



The College Reporter

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Writing Center to hold first open mic night of the semester, looks forward to variety of voices

BY KATHERINE COBLE
News Editor

On the evening of March 3, the Writing Center will be hosting an Open Mic night, their second in history and first of the semester. Last semester's event was themed "food" and featured both original pieces and essays written by other authors. This semester's is entitled "Alternative Facts and Fiction" and will be held inside the Writing Center's home in Diagnothian Hall. Junior Caroline Lawrence, a cognitive science major and Writing Center tutor, says that the open mic night fits with the Center's mission to expose students to a wide variety of ideas and engage with those ideas in a meaningful way.

"It's a central tenet of our philosophy that you shouldn't need to bring a paper to a tutor of a certain discipline who is well-versed in that discipline - the idea being that somebody who is an intelligent and attentive reader can interpret anything and understand anything if it's well-said," Lawrence explains. She believes that the open mic night can be a way to start conversation on



Photo courtesy of fandm.edu

The Writing Center's open mic night will be held in Diagnothian Hall on March 3 and hopes to attract students from all walks of life that are passionate about writing.

F&M's campus while bringing together students with a love of words and literature.

Lawrence says the event was in part inspired by her experiences at the "Stoop Storytelling" events in her hometown of Baltimore, Maryland. Stoop Storytelling challenges seven writers to tell a story about a theme in just seven minutes. "They have these raucous shows, and they're really fun," Lawrence says. "People

from all over come to listen to them. I'm hoping we can recreate some of that fun-loving spirit."

Lawrence hopes that the event encourages students to go to the Writing Center for non-academic reasons. "I think there is a sense the students have that the Writing Center is writing much an academic center, and they come there and bring their papers and it's very formal. But of course, it's all peer-run. We're peer tu-

tors! And so we're trying to think of ways to bring students into the space in a setting that is not necessarily... pertaining directly to their papers." Lawrence says food will be available at the event.

So far planning the event has been fun for the tutors, according to Lawrence. She says she hopes to bring the community together through writing, something everyone at the Writing Center is passionate about and something that is integral to a liberal arts education.

While last semester's theme was "food", intended to bring the F&M community together because of something everyone can enjoy, this semester's is the slightly more contentious "Alternative Facts and Fiction." The former is a reference to comments made by Kellyanne Conway, a member of Donald Trump's administration. Lawrence says that the theme was chosen to reflect a shift in campus conversation following the election of Donald Trump.

"I think everybody wants in on that [conversation], to a certain

see WRITING, page 2

Kim Jong-nam, half-brother of Kim Jong-un, is assassinated by poison in Malaysia

BY ZHIFAN YANG
Staff Writer

On February 13, 2017, Kim Jong-nam, Kim Jong-un's older paternal half-brother, was assassinated by two women at Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Malaysia.

Kim was assassinated when he was waiting to check in for the flight return to Macau at Kuala Lumpur International Airport. Two young women approached Kim. One of them wrapped her arm around Kim's neck and the other one rubbed his face

with her hands, dousing him with toxic liquid. According to the security tape, Kim initially wanted to go to the bathroom to wash his face but later on felt agonizing pain and turned to ask a flight crew for help. He died on the way from the airport to the hospital. By then, the two women had fled away by taxi.

The two women were arrested by Malaysian police. They were from Vietnam and Indonesia. They said that they were recruited, trained, and equipped for the task by four North Koreans who already fled the country.

On February 24, the Malaysian authorities said that Kim Jong Nam's body was tested positive for the VX nerve agent, a dangerous and banned chemical substance listed as a chemical weapon under Chemical Weapons Convention.

Kim Jong-nam was the eldest son of Kim Jong-il, the former leader of North Korea. His mother Song Hye-rim was a North Korean actress and was not approved of by his grandfather Kim Il-sung. After Kim Il-sung's death, Kim Jong-nam was well treated and once expected to

become the leader of the country after his father. After he studied abroad in Switzerland, Japan, and Russia, he insisted on reform and market-opening as China had done, which might be one of the reasons why he was disliked by Kim Jong-il later. He lived in-between Beijing and Macau in around 2010. After his half-brother Kim Jong-un declared as the supreme leader of North Korea, he disappeared in Macau. According to South Korea news media, he had survived two assassination attempts

see ASSASSINATION, page 2

Inside this Issue...

Opinion & Editorial

Fake Facebook accounts may be used to spy on students at F&M

page 4

Campus Life

V-Warriors present *Vagina Monologues*, raise funds for Mlagro House

page 7

Arts & Leisure

Kanye West redeems clothing line with Yeezy Season 5 at NYFW

page 8

Sports

F&M Men's Basketball concludes season following gritty effort in playoffs

page 9

CRIME WATCH

Friday, February 17, 10:28 p.m. - The Department of Public Safety (DPS) responded to a noise complaint Ware College House.

Saturday, February 18, 12:32 a.m. - DPS reported of an intoxicated underage student Ware College House.

Saturday, February 18, 12:49 a.m. - DPS reported an intoxicated underage student Buchanan Hall.

Saturday, February 18, 2:40 p.m. - DPS responded to a noise complaint at 555 W Lemon St.

Saturday, February 18, 11:22 p.m. - DPS cited an intoxicated underage student Ware College House

Saturday, February 18, 11:52 p.m. - DPS responded to an intoxicated underage student Bonchek College House

Sunday, February 19, 3:15 p.m. - DPS recieved a report of vandalism in Thomas Hall that occured sometime in the previous day.

Sunday, February 19, 6:42 p.m. - DPS reported a drug violation in New College House.

Monday, February 20, 12:22 a.m. - DPS recieved a noise complaint at 526 N Charlotte St.

Monday, February 20, 3:00 p.m. - DPS recieved a report of harrasment by an alumni sometime between February 18 and February 20.

Monday, February 20, 7:50 p.m. - DPS responded to a fire alarm at 608 W James St.

Tuesday, February 21, 3:08 a.m. - DPS responded to a fire alarm in Thomas Hall.

Wednesday, February 22, 12:10 a.m. - DPS responded to a noise complaint at 526 N Charlotte which resulted in an additional drug violation.

Wednesday, February 22, 11:55 a.m. - DPS took a report for theft that occurred in New College House sometime between February 17 and 21.

Thursday, February 23, 11:07 p.m. - DPS reported a drug violation in New College House.

Assassination: Questions emerge following Kim Jong-nam's death

continued from page 1

before his death.

