GSC Receives Positive Review From Visiting Accreditation Team

"I would like

to personally

thank faculty,

students who

make the North

Central team's

visit a success."

Dr. William K. Simmons

staff, and

belped to

distinguished ccreditation team from the Commission on Colleges and Universities of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools

visited Glenville State College from Sunday, October 13 through Wednesday, October 16. The team consisted of Dr. Roy Troutt, chairman, president of the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma; Dr. Judith Kemp, vice president academic affairs, Valley City State University, North Dakota; Dr. Luis Valerio, assistant professor of teacher education, University of South Colorado; and Dr. John Tomlinson, distinguished

science, Mesa State College,

professor of political

The group, sent to determine continued accreditation for the college, reviewed many facets of the college, including mission and purpose, resources and institutional effectiveness, and evidence of process has been completed." institutional continuity.

After three days of thorough investigations, including group and individual meetings with the administrative staff, classified staff, faculty, students, alumni and

> community representatives, and the Board of Advisors, the team will recommend to the council that GSC be given continued accreditation until the next comprehensive review. The final response from the council will be given in late February or early March.

Concerning the visit, Dr. William K. Simmons, president of GSC, said, "Obviously, I am just delighted with the results of the North Central visit. I think that people would be pleased with the positive

response the North Central team had to Glenville State College. I would personally like to thank faculty, staff, and students who helped to make the North Central team's visit a very positive report. I will be sharing specific results at a time when the accreditation

New SEA President Alcohol Awareness Seminar Pioneer Sports Arts & Entertainment

GLENVILLE ERCURY

Glenville State College October 23, 1991 Volume 63 Number 7



President Simmons at well site, next to one of 10 Chevrolet Luminas to be converted to a natural gas and gasoline system.

Glenville State College Celebrates Gas Well No.3

Glenville State College is the first public college in West Virginia to drill and produce its own natural gas. To date, the college has drilled three successful wells. The first two wells, drilled in 1984 and 1986 respectively, have thus far delivered a savings in revenue of more than \$.5 million. The third well, drilled in May 1991, is expected to be an even greater producer.

The third well, drilled to 5,127 feet, is currently realizing a solid static rock pressure of 1,500 pounds per square inch (PSQI

Drilled in the middle of campus buildings and streets, Well No. 3 is of additional value as it is providing the college's petroleum engineering technology program with a rare laboratory situation.

In addition to using the savings in revenue to support student services, the college is participating in a pilot project to use natural gas as an automobile fuel. Currently the college is leasing 10 Chevrolet Luminas. In the near future, the vehicles will be converted from their gasoline carburetors to a dual natural gas and gasoline system.

Concerning Well No. 3, Barry Lay, Chief Petroleum Engineer (I. L. Morris Well Service) on the project, said, "I think it will be an economical well for the college. It should have a substantial life span, depending on how it is utilized. If it is used for buildings and automobile consumption, it should have an extremely long life span."

Concerning the wells, president of GSC, Dr. William K. Simmons, said, "Being located in a rich natural gas and oil area, this is a possible resource which we opted to develop as a means of enhancing and extending our educational

Because the Board of Higher Education agreed with us and supported us, we were able to develop two initial gas wells in 1984 and 1986. These two wells have provided more than S.5 million for educational support at the

I think that our investment in this resource is a good one in that it is long term. These wells will be providing support to the college for many years. There are times

cont. on page 2

Prine Charged With Presidency

Martin Ray Prine of Spencer has been elected president of the Student Education Association (SEA) at Glenville State College.

SEA is a pre-professional organization for education students who are not salaried teachers. The group intends to develop an understanding of the education profession, to provide for a united student voice in matters affecting the discipline, and foster the highest ideals of professional standards, attitudes and ethics.

