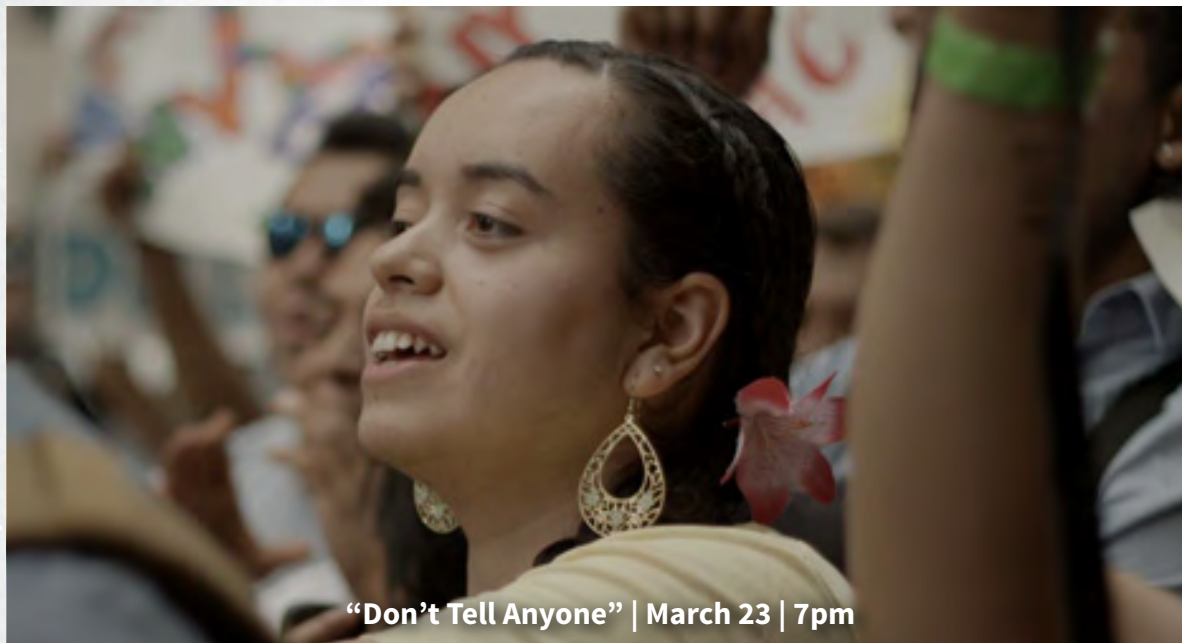
"Age of Consequences" | March 20 | 7pm



"Do Not Resist" | March 21 | 7pm



"Trapped" | March 22 | 7pm



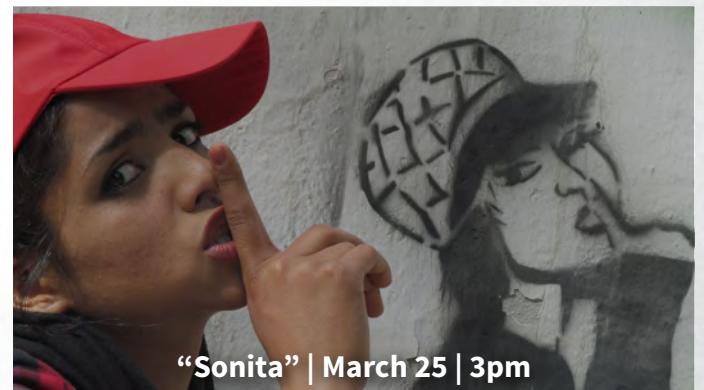
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NAHLA ABOUTABL | respect the riot

Losing friends over politics?

It may be for your own good



CHELSEA CROUCH / THE BREEZE



There's been this idea going around that we shouldn't be political or voice our "radical" opinions lest we lose friends who might disagree with us. These so-called radical notions include things like intersectional feminism, equality for LGBTQ+ individuals and racial justice.