Countries have held different attitudes toward the assassination. South Korea and Japan have insisted since the very beginning that the man named Kim Chol (an alias often used by Kim Jong-nam) was Kim Jong-nam himself and that he was killed Kim Jong-un. They think the assassination is a way for Kim Jong-un to ensure the steadiness of his power before his next step of the nuclear research. Malaysia refused to allow North Korea officials to participate the process of the autopsy and said that they need to compare the DNA from dead man's relatives before confirming his identity.

North Korea is dissatisfied with Malaysia and refuses to provide any information of "Kim Chol" and urges Malaysia to give the body to North Korea. According to the North Korean ambassador to Malaysia, Pyongyang only knows that the dead is a man named Kim Chol from North Korea but not that it is Kim Jong-nam. Because the process of the autopsy is not monitored by North Korea, they would not trust the result by Malaysia. The United States and China have yet to release statements on the incident.

First-year Zhifan Yang is a staff writer. Her email is zyang1@fandm.edu.



Photo courtesy of www.telegraph.co.uk/

Kim Jong-nam was assassinated in Kuala Lumper International Airport on February 13 by two women who claim to have been trained by North Koreans.

Writing: Writing Center hopes to spark conversation with open mic night

continued from page 1

degree," Lawrence admits, while also acknowledging that some people are "sick of it" due to a high saturation of political-themed events and discussions on campus in recent months. "We picked Alternative Facts and Fictions because it's an open prompt... 'alternative facts' is sort of the same thing as saying 'fiction', by definition. And fiction has an entirely different connotation. We wanted to include something that could be interpreted as a current events theme, but could also be interpreted as simply... utopia and fantasy and dystopia."

When asked if the reference to alternative facts could potentially alienate Republicans on campus that might otherwise have participated in the event, Lawrence said that the tutors "have been very worried about that, truthfully... That's why we included the 'and Fiction' part of the title. We wanted to make it clear that it's not specifically supposed to be an outwardly political gathering."

Lawrence says that, as per the event's tagline, all students and all ideas are welcome. She hopes that everyone feels safe enough in the space to share their work or perform someone else's. "Mostly," Lawrence concludes, "We want to enjoy a pleasant night together with some sort of theme uniting us."

First-year Katherine Coble is the News Editor. Her email is kco-coble@fandm.edu.

Greenhouse Liaisons program plans workshops to encourage sustainability

BY JONATHAN ZELINGER
Staff Writer

Over the course of the next month, The Fair Trade Cafe is hosting sustainable food workshops on Friday afternoons and evenings.

Director Sarah Dawson, who runs The Center for a Sustainable Environment, told *The College Reporter* that the workshops are designed and run all out of student initiative.

"It is the first year of the workshops, which are possible because of our new Greenhouse Liaison program. The liaisons decided that the one topic they wanted to focus on this year is education regarding sustainable food choices and options, from start to finish - at that's also the goal of these workshops! We have so many options available to us here in Lancaster County," said Dawson. The workshops are designed to inform Franklin & Marshall students about all of these available options that Dawson mentioned.

The first of the five workshops discussed sustainable shopping.

Brooks College House first-year Stephanie Liu led an hour-long workshop teaching students how to eat more sustainably.

One good piece of advice that Liu, who is the Green House Liaison for Brooks House gave, was that students should be aware of, and sign up for CSA, or the community supported agriculture program. The CSA—Lancaster Farm Fresh—is all organic and local produce, which is good for students, good for the environment, and good for the local economy. Members pick up at the Center each week which gives them more than enough produce for the week, and possibly enough to share.

The workshop, which hosted about thirty students, went as well as planned and has sparked interest all around campus. Next week, on March 1, a Greenhouse Liaison will be teaching students how to make black bean and sweet potato tacos. Students will benefit from catching at least one event before the series is over.

Junior Jonathan Zelinger is a staff writer. His email is jzelinge@fandm.edu.



Photo courtesy of www.fandm.edu.

China announces ban on coal imports from North Korea over continued nuclear testing

BY BENJAMIN GROVE
Layout Assistant

Political decisions seem to be on the rise this winter, not only in the United States but in Asia. A new report from CNN gives the details about how China has banned all coal imports from North Korea. The tensions between China and North Korea have been growing recently in response to missile tests in Pyongyang, North Korea’s capital city. The response came in an effort by China to warn North Korea to stop creating and testing nuclear weapons. In September 2016, the UN banned the country from testing their nuclear warheads. When North Korea tested their warhead anyway, China drafted a resolution to create sanctions against North Korea, in hopes of getting a positive response out of the country. However, it has seemed to do the opposite, as North Korea has continued to test their weapons in the capital city. That moment made China’s government question the tie between themselves and North Korea’s government.



Photo courtesy of atimes.com.

China is considered North Korea’s strongest ally and economic partner, but China recently announced they would ban all coal imports from North Korea.


In 2014, CNN reports, 86% of North Korea’s coal exports were to China. This statistic amounts to \$1.03B USD, and without the export of coal, North Korea’s economy could experience a significant decrease in revenue. However, according to a North Korean economist, Ri Gi Song, the ban on exporting coal to China will hardly make a dent

in North Korea’s economy. He believes that the country’s other major exports, magnesite and graphite--materials used in the production of smartphones--will sustain it. Although the United Nations and China have both tried to intervene before North Korea acts to test its weapons, the United States is also putting its hand in

the situation. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson met with China’s Foreign Minister Wang Yi last Friday at a conference in Germany to urge China to use their power to “to moderate North Korea’s destabilizing behavior.” While the Chinese government disapproves of North Korea’s nuclear testing, it does not necessarily disagree with anything else about North Korea’s government or Kim Jong Un’s regime. The ban has caused growing tension between the two countries. North Korea’s state-run news station KCNA reported that a neighboring country, which could almost certainly be named as China, is working with North Korea’s enemies to destroy their “social system.” As tension between North Korea and numerous countries continues to rise, the UN, and now China, will seemingly do whatever it takes to encourage North Korea to quit its nuclear development and testing. First-year Benjamin Grove is a Layout Assistant. His email is bgrove@fandm.edu.

Interested in writing for the News section?


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The College Reporter

Transparency. Accuracy. Credibility.

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT
NEWSPAPER OF
FRANKLIN & MARSHALL COLLEGE



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The College Reporter was formed in 1964, as a successor to The Student Weekly, which was formed in 1915 by the union of The F&M Weekly, founded 1891, and The College Student, founded 1881. The crest of The College Reporter was designed in 2004 by Kim Cortes '05.

The College Reporter is a weekly student-edited newspaper, published every Monday except during exam and vacation periods. The website was created by Tim Jackson '12, Christian Hartranft '12, Joshua Finkel '15, and Lauren Bejzak '13. The website was updated by Kimberly Givant '17.

