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Diplomatic Congress' open forum prompts discussion of tobacco-free campus

BY INDIRA RAHMAN
Contributing Writer

Last Tuesday, Dec. 2, the Diplomatic Congress (DipCon), organized the F&M Forum on Tobacco. The event, which took place in Booth Ferris in the Steinman College Center, was a community health initiative that introduced the possibility of a smoke-free campus. The open nature of the forum attempted to provide an inclusive platform for student voices on campus, and it attracted more than 40 participants—smokers and non-smokers alike.

The forum opened with a presentation by Grace Jeong '15, chair of DipCon's Student Health and Safety Committee, who spearheaded the effort along with committee members. The presentation went into detail about what a tobacco-free F&M campus could look like, using information primarily gathered through research looking at different colleges and universities that had either gone smoke-free or tobacco-free. The floor was then opened to a gen-



photo by Emma Brown '17

The five-person panel selected by the Diplomatic Congress guided each topic and shared their thoughts on student health on a tobacco-free campus.

eral discussion and Q&A session between students and panelists.

According to a recent F&M campus-wide survey on the matter, 3.5% of 1053 respondents identified themselves as daily smokers.

Staff and faculty on the panel helped facilitate discussion by pro-

viding perspectives as they pertained to their respective field of expertise. The five-person panel recruited by DipCon consisted of Jan Masland, director of Health and Wellness Education; Dr. Amy Myers, director of Student Health Services and College Physician; Janine Everett,

professor and director of the Public Health program; and Mike Wetzel, associate vice-president for Facilities Management and Campus Planning.

Topics of debate included what products would be banned under a tobacco-free campus and how students, especially those who currently consume those products, would feel about it.

Everett spoke about the health implications of using e-cigarettes after a student suggested excluding e-cigarettes within a tobacco-free campus, while Wetzel shared a rare perspective seldom heard by students: Although there have not been instances of any open flames, he said he receives dozens of complaints from the campus community (students, faculty and staff) about individuals smoking close to buildings and not effectively disposing of cigarette butts.

This called into question the

see FORUM, page 2

New College website updated with social media interactivity, streamlined approach

BY SHIRA KIPNEES
Staff Writer

On Monday, Dec. 1, after 20 months, the College launched a completely rebuilt website to replace the old website, which dated back to 2009.

According to Cass Cliatt, vice president for communications, the new website is not merely a redesign, but a complete rebuild of the old website. Cliatt also explained that old website was nearing the end of a typical life of a website and was not meeting the new needs of the College.

"The old F&M website was at the end of the typical life of a website, as changes in technology have established a best practice of refreshing a website or completing a wholesale redesign every two to four years—depending on

existing functionality," said Cliatt. "The design of the former F&M website redesign was completed in 2009, based on an assessment of needs—and available technology—dating back now more than seven years."

Cliatt continued, explaining that people tend to use the internet differently today than they did a few years ago, and that people expect a completely different experience from a college website.

"Incorporating social media and other forms of interactivity was in its infancy seven years ago, and we had not yet become the YouTube generation that we are now," Cliatt said.

Cliatt noted that one of the major changes to the College's website

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Porterfield speaks at White House event to inspire higher education for students

BY STEVEN VIERA
News Editor

Dan Porterfield, president of the College, spoke on F&M's commitment to preparing students for college and helping them to graduate at the White House College Opportunity Day of Action, held last Thursday, Dec. 4, in Washington, D.C. Other speakers at the event included Barack Obama, Michelle Obama, and Joe Biden.

Along with other leaders in higher education, Porterfield pledged to join a collaborative effort with other colleges to help 100,000 students across the nation to attend and graduate from top-quality schools, as well as enrolling high-achieving, undocumented students under a new federal law.

"It's gratifying that the work of the F&M community is extending an inspiring message to others in higher education and public life," Porterfield

said in a press release put out by the College's Office of Communications. "As we have invested in a talent strategy that benefits all students, we're showing other institutions it's possible to increase financial aid, enhance academic excellence and deepen the talent of the student body."

Using F&M as a model, other schools will attempt to provide financial aid and other opportunities to high-achieving, low-income students as part of dynamic recruitment efforts.

For its efforts towards enrolling and retaining 100,000 students, the College will receive funds from Bloomberg Philanthropies, which is investing \$10 million over the course of the next two years, with additional funds to be allocated based on initial results. Another organization contributing funds,

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Riemann’s Crime Watch

Wednesday, Dec. 3, 3:51 p.m. — A female student reported a male who drove past her making lewd comments on West James St.
Thursday, Dec. 4, 12:00 p.m. — A student reported several items were missing from his/her car in the College Row parking lot.
Friday, Dec. 5, 12:17 a.m. — Officers from the Department of Public Safety (DPS) responded to a noise complaint at 605 College Ave.
Friday, Dec. 5, 12:22 a.m. — DPS responded to the report of an underage intoxicated student in Thomas Hall. The student was evaluated by EMS and released to a friend.

Riemann’s Advice

Gold stars to you F&M for keeping it together this week. Don’t screw it up next week at formals.

Officer Johnston’s Safety Tips



F&M Public Safety is even more concerned about the safety of students after the holiday break.
Busy schedules and numerous deadlines may cause members of the community to lose focus on safety.
If you must be out late at night always let someone know where you are going, your expected travel time, and how long you plan on being in that location.

The College Reporter Corrections Policy

The College Reporter welcomes comments and suggestions, as well as information about substantive errors of fact that call for correction. Contact us via email at reporter@fandm.edu or at (717) 291-4095.

The College Reporter Story Idea Submission Policy

The College Reporter welcomes story ideas from the college community. If you have or your organization has an idea for a Reporter story, email it to us at reporter@fandm.edu with the subject heading “Campus Story Idea” by Monday at noon the week before publication. Story ideas will be accepted at the discretion of the Editorial Board.