I've cut people out of my life for intentionally and consistently being closed-minded, unaware of their privilege and for just being downright bigots who justify their discriminatory beliefs. I wouldn't call this "losing friends," rather, it's my version of self-care.

People belonging to marginalized groups are often treated as representatives of a larger community rather than as unique individuals. We often have to defend ourselves from uncreative stereotypes and argue our case for equality, inclusion and justice not just to random people on the internet, but to people we once thought were good friends.

Hard as it may be to believe, I've often withheld my opinion around people who I know might take my views as an attack on them. It doesn't feel good to know that if you argue for the sake of social justice, certain so-called friends might not like you anymore. This has taken a toll on

me before, and it still does in some cases.

Recently, I shared an article on Facebook that focused on the Unity Mosque led by Imam El-Farouk Khaki, an openly gay Muslim man who tries to create an inclusive environment for Muslims who've been ostracized for their gender identity or sexual orientation.

It doesn't feel good to know that if you argue for the sake of social justice, certain so-called friends might not like you anymore.

While the article had a positive tone, it seemed that people — some of who I thought were friends — didn't think the article was positive at all. In fact, I had people comment that the article was "disturbing." One individual even decided to call the article "retarded," which is offensive on so many levels.

Not only was I personally offended, but I was taken aback by the

closed-mindedness of people with whom I thought I saw eye-to-eye. I began to think of similar situations I've gone through in the past, especially surrounding Donald Trump's election and decided that I don't mind "losing" friends who don't understand the importance of social justice. It no longer bothers me as much as it used to, and I no longer call instances like that a loss. If anything, I gain peace of mind from cutting people off who disagree with how I choose to identify.

It's not my responsibility to educate adults who spend a good part of their day glued to a machine that yields the power of Google. That's their own responsibility. It's not my responsibility to argue for the sake of my identity — all I have to do is be unapologetically authentic and true to myself.

The stress and agitation that comes along with arguing for equality among people who are disinterested and unconcerned can be avoided by simply paying them no mind. I learned that the hard way, but it's better late than never to show yourself a little more love and a little less stress.

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

LAURA KATZMAN | letter to the editor

Duke Hall exhibition more than meets the eye

As guest curator of the current Duke Gallery exhibition, *Drawing on the Left*: Ben Shahn and the Art of Human Rights, and as a scholar of Shahn's art for over 25 years, I was disturbed and saddened by the opinion piece published in the March 2 issue of *The Breeze*, in which the author mischaracterized the exhibition.

The result of four years of planning, this exhibition aims to introduce the JMU community to Ben Shahn (1898-1969), who stands among the most prominent of the socially engaged American artists of the 20th century. The exhibition seeks to reveal how art can take a hard look at the uncomfortable realities of our society. It's also intended to mark two major gifts of Shahn's art from a private collector and the Ben Shahn Estate to the Madison Art Collection — gifts that took years to negotiate and that promise to enrich the education of students for years to come.

The *Breeze* opinion piece includes numerous inaccuracies and misunderstandings about the nature and purpose of the exhibition. The piece states, "Shahn

wasn't around to display the Civil Rights Movement," and that "most of his work was displaying the two world wars and events leading up to the Civil Rights Movement." This is simply untrue. World War I appears nowhere in the exhibition, and it's clear from the content of the show and the accompanying wall texts that nearly two-thirds of the exhibition is devoted to work from the 1950s and '60s, when Shahn — like many Jewish progressives of his generation — was deeply committed to the Civil Rights Movement.

The author made an erroneous assumption that the exhibition, featuring the work of a white artist of European origin, is one of the highlights of the university's Black History Month observance. The exhibition is, in fact, not a Black History Month event, and none of the posters spread across campus and social media state a connection to Black History Month. Although the exhibition opened at the end of February, six of its seven weeks fall in March and April. As noted, the exhibition does address civil rights issues that are relevant to Black History Month, which

is perhaps why President Alger logically highlighted it in his "Social Justice Spotlight," along with the lecture by Theodore Shaw, the distinguished civil rights advocate who spoke during JMU's Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Week in January.

