A medieval melodrama
Revisiting the sport of Kings

By GINA GARELLI

"Charge, Sir Knight!" Silence. Then the sound of galloping hooves, the click of metal as the ring is speared, and cheers from the crowd acknowledging the rider's skill.

These were the sounds accompanying the first National Hall of Fame Jousting Tournament held at Natural Chimneys Regional Park Saturday.

Modern jousting originates from the medieval sport in which two knights, heavily weighted with armor and armed with lances, attempted to knock each other from their mounts.

Modern jousting has eliminated the combat element and substituted an 80-yard straight track with three rings suspended separately from wooden "archways." The rings are almost seven feet above ground and their sizes range from one-quarter to one-and-one-quarter inches, depending on the riding class and settlement of tie.

The most rings speared in two rounds determines the winner. In deciding ties the ring sizes are reduced and the joust continues until a rider again spears the most in two rounds.

The Natural Chimneys tournament was conducted in honor of the park's selection as the home of the National Jousting Hall of Fame. The park was selected as the site because it is the location of the oldest continuous tournament held at Natural Chimneys and now the site of Massanutten resort.

The Natural Chimneys tournament was sponsored by the 8th Virginia and 11th Tennessee Cavalry Battalions, commanded by Capt. Rolf Perlitz and Capt. Robert C. Price, respectively.

"Charge to the Knights", written in celebration of the annual tournaments, is considered one of the most lyrical works. Burr, said, and was penned on the table now owned by JMU.

Gerard Hopkins, owner of Hopkins Springs, gave the table, which he used while composing at least two of his later works, to Lanier spent his last three summers in the Shenandoah Valley. During these visits, Lanier served as poet-in-residence at Hopkins Springs, often called Rockingham Springs and now the home of Massanutten resort. It was there that he received the pine writing table.

A native Georgian, Lanier first travelled here from Macon, Ga., in 1879 with his wife and four sons. Hopkins Springs, one of the most fashionable and stately lodges in post-Reconstruction Virginia, staged a medieval celebration called "Riding for the Rings" that delighted Lanier. A poet in speech, Lanier said, "Charge to the Knights", written in celebration of the annual tournaments, is considered one of his most lyrical works. Burr, said, and was penned on the table now owned by JMU.

Continued on Page 6
Five administrators approved by JMU Board of Visitors

By ANGELA ADKINS

Five new administrative appointments were made by the Board of Visitors in May. The board endorsed the University's selection of Dr. Michael Wartell as dean of the College of Letters and Sciences; Dr. Carl Harter as head of the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work; Dr. Marcia Dake as head of the Department of Communication Arts; and Dr. Diane Spresser as head of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science.

Wartell, currently dean of the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics at Slippery Rock State College in Pennsylvania, replaces Dr. John Sweigart who will return to full-time teaching in the philosophy department here.

Since he has not had much time to assess the University, Wartell will spend his first few months here observing, he said.

"One of the reasons I chose this school is because of its many strong points," said Wartell. "There seems to be a great deal of excitement here."

Fuller wants to develop an "intellectually rigorous" communication arts department, which also will involve the students in more practical applications.

"We want to strengthen our program, especially through internships. We are not so much trying to start new things, but refine our present program," he said. Fuller served as acting head of the communication arts department last year.

Spresser, who served as acting head of the department of mathematics and computer science last year, sees herself as the catalyst to make changes, the department would like to see.

Harter is now an associate sociology professor at Tulane University in New Orleans, La., and Dake is currently the director of program development for nursing and health services of the American Red Cross in Washington, D.C.
Dead III already on way

By MICHAEL DUBUS

The Dead are back. Not Garcia and the gang, but the REAL Dead. Those intestine-gouging sensations from Night of the Living Dead are here again, and they might as well be in the street on your block.

In the sequel, Dawn of the Dead, they've trapped the final survivors in a shopping mall, and are giving 'em an hour of a rough time.

There are only four normal folks left: a nurse, a black cop, a S.W.A.T. man, and a copter pilot; and they've barricaded themselves in a mall full of white-faced, goo-eyed dead folks. These dead folks are chummy and slapstick, but they live living point after point and suck on.

Now the fun part is, these four survivors have the weapon possible at their disposal, and they seem to enjoy using them on the zombies. They've got the newest guns, the sharpest knives, the fastest cars, and enough enthusiasm to really do a job.

Before Dawn of the Dead is over, there's plenty of cutting, decapitation, maiming and abuse. But don't worry, these corpses deserve it. They're supposed to be in hell, only there's no more room so they're on earth, hanging out at shopping malls.

Actually, there's more to it than that, but it is a comical movie.

George A. Romero has updated his Night of the Living Dead, a nubbing, relentless slaughter. The violence doesn't let up from start to finish, and it's so graphic the film is rated "R." When given the list of cuts he'd have to make to get an "R," Romero decided to forgo the rating process and release it instead.