Education: Grants received in support of higher education for students everywhere



photo courtesy of fandm.edu

First Lady Michelle Obama speaks at the College Opportunity Day of Action in advocacy of Porterfield’s effort for higher education in the United States.

continued from page 1

cording to the press release, is the Heckscher Foundation for Children, which is committing advisory support and an additional \$1 million over the next two years to support the project.
Additionally, F&M will enroll a cohort of five students from the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, program. This initiative was created to connect many of the undocumented students who graduate from high school in the United States to opportunities for a college education. According to the press release, a \$250,000 grant from the Schusterman Foundation will help to fund this initiative.

The College Opportunity Day of Action is the third time Porterfield has been tapped as a leader in White House efforts to improve access and the quality of higher education. Porterfield continues to use F&M as a model.
“We very much had a lot to listen to and learn about the work of all our colleagues from every type of higher education institution,” Porterfield said in the press release. “I learned a lot from those colleagues about how their schools are partnering with local k-12 systems and communities.”

Junior Steven Viera is the News Editor. His email is sviera@fandm.edu.

Website: Simple navigation improves functionality with more access to site

continued from page 1

is that the website now presents information organized according to the services that F&M provides and is important because it is how students and faculty and staff get information about everything that is not academically related.
“Each department or office in the old site had a web page, and then on that page, there were lists of the services that office or department provided,” she said. “For example, a student looking for information about shuttles in the old

site would have to know that the Office of Auxiliary Services provides that service. Now, instead of expecting students to know that, a student can go to the website and Search for shuttle or navigate to Transportation Services and find everything they need to know about shuttles and other transportation options for the campus.”
In order to help create the best possible website, Cliatt organized a specific advisory group with representatives from all across campus, including: admission

and financial aid; advancement, including alumni relations and advancement services; communications; the office of the dean of the College; the college houses; the faculty; the office of the Provost; students, who were appointed through a campus-wide open call for applicants; finance and administration, including the office of the registrar and auxiliary services; the office of student and post-graduate development; the office of international programs; and professional staff, who were

also appointed as at-large members through a campus-wide open call for applicants.
This advisory group selected the firm P’unk Ave of Philadelphia to design the site and do development work in connection with the office of communications and with technical support from the College’s Information Technology Services.
Senior Shira Kipnees is a staff writer. Her email is skipnees@fandm.edu.

Forum: Administrators, student body discuss campus-wide tobacco policies

continued from page 1

implementation and enforcement of current smoking policies that already exist in F&M’s student manual.
“There are smoking policies in place on campus, but hardly anyone abides by the rules,” said Jeong, “When legal adults exercise their right to smoke without adhering to the rules, it infringes on the rights of other individuals in the community who may be harmed by secondhand smoking.”
Asked why having a discourse

on the matter was important, Mark Harmon-Vaught ’15, Diplomatic Congress President, commented, “The idea for a forum on tobacco use came first and foremost from the student body itself. Toward the end of last year, we noticed the issue coming up in discussions among students, and decided it was important to have a campus-wide conversation about it.”
Early next Spring, DipCon plans to send out a survey to determine student opinion on a tobacco-free F&M. Should there turn out to be

a majority consensus, DipCon will work with Margaret Hazlett, dean of the College, and other administrators in order to come to an effective compromise with students, faculty, and staff about what substances would be included under a tobacco-free policy and where smokers would be able to smoke on campus without propagating the health harms associated with passive smoking.
The F&M Forum on Tobacco is the prototype for a series called the F&M Forums, which DipCon plans

to hosts on a regular basis starting Spring 2015. This forum sets a precedent for discussion of other topics that are of interest to the student community, such as ways to better engage in the Lancaster community, alcohol use on campus, the college’s sustainability efforts, and so on. Student suggestions can be forwarded to diplomatic.congress@fandm.edu.
First-year Indira Rahman is a contributing writer. Her email is irahman@fandm.edu.

Staff Writer Commentary

Mourning Michael Brown and Eric Garner

BY NICHOLAS RIEBEL
Staff Writer
nriebel@fandm.edu

Many of the facts about what happened in Ferguson are uncertain, but one thing is clear: Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson shot and killed Michael Brown. Michael Brown may have robbed a convenience store, may have taken drugs, and may have fought with Wilson, but even if he was guilty of all of that, I don't think it should have necessarily ended with his death. If Wilson used his training as a police officer and apprehended Brown without lethal (and almost certainly excessive) force, a tragedy would have been prevented, and I think that's what we should focus on when we discuss the tragedy that happened in Ferguson.

What happened with Eric Garner is far less ambiguous: he was choked to death by a police officer who definitely used excessive force over a relatively minor crime—selling untaxed cigarettes. We know what happened because someone took a video of it. But the end result was the same: two people were killed, and the police officers responsible are not going to be held responsible: grand juries refused to indict them.

It initially seemed as if the solution to prevent police from

using excessive, lethal force was to have police wear body cameras. Yet, it seems that the death of Eric Garner raises serious questions about whether that would actually work. As Jon Stewart said: that was caught on film, and it didn't make any difference.

Whatever crimes these murdered men may have committed, they did not deserve death. These events may very well have been racially-motivated, at least in part.

Don't get me wrong: I tend to trust and respect our police. They put their lives on the line so we can live ours. But, as defenders of the people and of the law, we hold them (or ought to hold them) to a much higher standard. Those who cannot apprehend unarmed men without resorting to deadly force should not have the right to work as police officers.

Minorities in this nation suffer a history of persecution, and only recently gained full civil and political rights within the past few decades. And historically speaking, the police have discriminated against minorities, with the most notable example being the southern police during the civil rights movement over integration.

I do not condone or justify anyone committing crimes, and if Michael Brown and Eric Garner were alive today, I would

want them held accountable for whatever they did. Yet it pales in comparison to the crimes a few of our police officers commit against America; in their zeal to pursue justice, some police officers are taking their power too far and responding with deadly force much too hastily.

