**Empty fire extinguisher dangerous for dorm**

By TERESA CAVINESS

Fire extinguishers at Shorts dormitory are now full, but at least one was empty when a fire broke out in a second-floor room June 29.

The dormitory escaped serious injury, despite the empty extinguers, when the Harrisonburg City Fire Department was called to the scene.

Approximately 90 wrestlers were evacuated from the Lake Complex dorm at about 3:15 p.m., after a mattress caught on fire.

The wrestlers were staying in the dorm while participating in a tournament. The fire, sparked by a lamp knocked over onto a mattress, was under control within 30 minutes. The lamp shade came in direct contact with the bulb, thus starting the fire, a spokesman said.

"We tried to use the fire extinguishers, but they were all empty," said one of the wrestlers staying in the dormitory.

"We had to go all the way up to the fifth floor to find one," he said.

According to Carlton Ruff of the Building and Grounds Department, general inspections of the dorms, including fire extinguishers, are conducted in August and January.

Fire extinguishers had to be refilled about each month last year. The extinguishers are refilled with dry chemical and water, but they can't be kept full because of "water battles in the dorms," Ruff said.

"If they weren't mature enough to handle responsibility, then they weren't mature enough to go away," she said. "There are still enough guidelines here within which the student has to live."

Parents were pleased to find a mature person in charge of the dormitory. By ANGELA ADKINS

"I'm rather shy of publicity, a sort of shrinking violet," she said.

But Neola Behrens, in spite of her self admitted lack of desire for attention, stayed at James Madison University for 11 years as housemother and head resident of Frederickson Hall.

"I like being a mother. Not only have I gained what I feel to be more daughters over the years, but more grandchildren, too," she said. "She has always worked with young people in the church, the 4-H club, and other groups," she said.

When she became a housemother in Frederickson Hall in 1967, the students were answerable to the Student Government for their social actions. When a student broke the rules, she was first "called down" by the House council. After three "call downs" she was put on social probation. "Then you could only go to class, the library, the dining hall and the dorm," Mrs. Behrens said.

In the earlier days, a housemother was required to be back in the dorm by 11 o'clock, even on her two days off.

"We used to laugh about that because the seniors could stay out to one and the housemother had to be in by eleven," she remembered.

Eleven years ago, girls were not allowed to wear pants or shorts on campus unless they wore a raincoat over them. Dress codes were set by standards chairmen.

The changes toward more social leniency didn't bother Mrs. Behrens. She attributes this to the experiences she had with sending her own three children to college. When they were away, they were given blanket permission.

"If they weren't mature enough to handle responsibility, then they weren't mature enough to go away," she said. "There are still enough guidelines here within which the student has to live."

As housemothers officially became head residents, many of the former housemothers left. But Mrs. Behrens stayed and found that parents were pleased to find a mature person in charge of the dormitory.

Undoubtedly, Mrs. Behrens has shared experiences to both extremes with her girls. She still keeps in touch with some that she met her first year here.

As a general observation, she notes that the girls today seem to be more studious and aim for a higher level of achievement because of JMU's increasing demands.

"I have always had good students," Mrs. Behrens said.

Through the years she has had few behavioral problems with her girls.

The girls who lived in Frederickson were more conservative. They always took pride in living in Frederickson and in their surroundings," she said.

Mrs. Behrens says the change in the more intensive ten-day orientation for head residents reflects the changing university.

"Though the basics are repetitions, there is always something different: dealing with the alcohol policy, and new visitation rules," Mrs. Behrens said. "It was always worth the time," she said.

The Mrs. Behrens, the changes in social policies seem to be the most effective. Many students had a much less restrictive lifestyle at home than they had at Frederickson. The changing policies are more consistent with what the students were used to at home," she said.

Mrs. Behrens returned to her home in Broadway for "personal reasons." "Now I just have to adjust to the change, which will be hard," she said.

She chose to be a housemother for 11 years, she said blantly. "Because I liked it!"
Keg rolling from coast to coast

By TERESA CAVINESS

Beer kegs are good for more than just a party. From May 31 to June 11 this year, some nationwide Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity brothers used beer kegs to help raise money for a hospital.

A James Madison University graduate was one of five representatives from TKE fraternity that took part in a coast-to-coast "beer keg rolling." Warren Muench, former president of James Madison University's TKE chapter and a 1979 graduate, participated in the two-month event to raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Muench said all five were presidents of their fraternities, he added. One of the five was on the road at all times, said Muench. The group stopped every night to get about six hours of sleep, he said.

