

The Breeze

James Madison University

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JMU 'initiatives for excellence' in place

By Mark Charnock
editor

Almost as soon as he returned as JMU's vice president for academic affairs, Dr. Russell Warren eliminated his five-year plan for academic excellence.

The plan is now in its implementation stages, and should be referred to as the "initiatives for excellence," Warren told the JMU Board of Visitors last Friday.

"There is no more five-year plan," Warren said. "I'm happy to tell you that about one half of it is already implemented . . . We are well underway with its implementation."

Funding from the legislature is the next step for the initiatives. The operating costs will total about \$600,000 per year. That will include the addition of 22 additional faculty members, Warren said.

Those additional faculty positions will be used for the freshman program, "Introduction to the Freshman Experience," he added.

Other long-term financial aspects include allocating scholarship money to attract high-ability, diversified students to JMU. Also included in the support program will be an allowance of \$350 for every JMU faculty member, Warren said.

"It's so they will have some discretionary money that can be quickly secured by them for use in any way they think enhances the classroom experience," he said.

In addition to the programs already started, the university has also begun implementation of JMU's writing across the discipline program, and a cognitive thinking and problem solving program, Warren said.

JMU had over 100 faculty members participate in workshops to improve their skills in teaching those facets of the program. Next summer, another 100 faculty members will participate in the same workshops, he added.

Warren also reported that JMU has named Dr. Gary Smith as full-time director of academic advising. Smith will work primarily with sophomore, junior and senior advising.

"We're doing an outstanding job already on freshman advising," Warren said, "but we could work on upperclass advising."

Dr. Linwood Rose, vice president for business affairs, reported that JMU was one of only three institutions in Virginia to have met all five of the management standards set by the governor's office. William and Mary and Virginia Military Institute are the others.

Dr. Robert Scott, vice president for student affairs, reported on assessment testing for non-cognitive development in JMU students.

JMU completed a pilot program of assessment testing last spring. Approximately 10 percent of the enrolled students were tested. The test indicated the JMU students tested had "pretty much the degree of development, expected levels of development and the degree of change we would expect," Scott said.

Scott added that student leaders, black students, and honors students will be targeted for the testing.

Scott also reported this year's freshman class will be in the range of 1,950, a figure higher than anticipated. He noted that the university will continue to house students in Howard Johnson's as an auxiliary residence hall.

In other business:

•Charles W. Wampler of Harrisonburg was reelected rector of the board. This will be Wampler's second, one-year term as rector. He has been on the board since 1982.

Richard Strauss of Richmond also was re-elected as the board's vice-rector, and Karen Lankard will be the board's secretary. Mrs. Lankard is also the secretary to

See INITIATIVES page 2 ▶



Staff photo by MING LEONG

Weeding it out

Jim Bevins does some landscaping around JMU during a recent hot spell. Bevins is from Columbus, Ohio, and is a pitcher for the Harrisonburg Turks this summer.

Program makes transition easier

By Keith Perry
managing editor

Fifty-one JMU freshmen are getting a head start on their college careers this summer in the transition student program.

The state-funded program encourages minority students to attend college by giving them "a head start, one-leg-up kind of situation," according to Dr. Lacy Daniel, dean of students.

The program places students in a normal college atmosphere to give them additional help in making the transition from high school to college.

The program is available only to certain incoming freshmen. The office of minority student affairs determines whether a student will be required to attend, or whether the student will be offered attendance.

Deficiencies in areas such as SAT scores or high school grades can make the program a requirement. In these cases, "if they want to go to JMU, they have to go through this program," Daniel said. About half of the students in the program this year were required to attend.

Other students are not required to attend, but are offered the chance because of the aid the program offers. "They're a group that are just a notch above the ones that are required," he said. "We feel they can benefit from it, but we don't make them come."

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Initiatives

► (Continued from page 1)

JMU President Ronald E. Carrier.

•Final approval was given to JMU's \$80 million operating budget for the 1987-88 academic year. The budget increased 5.8 percent from 1986-87, and had received initial approval at the board's April meeting.