As president of SEA,

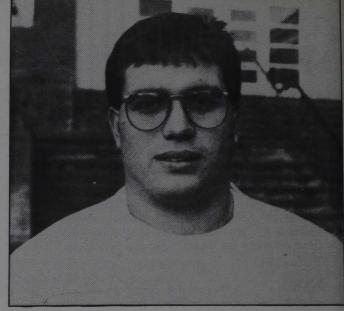
Prine's goals for the 1991-92 academic year include hosting workshops to offer information on handling difficult classroom situations, and increasing membership by 30 percent.

According to Prine, "One of the things I think is very good (about SEA) is that when you are student teaching, the program provides support including insurance and liability coverage. It also keeps you up-to-date with teaching techniques and ways to make the classroom more exciting to the

Prine, a 1988 graduate of Spencer High School, is a GSC senior majoring in multi-subjects and special education.

Prine is also involved in Lambda Chi Alpha (social fraternity). He is head resident assistant assistant for Pickens Hall and is a Senator at Large for Student

Prine is the son of Martin and Barbara Prine of Spencer.



Prine elected SEA president.

photo by Chris Derico

President Receives Evaluation by College Board

The West Virginia statutes require a periodic performance evaluation of the president of each state institution of higher education by the appropriate governing board. The State College System Board's evaluation of the performance of President William Simmons will be conducted this fall by a team consisting of Dr. John Thomas, Chancellor of Appalachian State University, Dr. Charles Dunn, President of Henderson State University, and Mr. Douglas Tanner,

important part of this process will the conclusion of the visit. be a campus visit by the team on October 29 and 30 to hear from students, faculty and staff members, administrators, alumni, community leaders, and members of the Board of Advisors.

The main pupose of the evaluation is to provide information to President Simmons to help him enhance his future effectiveness as President. Dr. Simmons will receive be held in confidence.

a member of the Board. An a report from the visiting team at

Below is the schedule for the campus visit. Anyone interested in participation is the evaluation process should plan to attend during the time allotted to their constituency group. An open session, during which time anyone can attend, is also scheduled from 10 to 11 a.m. on October 30. All comments received by the visiting team will

Boy's Last Wish Is For Recognition

Recognition is the final wish for a seven-year-old English boy afflicted with terminal cancer. He is atttempting to acquire the worlds largest collection of business cards, in order to carn a place in

The Guiness Book of World Records.

A chain letter has been circulated by those helping the boy, inhopes of increasing involvement in his card campaign.

A large number of all types

of cards have been donated by the faculty and staff of Glenville State College. Additional donations may be sent to the Office of Continuing Education, in care of Mark Scroggins.

cont. from page 1

when unique opportunities come about and I feel fortunate that these opportunities came together at a critical time for the college. As a result, the college has done a better job in fulfilling its role and mission. I don't know how else we could have remained as healthy an institution as we are today.

I am proud that we are able to use natural gas production will involve anumber of prominent

as a means of providing resources for higher education and that Glenville State College has transformed a natural resource into a human resource."

Glenville State College is dedicating Well No. 3 on October 25 at 11 a.m. The site is the Verona Mapel parking lot on the GSC campus. The public is cordially invitied to attend the program which

political figures, including Dr. Paul Marion, Chancellor of the State College System, Congressman Robert Wise, and Philip Reale, representative of Governor Caperton.

The college wishes to extend its appreciation to the Board of Directors and the Higher Education Central Staff for their support in accomplishing this project.

ADDRESSERS WANTED immediately! No experience necessary. Process FHA mortgage refunds. Work at home. Call 1-406-321-3064.

News From RFK Library Library Adds New Services

will salute the addition of Muscle accessed by the computer's onscreen & Fitness, a thick magazine with menu. great photos. It covers weightloss, lowering cholesterol, for educational topics and indexes physiology, sports fitness, kinesiology, and nutrition. Although and journals. Folks who have used Clint Eastwood or Arnold may grace the paper edition of the ERIC Index an occasional cover, the magazine and abstract will welcome the is not aimed at the male alone; prospect of searching for their topic there are always 2 or 3 articles for in one place. female bodybuilders. Indexed in Physical Education Index.

computer workstation near the coin and talk about books.

