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JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

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JMU officials postpone trip to China

Visit was intended to set up exchange

By Dale Harter

editor

A trip to China by two JMU administrators to finalize negotiations for a student exchange program has been rescheduled due to recent protests in that country.

Dr. Robert Jerome, director of international education and business, said Monday that he and Dr. Russell Warren, vice president of academic affairs, were scheduled to leave for Zheng Zhou University on May 22, but decided to postpone the visit at least until July 15. Zheng Zhou is a liberal arts institution located about 300 miles south of Beijing, scene of the most visible unrest.

According to Jerome, the U.S. government issued an advisory against U.S. citizens traveling to China, but the decision to cancel the trip was left entirely up to JMU. The visit would

have put the finishing touches on a plan to send four JMU students to China in the spring of 1990 in exchange for two Chinese students at JMU this fall. And while the July 15 trip is tentatively set, Jerome said that "may get put off too."

"I just can't see sending students over within 10 months of what happened and saying we're acting in the best interests of our students," Jerome said. "The timing isn't quite right."

But while the unrest in China has JMU officials proceeding cautiously, Jerome said the Chinese are still receptive to the exchange program. After talking with a Zheng Zhou professor who presently is teaching at Marshall University, and who is involved in the JMU negotiations, Jerome said, "He sort of seemed surprised that we were cancelling." This professor was the first Zheng Zhou representative who talked with JMU about the exchange program last summer. Last December, a five-member Chinese delegation also visited JMU.

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Educators don't see end to unrest

By Dale Harter

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Based on visits they made to China in 1986 and 1988, two JMU professors have insight into the problems presently causing unrest in that country.

Dr. Jackson Ramsey, professor of management at JMU, traveled to China in 1986 as part of an engineering management delegation made up of faculty members from various American universities. In 1988, he accompanied his wife, Dr. Inez Ramsey, a JMU associate professor of educational resources, when she led a group of library professionals from the U.S. and Canada on a similar Chinese excursion.

While the two trips were different in academic terms, the Ramseys said both trips were prompted by China's hunger for "Western knowledge." But in recent weeks, this hunger for knowledge has been overshadowed by China's desire to quell a democratic movement that the Ramseys believe has been progressing too quickly for that country's Communist leadership. Instead of listening and responding peacefully to protests staged largely by Chinese students, a government torn by dissension and corruption chose to respond by using military force. The result was a death toll estimated as high as 3,000.

Yet, despite the government's hardline reaction to the protests, the Ramseys don't think China can return to the rigid control enforced by Mao Tse-tung between 1966 and 1976. "[During the 1986 trip] many of the [Chinese] professors indicated to me that they never wanted to go back to that period, and would do all they could to prevent it," Jackson Ramsey said.

During that 10-year period known as "the Cultural Revolution," the Ramseys said the intellectuals and the educated in China were looked down

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Student houses inherit unusual nicknames

By Karen Cofer staff writer

Editor's Note: The following article was researched and written this spring by JMU Senior Karen Cofer.

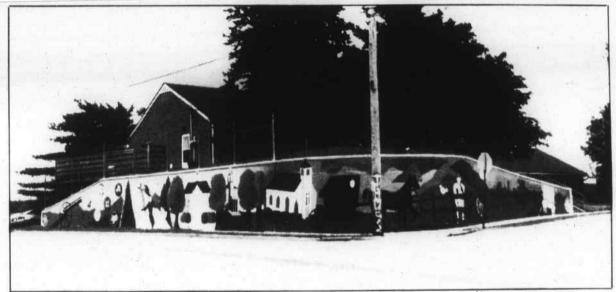
Patrick McAleer, a senior at Mary Washington College, exclaimed, "I've been on a lot of roadtrips to lots of schools, but JMU is the only one where practically every house off-campus has a name."

"Yeah, we went to the Lodge and a house called Sickness on Friday night, and the Green House on Saturday," said a second Mary Washington student.