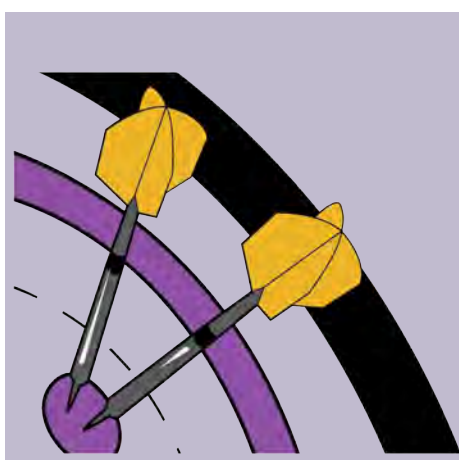
To claim the timing of the exhibition is "disrespectful" is ironic, as the timeliness of the show, in the wake of the 2016 presidential election, has been noted widely by visitors. In fact, I planned the exhibition to urge audiences to reflect on the most pressing issues raised in the election, such as immigration, civil liberties, racial injustices, religious discrimination, workers' rights, voting rights, terrorism and nuclear proliferation in the global age.

My public programs are intended to complement the exhibition and present perspectives not covered in the show. The March 28 event on Civil Rights, Human Rights and Social Justice, for example, includes a lecture on Shahn's contemporary Gordon Parks, arguably the most significant African-American photographer of the 20th century, and the March 28

event involves the screening of a film on Angela Davis, the civil rights activist and icon of the Black Power movement. These programs give further evidence that Shahn isn't being promoted as a singular authority on civil rights, as the opinion piece suggests, but rather as one vital voice in the larger struggle.

Drawing on the Left speaks to the enduring significance of Shahn's human rights work and its relevance in the U.S. today. Shahn's art offers a blueprint for speaking out against hatred, bigotry, inequality and injustice. It's a clarion call for all citizens to stand in solidarity with the most vulnerable communities to ensure the future of democracy, pluralism and even civilization itself. I invite all members of the JMU community to spend time in the exhibition, attend the public programs and grapple with what Shahn's messages of social justice and methods of alliance building have come to mean in our current climate.

Laura Katzman is an art history professor in the School of Art, Design and Art History.



DARTS & PATS

A "stay-frosty" pat to the kind man in Southwest who lent me his ice scraper.
From a junior who was trying to scrape with his umbrella.

A "why?" dart to life for making the beautiful Australian man I met over break live halfway around the world.
From someone who's over the boys in Harrisonburg.

An "I-like-days-off-but-not-the-cold" dart to this weather for killing my spring break vibes.
From someone who misses Quad chilling and playing basketball outside.

A "be-better" dart to mother nature for giving us barely any snow this year.
From a senior who doesn't mind missing class to frolic in winter wonderlands.

An "ugh-that-was-my-best-work" dart to my dad for looking at my portfolio and suggesting that I only include "good" samples.
From a daughter who apparently has no marketable skills.

A "what-were-you-thinking?" dart to Nick Viall for picking Vanessa over Raven.
From an angry Bachelor fan.

Editorial Policies

The Breeze
1598 S. Main Street
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The Breeze welcomes and encourages readers to voice their opinions through letters and guest columns. Letters must be no longer than 250 words. Guest columns must be no more than 650 words.

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

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

DAN FORD | forward thinking

Celebrities' opinions **matter**



Each resident of the U.S. is entitled to their own opinion regarding the political climate of this country, no matter their profession nor how bright the spotlight is upon them. Understanding this, we must allow celebrities the ability to profess their opinions regarding concerns that

are controversial yet important, and to engage in a dialogue with them just as we would with ordinary residents.