Devotees of bodybuilding machine. Either database can be

ERIC is the major source both documents (on microfiche)

The Tax Service consists of the index on CD-ROM and three The Library has recently volumes (on a table near the added two CD-ROM (Compact disc-workstation) covering Internal read only memory) databases. In Revenue Code topics, Tax Court addition to the ever-popular rules, Treasury regulations, tax rates InfoTrac, users now have access to and tables, as well as a weekly ERIC and Bender's Federal Tax news service. Next Week: We'll Service. Both are on the same take a look at another magazine

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CAMPUS HIBITZ

What Are Your Feelings Concerning Gun Control?

by Tracey Moats



Name: Julie Crowl Rank: sophomore Major: speech pathology Hometown: Canaan Valley, WV

Answer: "I'm for gun control. If we don't have some kind of control we

are going to have the wrong people handling guns."

Name: Jeremy Brown

Rank: junior

Major: business management

Hometown: Camden-on-Gauley, WV

Answer: "I feel everyone is entitled to their right to bear arms, but there

should be stiffer statutes towards purchasing firearms.'





Name: Captain Jerry Helmick Rank: Campus Police Hometown: Glenville, WV

Answer: "I feel we have a need for crime control-not gun control. Out lawing guns would be like outlawing whiskey in the prohibition days. I feel that the person who misuses a gun should be dealt with and not put the blame on the gun."

Name: Melvin Smith Rank: senior

Major: physical education and safety Hometown: Manassas, Virginia

Answer: "A person should have the right to keep and bear arms, except in public places, and without violating anyone else's rights by bearing

the firearms





Name: Alex Carroll Rank: sophomore Major: accounting

Hometown: Hurricane, WV

Answer: "I believe the laws against assault weapons should be tougher. They should be enforced, but everyone should have the right to bear

arms."

Gun Control Issue Fueled By Killing Spree With Guns Purchased Legally By Owner

by Rebecca Hufford

Last Wednesday, George Hennard drove his pickup truck through the front window of Luby's Cafeteria in Killeen, Texas, then began firing at the diners with two 9mm pistols. He didn't stop until 22 people were dead.

The events of last Wednesday have refueled a long and intensely debated argument concerning gun control. I feel that there should be some type of gun control, but simply controlling the sale of guns is not enough. Both of the guns George Hennard used last Wednesday were bought legally. Apparently something more needs to be done.

I wonder why an ordinary citizen would need a semiautomatic weapon? I believe as citizens of a free nation, we have the right to keep and bear arms, but I don't think this type of weapon should be so readily available to civilians.

The Glenville State College Mercury Staff

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Heart Association to Raise Funds for Support Efforts

related disorders account for almost as many West Virginia deaths as all other causes combined, say the American Heart Association. In order to combat these, the Heart Association will hold a Cardiac Arrest on Thursday, October 31, 1991 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the

Glenville, West Virginia.

Cardiac Arrest Chairperson, Betty Smith, said a group of very important local citizens will be charged with neglecting their hearts. Among the charges will be failure to have a heart, failure to exercise and failure businessmen, many Glenville State College personnel, and Mayor Bruce Smith will be included in those being charged with neglecting their

In order to be released, they will post bail. This money can

friends or neighbors for donations. Arrestees will have two weeks prior to their "court appearances" to obtain the bail. The money raised will help support the Heart Associstion's research, education, and community service programs.

participate in the Cardiac Arrest may call 462-7672.

This event is sponsored by Betty Smith, Terri Frederick, Alex Caroll, Susie Smith, Delta Zeta Sorority, and the Gilmer County Jaycees.

