

The Breeze

THURSDAY, JULY 5, 1990

JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

VOL. 67 NO. 54



Ooooh - Aaaaah!!!

Staff photo by KIRAN KRISHNAMURTHY

Fireworks cap a day of festivities at Fund Fest on Saturday.

Orientation begins; freshmen hit JMU

By Kathryn Peterson
staff writer

What do you get when you mix shiny purple folders, a dance reminiscent of junior high and more smiling faces than you can ever match names to?

Freshman Orientation.

The first orientation session for James Madison University's class of 1994 was June 25-26. From now until the middle of July, orientation sessions will be held every Monday and Tuesday and again every Thursday and Friday.

Each session, about 200 incoming freshmen and their parents will wander through campus wearing name tags and confused looks as they try to match the buildings ahead to the blurs on their maps.

When parents and students first arrive, they check in with an orientation assistant at their assigned residence hall and then head over to Grafton-Stovall for an opening meeting.

After they are bombarded with information from various organizations, they get their first taste of campus food at a luncheon in Chandler Hall. Most students in the June 28-29 session found the food adequate.

"The food is a lot better than food I've tasted at other universities," said Anna Mpres of Annandale. "I just hope that I don't eat enough of it to gain the Freshman Fifteen!"

After lunch and guided bus tours, students clench Number 2 pencils and scantron sheets and take various student assessment tests.

Some of the tests are placement tests, such as the math and foreign language tests. Other tests are opinion tests, designed to discover the views of the majority of incoming students.

Students found these tests long and tedious: "They ask us if we would dress a certain way to please a group," said Tom Buckley. "There aren't but so many of those kinds of questions that we can take."

After assessment, students are presented with an afternoon of speeches, discussions and question and answer periods. During this time, students can learn about opportunities in their programs of study, various campus organizations and the ups and downs of on-campus living.

A buffet dinner and an orientation skit elicited cheers and laughter from the students after a long, tiring day. According to Buckley, the orientation

See ORIENTATION page 6 >

Parents' orientation schedule as difficult, busy as students'

It's ten o'clock. Do you know where your parents are?

Parents of incoming freshmen have just as hectic schedules as their children do. They attend the same general sessions and go to the same "meet your major" conferences, but when James Madison University's class of 1994 is buckling under the pressure of assessment tests, parents are given the facts about campus life relating to subjects such as alcohol, drugs, dating and sex.

The parents' night out is different from the students'. For those parents who enjoy good food and lots of laughs, the JMU dinner theatre in the Phillips Center meets both criteria. Scientifically inclined parents may attend a planetarium show in Miller Hall.

While the kids are struggling with registration, parents meet with the various vice presidents' divisions: academic affairs, administration and finance, and student affairs.

"I had another child who just finished here at JMU, so I've been to two orientation sessions now," said Carey Rice of Lynchburg. "It amazes me how much I've learned this time that I didn't pick up last time."

OAs help parents and students during visit to JMU

Phone calls at 5 a.m. and dances until 1 a.m. are typical components of the life of an orientation assistant.

OAs are a select group of 16 individuals who check parents and students in and out of their halls, direct people to assemblies, lead bus tours, assist administrators in programs, and answer questions about JMU.

"We get questions about anything from having a member of the opposite sex stay overnight to having alcohol in the rooms," said OA Jodie Jean.

Despite the tight schedules and long days, OAs enjoy getting involved with the new freshmen.

"You know just about all 200 of the freshmen when they're gone, and about 300 of their parents, you see them so much," said Bill Delany. OAs are never too busy to have fun either.

"On Wednesdays and weekends we go out together or cook dinner together," said Delany. "My best friends now are the other 15 people I work with — some of whom I'd never thought I'd be friends with. It's just like one big, happy family."

Jury recommends death penalty

Strickler convicted of capital murder

By Melissa Reilly
staff writer

Tommy David Strickler was convicted June 21 of capital murder, five months after the death of former JMU student Leann Whitlock.

After an hour of closed deliberation, an Augusta County jury delivered guilty verdicts for capital murder, abduction, and robbery, and 30 minutes later recommended Strickler be sent to Virginia's electric chair on the capital murder offense.

The jury recommended life sentences for both the abduction and the robbery convictions.

No date has yet been set for the judge to pronounce the final sentences.

Strickler, 24, of the New Market area, originally was charged with capital murder, abduction and robbery in connection with the death of Whitlock, 19, of Roanoke. His trial began June 18 in Augusta County Circuit Court.

Whitlock disappeared Jan. 5 and was found eight days later, naked and partially frozen, under two logs and a pile of leaves five miles north of

Waynesboro.

Whitlock had last been seen when she left her Madison Square apartment on South Main Street in Harrisonburg to go to Valley Mall. Her body was discovered after police received an anonymous tip Jan. 11. Her car also was found that day in the parking lot of Bethlehem United Church of Christ near Tenth Legion.

Strickler was arrested the same day.

Whitlock was abducted from Valley Mall, possibly raped, and later murdered with several blows to the head from a 69-pound rock, according to testimony cited in the *Daily News-Record* June 22. Testimony indicated Whitlock died from three skull fractures that penetrated her brain.

Augusta County Commonwealth's Attorney A. Lee Ervin said during his closing arguments that one man could not have held Whitlock and beat her with the rock at the same time.

During the trial's sentencing phase, Strickler told the Whitlock family he was sorry and asked the court for mercy.

Commonwealth's Attorney Ervin said Strickler deserved no mercy, the

Daily News-Record reported. Ervin and his assistant, Richard Moore, recommended the death penalty, saying Strickler was a menace to society and the nature of the crime justified execution.