"And then we met those girls that live at the Dew Drop Inn. Those names crack me up," a third student chimed in.

The Green House, the Mushroom Mansion, the Dew Drop Inn and the Snake Ranch are just a few of the titles that have been given to houses around the JMU community. Students moving off-campus seem to cater to this idea of finding a name for their abode, and the more peculiar the name, the better. With any luck, the name of the house will stick and remain for years to come.

This seems to be the case with the Mushroom Mansion. Peyton Jackson, a senior who has lived in the Mushroom Mansion for two years, gave his explanation for the house's name. "When I first



Staff photo by MARK MANOUKIAN

A recently painted mural now covers the graffiti that once resembled the side of a New York subway car on this wall below "Graffiti House."

moved in here, everyone told me that back in the 1970s, the students living here did a lot of hallucinogenic mushrooms. That doesn't give a very good impression of those who live here now."

Jackson went on to say, "Our landlady even calls this place the Mushroom Mansion, but she says it has something to do with the way it looks. I don't see anything resembling a mushroom when I look at this house." The architecture of the house does not resemble a mushroom, possibly the cause for the name to be sometimes shortened to the Mansion, although it looks nothing like a house of that type

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China -

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If and when the exchange program begins, Jerome said plans are to eventually send 15 JMU students to China each semester and have seven Chinese students here. Jerome classified this program as a "prototype" and said it would be "significantly different" from JMU's current Studies Abroad program. Students from JMU would study general Chinese culture, language and Asian history, live in an international dormitory and receive

instruction from English-speaking members of Zheng Zhou's faculty.

Jerome said Zheng Zhou, a city of one million with a university about the same size as JMU, is not a tourist area and would afford JMU students a better chance to become immersed in Chinese culture. In the Studies Abroad program, Jerome said a JMU faculty member acting as a dean is sent with the students, and the faculty is hired by

"JMU students go on JMU excursions, they go to JMU meals, they stay in the JMU hotel and they come back to JMU," said Jerome. "As a foreign experience, I think [Studies Abroad] is appropriate for somebody who is really gun-shy about traveling, and we're finding less and less of those people around." Jerome said in the last 15 years JMU students have become more "globally aware" at an earlier age and are less afraid of handling their own arrangements.

Chinese students would be sent here mainly to study English, with their tuition and a stipend paid by JMU, Jerome said. Tuition costs for the Chinese students would be offset by the tuition paid by JMU students to JMU when studying in China. Jerome said the selection process for JMU students would be like Studies Abroad, with selection criteria based on a student's language facility and GPA.

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upon by the government. Universities around the country were closed, and many Chinese faculty members and students were removed and sent to work in "the rice patties."

Apparently, Chinese professors like the ones Jackson Ramsey spoke to have instilled in their students this desire for not returning to the days of the Cultural Revolution. The Ramseys said Chinese students are fed up with the corruption prevalent in all layers of society and government and want a more democratic way of life.

But when most of the Chinese students talk about democracy, Jackson Ramsey said he doesn't believe their emphasis is on political measures such as the election of public officials, since China has never had a history of elected officials. Instead, Ramsey believes the students are more concerned with attaining personal freedoms like the right to start a business, the right to select their occupations rather than having them assigned by the government, and the right to do things without as much government control. He thinks students would like to elect officials and have a more democratic form of government but know they can't just "snap their fingers" and have it appear.

And while the Ramseys didn't anticipate protests like those in Beijing based on what they experienced while visiting China, they did notice that Chinese students were dissatisfied with

the nation's current education system and the nepotism that is prevalent in the job market. "As many of them said openly," Inez Ramsey said, "if you are going to have a successful career path, the good jobs go to males from urban areas who have what they call 'the right fathers." And, as she also noted, displeasure over favoritism, or nepotism, sparked frequent protests in China last year.

The Ramseys said the Chinese education program is narrowly focused, and there is extreme pressure to perform academically. All universities are run by the government, and students are required to live on campuses that are walled in and have armed guards at the entrances. Additionally, students are required to work in factories while attending school.