Some may say that I am wrong about the police. We are trained from birth to believe that police officers, after all, are always heroic and noble, willing to sacrifice themselves for us, if necessary, in the line of their duty. And this is usually true. Yet even if this is just a problem caused by a few bad

apples, there are far too many of them in the barrel.

And no, not all police are like Darren Wilson and Daniel Pantaleo. These were, as I said, at the very least extraordinarily incompetent officers, who should both be at the very least fired from their positions (and it seems Wilson is voluntarily resigning, as he should).

Issue also lies with the justice system. It is clear that grand juries are too reluctant to prosecute police officers who have failed or broken the law. Because the proceedings of the juries are kept private, we do not know exactly

how they made their decisions, and we don't know the role of the prosecutor-police relationship in them. But the evidence to indict (and convict) Eric Garner's killer is unquestionable. The video speaks for itself, and no, resisting arrest does not and should not put you at the police officer's mercy. Police officers have many methods of successfully subduing individuals without killing them, and they should use those techniques.

We should mourn the deaths of Eric Garner and Michael Brown, and we should be upset that there are far more tribulations than trials.

Full Staff Opinion

Student participation crucial to civil rights conversations

In the weeks following the verdicts in the Michael Brown and Eric Garner deaths, the media has played host to an uproar of opinions and perspectives, sometimes going so far as to blur the lines between fact and fiction when reporting on the cases and subsequent protests. As students, we don't all know where we stand on the issue, and we have come together to realize that we have not heard much discussion on campus to help inform us. We have looked to various places--the news, OpEds, youtube videos, class discussions--to try to gain a solid understanding of the matter influencing so many around us. But we have had difficulty gaining a full and balanced perspective from what we have heard on campus. This is, in part, because the fact that the events in Ferguson have rarely been approached in a campus discussion.

As liberal arts students, class discussion with fellow students and directed by professors is often where we form educated opinions on complex issues. We are concerned that the relative silence with which the verdicts have been received in F&M classrooms has contributed to relative silence on the issue within our academic bubble. We would like to commend the students who have organized events on their own, by putting together a recent protest on Hartman Green and a conversation in the Alice Drum Women's Center about systemic racism and police brutality.

However, the editors of The College Reporter want to encourage students to engage with these events and the ongoing racial issues they reflect in multiple ways. In order to advocate for change, as a student body, we must actively engage in discourse. If the topics are brought up in classroom discussions, we encourage students to actively engage. Outside the classroom, students can find others ways to get involved, by discussing these issues with friends, keeping up with the latest development from the cases, and perhaps attending protests or rallies in support of the victims.

We are a generation for change. We are a school that is declaratively disruptive, promoting innovative thinking, and in that spirit we wish that Ferguson and the issues that it has come to represent could have been more present in our classes and conversations on campus. We, the students of F&M, must take responsibility to create these discussions and participate in the discourse surrounding issues such as systemic racism and police violence. One of the easiest things you can do you to inform yourself about this issue as well as other issues that are prescient is to diversify the sources you get your news and information from and to also diligently stay informed.

Hey, F&M!
Do you have something
you want to say?
Something you REALLY
want to say?

Email
aschulma@fandm.edu
to write for OpEds!



The College Reporter

Transparency. Accuracy. Credibility.
THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF
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Copies of The College Reporter on campus are free at a rate of one issue per reader. People found in violation of this policy may be subject to prosecution.

Photo of the Week



photo by Emma Brown '17

As the end of the fall semester approaches, students begin preparing for final exams at the Information Technology Center located in the Patricia E. Harris Center for Business, Government and Public Policy.

Turn Off the News

BY TYLER COHEN
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Breaking news alert: Media inception strikes again! Picture this: Headlines reporting police brutality, race-riots, viral beheadings of philanthropic journalists, and more implied catalysts for impending doom nonchalantly crawl across the lower third of your living room TV screen. Sociological analysis of incompatible stripes yell over each other in a heated debate,

which rather than reaching a consensus, will be over-exaggerated a week later by another “breaking news” alert telling you to brace yourself, just after you’ve sunk into your living room couch after a long day of work to catch up on the news of the world. These topics are alerting and deserve media attention, but I think the average American family should exercise caution when watching mainstream news networks and do so in small doses.

I can’t watch any major news network for more than 20 minutes without showing signs of an anxiety disorder diagnosed by psychologists as Phobophobia, which is an irrational fear of phobias. Psychologists freak me out too; they seem to overthink thinking, which is such a challenging concept for me to grasp that I’d rather think about spiders, and I’m terrified of spiders. Revolutionary psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud wrote a lot about

phobias, and in himself, was a terrifying man. In his 1909 work, *Analysis of a Phobia in a Five Year Old Boy* (which might as well be that of a fairytale apprehended by a demonic psychopath with the sole, malevolent intention of scaring innocent children), Freud proposed a masculine fear of castration subconsciously present in all uncircumcised men, which occurs when a young boy first perceives circumcision. In my opinion, Sigmund Freud was a psychopath whose Wikipedia page freaks me out

equally as much as today’s news headlines, and I question my own sanity given my insatiable craving to “stay tuned.” I was originally planning on writing my last editorial of the year on one of those anxiety-inducing headlines, but I don’t think the F&M community needs any more stress, especially with the very real impending finals week. So, I encourage members of all walks of campus life to turn off the eternally-breaking news and do something you enjoy.

Want to have your voice heard? Have you seen something on campus that needs to be written about? Write for the Opinion and Editorial section. Email aschulma@fandm.edu.

Campus Life

Common Hour speaker Levine explains research on Madam Montour

BY SAMANTHA GREENFIELD
Staff Writer

Franklin and Marshall’s own Mary Ann Levine, associate professor of anthropology, spoke to the audience at this week’s Common Hour, which took place in the Ann & Richard Barshinger Center for Musical Arts.

