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# The Mercury



Melissa Stinson...Page 10

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“There are no plans to remove words [Merriam-Webster] concedes are offensive and derogatory--such as “queer,” “redneck” and “white trash”--from its adult dictionaries.”

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## SOME INSTALLATION REQUIRED

# Slow legislative session ends with cross-Capitol animosity

## Legislative Analysis

By Jennifer Bundy,  
Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) -- The Legislative session was slow from beginning to end, until the last hours when tempers flared and a teacher pay raise bill got caught in the cross-fire between the House and Senate.

Because it is an election year, unusually controversial issues like casino gambling were absent.

As Senate President Earl Ray Tomblin, D-Logan, said, "There were not a lot of earth-shaking bills that were introduced."

Bereft of major bills to argue about, lawmakers had time to spend on dozens of relatively minor measures and got

national attention for reinforcing the state's hillbilly image by passing a law allowing people to eat road kill.

The most significant bill of the session, one establishing a health insurance program for the working poor, was never in danger. But it took until the last day to work out the details.

Gov. Cecil Underwood's agenda was bigger than last year's but far from hefty with only one controversial bill, his proposal to rewrite the state's liability laws. That went absolutely nowhere.

Almost all of his other proposals passed and he said he was pleased with the session, except for lawmakers' treatment of one of his most significant proposals, a \$756 pay raise for teachers and school service personnel.

Although support for it was overwhelming, it died when

the session ended at midnight Saturday.

Every year some issue causes a rift between the House and the Senate. Delegates perpetually complain that they work long hours on a bill only to see it die without ever coming up for discussion in the Senate.

Last year it was a bill to allow companies to audit their own compliance with environmental laws. This year it was a bill to reduce deer herds and another to establish a fund named after a retired state employee.

Then there was the pay raise.

The scenario was almost Machiavellian.

House Education Chairman Jerry Mezzatesta, D-Hampshire, was upset with Senate Judiciary Chairman Bill Wooton, D-Raleigh, because he

would not let a bingo bill Mezzatesta introduced out of his committee.

It would have removed a \$50,000 cap on "super bingo" prizes, expanded the number of non-profit organizations that could have held bingo and allowed them to have two events each month instead of one.

Wooton called it "the biggest expansion of gambling in the history of the state, and I'm opposed to that."

Wooton's Beckley law firm represents the Secondary Schools Activities Commission, which Mezzatesta and other legislators have criticized.

Mezzatesta amended into the pay raise bill a provision to eliminate the commission. When the Senate refused to go along, the bill died.

Wooton said the commission is considering finding a

new lawyer.

That was not the only flare-up of tempers, nor was it the only one that led to the death of a bill.

Despite his powerful position as majority leader, Sen. Truman Chafin, D-Mingo, could not get enough votes to get a bill passed in the Senate that would pave the way for construction of a \$200 million methane-based power plant in Mingo County.

Chafin was not pleased. Other senators were not pleased with his attempts to ditch the bills because he did not consider them important.

Tomblin summed up the session well.

"Everyone has pet bills they'd like to see passed. But don't think there was anything that couldn't wait until next year. I think most people got what they were looking for."

## Drug Awareness Week



Michael Brooks and Carol Moscar demonstrate blood-alcohol levels during the presentation (Heather Ware, Mercury).

## House Bill could send divorcing parents to school

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) -- Judges could order parents who are fighting each other in court to take classes in how their behavior affects their children under a bill sent to the governor Saturday.

The House of Delegates passed the bill 98-1.

The bill (HB4530) would let the state Supreme Court expand a pilot program in some Eastern Panhandle counties to other parts of the state. The Senate added language giving the Supreme Court oversight of the program and its costs, and the House agreed to the change.

The program, which uses counselors to educate parents, could be used in paternity, custody, divorce and other kinds of cases.

## Resume Writing Workshop

March 24, 1998

12:15 - 1:00

Clark Hall  
Computer Lab

For more information  
contact:  
Jennifer Ruggiero  
Ext 118,  
Careers Office



CREDIT WHERE IT'S DUE: Front Page - "Two Presidents Shake" by Heather Ware; "Athletic Director Steve Harold" by Heather Ware; "Melissa Stinson" by Heather Ware.

# Barbara Tedford retiring after 23 years at GSC

By Leann Moore, Staff Reporter



Dr. Barbara Tedford is retiring this year. (Sheila Ables, Mercury)

English professor Dr. Barbara Tedford is retiring at the end of this semester.

She has taught at Glenville State College since 1959. Her classes range anywhere from Freshman Composition to Modern Poetry.

Tedford started out as an associate professor and in 1985 graduated to the position of professor.

Tedford has been shaping young minds since 1959. She has taught not only in West Virginia, but in Pennsylvania and Tennessee as well.

Tedford is a true renaissance lady. Her talents have stemmed from the theater, choir, writing, teaching, and more. She has devoted her time to the Federal Credit Union and has served as advisor to GSC's literary magazine, *Trillium*.

Contest," in which students were placed in a room with word processors and competed for prizes and publication.

She has had publications like "Sestina" in Mountain Views and has also graced the *Mercury* with an insightful theatrical review of Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*. She has also submitted the poem "Sonnet" to the *Trillium*, but these definitely are not the only works by Tedford, who serves as an active member of the organization West Virginia Writers.

Tedford has made an impact on many people and places during her long teaching career.

Tedford plans to retire to Elkins to her new home. She and her husband plan to travel. They will start with a summer trip to Canada, where they will attend a Shakespeare festival of plays in Ontario.

As advisor of *Trillium*, she has overseen the work of student editors as they jointly select poems, plays, fiction, and artwork for publication.

Three years ago, in an attempt to encourage more writers to submit works, Tedford and *Trillium* editor Jeremy Dean hosted the "All Night Writing

# Foundation president Jack Stalnaker steps down

After over 25 years of service, Glenville State College Foundation President Jack V. Stalnaker has stepped down.

Stalnaker was appointed the GSC Alumni Foundation President in April of 1971. In 1972, he was elected as Vice President and was unanimously reelected to the same post in 1976.

Stalnaker became president of the Alumni Foundation

in 1977 upon the death of George McQuain. He was elected to the presidency in 1978 and has served in that capacity since. He is also treasurer of the Alumni Association's Gilmer County chapter.

Born at Hardman, Gilmer County, Stalnaker was educated in Gilmer County public schools. He graduated from Gilmer High School in 1938 and

from Glenville State College in 1942. While in college, he was a member of the Holy Roller Court and the *Mercury* staff.

New foundation president Thomas McPherson praised Stalnaker for his efforts. "No one has been more committed to and supportive of Glenville State College than Jack Stalnaker. We are extremely grateful to him for his past dedication and service."

## Chi Beta Phi Easter Egg Hunt



Chi Beta Phi and the students of the American Chemical Society will be hosting an Easter Egg hunt for children ages 1-12 years old. The hunt will take place on April 4, at 3 p.m. at the GSC Amphitheater. Every egg will contain a prize. There will be grand prize eggs and refreshments for all. All children in Glenville and the surrounding area are welcome to attend and take part in this fun activity.

## Houses for Rent

3-Room House, completely furnished, good neighborhood. Close to college.

6-Room house, partly furnished. Carpet. 2 Bathrooms. Close to college.

Call before 10 a.m. or after 10 p.m. 462-7057

## ORGANIZATION NEWS

### Phi Beta Lambda

The drawing for the Gift Certificate Raffle was held March 17 on Tuesday. The drawing was done by Amy Wiant who pulled out the name of Craig Dawkins. Congratulations to Craig Dawkins. Thanks also to the business who donated gift certificates to the raffle and Amy Wiant for assisting with the raffle.

Phi Beta Lambda of Glenville State College will be attending the state conference in April. They will also be participating in Adopt-a-Highway on April 25. Anyone who wants to join P.B.L. is welcome. We meet on the first Tuesday of every month.

### Students in Free Enterprise

S.I.F.E is an organization that helps teach others about the free enterprise system. Members of S.I.F.E. also engage in community service such as the Adopt-a-Highway program, a food and clothing drive (which took place before Christmas), and Make-a-Difference Day, which consisted of hosting at-risk children to a GSC football game. S.I.F.E. currently meets every Thursday at 12:30 in room 101 in the Administration Building and welcomes people from all majors.

### Fellowship of Christian Athletes

The Glenville State College huddle of Fellowship of Christian Athletes meets every Thursday at 12:15 in room 206 of the Physical Education Building. President: Bob Wible; Vice-president: Rashod Gillespie; Secretary: Sam Dowell; Program Coordinator: Dawn Nolan.

### Alpha Rho Tau

GSC's artist fraternity needs your help. We are planning a fund-raising car wash to help pay expenses on a trip to New York City. The car wash will be held at the Weston Walmart on March 29th from 12 noon until about 4 pm. We are asking for donations only, and we hope to raise enough money so that anyone who helps out at the car wash will have their travel expenses covered by the club. This trip is tentatively planned for the weekend of April 12th.

We would also like to invite any new freshman who are art education majors to come to our meetings and join the fraternity. The meetings are held every first and third Thursday of every month in room 213 of the AB building (the painting/sculpture room) at 3pm to about 3:40 pm.

### Kappa Delta Pi News

Kappa Delta Pi is an honorary society for education. We are now selling chances for an Indian Afghan. \$1/ticket, or \$5/six tickets. The drawing will be held April 14, 1998.

Campus organizations should direct announcements to The Mercury, c/o Annie McCourt, Box 207, Glenville, WV 26351.

## Percussion Ensemble

The concert event of the semester. Don't miss it!

Thursday March 26  
Friday March 27  
8 p.m.

Fine Arts Auditorium



# Banquet installs Student Congress members

By Eric Ware,  
Staff Reporter

The new Student Congress for GSC was installed Wednesday 18, at the Student Congress 1998 Installation Banquet held in the Verona Mapel room.

The evening gave both old and new members a chance to celebrate the upcoming student government that will take office this week.

Student Body President Lisa Belknap first welcomed all guests and members to the dinner, followed by an invocation and recognition of the Pioneer by Dr. Al Billips.

He replied at the dinner that Belknap had done a fine job as President with the schedule she possessed for the year. "I don't really know how you could keep up," stated Billips. "Lisa is such a motivator and has an admirable quality as well."

For appreciation of her position in office, Billips presented Belknap with a plaque and Presidential Gavel in "appreciation and thanks."

Billips also presented Matt Cottril with the Pioneer Musket for his "motivation at the games and college spirit."

Afterward, President William Simmons swore in the new President and officers of the 1998 Student Congress with a few words of thanks to the old members and put forth challenges to the new.

"We've come light years at GSC in developing technology. We will make education accessible to the students off campus using the new developments in our new Distance Learning Center.