Inez Ramsey said students "kill themselves" to finish college due to the pressure to excell academically, then the government puts them "into what they feel are menial jobs with no hope of advancing." After getting their degree, Chinese students find themselves making the same amount of money as farmers with no college education. She said students are becoming discontented with college and asking themselves why they are working so hard when the system is corrupt.

Although they were initially surprised to see non-university support for the protests, the Ramseys said

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Summer 1989

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The Breeze will be published every other Thursday during the Summer session.



Mercy House provides new start for homeless

By Nancy McGetrick staff writer

Mercy House, a shelter for the homeless, grew from an idea in August 1988 into a reality by February 1989.

"The goal behind Mercy House is to provide opportunities for homeless families but not do everything for them," volunteer Debbie Paul said.

"Low-rent housing is very scarce in Harrisonburg," Paul said. One of the reasons is that Harrisonburg and surrounding areas are growing so quickly. The building that's going on is either middle to upper class or commercial. The other reason is the expansion of JMU and the increase in the number of students living off campus.

"A landlord with a \$200 apartment can either rent it for \$200 to a family or for \$400 to four college students," Paul said. "The students will win out and that's OK. That's the American way. But it limits housing for the poor."

Once families come to Mercy House, they lose their eligibility for food stamps, so food must be provided. But each family does its own cooking. Donated clothing, toys, kitchen items and other miscellaneous items are distributed according to need.

If a family has not made an effort to find a job or permanent housing by the end of 30 days, they are asked to leave. "It's a hard thing to do," Paul said. "But we need to make room for people who are willing to help themselves."

In the case of the Funk family, extenuating circumstances allowed them to stay at Mercy House for two months.

The premature birth of their third child resulted in hundreds of thousands of dollars of medical bills for the Funks. Even with Medicare, the bills were too much for Mr. Funk's income

to cover. They left Spotsylvania in the hope of better job opportunities.

They came to Mercy House after being denied an apartment in Harrisonburg because of the large amount of money owed for medical bills. They later found out that by law they cannot be rejected for unpaid medical expenses. "It's not like they owned a VCR and a nice car that they owed money on," Paul said. "They have a clean record except for the medical bills."

The family has since gotten an apartment at Deer Run and plans to move out next week. Funk has a job as a pipe layer.

"The hardest problem here for the women, besides the poverty, is plain loneliness," Paul said. "Interaction doesn't come naturally and must be promoted." But by the time the families leave, everyone has gotten closer and tears are shed.

Mercy House is composed of two buildings, efficiency apartments and a renovated house, located on North High Street. The buildings were sold to Mercy House for \$250,000; \$100,000 below their appraised value. A government grant paid for \$100,000 of the costs and a loan was obtained to cover the remaining \$150,000.

All the work at Mercy House is done by volunteers, many of whom have been trained in spotting signs of drug, alcohol and child abuse. No drugs or alcohol are allowed at Mercy House, although Paul doubts that rule is obeyed 100 percent. Still, she doesn't think it is a major problem.

Many JMU students have volunteered throughout the past year to help make Mercy House a reality. Since the end of April, though, that base of helpers has all but disappeared. Anyone who is interested in donating items or volunteering time can contact Debbie Paul at 433-6127.



Staff photo by MARK MANOUKIAN

Robin Funk keeps an eye on her son Cletus while they and their family stay at Mercy House after moving to Harrisonburg and being illegally denied an apartment.

Upcoming plays make summer entertainment outlook promising

By Lucinda Sinclair staff writer

Auditions for Thornton Wilder's The Matchmaker, this year's Mainstage Theater production, will be held on Wed., June 27 and Thurs., June 28 in Latimer-Shaeffer Theater at 7 p.m. This summer's comedy will combine the talents of students and community members under the direction of Tom King.

The Matchmaker was made into a musical, Hello, Dolly, and has 17 cast members "with a broad mix of character types and ages," said King.