In addition to teaching in the Department of Anthropology, Levine is head of the archaeology program.

She has been dedicated to studying Native American cultures through the medium of archaeology for 25 years. Her work has been featured in numerous publications and she has received many awards, including the 2005 Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Award for Archaeology.

Levine has developed a deep understanding for Native American cultures through her studies and also her archaeological digs. The focus of her dig in Pennsylvania was Madam Montour, a prominent Native American woman who served as a translator between the colonial French, English, and Indigenous Americans.

In Pennsylvania, Levine found and excavated the long-lost Woodlands village called Ostonwakin. Madame Montour lived from the late 1600s until 1753. Her job as an interpreter allowed her to have a lot of influence in this period. She became a diplomat through her own avenues as well as through her marriages to influential men.

Levine, along with her students, found artifacts such as trade beads,

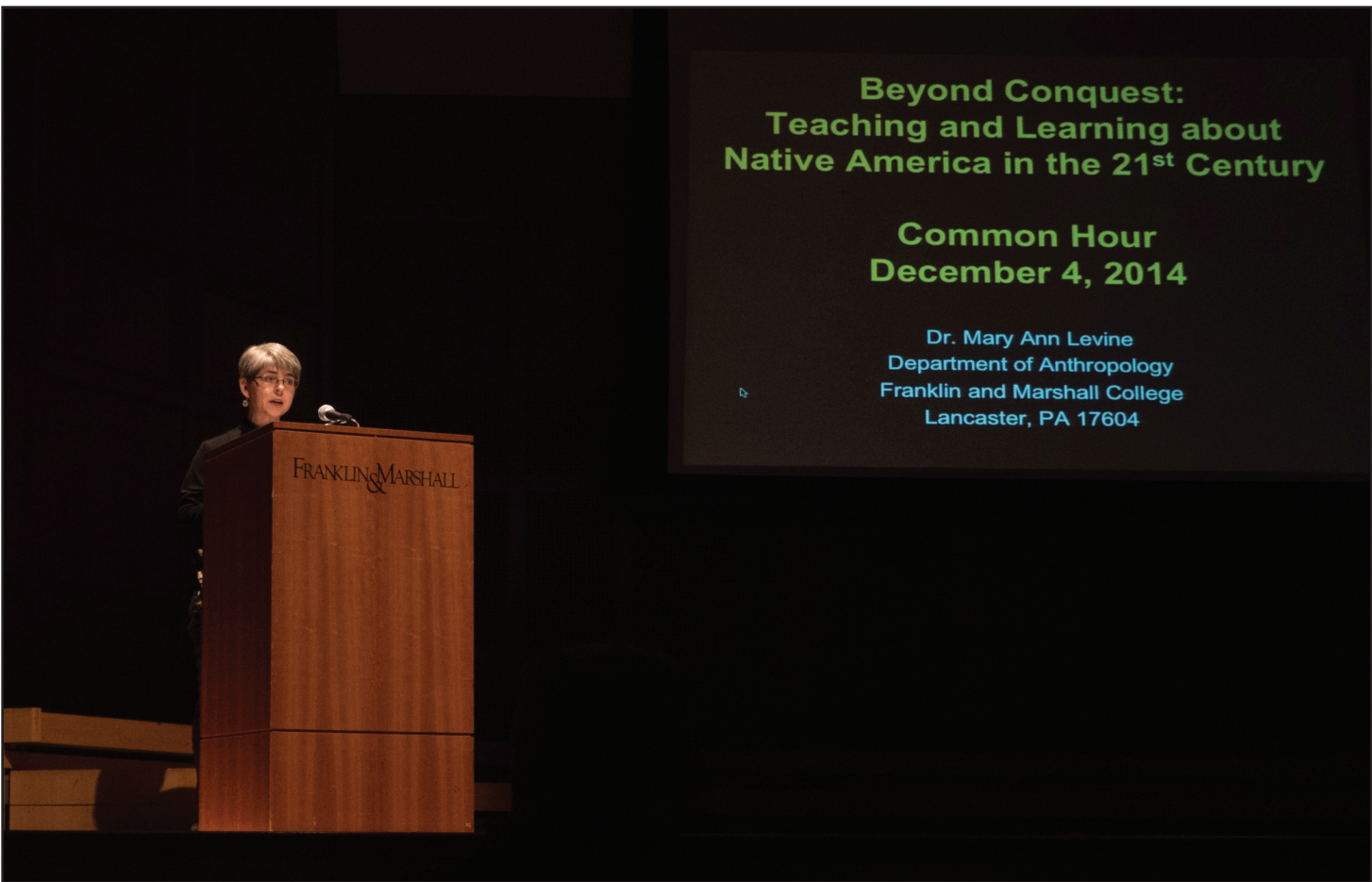


photo by Emma Brown '17

Professor Mary Ann Levine shared details of her research on Madam Montour, a Native American woman who translated for many different groups, including the French, English, and Native American groups in the late 1600s.

brooches, spearheads, and pieces of glass bottles.

When asked by a member of the audience how she knows when an excavation is finished, Levine said that archaeologists always struggle with this problem because there will always be more artifacts.

Levine said that the excavation at Ostonwakin is now finished because she and her students have gathered enough artifacts to answer the questions that brought them there in the first place.

While at McGill University

in Montreal, Levine decided she would dedicate herself to the study of Native American cultures. She wanted to challenge the many misconceptions people have about Indigenous Americans.

“The dominant paradigms portray Native Americans as inherently unprogressive, static, and primitive,” Levine said.

In one of her archeology classes, on the first day she asks her students to write down words that come to mind when they think about Native Americans.

Her students have written words

such as dirt, huts, teepees, and Pocahontas.

She does the same thing at the end of class and the words students write exhibit how their understanding has deepened, they write phrases such as resistance, drug and alcohol abuse, and land disputes. Levine hopes to break down the the negative stereotype about Native Americans through one class of students at a time.