•Athletic director Dean Ehlers reported that of the athletes who enrolled at JMU during the 1980-81 school year, 84.5 percent graduated. Only 72 percent of the students enrolled that year earned a degree.

The figures were obtained from a report that must be filed annually with the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

Ehlers also recognized JMU women's basketball coach Shelia Moorman and

associate athletic director Dr. Leotus Morrison for their accomplishments.

The women's basketball team has been among the top 16 teams in the nation for the past two years, while JMU's women's sports teams compiled the highest winning percentage among Division I schools in Virginia.

"I really believe that your student athletes and your coaches and your staff are doing an outstanding job of representing this great university," Ehlers told the board.

•The board noted the reappointments by Gov. Gerald Baliles of members Pamela K. Fay of Richmond, Calvin W. Fowler of Danville and Ellen K. Layman of Alexandria to the board for a second four-year term.

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Summer enrollment still a hard situation to figure

By Keith Perry
managing editor

Summer enrollment has been a "strange animal" for several years, according to Dr. Fay Reubush. The associate vice-president for academic affairs compared summer enrollment to running a hotel, pointing out the number of summer sessions and enrollment periods during which totals change rapidly.

For instance, enrollment totals rose Monday as a result of the second four-week registration, Reubush said.

As of June 29, the cumulative total of the first four, six and eight week enrollments stood at 2,115. On Monday, however, second four week registration was held, causing the cumulative total to rise to 2,316.

This figure does not, however, mean that there are 2,316 student enrolled at present, she said. Instead, it shows the total number of students that have registered this summer.

Students that have completed courses and not registered again cause some of the inaccuracy of the total. These situations cause confusion when trying to pinpoint an exact number of students currently enrolled, because "there really is absolutely no way to tell," she said.

Summer session enrollment from year to year, however, is "fairly constant," Reubush said, although "we've seen a gradual increase in the May term." May session enrollment this year was 2,234.

A large percentage of these summer totals are adults and special students. "There aren't more of them, but they probably represent a bigger percentage of the student body," Reubush said. During spring semester, 4 percent of the total student body was adult and special students. Currently, they account for 20 percent of all students.

During the summer, that favorite professor of yours could be sitting beside you in class, instead of standing in front of you lecturing.

Instructors taking classes are "a significant group," Reubush said. Several are "returning either to become certified in a particular field or to get additional courses in the field they're in now." Others are pursuing master's degrees, she added.

Reubush pointed out several academic reasons for taking summer classes. Some students are here to "graduate a bit earlier," some to "lighten their load," and still others "because they've had academic difficulty in the previous year and they want to improve their situation so they're not under so much stress in the fall," she said.

She also pointed to economic reasons, saying that year-round leases and area jobs sometimes keep students in Harrisonburg, and that they may take classes while they are here.

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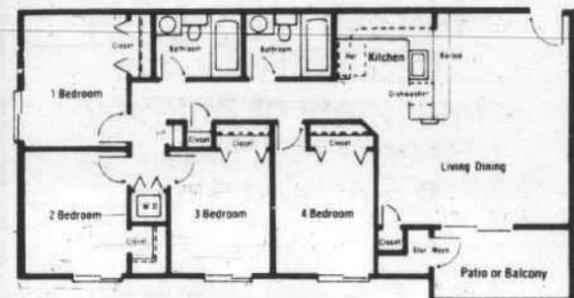
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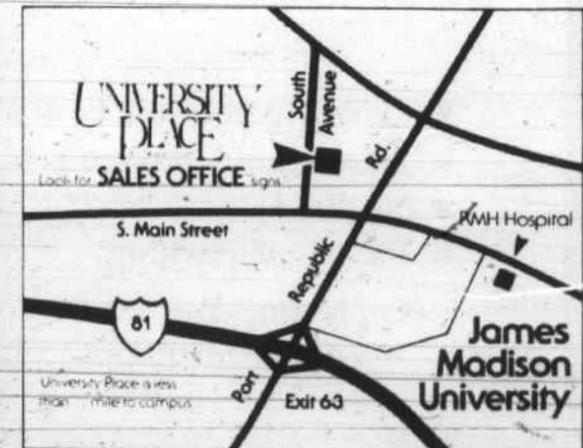
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Pargo's

Restaurant provides the atmosphere and service you expect

By Mark Charnock
editor

For many of the JMU students who call northern Virginia home, Pargo's restaurant is nothing new.