New members are sworn in for the semester (Heather Ware, Mercury).

We're doing this because we know that the college student of the future is different," President Simmons stated at the dinner.

Simmons also stated that because of this new technology at GSC we will be able to see flexible classes. "What does this mean to Student Congress? It

means a lot. Look at the future of these moments and meet the challenges. I challenge you to meet the challenges of these changes."

The new Student Congress President, James Arnold, spoke to the audience and members thanking those who worked very hard in student congress and to

the new members.

"Many of you know I'm friendly to many on campus and I'm glad I can add to the friendliness on campus. I again would like to thank everybody for taking the challenge of the office."

In closing, Belknap concluded by thanking those members who attended that night with special thanks to Student Congress members James Arnold, "who has done a lot for Student Congress"; Jack Bear for initiating the [Committee of Policy Improvement], Eric Ware, who has many time gone beyond the call of duty for representing the commuters, the Mercury, the Yearbook, and has worked with the International Students Club", and many others that night.

The excellent dinner was provided by Bob Stocket and his cafeteria assistants.

# Roadkill Recipe Contest

## "And the winners are..."

Sarah Gower, Heather Jones, Valerie Mullins, and Christa Webb  
419's HONEY-GLAZED LEMON PEPPER 'POSSUM

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 medium (road tenderized) 'possum\* (3-5 lbs)  
(2-3 lbs of chicken may be substituted)
- 4 cups of honey
- ½ cup of lemon juice (or season to taste)
- 2 tsp of lemon pepper spice
- 1 Tbs of butter

**COOKING INSTRUCTIONS:** Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Place dressed 'possum in a large oven-safe casserole dish. Mix honey, lemon juice, butter, and lemon pepper spice in a separate bowl until well blended. Pour the mixture over the 'possum and allow to bake for one hour or until golden brown. For an extra festive touch, garnish the 'possum with pineapple slices and cherries before baking. Serve the honey-glazed, lemon pepper 'possum with a lemon in its mouth and garnish with parsley.

\* 'possum must have sustained only minimal damage for optimum eating enjoyment.

\*\* serves three



(l-r) Christa Webb, Heather Jones, Valerie Mullins, and Sarah Gower achieve true happiness with the addition of a crockpot. "Roast beef this weekend!" (Heather Ware, Mercury)

**THE WINNERS SPEAK:** "We at 419 would like to thank the legislators who made this bill possible. Without their concern for dead wildlife, find dining and gift giving would not be legal here at 419. As a result of the "Roadkill Bill," any Ford Escort can be transformed into a fine-tuned cuisine art. No longer must we be concerned with the caliber of our guns, but with the horsepower beneath the hood and the strength of our grilles. One does not have to aim, just merely swerve and serve. Tenderizing will never be a problem. We would also like to thank the boys at "Little Brooklyn"--their knowledge, expertise, and tastebuds were indispensable. We also want to thank our producer, James Cameron, and all our friends back home (Hi, Mom!). We also want to thank all those who did not believe that we could succeed and triumph in the culinary world. To quote our inspiration, Eric Cartman of South Park, Colorado: "Follow your dreams. You can reach your goals. I am living proof. Beefcake! BEEFCAK!" Last, but not least, we would like to thank Terry Estep and Greg Richmond, for being able to recognize true genius among the thousands of imitators."

# Movie has whetted America's appetite for things *Titanic*

By David L. Langford,  
Associated Press

A little submarine just meant for two will take you two miles beneath the sea to view the wreckage of the *Titanic* for \$30,000 per person, double occupancy.

In a case of life imitating art, British jewelers are crafting a \$1.5 million sapphire and diamond necklace modeled after the fictitious "Le Coeur de la Mer" worn by actress Kate Winslet in the movie *Titanic*.

At a casino in the dusty cotton country of the Mississippi Delta, a replica of the stern of the *Titanic* and other props used in the filming of James Cameron's epic movie will soon be on display in a 500,000-gallon pool.

Those are some of the spin-offs from the movie that's become the biggest moneymaker in movie history.

The growing cruise indus-

try, while not ready to give all the credit to the popularity of the movie, reported strong bookings in the key months of January and February.

Coming off its first-ever 5 million-passenger year, the cruise industry is expecting another record year, 5.4 million in 1998. Thirty-five ships ranging in size from 410 to 3,100 passengers have been ordered for delivery by 2002 at a cost of \$10.5 billion.

The Cunard Line, whose flagship is the Queen Elizabeth 2, the world's only ship still offering regular trans-Atlantic service, reports a marked increase in queries from the public about luxury liners.

Out in Long Beach, Calif., attendance at the Queen Mary 1934 ocean liner is open to the public, has doubled from a year ago. One of the attractions is an exhibit called "*Titanic: The*

Expedition."

Cunard's Web site (<http://www.cunardline.com>) was averaging about 110,000 "hits" a month until December when *Titanic* was released. The number soared to 962,000 that month. In January it was about twice the normal level.

What does that suggest?

"From a scientific standpoint, it's not possible for us to attribute specific booking levels to any one factor such as this," says Peter Bates, Cunard's executive vice president for marketing. "However, the film most certainly heightened awareness of the tradition of trans-Atlantic ocean travel."

Rich Steck, a spokesman for Royal Caribbean, agrees. He says Royal Caribbean "set some record bookings" during the January and February period, which usually reflects how the rest of the year will go.

"Was it Royal Caribbean's onboard product that caused the increased booking action?" he asks. "Or was it the *Titanic* movie generating renewed interest in cruising by a 1990s vacationing public sophisticated enough to realize the hazards threatening those *Titanic* passengers have long been overcome by today's modern cruise industry?"

The sinking of the *Titanic* killed 1,513 passengers out of the 2,224 on board, many because there were not enough lifeboats.

Cameron's movie is also boosting sales of home videos of an earlier version of the story, as well as National Geographic's "Secrets of the *Titanic*," which depicts the discovery and exploration of the sunken liner by Dr. Robert Ballard of the Institute for Exploration.

Direct marketing of "Secrets" is being handled by

Questar, Inc., of Chicago, which also owns 1979's "S.O.S. *Titanic*," a \$50 million TV movie starring the late David Janssen (as John Jacob Astor), Cloris Leachman (as Molly Brown), Susan St. James, Ian Holm, Helen Mirren.

One reviewer called it "a stylish docu-drama about the oft-told sea disaster, mirroring the fictional elements of the 1953 movie *Titanic* and the meticulously detailed facts of the 1958 *A Night to Remember*, faithfully re-created here through James Costigan's multi-charactered teleplay."

"It's been an absolute winner for us for 7 or 8 years," says Questar founder and chairman Albert J. Nader. "Since *Titanic* came out in December, National Geographic has sold 30,000 copies of 'Secrets of the *Titanic*.' We expect that with theirs and ours we could be into six figures."

## Italian 12-year-old girls goes to see Cameron's *Titanic* every day

By Allesandra Rizzo,  
Associated Press

ROME -- She goes to the movies every day. Same time, same place, same movie: *Titanic*.

So far, 12-year-old Gloria has seen the hit film around 50 times. She's still not tired of it. She even has cats named Jack and Rose.

The budding movie buff discovered by the newspaper La Repubblica may be the queen of *Titanic* fans, who are legion judging by the movie's box office receipts.

"She comes to the 9 o'clock feature every night," said Giancarlo Malferrari, the owner of the only movie theater in Castelfranco Emilia, a town of 11,000 people in central Italy. "And every week-end she watches two shows in a row."

At first, Malferrari said in a telephone interview, "we didn't know how to act. We felt

embarrassed for her."

But after a while everyone who works at Cinema Nuovo got used to Gloria. They've started saving her favorite seat and even letting her in free.

Gloria told La Repubblica it isn't heartthrob Leonardo Di Caprio that attracts her, but the character he plays: Jack Dawson, a struggling artist who wins his passage on the *Titanic* in a poker game.

"Jack is cuter than Leo," she said. "And it's for real, it's a true story. That's what makes it so beautiful."

The movie is on pace to become history's highest-grossing movie, and it's a favorite at Oscar night. The 3 hour, 14 minute film captured 14 Academy Award nominations, although none went to Di Caprio.

Although Gloria's case is

unusual, "there are many girls and women who have come to see it three or four times," Malferrari said.

Neither he nor La Repubblica used the girl's last name, citing Italy's privacy law.

Gloria's mother is a cleaning woman who works at night and she hasn't seen the movie yet. But she told La Repubblica she's not worried about her daughter's obsession.

"She's not doing anything bad," she said, adding that Gloria has to do her homework before she goes to the movies.

*Titanic* has been playing at the Cinema Nuovo for three straight months. Malferrari said he'll keep it on the screen as long as attendance is good.

And once it closes, Gloria's got a backup plan. "Then," she said, "I'll wait for the video."

## *Titanic* sails past *Star Wars*

By John Horn,  
Associated Press

It might have been his first time--or her fifth--but a movie goer somewhere in the United States or Canada bought a ticket that pushed *Titanic* past *Star Wars* to become the top domestic money-earner of all time.

### Beneficiaries of the *Titanic* boom

-- The movie sound track has been No. 1 on the best-seller list for weeks, selling more than 10 million copies.

-- In New York, the Broadway musical "Titanic!" is playing to packed houses.

-- James Cameron's *Titanic* rose to the top of the list of best-selling paperbacks. Other best-selling books include *A*

The shipwreck saga claimed receipts of more than \$465 million, thus breaking the all-time domestic mark of \$461 million set by *Star Wars*.

"Without a doubt we passed the record last week," said Paramount spokesman Blaise Noto.

*Night to Remember; Leonardo DiCaprio: Modern-Day Romeo, Titanic: An Illustrated History and Titanic: Legacy of the World's Greatest Ocean Liner.*

In May, Newmarket Press plans to publish a book about the making of the movie. The author is Paula Parisi, a long-time reporter and editor with The Hollywood Reporter.

Coming  
Soon

GSC Student Chris Hopkins

presents

"*Titanic: Triumph and Tragedy*"

April 28, 1998

# The Mercury

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A member of the Associated Press

Eric Ware - Editor-in-chief

Annie McCourt - News editor

Heather Ware - Photo Editor

Tamara Bennett - Advertising Director

Terry L. Estep - Production Manager

Annie McCourt - Copy Editor

John F. Rote - Advisor

Galadriel - Elf queen of Lothlorien

## Is the semester over yet?

The semester is almost over with only one month to go, but are you ready yet? That seems to be the question this week as a lot of college students are finding out they'll have a lot to prepare for, such as senior portraits, graduation, exit assessment exams, and also all the other work for classes.

Are you ready? Well, it seems many are saying no.