Senior Samantha Greenfield is a staff writer. Her email is sgreenfield@fandm.edu.

F&M Dance Company performs in Fall Dance Concert



Last weekend, the F&M Dance Company held their annual Fall Dance Concert. Performances included dances in the style of hula, flamenco, African, and modern.

Choreography included works by Isadora Duncan, Martha Graham, Pamela Vail, professor of dance, and others.



photos by Halley Gradus '17

Arts & Entertainment

Birdman flies due to expert camerawork, deep characters Cinematography, strong emotion, solid scripting ground absurd plot

Movie Review *Birdman*

By Noah Sunshine

This year, there is a trend of comfort in the theatres. Sequels, Disney hits, biopics, and war movies sit vigil on the top box office slots, offering familiar stories, characters, and feelings to their viewers. Only one movie this season made me uncomfortable, and I liked it.

“Birdman” stars Michael Keaton in his first major leading role in well over a decade, but instead of his larger than life Caped Crusader persona, we meet an unstable ex-Hollywood star vying to stay relevant. Early mention of the film before release was concerned with his portrayal of another superhero after a career defining stint in the 80-90s as Tim Burton’s “Batman,” but soon it became clear that the 2014 film was not an explosions-and-mayhem superhero blockbuster. Instead, we have a thoughtful and thought-provoking glimpse at the cognition of an unstable actor desperately seeking validation through a stage show that he wrote, directed, and stars in.

At no point, however, is



photo courtesy of www.blogspot.com

Michael Keaton stars as Riggan Thomas in “Birdman,” a possibly insane washed-up actor starring in his own stage show.

anything smooth. The opening shot focuses on a nearly-naked Riggan Thomas (Keaton) floating in mid-air in deep meditation, promptly interrupted by his daughter calling on Skype. No dramatic music or fanfare follow, only a painfully accurate exchange between a depressed father and his rebellious daughter. These two, and every other character, are tragic in their own way—be it because of drugs, infidelity, poverty, or impotence—but never do you feel depressed as you’re dragged from scene to scene at an alarming pace.

Sometimes, I felt just plain embarrassed. As I watched, I suffered over every character’s mistake and cringed at every scripted misspeaking, pleading

for the character’s dignity as the train-wreck piled higher and higher. This is what got me invested; the grounded absurdity of everyday situations handled completely wrong but with the best of intentions garnered so much sympathy that, at some points, I felt a little panicked myself.

That kind of visceral reaction was augmented tenfold by dizzyingly good camera work; longshots followed characters through entire buildings, but often stretched across days, stitched together in continuous takes. The kind of trickery afoot forces the viewer to make their own decisions about the film—is there something supernatural going on, or are we seeing inside the head of someone that doesn’t see the

world like we do?

Regardless, the camerawork felt so natural and fluid that I had a hard time believing I wasn’t in the halls of the Broadway theatre with them.

“Birdman” is worth seeing because it is an extraordinarily unique viewing experience.

It will make audience members feel ways that films likely have not made them feel before. Emma Stone, Zach Galafianakis, and Edward Norton round out a cast of heart-wrenchingly real characters that will make you ache and fidget just like a real dysfunctional family.

Anyone a little bored with the fourth installment of “Madagascar” currently in theaters should consider giving this a try and embrace a new experience.

Senior Noah Sunshine is a contributing writer. His email is nsunshin@fandm.edu.

Review Rating:

A-

Birdman faces real-world head-on and provides real emotioanl depth.

Lost on the River album displays Dylan's lyrical prowess Group of talented artists gathered to record Dylan lyrics from 1960s for release of album

Album Review

*Lost on the River:
The New Basement Tapes*

By Caroline Dorey-Stein

Last month marked the finale of *Lost on the River: The New Basement Tapes*, a music event 47 years in the making. T Bone Burnett, who before becoming a record producer was a touring guitarist in Bob Dylan’s band, is responsible for the production. The album celebrates unearthed Bob Dylan lyrics from that legendary 1967 period with popular artists of today as participants—Burnett, Elvis Costello, Carolina Chocolate Drops’ Rhiannon Giddens, Dawes’ Taylor Goldsmith, My Morning Jacket’s Jim James and Marcus Mumford—who have brought them to life nearly a half century later with their own styles revolutionizing the words of the voice of a generation.

As T Bone Burnett states on the documentation of *Lost on the River: The New Basement Tapes*, “What transpired during those two weeks

was amazing for all of us. There was a deep well of generosity and support in the studio at all times, which reflected the tremendous trust and generosity shown by Bob in sharing these lyrics with us in the first place.” The lyrics were written by Bob Dylan in 1967 after his motorcycle accident when he retreated to Big Pink and worked relentlessly on music with five members of the Hawks, who later became the Band.

In March 2014 the group gathered in Capitol Records’ studio where they recorded dozens of songs, trading instrumental and vocal roles on the different album tracks. During the recording sessions, the group was filmed for a documentary for Showtime. Titled “Lost Songs: The Basement Tapes Continued.” The film was directed by Sam Jones with an exclusive interview with Bob Dylan. It goes behind the scenes of the recording process and tells the story of stumbling upon the lost lyrics.

The most popular song on the album is track number three,

“Kansas City.” The documentary captures the recording of this piece in a dramatic, reflective light. Marcus Mumford, who is by far the least accustomed to stardom among the group and appears nervous and lacking confidence during his interviews, is given the lead vocals. This is his big test, and he nails it. Johnny Depp is even featured in the recording, stopping by the studio to play guitar. After the final chorus, “Going back to Kansas City,” Mumford smiles and begins to cry as a smile creeps across his face. The color has returned to his flesh and he laughs self consciously, overflowing with relief. Here he is playing with the big guys and he’s officially joined the club.