Seminar Teaches Value of Education

Glenville State College program included a 30 minute recognized National Drug and Alcohol Awareness Week Wednesday night with a seminar campuses today. Anthony Jackson, House Director of Dawson Hall on the West Virginia State College

videotape that presented the verbal accounts of rape victim's ordeals. Jackson wanted students to realize on date and acquaintance rape, a the seriousness of the crime and major problem associated with how to defend themselves against alcohol abuse facing our nation's it. He said, "It's all about education, you have to educate yourselves to protect yourselves. I just think there are some things happening campus, was the speaker. His we can't explain and we must ask

questions." Jackson stressed that alcohol abuse is the number one reason for date and acquaintance rape. Education and parental guidance can help reduce the occurance of rape and other related violence. For additional information on date/acquaintance rape write Anthony Jackson, 1001 Dawson Hall, Institute, WV 25112.

of Meeting

The office of Career Planning and Placement of Glenville State College held Fall Interview Day on October 11, 1991, in the Heflin Student Center ballroom.

Held to give student teachers experience with interviewing and possible job placement opportunities, recruiters from 13 West Virginia counties attended. The counties represented

were Braxton, Calhoun, Gilmer, Jefferson, Ritchie, Tucker, Webster, Wirt, Wood, and Pressley Ridge

The interview day, held from 8:30 a.m.- 4 p.m., consisted of 50 participating teacher candidates. The student teachers interviewed with recruiters and received information packets to prepare them for future interviews.

The events of Fall Interview Day included recruiter and teacher candidate registration, interviews, and evaluations of the student teachers. A complimentary luncheon was served in the Verona Mapel room of Heflin Student Center for the 13 recruiters participating

Delta Zeta

The Delta Zeta Sorority is currently taking part in a fundraiser for the American Heart Association. A Cardiac Arrest will be held on October 31, 1991 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the City Hall in Glenville. We encourage everyone to take part in the event. If you need further information call 462-5963.

We will be taking orders for submarine sandwiches through October 22, the cost of the submarines are \$3 per sandwich, your choice of ham or Italian. They will be delivered on October 25. from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Congratulations to the recently elected officers of the Fall 1991 Pledge Class.

President - Kelley Reese Vice President-Chrissy Gutwein Secretary - Kelly Cain Treasurer - Dee Rowley

There will be an open house on October 26, 1991 from 9 a.m.to 12 p.m. at the Delta Zeta Sorority House for Alumni.

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Teacher Education Logo Contest

The Teacher Education Division of GSC is planning a logo contest with a \$50 first prize. The logo must fit the model of The Skilled and Reflective Teacher. Entries must be received by November 15 at 4 p.m.

The prizes are being donated by the Glenville State College Foundation Inc. For more information, contact Nancy Matz in the Education Office, Clark Hall.

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462-5606

Location: on the hill between Foodland and the college

Davis Sean



ane Haddox (no. 21) handles the ball

photo by Chris Derico

Breaks Record in Exploding

GSC Pioneer Football team broke a four game losing streak exploding for 44 points in second and ird quarters against Fairmont State College in a 44-34 win.

Quarterback Jed Drenning completed 43 of 61 passes for 577 yards and 5 touchdowns. He nearly oke two N.A.I.A. Nartional Records in the process. The record for completions was 44 and total passing

Drenning did break a school record for passing yardage in a season with 2,087 breaking Mike Kellers 190 school record of 1,939 yards. He broke the record in only the seventh game of the 1991 season with three ore games left on the schedule.

F.S.C. remained winless at 0-6 and G.S.C. moved its record to 2-4-1 overall and 1-3 in the W.V.C. his Saturday marks homecoming for the Pioneers as they battle W.V. Wesleyan at 1:30.

