

4



Volleyball...

5



LBH Fire Continued...

6



Dr. Mujahid Akram...

Inside this issue...

Commentary.....	page 2-3
Sports.....	page 4
News.....	page 5
On Campus.....	page 6-7
Arts and Entertainment.....	page 8-9
Funnies.....	page 10
Halloween Feature.....	page 11
Extras.....	page 12

Happy Halloween!

The Mercury

BOO!!

The student newspaper of Glenville State College

Volume 68, No. 9

October 31, 1996

Dorm Room Fire in LBH

By Gene Breza

Wednesday, October 30
Glenville State College dorm residents realized the importance of the fire alarm system, and the severity of capricious misuse.

Shortly before 9:50 p.m., the fire alarm went off in Louis Bennett Hall. Jason Gordon, the third floor resident assistant, ran downstairs and checked the alarm indicator on the wall just inside the doorway to the office. It indicated the alarm went off on the second floor.

Gordon quickly checked it out and returned to the office to tell head LBH office worker Ron Critchfield it was a real fire. Critchfield promptly called 911 at 9:50 p.m..

Gordon and other RAs went through the dorms knocking on doors to alert everyone to evacuate the building. At the same time the RAs--Marlan

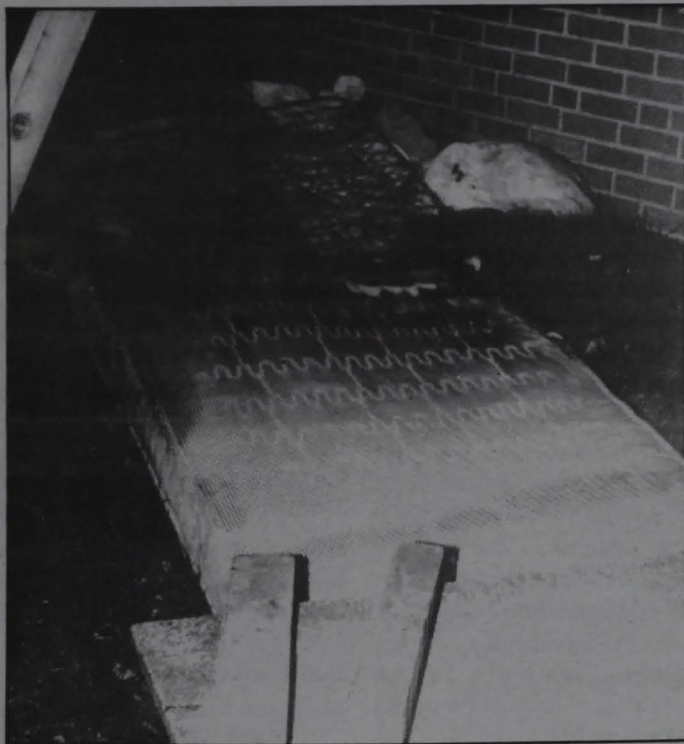


Photo by Carl Wilson.

This mattress was taken from room 213.

Zwoll, Munir Ingram and Eric Ross--"worked as a team," said Ingram, and busted out fire extinguishers before heading for room 213. Thick smoke poured out from the crack under the door. Zwoll unlocked the door as Ingram and Ross went in and sprayed the fire. "Yea, we put it out. Munir and I put it out," said Ross.

The Gilmer County Fire Department arrived at 10:13 p.m. with two fire trucks. At 10:19 p.m., Fire Chief Gerald Davis stuck his head out of room 213 to say the fire was out, letting the dispatcher know not to send anymore trucks.

"The three of them were right on top of it," reported new LBH House Director Michael Newell. Students standing outside said the room had been unoccupied for two weeks.

Newell said the students of

213 were intending to leave tomorrow, had not yet checked out, but that all of their belongings were out of the room. Newell did not elaborate on his suspicions. "Whoever did it, they left their mark," continued Newell, "(I'm) not saying that it was the occupants of the room."

A smoking, half-burnt mattress was thrown out of the room along with pillows by firemen. An exhaust fan was placed in the window to vent the smoke filled dorm room. The fire alarm continued to ring. "There's too much smoke--it keeps settin' it off," commented a nearby student. Smoke was still pouring down the stairwell that ran near room 213.

Ingram and Ross said they inhaled a lot of smoke. They received oxygen from the

Continued on Page 5.

Glenville Dominates Home Meet

By Frank Konig

Cedar Creek was the site of the Annual Glenville State Cross Country Classic where five teams were in attendance from around the conference.

There were 25-plus runners in both the women's and the men's race, which led the runners through the woods, around the pond and across the fields that are present at Cedar Creek.

The women were to race first. An Alderson-Broadus runner came out of the forest and around the pond first.

The top GSC runners in that race were Tanya Johnson, who placed 13th overall with a time of 24:54; Dawn Petty fin-

ish 17 with a time of 25:27; Mandy Valentine was 22, crossing the line at 26:14; and Tina Mallow rounded out the Lady Pioneers in 24, finishing with a time of 26:44.

The men started soon after the completion of the women's race. Due to a mix up in the navigation of the course, certain teams were able to take a much-needed shortcut around the first corner.

The men followed the same course as the women, but completed it twice.

The Glenville State men all finished in the top fifteen and put on a show at the finish line for those in attendance. Jimmy Gal-

loway and Daniel Edgell were in a dead heat for the top spot. Galloway beat Edgell by a nose to win the race. David Bee and Daniel Ramezan were seconds behind, finishing in fourth and fifth respectively.

The surprise of the day came when freshman runner Brent Gargus ran remarkably well, improving drastically and finishing in twelfth spot. Michael Bee followed thirteenth.

Tomorrow, the Cross Country Teams travels to Bluefield State to compete in the Conference Championships. It will be the second visit to the Bluefield course and should make for an exciting race.



Photo by Carl Wilson.

Jimmy Galloway receives a trophy for winning GSC's Pioneer Classic.



From the Editor's Desk

Gene Breza

From Left to Right

To all students! If you knew you had something to say to the Board of Directors of the State College System, you will have your chance at West Liberty State College...December. 3 at 10:30 a.m.

The more convenient locale and time has since past, as of Tuesday morning. You were invited to make a presentation, according to a memo from the President's office. "The Board will visit selected classes, take a campus tour and hear the faculty, staff and student presentations on Tuesday morning, the 29th. All interested faculty, staff and students are invited to attend the constituent presentations from 9:30 to 10:25 in the Verona Mapel Room of the Heflin 'Student' Center" (half quotes added). Actually, you were invited to attend presentations and were never really invited to make one.

Copies of this important memo were circulated in the snack bar-commuter room, very early Tuesday morning, hours before the meeting and managed to draw two students to attend, one of whom made a "presentation."

If, student input was considered worthy of the ears of that august body that governs all state colleges, then the *Mercury* would have been notified in time, or it would have been posted around campus. We certainly knew about the Lignetics plant in time to cover it! Though its connection with GSC was never very clear.

Who can imagine the terrible things anyone could have said before the board that would have been so awful as to embarrass the school, if they had managed the courage to speak. Try imagining Dorothy pleading with the Wizard of Oz to go back to Kansas.

In the offing, was an editorial this week before the election, questioning the wholesale pigeonholing of people into the categories of left-right, liberal-conservative, by giving a brief history of these designations and then attempting to make some specific points to show a 180 degree turn in the development some of these ideologies. Then, you were to question yourselves as to whether you are 100 percent liberal or conservative.

But maybe the commitment to democratic ideals this institution demonstrates should be questioned, since our country claims to encourage these ideals in the underdeveloped countries of the world. *We have class on Election Day.* The banks, post office, elementary and high schools will all be closed so people can exercise their right to vote, but not Glenville State College. Why? Is it presumed most students will just use the day as an excuse to play? Why not? After all, an attempt to set up a voter registration table on campus was "put off" and was only approved after the deadline for registration had passed in September.

But, if encouragement means to give the opportunity for involvement, we have failed and have presumed too much. After all, there is more to election day than voting. The polls are to be watched. There is campaigning to do, which might mean driving someone to the polls to vote. There are votes to be counted and countered. There is not much encouragement here at good ol' GSC where two absences can be counted against you, to get involved in a process this country of ours counts as a distinction and designation of superiority before the world.

From the *I Ching* - In order to obtain a following one must first know how to adapt oneself. If a man would rule he must first learn to serve, for only in this way does he secure from those below him the joyous assent that is necessary if they are to follow him. If he has to obtain a following by force or cunning, by conspiracy or by creating factions, he invariably arouses resistance, which obstructs willing adherence. But even joyous movement can lead to evil consequences, hence the added stipulation, "Perseverance furthers"--that is, consistency in doing right--together with "No blame." Just as we should not ask others to follow us unless this condition is fulfilled, so it is only under this condition that we can in turn follow others without coming to harm.

Dear Sir,

I truly enjoyed the Glenville State College's Homecoming when I went last Saturday. The brunch was very good and inexpensive. I saw practically every building there on campus and in the town, as well.