The coast-to-coast trip was divided into segments with different TKE chapters having responsibility for certain distances, Muench said.

One chapter pushed the keg along a coast until they were met by members of the next chapter, he said. Each chapter was responsible for fund-raising in their respective cities.

Money was raised by the fraternity members by getting sponsors to agree to pay them a certain amount for each mile the keg was transported. Donations were also accepted.

The goal was $300,000, but we aren't sure how much we made because money is still coming in," Muench said. However, he added, the trip paid for itself.

Muench had to leave the keg rolling half-way through the trip so he could fly back to JMU to receive his degree in communication arts.

According to Muench, there was a lot of network news coverage. About five television stations and 175 newspapers across the nation covered the event, he said.

"They didn't think we would make it all the way to Los Angeles so they hadn't planned any major publicity for us when we did get there," Muench said.

After the group reached California, a final rally was held at ABC Entertainment Plaza in Beverly Hills.

After the trip, the hospital had planned a weekend for the five in California. They toured and attended several network television shows, Muench said.

Of the chapters united under the national organization, Muench said, "This is the largest service project any fraternity has ever done." Muench said. The event had been planned for two years, he said.

The national TKE fraternity hopes to make the keg rolling an annual event. Muench thinks the response to the project will be more positive next year because they proved this year they could complete the entire route.

The TKE chapter should benefit from this event by getting more involved in fund-raising, Muench said.

Apparently, TKE has solved that problem.
**A hysterical disaster**

**Hearty laughter smooths digestion of inviting theatre buffet**

By THERESA BEALE

"The definitive dinner theater play."

That's how director Allen Lyndrup described "Move Over, Mrs. Markham," during the intermission at a recent performance. And he was right.

Feisty laughter and constant smiles helped smooth digestion of the dinner theater's inviting buffet of roast round of beef and Yorkshire pudding as Mrs. Markham and her frivolous friends hastened their way through some two hours of scandalous fun.

A dinner theater play should be light and entertaining, Lyndrup said, and this play certainly fulfills both requirements. But what starts out as a rather simple plot turns into a hysterical disaster by the end of the evening.

The trouble begins when Joanna Markham's friend, Linda Lodge, decides to balance her husband's extra-marital activities by having an affair of her own. She only needs a place to accomplish her anxious deed, and of course, the Markhams' top floor flat is just perfect.

Unknown by Joanna, her husband, Phillip, is being petitioned by his business partner, Henry Lodge, for the use of his flat for the same purpose. The Markhams individually agree to allow the Lodges, individually, to use the flat while the Markhams go out to dinner.

Meanwhile, Phillip and Henry find the second page of a love letter written to Mrs. Lodge by her potential lover, Walter. And Henry leads Phillip to think that Joanna Markham is having an affair.

The only man Mrs. Markham knows well besides her husband is Alastair Spenlow, a rather effeminate interior designer who has a taste for bright colors and sassy women. He and the Markham's maid, Sylvie, make a habit of gossipping each other.

So the confusion begins. Joanna, who is going out with her lover, in a dinner theater situation, is expected to announce her marriage crisis. The Lodges are expected to announce their marriage crisis. The Markhams are expected to announce their marriage crisis.

Ironically, Phillip accuses Alastair of being gay to see if he could be his wife's lover. But Alastair is only interested in going out with Sylvie. The Markhams and Lodges continue to fib their way through the supposed extra-marital triangles. Then a wealthy dowager, Olive Harriet Smythe, calls to say she wants to sign her new book with Phillip and Henry. She's teaching children's book publishing firm.

When an attractive woman arrives at the door, Phillip mistakes her for Miss Smythe and doesn't understand why she hesitates straight for the bedroom. When he says she would like to get right to business, the young woman actually is Miss Wilkinson, the telephone operator Henry had arranged to meet.

Again, confusion reigns as each character frantically tries to get himself out of the snowballing state of affairs, no pun intended. If the audience could tear themselves away from "Mrs. Markham's" plot, they could see fine talent underneath all the fool-hardiness. As Joanna Markham's plot, they could see fine talent underneath all the fool-hardiness.

Lyndrup's wife, Anne, plays the attractive and somewhat sophisticated Mrs. Markham with ease. Her nervous laughter and glances at her husband and friends seem to confirm her position as an innocent bystander caught by unexpected mischief. The eyes tell more than the lips in many cases, and this play was no exception. From the play's opening scene, when the set, the dinner theater audience could read between the line as cast members such as Phoebe Sutton uses nonverbal language to the utmost.