King said, "The possibility of older people playing the older parts" and the unity from all the participants "having the same interest in the theater," are some good things that come out of the combination of area residents and students.

Acting is just one opportunity the Mainstage offers. Stage production, costumes and lighting are some of the other areas of interest. Credit can be earned for acting or working on production by signing up for Theater 200 after auditioning.

Combining community members and students in the summer theater was not always done. For a number of years, King said, "Everyone who was in the show had to be signed up for a specific course. Last summer was the first time they really tried to encourage the community to get involved again."

The audiences for the performances on July 27-30 should be fairly large according to King. "Involving the community tends to increase the size of the audiences. The cast members' family and friends come to see them," he said.

Steel Magnolias and Little Shop of Horrors will be this summer's Dinner Theatre productions. Little Shop of Horrors, script and lyrics written by Howard Ashman, opens June 22 and has six JMU students and one community member in its cast. This musical comedy has as its central figure a blood-thirsty plant with a craving for humans.

Steel Magnolias by Robert Harling is a comedy about the lives of six Southern women. Three JMU students, two Shenandoah Valley actresses and one JMU instructor are performing in the play, which has been sold out since May 1. It is possible to get tickets on the day of the performance if someone has cancelled.

Tickets for Little Shop of Horrors are still available for late July and early August. Evening performances cost \$18 and brunch performances are \$12. For more information, call the ticket office at x6740.

Profs.

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feelings of discontent are now widespread and not limited to the "young intellectual elite."

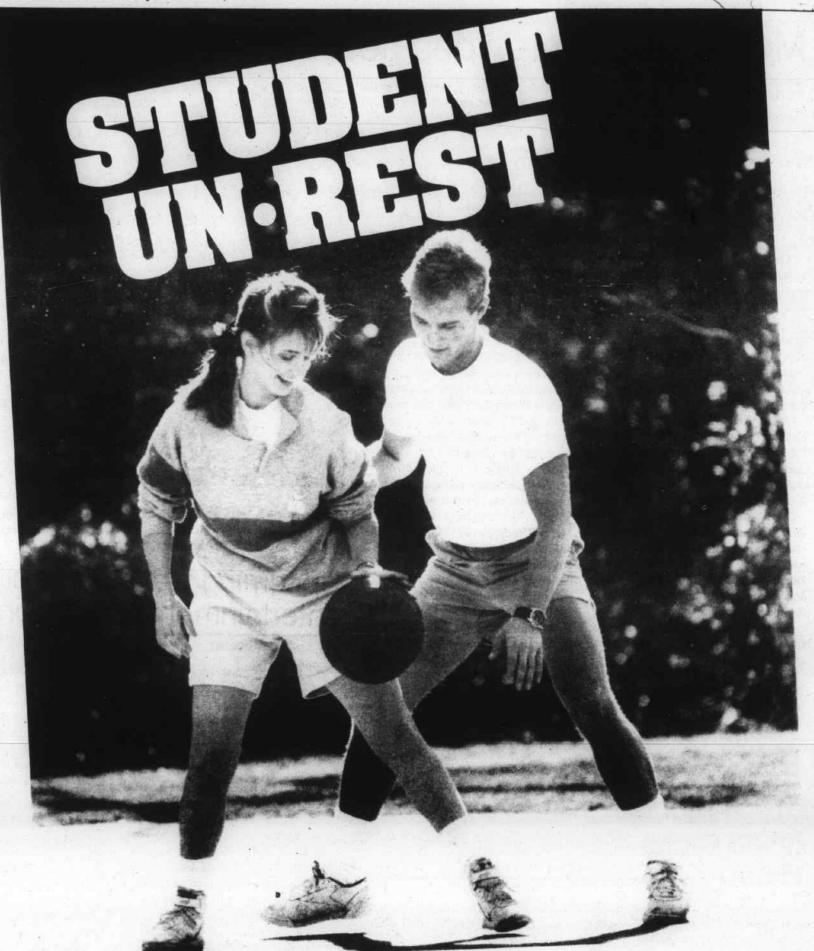
In spite of all the protests and lost lives, Jackson Ramsey said it's still very unclear what the Chinese students want from the government. "If you read everything they say, what it tends to be is slogans rather than specifics," Ramsey said. "I think they expect the government to propose changes for them."