I really had a great time, though it rained for the football game and I just got over the flu and didn't see the end of the game, but it looked as though Glenville would come out winners when I left early in the 4th quarter. All was just wonderful, and I had a good time.

So, when I saw in the *Pathfinder* that Heritage Days would be held there the following week, I asked my sister and her husband to attend, as I know they would have a good time like I did.

She is interested in crafts and artwork, such like they have at the various places I had visited in West Virginia, even in Parkersburg! I hope she attended, and I even suggested the Conrad to them, if they wanted to stay longer than I did.

I'd like for my sister and the others to take interest in all the activities they would have there, because in the future I want to build a cabin on the property I bought from Homestead Realty in Pleasant Hills, and they could be more at ease if they can participate in some of the events that go on there.

I keep them informed, of course, of all that the college has to offer there, and they could easily come there to Glenville. I know that you have a "Nature Time Adventures" Club there on campus, where I might direct my correspondence to find out about trips that I could interest my sisters in taking with the college. I think that GSC has a lot of exciting things available there for them.

Ted Pokropski
Youngstown, Ohio



What's Left?

Tom Kennedy

Halloween: An Americanized Pagan Treat

I know it is strange, but there is a certain warmth that glows inside my soul at this time of year. Even though the incipient winter is creeping in upon us, I feel an enigmatic joy that makes me want to celebrate. It just may have been these same cozy feelings that inspired the ancient pagan religions to develop the holiday we now know as Halloween.

In European pagan religions, Samhain is the night when the old God dies and the Crone Goddess mourns him deeply for the next six weeks. It is from this myth that our image of a witch and her cauldron takes shape. But in the original myth, the Crone Goddess, although old, is not ugly, and the cauldron does not contain witch's brew. Instead, it was the Celtic belief that all dead souls return to the Goddess's cauldron of life, death, and rebirth to await reincarnation; in other words, this was a sacred holiday celebrating everlasting life and eventually became known as Halloween, a contraction for the words Hallowed Evening.

When the early Christian Church started its campaign to save souls by having people adopt Christianity and forsake their pagan beliefs, it ran into a stumbling block: holidays are a strong part of any culture, and the people did not want to give up these celebrations. The Church used a two-prong approach to overcome this holiday dilemma. First, the pagan religions were labeled as evil and tools of Satan. Second, the old holidays were allowed to stay, but the basis of the celebrations were changed. Thus, Samhain became Michaelmas, the feast day of St. Michael. The holiday later became Eve of All Saints, or All Hallows Eve, the day before All Saints Day, which is still one of the holiest days in Catholicism.

By the time Americans got done with Halloween, it had achieved its most eclectic and, in my opinion, most interesting incarnation. In addition to the evil trappings attributed to the holiday by the early Christians, Americans added "trick-or-treat" and Hollywood monsters to the mix. Throw in some jack-o'-lanterns from a different Celtic myth, and we now have that dark and mysteriously wonderful holiday of autumn we all know as Halloween.

It took Western civilization thousands of years to create this holiday in its present form, and I think we did a fine job--enjoy it. Happy Halloween.

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Dear Editor,

It has come to my attention recently that there is a lot of fuss about the tarot card readings going on at Bloody Jack. First off, I am the one doing the readings, so get your information from the horse's mouth before making judgements. Second, tarot cards are not "satantic," they are only tools used to help people get a better understanding of their lives and times.

I know of many people on campus who would defend me and my "occultist" ways because they have found relief and guidance in my readings. Doubters may try it and see; I'm always willing to prove that I'm right. As for the readings at the Alpha Psi Omega show, they are purely theatrical. There is lighting, mood, music, and suspense. Drama if you will. Ooohhh, wouldn't want that would we? Never in a theatre!

I am not charging for the readings, which are not being held in the actual theatre, but down the hall in another room,

out of sight of the people who do not wish to view it. And those who don't want a reading can simply go to the play. It is not required that you have a reading in order to see it.

It has been pointed out to me that tarot cards are connected with the occult. Webster's Dictionary defines occult as, "beyond ordinary understanding." People who use tarot cards use them to understand their emotions and get a hold on life, things that are beyond normal understanding. Webster's concludes, "dealing with the supernatural or magical: the occult sciences." Is Christianity occultist? I think not, yet it's magical, deals with the supernatural. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit? Yep. Sorry, JC, but you're an occultist and didn't know it.

Wouldn't people be shocked to know that medicine has it's beginnings in natural herbs and homoeopathy, methods used by Druids, pagans (occultists) who worshipped nature? And what about the deeply

Christian holiday of Easter? Do you know why Easter is on the day it is? Not because it is the exact day of Christ's resurrection, but because it celebrates the Spring Equinox, a pagan ritual. And what about Halloween? No one has complained about this, yet the holiday itself is purely pagan. Yet, no complaints. I guess those who accuse must have a sweet tooth. If this letter, so far, has taught us anything it is to think (or at least research) before we speak.

We aren't communists are we? No, I think not. No, here in campus we value free speech. At least we used to. Being brought up in a Methodist home has taught me one thing: patience. Well, my patience has run out. If my examples seem far-fetched, they are. But simply because that's the only way to get through to some people. If people are narrow-minded, let them be. Nothing I will do or say can change that.

Criston B. Gravely



A Piece of the Pie

MOE TZONEVA

Why Do We have to Pay?

Why do we pay? Every single international student asks this question. This is probably the biggest concern for all of us as Thanksgiving, Christmas and Spring vacations are coming up. Why do we have to pay \$8 a day for our rooms and food if we stay on campus?

We know that this fee is for everybody who stays on campus during the vacations, but it is common sense that only the international students are not able to go home for the holidays. It is not enough that we are away from our families and friends when everybody else is, but we have to pay extra to stay here. Even though we would be more than happy to go home, especially for Christmas, there are problems with visas and money, and we can't do anything about it.

Most international students rely on financial aid because our parents are not able to support us. Having to pay this extra money is a greater expense for our parents. If one calculates, every international student has to pay \$56 for the room for one week; the food expenses are approximately \$25 per week. That means that, for all the vacation time we stay on campus, we have to pay total of \$408, which is the money some of the international students have as spending money for the entire school year.

All of the international students agree that this is not a fair treatment. We understand that certain people stay on campus in order for the dormitories to stay open, and that they have to get paid for working, but still this doesn't make our financial situation better.

In our opinion, the college has to revise this issue and cancel the fee. It is going to ease our lives a great deal. There has to be a compromise, and even if the fee is not eliminated it can be at least decreased. All the international students will be grateful if this decision is made.

I hope this article is going to help--the people that this issue depends on realize that \$405 is a lot of money. Even though most of us can't afford to pay it, we have no choice--we have nowhere else to go.

Dear editor,

This letter is in regards to the comments made by April Kidd to the residents of fifth floor Wagner. First, let's get some facts straight. There have been four of five alarms set off on fifth floor Wagner. Only one was an actual pull, and three were set off by the heat sensors beside the kitchen. The pull was not done by a fifth floor resident, and two of the three sensor alarms were set off by a student from another floor. That leaves only one fire alarm set off by a fifth floor resident. That alarm was disengaged around 10 p.m., when most of the students were still awake. Accidents happen,

but nobody has the right to blame our floor for something that we have no control over.

I can proudly say that the residents of fifth floor Wagner are responsible, hard-working, and very respectful to their living surroundings. This is one of the many floors that is clean, tidy, and low maintenance. I find these disrespectful, uneducated, and unprofessional statements to be offensive towards myself and the residents who live on fifth floor Wagner. April Kidd, get the facts straight before you go pointing your finger.

Your "heathen" Resident Assistant,

Christopher S. Hannah

Porcelain Paradise

By Kevin Lake

The driving rain beat violently against the windshield like Mike Tyson against an opponent's face. The fog thickened like a college freshman after a semester of cafeteria food and too much beer.

Jay pointed out a sign indicating an all night truck stop. We pulled off the exit and entered a small, grungy diner in hopes of waking up with some food and coffee. Jay and I were the only customers, except for the 300-pound trucker in the corner chain-smoking cigars and overdosing on chili dogs.

As we sat down to the counter, we were approached by our waitress. Though she stood tall at 6'4" and weighed nearly 250, Jay and I found her somewhat attractive. It could have been the time of night, our state of exhaustion, or maybe even the "Pepsi Light" we had before leaving home.

After taking our orders in her deep-monotone, yet-sexy, voice, she smiled and winked at us.

"Are you thinking what I'm thinking?" asked Jay.

"Yeah, I hope that trucker didn't eat all the hot dogs."

"No!" he exclaimed. "We should try to pick up our waitress."

"I don't know," I told him. "I think she's married. She has the name Joe tattooed on her arm."

Evidently she overheard us, for when she returned she told us her name was Joe Ann. She went on to explain how she used to date a guy who was a tattoo artist. One night they got drunk and decided to tattoo her name on her arm. After they got the "Joe" part they both passed out and never finished it.