Sutton makes a delightful Henry Lodge, as well as the Markham's maid, Sylvie, and the actress who ran around in a blanket? Debbie Zirkle played the seductive Miss Smythe as the light-headed character she was supposed to be.

Although the recent performance of "Mrs. Markham" was only the second for the dinner theater group, they shouldn't have to worry too much about improvement. A few lines were stuttered and a few movements were hesitant, but that is to be expected from a cast who worked five nights a week on a musical before "Mrs. Markham" opened.

The set, a living room with blue floral wallpaper, house plants and modern furniture, was an amusing contrast to a dinner theater situation, where people sit at their tables.

All in all, the evening was extremely enjoyable. To coin a phrase used often by the Britons in "Mrs. Markham," Well done!
Involvement a key issue for college Republicans

By CHARLES GRADY

"College Republicans need to take the initiative, to become involved,"
That was one of the principal themes of the College Republican Convention, attended by James Madison University student J. Lewis Say lor June 28-July 1.

Saylor, who directs Region three for the College Republicans, was one of approximately 350 representatives who came from 48 states and Canada to hear speakers including Senate Minority Leader Howard Baker, Republican National Committee Chairman Bill Brock, George Bush, Phil Crane and Howard Baker.

"Congressman Newt Gingrich of Georgia told us to take the lead, that anyone with a couple issues to stand on could become involved," Saylor said.

The convention was very productive," Saylor said. It provided an opportunity to meet many of the presidential candidates and review and start some of their platforms.

"The speakers were all interesting, and some came up with ideas similar to ours," Saylor said. "Co-Chairman Mary Crisp emphasized involvement in politics. Did you know that of the 36 women elected to Congress, how many were Republicans?"

This wasn't the only fact Saylor heard at the convention. Governor Stassen, Phil Crane and Howard Baker elaborated on the differing philosophies of the Democratic and Republican Parties.

The convention, held every two years, was a chance to "get your money's worth," said Saylor. "You come away from those four days feeling like you've become involved."

Since 1976 Saylor has been very busy. He works six days this summer school at the Commuter Store, where he helped form the Commuter Student Senate. He also helped serve in the Student Government as a senator. The next year he ran for Student Government Association President, but was defeated.

"I'm actually glad," Saylor said. "Last fall I was installed as an organised effort to protest proposed zoning law changes in Harrisonburg."

This summer Saylor is even busier. He works six days (and nights) a week at his job, that of campaign manager. He is the manager for Brian Delligere, the Republican candidate for clerk of the Rockingham County Circuit Court.

Yet still he finds time to be College Republican Director of a region that includes four states and the District of Columbia.

"I'm not tired," Saylor said.

The basketball office is.

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Running

Proper equipment essential

EDITOR'S NOTE: Running's popularity has increased dramatically nationwide among all ages in recent years. The Breeze sports presents the first of a four-part series on what the beginner needs to know before he or she takes off. The series will explore all phases of running from equipment necessary to the after-run.

Mike Greehan is a 1979 graduate of James Madison University where he competed in cross country and track. He specialized in the mile and still holds the school mark in that event.

Greehan, currently employed at Athletic Attic in Harrisonburg, is a member of the Shenandoah Valley Track Club but runs competitively for the Washington Running Club.

He has moved up to longer distances since college and now sets his sights on the Olympic trials to be held later this year, bidding to meet the qualifying standards in the marathon.

By Mike Greehan

There are five items you will need at the start of your running program, the most important of which is a good pair of running shoes. If you have a friend who is already a runner, ask him or her for a few recommendations, but always remember that even the best shoes are not for everybody.

JMU's top two distance runners the past two years, Mike Benshoff, and Richard Ferguson, both race in Adidas shoes. Ferguson trains in Nike's while Benshoff trains in Tiger's. Strongshoe Joe, a Turner trains in New Balance shoes and runs in Lyrids. I train and race in Brooks shoes. As you can see, even the best shoes are not for everybody. The beginner needs to know about the shoe.

When you go to purchase your shoes, go to an athletic store and talk to the salesperson that you are starting a running program. Tell them any peculiarities you might know about your feet, ankles, etc., so they will be able to take time and help you in choosing the shoe to meet your individual needs.

A couple of questions you might ask are:

1. "How was this shoe rated in Runner's World Magazine, 1979 shoe survey," and "How do you feel personally, about the shoe?"

