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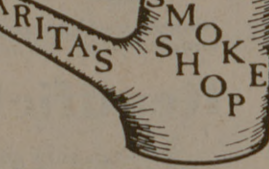
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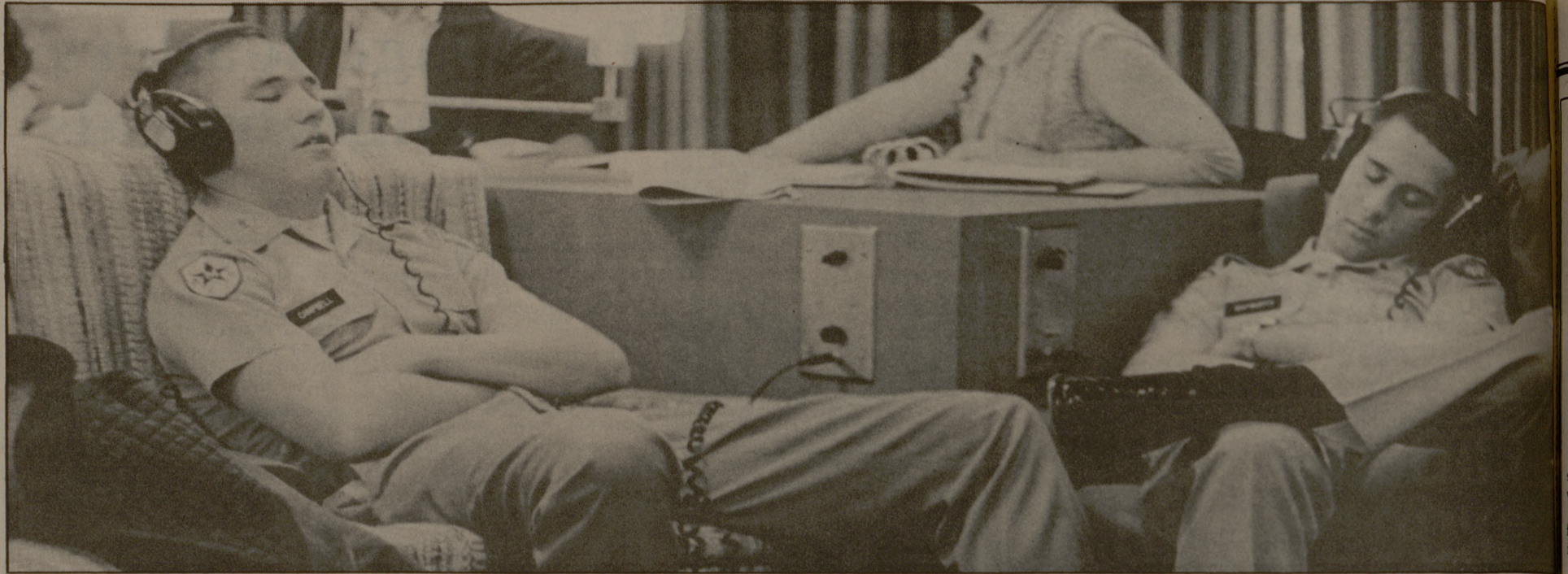
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Preparing for finals

Fish Campbell (left) and Fish Skipworth take advantage of the quiet in the Browsing Library of the

Memorial Student Center. Browsing Library hours are 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. weekdays, and 10 a.m. to

10 p.m. weekends. The same hours apply during dead week and finals.

Battalion photo by Margaret McLean

Farm exhibits colonial methods

United Press International
ACCOKEEK, Md. — The agricultural heritage of colonial America — tilling and planting done by hand, crops raised without insecticides — is being preserved on a 280-acre farm in southern Maryland.

The National Colonial Farm, in Piscataway National Park, is a "living" museum showcasing the agricultural techniques of the 1700s.

Staple crops, including corn and tobacco, are raised without insecticides. The tilling and planting is done by hand. Strict attention is paid livestock tending to assure it is done in the same manner a Chesapeake Bay area colonist would have.

But the Accokeek Foundation, a private concern which operates the farm in cooperation with the National Park Service, is looking forward as well as backward in terms of experimentation.

For example, the farm's operators hope current research can be applied to such modern problems as crop

blight, a disease that nearly wiped out American chestnut trees more than 50 years ago.

During the past decade, farm administrators have been nurturing a grove of chestnut trees, which were used by colonists for fences and houses. This year, for the first time, the grove produced a substantial harvest of nuts without insecticides.

Dr. David Percy, assistant director of the farm, said that by experimentally irradiating chestnut seeds, scientists hope to produce the right combination of genetic characteristics to make the chestnut tree blight resistant.

"In all of our research, we are looking 10 to 15 years into the future," Percy explained.

The research extends to such valuable annual crops as corn, tobacco and soybeans, as well as grass. The farm leases a 14-acre plot to the Scott Grass Seed Co., which develops and tests hundreds of different strains of grass used in parks and lawns.

The primary feature of the farm, however, is its faithful adherence to middle-class colonial life along the nearby Potomac River.

Situated across the river from historic Mount Vernon, the Colonial Farm consists of a group of gray, weather-beaten wood buildings that typify the period.

The board-and-batten main farmhouse is protected from sun and rain by rough hewn shingles. Nearby is an outhouse, the kind colonists referred to as "the necessary."

Not far from the house is a herb garden, a source of spices and home remedies during the colonial period.

Clare Moran, a farm administrative assistant, points out that some herbs, such as foxglove, were even used to treat heart disease. "They treated everything that we wouldn't dream of trying now — any kind of disease."

The farm also contains a kitchen garden with a variety of vegetables including potatoes, radishes, okra, egg plant and various types of beans.

"We try not to plant anything that is not colonial," said Moran. "For

instance, we don't grow things because they were considered poisonous by the colonists."

Moran noted that experimentation is carried on even in the garden. For example, it is believed that the potato bug can be staved off by planting horseradishes nearby. "It seems to work, but we'll have to try it out for another year," she said.

Now as in colonial times, livestock is an integral part of the farm. Cattle, pigs and barnyard fowl are bred the same characteristics valued in colonial times.

Moran said Red Devon cattle were prevalent in southern Maryland during the colonial period. "They were an all-purpose breed," she said. "They could be trained as oxen, well as furnish meat and milk."

Horned Dorset sheep, which have the peculiar ability to give birth various times of the year, were raised, she said, and the pigs were cross between domestic swine and the indigenous wild hog variety.

The farm, which also serves as a tourist attraction, is supported by the Accokeek Foundation endowment, as well as other grants and contributions. However, this year foundation officials expect to receive a \$300,000 allotment out of the Department of Interior appropriations funding.

Each year, in the spring and fall, the farm conducts sales of its goods and re-enacts colonial life, complete with authentic costumes, for tourists.



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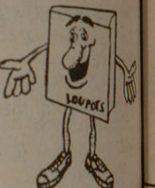
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WEDNESDAY EVENING SPECIAL

Chicken Fried Steak w/cream Gravy Whipped Potatoes and Choice of one other Vegetable Roll or Corn Bread and Butter Coffee or Tea

THURSDAY EVENING SPECIAL

Italian Candle Light Spaghetti Dinner SERVED WITH SPICED MEAT BALLS AND SAUCE Parmesan Cheese - Tossed Green Salad Choice of Salad Dressing - Hot Garlic Bread Tea or Coffee

FRIDAY EVENING SPECIAL

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