As Joe Ann left to clean the mess the trucker had made Jay and I discussed our situation further.

"Dude," Jay said. "Ask her if she wants to come to our motel room when she gets off work."

"Sounds good to me," I said. "Although she is big and masculine, I find myself attracted to her."

"Me too," Jay agreed. "She strikes me as a very strong woman, one who knows what she wants."

After conversing with Joe Ann for twenty more minutes Jay popped the question. To our delight she immediately accepted. We told her we would call her from our room, then got up to use the restroom before leaving.

There were three urinals. Jay claimed the first one and I the third. Joe Ann suddenly entered.

"Wanna get this party started early, do ya?" I asked her.

"Oh, no, honey, I just had the same idea you guys did."

As she stepped up to the middle urinal we heard the sound of a zipper. Jay and I locked eyes, looked down, then locked eyes again, this time with jaws dropped. Without even zipping our flies we ran like hell straight to the car and sped away.

"I knew the whole time," Jay said.

"Oh, me too," I replied. "I just wanted to see if you'd fall for it."

As we looked at each other we both swore that if either of us ever told a soul the other would kill them.

The Mercury is published weekly during the school year, except for holidays and final exams, with two summer session issues. Periodical Postage paid at Glenville, WV 26351. POSTMASTER: Send address changes (PS FORM 3579) to: *The Mercury*, Glenville State College, 200 High Street, Glenville, WV 26351. Subscription rate is \$10 per year.

Lady Spikers Roughed Up

By Frank Konig

The Glenville State Lady Pioneers Volleyball team got a dose of cold water on their red hot, record-breaking season. While still atop the NCAA Div. II hitting percentage polls, the University of Charleston and Alderson-Broadus College came here and beat the Spikers in three straight games.

Rounding out the power rating and conference play, the Pioneers could have used a couple wins against these two very strong teams. Alderson-Broadus haunted the Pioneers from the start on Wednesday night, October 30. The Battlers controlled all three of the games, winning 15-4, 15-2 and 15-5.

The whole team accumulated only 18 kills on offense within the three games, which

was uncharacteristic of the Pioneers. Standouts among the Lady Spikers were Tina Jones recording 5 kills and 4 digs, Cheryl Stout who added 11 digs along side 2 kills and Amanda Simmons who netted 3 kills and 6 digs in two of the three games.

On Monday, the 28th, the Pioneers were at home to meet the University of Charleston, a game that started one of the most difficult home stands in many seasons. Charleston, ranked in the top ten in many categories, and ranked in the top 30 nationally. It would take strong, team play to win.

Right from the start the Pioneers were dominated. UC handed the Pioneers three straight disheartening losses; 15-3, 15-5, and 15-5. "University of Charleston is a very good team,"

said assistant coach Chup Robinson. "They are the number two team in the conference, and beating them would have required a total team effort."

Going eleven deep into the bench, coach Kenny Osborne could not find the right combination that would give them a boost. Simmons placed the Lady Pioneers on offense and defense with 7 kills and 8 digs; setter Michelle Smith made 16 assists.

Robinson added, "These games would have been great to win, but we need to regain composure, learn from our mistakes and finish the regular season strong."

Next up for the Pioneers is Shepherd College before the Conference tournament in Summersville starting November 15-17.

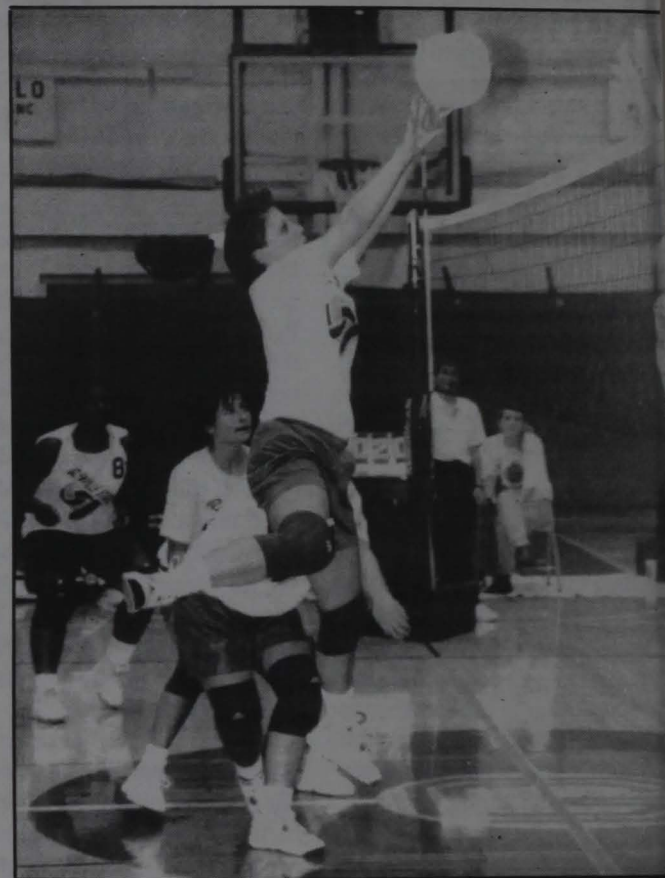


Photo by Carl Wilson.

Becky Cheuvront blocks against the University of Charleston.

Another Close Call at Concord

By Frank Konig

There is one thing you can count on at a Glenville State College Football game. Every penny you spend on a ticket will be rewarded with action.

It was Glenville who would score the first touchdown. Rod Smith, beaten and battered all season long, handed off to running back Willie Dodson on the Concord nine yard line and let him do the rest. Kicker Justin Barnes missed the Point After Touchdown, leaving the score

standing at 6-0.

From the Glenville one-yard line, Smith hooked up with Scott Hammond. A 99-yard touchdown and a failed two point conversion gave GSC only a 12-point buffer.

On the next possession the Pioneers put the ball into the endzone once again. Dodson scooted in from 12 yards out and Barnes hit the PAT. Score: 9-0 at the end of the first quarter.

Glenville opened the scoring in the second quarter when

Barnes split the field goal post from 35 yards out and it looked like GSC would roll another opponent.

Concord would not concede the game. Down 22-0, Concord came back with a touchdown pass from Mike Lazo to Jason Morris. Pioneer kicker Barnes nailed another field goal--this time from 23 yards--giving the Pioneers a 25-6 lead going into the second half.

It was a stalemate throughout the third period. Concord scored first in the fourth quarter. Lazo sent a pass to Fleshman, who extended it for 85 yards and a touchdown. Hilager hit a 20-yard field goal and Lazo ran in another score by himself.

Before you could register the action, the score was tied 25-25. "We didn't play with the type of intensity in the second half that our program is accustomed to and it almost cost us the

game," said Coach Rich Rodriguez.

Poised to go into overtime, the Pioneers had one last chance with five seconds left on the clock. Barnes, 9 for 11 on field goals for the year, clinched the win for the Pioneers with a 21 yard field goal and came away the hero.

Dodson has had numerous good games to date and this would be no different. He has accumulated 830 yards on 127 carries and scored 8 touchdowns on the year placing him 19th on the NCAA All-Purpose Running Yards Rankings.

Receiver Carlos Ferrals caught 81 passes for 965 yards and remains 1 in NCAA Receptions Per Game Rankings.

"I think our team has been resilient and shown some character," said Rodriguez. "I would just like to see us put a complete game together this week!"

Next week the Pioneers are at home to meet the WVU-Tech Golden Bears. The kickoff is at 1:00 and if Mother Nature co-operates, it should be an entertaining game.



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Being Aware of Domestic Violence

By Angela Greenlief

Every five seconds a woman in this country is the victim of domestic violence. Domestic violence is sexual, verbal, or physical abuse from a household member. Ninety percent of the victims of domestic violence are women. This problem occurs everywhere, from all races and socioeconomic groups. Because of domestic violence, women have a nine times greater chance of being harmed in their own homes than on the street.

Although many more women are abused than men, an equal number of men and women are arrested in domestic violence cases. *U.S. News and World Report* recently showed evidence that the reason for this, in part, is because some police members resent mandatory arrest laws. The greatest reason for a woman killing her husband is self-defense. 44% of women who kill their husbands were victims of abuse.

Psychology Today re-

cently published the greatest reasons women use for staying in abusive relationships. All of these reasons had one thing in common--fear.

The reasons ranged from fear of losing their children, fear of poverty, or fear of being killed. These fears are not unfounded. Many women are killed while trying to escape an abuser. Also, there are only 1200 shelters for battered women in this country, although there are 3800 animal shelters.

This problem happens everywhere, including here. Beverly Pritt, the OutReach coordinator in charge of HOPE Inc. in Gilmer County said five years ago she had nine clients, but this year, so far, she has had 57 clients. Also, the success rate is low. HOPE Inc. can't offer employment, housing, or safety.

