

The Throne

News and Services from Swem Library at The College of William & Mary • June 2007

The "what to do in Williamsburg this summer" issue

"The only way down is face down"

That's a teaser for Busch Gardens' Griffon, the world's tallest dive coaster (205 feet), the first floorless dive coaster, and boasting the world's steepest drop (90 degrees). The Throne thinks it's fortunate that this ride lasts only three minutes. After all, how does all this speed (75 mph), turning, twisting, and loop-de-looping affect your body, not to mention your stress level? Not to worry you, but searching "roller coaster" in *Web of Science* (a multidisciplinary index available from the Swem database listing) turns up titles like "Modern roller coaster rides: A potential cardiovascular risk?" and "Gastric rupture following a roller coaster ride" and of course "Roller coaster headache." Fortunately such side effects are rare, so take off to Busch Gardens and enjoy the Griffon's two Immelmann loops (use your research skills to find out what that means), or as The Throne prefers, experience the more sedate charms of the Rhine River Cruise.

© Busch Gardens Entertainment



To exercise or to research, that is the question

On a fine summer day, which would you rather do?

Option 1: Spend the day in the library in front of a computer, researching such topics as the connection between physical activity and good health. For example, you could access *Health Reference Center Academic* from Swem Library's database list and search "bicycles" to find articles about the use of bicycles in fitness programs or bicycles as transportation for medical personnel in rural Africa.

Option 2: Hop on your bicycle and explore the recently completed Greenspring section of the Virginia Capital Trail. Eventually this multiuse, recreational trail will connect Jamestown with Richmond along the Route 5 corridor. For now, 7½ miles of paved trail are available for you to ride, starting at the Jamestown Settlement parking lot, Jamestown High School, or Chickahominy Riverfront Park. To find out more, visit www.virginiacapitaltrail.org.



While The Throne is gratified that you've obviously chosen Option 1 (you're in the library reading this), don't forget occasionally to take a break from studying and choose Option 2. Go for a bike ride!

"Yes it's summer, my time of year" –War

The Lake Matoaka Amphitheater used to be home to *The Common Glory*, an outdoor drama telling the tale of the American Revolution from Patrick Henry's "Give me liberty or give me death" to the American victory at Yorktown. Although more than 90,000 people saw the play in its 1946 opening season, it closed in 1976 due to dwindling audiences. Since then, Matoaka has been little used and fell into disrepair, until its recent renovation. This summer, the new amphitheater will host a summer concert every Wednesday night—just bring your lawn chair and a picnic (and six bucks for admission) and enjoy.



look at the exhibition "The World of 1607," where you'll find a 15th-century copy of the Magna Carta, and, from the Royal Armouries, examples of the pikes, guns, and armor the Jamestown settlers would have used.

Closer at hand, stop by the Read and Relax area and see the exhibit "Jamestown in Government Documents," with publications leading up to the 2007 commemoration and a copy of the 1909 House of Representatives report on a proposed monument to Pocahontas.

According to the *Virginia Gazette*, 70,000 people attended Anniversary Weekend at Jamestown last month. If you passed up the chance then to visit the Archaearium at Historic Jamestowne or the exhibition galleries at Jamestown Settlement, now is a perfect time. The Archaearium houses the artifacts unearthed during the ongoing excavations on the island. At the Settlement, take a

Brush up your Shakespeare

If you're not into amusement parks or outdoor activity (after all, it's pretty hot and humid out there), how about some indoor theater? The Virginia Shakespeare Festival celebrates its 29th season this year, and you don't have to go any farther than Phi Beta Kappa Hall to enjoy it. This year's selections include *Romeo and Juliet*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, and *What the Butler Saw*. That's right, that last title is not Shakespeare, but a modern British playwright named Joe Orton (1933-1967). Swem's online *Literature Resource Center* includes a fascinating article on Orton's life and work, from his British working-class background and his improbable acceptance at England's premiere drama school to a prison sentence (for stealing, defacing, and refacing library books), and his untimely death at the hands of a lover and collaborator. *What the Butler Saw*, a farce set in a psychiatric hospital, is considered by many to be his best play. By the way, Orton's defaced and refaced book jackets can be found in the Islington (London, England) Public Library's Local History Collection.