Ronald Lee Henderson, 24, of Frost, W. Va., is a second suspect in the case, and also is charged with capital murder, abduction and robbery. Henderson disappeared in early January and is still at large.

Harrisonburg police and Augusta County Sheriff's Deputies also are searching for an unidentified blond woman whom two prosecution witnesses saw with Strickler and Henderson at Valley Mall.

She also was seen at the sight where Whitlock's body was found, witnesses said.

According to witnesses, the woman is not Donna Kay Maddox Tudor, who later met the two men at Dice's nightclub in Staunton.

Tudor, who has been charged with grand larceny in connection with the theft of the car Whitlock was driving, said police would help her with the charge if she testified, according to the

Daily News-Record.

Tudor testified she met Strickler at Dice's at 9 p.m. Jan. 5 and left the club with him and Henderson some time after midnight.

Tudor also said Strickler and Henderson talked about putting "it" in a rock crusher.

When Tudor asked what "it" was, Strickler told her "it" was a nigger." He also said he "kicked it 'side the head so it wouldn't get him in any more trouble."

Attempts to discount Tudor's testimony apparently failed, and Ervin supported the credibility of the witness when he said she knew where Strickler had placed three ID cards belonging to Whitlock.

Tudor also identified a shirt containing a human blood and semen stain that Strickler wore the night of the crime.

It took more than eight hours to select the nine-man, three-woman jury. According to the *Daily News Record*, six of the 10 who didn't qualify for jury duty believed Strickler was guilty based on media reports.

The Breeze

Founded 1922

"To the press alone, chequered as it is with abuses, the world is indebted for all the triumphs which have been gained by reason and humanity over error and oppression."

— James Madison

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Bike theft is on the rise, but precautions can curb problem

By Kiran Krishnamurthy
staff writer

In late May, Lee McVetta, a JMU senior working on campus during the summer, secured his mountain bike to a bicycle rack at Weaver Hall, using a Kryptonite cable lock looped through the bike's front wheel and frame.

A friend drove him home that afternoon, and when McVetta returned the following day, his lock was gone. So was his bike.

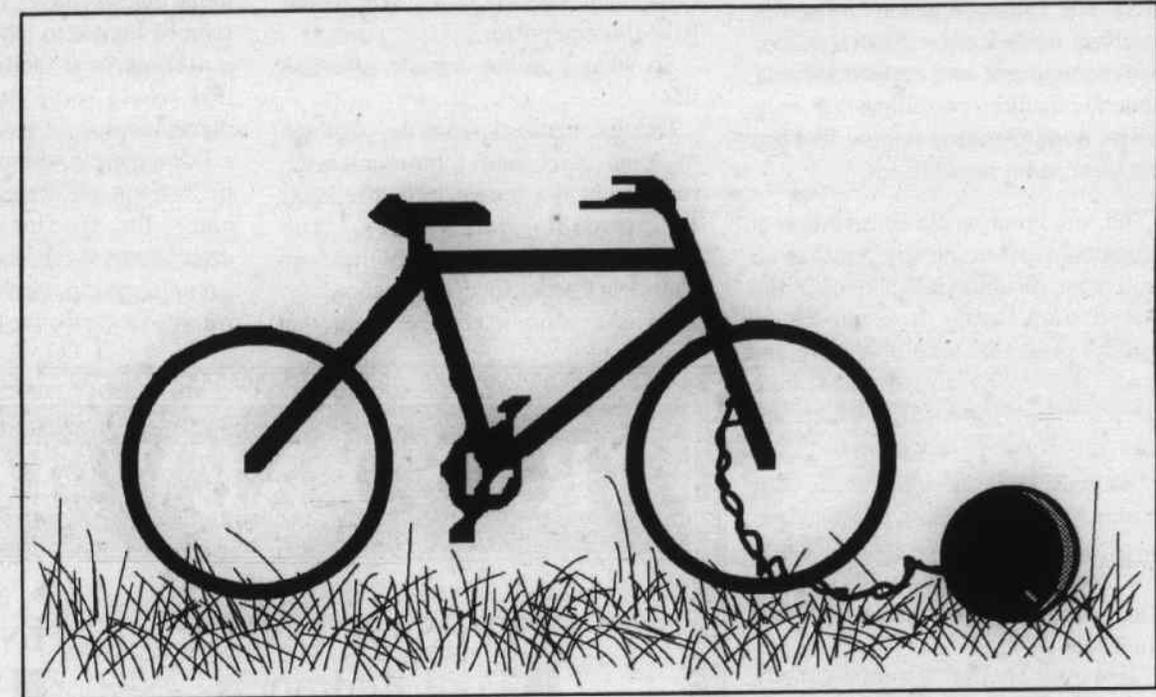
Incidence of bike theft on college campuses is growing, and the problem is difficult to control, according to Harrisonburg bike dealers and local police.

Sixteen bikes were stolen from students since the beginning of 1990 through June 5, according to figures compiled by JMU campus police. Five bikes were stolen during the same period last year, and a total of 16 were stolen in 1989, only two of which were recovered.

Harrisonburg Police Spokesman Don Farley said 92 bikes have been reported stolen in Harrisonburg since August 1989, and 20 have been returned to their owners, a success rate of less than 25 percent.

JMU Campus Police Investigator R. A. Baker said, "It's a big problem that extends across the state. Each month I meet with law enforcement officials from other Virginia colleges and the topic always comes up."

The problem is hard to control for a few reasons, Baker said. First, many bikes are stolen and taken out of the area, making it almost impossible to trace them. In an instance where the thief was caught, a man was stealing bikes from JMU and hustling them down to Virginia Beach where he rented them during the summer, Baker said.