2. Whatever you do, don't buy a pair of those department store "jogging shoes." These shoes are not good for running or jogging. If I had my way, these shoes would not be allowed on the market under such a category. They are very pleasant, dangerously. Basically, they are street shoes, made to look like and provide virtually no protection against jarring, and they are usually so heavy that they can tire the runner's legs before he can do the rest of the body some good.

If you are looking to cut costs, do it somewhere else. Whatever you spend on quality running shoes will be well worth the investment.

The four other pieces of essential equipment are shorts, athletic shirt, socks (white), a supply of T-shirts, and a notebook to record each day's progress and activity. As you progress, you may want to acquire more sophisticated and fancier equipment, but for now, you'll just need something you feel comfortable in.

Once you've gotten your equipment gathered you're almost ready to go. There's still one more step, though—stretching.

Greehan presents seven different exercises for becoming tight muscles in the second part next week.

Sports

Questions raised about the sport of putt-putt golf

BY DAN MCNIEL

Some time ago the ever-expanding world of sports, a writer must stop and consider whether he is witnessing the birth of a new competitive sport, or if, perhaps, there is a reaction of the professional Putter's Association to an all-time low in its membership.

The event had all the makings of a legitimate golf tournament — complete with a course, with a gallery, with cameras on the course.

The questions raised about whether the pro putters as "brawny athletes" drew guffaws of laughter from the gallery, but perhaps even being paid money for a ticket to view the proceedings.

The cameras gave close-ups of the tricky obstacles that exposed the facials qualities of putt-putt. Midway through the round, a camera revealed the funny faces of the galleries.

The professional putters will argue that tennis, baseball, and basketball are children's sports played by the general public. But, on the professional level, Wimbledon, New York, and the Thomas Cup would be considered legitimate sports.

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DOWNTOWN WINNER: Mike Greehan was the number one finisher in the Harrisonburg 10,000 meter run held in late April.

JMU signs prospects to baseball scholarships

JMU coach Brad Babcock has fashioned his nest with the signing of two more Virginia high school baseball prospects to baseball scholarships.

Randall Flahmeier, a catcher from Madison Heights, and left-handed pitcher Bennie Harder, a first baseman/shortstop were the latest recruits for the Dutchmen.

Babcock was the catcher for the All-Star baseball game last month.

The JMU baseball program is still in the early stages of recruiting for the 1980 season.

Nationally recognized announcers Billy Facker (known primarily as the sage of ACC basketball) and Frank Gilmer were among those contracted for the balderdash. The one description of the pro putters as "brawny athletes" drew guffaws of laughter from the gallery, but perhaps even being paid money for a ticket to view the proceedings.

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New David Bowie: No illusions, no poses

By MICHAEL DUBUS

David Bowie is an artist known for his masks. The most successful part of his ever-changing career occurred when he "became" Ziggy Stardust, a sci-fi glitter rock star backed by a heavy metal band called The Spiders From Mars. Bowie has assumed other roles through his music since then, but his latest LP, Lodger, reveals a new, more confident performer with no illusions and no poses.

The new LP marks the third, and supposedly final collaboration with the electronic composer, Brian Eno. The first two albums, Low and Heroes, show Bowie experimenting with other rockers. If this is their last collaboration, however, Bowie could easily move to another style and adopt it instead.

In a song called "Move On", Bowie is singing of a relationship, but the lyrics reveal more about the way he works as an artist, "Somehow, someone's calling me..."

And when the chips are down, I'm just a travellin' man. Maybe it's just a trick of the mind..."

And somewhere there's a morning sky Bluer than her eyes Somewhere there's an ocean Innocent and wild."

The National Honorary Broadcasting Society, Alpha Epsilon Rho, is now accepting applications for the Fall of 1979. Membership is open to all Radio-TV-Film majors who have completed at least three (3) hours of a broadcasting course, and at the Television Film Center, Harrison Hall. Deadline for applications is October 1, 1979.

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DOONESBURY

■

AND TELL THOSE CLAMAS UP IN SACRAMENTO THAT JERRY'S SERIOUS ABOUT HIS PLANETARIUM APPROPRIATIONS BILL! OKAY, I'LL CALL YOU.

ALSO SEE THAT THE DRAKE ROSSO OF THE GOVERNOR AT 800 TO TAKE HIM TO THE ANTI-MACLAIN BAG! I JUST GOT IT ANYWAY.

YEAH DO YOU KNOW IF SCHOLAR LAW SCHOOL HAD LANDED YET? WHY?