In the style of the original *Basement Tapes*, *Lost on the River* plays rather erratically instead of in a carefully sequenced, unified album. While it is an uneven listen, it is able to highlight the group’s wide range of talents.

In addition to Mumford’s lovelorn “Kansas City” is Giddens’ “Spanish Mary” which displays

her soothing voice simmering over percussion and her minstrel banjo. Costello’s throaty voice over a guitar ballad contrasts with Goldsmith’s smooth voice and is paired with the mandolin-accented “Florida Key.”

The New Basement Tapes distinguishes itself from Dylan and The Band with tracks such as James’ “Nothing to It” with a mock horn section and an air of Motown in the soulful chorus. At the end of the documentary, you get the sense Dylan’s true gift to the group wasn’t his lyrics, but the opportunity for these five musicians to birth their own Basement Tapes.

Senior Caroline Dorey-Stein is a staff writer. Her email is caroline.dorey-stein@fandm.edu.

Review Rating:

A-

Lost on the River relives Bob Dylan’s glory days with finesse.

Garth Brooks returns to music with first studio album in 13 years

Man Against Machine delivers Brooks' usual sound, lacks innovation

Album Review
Man Against Machine
Garth Brooks

By Alanna Koehler

Garth is back. After 13 years of (semi)retirement, Garth Brooks—the top-selling solo artist of the 20th century, the man who singlehandedly changed country music, the legend—is again taking the music industry by storm. Brooks’s music is a signature blend of country, rock, and pop with a pinch of soul, gospel, and swing, and he is well-known for his humble demeanor and crazy, high-energy concert antics—think pyrotechnics, moving stage pieces, and smashing guitars—that can only be described as the “Brooks experience.” With the advent of a new world tour and the release of his first album since 2001, *Man Against Machine*, fans will once again be part of that experience.

Oklahoma-native Brooks released his first, self-titled album in 1989, crashing the top 10 list with his hit single “Much Too Young (To Feel This Damn Old),” which paid homage to country artist Chris Ledoux. In quick succession, Brooks stole the hearts of many with “If Tomorrow Never Comes” and, Brooks’ personal favorite, “The Dance.” These two inspiring, heavy-hearted ballads reached number one on country charts and are still considered Brooks classics.

In 1990, Brooks’s album *No Fences*, which featured his most



photo courtesy of garthbrooks.com

Country star Garth Brooks recently released his first album since 2001, *Man Against Machine*. The new album will be coupled with a world tour.

iconic song, country anthem “Friends in Low Places,” reached number one and number three on the country and pop charts, respectively. In the next four years, Brooks released *Ropin the Wind* and *The Chase*, which feature classics like “The River” and “We Shall Be Free ” as well as less popular but equally beautiful songs like “Somewhere Other Than the Night” and “What She’s Doing Now.” The late 1990s brought *Fresh Horses* and *Sevens*, with “To Make You Feel My Love” being featured in the 1998 movie *Hope Floats*, which starred Sandra Bullock and Harry Connick, Jr.

Breaking the hearts of millions, Brooks announced his retirement in late 2000, citing his commitment to his family and desire to be with his children. His last album, *Scarecrow* was released in 2001, and Brooks began his long hiatus from recording and touring, only resuming to do several benefit concerts and a stripped-down acoustic show at the Wynn Las Vegas. Brooks, however, left the music scene with a promise: “I’ll be back.”

After taking time to raise his babies, Brooks told “Good Morning America” in December 2013 that he would make a comeback in 2014, and, in July, he made the announcement everyone

had been waiting for: a new album, a mega-tour, and the digital release of his albums to his new site GhostTunes.com—previously his music had only been available in hard copy as he boycotted apps such as iTunes and Spotify, which refused to meet his demands of only releasing his music in album format rather than song-by-song and, by his standards, treat artists and songwriters unfairly.

This is where *Man Against Machine* comes in, as Brooks once again shuns the “machine” that is the modern music industry by releasing music his way and staying true to his unique genre of music.

In September, Brooks launched the first single off his ninth studio album. A bouncy, positive-messaged song, “People Loving People” is perhaps the most compromising, pop-centric track on Brooks’s new album. It is catchy and safe and promotes an idealistic statement. Pre-existing Brooks fans are sure to accept it as another decent Brooks song, while it is mild enough and pop enough to possibly garner a new set of followers—perhaps a younger audience that is too young to remember Brooks in his heyday.

To read the full article, visit www.the-college-reporter.com.

Review Rating:

B+

Brooks' newest effort follows his previous work, does not explore new territory.

Popular R&B artist Mary J. Blige releases new album

Blige recorded songs with British artists on The London Sessions

Album Review
The London Sessions
Mary J. Blige

By Julia Chirls

On November 24, Mary J. Blige released her newest album, *The London Sessions*. This is Blige’s 12th studio album to be released during her 25-year career as the “Queen of R&B” and “Queen of Hip-Hop.” Without a doubt, this album will skyrocket her worldwide sales. She has already sold 50 million albums and 15 million singles internationally. This statistic alone shows how successful Blige’s career as a famed singer-songwriter has been. She has won nine Grammy awards including Best Female R&B Vocal Performance at the 2003 Grammy Awards for “He Think I Don’t Know” and in the same category in 2007 for “Be Without You.” I think *The London Sessions* has great potential to earn Blige many more awards. In fact, upon release, *Billboard* immediately

called her newest album “superb” and “objectively her best since 2005’s *The Breakthrough*.”

The London Sessions was the result of a trip Blige took to London, where she recorded ten songs with several British artists including Emeli Sande and Sam Smith. Blige collaborated with Sam Smith, specifically, to record the third single on the album “Right Now,” released in October. The song has a shocking resemblance to one of her famous hits “Family Affair” in that there is a very similar beat, almost bringing listeners back in time to earlier in her career. Although it may seem like a repetitive addition to the numerous songs she has released throughout the past 25 years, I think it really adds brightness to the album as well as a tune that can be danced to. The musical group Disclosure helped in producing the song, so it contains some new tones rather than Blige’s usual R&B and soul style. The second single Blige released was “Whole Damn Year,” hitting the top five on *Billboard*’s

Adult R&B Songs chart.