Staff graphic by KIRAN KRISHNAMURTHY

own them. Bikes are kept in storage for one year and then sold in a public state auction.

To help return bikes to their rightful owners, JMU offers students a free bike registration service. Harrisonburg police require bikers to register when using public roads, but allow students to do so through campus police, Baker said.

When registering, students must fill out a card, available at the campus police station, that consists of general information such as the bike's make, model and serial number, and more detailed information, such as types of handlebars, seats and accessories.

"The key to controlling the problem is getting students to register," Baker said. "It only takes a

model number. According to Baker, there are between 2,000 and 3,000 bikes on campus, and about 10 percent of the owners, or 200 students, register their bikes each year.

JMU senior Matthew Bracken of Mark's Bike Shop in Harrisonburg said registering a bike is a safeguard students can take, but said there are other ways people can ward off potential thieves.

"You've got to make it tough on the thief," Bracken said.

Both the bike's frame and one wheel should be locked to a solid post close to the student's classroom in well-lit areas, he said. Bracken also recommended using a Kryptonite-type, U-shaped lock or a strong cable lock.

"Anyone's prey, no matter what kind of lock they've got," Bracken said. "The trick is never lock your bike to itself or leave it unlocked. You're just asking for it then."

Bracken also said JMU can do more to protect bikes from theft. He said there is a shortage of bike racks and lack of concern for bicyclists on campus.

Baker said, "There may be a shortage of bike racks in some areas, but about 12 bike racks have been ordered for next year."

"JMU's definitely not accommodating bikers," Bracken said. "If I wanted to steal a bike, I could put it in my car and drive right through campus and nobody would stop me. Campus police aren't all that bright."

Craig Mauck, owner of AAA Rearview Bicycle Repair in downtown Harrisonburg, said, "It's the '90s now and bikes are here to stay. JMU needs to wake up and show more concern for its biking population."

Baker said that if campus police see someone riding a bike fitting the description of a stolen item, they'll stop the rider and check out the bike.

"Most people are aware that bikes are highly prized by thieves and don't mind when we take a look," Baker said.

"But bikers also have to keep up with their own bikes and not leave them laying around. The burden is two-fold."

"If I wanted to steal a bike, I could put it in my car and drive right through campus and nobody would stop me."

— Matthew Bracken

Also, bikes are stolen simply for convenience's sake, he said. "A lot of times they're abandoned shortly after they've been stolen," Baker said. "We've found them in Newman Lake, in bushes, along the road."

But the main reason bikes are hard to recover is a lack of information identifying the bike, Baker said.

Farley said owners must prove ownership either by presenting a serial number or noting distinguishable characteristics of the bike. "We're not going to have a bunch of con-artists coming in here and walking away with bikes that aren't theirs," he said.

Baker said about 25 bikes are left on campus unclaimed each year because students can't prove they

couple minutes, but it can assist us a great deal in recovering a bike."

JMU and other area colleges share information about stolen items with local police, and JMU also traces items through the National Crime Information Center, he said.

If police can make a positive identification using a serial number, they can access an NCIC computerized list of recovered items from across the country. A JMU student's bike was returned from Mississippi by using the system, Baker said.

Of the 16 bikes reported stolen to campus police this year, seven were accompanied by a serial or

JMU looks to future programs across I-81

By Felix Pages
staff writer

The 21st Century is only a few years away, and James Madison University is getting ready for it — with tentative plans to upgrade and expand various academic facilities on campus.

The administration is now looking into three main possibilities.

The first involves the construction of a regional performing arts center to be built east of Interstate 81, near the Convocation Center. It would feature cultural programs such as theatre and dance. The center also would feature symphony performances, which are limited now due to lack of space.

"Wilson Hall is simply not big enough," said Gail Nardi, consultant to the president for new programs. "Right now, there is no stage on this campus that can accommodate a full symphony."

"It would be like a mini-Kennedy Center," said Nardi. It would be strictly a public facility for the Shenandoah Valley, and not directly affiliated with JMU, Nardi said.

The administration also is exploring ways to define the planned college of applied science and technology. The college is intended to provide an alternative learning environment, different from more conventional programs in other departments.

Faculty members are considering four potential pilot programs that would comprise the new college. An environmental information studies program would consist of a joint venture between the departments of geology and geography, along with the math and computer science departments.

Operations research would combine elements of the information and decision services and math and computer science departments. The science technology and society program would be a liberal arts approach to the study of issues arising from science and technology and their impact on society.

And an applied molecular biology program would be a joint project between the biology and social sciences departments.

The third area focuses on revamping the theatre and dance departments, along with the newly reformed mass and human communication departments.

Both departments have "critical needs that have to be met," Nardi said.

For instance, an optimal 21st Century communications facility would have a mediated classroom — wired for all the latest video and sound

technology available. It also would feature a "first-rate television production studio and state of the art equipment," Nardi said. "We do not have this equipment."

So what is being done to alleviate this?

Faculty members from the College of Fine Arts and Communication recently held a retreat to gather ideas for possible renovations. The proposals then were submitted to President Carrier for consideration.

At one point it became clear that

several aspects of the projects began to overlap, Nardi said. Given that the communication and theatre and dance departments have similar needs, it seemed logical to look into the idea of a multipurpose facility — a building that would serve the needs of both departments.

For example, the proposed regional performing arts center would provide a place for the theatre and dance departments to rehearse.

Symphony performances could be recorded and broadcast over public radio

station WMRA-FM. Performances also could be recorded and produced for television.

"All these things came together in such a way that it made sense to explore the possible connections between them," Nardi said.

These ventures now are in the exploratory stages. Consultants have been hired to conduct studies and determine the feasibility of the projects. The administration will receive the results of the studies by the end of the summer.

