



INFORMATION SERVICE
GEORGE MASON COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
FAIRFAX
TELEPHONE 591-4600

Reen Vawter
Ext. 208

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Groundbreaking for a \$1,500,000 physical education complex for George Mason College of the University of Virginia in Fairfax will take place Thursday (July 16) at 11 a.m.

Presiding at the ceremony to be held at the present tennis court site will be Chancellor of the College Lorin A. Thompson. In addition to the College community, invited guests include W. A. Sherman and Wilson Sherman of the Sherman Construction Corporation of McLean, building contractors; Homer L. Blackwell of L.B.C.&W. Associates of Virginia, Alexandria architects; Vincent Ragunas, University of Virginia director of new constructions; Clarence Robinson of Alexandria, previous president of the George Mason College Advisory Board; Advisory Board members and members of the George Mason College Foundation.

The complex will be developed in three stages in conjunction with the Master Plan. Construction on Phase I, to accommodate 3,500 students, will begin Monday and should be ready for occupancy in September, 1971.

The 60,000 square foot structure of masonry and brick will include a gymnasium with a divider for women and men's physical education classes and an athletic cage with artificial turf flooring to allow outdoor sports. The offices and classrooms, wrestling/

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combative room, mirrored dancing and fencing room, weight room, library/conference room and seminar room will be air conditioned. Lockers and showers to accommodate 70 men and 70 women per class, a laundry, and athletic equipment storage rooms are also in the design. The building is planned to permit easy access by handicapped students.

To be located on the main campus of the College, the building will be approximately 1500 feet southwest of the existing cluster of academic buildings.

The gymnasium equipped to seat 2,500 athletic spectators will also be used for commencement exercises, musical and social events and convocations.

Architectural provision has been made in Phase II and Phase III for a swimming pool and a main gymnasium that will accommodate 7,000 people.

As part of the construction, the College expects to open new outdoor athletic areas to include two baseball diamonds and a football field.

Money for this building was appropriated by the 1968 Session of the General Assembly. The building has been in the planning stages since November, 1968.

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