The nearest shelter is two hours away, and many women from this area aren't comfortable being so far away from home, even though the distance

insures an even greater margin of safety.

In the last six months, there have been four cases reported concerning students at Glenville State College. Pritt remarked, "I have some excellent videos on date and acquaintance rape geared toward college students."

For anyone who may have misgivings on speaking to Beverly Pritt, she said, "I don't make moral judgements. All I want to do is pass on information that gives you options. Everything that a client tells me is completely confidential. I care about what happens to my clients. I can offer options, but I cannot make the choice for them."

HOPE Inc. is a nonprofit organization funded in part by the United Way. The Gilmer County office is located in the old jailhouse. The hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Anybody is welcome to call at 462-5352.

Dorm Room Fire Continued from Page 1

firefighters.

By 11:00 the residents were entertaining themselves in the amphitheater. Chief Davis spoke to Officer Moss about an

investigation. Davis said he'd call the dispatch office in Weston, where they had an 800 number to the state fire marshal's office, and if it met certain criteria, they would send out investigators tonight; if not, they would come out tomorrow.



Photo by Carl Wilson.

Marlan Zwoll receives oxygen, courtesy of the fire department.

Teacher Education Advising Day

On Friday, November 15, students may meet with teacher education advisors from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. to prepare for pre-registration. Students are required to bring a tentative schedule to the appointment.

November 11-14: Students may sign up for appointment during advisor's regular office hours.

Armentrout Attends Leadership Seminar

Marty Garrett Armentrout, Chair of Glenville State College Division of Business, was a delegate to the Leadership Development Seminar held at the 1996 Southern Business Education Association (SBEA) Convention in Jacksonville, Florida, on October 17-19.

SBEA is a regional affiliate of the National Business Education Association. The purpose of SBEA is to serve its members involved in instruction, administration, and research in business education by providing leadership training, conferences, and publications to assist them in developing competent, pro-

ductive people to function in a global, competitive economy.

Leadership development is an important aspect of services of SBEA. Ms. Armentrout represented the state of West Virginia as a delegate. She participated in the seminar which addressed a variety of topics on effective leadership in business education.

Over 450 business educators attended this convention and participated in a variety of sessions addressing distance education, telecommunication, information management, hands-on computer technology, and leadership development.

Keeping 'Em Down on the Farm

By Stewart Truelsen

In 1918, an author named Ernest Groves lamented the fact that young people were being lured from the country to America's fast-developing cities. In his book, "Rural Problems of Today," Groves blamed the exodus on the automobile and moving pictures. They created what he called "an environment of excitement, a life reveling in noise and change."

Said Groves, "The faculty of any agricultural college is familiar with the farmer's son who has been taught never to return to the farm after graduation from college."

Groves was right, but maybe not for the right reasons. Beginning in 1936 and continuing to the present day, the number of farms and farmers has been in a downward trend.

It wasn't just the lure of city life that caused this to happen, however. The tremendous growth in farm productivity during this period meant that fewer farmers were needed.

If Groves were writing to-

day, he might be writing instead about the lure of the rural environment. A lot of people are tired of the noise and constant change of urban living, and wouldn't mind a little less excitement.

But what about the exodus from farming? Is it still continuing? According to USDA's 1996 Agriculture Fact Book, there are 2.04 million farms and the number is declining a percent or two each year.

Distinguished agricultural economist Luther Tweeten of The Ohio State University says, "The great farm-urban exodus is over in the sense that millions of people have left agriculture over the years, but there are relatively few left that are going to make that transition."

In fact, Tweeten says the number of commercial farms is growing slightly. Commercial farms account for about 20 percent of the farms but 80 percent of farm output.

Small farms are continuing to decline and affect the overall trend because there are so many of them. Small farms are a way

of life more than a business. The operators typically lose money farming and support themselves with off-farm employment.

"The group we ought to be concerned about is what we call the disappearing middle," says Tweeten. "That's sort of the traditional midsize family farm that many of us have in mind in our image of what a family farm is."

Some of the mid-size farms graduate in size to become commercial farms. Commercial farms are still family operations.

Larger-than-family farm corporations make up the last of Tweeten's categories and they account for just a tiny fraction of farms.

The pressures on farmers today are enormous—urbanization, government regulation, taxes and the uncertainties of the market and weather. In order to make a profit, farm operators have to be resilient, efficient, adaptive and able to compete on the world market. With that, we are lucky we have as many farmers as we do.

Kappa Delta Pi

There will be a meeting on November 5, at 12:30, in the Clark Hall Curriculum Lab. All members are urged to attend.



Student Voter's Coalition

The Student Voter's Coalition's first meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 13. Students will meet in Room 208 of the Administration building at 5:30 p.m. All voters are welcome to attend.

Dr. Akram helps "spruce up" GSC Forestry Division

By Theodore Allen Webb

Dr. Mujahid Akram abandoned his beloved homeland of Pakistan and travelled thousands of miles over rough seas for the sole reason of becoming the new land surveying professor in GSC's Forestry Division.

Well, not exactly.

Although Akram has always possessed a profound love of teaching, he did not leap into the "great melting pot" for the express purpose of teaching at Glenville State College. In fact, Akram journeyed to America specifically to expand his own education.

After completing his B.S. degree in Civil Engineering at Risalpur, Pakistan, Akram landed in the land of the free and initiated his graduate studies at West Virginia University in April 1990. In August 1992, (Akram remembers all the important dates in his life), he completed his masters degree in the same field and advanced to earn his Ph.D. in November 1995.

"During my graduate studies, I worked on a number of research projects," Akram says proudly.

A number? In a computer printout supplied by Akram, the diligent doctor has completed over 17 projects including environmental assessment implementation and evaluation of sanitary landfills, geotechnical investigation, and in-site stabilization of hazardous wastes.

In addition, this prolific professor has published over 12 articles on various subjects related to his field and has won awards for his enormous efforts, one of which was presented to him in Nashville, Tennessee during Geosynthetics '95 for a paper entitled "Long-Term Filtration Behavior of Nonwoven Geotextiles with Fly Ash."

"I am currently working on another paper," Akram relates.

Before he was transformed into a congenial GSC professor, Akram was employed by a consulting firm in Pittsburg,

Pennsylvania and Raleigh, North Carolina. It was in Raleigh that he learned about a position being open at GSC and decided to fulfill his longtime teaching dream.

"This teaching experience is unique because GSC is a small school," says Akram when asked how he feels about the college.

"GSC has smaller classes, so there is more personal contact with the students. I can work with individual students and help them where they are having trouble."

Along with Dr. John Williams, professor Ed Grafton, and Provost Dr. Nolan Browning, Akram is working on developing new programs in environmental and construction technology and is striving to offer forestry courses at the Nicholas and Lewis County Centers.

The goal of the improvements is to make GSC more competitive with schools like Fairmont and benefit students

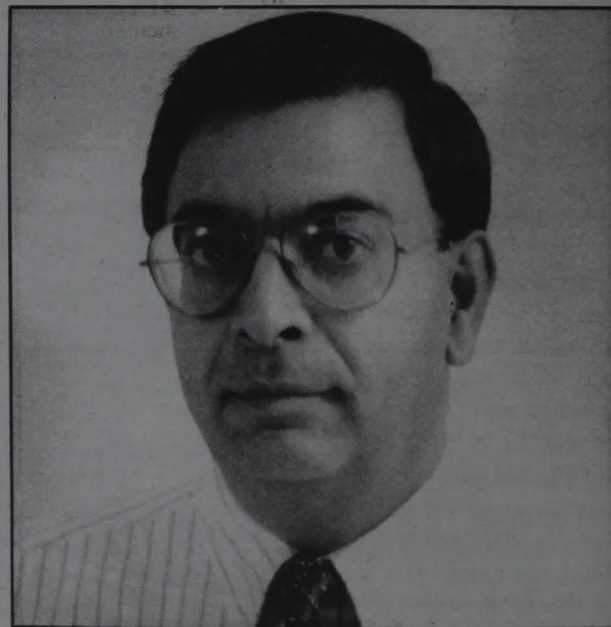


Photo by Carl Wilson.
Dr. Mujahid Akram.

with more variety and course offerings.

Also, the Forestry Division is doing its best to set up internships with local businesses so that students can get hands-on, real life experience.

Akram, who was hired this fall, is currently teaching three

classes and commuting from Morgantown where his wife is finishing her graduate studies in nutrition.

The professor says he really enjoys the safety and friendliness of the Gilmer community and is planning on moving to Glenville in the near future.

GSC Well Represented at WVSPA Conference

By Nathaniel VanNoy

On Sunday, October 20, 11 students, faculty, and administrators left Glenville for the Snowshoe mountain resort and the West Virginia Association of Student Personnel Administrators. They were greeted with fog, 30 degree temperatures and snow. Members of the GSC contingency were Mark Mien, Marlan Zwoil, Robin Scudder, Keith VanNoy, Kelli Jarvis. Munir Ingram, Brian Randolph, Jerry Burkhammer, Josh Bonnett, Dr. Al Billips, and Jennifer Nottingham.