A rather contrasting song to “Right Now” is “Not Loving You,” the third song on the track list. As opposed to the catchy beat of “Right Now” there is a soulful tone in her voice with a slow rhythm. This soulfulness is completely appropriate considering the lyrics—she pleads for her significant other to stop drinking because it is causing her pain. I think the two balance each other out, however, and make a good pair to listen to consecutively. It is no surprise that this is one of the more popular songs on the album, according to its sales on iTunes.

Another great song on the album sits eighth on the track list, “Whole Damn Year.” It is also the song from the album that has been bought the most on iTunes. In terms of style, the song is somewhat of a combination of “Right Now” and “Loving You.” In between drumbeats, there is a phrase of lyrics she sings straight from the heart. It is an easy listen and definitely the song on *The London*

Sessions that I enjoy the most. This song resembles “I’m Going Down,” from her 1994 album *My Life*. Just like in this song, there is a pattern of drumbeat-lyrics-drumbeat-lyrics, and so on. “Whole Damn Year” is a song on Blige’s album that is simply unforgettable.

The London Sessions will not disappoint; I guarantee it. Don’t miss out on a wonderful album that is an addition to Mary J. Blige’s legendary career. No matter what musical interests you have, after listening you will probably become a part of this musical legend’s loyal following.

Sophomore Julia Chirls is a staff writer. Her email is jchirls@fandm.edu.

Review Rating:

A-

Blige's new album is a wonderful addition to her legendary career.

Fury rolls in, stalls, fails to make impact at box office

Entertains despite stereotypes, predictability, weak plotline

Movie Review

Fury

By Preman Koshar

It’s World War II. We’ve all learned about it; we all know the winners and the losers, the heroes and the villains. “Fury,” directed by David Ayer, embraces this setting. Much of World War II’s morals are portrayed as black and white—good and evil—but Ayer challenges this and makes gray the moral and literal color of choice throughout the film.

“Fury” stars Brad Pitt as Don ‘Wardaddy’ Collier, the head of an American tank battalion. It is near the end of the war, and as ‘Wardaddy’ puts it, they are finally “fighting Germans in Germany.” ‘Wardaddy’ has just lost one of his crew, whom he treats as family, and is forced to take on Norman Ellison (Logan Lerman) as his new crewmember. Norman is as green and unprepared as can be. It doesn’t help that his first job is, quite literally, to clean up the remains of his fallen comrade’s face from the floor of the tank.

Lerman plays an embarrassingly stereotypical character, as do the rest of the cast. Shia LaBeouf plays a deeply religious man who doesn’t mind getting blood on his hands, Michael Peña plays an angry Mexican, and John Bernthal plays a dumb, sadistic redneck. It’s a little offensive, to say the least. The rest of the plot is a rather predictable war film tale of combat and sacrifice. There is one odd interlude where the crew fraternizes with some locals that I think was meant to give insight into their personalities, but instead



photo courtesy of www.hindustantimes.com

Brad Pitt stars in the stereotypical World War II film “Fury,” as the head commander of an American tank battalion in Germany.

felt like a waste of time.

The cinematography is, much like the movie, nothing special. The shots are clear, and done with some artistic talent, but there is nothing that makes the cinematography stand out at all. The acting is above average, but only barely so. Brad Pitt does a very good portrayal of a bitter and sadistic, yet still respectable, sergeant. Logan Lerman makes a decent character arc from newbie soldier to seasoned killer. The rest of the cast is unremarkable and unrelatable.

The score is very catchy and captures the intense emotions that warfare elicits. It’s not amazing, but it was probably the best part of the film. The plot is entirely predictable. I could tell you who would live and who would die five minutes into the movie. Not one aspect of this movie surprised me, and this really detracted from the overall quality of the film. The dialogue falls into the same pitfalls as the plot. It is generic and predictable. Many of the

lines are stereotypical action or war film phrases (“Fire!” “Don’t let him out of your sight!” “They’ll pay for this,” etc.). It felt very scripted and unoriginal. The few lines that were even remotely memorable were made into the voiceover of the trailer, and were thus ruined for the actual film. “Fury” is not a new breed of

action or war film. It doesn’t create distinctive characters or an ingenious plot. There is truly nothing remarkable about it. It’s predictable. But it’s still a fun movie to watch. It is, quite simply, entertaining. And that is something that should never be taken for granted in a film. I wouldn’t see “Fury” again—but at the same time I don’t regret seeing it. “Fury” is another one of those films that is probably worth seeing, but will likely get lost in the vast swathes of cinematic mediocrity that plague the film industry today.

Preman Koshar is a layout assistant. His email is pkoshar@fandm.edu.

Review Rating:
C+

Fury reiterates war film stereotypes, while providing a reasonably engaging plot.

• New Releases •

Week of Monday, December 8

Music

Tuesday, Dec. 9



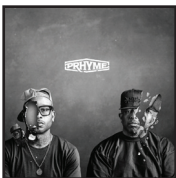
Lil Wayne
Tha Carter V:
Part One



J. Cole
2014 Forrest
Hills Drive



Smashing Pumpkins
Monuments to an
Elegy



PRhyme
Prhyme

Movies

Friday, Dec. 12



Exodus: Gods
and Kings



Top Five



Inherent Vice



Six Dance
Lessons in Six
Weeks

Blu-Ray

Tuesday, Dec. 9



Guardians of
the Galaxy



Dolphin Tale 2



When the
Game Stands
Tall



Calvary

—photos courtesy of www.amazon.com



Throwback of the Week



Artist: The Postal Service
Track: Such Great Heights



photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

On January 21, 2003, the indie-pop band The Postal Service released their debut album, *Give Up*, which featured the hit single “Such Great Heights.” The Postal Service consists of four members, most notably the indie rock powerhouse, Ben Gibbard. Gibbard, who is most famously known for being the frontman of Death Cab for Cutie, has been a part of four separate musical acts and managed a solo career. In total, Gibbard has been the main writer and musician on more than 15 studio albums. “Such Great Heights” was co-written by Gibbard and fellow Postal Service member, Jimmy Tamborello. Easily The Postal Service’s most popular song, “Such Great Heights” ranked number 27 on Rolling Stone’s list of 100 Best Songs of the Decade and has been featured in numerous television shows, commercials, and films. The massive success of all of Ben Gibbard’s projects illuminates his versatility and musical genius. Since entering the music scene in 1994, Gibbard has proven himself to be one of the most influential artists in the modern indie and electronic music industries.