JERRY WOULD LIKE TO BE THERE TO MEET IT. OKAY, I'LL PUT OUT SOME FEELERS.

DO YOU KNOW NOT IT'S SHRUBABASH.

BUT I WON'T KNOW UNTIL I CHECK THE LANDS? YET?

WHY?

—N

/

\^wi

f

by Garry Trudeau

JERRY WOULD?

OKAY. MAYBE I'LL MEET IT. TURN OUTSOME VFEELERS.

NBC HAS BROKEN A STORY THAT'S GIVING US SOME HEADACHES. THEY'RE CLAIMING THAT JERRY ONCE SOLICITED A $1000 CONTRIBUTION FROM A LOCAL MAFIA BIGGIE.

IS THIS TRUE? OF COURSE NOT!

WHAT? TRUE?

THAT'S NOT YOUR DEPARTMENT HERE.

OFCOURSE NOT!

LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT, GRAY. BAND QUIETLY DID SCHOLAR SELECT THE CONTRIBUTION FROM ME RACE TRACK AS A FAVOR TO A STRIKING UNION. GUESS WHO WAS REPRESENTING THE UNION?

UNFORSEENLY, IT DOESN'T STOP WITH THE CONTRIBUTION. JERRY ALSO TRIED TO 'CLOSE A RACE TRACK AS A FAVOR TO A STRIKING UNION. GUESS WHO'S REPRESENTING THE UNION?

LENNIE ARGISMAN. HE'S A MOVIE PRODUCER. HE WOULD HAVE TO DEAL WITH SCHOLAR TO GET HIS MONEY MADE.

GRAY, I DON'T WANT YOU TO THINK IT WAS A CONSPIRACY. I CREATE SYMBOLS. SIT YOURSELF BUT HE'S GOING TO WANT TO SEE SOME OF MY WORKS.

GRAY TELLS A HINT, IT'S A BIT OF A PROBLEM. GOVERNOR. OKAY, SO WHO RUNS INTO HIM A FEW TIMES AT LIBRARY MAND'S PARTIES.

YOU DON'T?

NUH, NUH. I THINK HE ALWAYS KNEW I WOULD CRY FOR SHAK!

GRAY TELLS A HINT, IT'S A BIT OF A PROBLEM. GOVERNOR. OKAY, SO WHO RUNS INTO HIM A FEW TIMES AT LIBRARY MAND'S PORTIES.

YOU DON'T?

NUH, NUH. I THINK HE ALWAYS KNEW I WOULD CRY FOR SHA!

SO GONZALES, IF I'M GOING TO HANDLE THE PRESS OF THIS, I'M GOING TO NEED ALL THE INFORMATION YOU CAN GIVE ME.

GOOD. HOW ABOUT WHEN THE NBC REPORTER ASKED YOU WHY YOU SOLICITED MONEY FROM A MAFIA ORGANIZED CRIME FIGURE. HOW EXACTLY DID YOU JUSTIFY IT?

I POINTED OUT THAT SCHOLAR TOLD ME HIS MAFIA ORGANIZATION HAD BEEN INVESTIGATED BY THE F.B.I. WHICH IS WHY ANTHONY RECORDER TOLD ME HIS MAFIA ORGANIZATION HAD BEEN INVESTIGATED BY THE F.B.I.

ABSOLUTELY, I BELIEVE THESE PEOPLE CAN BE REHABILITATED.

SNACKS: summer school's nothie same without typing. Speedy.

FEISTY: Apologies for disappointing you. Maybe next anniversary we'll be together. Yur a great cook. Puff.

Classifieds

HAIRCUTS FOR SALE: Men's cuts and women's trims and restyling at an affordable price. $2.00 a shot. Call Jodie 434-1536.

STEREO EQUIPMENT: Discount on over 40 brands. Full warranty and free setup service. Call Bob 434-4666.

Personals

THANX AGAIN : for waiting in line for petro, and visiting this (ex) b—. Maybe we'll do something different this time — like use a bigger towel at 4 a.m. No matter what you are in the program, you'll always be number 1 in my heart. Oh, and watch out when accepting dances, she may call you again Miss 'ya bunches.

TO THE GANG AT HOME : wish I were there, but only three more weeks. Am anxious to try out the couch in its new location and catch up on the soap. More than anything, want to be with all of you and enjoy your company, as always. How are hang gliders lately? Sure do miss you guys. Take care of 710 and DOD — how's the ship, captain and crew? Much Love — SNBAGB.