The Editorial Board, headed by the Editor-in-Chief, has sole authority and full responsibility for the content of the newspaper. The College Reporter and its subsidiaries are designated public forums. All content is selected and printed by a board of elected or appointed students. The Masthead Editorial is the majority opinion of the Editorial Board. No other parties are in any other way responsible for its content, and all inquiries concerning that content should be directed to the Editor in Chief. All opinions reflect those of the author and not that of The College Reporter, with the exception of the Masthead Editorials.

Editor Commentary

Fake Facebook accounts may be used to spy on students at Franklin & Marshall

BY JOE YAMULLA
Opinion & Editorial Editor
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Going to a small school like Franklin & Marshall can sometimes be frustrating. Everyone knows you, everyone knows your business, and many times there is not much of a sense of privacy. Recently, I've come across a troubling finding. There are some Facebook accounts befriending F&M students (especially those in on-campus organizations) who don't appear to actually exist. Not only are these fake accounts almost definitely not F&M students, they don't even seem to be real people. This has become a major concern to students, including myself, who fear that these accounts have been created by college administrators to spy on what students do and what they post. If this were the case, we are dealing with an extremely inappropriate, abusive breach of privacy against F&M students.

One account in particular goes by the name Ramona Maria Ro-

driguez. After checking the F&M online database and campus address book, this person does not appear to exist. There is, what I believe to be, stone cold evidence that proves she is a made-up person. This leads to some scary thoughts. First, there is clearly someone who made this account and befriended hundreds of students just to keep an eye on what they're doing. In my opinion, this was a calculated move by a person with a genuine interest in how F&M students present themselves on social media. There is barely any sense of privacy at Franklin & Marshall College. Even with such a small community, no student should be suffocated, lurked upon, or judged through a fake account's manipulation.

If you are friends with the "Rodriguez" account, I suggest you delete her, unless you are okay with an unknown person going out of his or her way to make an account with the intention of spying on your personal activity. I, for one, am certainly not okay with it and I was added by the account months ago. I

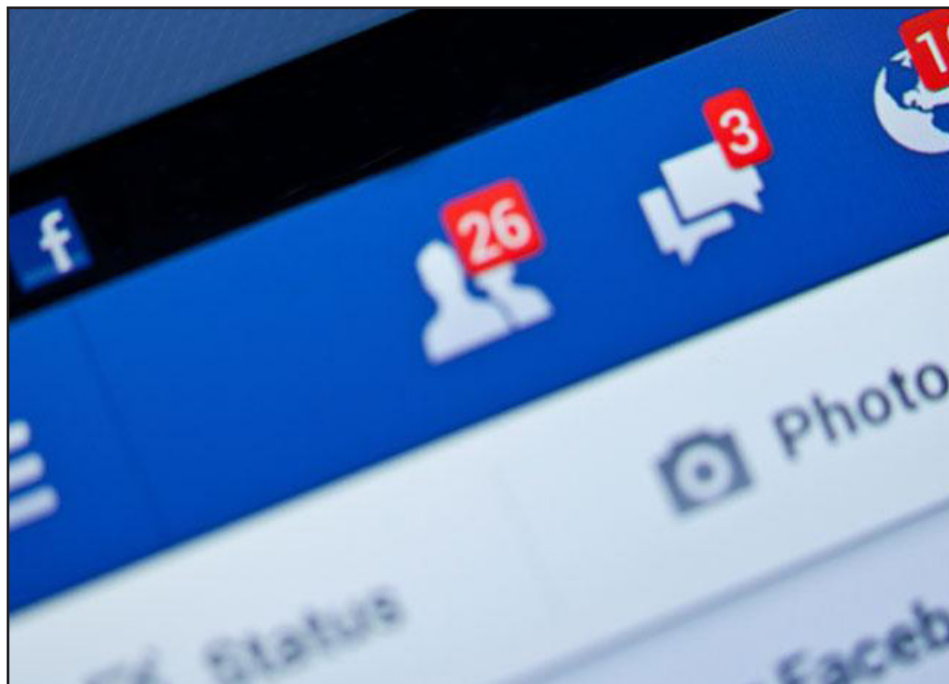


Photo courtesy of www.pcmag.com

accepted without thought, as I do for most F&M students. However, as I became suspicious of the account, things started to add up. I'm a white male on campus who is a member of a plethora of organizations. I'm in a fraternity and have held leadership positions. I'm an easy target to stalk. I mean, why not check if a successful student could mess up by posting something dumb on Facebook? I'm using myself as an example, but I know for a fact this account is friends with hundreds of other F&M students just like me. Even if our accounts are appropriate (like most are) filled with pictures of dogs and memes, befriending an account like this still makes us susceptible to inappropriate judgments via a major invasion of privacy. I still don't know what the motives of this account holder are, nor if it actually is a member of the administration.

However, I feel that if that is the case, this individual should have the courage to speak up and apologize to the student body for his/her controversial presence on social media.

Let's use this as an example to learn. It is an opportunity to realize how vulnerable social media makes us, and also that this tiny school doesn't give us much space nor boundaries. I know I'm not alone in being bothered by this account. I also know that I'm not alone in desiring some privacy. So, let's keep our eyes open. Even without knowing the intent of fake Facebook accounts, I can assure you that they could be extremely dangerous when having access to your every move on social media.

Junior Joe Yamulla is the Opinion & Editorial Editor. His email is jyamulla@fandm.edu.

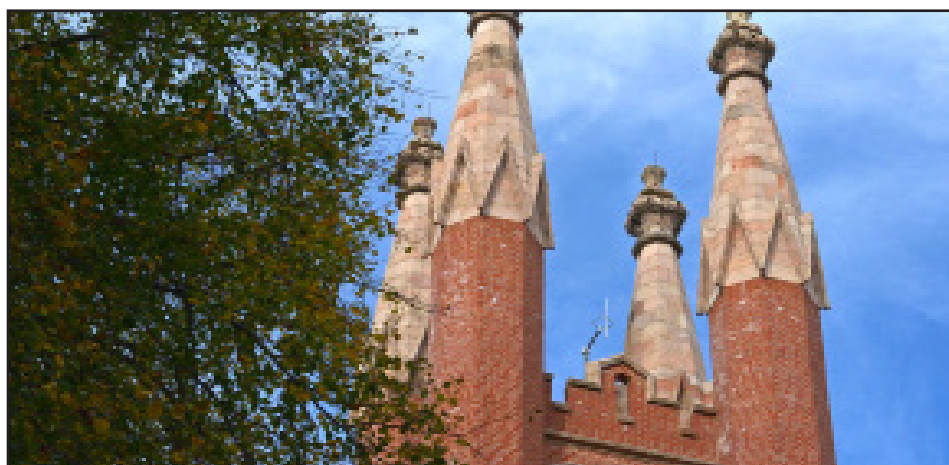


Photo courtesy of www.lancasteronline.com

Suppressing conservative voices is dangerous, damaging to F&M's educative atmosphere

BY JOE YAMULLA
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Recently, it's come to my attention that the true liberal arts foundation of Franklin & Marshall has lost some of its value. That foundation, of course, is an environment with an open dialogue, free flowing ideas, and diverse opinions.