-Haddox 1yd run (Weems kick)

-Weems 33 yd Field Goal

-Simpson 22yd. pass from Drenning (Weems kick) -Simpson 2yd. pass from Drenning (kick failed)

George 5yd. pass from Drenning (Weems kick)

Blanding 13yd. pass from Drenning (Weems kick) -Simpson 11 yd. pass from Drenning (Weems kick)

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
GSC	0	23	21	0	44
FSC	0	14	13	7	34

Cross Country Teams Finish Regular Season

On Saturday, both the en's and women's cross country ams traveled to Davis and Elkins ollege for their final meet of the gular season. Coach Jesse Skiles ud, of the second place finish by e women, "They didn't really run at well." He also added, "We orked hard this week and their gs were tired, but they will have esh ones for the big one." The big ne refers to the conference finals

on November 1 at West Virginia Wesleyan. "The guys ran really well," commented Skiles on their second place finish by the men on

The women finished the regular season with a record of 25-5 overall and 20-3 in the W.V.I.A.C. Conference. The men finished with a mark of 23-9 overall and 19-4 in the conference.

TT OHIOH	
1-W.V. Wesleyan	24pts.
2-G.S.C.	37pts.
3-Davis & Elkins	88pts
4-Bethany	91pts
Men	
1-Wheeling Jesuit	47pts
2-656	61nts

63pts.

79pts.

92pts.

145pts.

3-W.V. Wesleyan

4-Davis & Elkins

5-Bethany

6-Fairmont

Pioneers Win Two

Last week proved to be a productive one for the GSC Lady Pioneer volleyball team, recording two wins in a triangular meet at Wheeling Jesuit College. They cruised past the host team by scores of 15-5, 15-5. In the second match they defeated West Liberty by a count of 15-13, 15-9. "We've lost a couple of heartbreakers to them (W.Liberty). It was a nice win for us," commented third year head coach Kenny Osborne. The win

made it three in a row and five out of the last six for the lady spikers and moved their record to 8-8 overall and 2-4 in the conference.

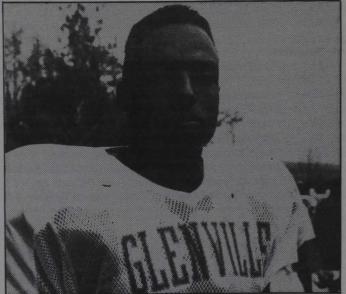
The Lady Pioncers will be in action for their final road game Tuesday night at Shepherd and will begin a five game home stand to close out the regualr season begining next Friday when University of Charleston comes to

GSC Lady Pioneer Volleyball Statistical Leaders

Assists Per Game		Kills Per Game	
Belinda Dowler	2.8	Nikki Hartman	2.3
Patsy Buckles	2.7	Stephanie Ferrell	1.7
Digs Per Game		Tami Simons	1.7
Stephanic Ferrell	1.6	Aces	
Tami Simons	1.5	Stephanie Ferrell	17
Blocks Per Game		Kim Sees	11
Nikki Hardman	1.8		
Tami Simons	17		

Senior Profile:

avid Keaton



Keaton as football player.

Name: David Keaton Height: 6'0" Weight: 180 lbs.

photo by Chris Derico Position: Wide Receiver

Hometown: Salem, Va. Major: physical education

In the fall, he wears number three for the GSC Pioneer football team; In the spring you'll see sprint specialist David Keaton using his speed on the track.

Recruited from Lee's McRae Jr. College, he was a starting defenseive back for the 1990 GSC squad. This year the coaching staff decided to use his speed for the offensive side of the ball at wide receiver. "We've got the talent and potential to win every game, but mental breakdowns and mistakes make the difference." He also feels that, "In the next year or two (they) will be conference champs." "I love the game. I wish I had a few more years" says the senior wide receiver.

His father is a minister in Virginia and religion plays a role, "In everything I do." Keaton likes the religious approach that his role models take like Tony Dorsett, Carl Lewis and Reggie White.

Once his football playing days are over, Keaton wants to go back home and be a physical education teacher. He also would like to get into physical therapy.

I asked him if he could change one thing about his playing days at GSC he wanted one thing, "To win more."

Arts & Entertainment Mystery Fans Get Halloween Theater Treat

production of the year will be The Crucifer of Blood, by Paul Giovanni, based on the Sherlock Holmes characters by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The play is set in England in 1887, and is preceded by a prologue that occurs in India, 30 years before.