College football is making some major changes to the playoff system. For details, read below.


photo courtesy of gstatic.com

Our winter sports have many exciting upcoming games. To find out when and where, see... page 8.

Franklin & Marshall Sports

Creation of college football playoffs system sparks discussion



This season marks the first year of the college football playoff system. It has brought great excitement to the sport as teams fight for the top four spots at season’s end.

BY JOE YAMULLA
Layout Assistant

There is a lot of buzz going around about the conclusion of the 2014-2015 college football season. The ending of every season always brings energy and excitement, as National Title hopes grow and bowl games get closer. However, this season is different than any other season before. It is the first year of the college football playoff system, and its format has a lot of people talking and wondering which teams the selection committee will choose to play in it.

For years college football fans have been complaining that their team has no chance of playing in a National Title game because of controversial aspects that affect their team’s ranking. For example, many fans of schools like Oregon, TCU, and Baylor, felt that their team would never play in a championship because of the conference their schools play in. These people hoped that the playoffs would finally give their teams a chance to play for a championship, and it is.

Well, it is here, but there is still controversy over who gets in. Because college football has so many teams, in order to be ranked in the top four they need to pass the “eye candy test.” This means that teams not only have to win almost every game on their schedule, but they also need to win convincingly. For example, Baylor is ranked number six. TCU is ranked

number three. Earlier this season, in a great and close game, Baylor beat TCU. Many Baylor fans are dumbfounded about why TCU is ranked above them. The answer lies in the previously mentioned eye test. Baylor ended up losing to an average West Virginia team, and barely squeaking by against a clearly superior Texas Tech team. So, Baylor only has one loss, but they have not shown the selection committee the one thing that is expected — dominance.

It seems to be almost unfair that these teams need to be literally perfect in order to compete for a National Championship. There are just so many variables that go into play. First is the previously mentioned concept of conference. The SEC is clearly the strongest conference in all of college football. Alabama, who plays in the SEC, is currently ranked as the number one overall team. The Alabama Crimson Tide have a record of 11-1. Florida State is ranked number four and their record is a perfect 12-0.

As a matter of fact, the Florida State Seminoles are better than perfect this season; they haven’t lost a game in over two years. They were undefeated last year and won the National Championship. Fans of the Seminoles have been pretty frustrated with the fact that their team has not lost in years, and they are only ranked at number four.

Yet, when the variables of col-

lege football selection are analyzed, it is a fair and accurate ranking. Florida State may not have lost, but they have not had any impressive wins. First off, they play in the ACC, which is clearly not on the same level as the powerhouse SEC. Florida State has only played against number two ranked opponents this season, and has barely beaten some pretty lackluster teams. Plus, they have a quarterback in Jameis Winston who may be the Heisman-winner, but he could be suspended at any time for sexual assault allegations.

Ohio State is ranked fifth and Oregon is ranked second. Both teams have the same record of 11-1. Ohio State, however, has a third string quarterback starting since JT Barrett broke his ankle last week. It may seem that the Ohio State Buckeyes have been slighted, but the reality is, Oregon just has a better chance to win ever since Barrett got hurt.

Big 12 Commissioner, Bob Bowlsby, said it best. He is a big part of the selection committee, and stated, “It isn’t the the teams who are most deserving, because

there are plenty of teams who deserve to be in the top four spots contending for a National Title. It is the four best teams. Simple as that.”

The new playoff system, as seen, gives two more teams a chance to win it all. But it doesn’t get rid of the inescapable (and sometimes entertaining) debate over who gets in. In either case, the end of the season will be extremely fun to watch. Fans also should remember that the bowl system is still in place, and it is a very good thing for the game. Even if your team isn’t in the top four, they can still compete for a prestigious crown, such as the Rose Bowl. The ranking system isn’t perfect, but it’s as close to ideal as it could get. When there are eight teams who only have a loss or two, it’s difficult to choose which teams are truly the best. Some teams will unfortunately be left out, but if the new system works, the best teams will have a chance to win a National Championship.

First-year Joe Yamulla is a Layout Assistant. His email is jyamulla@fandm.edu.

UPCOMING GAMES		
MEN’S BASKETBALL		
Dec. 13	vs. Albright	3 p.m.
Jan. 3	vs. Immaculata	3 p.m.
WOMEN’S BASKETBALL		
Dec. 8	@ Cedar Crest	7 p.m.
Dec. 13	vs. Alvernia	1 p.m.
WRESTLING		
Dec. 12	vs. VMI	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 29	@ Cradle Gear Invitational	All Day
MEN’S AND WOMEN’S SWIMMING		
Jan. 17	vs. Susquehana	1 p.m.
Jan. 23	vs. McDaniel*	6 p.m.
MEN’S SQUASH		
Jan. 12	vs. Harvard	12 p.m.
Jan. 13	vs. Trinity	6 p.m.
WOMEN’S SQUASH		
Jan. 12	vs. Harvard	12 p.m.
Jan. 16	vs. Williams	5 p.m.
* = Centennial Conference Competition		