This shouldn't deter anyone from seeing the film. Besides, there's a rich social commentary of the seventies.

In the bright sparkling mall, Romero's "temple of American consumerism," a fantastic moral tale is presented. The four survivors behave differently, and each receives his just reward. The cop and the nurse keep the film head-busting, so they must go.

Both are eventually half-naked, holding slabs as zombies and being shot in the head.

The two escape, but they're not safe yet. See, this piece of trash is supposed to be in the street on your block. They've got the newest guns, the sharpest knives, and fast cars, and the zombies. They've got the newest guns, the sharpest knives, the fastest cars, and enough enthusiasm to really do a job.

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Jousting tournament in the United States. The tournament began there in 1821 and is traditionally held the third Saturday in August every year.

For most of the spectators, however, visiting the Hall of Fame was secondary to watching the tournament.

Saturday, more than 93 riders were divided among four classes: novice, amateur, semi-professional and professional. Except for the novice riders, all participants are required to travel the 80-yard course in at least eight seconds.

Riders can share the same horse and lance, which is especially helpful for a family of competitors that owns only one horse.

One could almost hear faint trumpets and see horses cloaked with the colors of their knights racing towards an opponent, only to shudder from the impact of lance meeting armor. But instead of piercing metal, these modern riders were spearing small rings, demonstrating concentration and skill rather than strength.

The president of the Virginia Jousting Association, R. Don Floyd, shows skill and concentration rather than strength. Floyd, 73, rides with an artificial leg and competes in the semi-professional class.

"I started a little late. Started when I was 48. I didn't take up jousting until 1951 because it just wasn't around," Floyd said.

Each rider has his own style of riding and holding his lance, but four ways of anchoring the lance have developed. Most at the tournament rode with the lance parallel to the ear and above shoulder, their line of sight traveling down the rod to the point.

Many jousters match the accuracy of military marksmen, but their horses are also a crucial factor.

"Eighty percent is the horse," Floyd said. "You got to let him run his course. And he's got to run true. The horse is really the main factor."

And the horses there were of all sizes, colors and temperaments. Some were able instantly to spin around and bolt into a gallop from a rider's signal; others were so high-strung they were difficult to command. Many horses were so fast at the track's end that several riders leaned dangerously from their saddles, trying to balance a seven-foot lance while the prized rings still spun wildly at the tip.

The competition continued all afternoon as the background sounds of people playing games at booths mingled with the rider's words of encouragement and the shrill neighs of their mounts. Taking their cue from the vendors selling food and refreshments, horses swept at the tree leaves at the end of their runs, pulling down a snack between rounds.

The competitors were a cross-section of riders with differing ages, sex, builds and skill. Most were from jousting clubs, many traveling from Maryland and West Virginia to compete.

Some had practiced every night in preparation while one jouster admitted that "in the case of not practicing, it's a lot of luck."

For the spectators able to gain a closer view than the roped-off crowd area, it seemed much more than luck.

One could almost hear the rider's intake of breath in anticipation of his turn and then hear its release at the end of the ride, either in excitement of a perfect score or in disappointment of the narrowly-missed rings.

It had to be more than luck for the rider who captured all three rings in the professional class with the fastest tournament time: 80 yards in 5.1 seconds.

To many it was a step back into time to see "knights" and "maidens" charging with lances tilted towards distant pinpoints. To a few riders, however, contemporary life gave notice of its presence.

The shortage of gasoline had prevented several competitors from traveling to the joust, but as one Maryland champion said, "Few riders are expected to quit even with the gas crisis."
Moon rocks, to most people, seem as distant and unknown as the places they come from. However, through our ever-increasing technology for the past 15 years, geologists have been able to study some of the "highland breccia" of these areas. To most students and faculty here, this term is probably unknown. Highland breccia is the scientific name for a specimen of rock from the mountainous region of the moon. Some of these rocks were on display here in Miller Hall last week along with meteorite samples.

In cooperation with the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. and NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia, the James Madison University Geology department was able to obtain several specimens of moon rocks and meteorites on temporary loan.

The specimens are very old, according to Howard Campbell, a geology professor here who prepared the display. The moon rocks date back about four billion years and are "older than any earth rock we've been able to date," Campbell said.

The display contained samples of all of the materials that have been found on the moon. The meteorite samples, which are older than the moon rocks, were discovered at different locations on earth. Among the specimens in the display are samples of rocks found by Campbell in Meteor Crater, Arizona. Campbell found those while attending a conference there for geologists working with the structural make-up of other planets.

Included in the display is a slab of the Staunton iron meteorite which has been etched and polished to show its internal structure. This meteorite was found in the 1890's.