After spending time speaking with a number of conservative students on this campus, I've realized that many feel their voices have been silenced, ignored, and even attacked at Franklin & Marshall.

I've been a student here for almost three years now, and never quite understood this sentiment just because my beliefs fall within the favored liberal values on campus. However, I feel that this is an issue we have to take seriously as students, faculty, and administration. If we aren't lis-

tening to all sides, even the ones we don't want to hear, we don't have dialogue or a truly educative community. That gives us a mere monologue which ostracizes and discourages those with dissenting opinions.

I've been wanting this editorial to be written for a few weeks now. However, those who I've reached out to about writing, were fearful that they would be attacked for their conservative voice. This alone, at the very least, shows there is some fundamental flaw in the way we do things, the way we think. Further comments that followed after turning down the opportunity to write were that he "felt would be labeled a sexist if he shared that he is pro-life due to religious reasons" or that he "would be regarded as a racist and a bigot because he voted for Donald Trump in the past election."

Don't get me wrong, Donald Trump has some major issues

and I did not vote for him. However, there are major complexities in regards to how people think and how they vote. Furthermore, we have the liberty of choice each election. Regardless of how strongly we disagree with someone's decision, no one has the right to verbally attack, look down upon, nor label someone who decided to vote for Donald Trump.

There is a difference between having a fundamentally different opinion than someone, and attacking them for exercising their own specific democratic duty.

Judgment is the Achilles heel to a liberal arts college. Conservative students, even if they have the "unpopular opinion" that you don't want to hear, have the right to feel comfortable on campus.

Suppressing "opposing" voices or simply not listening to them is incredibly dangerous. Students have the right to share their views without being called

names or labeled as something they're not. Every single individual here is extremely complex and unique. Where we come from, how we were raised, what we were taught, and our familial circumstances are just some of the many determining factors that affect our political views. If we want Franklin & Marshall to truly be a liberal arts college, we have to promote dialogue, not monologue. This starts (even though it may be difficult for some) with listening to dissenting opinions, learning about them, and trying to understand why they were made.

Let's listen, not attack. No student should feel self-conscious of his or her views, even if they oppose the popular opinion and belief here on campus.

Junior Joe Yamulla is the Opinion & Editorial Editor. His email is jyamulla@fandm.edu.

Editor & Staff Writer Commentary

Writer tackles President Trump’s attitude towards media as enemy of the public

BY NICK RIEBEL
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Whether we are cursed by fate or not, the American people certainly live in interesting times. It is a time when the incumbent president declares that the mainstream news media is the “enemy of the American People.” Throughout the president’s press conference, in which, amongst other things, he seemed to have no idea what uranium was, he told the journalists and reporters gathered there that ““The public doesn’t believe you people anymore... maybe I had something to do with that”” (https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/17/business/trump-calls-the-news-media-the-enemy-of-the-people.html?_r=0). It seems clear that Donald Trump has undertaken a deliberate policy of delegitimizing any major political entity which he cannot control or coerce, and that includes our press. This president, who either does not know of, or does not understand, our Constitution and its First Amendment, will likely pursue a policy in which the media is either useless in its role in informing citizens of current events and being a watchdog for our government’s activities, or directly or indirectly controlled by his administration (with some overlap between these two scenarios entirely possible). So, although I do not believe that this president is entirely rational, attacking the media makes sense from this perspective. Indeed, it is his best option for dealing with entities which call him out on his lies and behavior—claim that they are, in fact, the ones who lie. And whom will his supporters

believe: the man they revere, or the institution they have been taught for decades to distrust and even hate? It should be noted that the professional, mainstream media, and the reporters and journalists who make it up, are not perfect. They have been responsible for lazy and inaccurate reporting in the past (see their conduct leading up to and the beginning of the Iraq War). They have often let politicians get away with falsehoods, or other acts of disingenuousness, due to not wanting to lose access to men and women who wield power. And, despite the myth that the media is some nefarious left-wing or liberal entity, it is unfortunately far from the truth, as wealthy interests ensure that the media seldom, if ever, reports news from a perspective that is not approved by the wealthy and powerful. See the reporting on the Great Recession — you will find that there were far too few calls to investigate the individuals whose greed and recklessness made it possible. In other words, the mainstream media is an entity made up of many different people and parts, but which is generally a pro-Wall Street, pro-Establishment, tepid watchdog which is a little too willing to show people entertainment over important information. And President Trump still feels that it is too threatening to him. Only that media which is too weak or too cowardly to challenge him (or too cynical, see Fox News) will be allowed to survive. What path will American media outlets take? In the past, when I usually thought of brave, bold reporting, CNN wasn’t the first thing to spring to mind. But I have to give credit where credit is due, in that whereas in the past they

let politicians get away with deceit, they refuse to not let the more obvious liar, Trump, get away. And other media companies are deciding that perhaps their access to power isn’t as precious as making sure that Trump is covered by an un-intimidated press. And, for Trump, this represents a serious problem. He cannot completely censor journalism without invoking dictatorship, and he cannot ignore their reporting, as it is a clear and present threat to his legitimacy and popularity, such as it is, amongst Americans. Hence, his strategy of de-legitimization and demonization of the media. Will the intrepid reporters of the New York Times and CNN be cowed, or enticed with illusory promises of access, willing to forgive Trump some outrageous fibs now and then so that their relationship with the White House can be comfortable? Or will Trump make that increasingly difficult to the point of being impossible, and the media is forced into not only a strong watchdog role, but one that is aggressively critical of Trump’s administration and Trump himself? In this battle, Trump will emerge victorious if he succeeds in presenting media outlets who oppose his administration as “fake” and working for the opposition (it should not be lost on the reader that the Republicans have done this for decades, hence the myth of the “liberal media”). Trump, though, takes the old GOP strategy to new extremes, in that he will attempt to not only defeat the mainstream media’s efforts to hold him accountable without turning to overly tyrannical measures, but he will sidestep the Fox News and