After registration and orientation, Dr. Jan Walbert, NASPA Region II Vice President, gave a keynote address, "Facing a Changing World: We Can Make a Difference!"

Then members split into functional groups which represented different areas. These areas included Careers, Counseling, Senior Officers, Multicultural Affairs, Housing/Residence Life, Activities/Greeks Union Directors, Campus Ministers, Health Professionals, and Stu-

dent Leaders.

A majority of West Virginia colleges were represented at the conference, but Glenville was only out-numbered by Fairmont State College in the number of student representatives.

The functional groups elected new members to the executive committee, which plans next years' conference and has several other important duties.

The Student Leaders group was attended by all students at the conference. Robin Scudder was elected to be one of the student reps. Following the meetings, members enjoyed music and refreshments.

Monday, after an opening session and business meeting, an address called "What It Means to Be Student Centered" was given by WVU President David Hardesty. Members then attended one of several concurrent sessions offered.

Session topics varied from multicultural diversity to booking music for college campuses. Career Planning and Develop-

ment Director Jennifer Nottingham was one of the presenters of a session dealing with student understanding of Career Services.

After a break Monday afternoon, a formal banquet was hosted by Davis & Elkins College, the host institution for this years' conference. GSC members enjoyed a familiar recreation, Casino Night.

After more concurrent sessions Tuesday morning, the closing session was held and the weather cleared just in time for the return trip to the 'ville. Students and faculty alike came away refreshed that other college campuses had the same problems and concerns. Munir Ingram, LBH R.A., said it was "very informative."

Student Congress President Mark Allen, summed it up when he commented, "I thought it was a very successful conference. I think the students that went benefited from it. Student and student personnel shared ideas between other college & universities in the state."



"You'll look just great on inauguration day, Mr. Underwood!"

Increase in doctorates at GSC

By Angela Greenlief

Dr. Peterson, Vice-President of Academic Affairs, has recently stated that as a "result of the hiring process there's been an increase in our faculty of whole doctorate degrees." From 1995 to 1996, the percentage of doctoral degrees has increased from 28% to 33%.

Peterson said, "Back in January of 1995, President Simmons asked me to address the means by which we could increase the number of doctorals." Last year, 21 faculty members, out of 75, had doctoral degrees. This year, 25 faculty members, out of 75, have a doctoral degree.

Dr. Gayle Burkowski finished her degree last December, representing one faculty member in this net increase.

A goal has been set for the year 2000 to increase the percentage of doctorals to meet the 37% average for the state college system.

A significant change has been made this year, but future increases will depend on positions vacant to fill, or current faculty members achieving doctoral degrees.

Peterson noted "That's another strategy we'll have to employ, by encouraging and assisting faculty members pursuing doctoral degrees." At the present, there are approximately five to six faculty members pursuing a doctoral degree.

Peterson remarked, "Right now we're slightly below the other colleges in the state." However, future vacancies will require doctoral degrees "when applicable" to achieve a higher percentage.

Peterson believes, "It will overall effect instructional quality of students in the classroom."

Peterson has served as vice-president of academic affairs since 1990. He also held this position from 1977-1983. He has been a part of the administration at Glenville State College since the 1960's, except for a brief three-year period when he was pursuing his doctoral degree at Ohio University.

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AAUW Voter Education Campaign Continues

Members of the Glenville Branch of the American Association of University Women and the Glenville Women's Club met in September for a presentation by Terry L. Reale on the American Association of University Women's (AAUW) Voter Education Campaign.

Mrs. Reale, who serves as the WV AAUW Public Policy Chair, explained that the AAUW Voter Education Campaign is a nonpartisan, issue-based effort with three main goals:

(1) To inform the public about the impact of congressional action on women, children, and families;

(2) To encourage grass-

roots lobbying;

(3) To galvanize women to vote in the 1996 elections.

Mrs. Reale stated that only 44.9% of eligible women voters voted in the 1994 election and that 1996 would be the 16th election that women in the US have had the opportunity to vote.

Mrs. Reale stressed that the key to motivating women to vote was to help them understand how the issues in Congress affect their lives.

For information on the Voter Education Campaign, contact Terry Reale, WV AAUW Public Policy Chair or the National AAUW Office in Washington, D.C., (202) 785-7700.



Fellowship Program Seeks Applicants

By Mark Williamson

The Judith A. Herndon Legislative Fellowship Program is an internship sponsored by the West Virginia Legislature for full-time undergraduate students of all majors and disciplines.

The program provides an opportunity for a limited number of students to participate in a 16-week assignment with the Legislature in Charleston beginning in January. They will receive \$175 weekly and earn 12 hours of academic credit.

The main goal is to instruct selected students in the theory and operations of legislatures and legislative bodies in their multidimensional aspects and roles.

To qualify for the program, a student must have completed 60 undergraduate hours or its equivalent.

He or she also must have achieved a grade point average needed for admission to your degree program and have completed a course in political science or have had extensive public affairs experience which may substitute.

The student must be in good social and academic standing during the period in which you would be serving the internship.

Only ten students from the state are chosen because of the need for appropriate supervision. Applications and further information are located with Dr. Michael Smith in the Social Science Division, room 237, Louis Bennett Hall or you can call 462-4124, ext. 179.

Completed 60 undergraduate hours or its equivalent.

Generation X is part of the system

By Lisa Belknap

One concerned Resident Assistant went out of his way to promote the democratic system at Glenville State College.

Chris "Crow" Hannah is no stranger to politics--although he admits he isn't a political scholar. The Pickens Hall RA worked with 103 CYR out of Beckley for 6 years, where he helped spread the vote-to-win strategy. He also did some exciting work with the Raleigh County Courthouse during past elections.

This year Hannah dedicated his efforts to GSC by bringing the students knowledge of the Absentee ballot. "I chose to do it for multiple reasons. Many college students are too far from home to vote. I was surprised by how easy the forms are to fill out." The absentee ballot gives those who cannot go to their polls to vote a chance to participate.

First, the voter must fill out the absentee ballot form--which is available through the court house. Then, they are to mail the form to their hometown's County Clerk. The County Clerk's office should immediately mail a ballot and package to the voter. For students running behind, you still may have a chance. As long as the final ballot you send out is post marked Nov 5, you can be a part of the election.

Hannah explained that the absentee ballot was part of an RA program for the dorms. "Elections here at school are frustrating. Usually only about 7% of the students turn out."

"If they don't vote, they need to keep their mouths shut about who's in office," says student Brian Swisher.

The night was a success--25 students showed up. Hannah illustrated the process and demonstrated the proper way to fill out the form. "I'm just glad I can take part in the democratic process," says music major Michael Brooks.

All present appeared pleased by the evenings turnout. "I think it's a really good way to get students involved in the voting process. Especially since we have school and it's unrealistic for us all to go home to vote."

Who says Generation X has no voting fever? There are still students who care enough about the system to promote it, and students who take the time to be a part. In the words of respected RA Jamie Atkins, "It's better than Communism."

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The Reel World

Best Week

Lose 200 Pounds in an Hour!

Move over Richard Summons, Stephen King has a new weight loss program called *Thinner*. Based on his 1935 novel of the same name, *Thinner* stars Robert John Burke, Joe Mantegna and Michael Constantin. *Thinner* starts with Burke, as a 300 lbs. lawyer named Billy Halleck, struggling with dead end diets. One evening while he and his wife are returning from a dinner, an unfortunate accident occurs involving a gypsy woman's death. During the investigation, the local sheriff and judge help cover up the incident. The gypsy's father then places curses on the three men. At first, Halleck's rapid weight loss is a blessing. He could eat all he wanted and still lose three pounds a day. Wouldn't we all love that? It's not until his weight became dangerously low that he considers that it could be a curse placed by the old man. When he went to inform his friends, he found that they too have their own curses.

With the three men dying in a hideous way, Halleck goes hunting for the traveling gypsies. He enlists the help of a former client and mobster played by Joe Mantegna. The mobster declares war on the gypsies. He becomes so desperate his only desire is for the old gypsy to remove the curse.

Meanwhile, Halleck's attractive wife has an affair with his doctor. Revenge then becomes another of his goals. *Thinner* was a typical horror genre film. It makes the most of Hollywood film effects and the mysticism of the gypsies. Stephen King has yet again brought us horror in a most unusual way by concentrating on the American obsession with weight loss. We should give thanks to Robert Burke, who went through many grueling months of four-hour make up sessions in which he had to wear fat suits for eight to twelve hours a day. And also had to go on a liquid diet to compensate for the massive amounts of on screen pig-outs. Horror fans should see this movie just because it's Stephen King. It is not one of his best films, but it certainly isn't his worst.

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V.O.I.D

A press conference was held by Voters Opposed to Increasing Debt, which is a new nonpartisan group organized to inform voters that West Virginia state amendment #3, the "Safe Roads Amendment," may considerably increase the state's debt.