BRAND NEW TOWNHOUSES

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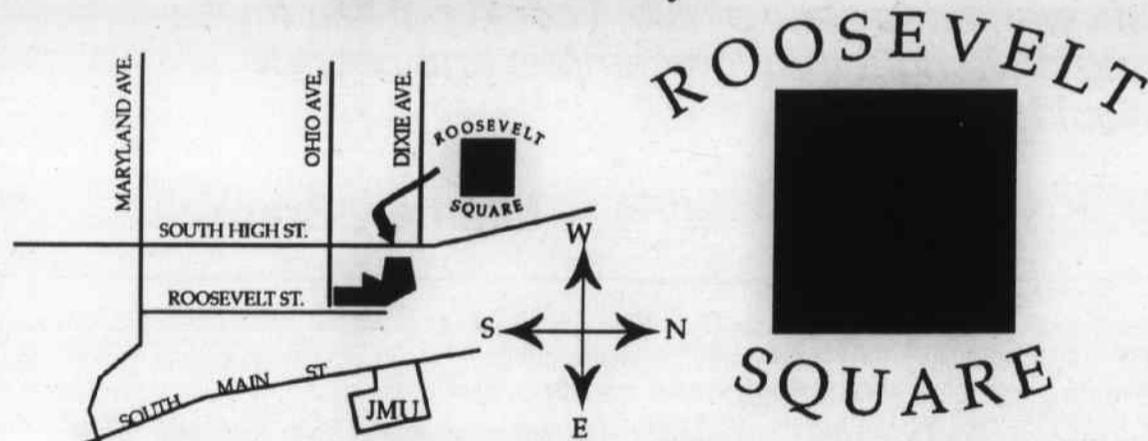
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Play just part of multitude of summer activities

By Kristin Fulcher
staff writer

With fewer students on campus during the summer, you may be wondering if there's anything to do at JMU.

The department of theatre and dance and the University Program Board are just two of the organizations sponsoring activities this summer.

Allen Lyndrup, associate professor in the theater and dance department, will be directing "Family Reunion" as the department's main stage play this summer. The play will be performed in Theatre II because Latimer-Shaeffer is being remodeled.

"Family Reunion," which will include JMU students and members of the Harrisonburg community, has no set script, but will be based on the cast's own experiences.

According to Lyndrup, "You can go to the play four times and see four entirely different stories.

"When the audience comes in, they will receive a name tag and a

polaroid will be taken and put on the family tree, which will be drawn on a wall. Then the audience will become part of the play," he says.

The cast will proceed to take the audience around and introduce them to other members of the family, and the play actually will move from room to room.

One idea discussed during auditions was a family member having a sex change and returning as a member of the opposite sex, but because there is no script, stories will be changed right up to performance time.

"Family Reunion" will be performed July 25 to 27 at 8 p.m., and July 28 at 2 p.m.

Other summer activities include the following:

- The UPB is showing movies again this summer, in Grafton-Stovall Theatre, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.

The movies include "The Gods Must Be Crazy," "An American Werewolf in London," "The Running Man," "Ladyhawke,"

- "Take the Money and Run," "Vacation," "Used Cars," "Young Frankenstein," "Bringing Up Baby," "Gotcha," and "Back to School."

- Ice cream will be served in the Warren Campus Center lobby, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Coffee and danish will be the entre on Wednesday mornings from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

- If you're interested in sports, several tournaments are planned this summer, including racquetball, grass volleyball, softball, golf, tennis and horseshoes.

- The weight room in Godwin Hall is open Monday through Thursday, noon to 8 p.m., Friday, noon to 5 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

- Aerobics exercises are offered Monday through Thursday at 5:15 p.m. in Godwin Gym A.

- Savage Pool is open to students, faculty and staff Monday through Thursday, 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., and Friday through Sunday, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

- For those interested in studying, the Carrier Library will be open 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, and 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday.

- For students who have purchased dining contracts for the summer, meals are being served in the Highlands Room of the Warren Campus Center.

- Souper Salads will be located in Top Dog, for those students who are paying cash or have Flex accounts.

- Mr. Chips, the convenience store usually located in Lines 3 - 4 of Gibbons Dining Hall, temporarily has been relocated to Godwin Hall across from the basketball courts, and is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

- First American Bank has been moved to a trailer in parking lot E in front of Hillside Hall, and will be open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and during orientation until 5 p.m.

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JMU's Sawhill Gallery captures a zoo

By Dale Harter
staff writer

The zoo at James Madison University closes tomorrow.

The zoo? What zoo?

The zoo in Duke Fine Arts Center of course.

Although the kangaroos, penguins and longhorn steer in Charles Smith's Zoo don't actually breathe or move about, since June 11 they've made their home in Sawhill Gallery. A Virginia Museum of Fine Arts exhibition, Charles Smith's Zoo is the first of two exhibits scheduled this summer at the gallery.

According to Stuart Downs, Sawhill Gallery director, the exhibit is comprised of 19 compositions called block paintings. The block paintings were developed between 1936 and 1946 by Smith, a former Waynesboro resident, while he taught art at Bennington College in Vermont. The paintings are a combination of printmaking and oil.

Although it's specifically targeted to attract local school children, especially those attending JMU's Summer Art Program, Downs thought the exhibit would attract adults as well, since Smith was a former Shenandoah Valley resident. After children in the Summer Art Program viewed the exhibit, they created their own animals and displayed them along with Smith's works.



Staff photo by MARK MANOUKIAN

Katy Melton of JMU's Summer Art Program enjoys one of Charles Smith's pieces.