Too often people dismiss Hollywood stars as being little more than liberal snowflakes who have no pulse on the important realities impacting our country and therefore have no merit to speak on such matters. So too are professional athletes oftentimes shunned when opening a political discussion by onlookers who have little interest in listening to the political beliefs of these athletes, finding their views to be irrelevant and only their athletic talent to be of importance.

Let's understand that the bright stage given to celebrities shouldn't nullify their right to hold controversial opinions, nor their right to profess them. As such, when a celebrity states an opinion, we must begin by listening to it rather than immediately rejecting it.

After all, celebrities have often represented the faces of incredible movements in the past.

After winning gold and bronze, respectively, in the 200-meter race of the 1968 Olympic Games, American athletes Tommie Smith and John Carlos famously raised their fists during the U.S. national anthem — a symbolic gesture signaling

their commitment to the Black Power movement vying for equal rights and justice among the races. Though extremely controversial at the time, many have come to understand this action as being symbolic of the African-American struggle in the U.S., and have since accepted it as being right for the time.

During the late 1960s and into the 1970s, as the U.S. and other western countries were combatting the expanse of communism by militarily descending upon Vietnam during the Vietnam War, several celebrities openly preached their displeasure with this conflict.

Among the most famous was the former Beatle John Lennon who, along with his wife, Yoko Ono, began having "bed-ins" during which they would sit in their bed, allowing members of the press to enter the room and have an open, honest discussion about the importance of peace in the volatile world of their time.

The idea was that people should refrain from engaging in the brutal and immoral war that was occurring in Vietnam and remain in the comfort of their home and their bed. Despite open and hostile criticism during these peaceful protests, Lennon has come to be known as a great human rights activist whose message was an important one of peace and happiness.

Only time will tell if the views of modern celebrities will also be regarded with such respect. In the meantime, let's allow them to speak their minds and come together in a discussion with them on all of today's important matters.

Dan Ford is a junior international affairs and international business double major. Contact Dan at forddm@dukes.jmu.edu.



CHELSEA CROUCH / THE BREEZE

John Lennon and Yoko Ono would have "bed-ins" during the Vietnam War to discuss peace and other issues with the press.

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The right key

Local hip-hop artist finds musical inspiration from his personal life, releases second mixtape

By **JAZMINE OTEY**
The Breeze

His pencil patiently hovers above his notebook as music surrounds him. His mind is filled with nothing but melodies and beats as he listens to what the music is telling him. And then it happens: After two bars, he knows exactly what his music wants to say.

Local hip-hop artist and Blue Ridge Community College student Keano Illidge brings his pencil to the paper and allows the lyrics to flow, ready for the world to hear his message.

Illidge, also known as "Keynote," was raised in a music-oriented family and has been involved with music his entire life. His love for music blossomed when he began performing in musicals his junior year of high school. But it wasn't until his sophomore year of college that he began creating his own music and working on one of his biggest projects, "Keynote Address: Rough Draft."

"Most of the parts of my life while I was writing this tape were very rough, so that's kind of where the title 'Rough Draft' came from," Illidge said.

"Keynote Address: Rough Draft" focuses on different hardships that he faced and how he overcame them. With each track, he took significant moments and tied them together like the process of writing a rough draft, ultimately creating something candid and authentic.

"This tape reflects where I was at that point in time of my life but also how I was able to make it beautiful and turn it into something amazing," Illidge said.

"Rough Draft" is Illidge's second project, coming after his first album "Keynote Address: The Justice Campaign" that he released in 2016. The musician initially started working on songs for "Rough Draft" before "The Justice Campaign," but refused to release it until he knew it was perfected. He wanted to take his time with this project, given that it would be a "sketch" that symbolized who he was as an artist and how he intended to develop further.

Over two years later, on March 8, 2017, the deliberately crafted album

was released onto Illidge's SoundCloud account.