The group urges voters to carefully consider whether they want this amendment added to West Virginia's constitution due to the following complications.

The State Division of Highways estimates bonds related to Amendment #3 will add one billion dollars to the state debt, which will raise taxes. Also, the types of roads to be built are not specified anywhere in the amendment.

For more information, contact the V.O.I.D. spokesman, Sam Winkler, at (304)-727-2185.

The Red Cross is inviting students of Glenville State College and residents of the surrounding area to participate in a series of blood drives, which will be held on November 13, January 15, March 12, and May 14.

Suzi Jones of the Red Cross Blood Services in Morgantown says the goal is set for 75 pints of blood, but she feels that student support can surpass that goal.

Off the Shelf

Jerry L. Estep

The Regulators Need Regulating

Stephen King published five novels under the pseudonym Richard Bachman a few years ago. These novels differed from his regular work in that they were very pessimistic. A normal Stephen King novel like *It*, with a killer clown chasing kids through a sewer, may not seem optimistic to you, but the novel was really about childhood and friendship. The Bachman novels, on the other hand, were about the futility of resisting a cold and indifferent universe.

The Regulators is set on a quiet suburban street in Wentworth, Ohio. This is a street with green lawns, pretty trees, and neighbors who get along with each other. The novel opens with a paperboy making his rounds (and introducing the characters to the reader as he does it). Suddenly, a red van rolls into the street and opens a window to reveal the shotgun that quickly blows the paperboy away. Messy. Bloody. It's just the start.

There was a *Twilight Zone* episode called, "It's a Good Life," about a little kid who could bend reality to suit his mood. The kid could remove people or animals who annoyed him, make monsters, create snow, etc. This kid was also a spoiled brat who could throw a tantrum like crazy. In *The Regulators*, this reality-warping power resides in the body of an eight-year-old autistic boy named Seth. The boy is possessed by a demon named Tak.

The twenty-or-so people who live on the street are suddenly thrust into a bizarre reality that seems to be a mix of Seth's favorite western, a cheap-o oat opera called *The Regulators*, and an animated children's show called *Motocops*. The street changes, and the outside world is suddenly transformed into the Nevada desert. The killer vans are giant toys driven by golem-like action figures. These toys are not friendly, and you wouldn't want your kid playing with them.

This novel has an extremely high body count, but that obviously isn't what bothers me. This novel is just King telling a story that has been filtered through the Bachman sensibility. There are no themes to be examined here—it's just story, and not a very good one. Bachman may have been described as "King without a conscience," but *The Regulators* is clearly King without respect for the reader.

I'm glad I borrowed this novel, because I would have felt cheated if I had shelled out \$30 for it. King's novel *Desperation*, which is a sister volume to *The Regulators*, will hopefully be better. This is clearly a case of too many trips to the well.



Metallica: Get A Load Of This!—

By David S. Weese

Remember when you didn't like rap, or when country just didn't do it for you? Well, being a die-hard Beatles and Stones fan, I must admit it's hard for me to take some of the new music. Personally, I thought rock was dead; just to show you can't kill rock'n roll, the new Metallica comes blasting on the scene.

The new CD is called "Load," and it's gonna blow you away with a whole new look and

a sound that shows this band is tighter than ever. Though they've been around awhile, these guys still have what it takes.

I think this CD has a little something for everybody, with songs like "Until It Sleeps," "Hero of The Day," and "Mamma Said."

The first thing you're going to say is, "Hey, these guys can sing." But don't let these ballads fool you, Metallica

hasn't gone soft. Songs like "Ain't My Bitch," "Cure," and "Poor Twisted Me," bring you back to the reality of what this band is all about...hard driving rock'n roll. With the trademark drums and rolling bass, these guys just don't let up.

So if it's hard, fast rock that you want, with a little moderation on this side, Metallica dishes it out song after song. Once you hear this CD, you'll be going back for more.

All Trick, But No Treat!

By Lisa McCormick

The Halloween that I remember the most was when I was in the fourth grade and there was a growing fear in Lewis County of satanic cults.

The urban legend going around at the time was that these satanic cults were looking for children with blond hair and blue eyes to sacrifice.

It was also rumored that a little girl from Buckhannon had been walking home from school and had been kidnapped. The local fear had grown so great that trick or treat time had been set back an hour and parents were advised to be with their children at all times. My mom and dad, thinking that people from satanic cults wouldn't be discriminators of eye and hair color (we're all brown-eyed), had thought to take us (my sister, brother, and myself) to Clarksburg to trick or treat.

Maybe that would've been a good idea if my parents had known the Clarksburg area; however, that wasn't the case. The neighborhood Mom and Dad chose to have us trick-or-treat at was pretty questionable. Even a nine-year-old could tell that.

The houses looked deteriorated, and there was a party going on around at the end of the block that we didn't notice until we were near the middle of the street. There were drunks hooting and hollering, and they were calling for the kids who were trick-or-treating to come over and get some candy.

Mom turned us back around and took us back the way we came. Meanwhile, Dad had

said that he was going to park at the end of the street, probably the block going opposite from the house where the party was going on; otherwise, he would've tried to head us off.

My brother, sister, and I didn't really know what was going on other than the people at the end of the street were acting kind of strange. We didn't want to go back because there were some houses that we hadn't hit yet, and Mom seemed a little frightened.

To get back to the car we had to walk back up the street and go around the opposite block (which wasn't very well lit and was dark). Mom ended up walking three tired and whiney kids around an ominous looking neighborhood at a faster pace than our under-grown legs would allow, all without the protection of our dad.

No sooner than we started walking up a new street when we noticed a van driving slowly up behind us. My siblings and I were scared, but the fear level escalated when we heard

spooky noises coming from the vehicle. Mom, who was now walking so fast that we couldn't keep up with her without having to run, just kept saying, "Just ignore them and keep walking!"

Finally, the van stopped and parked by the sidewalk, but the men were still making "OOOH!" and "WOOO!" noises. The fear we were feeling settled a little bit, and just as I started to torment my little brother by asking if he'd wet his pants yet, one of the men opened up the van's door and rolled a bottle towards us...

That was it. We all made a wild dash around the block (believe me, I was the first around!). We were a good ways out of the sight of the van before we found Dad, and we all blubbered out the whole incident.

Dad drove back around the block to where the van had been parked, but it wasn't there anymore. After that Mom and Dad called trick-or-treating quits for the night, and we all went back to Weston with barely any candy.

Trillium Deadline!

The deadline for submissions to the *Trillium*, the Glenville State College literary magazine, is November 17.

If you have stories, poems, plays, or photographs you would like to submit, contact Barbara Tedford in the Language Division office; submissions may also be made to Terry Estep, Box 2443 Wagoner.

Music Fest!

Music Fest is upon us. An annual event sponsored by State College Music Department and the Alumni Association, Music Fest is held to raise money for music scholarships and the Alumni Association.

This year's Fest will be held at 8 p.m. October 31, and will feature GSC's Percussion, Brass, and Woodwind ensembles, as well as their Jazz Band, Marching Band, Concert Choir and Chamber Singers.

The cost of tickets to the event is \$5 for students, and \$10 general admission.

For tickets or information, call Susan Chapman at the Alumni House, ext. 122 or 462-4122.

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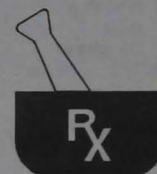
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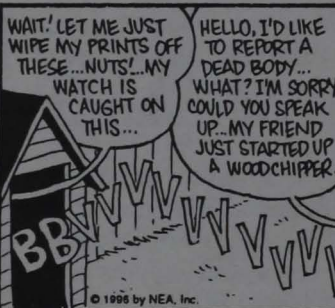
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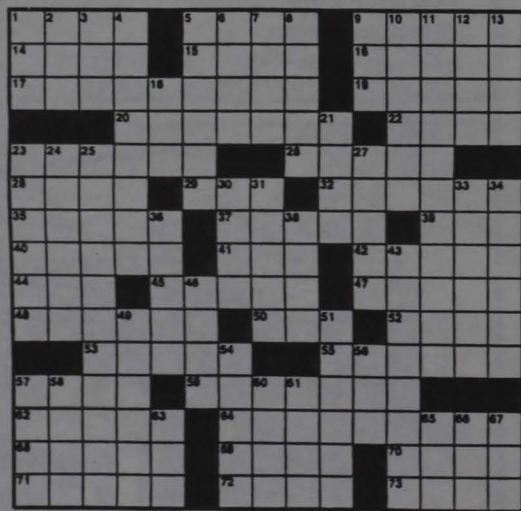
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Newsday Crossword