conservative talk-radio middlemen to broadcast his propaganda directly to the American people. After all, if the mainstream media is the enemy of the American people, surely, you can only trust what Trump tells you is happening in the world. This is what Republican Representative Lamar Smith urged us to do, after all: <http://www.cnn.com/2017/01/25/politics/lamar-smith-donald-trump-news/>. I urge you to be on your guard: if the media fails, we could see the rise of a new era of “journalism”— that in which many (not all, but many) get their news directly from the government, with many of those believing it to be the gospel truth, regardless of its veracity. In other words, journalists and reporters have to do their job, or they will essentially cede their duties to a president who will make certain that the media he controls will never contradict or challenge him. And even if Trump doesn’t strike a decisive blow against press freedom, it is not difficult to imagine that his successors, given the expanding role of executive power (which seems difficult to turn back), will. We still have a free press. It’s still worth saving. It is not too late to save it from corruption or destruction. Journalists if you do your jobs well, I think that Americans will pay closer, more serious attention to what you’re saying. If your ethics don’t motivate you, perhaps your self-interest will. If you fail, American democracy is gravely wounded, perhaps fatally. Senior Nick Riebel is a staff writer. His email is nriebel@fandm.edu.

France’s attempt at secularism causes unease, fears of marginalization

BY ALEX PINSK
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Since its founding, France has been a country focused on national unity, supporting nationalistic ideals, and struggling immensely with multiculturalism. It is a country that strives for unification in all aspects of life including religion. While France may appear to be inclusive of all people belonging to different social, political, economic, and religious groups, in my opinion, its idolization of secularism holds the nation back from further growth and progression. France’s long-established *laïcité* policy with regard to education was not enforced until the French government readdressed the issue. In March of 2004, President Jacques Chirac proposed a reexamination of religion in the public school system and the lower house voted to put to action the rule that banned the wearing of noticeable religious attire in public schools, according to The Economist. In efforts to unify students and promote fair and equal treatment of

every student, the government forbid students from wearing large necklaces with religious symbols, or any sort of conspicuous jewelry, but most namely forbid the donning of a hijab or veil. *Laïcité*, or secularism, was the main cause for this decision; the nation and the government were interested in unification, and remaining secular was the best way they could think of to implement secularism from a young age. In France, this policy is incredibly controversial for obvious reasons. There is still constant backlash over this law that is now so strongly enforced. While the government’s intention may have been to make everyone feel included, on the one hand, the results have been far from inclusive. Ultimately, many people feel marginalized and as though they have no freedom of religion or freedom of expression. There have been accounts of people feeling ashamed of their culture and less than eager to talk about religion with those around them. They have to hide part of their identity every single day school day.

On the other hand, some people think that implementing *laïcité* puts everyone at a fair and equal place in school because everyone is practicing secularism. No religious students, even Catholics—Catholicism is the primary religion in France—can be seen wearing an obvious cross necklace or any other sort of religious attire. Thus, in a convoluted way, everyone is being marginalized. So, no one is being marginalized. Personally, I think that however honorable the French government’s efforts may have been to promote a unified nation, they just ended up with extreme assimilation. In my opinion, freedom of religion is a fundamental human right, in school or not. Whether it is part of a person’s heritage and culture or just a personal preference, everyone should be able to express their beliefs in any way they choose. I am not one to advocate for public schools holding prayer sessions or religious ceremonies, something else that France’s government would prohibit. But if an individual wants to pray in school,

wants to wear a headscarf, wants to express his/her religion, there should be no law forbidding him/her from doing so; there should be no obstacle. France is socially not the most progressive nation, namely due to its intense nationalism and desire for a secular society. It has much to work on in terms of inclusion and accepting all forms of multiculturalism. And in many ways we do see progression with regard to the French government and its trying to adapt and evolve with its fellow countries. However, the bans on religious clothing and attire in schools are massive steps backwards. While our laws regarding religion in public schools are much less strict here in the U.S., we still have a ways to go with regard to making everyone feel accepted and included in schools and elsewhere. Let’s take steps forwards, not backwards. First-year Alex Pinsk is the Assistant Opinion & Editorial Editor. Her email is mpinsk@fandm.edu.

Campus Life

K. David Harrison speaks on languages in danger of extinction around the world

BY LYDIA WOLFE
Staff Writer

This week’s Common Hour, entitled “What Happens When Languages Die? Cultural Survival Without a Tongue,” was presented by K. David Harrison. Harrison is the Associate Provost and a Professor of Linguistics at Swarthmore College, as well as the Director of Research at the Living Tongues Institute for Endangered Languages. His talk covered the nature and effect of language extinction, as well as the efforts that are being made to reverse the process and revitalize endangered languages. This event was proposed by Alex King, Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology at F&M.

Harrison began his talk by teaching the audience a word in Koro, an endangered language of Northeast India, “kap-la-ye.” This word is a greeting and also means thank you. He then proceeded to talk about language broadly, describing how there are more than 7,000 languages spoken in the world today, and that “we don’t realize how much linguistic diversity there is in our own area or neighborhood.” He explained that an estimated half of the languages on Earth are endangered and that there is a skewed distribution of languages to people, meaning that 79% of the world’s population speaks only 85 languages. Another 21% speaks 3,000 languages, and the remaining .1% of the population speaks another 3,500 languages.

Harrison introduced the concept of a language hotspot, created through his work with National Geographic.

A language hotspot is an area where there are low levels of scientific documentation, high levels of diversity, and high levels of extinction. There are about two dozen of these hotspots in the world, and the rest of Harrison’s talk focused on four of them.

In Siberian Russia, Harrison began to study the Tuvan language. When he arrived, he was put to work collecting yak manure - a job that may seem insignificant, but actually led him to the awareness that the Tuvan language has many different words for yak manure in its different stages, a fact that illustrates the importance of this concept in the Tuvan culture. Another feature of this language is their use of the liver to describe emotions, much like the heart is used in English. Although “both concepts are biologically false,” they are very much a part of their respective cultures.

Another contrast between the Tuvan language and English was the concept of past and future. Tuvan speakers think of the past as being in front of them, because you can see it, and the future as being behind, because one does not know what will happen, much like you cannot see what is behind you. Harrison said that visiting the Tuvan people taught him that “language is more than we think. It is not just grammar but also landscapes, rivers, metaphors, time and space.”

Harrison then proceeded to discuss the Panau language, which has fewer than 500 speakers in a single village in Papua New Guinea. The Panau people had one request for Harrison; they wanted to see their language on the internet. None of these people had

ever used the internet, but they had heard about its capabilities and wanted to use it to expand their language. Visiting these people taught Harrison that “technology is an opportunity” and the multilingual and multicultural nature of the internet can be utilized in the preservation of small languages, many of which are “poised to cross the digital divide.”

