Who Says Mennonites Don’t Have Any Fun?

By Rachel Swartzendruber

In Harrisonburg, there are three signs that fall has arrived: the changing leaves on the distant mountains, the freshly cut cornfields, and the MCC Relief Sale. Friday and Saturday, the smell of fresh maple donuts and other homemade foods will emanate from the Rockingham County Fairgrounds, the site for the 37th Annual Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale.

The sale caters to all ages and interests. One of the main attractions and favorites of many college students is the food. The sale boasts an impressive spread of edibles such as bread, cakes, strawberry and shoofly pies, maple donuts, and potato chips made in front of the customer. Ready-made foods include ham sandwiches, potato salad, funnel cakes, cider, and apple butter on a slice of bread (or by the quart).

Those hungry for an all-day meal may choose to partake of the Saturday breakfast featuring pancakes, sausage, and omelets or lunch with chicken barbeque, grilled turkey, based potatoes, and green beans.

Relief sale activities include donut making, donut eating, quilt auctions, and sale of other goods all benefitting MCC’s worldwide efforts.

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By Jon Trotter

Ask any bookworm who has attended EMU for more than one year – the Green Valley Book Fair is the place to satisfy a lust for language without going broke.

Located just south of Harrisonburg, the Green Valley Book Fair is a discount book outlet store featuring over 50,000 new books at bargain prices. It will be open Oct. 4-19 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.

Customers can expect to save 60 to 90 percent off retail, with over 40,000 titles to choose from in over 60 different categories. Many genres are represented, including literature and popular fiction, science, religion, history, cookbooks, and reference materials.

“I probably get a good variety of books [there] because they’re cheaper than the bookstore. It’s not like taking a risk on a $20 book that I’ll hate,” said junior Jen Fawley.

Some fairgoers note that if they are seeking a specific book, they may be disappointed. “If you’re looking for something specific, you possibly may get lucky, but if you are just going to shop, you’ll find something good,” said first-year Valerie Shoalater.

Junior Bu-won Choi added, “They often don’t have all the types of books that I want, like essay books and historical novels, but I like their prices.”

The bargain prices seem to fit with college students. “It’s not like walking through all the expensive books at Barnes and Noble. If I pick up a book at Green Valley, I know I’ll probably be able to afford it,” said senior Ryan Sisson.

The fair is open for about two weeks at a time. While it is closed, the book fair restocks from mostly publisher returns, books that are new but, for whatever reason, returned unsold.

The Green Valley Book Fair was founded in 1971, and is famous throughout Virginia and the mid-Atlantic region for its selection and wholesale prices, according to its website, www.gvbookfair.com.

Directions: Take I-81 south to Exit 240. Turn east on Route 682; go 1.5 miles and turn left onto Route 681 at the Green Valley sign.

In 2001, another fundraising effort was added to the sale: Penny Power. This project has churches keep an empty water jug in the church where people may place their spare change. This change is then sorted and counted at the sale. The money is divided between MCC and VMBM, the Virginia Mennonite Board of Missions. This year, the MCC money will go towards training for teachers in Sudan and the VMBM money towards a new van for the Maranatha School for the Deaf, located in Jamaica.

Relief sales are also part of the fundraising effort done by MCC.

What's Up in the 'Burg?

Thursday, October 2

Opening Night at the Little Theatre

Friday, October 3

Virginia MCC Relief Sale

Saturday, October 4

Virginia MCC Relief Sale

Sunday, October 5

Opening Night: 8 - 11 p.m., Dave's Taverna

Tuesday, October 7

Keeping Up with the Joneses, 8 p.m., JMU Mainstage Performance; Latimer-Shaeffer Theatre

Wednesday, October 8

Keeping Up with the Joneses, 8 p.m., JMU Mainstage Performance; Latimer-Shaeffer Theatre

A Spotlight: Keeping Up with the Joneses, a play written by Nate Eppler, premieres at JMU on Tuesday, Oct. 7 at 8:00 p.m.