While talking to the ladies over at the bookstore, there are still some seniors out there that haven't signed up for their hats and robes, or pay the fee necessary to graduate. The date for all those to be turned in is steadily approaching if not over, but I think seniors may have some time. But if you're the one who wants to graduate without going through the ceremony, think about the costs. It still costs you money, and sometimes more, just to graduate and get your diploma. In other words, Glenville State College wants you to be recognized. Graduation is a big deal, for all of us, it's important to show your classmates of your achievements and honor.

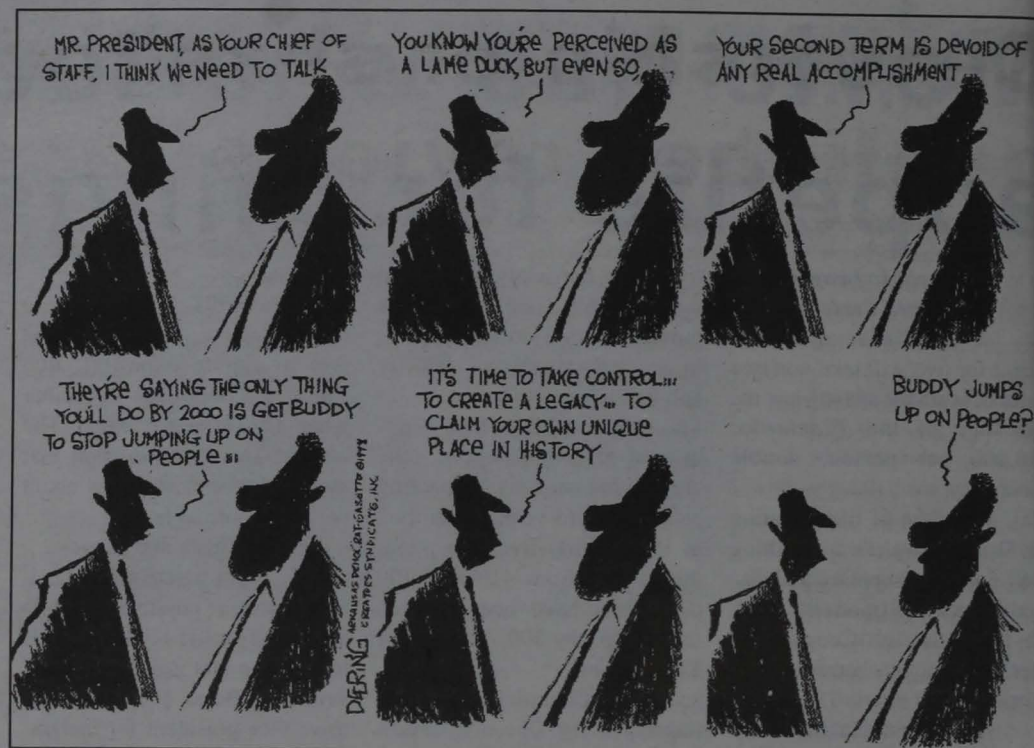
But going through graduation isn't the only problem, if you haven't worried about signing up for graduation, then try next year. It seems there are some students that don't realize that you must sign a form for graduation in order for you and the offices to know that you are eligible to graduate. This form is simple to fill out and takes a few minutes of your time. Here's another item on your "list of things to do."

And finally, when you think you have all of these things done, remember, you have to pass your classes to graduate. So now there's something else to worry about.

Wouldn't it be just nice to stay in college and live at home till we're forty? Think about it, just think about it.



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## Vouchers for religious schools

By Laurie Asseo,  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON--Zakiya Courtney and other school-choice supporters think parents should be able to use tax dollars to send children to religious schools, and they hope one day the Supreme Court will give its blessing to the idea.

Courtney, director of Milwaukee's Parents for School Choice, has one child in a public high school in Milwaukee, one in a private nonreligious school and one in a private religious school. She is fighting in favor of the city's plan to let some children use vouchers to attend religious schools, even though her kids would not qualify because she exceeds income limits.

"I'm for quality education wherever I can find it," she said.

"The role for government should be to support parents in their choice," and religion should not be an issue, she added.

Steve Shapiro of the American Civil Liberties Union counters that expecting taxpay-

ers to help pay the bill for religious schools "violates fundamental principles of church-state separation. Individual conscience has to be supported by individual funds."

Courts in five states--Wisconsin, Ohio, Maine, Vermont and Arizona--are being asked to rule on tax support for children who attend religious schools.

But the final say eventually will come from the Supreme Court, which lately has been far less demanding about church-state separation.

Concern about the quality of education has led many districts to experiment with charter schools or letting parents choose which public school their children will attend.

But courts in Ohio and Wisconsin have ruled unconstitutional efforts to provide religious-school vouchers to children in Cleveland and Milwaukee. The Wisconsin Supreme Court heard that state's appeal March 5.

Maine and Vermont are resisting attempts to force them to pay for kids to attend reli-

gious schools. In those states, students who live in towns without public schools can get tax-funded tuition to attend any public or private school--as long as it is not a parochial school.

Lawsuits have been filed in Maine, and the Vermont Supreme Court heard arguments on that state's dispute on March 10.

Also, the Arizona Supreme Court heard arguments in December over a state income-tax credit of up to \$500 for donations for private school scholarships. The tax credit is being challenged as a scheme to funnel public money to religious schools.

The libertarian Institute for Justice is involved in all five cases, representing those who favor allowing public aid to children who attend religious schools. "It would be one thing if the government were giving outright grants to religious entities," said Clint Bolick, litigation director of the Washington-based group. But money can be given on a neutral basis to individuals to use as they wish, similar to college Pell grants, he added.

## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

All articles submitted for publication in *The Mercury* must be typed and double-spaced. Stories and announcements should be addressed to Annie McCourt, News Editor. The deadline for stories and announcements is Wednesday at 5 p.m. for publication in the next week's paper. All photographs should be submitted to Heather Ware, photo editor.

# Censorship or sensitivity? Dictionary publisher reviews racial slur

By *Trudy Tynan,*  
*Associated Press*

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. --

Swamped with complaints and a threatened boycott about the definition of "nigger" in its dictionaries, Merriam-Webster is reviewing how it defines offensive words.

The 150-year-old publisher for the first time in its history has assigned a task force to consider whether to change the practice of listing definitions historically, with the oldest -- and often the most objectionable -- uses coming first.

The task force comes in the wake of protests over the word from two Michigan women.

Still, there are no plans to remove words the publisher concedes are offensive and derogatory--such as "queer," "redneck" and "white trash"--from its adult dictionaries.

"That would be censorship," said Deborah Burns, marketing director for the Springfield-based publisher. "As a reference tool, the dictionary would not be a comprehen-

sive tool if it did not list the words used in our language."

Merriam-Webster's most recent Collegiate Dictionary defines "nigger" first as: "a black person--usually taken to be offensive." Other definitions refer to "a member of any dark-skinned race," and "a member of a socially disadvantaged class of persons."

An accompanying paragraph on usage notes that "nigger" is "perhaps the most offensive and inflammatory racial slur in English" and is "expressive of racial hatred and bigotry."

Burns said that the company has fielded about 2,000 letters, notes and phone calls about the word's definition since the two Michigan women began protesting.

One of the women, Kathryn Williams, curator of the Museum of Afrikan American History in Flint, Mich., suggested that Merriam-Webster omit the word from the dictionary.

And the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

threatened to lead a boycott against the publisher if the word wasn't revised.

In response, a special review committee of senior editors, as well as outside linguists and other language experts, began reviewing offensive words this year for Merriam-Webster.

The publisher has also received a number of complaints recently about its definitions of "honky," "cracker," and "kike," Burns said Monday.

Other words being reviewed include: "Chink," "fairy," "gringo," "half-breed," "Kraut," "Paddies," "pig," "Polack," "queer," "redskin," "spic" and "whitey."

Any changes could be included in the 1999 update to its Collegiate Dictionary, Burns said.

The style of listing definitions historically might be a problem, she said, because some readers have "become so angry that they haven't read beyond the first entry." Revising that policy, however, would mean changing all entries in the dictionary to conform.

By comparison, the American Heritage Dictionary flags the word at the beginning of the entry, which may be why it has received few complaints, said Joe Pickett, executive editor for the dictionary published by Houghton Mifflin.

The American Heritage Dictionary's Collegiate edition defines "nigger" this way: "offensive slang. Used as a disparaging term for a Black person."

Merriam-Webster officials were surprised at the public reaction to their listing, given that the dictionary entry emphatically warns that the word "nigger" is inflammatory and insulting.

After hearing of Merriam-Webster's task force, NAACP President Kweisi Mfume said, "We are gratified that Merriam-Webster finally got the message."

But he said the NAACP will ask for company records on buying, employment, promotion and the makeup of the board of directors "to determine if a culture within the company has made it difficult for them to rec-

ognize why this definition is unacceptable to millions of Americans."

Ms. Williams, the museum curator, approved of the publisher's move, but said she would prefer that all racial and ethnic insults be expunged from the dictionary.

"If the word is not there, you can't use it," she said.

Not that Merriam-Webster has buckled when its definitions raise a fuss.

After Indiana University won the NCAA basketball championship in 1987, Sen. Dan Quayle, R-Ind., took issue with an entry in Merriam-Webster's unabridged dictionary that defined "Hoosier" as "an ignorant rustic."

The future vice president protested to Merriam-Webster, even introducing a Senate resolution asserting that the basketball team had displayed the real meaning of the word: "someone who is quick, smart, resourceful, skillful, a winner."

Merriam-Webster did not change the entry.

## Editorials from around the country

**The Charlotte (N.C.) Observer, on film *Primary Colors*:**

...It's time to interrupt our national Monicafest to consider a media event that will further muddle the public perception of Bill Clinton.

The new movie *Primary Colors*, like the novel of the same name, is a journalist's portrayal of a politician who resembles Bill Clinton. It mixes fact and fiction to create a larger-than-life president who is at once engaging and appalling, pious and crass, sensitive and crude.

In other words, it is much like the evening news.

From the day Bill Clinton popped onto the national scene, his life has been an exercise in mass entertainment. Like an afternoon soap, his personal drama has played out on our TV screens...

The president in effect makes his own movie, an endless succession of images created to shape the public's mood and burnish the star's image. No wonder viewers aren't dismayed by the Clinton-Lewinsky matter. They assume it'll be cleared up in next week's episode.

Journalists are no help. Today, scads of newsprint and whole TV networks are devoted to serious examinations of the president's sex life and political motives--subjects on which none of the commentators know any facts.

Can anyone tell truth from fiction any more? Does anyone care?

**Dayton (Ohio) Daily News, on the millennium:**

Some people are complaining these days about all the talk going around about cele-

brating the dawn of a new millennium on Jan. 1, 2000. The complainants note that the definition of a millennium is a thousand-year period. The second millennium after the official birth of Christ will not end until the end of 2000, they say.