M: Thanx for all the lessons. Like I said, I'll contribute my "success" to you. Read any good books lately? Ready for a rip-roaring weekend??? Whoo-who! Love. I don't call when you're in the shower. Watch out for muggers or whatever, Love — BAGMR.

TO TWEETS: Done any dancing lately? How's the 'Big Apple'? You're a 'girl about the world' now but still my favorite. Hi to BS for me. See you in a bit. Keenly and B.A.G.T. Love - Bunny.

TO THE FOLKS: Miss you somethin' turble' but see you soon, maybe sooner than you think! Hi to the G.P.'s for me. Keep those letters and packages comin'. Better rest up for the whirlwind. Much Love.

TO B.G., MRS., L.G.'S, M. AND M: Thanks for a wonderful weekend. Hope to see number 1 in my heart. Take care. Love — J.M.

SHARON: I still say you ought to go for a wine mosaic on the carpet—makes a good conversation piece. I enjoyed the company and conversation; we'll have to make a habit of it. Be prepared for a package of curtains on your doorstep and I'll pay you with leftover pizza. DRAMA SCHOOL DROPOUT

PS: Thanks for all the scrawled return addresses and stuffed envelopes. Sorry if you suffered any tongue papercuts. FORMER 715 MAIN ST. RESIDENT

KEYSVILLE: summer school's nothie same without typing. Speedy.
Recreation, re-creation celebrate farm life of old

By MAUREEN RILEY

Recreation and re-creation unite as 18th-century rural folk life is interpreted at a farm in Middletown during the summer.

For the past 11 summers Belle Grove, a 1764 house surrounded by 100 acres of farmland, has re-created farm life as it was a century ago, and provided recreation suited for the time period.

The public is invited to this event, "Belle Grove farm craft days," again this summer on July 21 and 22.

Belle Grove is on the property of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, whose motto is, "guarding America's heritage."

America's 1800's heritage is well-guarded at Belle Grove because the house and land have been preserved and restored to bring to the 20th century a bit of the past.

A staff, officer, Maj. Isaac Hite Jr., and guest workers such as the farm craft days allow guests to relive America's heritage by watching as craftsmen spin wool, shear sheep, make rugs, split rails or cover strawberries.

Guests can also relive the past at the picnic, participating in such recreation as haystack games, covered wagon rides and horseback riding, while listening to a band play bluegrass music in the background.

People from the Valley, other areas of Virginia, New York, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Maryland have come up in "crowds" to have come to participate in the past, according to Edwin Watson, director of Belle Grove.

★ Funds

The system for generating JMU funds and determining the budget appears equitable to us. We are concerned about the lack of student input. We understand it is difficult to introduce student involvement into a system that is carefully formulated. However, if we can inform the student populace about the budgeting procedure we feel that an important step will be accomplished. By combating ignorance, possibly student hostility towards the "unknown" administration will be lessened. Educating the student about how their tuition and tax dollars are used would be satisfying.

This information is only the tip of the budget iceberg and we encourage you to direct questionsto the administration, faculty and student government if you don't understand the system.

And write us, care of Box 1437, JMU, for any further information. We would also like to thank the faculty and administration that cooperated with their time and efforts. 

Gina Gareri
Amber Johnston
Julie Davis
Judy Clark
Debbie Blum
Liz Christian

Guests can tour the farmland where the craft demonstrations and games are randomly situated. Each demonstration and game runs periodically during the day, so there are "never too many people at one time," Watson said.

He was married to James Madison's sister, Eleanor Madison. In a letter James Madison wrote to Thomas Jefferson in 1794, he asked that Jefferson meet with the Hite's contractor and offer advice for the Hite's new home, now Belle Grove.

Jefferson's influence is evident in the layout of the house — it's single story — a favorite of Jefferson. A fanlight over the main door, a doric portico, and the T-shaped hall of Belle Grove are all reminiscent of architecture Jefferson used when designing structures. The architecture is also unique because it was obviously influenced by several cultures, German, Tidewater, Virginia and Scotch.

Despite the historical significance of the house, someone still resides there, and the surrounding farmland is still productive.

Malcom Brumback, who is descended from the Brumback family that owned Belle Grove from 1901 to 1929, runs the farm, with the help of a staff.

The farm boasts cows, corn, baby pigs among other things, but does not specialize in any one product, Watson said.

Among these influences of the present, America's rural folk life is authentically represented to the visitor a chance to experience what farm life was like a century ago.

Belle Grove is about one mile south of Middletown, on U.S. Route 11. From Interstate 77, take exit 77.