The album features eight tracks that collectively blend different styles of hip-hop and feature other local musicians such as Trankquility, Sonny Ward and 90Wyse.

Jamal McKay, one of Illidge's best friends for over 10 years, has

Illidge's manager, Chris Phillips, knew from the moment he first saw Illidge's intense passion for music that he had the potential to go far. The two crossed paths while both working at a Nike factory, and after hearing Illidge's first single "Love the Music," Phillips knew that he wanted to manage and support Illidge's music career.

"His music is totally different than where hip-hop is going now," Phillips said. "Initially hearing his music, seeing his energy and his passion for music, I thought we could do big things."

Phillips has a huge influence on the careful creation process of "Rough Draft." At first, Illidge was eager to release the album, but Phillips convinced Illidge that he needed to focus and take his time with this project to ensure that it represented all his strengths as an artist.

Taking his manager's advice, Illidge invested his different musical abilities into the album. He explored different music genres and not only showcased his talent for rapping, but singing as well.

"He's so versatile," Phillips said. "The ability to cross so many platforms is a great strength for him."

Illidge has come a long way with his music career, but he isn't done yet. The rapper plans to transfer to JMU as a junior next spring and apply to the music industry program. He claims that many JMU students have already influenced his music career and he aspires to further reach out to the many Dukes coming from different locations around the U.S. through his music.

"It's always been my dream school," Illidge said. "There is something about JMU that you can't find in any other school."

Through the creation of "Rough Draft," Illidge took a dark moment in his life and came out with something beautiful and positive. In a time where he felt alone, music saved his life. Now Illidge has the chance to use his own music to do what it has done for him onto others.

"As long as that one person hears my music, that likes it and can understand and relate to it, that's all I care about," Illidge said.

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CASSIDY HARVEY / THE BREEZE

Keano Illidge began his music career in a church choir and cites Michael Jackson and Eminem as influences. Illidge released a mixtape, "Keynote Address: Rough Draft," on March 8 that's available to stream on SoundCloud.

been supporting his music from the beginning and is proud of the determination and hard work Illidge put into "Rough Draft."

"I love the way he's doing his music right now," McKay said. "Every time I meet new friends I always recommend his music."

INFINITY | Student makes his mark in the competitive streetwear market

from front

While Shahcheraghi is aware of the movements around him, he also created his own, "#sluttyboyz," which is the tagline for the brand.

Selling streetwear is a competitive business, but Shahcheraghi doesn't let that stop him. He understands that growing a brand is a gradual process, not an instantaneous one.

"It's not an easy game to be a part of, but Sina's vision is so clear and particular," Navya Dev, a junior independent scholars major and close friend of Shahcheraghi, said. "I see 95 to Infinity really making a name for itself. Sina works so hard to make it happen."

Shahcheraghi's clear passion for his work is what has contributed to his success.

"95 to Infinity is different because of the way Sina has created the brand," Brooke Schedler, a junior finance major and a model in 95 to Infinity's latest photoshoot, said. "When I was working with him

I could really see his ideas for the brand and how passionate he is. I think that's important in a brand. If the creator isn't insanely obsessed and passionate, that won't shine through in the clothing."

Setting goals is what helps Shahcheraghi expand his brand. He works backward, setting long-term goals, then mid-term and short-term goals to keep himself on track, celebrating each accomplishment along the way. With his objectives lined up, Shahcheraghi has no plans to hold back from his brand as his future unfolds.

"People see me grinding, keep seeing the name out there and they want to get involved," Shahcheraghi said. "They want to be a part of it. It's like a little movement. You're part of this little clique who knows about 95 to Infinity. I'm hoping soon everyone will know about this."

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COURTESY OF KYLE VAN FLEET

Sina Shahcheraghi often reflects on societal norms and expectations when designing clothes for his brand.