This is true, because, after all, there was no year zero. If the first year was one, then the thousandth year was 1000, and the second millennium didn't start until it was over, i.e. on Jan. 1, 1001. So the third millennium doesn't start until Jan. 1, 2001.

The people making this point deserve a response. Here is the best one:

Oh, please.

This issue is resolved. We--the people of the world--are going to celebrate Jan. 1, 2000, as the big one, indeed, the millennial one. Deal with it.

## South Dakota adopts law that made West Virginia a punchline

One in every three adult women experience at least one physical assault by a partner during adulthood.

There are about 1,500 shelters for battered women in the United States compared with roughly 3,800 animal shelters.

Family violence is the leading cause of injury to women ages 15 to 44.

In 1994, 12,767 domestic-violence incidents were reported to the state Department of Social Services. In 1995, there were 14,102 episodes reported. By 1996, the number had climbed to 15,534.

During the 1998 session, lawmakers in South Dakota passed legislation requiring a warning against domestic violence on all state marriage-license applications. It is a

reminder to married couples that domestic violence is a crime under the Family Protection Act of 1992.

The legislation, introduced by Rep. Carol Fitzgerald, R-Rapid City, will heighten the awareness that domestic abuse is a crime.

"I realized that there are people who have grown to adulthood not knowing that abuse against your spouse is a crime," Fitzgerald said. "They've grown up in dysfunctional families where abuse is part of growing up."

South Dakota is now the fourth state to pass legislation requiring the warning on marriage-license applications. The other states with similar laws are Iowa, Kansas and West Virginia.

## Burt Reynolds may add name to history of "Supporting Actor" comebacks

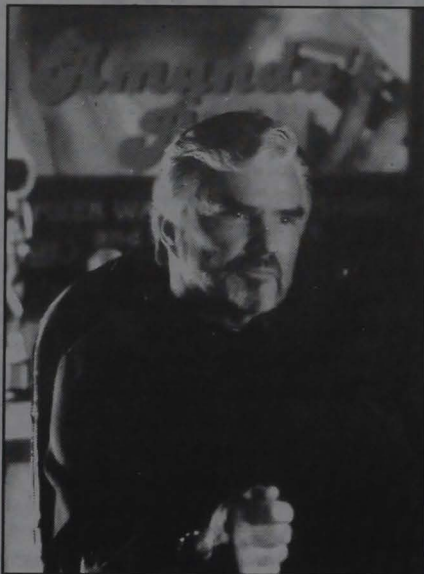
LOS ANGELES (AP) -- The history of Academy Awards for supporting actor contains tales of comebacks for onetime stars who have suffered career lulls. Burt Reynolds is this year's candidate for Comeback Kid.

Reynolds appears to be the favored recipient of such good luck when the awards are presented March 23 at the Shrine Auditorium.

The 62-year-old actor had reigned as a top star until bad movies and worse publicity dimmed his appeal. After his TV series, *Evening Shade*, was canceled, he began taking supporting roles. One of them gave him pause.

"I turned it down eight times," Reynolds says of *Boogie Nights*, the story of a San Fernando Valley porno movie operation in the 1970s. He was offered the role of Jack Horner, a director who becomes the surrogate father for a ragtag band of actors and crew.

Reynolds was persuaded to accept the role, but he still had misgivings until the praise and awards from critics began rolling in.



Reynolds was nominated for his *Boogie Nights* role as a porn director

# Titanic on cou

By Bob Thomas,  
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES -- As *Titanic* hurtles toward box-office records, its chances of winning the Academy Award for best picture of 1997 also appear to be growing.

Not that money is a major factor in how Academy members vote. Nor was *Titanic* the best-crafted movie of the year. James Cameron's screenplay, lampooned by many critics for its inane dialogue, was not among the film's 14 nominations.

But *Titanic* has proved to be an "event" movie unlike any since the 1939 epic *Gone With the Wind*.

Few films have survived such negative publicity as that surrounding *Titanic*. For almost a year, Cameron was pilloried as an obsessed, slave-driving profligate destined to impoverish his backers--Twentieth Century Fox and Paramount.

Now Cameron is proclaimed a genius. Forget the \$200 million price tag; *Titanic* is

expected to turn a \$100 million profit for each studio.

However, the film is not necessarily enriching Cameron. During the financial crisis when the movie was being made, he agreed to give up his profit participation in order to keep shooting. Not to worry. Fox and Paramount are reportedly considering bonuses for their fair-haired boy.

Cameron, 43, a native of Kapuskasing, Ontario, insists he wasn't thinking Oscars while making *Titanic*.

"Because then you start to referee the creative process with, 'Well, what will the critics think?' Or, 'What will the Academy think?' And that's a sure way to make a pompous film," he says.

IN ANY OTHER YEAR, Curtis Hanson's *L.A. Confidential* might well be the front-runner in the Academy race for best picture. It was embraced by the film community as a wholly original and inventive revival of the film noir of the 1940s and

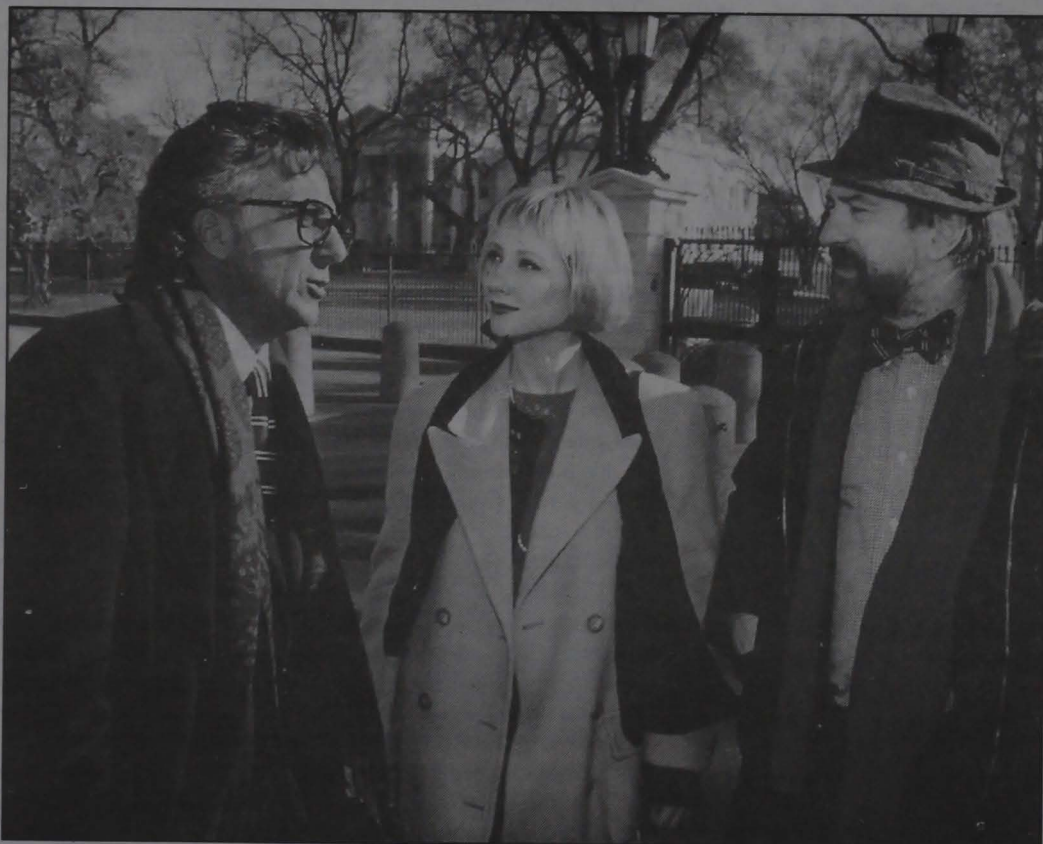
'50s. A native of Los Angeles, Hanson adapted James Ellroy's novel of cop corruption in post-war L.A. and filmed it with a truly ensemble cast.

"It's my most personal movie," Hanson, 52, whose previous films include *The Firm*, *Wild* and *The Hand That Rocks the Cradle*, says. "Whether it achieves any popular acceptance or not is less important to me. That's not why I made it."

In fact, *L.A. Confidential* turned out to be an underachiever at the box office; it likely will collect about \$50 million in domestic gross. But it's been widely acclaimed, scoring top picture with most critics' organizations and appearing on many reviewers' year-end Top 10 lists.

JAMES L. BROOKS' *Good as It Gets* has won widespread acceptance, both in Hollywood and across the country (it has reached the magical territory, surpassing \$100 million domestic gross).

Brooks, 57, born in New Jersey, already has the



LEFT TO RIGHT: Dustin Hoffman, Anne Heche, and Robert DeNiro in *Wag the Dog* (Best Screenplay); Casper Van Dien in *Starship Troopers* (Best Visual Effects); Mark Wahlberg from *Boogie Nights* (Best Screenplay); Woody Allen, Elizabeth Shue, and Billy Crystal in *Deconstructing Harry* (Best Screenplay).





# ...e for top prize

...or writing, co-producing  
...ing his first film, *Terms*  
...ment (1983).  
...th *As Good As It Gets*,  
...t comedy to the situa-  
...man with an obsessive-  
...ve disorder.  
...s an illness that most of  
...ate to," Brooks has said.  
...get obsessed, and we are  
...ulsive about certain  
...st not clinically so."  
...e film drew seven nom-  
...including those for the  
...ack Nicholson, Helen  
...Greg Kinnear. But not,  
...enough, for Brooks'  
... That's one of the  
...at puzzle Oscar watch-  
...can a movie be nomi-  
...best picture, screenplay  
...actors and not for the  
...put it all together?  
...od *Will Hunting* is anoth-  
...at has won the hearts and  
...od audiences everywhere.  
...easing the pattern of Sylvester  
...in *Rocky* little-known  
...Matt Damon and Ben  
...wrote a script with fat  
...themselves.

Damon cast himself as a trouble-making Bostonian who works as a janitor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he astounds the faculty by solving obscure formulas left on the blackboard. Affleck took the role as best friend.

Gus Van Sant, 45, seemed an unlikely choice to direct such a feel-good movie. He had built a reputation for directing hard-edged, low-budget films such as *Drugstore Cowboy* and *My Own Private Idaho*.

His first mainstream film drew nine nominations, including those for his direction, actors Damon, Robin Williams and Minnie Driver, and for best picture.

For pure joy, nothing in the race surpasses *The Full Monty*, budgeted at \$2.5 million or about one one-hundredth the cost of *Titanic*.

The story was simple enough: a half-dozen unemployed steel workers in Sheffield, England, decide to lift their dreary lives and perhaps earn a few dollars by joining in a strip act. No matter that some of

them are better off clothed.