FARE IS FOWL by Bob Lubbers
Edited by Stanley Newman

- ACROSS**
- 1 Within
 - 5 Stitched line
 - 9 Islamic center
 - 14 Lucid
 - 15 Sailors' saint
 - 16 A Musketeer
 - 17 Nagged
 - 19 Have an opinion
 - 20 Certain paints
 - 22 Top cards
 - 23 Legal adverb
 - 26 Leg part
 - 28 More than some
 - 29 Talk-sing
 - 32 Estimate
 - 35 Blackthorn fruits
 - 37 Requires
 - 39 "It's ___ for Me to Say"
 - 40 Wimp
 - 41 ___ Aviv
 - 42 Michael Caine role
 - 44 Play part
 - 45 Pours
 - 47 Plover maker
 - 48 ___ with (encounter)
 - 50 Droop
 - 52 ___-do-well
 - 53 Uses a lasso
 - 55 Awaits
 - 57 Singer ___ James
 - 59 Gold-watch recipient

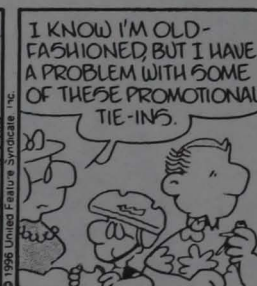
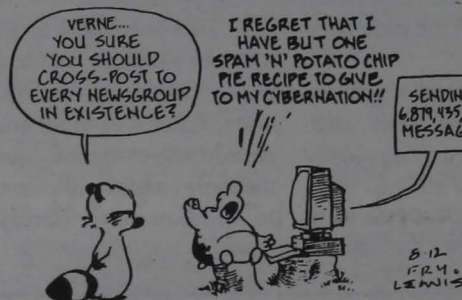
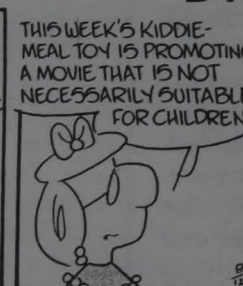
- DOWN**
- 1 Bat wood
 - 2 Ginnie ___
 - 3 Rural hotel
 - 4 Uses up
 - 5 Area
 - 6 Actress Sommer
 - 7 NYSE competitor
 - 8 Fashions
 - 9 Gym pad
 - 10 Allen and Frome
 - 11 Paltry amount
 - 12 Ice-cream holder
 - 13 Inquires
 - 18 Consume
 - 21 Roe source
 - 23 Painter Childe
 - 24 ___ Islands (former name of Tuvalu)
 - 25 Speedboat's wake
 - 27 Syrian president
 - 30 Against
 - 31 Hammer parts
 - 33 Evening party
 - 34 Takes the wheel
 - 36 Waffle topper
 - 38 Bom Free lioness
 - 43 Mercy
 - 46 Copycat
 - 49 Exactly
 - 51 She played Mrs. Miniver
 - 54 Love Story author
 - 56 Honey maker
 - 57 Time periods
 - 58 Whitewall, e.g.
 - 60 Matador's foe
 - 61 New York campus
 - 63 Wild equine
 - 65 Jug handle
 - 66 106, to Caesar
 - 67 Author Kesey



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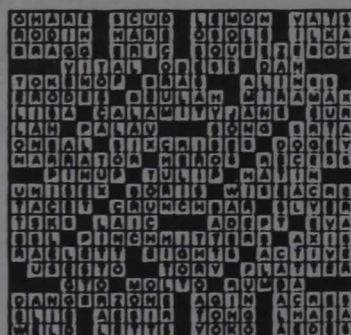
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The RAELETTs (88 Across) are the backup group for singer Ray Charles. In martial arts such as karate and judo, the DAN (31 Across) is indicated by the color of the person's belt. Belau, formerly PALAU (50 Across), is the westernmost of the Caroline Islands, and became an independent nation in October, 1994. HYSSOP leaves (41 Down) are used for salads and teas, and were once used for medicinal purposes.

Halloween With a 'Dumb' Costume

By Lisa Belknap

As it closes in on that time of year once more, our minds begin turning to ghosts, goblins and other horrifying childhood episodes.

I'd have to say the Halloween I remember most was in 1981. It seems so long ago now, at least to me anyway. I mean eleven years, when you've only been alive twenty-one is a pretty good chunk of history.

Over all of this time, I can still remember it perfectly. My mother and I had moved to Ohio to be closer to my dad's work, and thus, closer to my dad.

I was dressed in an ignorant little clown suit. We had thrown it together from what had been around the house--it's amazing what you can do when you have my mother's ingenuity.

She had put some of her

rouge on my cheeks, nose, and chin.

Now, this was back in the days when Halloween meant a night of joy, not an hour, and I couldn't wait. I was fidgeting in my baggy, bummy little suit, scratching at my overdone makeup job and crazy hair.

Finally, I was released on the unsuspecting world, and for those wonderful hours, I was Bozoette. I ran, jumped, and did dumb kid things which I'm not allowed to do in public anymore; I still do them now, though. I knocked on doors and stocked up on enough candy to satisfy my dentist's pockets for years. I believe he's a very rich man these days.

I was young and free and life had no meaning or end. Real life has a hold on me now, both mentally and physically. In truth, it sinks its claws into us all--

grabbing and squeezing--until it finally strangles all the child out of us. We just wake up one day, look in the mirror and think, "Oh God, I'm big now."

Those three words going through your mind invoke the most horrible feelings when you realize childhood is only a millisecond in life; only the first of many stages.

This story and my memories are nothing extravagant. The memories we keep dear never are. Still we hold to them like life lines until we can no longer embrace their meaning. That is when we know we're growing up, and that is when we start losing our hold on life.

Please remember this Halloween, when your children, grandchildren or neighbors' children are jumping, running, and doing kid things, smile with them; it keeps you young.

The Halloween I Remember Most

By Mark Williamson

The one strange and bizarre story that I have to tell about a haunting Halloween was one that happened several years ago on a dark mysterious night.

There was an old house in Arden that set against the woods in a little turn on the Arden Road that had been vacant for years. (Arden is in Barbour County) Several stories arose from that old house, but if you ever talked to some of the older people that had been in Arden for years, they would tell you about the lady that lived there.

She was said to be a nice woman, however she was never married and would speak to the dead. The lady had many talents, one of which was fortune telling and the other was writing poetry. At night she would sprinkle flour on her stairs and lay fresh cut

wildflowers at the bottom of her stairs. The next morning it was said that floury foot prints were left all over the house and that the flowers had some how disappeared.

She passed away and was cremated. Her ashes were buried in the front yard by a marker. The house began to weather and decay from years of loneliness due to the fact that no one ever lived there.

Well, on one Halloween night that I remember, the house just burnt down. There was no evidence of arson and the only witnesses that remain to this day are the old lady's grave and the charred remains of a brick chimney.

I remember that Halloween because later on in the year my family and I drove out there to see the house's remains.

Horror Hits the Big Screen

By Brent Wood

In celebration of the upcoming Day of the Dead, I am reviewing the Top 10 best films from the horror genre, most of which can be found at the Towne Bookstore.

This list showcases many of the best film makers--Clive Barker, Stephen King, John Carpenter--and film stars--Jack Nicholson, George C. Scott, Jamie Lee Curtis.

1) *The Exorcist*, starring George C. Scott and a young Linda Blair. This film was looked upon badly by the Christian and Catholic churches after its release, due to the freakish portrayal of religious practices and demonic possessions. The film was so horrific that people had to leave the theaters.

2) *Halloween*, starring Jamie Lee Curtis and Donald Pleasence. John Carpenter's 1978 film gave new meaning to "Trick or Treat," with the white masked, knife-wielding Michael Meyers. *Halloween* and its sequels share a bone-chilling theme in the style of *The Exorcist* and *Jaws*.

3) "Redrum, Redrum..." Stephen King's *The Shining* brought Jack Nicholson and Shelly Duvall into the world of

survival horror, trapped in a snowbound resort with only their gifted son and the ghosts of the long dead. Perhaps the ax-swinging writer, played by Jack Nicholson, is similar to Stephen King himself.

4) A cult apartment with psycho neighbors was the perfect setting for *Rosemary's Baby*. Mia Farrow's demon spawn rains havoc in the haunted apartment, giving nightmares to expecting mothers and fathers.

5) The new prince of horror, Clive Barker, brings new meanings of "pleasure and pain" to the screen in *Hellraiser*. Experience the desires of hell in all four movies of the *Hellraiser* series. Starring Doug Bradley as head cenobite Pinhead, a band of demonic freaks come after your flesh.

6) The legendary Bram Stoker investigated the past to bring us the most popular horror character of all times--*Dracula* came back from the dead in a movie starring Gary Oldman and Wynona Ryder, recounting the bloody and sexual world of vampires of ancient legend. With a grand cast and marvelous spe-

Continued on Page 12

The Web is Crawling!

By Eric Ware

Need a little fright this Halloween to liven up your spirits? Check out these scary Web sites.

One site to get the blood going is The Haunted Homepage, located at <http://hauntedhome.com>. Parents and children can get hints on costume designs, decorations, recipes, and games.

This site also links into the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the National Crime Prevention Council for great safety tips.

