

October 12, 2011

Nedj Alsagoff
1053 Lois Lane Apt. A
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Beth Cole
Life Editor
The Breeze

Dear Ms. Cole,

One tequila. Two tequila. Three tequila. Death? Not exactly the word you were expecting? We've all had those wild, blacked-out nights before, drinking shots of tequila that usually leaves us hugging the porcelain sanctuary till the wee hours of the morning. But what if our night didn't exactly make it until morning and the sun that usually awakens us, gets replaced instead with a light at the end of the tunnel?

Enter JMU junior Devin Harris, who has experienced that end before. A freshman at the time, Devin was excited for his life in college to begin; little did he know, he would be seeing the end far too soon.

Much like other freshman students, a typical weekend night consists of pre-gaming in the dorms. A handle of Cherry Burnett's stashed away for a special night, a bottle of Jose Cuervo bought by an older friend, and a case of Natty smuggled in by your roommate and you've got what most college students would call it—a pregame.

There's a reason why they call it "The Village" where Harris' pregame and others nearby take place conveniently in a suite. What starts as fun and games soon ends when Harris flat lines in an ambulance for 20 seconds. "It was like looking at a video camera...and slowly, everything begins to freeze," Harris recalls his last few moments before flat lining.

I would like to interview Harris and write a vivid feature story about his close encounter with death. I think this would be a great wakeup call for not only freshman, but also the entire JMU student body. It would help raise awareness in the dangers of binge drinking and the deadly consequences.

I think by interviewing a fellow student who has profoundly been impacted by binge drinking by "coming back from the dead" will make students more cautious and wary of the deadly consequences their drinking habits can lead them to. Sources could possibly include his friends and witnesses who were there that night.

I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Nedj Alsagoff