And to make matters worse, the government's collective leadership has been uncertain and divided over how to handle the unrest. The conservatives complained that the country was changing too fast, while the liberals and students complained that it was not changing fast enough, Jackson Ramsey

noted. "The compromise kind of fell apart."

"I was just amazed that the government waited that long to do anything about it," Ramsey said. "That was the real sign of uncertainty." He said if the protests would have occurred 10 years ago, the government would have had "14 armies shooting everybody in sight" at the first sign of trouble.

Despite the government crackdown, the Ramseys believe the protests and discontent will continue. "It may not be students in Tiananmen Square with signs in English so our televisions cameras can understand what they're saying, but the pressures are just too strong to hold down that much force," Jackson Ramsey said.



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Houses

➤ (Continued from page 1)

Sarah Lee Harris, a senior living at the Mushroom Mansion, also gave her impression of the house. "The first time I heard about it, I thought it was going to look like a big mushroom. Then after seeing it, I figured it had to have something to do with drugs."

Some other houses near JMU have acquired their names for more obvious reasons. The Graffiti House, on Cantrell Avenue, sits above a concrete wall that used to be spray-painted nearly every weekend with a new message or artwork; hence the title. In April some JMU students and Harrisonburg residents painted a mural of Harrisonburg-Rockingham County area landmarks on the wall, possibly signaling a change in the house name.

The Green House, on Main Street, is not filled with rows of flowers or potted plants, but its exterior color matches the color of the grass in the front yard.

Small moons cut out on the blue shutters of the Moonhouse gave the young men living there an easy explanation for the house's title. The Moonhouse may be a household name one day if the Moonhouse Attic, a popular JMU campus band, ever makes it big. The band is made up of JMU students who used to practice in the house.

The Snake Ranch is a name that has a little longer explanation to it. Senior Parker Perkins explained that when he and his five male roommates moved into the house, they found six snakes in the basement. "There was a mother snake and five baby snakes," said Perkins. "We got rid of them, but one of my housemates bought two more snakes as pets."

"I guess people just associated our house with snakes.

Sophomore Toni Anne Tuzio had another idea

about the name. After hearing the name, "Snake Ranch," she thought it represented the boys' reputations. "I told myself, 'I'll never go to that house with a bunch of girls," Tuzio said.

The Dew Drop Inn, on Main Street, houses eight JMU students. And according to the Dew Drop's residents, the story behind its name has many variations. Senior Kenton Berg stated, "I've been at JMU three years and our house has been called the Dew Drop Inn as long as I can remember."

Berg's housemates came up with the reason for this unique title. "They said it was named after one. episode of "The Waltons," when JimBob played his guitar at a local inn," Berg explained. "It was called The Dew Drop Inn, and the people living here thought it resembled this place. I think they just liked the name."

Another interesting name for a house on Cantrell is Sickness. Senior Amy White stated, "My mom almost freaked out when I told her I was living in a house called Sickness. It didn't go over too well when I gave her the explanation of the title."

"A lot of people think our house is called Sickness because it is directly across from Rockingham Hospital," White said. "Actually, about five years ago, a bunch of rugby players lived here. They used to have some very wild parties, people would get really out of control, and sometimes it would get really ugly." Fortunately for White and her housemates, the place survived those years, and they said it is now a very enjoyable place to live.

JMU Episcopal Center. JMU students still talk about the parties that went on in that house, the last of which was in 1986. Because of its horrendous condition, the Gutter House was sold at a public

"On a Thursday night at the Gutter House, a dollar cover fee would guarantee unlimited beer drinking throughout the night," Senior Dave Sensenig says.