The next exhibit at Sawhill Gallery, featuring the works of JMU graduate student Pamela Johnson, will run from July 16 to Aug. 3. Johnson, who also

supervises the costume shop in JMU's Department of Theatre and Dance, will be exhibiting textiles and handmade paper.

Orientation

► (Continued from page 1)

skit was packed with needed information and spiced with good humor. "It told me a lot of stuff I didn't know and helped me to feel more at ease," said Buckley.

Following the skit, students were divided into small groups, each of which was led outside by a pair of orientation assistants. The assistants then answered all the questions that the students ventured to ask.

Some students were surprised by the extremely personal questions asked by their peers. "Some guys ask some really intimate questions," said incoming freshman Steve Grocki.

Others agree. "I didn't expect it to be so personal," said one freshman after leaving her question and answer session.

One student asked if he could grow marijuana in his room. The question was followed by a long laugh.

After the question-answer period was the event of the day: the orientation dance. Picture a room with dim lighting, loud music, and orientation assistants going crazy and you've seen a glimpse of what the freshmen saw when they arrived at the first social event of their college years.

Perhaps it was the newness of college and the people around them, or maybe it was just nerves, but for most freshmen, the first 15 minutes of the dance were tense.

"No one wants to dance at first," said freshman Laurie Thompson. "We're all

kinda standing around waiting for someone else to make the first move."

Carolyn Holgerson, who caters the dance as a project of JMU Special Services, described the dance as "something like a junior high school dance — the girls on one side, the boys on the other."

Orientation Assistant Bill Delany said, "All I need is to see one of my

old eighth grade teachers and I'll feel like I'm right back there again."

But after the first few minutes of tension, the floor began to fill and students started to mingle.

"All the guys see that most of the other guys can't dance either, but they can still have a good time anyway," said Delany. "And by the end of the night they're all gonna be sweating,

cause they'll be dancing so much and having so much fun."

"Gradually people started dancing, and you'd think that they were best friends by the time they left — everyone knew each other and had a blast," Holgerson said.

Thus ended the first day of orientation.

The second day began with breakfast and continued with a session about academic advising. Then freshmen met with their assigned advisers and undertook the gruelling task of creating a schedule.

"I was so confused to see the times all in military hours — and it seemed that every class I wanted was either already full or would be by the time I registered," said freshman Sherry Benton.

Once the students had registered for fall semester 1990, they were ready to leave. Many freshmen returned home with at least one new address or telephone number and much excitement about the year ahead. For most, the excitement was generated by the enthusiasm and friendliness of their peers and the orientation assistants.

"Everyone here is friendly," said Mpres. Everyone here has a smile on their face." "You can walk up to anyone and say 'hi' and they'll say 'hi' back," Mpres said.

So what is JMU's class of 1994 most concerned about upon returning in the fall? Classes, classes, and more classes.



Staff photo by KRISTIN FULCHER

Down the drain

Those computers aren't always 'user friendly'

By Kathryn Wemmers
staff writer

Breathing a sigh of relief and wiping the sweat off his forehead, Joe Sloan leans back to admire his 25-page paper worth 75 percent of his final grade. Glancing at the clock, he realizes he only has five minutes to print before the computer lab closes.

And then it happens — the screen goes blank.

Joe's eyes widen slowly, his mouth hangs open and his nostrils flare. Staring numbly at the blank screen all he can think of are countless hours spent editing and revising — and he didn't save it.

"NO," he screams, "this can't happen to me!" Using both hands, he begins banging on the defenseless keyboard and shaking the computer terminal while obscenities spew from his mouth.

The screen remains blank, and Joe finally calms down and accepts the fact that his paper has been erased. Head hanging dejectedly, he shuffles out of the room to buy a Snickers Bar and a Coke before starting the paper — again.

Although Joe is not a real person, this situation is not unusual in the computer age. JMU students spend hours in the lab using computers to help make papers and projects go faster. But with this speed advantage there is also the risk that the computer or student will make a costly mistake.

"It was awful," says Samantha Priftis, a sophomore public relations major. "I made a scene in the middle of the computer lab."

Priftis was revising a four-page newsletter she had worked on for weeks when she accidentally erased the entire project.

"I was working on an extra page that had only a few ideas on it and the computer asked me if I wanted to save it under the same name. I pushed 'yes,' thinking it would save with the rest of my newsletter. Instead, the computer erased the original four pages and just saved the extra page."

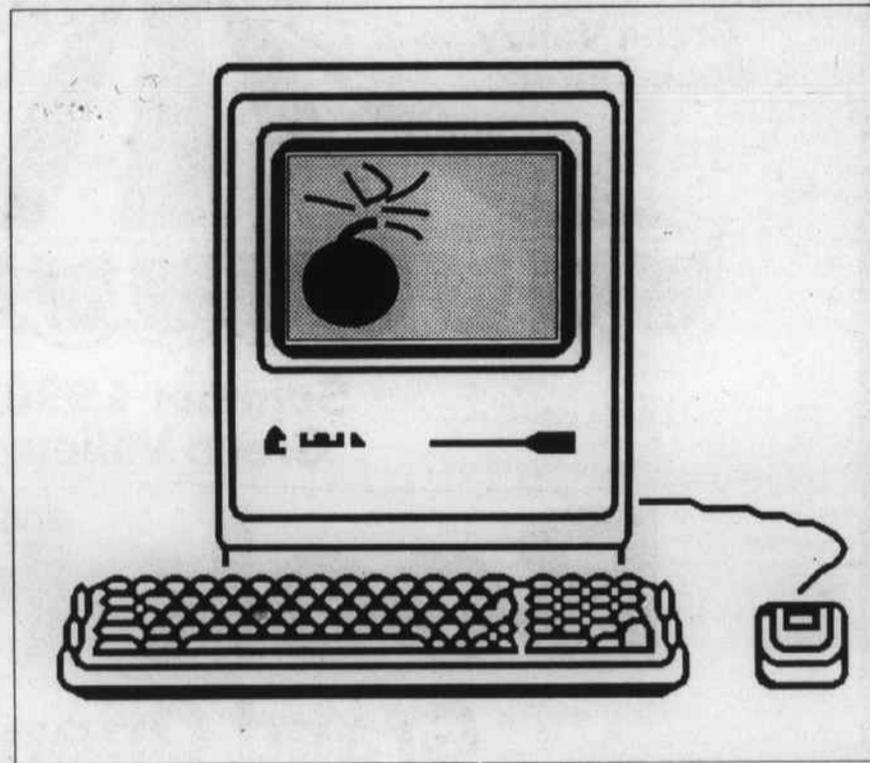
Priftis already had printed the newsletter a few times in its rough form, so she stayed up all night, armed with scissors and tape, cutting and pasting to correct mistakes. She says it wasn't as good as it could have been, but at least she turned it in on time. "You don't understand how careful I am now," she says. "I save every five minutes."