One of the meteorites on loan from the Smithsonian was found last January by Steve Kite, a member of the Geology department here. Kite discovered the Purgatory Peak iron meteorite in Antarctica during an expedition for the Smithsonian.

A safety precaution being taken to guard the specimens is locking the moon rocks in a safe. This, according to Campbell, is part of the regulations set forth by NASA before the rocks can be borrowed.

As part of the JMU Vacation College, Campbell taught a class dealing with moon rocks and meteorites Thursday.

Campbell recently attended the NASA Planetary Geology Principal Investigators Conference in Providence, Rhode Island. He will be teaching a course in planetary geology the second semester of the 1979-80 academic year.
When the poet died, the table was given to Madison by Helen Hopkins, probably during the 1960’s. It was stored inconspicuously in the basement of Madison Memorial Library, except for a brief period on loan to a small Harrisonburg museum, until Burr rescued it last week. The simple table is almost identical in style, having tapered legs, and was probably made about 1825, according to Burr. Besides a coat of varnish and a small metal plaque identifying the three-foot-high piece as once belonging to Sidney Lanier, the pine table has been virtually unchanged since the 19th century. Four lines of indecipherable French poetry appear in the small drawer, but Burr could not guess the origin of the mysterious script.

Although, many JMU students have never heard of Lanier, a fact Burr termed “unfortunate,” the curator was visibly excited about the discovery. He hopes to have the table prominently displayed at the JMU library after the library expansion is complete. Besides “Charge to the Knight,” Burr is certain that at least one other piece, “Science of English Verse,” was penned on the table. “A rather outstanding publication,” declared Burr. It is possible that Lanier wrote other works at Hopkins Springs as well.

Lanier died when he was 39, but received recognition in his lifetime. Two of his most famous poems, “The Marshes of Glynn,” and “Song of the Chattahoochee,” are often compared to works of Keats and Shelley because of their superb lyrical quality, Burr said. Lanier’s poems appear in most American literature anthologies.

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a time for work
... and play

Photos by Mark Thompson
Upcoming Events

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Tickets on sale June 18
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General Admission
$4.00

Grafton/Stovall June 27
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WUU Lounge
June 25, 27, 28
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The race also marked the end of our multiples, forcing us to speed and noise. formula Ford drivers who dashed around the track at increased more. The race was temporarily slowed but the driver had few retaining wall on two wheels and landed on its top, to slide no course, a sharp turn that proved to be too much for more than one provided more thrills and excitement than any other race.

Rabbits who started the race. the race in the number one position among the 16 Volkswagen special. Kent McCord, co-star of the old "Adam 12" series began position with the fastest qualifying time in his Buddy Holly screeching machine whose lock on last place was periodically interrupted. Fans roared with delight at the free-wheeling, broad-sliding, encountered difficulty every trip around the treacherous point. The crowd-pleaser proved to be a small green car which McCord failed to make the turn and lost his lead early in the race before moving up a few places in the latter stages of the race.

The next event displayed some of North America's top pro and settled back for over four hours of racing around the 2.25 S- curved oval track.

where else could one be supplied with a variety of entertainment for 75 cents an hour?

The first race featured a former television star on the pole position with the fastest qualifying time in his Buddy Holly special. Kent McCord, co-star of the old "Adam-12" series began the race in the number one position among the 16 Volkswagen Rabbits who started the race. The modified Rabbits reached speeds of 110 m.p.h. and actually provided more thrills and excitement than any other race. We had a perfect view of one of the toughest curves on the course, a sharp turn that proved to be too much for more than one driver. McCord failed to make the turn and lost his lead early in the race before moving up a few places in the latter stages of the race.

The crowd-pleaser proved to be a small green car which encountered difficulty every trip around the treacherous point. Fans roared with delight at the free-wheeling, broad-sliding, screeching machine whose lock on last place was periodically interrupted.

But, alas, toward the finish of the 60 mile race our hero rode the retaining wall on two wheels and landed on its top, to slide no more. The race was temporarily slowed but the driver had few injuries other than a small case of wounded spirit. The next event displayed some of North America's top pro formula Ford drivers who dashed around the track at increased speed and noise. The race also marked the end of our multiples, forcing us to turn to the best alternative—multiple food.

The second event brought a crowd of independence day activities to a close with a firework display in the infield.

The third race gave us a taste of the Old Brickyard in Indiana with a 60 mile run for Bosch Gold Cup Drivers who pilot smaller Indy-type cars known as "Super-Vees".

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**Dukes topple Tigers; lose in regional finals**

By DAVID HERRELL

The 1979 James Madison University baseball team ended its season on a disappointing note, losing in the finals of the ECAC Southern Region Tournament to George Washington University 8-4.

The Dukes, who finished 31-13, tuned up for the tournament by taking two of three from third ranked Clemson May 8-10.

The series began at Winchester's Bridgeforth Stadium with the Tigers breaking open a close 3-1 contest with nine-run explosion in the seventh.