The story concerns itself with the theft of the great Agra treasure, stolen by some British soldiers during a rebellion in India. The treasure carries a curse that

haunts those who stole it. The curse materializes in the form of one of the soldiers who, betrayed by the others, has been sent to prison and emerges completely changed. He and an accomplice work to wipe out the others, one by

Like any good detective story, the play combines action, characters who are both loathsome and lovable, and, of course, a ripping good puzzle for mystery fans.

Sherlock Holmes is

probably the single best recognized figure in modern literature. Show someone a deerstalker cap and an Inverness cape, a long pipe stuffed with shag tobacco, and they can immediately recognize what it stands for. Combine Sherlock Holmes and show him dealing with some thoroughly modern problems, and it creates some very interesting theatre. We travel from India to Holmes' Baker Street digs to the gloomy, spooky Pondicherry Lodge;

then to an opium den on the London Docks, collecting bodies and clues all along the way. When murder finally comes home to Baker Street, it provides the play with an exciting finale. Special effects, action and cerie settings abound, making this an ideal Halloween outing.

The cast includes Grayson Samples as Sherlock Holmes, Cliff Cody as Dr. Watson, Jennifer Cunningham as Irene St. Claire, Brandon Krause as Major Ross, Brett Gasper as Captian St. Clair Allan Bearfield as Jonathan Small Don Pepe as Wali Dad, and Jamo Keffer as Birdy Johnson.

The play will be present Wednesday, October 30 throu Friday, November 1 in the Artan Music Building Auditorium at p.m. Admission is free for GSG students, with a \$2 charge for scho students. The cost is \$3 for facul and staff, and members of h community.

Cultural Calendar

October

- Ceremonial Mask Collection, Art and Music Building Gallery, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays and one hour before evening performances.
- "Just Kidding," Dramatic Comedy, Art and Music Building, 6:30 p.m.
- 25 Gas Well Dedication, Verona Mapel Parking Lot, 11 a.m.
- "The Crucifer of Blood," Drama Producation, Art and Music Building, 8 p.m.

November

- "The Crucifer of Blood," Drama Production, Art and Music Building, 8 p.m.
- 11/4-
- 12/6 Linda Chapman Turner, Paintings, Art and Music Building Gallery, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily and one hour before evening performances.
- Marsa Corathers/Julie Harbert, Senior Recitals, Art and Music Building, 3 p.m.
- Jazz Band Concert, Art and Music Building, 8 p.m.
- Brass Concert, Art and Music Building, 8 p.m.
- 17 Heather Vineyard, Senior Recital, Art and Music Building, 3 p.m.
- "Famous People Players," Black Light Theatre, Art and Music Building: 8 p.m.
- Student Directed One Acts, Administration Building Auditorium, 8 p.m.

WV Symphony To Perform Opera "Madame Butterfly"

In Charleston, West Virginia, November 9, the West Virginia Symphony will be performing the classic opera "Madame Butterfly."

With seats sold out, the 8 pm performance "will be a great learning experience," stated Carl Paoletti, choir director for Glenville State College.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Paloctti auditioned for Thomas Conlin of

the WV Symphony on October On October 7 the Paloetti's wen notified that they had been give roles in "Madame Butterfly." Ca Paoletti has the role of the "Impeni Commissioner" and his wife, I role of "Kate Pinkerton."

Working with numero nationally known opera stars, Paoletti's are "very honored to in this production."

Film Deals With Gifted Boy and Working Class Mom

Academy Award winning actress Jodie Foster in her feature film directorial debut, will open in select engagements nationwide on October 18 following exclusive runs in New York, Los Angeles and Toronto.

Tate" stars Jodie Foster, Dianne Wiest, Harry Connick Jr., and Adam Hann-Byrd. The film is directed by Jodie Foster and produced by Scott Rudin and Peggy Rajski, from an original screenplay by Scott Frank. Randy Stone is executive

"Little Man Tate," starring producer. The musical score is by Mark Isham.