EDITORS' TRACK OF THE WEEK

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Culinary collective

Multiple owners of Little Grill Collective weigh in on their love for the job

By **ABBY CHURCH**
The Breeze

Customers are greeted with a smile as soon as they walk into the Little Grill Collective. Paintings, prints and homemade hula-hoops decorate the walls of the cozy restaurant, and the smell of fresh pancakes hangs in the music-filled air as plates pass from the bustling kitchen to the tables of eager customers. Positive energy radiates throughout the Little Grill, and it's clear to see why they were selected as Best of the 'Burg for brunch.

Graham Brouder, Molly Delaney and Tim Wiggins are the three youngest and newest owners of the restaurant and have been working at the restaurant for about two years.

Delaney explained that a restaurant has resided on the property of Little Grill for the past 75 years, and it officially got its name in the 1940s. Since its beginning, the restaurant has cycled through various owners who've each brought their own unique aspect to the Grill.

While the Grill is well-known for its brunch, it's also known for its unique employment style. The Grill is best described as "employee owned." Brouder explained that when an employee works at the Grill for six months or more, they have the opportunity to become a trial member. Trial members shadow current worker-owners to learn more about how the Grill operates and are required to attend meetings and complete a "self-directed project." Once a trial member completes all these qualifications, they can go up for full membership, which denotes joint ownership. There are currently nine worker-owners at the Grill.

Membership and ownership are considered synonymous at the Grill. Employees are members of the cooperative, which owns the business. Employees have found that there are many benefits to the employment style. Running the restaurant as a cooperative has allowed them to have more stake in what happens at the Grill.

"I like that we have control over how we affect our community," Delaney said. "We choose to put money into local vendors and be open to other events around town."

Brouder cites the Grill as a place that promotes individuality. "I have found it to be a very inclusive and supportive work environment," Brouder said. "One that encourages people to be themselves and dress the way they want to and have a say in the music that we listen to and the events that go on here."

Delaney believes that because it's a worker-owner cooperative, it affects the pride of the employee's work.

"We actually have a fiscal and emotional responsibility in giving [the customers] the best pancakes they've ever had," Delaney said. "So there's a little extra love going into our service and creations and



ABBIE BLOUCH / THE BREEZE

Little Grill Collective, located on North Main Street, has been a restaurant since the '40s in many forms, but became a collective with multiple owners in 2003.

what we put out there."

Part of the Grill's vision is to source from as many local vendors as possible, creating favorites such as Blue Monkey pancakes (blueberry-banana buttermilk pancakes) and Egg Scramblers that feature seasonal foods such as brussel sprouts and parsnips.

"We change our menu with the seasons so it reflects what's available in our area," Wiggins said.

Delaney said that the great thing about purchasing from local vendors is that it keeps the money in the community.

"You're continuing to build up the community with that purchasing power," Delaney said. "It's just a great way to keep the economical fortitude within the community."

Employees at the Little Grill pride the restaurant on not being a corporation. They adhere to a "boots-on-the-ground" mentality and

everyone puts in their fair share of time. Wiggins likes the fact that money is passed to the people working there instead of up.

"The money isn't being passed up to unknown people, it's being passed up to people who are there working the shifts just like everyone else," Wiggins said. "That makes it easier to work for, I know. It sucks working for a place where you don't know where the money's going."

The employees at the Grill seem in unanimous about the importance of the sincerity in their work.

"We don't necessarily make as much as you would make in a corporate restaurant," Brouder said, "but at least you can know the food is served with integrity to people who we have fostered a relationship with over the years."