Clemson appeared to be on their way to their second straight, ahead 8-3 after four innings in round two held at J. Ward Long Field.

Reliever Mike Estes came on in the fifth and limited the opposition to two runs while his teammates rallied to pull out a 11-6 thriller.

Phil Titus two-run double in the seventh provided the winning margin in the Dukes 7-4 win in the rubber game of the set.

The Dukes knocked once-beaten Catholic out of the tournament in the fifth and limited the Dukes to two runs while they raced to their second straight, ahead 8-3 after four innings in round two held at J. Ward Long Field.

Top seeded Richmond was knocked out of the double elimination tournament in the first day of competition, losing to Catholic and JMU.

Bob Sica banged four hits and three runs batted in to back the pitching of Estes who went the distance in the Dukes 11-4 rout of Richmond.

JMU dropped their opening game to G.W. 8-4 to finish the day with a 1-1 mark.

The Dukes knocked once-beaten Catholic out of the tournament 9-6 the following day in dramatic fashion. Titus led seven runs batted in, smashed four home runs to go along with 41 runs batted in and the Dukes found themselves in a tight 3-3 duel until a leaky JMU defense opened the gates in the sixth.

Two costly errors led to a five run outburst that carried the Colonials to the championship of the infant ECAC Southern Region Tournament.

Titus received post-season honors for his play in center field, named to the first team NCAA Eastern Region team.

Titus a junior transfer from Anne Arundel Community College, hit .381, smashed four home runs to go along with 41 runs batted in.

**Women's pro team selects Childress**

JAMES MADISON University's Mendy Childress, leading scorer for the 1978-79 Duchesses basketball team, was selected by the Houston Angels in the Women's Professional Basketball League draft June 12.

JMU's second all-time leading scorer was chosen in the sixth round by the Angels who won the first championship of the infant league.

Childress led JMU in scoring the past three years and established five school individual scoring records during the 1978-79 season. The Lynchburg, Va. native was named to the Virginia Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (VAIAW) All-State first team.

"I think its great," was JMU women's basketball coach Betty Jaynes' response to Childress's selection. "I hope this will be an indicator of the quality of women's basketball players here at JMU and I hope our other players will have an opportunity such as this in the future."

Childress was the second JMU graduate to be drafted by a professional basketball team. 1978 graduate Sherman Dillard was tabbed by the Indiana Pacers in the sixth round last year.

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The Valley Window:

The downtown with a difference

By MAUREEN RILEY

Downtown

In Harrisonburg, it’s frustrating traffic jams, florescent orange “men working” signs and annoying overhead utility lines.

An hour away, in Lexington, downtown is made up of tree-lined streets with bricked sidewalks that complement historic homes and a noted absence of utility wires.

However, Lexington, well-known for its connection with Stonewall Jackson and Robert E. Lee, is more than just an historic town.

Unlike other old towns such as Williamsburg, Lexington is a “living, working community with a strong sense of appreciation of tradition and heritage,” according to Peter Goss, director of the Lexington department of visitor relations.

“It’s just twentieth-century people living in a 19th century atmosphere,” he said.

And the historic atmosphere is hard to ignore.

Lexington has stores and businesses, but amidst these common downtown features are 23 historic buildings that have been restored to reflect 200 years of architectural achievement.

The oldest of the structures dates back to 1797, and the “youngest” was built in 1884.

The buildings are located on a 16-block residential walking tour mapped out by the Lexington department of visitor relations.

The structures are privately-owned, so the tour does not include viewing the buildings’ interiors. However, a leisurely walk past them makes one appreciate the history of architecture in America.

The visitor center is near the start of the tour, on Washington Street. There, guides will give you a map of the tour and answer any questions.

After that you’re on your own, and you can take time to study and compare the buildings’ exteriors.

Of the 23 buildings, three in particular reflect surprisingly different designs and architectural features.

Also, an interesting group of homes called “Godwin’s Row,” built in 1884, make up Lexington’s first housing development.

They are also responsible for constructing the center building at Washington and Lee University.

A Gothic-style cottage, the Presbyterian Manse, was built in 1848 using, in part, bricks from a 1797 church.

Finally, the Castle, which looks nothing like what the name implies, was built in the 1790s and has been used as law offices, a blacksmith shop and a boarding house in the years since.

Currently the building, now named “Hale Houston’s Castle,” has been restored to a lodging and business place.

The residential walking tour is only one of the three historical tours Lexington offers. The other two, the Lee-Jackson and VMI Marshall, take the visitor to the sights that have made Lexington famous.

Although the residential walking tour is not as well-known as the other two, it still provides a fascinating and different way to view 19th-century living in a downtown atmosphere which is a historic yet functional.

All in all, Lexington is quite a difference from down town Harrisonburg and well worth the trip for a change of scenery.

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