Harrisonburg, however, has yet to discover the atmosphere and quick-service oriented restaurants that have come to be commonplace in northern Virginia and the suburbs of some other urban areas.

Pargo's is the quality take-your-date, meet-your-boss, have-a-drink place that has shown up in Harrisonburg in only small numbers so far. Yet it does not give the impression of being a bar or new social hot spot.

So, for those of you longing for home and the atmosphere of, say, Wisconsin and M Streets in D.C., you're out of luck.

Pargo's does, however, offer good food, quick service and a step up in atmosphere from a lot of your other local restaurant options.

But, if you're looking to come just to eat, drink and be merry, Pargo's is stressing the eating part of the three.

"We feel there's enough of a base for business in town in addition to the university, and we feel the restaurant is geared more as a restaurant than a place to drink," says Pargo's general manager John C. Read.

While some of Pargo's other locations, such as Manassas and Baltimore, are geared around a central urban area, Read says the reason to move to the Shenandoah Valley was an easy choice for company execs because of the Valley's up-and-coming market value.

"For sure it was part of our condition to come to Harrisonburg based on the population growth and the fact that James Madison was here," Read said. He added the Harrisonburg restaurant is doing better than the company anticipated.

"We never advertise and every bit of our business we derive from word of mouth."

—John C. Read

All of the talk you might hear about the restaurant itself is usually coming from the guy next door. Read says that Pargo's is a very hush-hush operation when it comes to advertising and announcing store openings.

Pargo's does not advertise, and relies strictly on word-of-mouth business to expand its credibility. That word-of-mouth publicity has been good so far, Read said.

"This Pargo's is run exactly like every other Pargo's we have," Read says. "We never advertise, and every bit of our business we derive from word of mouth."

"The only way I believe you can be successful depending on word of mouth, is for the customers you do have to perceive what happens when they are here to be a good value."

Pargo's has a full range of appetizers, and not one of its "Main Events" or entrees exceeds \$11.00. Add



Staff photo by MING LEONG

Pargo's lost about 15 percent of its business after JMU students left for the summer, but manager John Read said things are now back up to par.

some fast, efficient service, as well as a leisurely atmosphere to that, and Read's "good value" assessment is not off the mark.

You will never be crowded at Pargo's. The restaurant's light, open atmosphere is created through use of accenting plants and stained glass windows, and further enhanced by the green-canopied bar. The bar stands at the restaurant's entrance, easily accessible without taking anything away from the restaurant's dining areas.

Most of the reason the place looks half empty is because, as Read puts it, they don't want to take away from the experience.

"I think the thing that probably attracts the student crowd the most is that the restaurant is very open and airy," Read said. "I think the architecture is very contemporary and I think the student body is very contemporary."

That contemporary atmosphere has also made Pargo's a popular place for JMU students to work. The restaurant employs about 110 people, Read says, and at least half of those people are JMU students. That employee connection also allows Pargo's to have a good communication link for its word-of-mouth publicity format.

"With half of our employment coming from the JMU student body, perhaps the biggest word of us being here and us opening was on campus," Read said.

JMU senior Jane Ortiz has worked at Pargo's since its opening. She also worked at Pargo's in Manassas before transferring to the Harrisonburg restaurant.

"It's great to work here," she said. "I don't know as far as when classes start how it will be, but we'll see in the fall."

She added that employees must work a minimum of three nights per week, but with half the work force from JMU, Ortiz says "everyone has something in common."

Read said that graduation and the closing of school did not deplete his student work force in the least.

"When the school year ended we did not lose a

single student for going back home," he said.

Business, however, did drop off about 15 percent after JMU's graduation this year, Read said.

"It's since built back up to the same point as it was prior to the students leaving," he added.