For all Anne Rice fans, don't miss the bestselling author's diary on the Web-based e-zine Salon (<http://salon1999.com>).

Other sites available:

* Halloween Mart (<http://accessnv.com>); this site provides ideas for costumes, plus props on sale.

* Halloween-o-Webbery (<http://www.primenet.com/~trix/hallo.htm>).

* Haunted Houses (<http://www.eaglenet.com/eagle/halloween.html>).

Horror Novel Top Ten List

By Terry L. Estep

Before I step on anyone's toes, let me state for the record that this is in no way a scientific list. I could never read every horror novel written (I haven't even gotten around to reading *The Haunting of Hill House*). I can only give you a list of some good novels that are guaranteed to give you a chill or two for Halloween. These are books that stood out from the mindless zombie hordes of hack horror writing.

10) *Swan Song*, by Robert R. McCammon. The survivors of a nuclear war try to evade a shape-changing demon intent on killing a girl, nicknamed Swan, who possesses the ability to restore hope to humanity. This novel seems like a flagrant rip-off of Stephen King's *The Stand*, but McCammon infuses it with his own brand of magic, doomed heroes, and murderous evil. As a bonus, the climax of the novel is set in Pocahontas County, West Virginia, as the surviving forces converge to locate a mysterious prophet.

9) *The Wolfen*, by Whitley Streiber. Before Streiber believed himself to be the victim of an alien abduction, he penned

this novel of modern-day werewolves. Detectives George Wilson and Becky Neff are called in to investigate a rash of murders in a slum area. The wolfen, a race of intelligent wolves, have hidden themselves from the sight of man, until overpopulation of humanity causes their territory to shrink. To save themselves, Wilson and Neff must evade a pack that wants to silence them forever.

8) *The Keep*, by F. Paul Wilson. What could have been a combination made in hell--vampires and Nazis--becomes an incredibly moody story of horror, as Nazi soldiers set up camp in an old abandoned keep. When something begins killing the soldiers, the Nazis must rely on an invalid folklorist and his beautiful daughter to uncover the truth...but the folklorists are also Jewish. Where will their loyalties lie?

7) *The Scream*, by John Skipp and Craig Spector. This novel is an example of horror's latest offshoot--the splatterpunk novel, where violent death is portrayed graphically and without apology. As fast-moving as

Continued on Page 12

Horror Novel Top Ten Continued from Page 11

an MTV music video, this tale of a heavy metal band set on summoning a demon to slaughter the audience is full of horrific images that the reader will not soon forget. This book is not for the squeamish. Splatterpunk novels still stir controversy, and Skipp and Spector are masters of the form.

6) *The Vampire Lestat*, by Anne Rice. Forget Louis pining over his lost humanity in *Interview with the Vampire*, this is a story of a vampire enjoying his powers to the limit and delighting in the chaos he creates. An ancient vampire queen has awakened from her slumber to kill every vampire she meets. Filled with horror and sensuality, *The Vampire Lestat* is Rice in top form. Don't miss it.

5) *The Books of Blood*, by Clive Barker. Technically, these three volumes of short stories should not be on this list, but there's no denying the importance of Clive Barker's first fictional outings. His stories filled the horror genre with new life,

dethroning Stephen King in many people's eyes. Barker creates taboo tales guaranteed to leave an impression. "The Midnight Meat Train," "Hell's Event," and "Confessions of a (Pornographer's) Shroud" are only three of the mini-masterpieces you'll find here.

4) *The House Next Door*, by Anne Rivers Siddons. It seems a strange pattern, but some of the finest horror stories are written by people who don't normally work in the genre. Siddons creates the ultimate haunted house tale, as the narrator and her husband begin to suspect that the new house next door exerts an awful power on its tenants. You won't soon forget this one...I defy anyone to make it past the prologue without being hooked!

3) *The Shining*, by Stephen King. Writers' blocked Jack Torrance, a recovering alcoholic with a nasty temper, is hired to serve as the winter caretaker at an out-of-the-way hotel in Colorado. The hotel has taken on a hideous life of its own, trying to possess the psychic gifts

of Torrance's son, Danny. Soon, the snow flies and traps them in the dark heart of the hotel.

2) *The Exorcist*, by William Peter Blatty. This is the novel that touched off the latest cycle of interest in the horror genre. Little Regan MacNeil is possessed by a demon, transforming her into a snarling, cursing little hell-beast. Father Merrin is the priest who has a score to settle with the demon. This is a finely-crafted masterpiece no genre fan should be without.

1) *Dracula*, by Bram Stoker. Most people see Bela Lugosi's slow-speaking, dressed-in-a-tux vampire as a pop culture image of the most evil vampire of all time, but Lugosi comes nowhere near the sheer evil and cunning of the original count. An epistle novel made up of journal entries, news stories, and letters from the small band of fearless vampire hunters, *Dracula* recounts the tale of a vampire who has sorely underestimated the people of London. Not just a fine horror novel, *Dracula* is also a tale of Victorian sexual repres-

sion. There's more going on here than sucking blood, friends.

That's my list. There's plenty more I could add, but this is a good start. Have a happy Halloween, and pay no attention to that crazy-looking man stand-

ing at the end of the sidewalk in a trenchcoat. Yes, he's got an ax, but he's just here to hack up some...firewood. You'll be perfectly safe.

Hey, you can trust me.

Big Screen Continued from Page 11

cial effects, this film is a frightening love story.

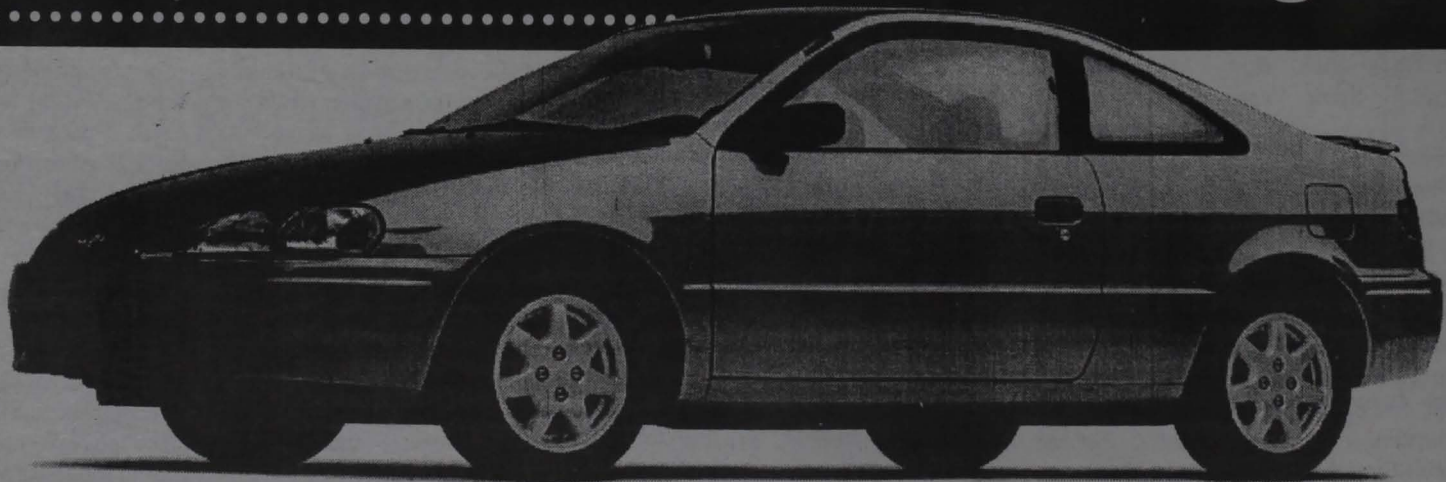
7) Stephen King returns with the prom date from hell *Carrie*. Sissy Spacek plays the lead role of Carrie, a girl with supernatural powers and enough anger to turn a high school dance into a blood bath...something many people wished they had during the nightmare of high school.

8) Let the dead rise again! George Romero's *Night of the Living Dead* has been scaring people to death for over thirty years. Trapped in house with a world full of flesh-eating zombies outside, a handful of people must try to survive. The inexpensive special effects and mediocre acting does nothing to harm the sheer terror of the story.

9) Wanting to go camping at a lakeside resort? Think again, it's *Friday the 13th*. Hockey mask and all, Jason Voorhees has hacked to death over one hundred people in the longest-running series of films in horror history. Jason's evil has been reincarnated nine times to torture innocent kids on the unlucky day. Remember to take along an ax and a priest if you go camping—you'll need them.

10) "One, two, Freddy's coming for you..." What list would be complete without the dream master from *A Nightmare on Elm Street*. Not even Vivrin or coffee can keep him away forever; eventually, you have to fall asleep--and that's when he'll get you. Killing with comedy and inventive methods, Freddy Kreuger brought a new side to horror.

It Doesn't Take A Math Major To Reduce The Coefficient of Drag to .31



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