"Little Man Tate" is the story of an extraordinarily gifted seven-year-old boy and his attempts to fit in. Fred's life is greatly affected by the relationships he shares with Orion Pictures' "Little Man his working class mother and a brilliant child psychologist, two women who have conflicting ideas of how to raise him.

"Little Man Tate" is MPAA-rated PG. The soundtrack is available on Varese Sarabande compact discs and cassettes.



Foster and Hann-Byrd in "Little Man Tate."

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otpourri

by Charles M. Shultz EANUTS®



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UP-

LENT

THERE'S DOPEY BOBBY NOOBER. EVERY DAY WE'D TIE HIM TO THE FLAGPOLE AND STUFF LIVE FROGS IN



HE'S STILL THE PRINCIPAL ... NOT THE HAPPIEST GUY I'VE EVER KNOWN.

DAMAGE

SET BE-

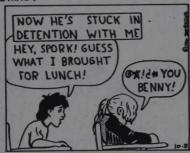
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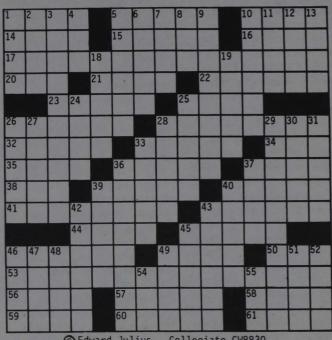
by JON CRINER





TIRMA MOA HELENA NEE MAD MOTES KANGAROO AMTRAK DUTETIUM RETILE ESSAYERS GROCER collegiate crossword

answer to last week's puzzle



@Edward Julius Collegiate CW8830

45 Sci-fi thriller 46 Plays a guitar 49 Soft drinks

ACROSS

1 Shave off 5 Miss Bara

5 Miss Bara
10 Pretense
14 — Steven
15 Desert spot
16 Wife of Zeus
17 Movie musical
(4 wds.)
20 Peculiar

20 Peculiar
21 To laugh: Fr.
22 — play
23 Well-known magazine
25 Type of silk
26 Fraternity
initiation
28 Metal restrainers

Fairies Kills

Beer Bert Lahr role

Eschews
Competent
French coin
— and a

39 —— and a prayer 40 Bent 41 Young bird 43 Sings like Crosby 44 Pro football team

50 Onassis, for short 53 Movie musical

(4 wds.)
56 — of Eden
57 Bungling
58 Treaty group
59 Intellectual

powers 60 Omar's output

twin

1 Mazatlan money 2 Enthusiastic 3 Romantic meeting 4 Famous Siamese

smokers 10 Dwindle 11 Pile 12 Seed covering

DOWN

13 Part of a horse
18 Golf clubs
19 Sevareid, et al.
24 Tres — 25 Brother of 4-Down
26 Miss Reddy
27 Mrs. Kramden
28 Hurled
29 Formed by the lips and the nose
30 Actress Vera——
31 Ovules
33 Leg parts
36 Bikini
37 Bitter drug
39 "Remember the — "
40 Optical device
42 Has faith in
43 Kirk Douglas features
45 Take into one's family twin
5 Changing the sound quality
6 Hirsute
7 Anglo-Saxon slave
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features
45 Take into one's
family
46 Worry
47 Siamese
48 Repose
49 Gulf of
51 Miss Hayworth
52 Religious image
54 Compass point
55 French number

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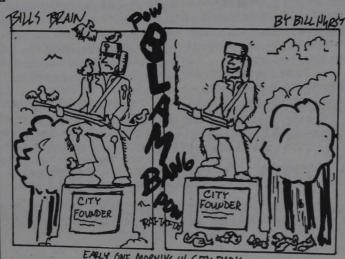
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Ethnic Awareness Can Lead to Ethnic Equality or Diversity