Pargo's was bought out by Shoney's, Inc. in March 1986, and made Pargo's primary owner, Mitch Boyd, the Chief Executive Officer for Shoney's.

The company has since opened its fifth Pargo's, in Nashville, and is also looking to expand in the Valley with a Charlottesville Pargo's scheduled to open in the next six to eight months, Read said. He added that the company's growth probably will be limited.

"It's just a very, very controlled growth to make sure that we can maintain the quality of service and food and friendliness that we set our standards for," he said.

The policies and prices at the Harrisonburg restaurant are in line with the other Pargo's that stretch from Nashville to Baltimore. The dress code is relaxed, but still fairly dressy. Your shirt should have sleeves, and don't walk in with a casual hat.

Read says the restaurant has yet to have a major problem with its policies, and finds that most of the people who frequent Pargo's still look forward to something special.

"If you come here and it's too crowded for you to come in, our thinking is that you'll come back another time....," Read said. "And you'll also understand that at least it's a popular place."

"But if we let you in, and get you seated at a table, you expect things to happen."

Pargo's is open Monday-Thursday, 11:30 a.m. to Midnight; Friday and Saturday, 11:30 a.m.-2:00 a.m.; and Sunday for brunch 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. It is located on Rt. 33 East of Harrisonburg.

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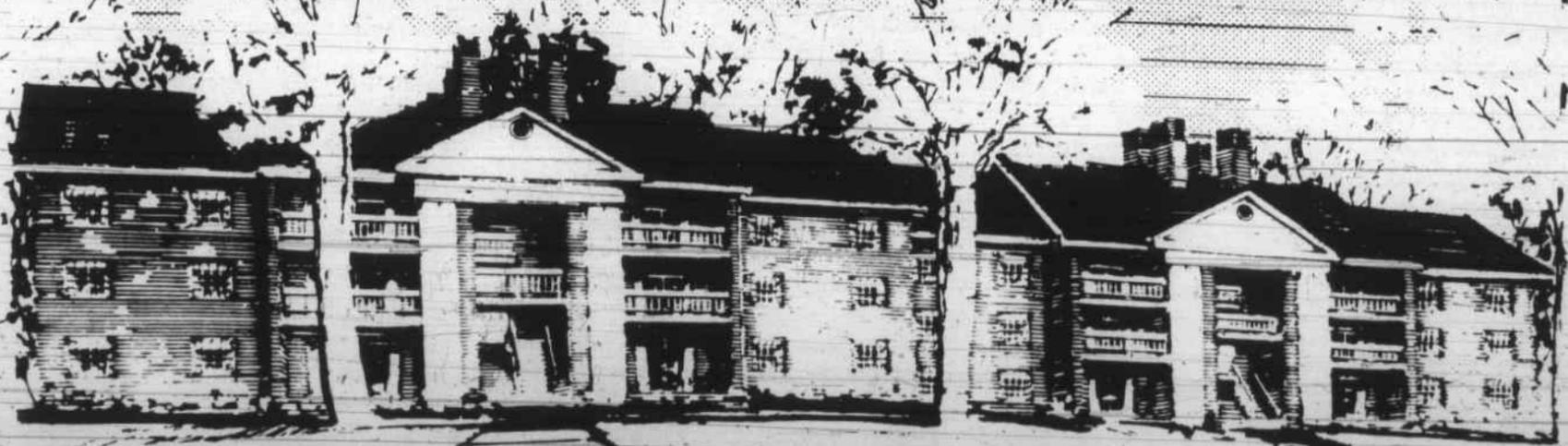
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Transition

► (Continued from page 1)

Special support services are made available to transition students. Three employees of the reading, writing, and math lab are hired especially to aid transition students in their studies, Daniel said.

In addition, two student monitors from the office of minority student affairs are hired to "keep up with the academic progress of students, and act as advisers to students," he said.

Other support services are of a more personal nature. Peer advisers, who are former transition students, are hired "to act in sort of a student big-brother big-sister role with the students in the program," Daniel said.