The Siletz language taught Harrison that a single speaker of a language can be enough to undertake its revitalization, as when he visited a Native American tribe in Oregon. He discovered that the language had only one fluent speaker. Siletz, like many languages, had never been written down, as the language was “carried in the hearts and minds of ancestors... learned by each generation.” Harrison helped to create an online talking dictionary for these people.

Lastly, Harrison turned his attention back to the Koro language, spoken by less than 1,000 people in six villages in Northeast India. This study brought the concept of hidden languages to Harrison’s attention, and he realized that the number of known languages will continue to increase as more hidden languages are discovered. Koro also helped Harrison to realize the positive effects of globalization in allowing unknown languages to be heard, which sheds light on the culture of these people. “If we don’t know about something we can’t possibly care about it.”

Harrison concluded his talk by discussing the importance of preserving these endangered languages. He discussed how much of what humans know about rare animal species is



Photo courtesy of www.fandm.edu

K. David Harrison presented at Common Hour on endangered languages, highlighting four languages close to extinction and his work to keep them alive using the internet.

contained in these small languages, and if these languages die so will our knowledge of these animals. He explained how different languages give us different frameworks for looking at the world. He emphasized that “language is a seed bed for ideas,” and in order to understand intelligence, one must understand language. Perhaps most importantly, language is a significant part of a people’s culture, and as Anthony Degio, a Koro-Aka speaker from Yangse village, told Harrison, “loss of culture is loss of identity.”

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Sarah Hafiz ’18, Sonia Hafiz ’20 lead campus presentation on Syrian refugee crisis

BY SARAH FRAZER
Staff Writer

This past Thursday, February 24, students Sarah Hafiz ’18 and Sonia Hafiz ’20 gave a moving presentation about the ongoing Syrian refugee crisis. They described their experience working with refugees in Jordan and showed a movie that captured the plight of the refugees.

The Syrian conflict has created eleven million refugees, and hundreds of thousands of people have died from it. These refugees are largely concentrated in neighboring Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey.

There are tradeoffs for which country would be better to leave to. Jordan and Lebanon are more culturally similar to Syria, while Turkey has considerably better living conditions. The refugees who leave Syria do so not as a choice, as many people in the documentary explained, “I didn’t decide

to leave Syria, I was forced to leave Syria.”

Sarah and Sonia traveled to a refugee camp in Jordan in a program with other American students with the Islamic group, Helping Hand for Relief and Development.

Their group worked mostly with children and families, with the mindset that they should seek to provide skills necessary for long term development and empowerment, rather than merely providing handouts. For instance, one program they had was to teach women to sew, which would enable the refugees to sell the products that they sewed.

Sarah and Sonia’s group also visited orphanages, which they and the other students in the program were nervous about at first, since most of them did not speak Arabic, and they were not sure how to communicate with the children. However, once they arrived at the orphanage, they found creative ways of communication. For

instance, the kids loved Snapchat filters, particularly the one with the dog face.

At the orphanage, the students heard many grim stories about what the children experienced during the Syrian Civil War. For instance, a quiet, six-year-old girl had witnessed her grandmother being hit with a shrapnel bomb. The girl was so traumatized that she could not speak for a year, although she is in the process of getting better.

When Sarah and Sonia’s group went to leave, the girl held onto the leg of one of their roommates, showing how much a little bit of kindness could affect the children.

Many shared these types of sinister stories, of parents being killed in front of their children, or the bodies of the children’s parents being dragged to their houses.

Even still, in spite of all the trauma they had experienced, the children tried to cope and have fun. They loved

to play with the students’ cameras for instance. Meanwhile, Syria is only miles away, so they can hear the violence, and sometimes feel the ground shake from bombings. It is inescapable for refugees in these camps.

Some refugees prefer to live outside of the camps in tents, since some of the camps are dangerous, or they try to forge a new life in crowded cities.

Some of the refugees have been upgraded to living in trailers. While living in a trailer is looked down upon in the U.S., in Jordan, it is viewed as a big step up.

Often, refugees who live outside of camps may have families, for instance a mother and her children may live somewhere in a Jordanian city. In many, if not all cases, however, families are separated, which is why so many kids live in orphanages.

After Sarah and Sonia shared their experiences in Jordan, they presented

see REFUGEE, page 2

Refugee: F&M students share experience with Syrian refugees in Jordan

continued from page 6

a documentary, which further illustrated the inhumanity and brutality of the Syrian refugee crisis. Filmmakers in the movie also traveled to refugee camps to see for themselves the conditions in which refugees lived and the journeys those refugees took that brought them to the camps. One boy, who used to like going to school, was now too afraid to go because his experience in school in Syria was traumatizing. For older refugees, they have lost everything they built and accomplished in their lives in Syria. One man, Ismail, was studying at a university to become a teacher. He,

along with tens of thousands of Syrians every month, was forced to leave that all behind.

Yet, the Syrian refugees that Sarah and Sonia met, as well as the ones in the documentary, still found a way to be hopeful. Many expressed their faith in God as a way for them to deal with all that has happened to them. One woman said of her children who were able to attend school in a refugee camp, “Thank God they are still in school.” This gratitude seems quite remarkable given all that has happened to these refugees since they were forced to flee their homeland.

Many students at F&M may want to help with humanitarian efforts to

mitigate the effects of the refugee crisis.

The Ware Institute emailed students about a service opportunity next Saturday, and, in record time, the spots for the event were all filled. Unfortunately, it is unlikely that there will be many more events like that. Given the Trump administration’s actions taken to ban refugees from entering the country, Americans wanting to aid Syrian refugees have very few options. The only thing students and Americans throughout the country can do, at this point, is to advocate for the U.S. to change its stance on admitting Syrian refugees.

These refugees, like the children

in the orphanage in Jordan, fleeing chemical warfare from the Assad regime, beheadings, or a life of sex slavery from ISIS, need American assistance. News reporting is supposed to be objective, and, indeed, this is irrefutable fact.

The Syrian Refugee crisis is the largest of its kind since World War II. The United States took the easy way out then, not accepting Jewish refugees fleeing the Nazis. We all know how that ended. Let us do better this time.

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V-Warriors present Ensler play, *Vagina Monologues*, raise funds for Milagro House

BY SHIRA GOULD

Staff Writer

The *Vagina Monologues* is an award-winning play first performed in 1996 at the Westside Theater. This past week, V-Warriors brought it to Franklin & Marshall.