Anne Frecknann, a sophomore biology major, says she thought she was "lucky with computers" until one

"disastrous" evening. Frecknann went to Huffman Hall's computer lab to edit and print a paper, but for some reason her computer thought the printer was down.

The lab assistant couldn't find a problem, so Frecknann saved and decided to try Converse Hall's computer lab. At Converse, the screen showed her file name, but kept flashing "file missing" whenever she tried to print.

The same night, after she had redone the paper, she punched a wrong key and the entire paper disappeared.



Staff graphic by KIRAN KRISHNAMURTHY

"I got it back by clicking 'paste' [on the Apple Macintosh], but for some reason, at the very end of the last page, there was an extra word I hadn't put there. Every time I tried to erase the word, the whole paper disappeared. I finally put spaces between the word and my copy so the word was on a page by itself, but I still never figured out what happened."

Frecknann was especially frustrated because she had planned to spend 30 minutes in the lab, but instead spent seven hours. "I had to go home and stay up all night finishing the homework I was supposed to be doing while I was wasting time in the computer lab."

JMU students aren't the only ones who have problems with computers. Professional journalists also have trouble. Harrisonburg's *Daily News-Record* frequently experiences power outages because of electrical storms. These storms can lead to lost data and patience.

"You wouldn't want to print all the language I use," says Pat Murphey,

associate editor at the *Daily News-Record*. "We have a problem because in the room where we're typing there aren't any windows. So if an electrical storm comes up, we don't know it. Then the lights blink, everything jumbles and the screen goes blank."

Murphey says the worst thing that ever happened to him occurred about two months after the newspaper got a new computer system. He was covering a story about an elderly lady who went into the woods mushroom hunting and got lost. She was gone

four or five days before police found her.

"I got up there as they were coming out of the woods with her, so I got to talk to the family and the rescue squad," says Murphey. "I figured I might as well write the story right away while it was fresh in my mind, even though it was a Saturday." Murphey returned to the office and wrote a 30-inch story. He says he made his mistake when he got up from the computer to file the story.

"I stood up and lost my concentration," Murphey says. "On the new computer you hit the same combination of keys to erase as you did on the old computer to file. The screen went blank and my story was gone. That's as mad as I've ever been at myself."

The *Daily News-Record* has had computers since 1970 and Murphey has lost about nine stories. "It always happens when you're at the end of a 20-inch story," he says. "All it takes is a little break in the power line and zap — she's gone."

Murphey doesn't get too upset when something goes wrong. He just "cusses a little bit" and gets a Coke. "You can usually recapture the story," he says, "but it's flat — like a beer that's been set out overnight. It loses its fizz."

Computer lab assistants advise students to save at least once every 15 minutes. "People don't save and then they don't understand why they lost their work," says Laura Campbell, a senior computer science major.

Some students have problems on home computers. Sophomore Catherine Saville, a psychology major, and Amy Lauth, a social work major, didn't speak to each other for a week because of a computer mix-up. "I asked Amy if I could borrow her portable computer to work on a paper," says Saville. "She said it was okay as long as I waited until she went to her group meeting because she needed to use it until then."

While Lauth was gone, Saville decided to move the computer to a friend's house. Lauth returned home to find her computer missing. "I blew up," says Lauth. "I never let people move my computer because I'm always afraid something will happen to it. I hadn't even printed my paper because I thought I could do it in the morning. Anyway, I called Catherine and told her she better have it home by 7:30 a.m. and I made it clear that it wasn't going to be moved again."

The next morning the computer was back on time and Saville was in the bathroom when she heard Lauth start yelling. "I turned on the computer and realized my entire disk had been erased," says Lauth. "I was in shock. Before I started yelling I pushed all the buttons and then turned the computer off and on. All I could think was, 'I knew it.'"

Saville says she tried to cheer up her roommate by taking her out to dinner. "Thank goodness her paper wasn't due until the next morning or I would have felt even worse."

How do students feel after losing a paper or a project?

Most students agree that they feel helpless. "You wish there was something you could do, but you know there isn't," says Saville. "Sometimes I wish I could just walk away instead of sitting down and starting the entire project over again."

Everyone agrees: beware of loose plugs, save often, and always leave enough time to finish a project or paper.

But some may never learn. Joe Sloan is back in the computer lab, working on his paper — again.

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JMU Dinner Theatre offers a change of pace

By Brandon Walters
staff writer

This summer you can catch the cast and crew of James Madison University's Dinner Theatre in its temporary location on the second floor of the Phillips Center.