Diversity magazine)

by Jason D. Hill

In the October 1990 issue of Spin magazine, black American playwright August Wilson revealed how easily ethnic consciousess can lead to racism. In the article, Mr. Wilson explained why he wanted a black screen director for the film version of his hit Broadway play, Fences. "What to do?" he asks rhetorically. "Let's make a rule. Blacks don't direct Italian films. Italians don't direct Jewish films. Jews don't direct black American films." Mr. Wilson goes on to suggest that people from the majority culture are not qualified, and should not be allowed, to portray ethnic minorities. But in arguing for this sort of segregation, Mr. Wilson threatens to undermine the principles and the hard-earned gains of the civil rights movement.

fundamental achievement of the civil rights movement was to teach the public that people can overcome cultural differences. To an astute observer of society and people, one who does his homework and views himself as part of the whole society rather than his own tribe, cultural differences bind together, rather than separate, the world. It is absurd to suggest that a person's race prevents him from understanding people with different backgrounds. Indeed, some of the most moving and sensitive portrayals of black life and culture have been dipicted by white authors and filmmakers. Would anyone, for example, permit himself the intellectual dishonesty of discounting the movie The Color Purple simply because its producer is not black? Are books like Uncle Tom's Cabin or Harper Lee's To Kill a Mocking Bird inherently flawed simply because their authors were white? If, historically, we had subscribed to Mr. Wilson's view, many of the most insightful portraits of black life in America would have never been created.

Implicit in Mr. Wilson's suggestion is the notion that ethnicity is the most significant criterion for establishing credibility and authority. It is as if he were saying,

(Editor's note: This article has authority on everything that been reprinted with permission from constitutes 'blackness'; my race qualifies me." If one accepts August Wilson's ideas of race and ethnicity, at least as they pertain to cultural issues, then authority and credibility are viewed as natural concomitants of race. Considering the history of racism in this country, and the appalling measures used to keep blacks and other minorities outside the mainstream of American lifeincluding the artistic milieux-one might assume that Mr. Wilson's defensive stance is a form of cultural preservation. In principle, however, it is just another form of racial prejudice.

Were these views held by a single person, even a distinguished black American like playwright August Wilson, it would be inconsequential. In truth, however, this deterministic view of American subcultures receives at least tacit approval from most black intellectuals. College campuses have proven to be particularly fertile ground for these ideas. Professor George Levesque, a white professor who holds a joint appointment in the history and Afro-American history departments at

SUNY-Albany, told The Michigan Review, a student newspaper at the University of Michigan, that many of his colleagues believe "you have to be black to teach black history.' Professor Levesque also claims that the chair of the Afro-American studies department at the University of California at Berkeley told him, off the record, that a white candidate "didn't have a snowball's chance in hell" of receiving an appointment in the Afro-American Studies department because the university would rather hire a black candidate. No one told this professor that he was intellectually incapable of teaching black history, but (he believes) the color of his skin cost him appointments at five universities.

The popularity of T-Shirts and posters sporting the slogan "It's a Black thing, you wouldn't understand" testifies to the power of this idea.

In the midst of the clamor, anyone who challenges the preoccupation with ethnicity and "I am black, and therefore I am an race runs the risk of being called

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selfish, naive and too individualistic. As a black student who disagrees with Mr. Wilson's view, I am frequently asked, almost rhetorically, how I can avoid being race conscious while living in a race-conscious society? The answer, which I am rarely allowed to give, is that individuals are not passive, unthinking creatures who have no choice but to swallow simplistic beliefs about ethnicity. Like all

rational human beings, I enjoy the Wilson's call, that there is so freedom to evaluate arguments, and I am capable of rejecting attitudes because of their irrationality and inappropriateness. Neither I nor American society needs to be proteted from the mistaken impressions that a white filmmaker might convey when dealing with a black cultural issue.

More important, we must reject that idea, suggested by August

biololgical trait that determine race-specific standard of condu values, beliefs, and customs. Or by fostering a belief in equality a by burying the antiquated, fallaci notion that one's race determin his abilities will people of color use a socially acceptal cuphemism) gain true freedom ba on mutual respect and tolerance

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