The play was written by Eve Ensler in 1996, and was purposed to explore the way society sees vaginas, or if they see them at all. Discussing vaginas was seen as a big faux pas, so many women did not have education about their vaginas. In fact, many people were unaware of female circumcision, rape and even day to day issues pertaining to that part of the female anatomy. Ensler made it a goal of hers to open the dialogue, and to encourage women to explore their bodies with pride, rather than be embarrassed by them. The play focuses on the “beauty” of that part of

the body, and affectionately refers to it as a flower, of sorts. Yet, the stigma remained, which is why Ensler had women of all ages and nationalities discuss all of the complex issues associated with the vagina.

The play is based off of a series of interviews with real women. Each of the women were asked questions about her, as one of the monologues called it, “down theres.” While some monologues contained great humor, others were much more serious. Some were about rape, lack of sex education, embarrassing stories, or best sexual encounters.

Each story was real, taken directly from the mouths of those who experienced it. The only difference was the touch of diplomat humor.

While many people believe that the *Vagina Monologues* lack relevance today, the cast asserted that it is more relevant now than ever. The

current political climate has brought back severe degradation for women across America. Some monologues included references to President Trump’s language in a video that was released this past summer, which showed Trump using vulgar language to describe encounters with women.

Throughout the entire month of February, colleges across the country are able to put on a production of the show for free with one caveat: they must donate to charity. This year, Franklin & Marshall’s production of *The Vagina Monologues* donated to the Milagro House, which provides shelter, counseling and education to impoverished women and children. It is a place for women and children to begin rebuilding their lives. They provide services that allow for women and children, who have suffered from abuse, mental illness, or

addiction, to recover, and to rebuild their self-esteem. They focus on providing educational opportunities that will allow for upward mobility, and that will lead to developing a better life. This year, there were 700 shows performed all across the country, each raising money and awareness for different causes related to women.

Overall, the show was a quick effort. The V-Warriors held auditions this past November, and pulled it all together the week of the show. The scripts were ready, because they were adapted from real interviews from about twenty years ago. All that was needed was the twist to make it relevant to college women’s lives today.

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Interfaith profile on Sarah Frazer, member of ISC, F&M Catholic

BY SARAH FRAZER

Staff Writer

This semester, Interfaith Student Council is focusing on a different religion each week, with the goal of increasing religious literacy and highlighting the role faith plays in students’ lives. Through this project, the ISC hopes to expand students’ understanding of the religious diversity at Franklin & Marshall and provide an opportunity for students to learn about the backgrounds and practices of their fellow peers.

This week, the ISC is focusing on Christianity. Look for flyers around campus with interesting facts about the religion! My student profile is Sarah Frazer, the Interfaith Student Council representative to Diversity Council, as well as the Secretary of F&M Catholic.

JR: What type of spiritual climate did you grow up in?

SF: I grew up in a Roman Catholic family; specifically, my moth-

er and grandmother instilled in me a strong religious faith. I attended Catholic school for most of my life, as well, so the climate I grew up in was fairly religious. Many of the values I consider most important today were informed by this Catholic upbringing, so that even if I am perhaps less religious than I was, I still live as I was raised to as a Christian. One important point I’d add is that the order of nuns, who taught at the schools I attended, was the Sisters of Saint Joseph. They place a large emphasis on social justice and service, which made a large impression on me.

JR: What does being Christian mean to you?

SF: To me, Christianity is pretty much all about treating others with love and kindness and doing as much as possible to make a positive impact in the world or in one’s own community. Christianity is, or should be, a religion of action. We should help provide for the poor, protect the environment, welcome

refugees, fight for civil rights and liberties, promote economic justice, defend and support the marginalized, and build bridges not walls, to quote the Pope. Pope Francis also said recently that it is better to be an atheist than a hypocritical Christian, and I completely agree. If you read the Bible, Jesus washed the feet of sinners, was friends with a prostitute, forgave a criminal when He was on the cross, and gave His life for humanity. If Christians are supposed to follow in His footsteps, then it makes sense that dedicating our lives entirely to the service of others should be what we aim to do, which is not to suggest that I have come close to accomplishing this.

There are other beliefs and practices that go along with being Christian: believing in Jesus Christ and the rest of the creed, attending church on Sunday, reading the Bible as the inspired Word of God, and receiving the sacraments (which vary depending on one’s denomination of christianity). But ultimately, these tenets of the religion are not what it means to me. And I

honestly think that fulfilling these parts of Christianity is not enough.

JR: What do you think is commonly misunderstood about your religion?

SF: There are certain beliefs that are misunderstood by non Christians, such as the concept of the Holy Trinity. Honestly, I am not totally sure where Protestants stand on this belief, but Catholics like myself believe in the Trinity, which is comprised of three Persons in one God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Many people think this means that Christians (or once again, at least Catholics) are not monotheists, because the Holy Trinity means three Gods. That is not true; Christians believe that the Trinity is only one God. I understand this can be confusing; I find it somewhat confusing myself, or at least hard to explain.

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Arts & Leisure

With failure of Kanye West’s Yeezy Season 4, Season 5 redeems with diverse models, new styles at NYFW

BY JESIKA ISLAM
Assistant Arts & Leisure Editor

With New York Fashion Week 2017 in the books, we have had some time to reflect on the highly anticipated Yeezy Season 5 clothing line.

Yeezy Season 4 was a failure on all fronts. The surprise line was revealed in early fall on Roosevelt Island in New York. Characteristically, Kanye’s show began hours later than it was supposed to, which would have been fine except that it was an outdoor venue on a sweltering hot day. Kanye revealed his models as they walked on a snaking runway on the grass. The models were clearly uncomfortable in the heavy clothing, breaking down and even collapsing while walking. Many of the models ended up taking off their shoes, sitting down and some even fainting from heat strokes and exhaustion. The worst part of the show was that the reveal offered nothing new, using similar designs and muted tones from Yeezy Season 3. The only good to come out of that train wreck was more recognition for Teyana Taylor, a model, dancer, and the focus of Kanye’s music video for “Fade.”

When Yeezy Season 5 hit early obstacles with Kanye scheduling his show in conflict with other important fashion week shows, and without



Photo courtesy www.thr.com

Kanye West’s Yeezy Season 5 fashion show at New York Fashion Week championed diversity, featuring models such as Halima Aden, a 19 year-old Somali-American.

confirmation from the powerful New York Fashion Week executives, it was indicative of the failures of Season 4.

Much to everyone’s surprise, the Yeezy line rose from the dead. To start, Kanye’s show only began thirty minutes later than the set time, which is well within the fashionably late norm that the fashion world operates. Kanye massively improved on the venue and debuted Yeezy Season 5 at Pier 59. The invites, like his previous ones, wore olive long sleeve

shirts, embroidered with Lost Hills, a location in Calabasas. The venue was a small room with chairs surrounding a large black box in the middle.