For something different, for a change of pace, a Dinner Theatre ticket promises a return on your investment.

The two productions this season are a musical, "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," and a comedy, "The Nerd."

For evening performances, the doors open at 6 p.m. After you are seated, a server presents you with a wine list, then brings out a salad.

Food production manager Mark Miller has put

together the menu, a medley of morsels. At 6:30 p.m., the buffet line opens, offering carved prime rib, stuffed-chicken with bernaise sauce, steamed spice shrimp, brocolli almondine, wild rice pilaf, and cajun corn O'brian. A basket of fresh baked dinner rolls accompany the meal.

The play begins at 8.

During intermission you can choose among a variety of desserts and settle down for the second half of the performance.

Joe Erickson, director of Dinner Theatre, says he is pleased with how smoothly the production has been running. "There has been a lot of positive feedback and patron response," he says. "I hope it will be a

cultural experience for everyone who attends."

The cast and crew have put in a lot of time, effort and talent, says Shari Silberglitt, the stage manager.

All members of the cast have strong credentials. Their experience makes them believable and the role portrayal is convincing.

So if you're a bit bored with the usual hub of activity in the 'Burg this summer, check out the Dinner Theatre. You'll be glad you did.

Tickets are still available for some night performances and Sunday brunches. Prices for adults are \$18 for evening shows and \$15 for Sunday brunches.

Tickets can be purchased at the Dinner Theatre ticket window at the Phillips Center.



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Construction progresses at JMU

By Liz Wilson
staff writer

It seems like it will never end. At every turn, the campus of James Madison University is either being dug up, torn up or fixed up. But the finish line is approaching and the current construction will soon be complete.

Three major projects are in progress on campus: the Gibbons Dining Hall renovation, the Burruss Hall renovation, and the construction of the College of Business.

All three should be complete "by December of this year, maybe January," said JMU's chief engineer, Jim Aukland.

D-hall renovations should be finished and the building ready for use by the end of August, while Burruss renovations and the business building will need the rest of the year, Aukland said.

The total cost of renovating D-hall is about \$2.7 million, the cost for Burruss is about \$6.9 million, and the cost for the construction and equipment for the business building is about \$11 million, said Steve Knickrehm, director of facilities planning.

Burruss and the business building construction are funded through "the state's tax money" and D-hall is paid

for through a revenue bond or loan from the state, Knickrehm said.

D-hall is undergoing both internal and external changes. Internal changes include the replacement of the electrical system and the drink stations, major electrical upgrades, plumbing renovation, and improved equipment, Aukland said. There also will be new furniture and a new paint job.

Larry McCluskey, JMU construction inspector, said that the service in Gibbons will be a bit different. There will now be self-service carts located in a separate room, eliminating direct access to the "the pantry area." The food will be brought out by the servers and placed in a hot or cold cart. Here ends the hamburger line.

The general layout of the building will not change, Aukland said. Entrance one will still be Entrance one, the bank will move back from E-Lot and across the hall from it, Mr. Chips will take up its old residence.

The outside of Gibbons will become an "extension of the plaza area by Keezell and the library," Aukland said. And as far as he knows, the mushroom will remain intact. "We took it away in one piece. It would be difficult to replace the mushroom and the students

seem to want it there," he said.

The plaza will eventually reach down to the stairs adjacent P.C. Dukes, McCluskey said, but that's not part of this project. In place of the small parking lot facing the campus center, there will be a circular seating area. McCluskey said he hopes the area will be suitable for bands. There should be "substantial completion of the whole project by Aug. 17," he said.

The work on Burruss began in March, 1989. Built in 1953, Burruss got an addition in 1963, and now, Aukland says, it's "being totally renovated."

The construction of the College of Business began in May, 1989. The end result will be a six-story high rise. The upper floors will be used for faculty offices while the lower floors will be used for the classrooms.

The renovation of Burruss and the construction of the College of Business should be complete in January, but, Aukland said, it may be fall, 1991 before they are fully functional.

Perhaps by the end of 1990, the mounds of dirt will be back in the ground, the fork lifts in some garage, and the workmen on vacation.

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Bates drafted by Rams in tenth round

By Mark Manoukian
associate editor

Steve Bates says it feels "great." The former James Madison University linebacker was drafted by the Los Angeles Rams in the 10th round of this spring's National Football League draft and said he has a "really good chance" of making the team.

Immediately after graduation Bates spent three weeks at mini-camp "working out with the team, going over defenses," he said.

Going head to head with seasoned veterans has not intimidated Bates. "Once you get out there everybody is the same," he said.

"I have an All-American in front of me — a guy who just made the Pro Bowl," Bates said. "It'll be tough to get the starting position."

"But, the other guy who was there last year as a back-up is a second year player. He's about the same size as me, maybe a little smaller. He's got a year of experience on me, but I don't think that'll make that much of a difference come game time."

Bates is not relying on football as his only career opportunity. "I was looking into going into hotel-restaurant management and I changed my major last year to

sociology, because I wanted to graduate this May," he said. "I knew the possibility of getting drafted was there, so I wanted to make sure that I had my academic stuff taken care of by this coming fall."

"If I wanted to come back and get my business degree I could do that later on. I would still like to get back into hotel-restaurant management someday down the road."