Producer Uberto Pasolini has commented that he wanted to portray how men, especially those without jobs, "have to find the energy to reinvent themselves in a world where their role in society is questioned."

Peter Cattaneo, 33, directing his first full-length theatrical film, was attracted by both the humor and the underlying theme of unemployment.

Besides setting box-office records in Britain and elsewhere, *The Full Monty* has added a decidedly British expression to the American lexicon (it means taking something all the way). However, the monty in the movie is not full; the final strip is filmed from the rear.

"And the award goes to..." What follows that phrase at the Shrine Auditorium tonight seems apparent. Even Curtis Hanson of *L.A. Confidential* has said:

"*Titanic* is titanic. Like the ship, it's huge. What can you do?"

Pray for an iceberg, maybe?

## Hollywood's neglect of strong female roles shows in Best Actress nominees

LOS ANGELES (AP) --The decidedly English accent to this year's Academy Award nominees for best actress again emphasizes Hollywood's neglect of female stars.

Not to suggest the four British women in the race aren't worthy of their nominations, but why is there only one American among the nominees?

The answer, it seems, is that English producers can make modestly budgeted films that offer strong roles for actresses, while Hollywood concentrates on expensive movies of the male-oriented action category.

A list of the 20 most in-demand U.S. stars would contain few if any actresses, which means the ever-expanding \$20 million-a-picture club is by and large a male bastion.

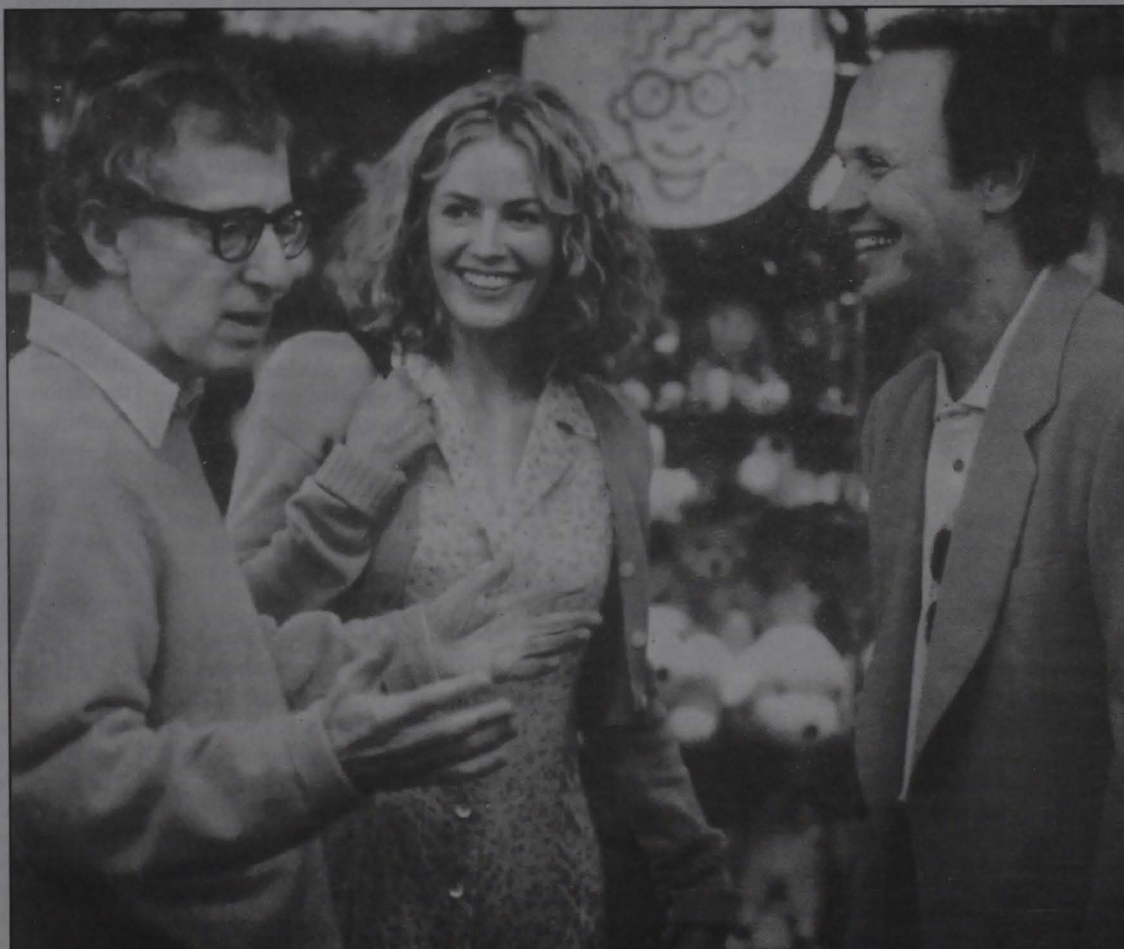
"It shows that people think we (British) can do it," nominee Judi Dench says. "I hope it shows that."

Yet fellow nominee Kate Winslet cautioned, "I don't think it's got anything to do with [the notion] that English actors are better; I've never ever thought that for a minute."

"These [nominated] actresses are lucky enough to be in fulfilling roles that they have played to the best of their abilities. And let's face it: There aren't that many great roles for women these days."

James Cameron cast Miss Winslet as the upper-class passenger Rose DeWitt Bukater in *Titanic* because of the "luminous quality in her face, voice and eyes" that would compel audiences to "go the distance with her" on the long and tragic voyage.

Miss Winslet, 22, had been nominated for the Oscar once before, in 1995 as supporting actress in *Sense and Sensibility*. A tidal wave for *Titanic* could bring her the prize, but she is not considered the favorite.



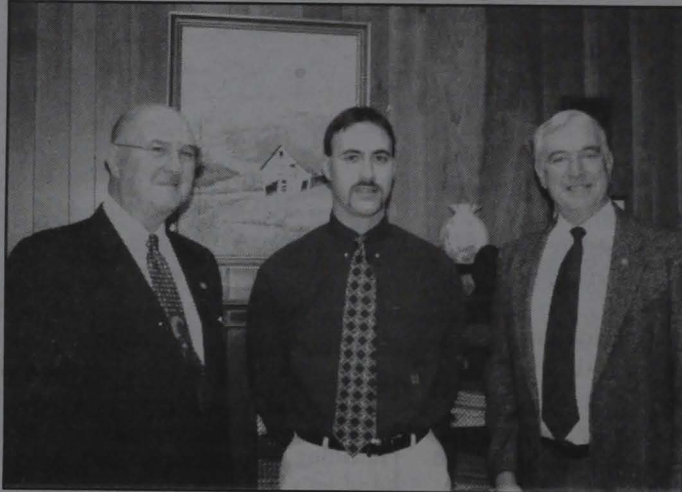
# Coach Steve Harold Athletic Director

Glenville State College President William K. Simmons officially announced that Steve Harold has been named Athletic Director at GSC.

Harold has been serving in the position as Interim Athletic Director for the past fifteen months. Upon shaking hands with the President, Harold said, "It's time to take our programs to the next level."

Harold's resume includes many various levels of coaching experience and administrative leadership. He has a master's degree in Physical Education from Radford University and is a graduate of Glenville State College. Steve currently coaches the GSC Lady Pioneer basketball team, as well as the men's and women's track and cross-country teams. Steve also teaches physical education and safety classes.

Harold was chosen after an extensive nationwide search



(L-R): President Simmons announced Steve Harold as Athletic Director after a recommendation from Dr. Peterson's search committee (Heather Ware, Mercury)

which included over 30 other candidates. A search committee led by Dr. James L. Peterson, Vice-President for Academic Affairs, recommended Coach Harold to the President's office.

According to Dr. Simmons, "Steve's enthusiasm

and leadership skills, teamed with his knowledge and popularity in the community, made him an excellent choice."

Harold and his wife, Renee, also a Glenville State graduate, reside in Glenville with their two children, Katie and Ally.

## Don't let record fool you! They're rebuilding!

By James Arnold,  
Staff Reporter

Though the Glenville State Pioneers ended the season with a record of seven wins and nineteen losses, they have taken that giant step forward to rebuilding.

Under the direction of new coach Bob Williams, the Pioneers brought to the court a new and exciting style of play.

This style has proven to be successful. Don't let the record fool you! Four of the losses came in overtime, and the Pioneers took many of the conference elite down to the wire.

One example is a 83 -73 loss to Fairmont in overtime, Fairmont went on to the elite eight in the nation.

Another plus is that the Pioneer return a quick, talented,



Tom Ewing - "Awesome!"  
(Heather Ware, Mercury)

and exciting bunch. This group consists of Jason Shields, his play down-low has help lead the Pioneers the last two years. Also, Tom Ewing was awesome

as he stepped-up big at the end of the season and tournament time.

Jeremy Young also returns with a strong outside shooting game. Definitely not to be left out is conference stand out Floyd Burgher and his high flying partner Terry Clark. Others include Shawn Craven, Rich Swiger, Larry Courtney, Henry Hurst, Doug Swartz, and Greg McCullough.

Next season is sure to be exciting. With the excited and dedicated coaching staff of Bob Williams, Eric Schofield, and Steve VanDusen the future looks good for Glenville State College basketball.

This writer predicts a winning season next year, and the next year....a conference championship!

## Athlete Spotlight: Tina Mallow

By James Arnold,  
Staff Reporter

This weeks spotlight athlete is Tina Mallow. Tina a 1996 graduate of Elkins High School is highly involved with the Pioneer track team. She participates in the high jump, the 100 m high hurdles, 400 m hurdles, 4x400 relay, javalin, and the heptathalon.

Last year she was the conference champion in the high jump and she finished second in the 400 m hurdles. This year she hopes to better her personal record of 5'6" in the high jump and she also wants to take first in the 400 m hurdles.



Tina Mallow (File Photo)

She'd also like to say a special thanks to God and Matt Cottrill for helping her with her training.

## March Madness is in full swing

By James Arnold,  
Staff Reporter

Well, everyone knows come March women lose their men to the television sets for the "Road to Final Four" basketball tournament. We men know it as HEAVEN, 63 exciting games in two weeks. The field of 64 teams range from the always impressive Prairie View A&M, to the awesome Tarheels of North Carolina, and yes, the West Virginia Mountaineers.

Well 48 teams are gone, and only sixteen are standing tall. Of these sixteen is Rhode Island, and Valparaiso who both pulled off huge upsets to get to the regionals. Also a surprise is Washington, who will face UConn Thursday night. But the big talk around here is West Virginia University. They pulled off a victory over Temple and a heroic "bank" to beat Cincinnati. They are going into

Thursday nights game against Utah with lots of confidence.

My predictions: Rhode Island will be too much for Valparaiso. Purdue will overpower Stanford and head for the elite eight. Duke will have a tough time, but will out hustle the Orangemen of Syracuse.