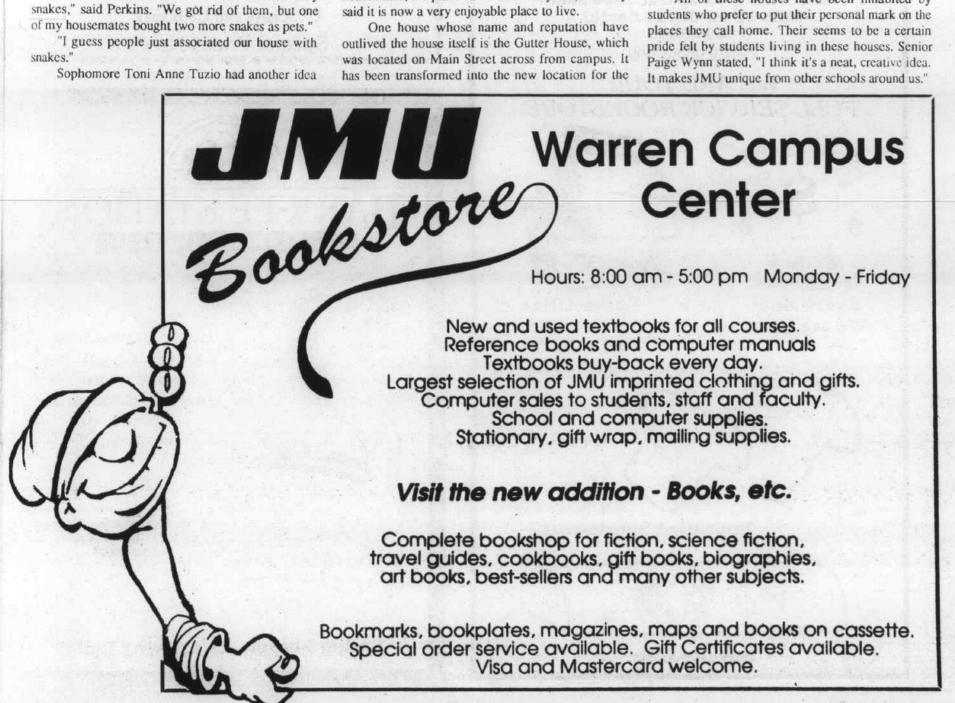
"There was a refrigerator there with a keg tap coming out of the door," Peyton Jackson recalled. "A resident of the house was handcuffed to the refrigerator to serve beer during the parties."

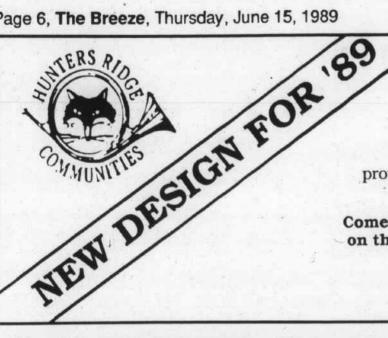
To add to the long list of unique names of houses is the White House, named because its exterior is white, and not to be confused with the one two hours northeast of JMU.

There also is Ponderosa, where Hoss and Little Joe do not live. But the house did adopt its name from the television program, "Bonanza." Every day at 5 p.m. the students living there try to gather and watch the show.

Some additional addresses on Main Street are called by their street numbers, 611 and 625, and on Mason Street you will find 647 and 670. On High Street is 501, sometimes confused with the Levi's button-fly jeans advertisement.

All of these houses have been inhabited by students who prefer to put their personal mark on the places they call home. Their seems to be a certain pride felt by students living in these houses. Senior Paige Wynn stated, "I think it's a neat, creative idea. It makes JMU unique from other schools around us."