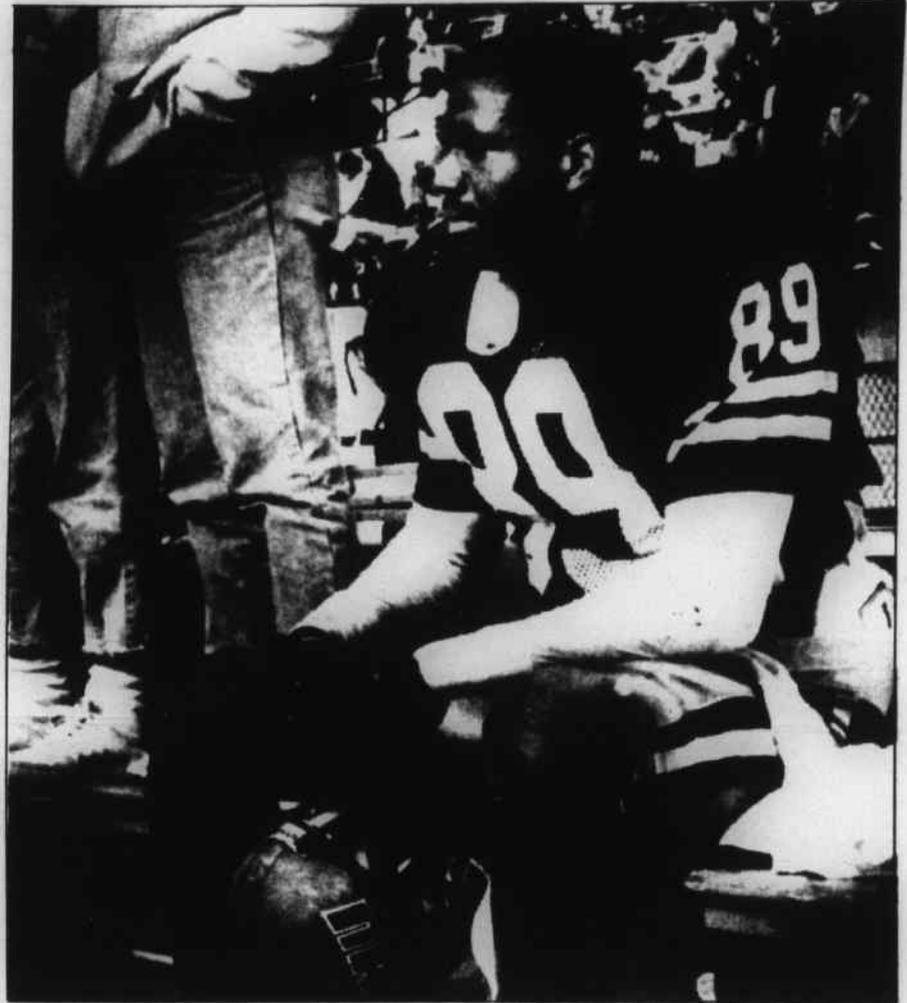
While at JMU, Bates racked up some impressive numbers. This past season he appeared in nine games. Although he was hampered by a sprained knee late in the season, he still managed 46 tackles — eight for losses — four and a half sacks, and one fumble recovery.

Bates was voted a second team All-American by the Associated Press. And he is the first JMU football player to have participated in the NCAA Blue-Gray All-Star Game.

Bates has enjoyed the company of the Rams. "A guy named Irv Panky whose been there for eleven years talks to me everyday just about making sure I understand what's up," he said.

"Jim Everett is really cool. He brings his dog into the locker room everyday. He carries his towel and laundry bag."

Bates will return to football camp July 8.



Former JMU linebacker Steve Bates.

File photo

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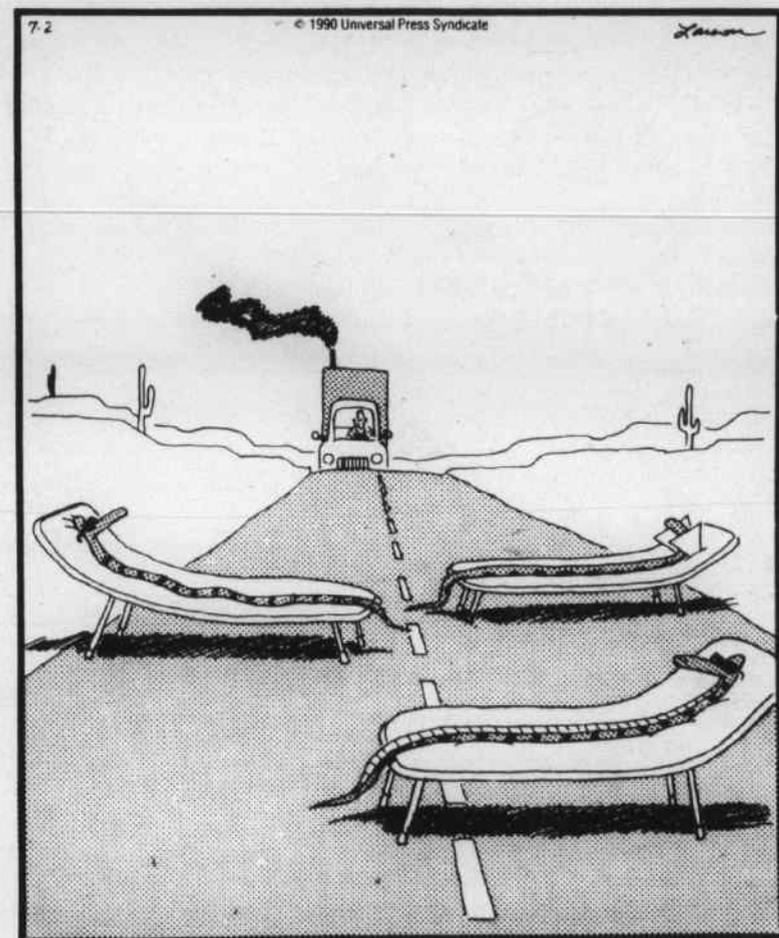
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