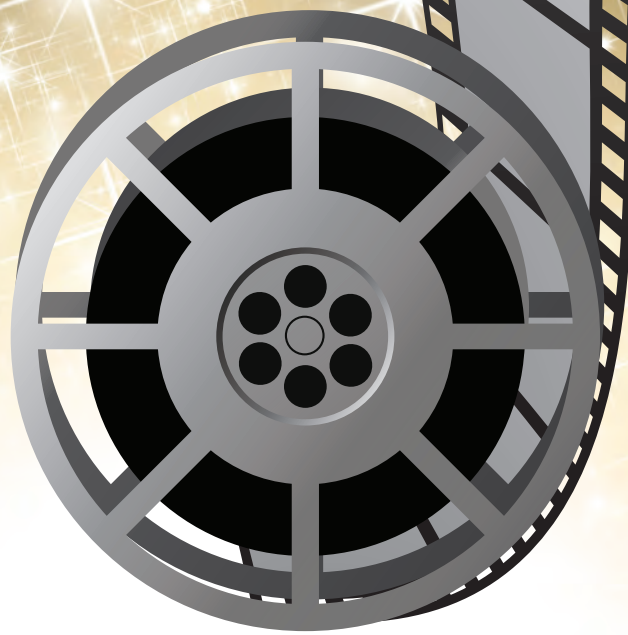
CONTACT Abby Church at churchae@dukes.jmu.edu.

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Read our review of Ed Sheeran's new album, "Divide," online at breezejmu.org/offthebeat.

The Harrison

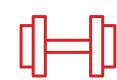


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DOUBLE TAKE

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WHO WINS MARCH MADNESS?

UNC or Duke



By **JAKE BROD**
The Breeze

The bracket is set and the best two and a half weeks of the year for sports fans is ready to tip off. This year's field has multiple championship caliber teams, but one team stands out from the rest: The University of North Carolina.

UNC's roster is loaded with talent at every position. Led by junior forward Justin Jackson and junior guard Joel Berry, the Tar Heels boast one of the best offenses in the country. The ability to have multiple guys take over a game on any given night is so crucial in the tournament, and UNC has three or four workhorses that can overwhelm opposing defenses.

If we take a look back at the Tar Heels' matchup against Duke on March 4, Jackson was ice cold for the majority of the game, shooting 6 for 17, including 1 of 7 from behind the arc. Most teams would get blown out if their star player

turned in a woeful performance like that, but not UNC. While the ACC Player of the Year struggled in that contest, Berry poured in a game-high 28 points and senior forward Isaiah Hicks added 21 points of his own in the Tar Heels' 90-83 victory. The depth of this UNC team is unrivaled, and it's nearly impossible for opponents to match up with their abundant offensive talent.

Additionally, the Tar Heels are a force on the boards and are among the best in limiting their opponent's second-chance opportunities. UNC leads the nation in rebound margin at 12.7 per game, led by senior forward Kennedy Meeks' 9.1 rebounds per game.

I've had North Carolina pegged as the best team in the country for quite some time now, but after the bracket was unveiled on Sunday, my confidence in it has skyrocketed. The Tar Heels are a near lock to make the Elite Eight and will likely face their first real challenge against UCLA

or Kentucky. It may seem like a tough matchup on paper, but UNC really thrives against teams that play a high-tempo offense and try to run with them, which both the Bruins and Wildcats could do.

The Tar Heels are coached by one of the greatest leaders in the nation in Roy Williams and his postseason success shouldn't go unnoticed. This is the seventh time that UNC has earned a No. 1 seed during Williams' tenure and the Tar Heels have advanced to at least the Elite Eight in each of the previous six times, including four Final Four appearances, three championship game appearances and two national championships.

UNC has the most potential of any unit in the nation, making it the team to beat in this year's tournament. The ceiling is the roof for this Tar Heels team. Let the madness begin.

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By **BRANDON ELLIS**
The Breeze

The NCAA Tournament is starting this week, driving college basketball fans crazy as they fill out multiple brackets. Everyone seems to be asking, "Who is the hottest team entering the NCAA tournament?" This year, the answer to that question is Duke.