Kentucky will run all over UCLA. Wildcats by 25. North Carolina easily defeats the Spartans of Michigan State. Washington pulls off another upset, beating UConn by 5. Maryland plays tough and outlast the defending champion, Arizona. Utah defeats West Virginia. WVU's luck runs out against the Utes. Rhode Island, Purdue, Duke, Kentucky, North Carolina, Washington, Maryland, and Utah are my Elite-8 teams. Final Four: North Carolina, Maryland, Duke, Purdue. NATIONAL CHAMPIONS: MARYLAND TERRAPINS

## Winterplace Ski Resort

Winterplace Ski Resort is buried with snow! Winterplace set a new record for the most snow made in the month of March! Make your plans to head to Winterplace for fantastic skiing and terrific late season discounted prices! Ask about special weekend events! Call 800-258-3127 for daily skiing information. Ski until 10 p.m. every night!



# Tiger Woods now selling Wheaties

By Mike Schneider, Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. -- Tiger Woods, whose face is on everything from cereal boxes to magazine covers, will grace Americans' plates at breakfast.

Woods became just the eighth permanent spokesman in the nearly 75-year history of Wheaties -- the breakfast cereal years pitched as the "breakfast of champions."

Wheaties will carry three real box covers showing Woods swinging an iron, holding his putter in the air and carrying a trophy.

"This, in a sense, is like being part of a Hall of Fame and of crowd," said Woods.

Woods was joined at an announcement at The Official All-Star Cafe at Disney's Wide World of Sports complex by Wheaties pitchmen Walter Payton, Bruce Jenner and Mary Lou Retton. Woods lives in Orlando and is part owner of the restaurant.

Woods joins an elite list of legendary American athletes

who have been Wheaties' spokesmen. They include baseball's Pete Rose; tennis' Chris Evert Lloyd; basketball's Michael Jordan; football's Payton; and former Olympians Bob Richards, Jenner and Retton.

"What's kind of cool is that golf is now considered an athletic sport," Woods said. "I was always called a 'wuss' for playing golf, but I'm here."

While dozens of other athletes and sports teams have appeared on the front of the cereal box, a spokesman's role is more involved and consists of commercials and public appearances.

The association with the cereal generally lasts a lifetime, said Bart Reed, Wheaties' marketing manager. "Anyone who enters the Wheaties' family is always a member," he said.

The details of Woods' contract weren't disclosed. A source told The Associated Press that Woods will be paid by General Mills through contributions to the Tiger Woods Foundation, which helps minority youth get involved in golf.

# NASCAR Top 20

DAYTONA BEACH (AP) -- The top 20 in the NASCAR Winston Cup points and money standings through March 9:

- 1, Rusty Wallace, 665.
- 2, Jeremy Mayfield, 616.
- 3, Dale Earnhardt, 578.
- 4, Bill Elliott, 557.
- 5, Terry Labonte, 526.
- 6, Bobby Labonte, 525.
- 7, Jeff Gordon, 518.
- 8, Mark Martin, 502.
- 9, Bobby Hamilton, 473.
- 10, Jeff Burton, 469.
- 11, Jimmy Spencer, 469.
- 12, Ken Schrader, 466.
- 13, Geoff Bodine, 461.
- 14, Ernie Irvan, 447.
- 15, Dale Jarrett, 435.
- 16, Michael Waltrip, 429.
- 17, Ward Burton, 423.
- 18, Kenny Irwin, 411.
- 19, tie, Dick Trickle and Rick Mast, 404



Dale Earnhardt 578 pts

# Sports Poll: "Who will be the National Champion?"

Compiled by James Arnold - 42 people participated -

- 13 for North Carolina
- 12 for West Virginia
- 5 for Arizona
- 5 for Kentucky
- 3 for Duke
- 1 for Maryland
- 1 for UCLA
- 1 for Syracuse
- 1 for Valparasio



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### Behavioral Science Major awarded graduate scholarship



Melissa Stinson, a Behavioral Science major, has been awarded a full scholarship at West Virginia University.

Stinson was in competition with national applicants for four scholarships in the Life Span Developmental PhD Psychology Program. The award waives tuition and all fees while she works toward her Master's and PhD degrees.

She will be a teaching assistant and receive \$6500 per year of study. The program is designed so that students can obtain both a Master's and PhD degree within four years.

## Second Annual Ramp Dinner held in Science Hall

By Aaron Frame,  
Staff Reporter

Several students and the faculty were on hand Tuesday, March 3, 1998 for the second annual Ramp Dinner held on the second floor of the Science Hall.

The menu at the "It's not our fault if you die" restaurant included ramps fried with onions, potatoes, eggs, and bacon. Also, there was a choice of white or brown beans, coleslaw, and two different types of corn bread. For dessert, there was peach and graham cake with a bread pudding topping.

The food was prepared by the head chef Dr. Meads and his many assistants who are also members of his classes. The drinks were prepared by Dr. Evans.

Alissa Harris, Eric Goddard, and Tim Mayle provided entertainment. They



Dr. Evans served drinks at the ramp dinner (File Photo)

played an Australian aborigine instrument called a didgeridoo and were accompanied by Needles the singing American Alligator.

Fun was had by one and all of the several students faculty and family that attended the evenings festivities.

## Top Russian space official criticizes U.S. for space station delays

By Vladimir Isachenkov,  
Associated Press

MOSCOW -- Batting back U.S. criticism of Russia for delays in construction of a key segment of the international space station, Russia's space agency chief said Tuesday that the United States was facing similar hurdles.

Agency director Yuri Koptev also said that Russia wants to increase the number of foreign satellite launches between now and 2000 from 23 to 32 and then demand the abolition of any ceiling in the future, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported.

During talks between U.S. Vice President Al Gore and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, U.S. officials reiterated concerns that Russia is lagging behind on its contribution to the international space station.

They suggested that Moscow be allowed to launch more foreign commercial satellites to help bail out its ailing space program, but said that return Russia should keep its promise to stop assisting Iran's weapons program.

Trying to turn the tables on the United States, Koptev said NASA was "three months behind" in constructing a laboratory module while trying to "concentrate attention entirely on Russia's difficulties."

Earlier this month NASA's Gretchen McClain, deputy associate administrator for the space station, said the agency was 1 1/2 months behind on the module, which is supposed to fly next year. The work was two months behind until recently, so the manufacturer has been able to make up some time.

## The Virtual Librarian

By Ben Bruton,  
Guest Columnist

Hey kids, it's time to learn a new world: Luddite. A Luddite is a person opposed to any kind of technological advancement. The word derives from Ned Ludd, an English rebel who led a labor rito in the 19th century and destroyed textile machinery because he was afraid the machines would replace him and his co-workers.

Are you a Luddite when it comes to the Internet? I suspect a lot of you are and don't even know it. Don't worry; it's nothing to be ashamed of. It just means that every time you approach a computer, you hesitate and get a far-off look in your eyes...the same look a cow might get when confronted with a trigonometry problem.

I've grown well-accustomed to Luddite behavior, and I always do my best to make the Internet seem less daunting to first-time users.

One learning tool that I recently installed here in the

library makes the Internet a little more understandable to you Luddites. It's called *Internet Coach*, and it's an interactive CD-ROM that walks the users through a simulated version of Netscape software step by step. Using colorful graphics and easy-to-understand definitions of terms like "World Wide Web" and "search engine," *Internet Coach* is a great place to start if you consider yourself among the ranks of the Internet-impaired.

Of course, it should be pointed out that those of us who work around computers regularly are just as guilty of exhibiting Luddite behavior as you are (we just hide it better than you do). I myself get regularly intimidated by the Internet and the endless possibilities for information exchange that it offers.

In this age of electronic excess, however, where the Internet is increasingly infiltrating our schools, jobs, and homes, it's important that we Luddites do not close our minds

to computers and new technology. You may not have to be Internet savvy now, but someday your job may depend on it.

Recently, I was asked if all GSC students had their own e-mail accounts on campus. I had to say that while VAX e-mail accounts can be obtained for free on campus through the Computer Center, many of our students still did not take advantage of e-mail or free Internet access in the labs or here in the library.

It's a crying shame, fellow Luddites. Now is the time for you guys to be playing and experimenting with the Internet, while you have ready access to it here on campus. Once you graduate, using the Internet will become a required skill at future job interviews.

So what are you waiting for? Get the ludd out, Luddites! Start exploring cyberspace while you have the opportunity. Otherwise, you might end up a roadkill on the information highway.

## Ask the Particle Man:

### "What is the Difference Between a Lunar Eclipse and a Solar Eclipse?"

By Aaron Frame,  
Staff Reporter

A Lunar eclipse occurs when the moon on its journey around the earth, passes the point directly opposite the sun with the earth directly between them. The shadow that the earth casts will then cover the moon and the moon will turn a copper red color from reflecting the light that has past through the earth's atmosphere.

A Solar eclipse, on the other hand, occurs when the moon, again on its journey around the earth, passes

between the sun and the earth casting its shadow onto the earth. To experience a solar eclipse, one must be in the path of the shadow that the moon is casting to get a 100% solar eclipse view.

From these definitions, one may infer that the difference between solar and lunar eclipses is what body is casting the shadow onto the other body, the two bodies in question being the earth and the moon.

Send your "Ask the Particle Man" inquiries to [a\\_frame@hotmail.com](mailto:a_frame@hotmail.com).

## CALLING ALL CAMPUS WEBMASTERS!

The Mercury is preparing a feature about Glenville State College students who have their own websites. If you have a website, e-mail your name, info about your site, and the URL to [terryestep@hotmail.com](mailto:terryestep@hotmail.com)



### LIBERTY MEADOWS by Frank Chow



### Match by Jeff Shesol



### LIFE IN HELL



## Cristola's Magical Mystical Predictions

**Aries (March 21-April 19)**  
— After a long struggle, hope is in sight. This week brings hope, faith, and dreams back to you. You can now see your future clearly and are able to move ahead with your plans, armed with foresight.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20)**  
— This week, seek time alone. You need to get your thoughts and your life in order. To do this, be alone with yourself. Cut out any unnecessary social activities. respect your limitations and build solid foundations.

**Gemini (May 21-June 20)**  
— Opportunities arise that allow you to make money, and now you have the energy to put into a material venture. No matter how the money comes to you, use it effectively; don't throw it away.

**Cancer (June 21-July 22)**  
— You are facing an important decision, but don't let emotions rule you. In this case, impartiality is needed. Detach from the situation and look at it from all angles. Use extreme caution if this relates to love.

**Leo (July 23-August 22)**  
— No one wants to admit they're wrong, but in this case neither of you are right or wrong. Look at the problem from both points of view, try to see the issue from the other side. You'll see that there is an agreement.