The show began with the models being projected on each of the sides of the centered box. Kanye, surprisingly, used The-Dream’s cover of J-Holiday’s “Bed,” an R&B track from 2007, an amazing throwback, although disappointing because it crushed hopes that he would be dropping a new album like Yeezy Season

3 which came with *The Life of Pablo*. The models that were projected came in the form of videos with them standing still, sporting the new line, and turning slowly on a turntable. The box also turned.

Finally, the models were revealed, walking around the box, offering an amazing, intimate view of the clothing for the attendees. The clothing had the same industrial look but also drew from the mainstream culture. He combined his style with flannels, camouflage, denim, and athletic leisure. The “Calabasas” style also finally made its appearance after the months of teasing from the Kardashian-Jenner-West family. Kanye also kept his muted tone color scheme but also included a deep forest green and burgundy which was refreshing. The best part of the show was Kanye’s inclusion of a hijabi Somalian model, who killed it on the runway. This line seemed far more accessible to those of us strutting around college campuses; hopefully Kanye will keep on his promise of making his clothes more affordable. If you’re itching to see the show, there are plenty of photos and videos one Google search away, and it’s totally worth it.

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New York Fashion Week featured impressive, thematic collections by Prada, Michael Kors, Gucci

BY ALICE LU
Contributing Writer

While some of us are still wondering if we should spend money on an embroidered blazer, a floral shirt or a pair of block-heeled sandals, fashion designers have already planned out how we should spend our money for the Fall of 2017.

Browsing through the collections, I am blown away by the pictures of celebrities and models at the big shows with the big brands in the big cities: Milan, London, New York and Paris. Although I’m getting tired of the Hadid sisters and of the Kardashian family dominating the world of fashion, Kendall, Gigi and Bella’s runway outfits are hints about what will be popular this season. Kendall and Kylie have already claimed they are going to keep using the simple style of mix-and-match basics. This style includes puffy bombers, nude “naked” boots and all of the street-style-teenage-basics.

Talking about fashion is not only discussing how to be dressed well, but also about being given a perspective into the mind of acclaimed designers. It seems that Michael Kors and Miuccia Prada are advocating similar messages about modern



Photo courtesy of www.vogue.co.uk

Michael Kors delivered a stand out runway show of his new collection at New York Fashion Week. Big brands debuted remarkable collections at fashion weeks around the world. Other memorable NYFW shows included Prada and Gucci.

women through their designs in New York and Milan. Both of them refuse to get political but they have stressed strength and confidence in women.

Kors chose to make simple recreations on traditional clothes. According to Nicole Phelps of *Vogue* the collection included “jackets came with rounded shoulders and cocooning proportions, or the sleeves were chopped off above the biceps; skirts were tulip shaped.” While Prada played with a collection of colors, ostrich feathers and crystal fringes, to create questions about the role women had in shaping modern society.

Meanwhile, Alessandro Michele, the chief designer of Gucci, takes a bolder method by mixing genders, cultures and styles from different eras, making revolutionary designs that are completely different from

last season. “This is always my world. I want to swim in my ocean,” he said.

Confidence, independence, and strength remain classic themes on the stage of fashion encouraging the public to be more confident in their appearances and by extension, themselves.

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The basketball team lost a hard fought game in the conference semi-finals. Read more below...



photo courtesy of logos.wikia.com

Franklin & Marshall Sports

F&M Men’s Basketball finishes out season with gritty effort in playoffs

BY GABBY GOODWIN
Assistant Sports Editor

Finishing 18-8 for the season, averaging 75 points per game, and becoming Centennial Conference Semifinalists, F&M Men’s Basketball finished out a strong season this past weekend with nothing to hang their heads about.

While they lost a hard-fought battle against Dickinson in the Centennial Conference Semifinal 70-64 this past Friday, they gave the Red Devils a run for their money in what was a tightly contested game.

Following a tough loss to Johns Hopkins on Wednesday, February 8th by a score of 67-57, the Dips came into the conference tournament strong and proved their place among the conference’s elite with three consecutive wins against Washington, Dickinson, and Swarthmore.

Putting Swarthmore in their rightful place, the Dips crushed the Garnet’s 93-66 in their last home and Centennial Conference game of the season. F&M’s senior captains Jared Wright, Leor Levy, and Hunter Eggers played their last game at Mayser as they were honored before the game.

Both teams struggled in the early minutes of the game, before F&M found their rhythm and took a 12-point lead over the Garnets. Leading 16-4, F&M’s Ignas Slyka scored a triple at 10:45 in the first quarter.

Holding their ground, however, Swarthmore came back with six, upping the score 19-13 with 6:20

left. Though, unsatisfied with nothing short of winning, F&M countered with seven straight and lead by 13 points at 4:10. A three from F&M’s Jared right made it 32 for the Dips and both teams went into the break with a score of 32-22.

An unwavering F&M went into the second strong, increasing its lead to 49-26 at 16:05 in the final frame. The Garnets continued to struggle and F&M took advantage, upping their lead 74-48 at 8:05 on a three from F&M’s Matthew Tate. Keeping at least a 20-point lead throughout the rest of the match, the Dips finished with a 93-66 vic-

tory.

Securing the three seed in the Centennial Conference Playoffs, the Dips faced off this past Friday against Dickinson and faced an extremely difficult loss, falling short of the Red Devils by just 6 points with a final score of 70-64.

In the loss, Brandon Federici and Matthew Tate both scored 15 points, while Jared Wright added 10 of his own. Dickinson was able to erase a 4 point first half F&M lead by outscoring the Dips 42-32 in the second half.

Overall, however, F&M Men’s Basketball exits the court with a

successful season and an 18-8 final record. Fighting long and hard throughout each game this year, determined to play their best and ultimately, be victorious, F&M Men’s Basketball is going to give the Centennial Conference a run for its money next season, just wait and see. We are very proud of the team’s efforts and we wish them nothing but the best as they rebuild for another run next season.

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Photo courtesy of godiplomats.com

The team was led all season by their coach Glenn Robinson. They finished out a strong season at 18-8 and ended up falling just short in the conference semi-finals. The team will look to rebuild and come back even stronger for next season. The future looks promising.



Photo courtesy of godiplomats.com

The team had no shortage of leadership this season led by three seniors: Hunter Eggers, Jared Wright, and Lior Levy. All three seniors made contributions to the team in very different ways throughout the season and were keys to the team’s success throughout the season. The team will have big shoes to fill next year with the loss of these three seniors.