The Blue Devils became the first five seed to win the ACC tournament, which draws a parallel with the 2010-11 UConn Huskies run to win the championship. They both have Hall of Fame coaches, great isolation players in Grayson Allen, Luke Kennard, Jayson Tatum and Kemba Walker. Those guys are clutch players, and finally, both Duke and UConn earned top-three seeds in the tournament, the only difference being that Duke is a second seed in this year's tournament.

Head coach Mike Krzyzewski is the type of leader that Duke needs to make a run in the tournament. He knows when to make the right adjustments. For example, in this year's ACC Semifinals, Duke was down 13 points to UNC in the second half. Krzyzewski made all the necessary adjustments; like changing the offensive philosophy and switching on defense to

turn a 13-point deficit to a double-digit victory, which included great performances from juniors Allen and Kennard along with freshman sensation Tatum.

Speaking of Tatum, he's become the best player in the nation in the last three weeks by hitting huge shot after huge shot for the Blue Devils. Tatum has averaged 19 points, 7.9 rebounds and 2.4 assists over the last three weeks, which includes the four ACC Tournament games. Many people say Kennard is Duke's best player, but it's the two of them combined with Allen that makes this team dangerous.

Duke had an average year compared to its lofty standards. Injuries to Tatum and freshman Henry Giles and Krzyzewski's back injury hurt the team's cohesion, but the Blue Devils seem to be rolling now. As UConn's 2010-11 national championship team showed, being hot at the right time means everything. Even though Duke was put in the same bracket as the No. 1 overall seeded Villanova Wildcats, Duke will advance to the Final Four out of the East and head to Phoenix en route to its sixth national title in program history.

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FOOTBALL | Standouts perform for NFL scouts at Bridgeforth

from front

Lee's unofficial 40-yard dash time was about 4.45 seconds, which seemed to fare well in comparison to others, and he was sharp when it came to throwing the ball.

As for Taylor Reynolds, the star cornerback clocked in with a 4.57-second 40, which seemed to please him. Reynolds attended last year's Pro Day and saw many of his numbers improve.

"My shuttle was very good and I think my broad jump improved," Reynolds said. "Last year for the 40 I think they clocked me at a 4.80 and today I ran under a 4.60 so I was happy with that."

Reynolds was a three-time all-conference player at JMU and has now shifted his sights on trying to get an opportunity to play in the NFL. He is listed as the 51st best cornerback according to nfldraftscout.com

Gage Steele seemed to turn the most heads, as the 6-foot-1-inch, 232-pound linebacker hit every drill hard. Steele is ranked 30th out of all inside linebackers according to nfldraftscout.com and was always encouraging his teammates as they ran their drills. His most impressive tally of the day was his 23 reps of 225 pounds on bench press.

"I was actually pretty nervous coming into today, almost more nervous than

any game," Steele said. "I thought I did pretty well for the weather out here."

Some other notable results from the afternoon were Rashad Davis running a 4.38-second 40, the fastest of the day, and running back Khalid Abdullah running a 4.60-second 40. Abdullah is ranked 47th among running backs entering the draft according to nfldraftscout.com.

The Dukes will wrap up their spring practices with their annual spring football game, which is scheduled for 1 p.m. on April 8 at Bridgeforth Stadium.

CONTACT Harry Holtzclaw at holtzchw@dukes.jmu.edu.



CONNOR WOISARD / THE BREEZE

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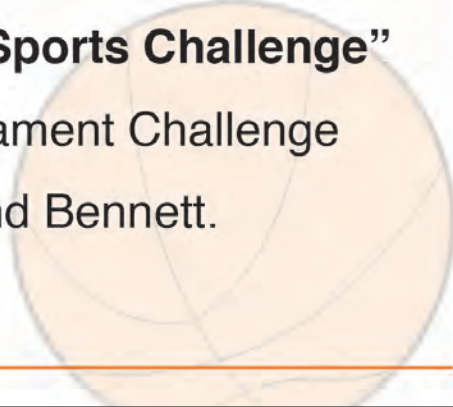
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