**Virgo (August 23-September 22)**  
— With Spring in the air, your creative juices are flowing. Channel your restlessness into some creative venture. Experiment with different things: write a poem, story, song; paint, draw. You'll know what's right.

**Libra (September 23 - October 22)**  
— A new relationship is just around the corner. It is a chance for emotional fulfillment and promise. It is also an opportunity to explore deeper levels of your heart and emotions.

**Scorpio (October 23 - November 21)**  
— Start to develop a personal philosophy by seeking philosophical answers to life's questions. Someone in your life can help answer your questions. Develop a philosophy that will guide you through the rest of your life.

**Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)**  
— This week is full of changes for you, sudden changes that will disrupt your life. Whether the catalyst for this is yourself or someone else, be prepared for turbulence and changes that will broaden your life.

**Capricorn (December 22-January 19)**  
— You've made a mistake and regret your actions. Somehow a betrayal has occurred in the relationship and may have lead to separation. However, there is still a chance for recovery if you can commit to the future..

**Aquarius (January 20-February 18)**  
— Stiff competition in creative areas of life, such as school. The challenge here is to make your project or ideas better. In this envious world, you must learn the value of your ambition and competitive instinct.

**Pisces (February 19-March 20)**  
— An old love from the past returns soon. Dreams seem possible and even near. Though the past is lost, something of it still exists. Work on what is there and bring the relationship into the present.

## Let's Ask Cristola...

**Q. How did it feel to spend last week totally invisible?**

**A. Wonderful and invigorating. It was like spending three days inside the Snapple lady's head. I would like to inform all you readers that I only did it for taxes purposes. They can't audit me if they can't see me!**

# Oscar Night: Brent's Best Bets '98

By Brent Wood,  
Staff Columnist

Here is the list of the 70th Annual Academy Awards. My personal predictions about the winners are in **BOLD**.

**BEST PICTURE:** *As Good as It Gets*, *The Full Monty*, *Good Will Hunting*, *L.A. Confidential*, *Titanic*.

**ACTOR:** Matt Damon, *Good Will Hunting*; **Robert Duvall**, *The Apostle*; Peter Fonda, *Ulee's Gold*; Dustin Hoffman, *Wag the Dog*; Jack Nicholson, *As Good as It Gets*.

**ACTRESS:** Helena Bonham Carter, *The Wings of the Dove*; Julie Christie, *Afterglow*; Judi Dench, *Mrs. Brown*; Helen Hunt, *As Good as It Gets*; **Kate Winslet**, *Titanic*.

**SUPPORTING ACTOR:** Robert Forster, *Jackie Brown*; Anthony Hopkins, *Amistad*; Greg Kinnear, *As Good as It Gets*; Burt Reynolds, *Boogie Nights*; **Robin Williams**, *Good Will Hunting*.

**SUPPORTING ACTRESS:** Kim Basinger, *L.A. Confidential*; Joan Cusack, *In and Out* (alternate); Minnie Driver, *Good Will Hunting*; Julianne Moore, *Boogie Nights*;

Gloria Stuart, *Titanic*.

**DIRECTOR:** Peter Cattaneo, *The Full Monty*; Gus Van Sant, *Good Will Hunting*; Curtis Hanson, *L.A. Confidential*; Atom Egoyan, *The Sweet Hereafter*; **James Cameron**, *Titanic*.

**FOREIGN FILM:** *Beyond Silence*, Germany; *Character*, The Netherlands; *Four Days in September*, Brazil; *Secrets of the Heart*, Spain; *The Thief*, Russia.

**SCREENPLAY** (written directly for the screen): Mark Andrus and James L. Brooks, *As Good as It Gets*; Paul Thomas Anderson, *Boogie Nights*; Woody Allen, *Deconstructing Harry*; Simon Beaufoy, *The Full Monty*; **Ben Affleck and Matt Damon**, *Good Will Hunting*.

**SCREENPLAY** (based on material previously produced or published): Paul Attanasio, *Donnie Brasco*; **Brian Helgeland and Curtis Hanson**, *L.A. Confidential*; Atom Egoyan, *The Sweet Hereafter*; Hilary Henkin and David Mamet, *Wag the Dog*; Hossein Amini, *The Wings of the Dove*.



**Titanic** has tied with *All About Eve* for the largest number of Oscar nominations. The movie is sure to snatch up many of the major awards...but of course I'm biased.

**ART DIRECTION:** *Gattaca*, *Kundun*, *L.A. Confidential*, *Men in Black*, *Titanic*.

**CINEMATOGRAPHY:** *Amistad*, *Kundun*, *L.A. Confidential*, *Titanic*, *The Wings of the Dove*.

**SOUND:** *Air Force One*, *Con Air*, *Contact*, *L.A. Confidential*, *Titanic*.

**SOUND EFFECTS EDITING:** *Face/Off*, *The Fifth Element*, *Titanic*.

**ORIGINAL MUSICAL OR COMEDY SCORE:**

*Anastasia*, Stephen Flaherty, Lynn Ahrens and David Newman; *As Good as It Gets*, **Hans Zimmer**; *The Full Monty*, Anne Dudley; *Men in Black*, Danny Elfman; *My Best Friend's Wedding*, James Newton Howard.

**ORIGINAL DRAMATIC SCORE:** *Amistad*, John Williams; *Good Will Hunting*, Danny Elfman; *Kundun*, Philip Glass; *L.A. Confidential*, Jerry Goldsmith;

*Titanic*, James Horner.

**ORIGINAL SONG:** "Go the Distance" from *Hercules*, Alan Menken and David Zippel; "How Do I Live?" from *Con Air*, Diane Warren; "Journey to the Past" from *Anastasia*, Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens; "Miss Misery" from *Good Will Hunting*, Elliott Smith; "My Heart Will Go On" from *Titanic*, James Horner and Will Jennings.

**COSTUME:** *Amistad*, *Kundun*, *Oscar And Lucinda*, *Titanic*, *The Wings of the Dove*.

**DOCUMENTARY FEATURE:** *Ayn Rand: A Sense of Life*, *Colors Straight Up*, *4 Little Girls*, *The Long Way Home*, *Waco: The Rules of Engagement*.

**DOCUMENTARY** (short subject): "Alaska: Spirit of the Wild," "Amazon," "Daughter of the Bride,"

"Still Kicking: The Fabulous Palm Springs Follies," "A Story of Healing."

**FILM EDITING:** *Air Force One*, *As Good as It Gets*, *Good Will Hunting*, *L.A. Confidential*, *Titanic*.

**MAKEUP:** *Men in Black*, *Mrs. Brown*, *Titanic*.

**ANIMATED SHORT FILM:** "Famous Fred," "Geri's Game," "La Vieille Dame et les Pigeons (The Old Lady and the Pigeons)," "The Mermaid," "Redux Riding Hood."

**LIVE ACTION SHORT FILM:** "Dance Lexie Dance," "It's Good to Talk," "Sweethearts?," "Visas and Virtue," "Wolfgang."

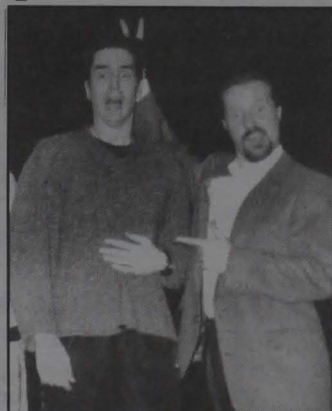
**VISUAL EFFECTS:** *The Lost World: Jurassic Park*, *Starship Troopers*, *Titanic*.

## Eric O'Shea "fun with a capital Q"

By James Arnold,  
Staff Reporter

On Wednesday, March 18th the Pioneer Programming Board brought to the students comedian Eric O'Shea. About 70 students piled into the AB auditorium to watch this funny man at work. He brought the audience back to some of the best times of our life—our youth. O'Shea helped us remember our childhood and some awkward, and hilarious situations.

Most laughs came toward the end of his performance when he performed some great impersonations. He brought to life the entire cast of Seinfeld, and Scooby-Doo. With twist of course, Seinfeld was in Kindergarten and Scooby-Doo and Shaggy were facing the fact that Fred was a pervert. Eric



Comedian Eric O'Shea  
(Terry Estep, Mercury)

O'Shea got many laughs and went over well with the audience. Pioneer Matt Cottrill put it best when he said, "He was fun with a capital Q."

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Monday, March 30, 1998

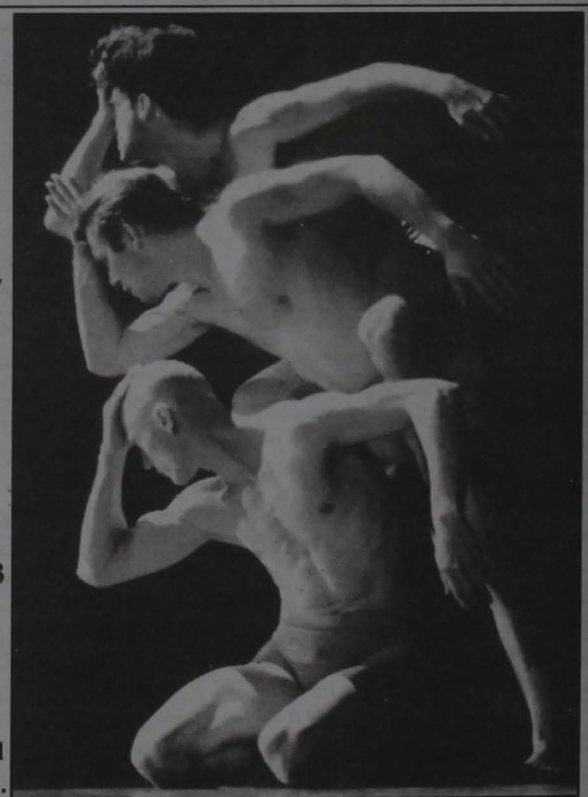
8 p.m. Fine Arts Auditorium

Adults \$5

Students and Senior Citizens \$3

GSC Students with I.D.: \$1

This program is presented with financial assistance from the West Virginia Commission on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.



# Yoshi's Island provides high adventure on N64

By William Schiffmann, Associated Press

The Mario Bros. series, which pretty much made Nintendo what it is today, has provided numerous spinoffs for every platform the company has offered.

The N64 is no exception.

But while Mario 64 was the company's 3-D tour de force for its latest equipment, *Yoshi's Story* provides a more simplistic 2-D world, although with plenty of meat to make up for the less than state-of-the-art graphics.

Yoshi will remind you of the glory days of 16-bit gaming, but some of the things Yoshi (actually, six Yoshis) can do probably were impossible with the SNES's relatively tiny brain.

The story of Yoshi's island world has become

imprisoned in a storybook, and the Super Happy Tree is gone.