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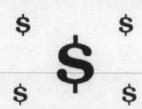
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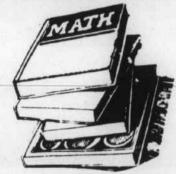
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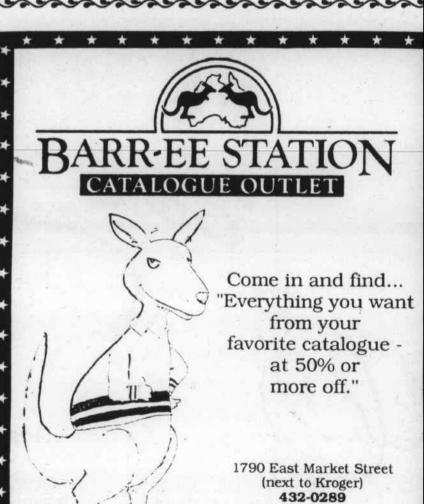
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Bush needs to clean up his act and our environment

By Mark Manoukian

photo editor

When the automobile was first invented, it was thought that a solution to urban pollution had been found. Mounds of horse exhaust populated many a street. Our ancestors probably did not see car manure as pollution for that very reason — they could not see it. Now we know better.

Americans have been readily able to pollute themselves. They produce more toxins and wastes in just about any way that one can measure. But the tide, although awash with contaminated hospital wastes, is turning.

Many efforts to preserve the environment have as yet to touch our lives. Research is currently being conducted to develop a plastic that is biodegradable. At MIT, an enterprising student has forseen a world with a drastically reduced number of cars that produce exhaust (which is kind of scary to those of you who are saying to yourselves "But all cars produce exhaust don't they?" — because you are right). His solution, is an electric car powered by solar energy. And while this may sound a little far-fetched, his prototype just went the distance and won a 500 mile international road race.

Increased consumer awareness seems to be driving individual and localized efforts to protect the environment as our nation's landfills are becoming filled land. The cloth diaper industry is experiencing a dramatic resurgence, reportedly due to awareness of the ponderous pile-up of pooped-in Pampers. Localized efforts to recycle aluminum and paper are gaining in popularity. At JMU such efforts can be seen in the actions of EARTH and several residence

halls. In some states, such renewed interest has fueled debate over bottle recycling legislation.

Until recently the federal government had not only dropped the ball, but lost it as well. Eight months ago, legislation to protect the environment found no foothold in Congress. Since then a drunk ship's captain ran aground on a reef and spilled liquid disaster all over Prince William Sound, and the federal government was characteristically sluggish. But in recent days, proponents of environmental legislation have recovered the ball and had it ripped out of their hands by George Bush who wants to make the score himself. The issue at hand is air

GUEST COLUMNIST

Mark Manoukian

quality

It is in the air that we have been hurting ourselves the most. For years, industry has been running the Clean Air Act of 1970 through a shredder and sending it up in smoke. At the top of the legislative agenda is the reduction of several airborne pollutants which clog our airways, diminish the supply of oxygen in our bloodstreams, deplete our ozone layer, heat our atmosphere, and rain acid on our forests and lakes. For years factories have been legally allowed to vent sulfur dioxide exhaust in doses that are twelve times the amount that can cause asthma attacks. Some

have found themselves restricted to their homes as their aging or ailing respiratory systems have been unable to tolerate the toxins in the air. Acid rain has been poisoning our lakes and killing our trees. But now, a Bush named George is ready to save some trees in a place called Vermont.

Until now the issue of air quality has been dodged despite repeated warnings from the scientific community. But now that millions of tons of air pollution are darkening the skies over our cities and leaving us gasping for air, the issue can no longer be ignored. But if George Bush really wants to protect the environment, he must also recognize environmental hazards to our land and water, and not hesitate to act, because at this point, just about the only pollutant that we are not inhaling is horse manure.

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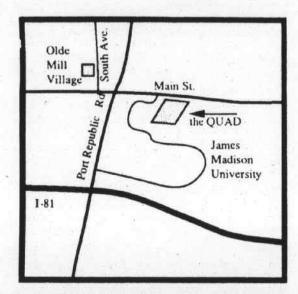
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