Another added benefit of the program is the cost. "We try to cover anything that would be an expense to them here," he said. This includes tuition, room and board and books. A \$200 stipend is also extended to these students.

The transition student program at JMU is successful, he added. Every transition student in the program last summer returned in the fall, Daniel said.

Jeff Ames, 18, a volunteer transition student from Virginia Beach, describes the program as "pre-college." It "actually shows you what it's going to be like before it happens," Ames said.

"The summertime gives us a chance to get ahead, and gives us a chance to be familiar with the campus," he added. Like many students, Ames had to leave a summer job to come to JMU.

Ames said that the support services help him "understand what's happening when there's a problem and what to expect...."

Ralph Taylor, 19, from Richmond, was a transition student during the summer of 1985. "It helped me get a head start on what college life was really about," Taylor said.

"I thought it was very beneficial," he said, "and I would recommend it to anyone. I think everybody should have that opportunity."

Daniel added, "Students feel like they're getting a break, and of course they know the ropes and who to ask for help."

"They've got six hours of credit under their belts when they come in the fall, so they get a jump on everybody else. It's a real positive thing."

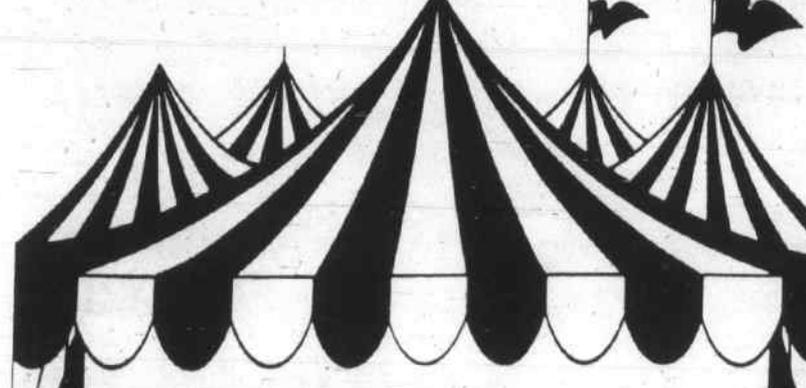
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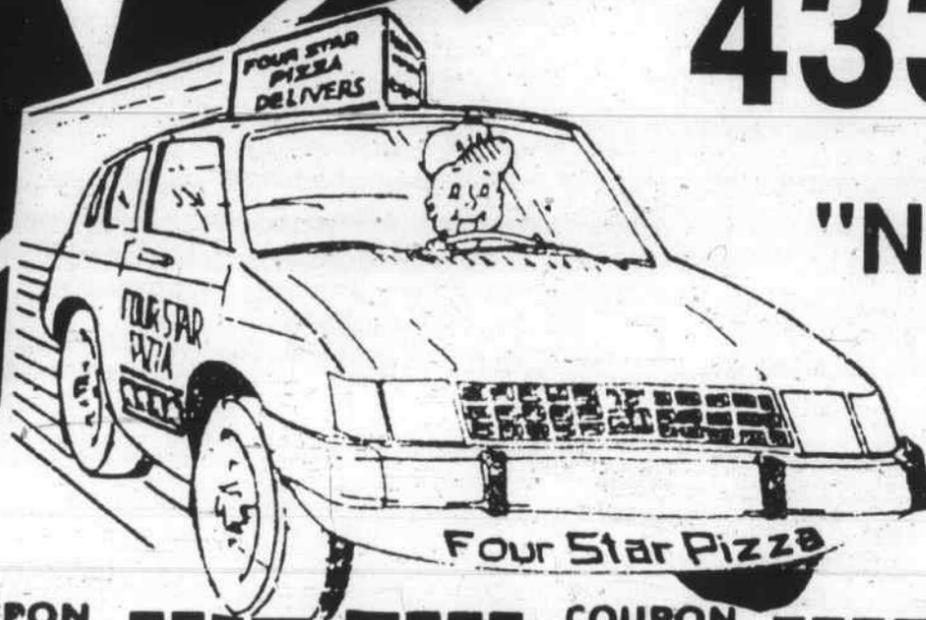
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