When six baby Yoshi hatch, they hatch a plan. They'll eat a lot of fruit and grow strong. They'll travel to the Baby Bowser's castle and reclaim the Super Happy Tree.

To accomplish this worthy end, you head off on a fairly typical side-scrolling adventure.

One main goal along the way is collecting fruit, which you do with your tongue. Eat the fruit and it shows up in a border around the game scene. Eat 30 fruit to clear each course.

As you travel, you'll run into floating blocks. Some will give you hints on gameplay, while others will dispense little eggs that trail along behind you.

You can carry up to six eggs, and they are vital. Why? Because you can throw them, either to

defeat enemies or to break bubbles that surround some fruit.

Graphics are excellent for the type of game: crystal-clear, clean, little embellishment, nice bright colors. Everything is nicely textured, and there are dramatic changes in scenery as you move between indoor and outdoor levels.

Sound is also a high point, with bouncy tunes and bizarre moans, groans and grunts as Yoshi attempts various stunts.

Is a "throwback" game a bad idea? No way. This is a top-quality, entertaining production that will keep adults amused and should drive your preteen gamers wild. It may not be a huge leap beyond what would have been possible on the SNES, but don't let that stop you--Yoshi's Story is fun, and that's what gaming is all about.

# Composer Andrew Lloyd Webber says he's been ill for a decade

LONDON (AP) -- Andrew Lloyd Webber says illness is forcing him to slow down, but he won't stop composing musicals for the stage.

Lloyd Webber, whose hits include "Cats," "Evita," and "Phantom of the Opera," said in an essay in Radio Times that he began suffering inexplicable flu-like symptoms a decade ago.

"I had every allergy test and went wheat-free, milk-free, wine-free (that was the worst!) until a doctor in New York found I had picked up an amoe-

ba and put me on some very strong drugs that knocked it out," he wrote.

But the illness came back in September, said Lloyd Webber, who will be 50 on Sunday.

"I think I'm going to have to lock myself away and just concentrate on writing -- that's the way forward," he said.

"...I've not been well for a long time and my doctors says I've got to cancel everything. But I can't do that. Musicals are my lifeblood."

# Constant loser Lucci nominated

NEW YORK (AP) -- Susan Lucci has a chance to lose again.

Seventeen-time loser Lucci, the dreaded Erica Kane on ABC's *All My Children*, received another Daytime Emmy Award nomination for best actress in a soap opera on Wednesday. Her show received 17 nominations overall.

Lucci's string of futility has been the awards show's best drama lately. She'll compete in the category of outstanding lead actress in a daytime drama with Eileen Davidson of *Days of Our Lives*, Jacklyn Zeman of *General Hospital*, Cynthia Watros of *Guiding Light* and Kim Zimmer of *Guiding Light*.

# Mystery Science Theater 3000 going to ninth season

By Jeff Baenen, Associated Press

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. -- After a close brush with the Black Hole of Lost Series a few years ago, *Mystery Science Theater 3000* is speeding into its ninth season at full warp drive and even tweaking the Oscars.

Fans of the cult TV show, which features silhouettes of puppets making fun of really bad movies, can resume their habit on the Sci-Fi Channel.

Sci-Fi has ordered 13 new episodes, with an option for nine more. A special, half-hour Academy Award preview, in which *Titanic* and other big-name Oscar nominees get the *MST3K* treatment, aired Thursday.

"It's a blast," said writer-producer-director Kevin Murphy, 41, who operates the Tom Servo puppet and appears as Professor Bobo, an intelligent gorilla.

"You get to make fun of Hollywood Today rather than Hollywood Yesterday. It kind of

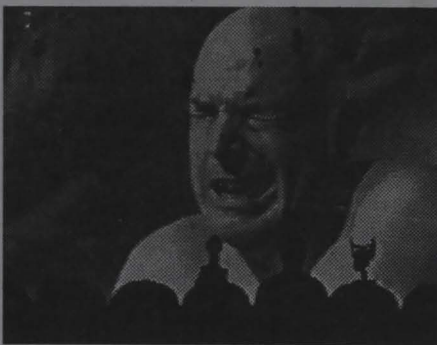
gets old, sometimes, to just make fun of people who are either dead or don't care."

While Sci-Fi says ratings have improved since *MST3K* left Comedy Central two seasons ago, the show--written and produced in a suburban Minneapolis industrial park--has never been a mega-hit.

That's fine with Jim Mallon, the show's executive director.

"We know we're entertaining a lot of people," Mallon said, "and we don't have the pressure that being an enormous success brings, so we can kind of stay relaxed in what we do. We've got our little clubhouse down here."

Here's the *MST3K* premise: office temp Mike Nelson (head writer Michael J. Nelson) is stranded in space with his homemade robots (Tom Servo and Crow) and forced to



Mike and the 'bots face terror in the form of really bad movies.

watch such execrable films as *The Thing That Couldn't Die*.

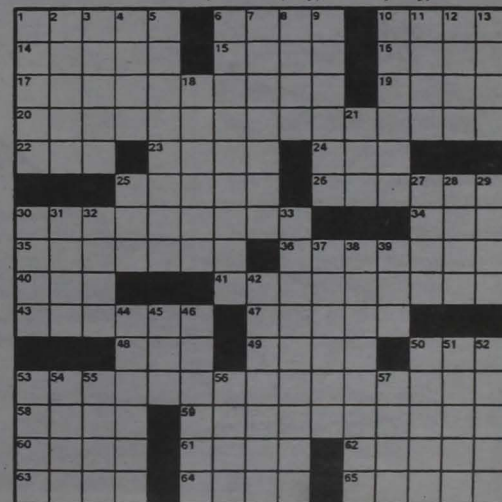
Nelson and his robot buddies subject the movies to a torrent of heckling. Viewers get to see the awful flicks, with images of Nelson and the robots superimposed on the lower right corner, and laugh along with the wisecracks.

Turkeys scheduled for skewering this season include *The Phantom Planet*, *Werewolf* and *The Deadly Bees*. The show airs at 5 p.m. EST on Saturdays, with a repeat at 11 p.m. EST.

## Newsday Crossword


- ACROSS**
- 1 Splits apart
  - 6 Berth place
  - 10 Sharp-sighted
  - 14 Rounded molding
  - 15 Set of ethics
  - 16 Rich person
  - 17 Kid's periscope, perhaps
  - 19 Y, as in women's wear
  - 20 Elevation of the Cross painter
  - 22 Compass dir.
  - 23 Salzburg setting
  - 24 The downbeat
  - 25 R.E.M. vocalist
  - 26 Arm-twisting
  - 30 Commercial staple
  - 34 Oda Brown (Whoopi in *Ghost*)
  - 35 Alarm clock
  - 36 Block
  - 40 Actress Thompson
  - 41 Board flipper, maybe
  - 43 Asked for ID
  - 47 Fax ancestor
  - 48 She had three faces
  - 49 Coin of Western Samoa
  - 50 Hockey star Tikkanen
  - 53 Studier of spirals
  - 58 Bailiff's bellow
  - 59 Manager's note
  - 60 One of Jay Gould's railroads
- DOWN**
- 1 Handy defeats
  - 2 Outdoor climbers
  - 3 \_-face (turnabout)
  - 4 Sommer on screen
  - 5 Alleged corrupter of youth
  - 6 Melee participants
  - 7 Water flowers
  - 8 Worshipped one
  - 9 Tarkington novel
  - 10 Pass through Asia
  - 11 Rain collector
  - 12 Deadlocked
  - 13 Stack part
  - 18 Fine-grained granite
  - 21 Palindromic prime minister
  - 25 Actor Erwin
  - 27 Grounded Australians
  - 28 Vic's wife
  - 29 Crystal consultant
  - 30 Soft mineral
  - 31 Specialty
  - 32 Zoom skyward
  - 33 *Waltz of the* (Anouilh play)
  - 37 Last place
  - 38 Mineral property
  - 39 Rocket fuel
  - 42 Obstacle for Rob Petrie
  - 44 Spike's Malcolm
  - 45 Magda's sister
  - 46 Of the skin
  - 50 Not broadside
  - 51 Old Italian coins
  - 52 Françoise Sorya Dreyfus' stage name
  - 53 Darrow client
  - 54 Brontë lass
  - 55 \_-de-boeuf (oval window)
  - 56 Editing mark
  - 57 "Are you out?" (poker query)

## SATURDAY STUMPER by Ray Hamel Edited by Stanley Newman



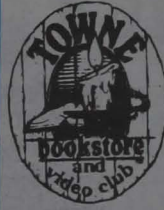
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## Newsday Crossword

The answer will appear next week. Have fun!

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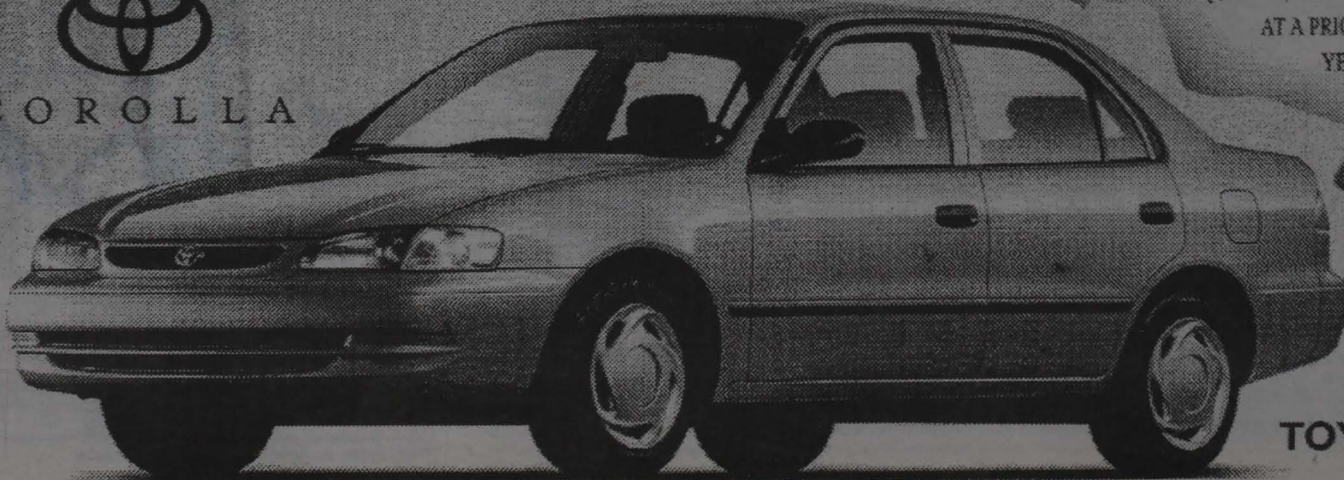


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