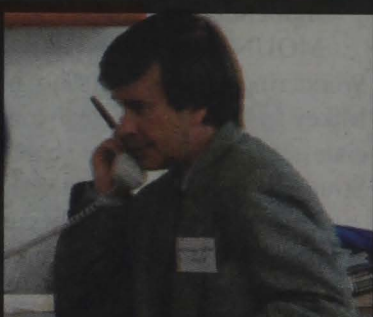


The Mercury



Welcome back to GSC.
They've been busy while you were away.

What would an impeachment report from Starr look like?

By John Solomon,
Associated Press

WASHINGTON -- Congressional leaders awaiting the prosecutors' report on the Monica Lewinsky inquiry are likely to receive seven months of evidence woven into a narrative alleging perjury and obstruction of justice--and possibly abuse of presidential power.

Every sensational detail that emerged in the breathless early days of the controversy--the stained dress, the gifts, the contacts with witnesses--will be analyzed in the fresh light of President Bill Clinton's admission he had an improper relationship with Ms. Lewinsky.

Independent Counsel

Kenneth Starr's report will be "an avalanche of facts" that will provide a sharp contrast with the more general answers Clinton has given in public, said Stephen Gillers, a New York University law professor.

"I imagine this report will be a relentless, redundant recitation of details that simply make it impossible for the president to finesse his way out" with vague replies, Gillers said.

Every explanation Clinton or his supporters have given will be compared to the testimony and evidence gathered in secret since late January by prosecutors and the grand jury.

Early on, the White House said the president was

simply refreshing his recollection when he summoned Oval Office Secretary Betty Currie to his office on the Sunday after he denied under oath in the Paula Jones lawsuit that he had sex with Ms. Lewinsky. In that testimony, the president also used Mrs. Currie to explain the former intern's many visits to the White House.

Now that Clinton has acknowledged his denial was misleading, prosecutors could conclude the meeting was an attempt to sway Mrs. Currie, a potential witness.

Clinton's late December meeting in the White House with Ms. Lewinsky, after she was subpoenaed in the Jones lawsuit, provides a similar situation. That's because

prosecutors have evidence that Clinton suggested Ms. Lewinsky could file an affidavit to try to get out of the testimony and wouldn't have to turn over presidential gifts as evidence if she didn't have them.

The former White House intern followed through with an affidavit in which she falsely claimed she did not have a sexual relationship with the president, and she gave the gifts to Clinton's secretary.

Early on, presidential aides dismissed the gifts as trivial. Now they are the focal point of a possible obstruction of justice case. Prosecutors are investigating whether Clinton was behind their

transfer to Mrs. Currie an effort to keep the from becoming evidence.

Early in the case, well, the White House said its legal battles over executive privilege, attorney-client privilege and Secret Service testimony--were about protecting principles not keeping government lawyers and agents from giving testimony that could hurt the president.

Now prosecutors have the option of including their report a chapter entitled "Abuse of Presidential Power" that would argue Clinton misused his office have a relationship with an intern and then used government resources to sustain his denial.

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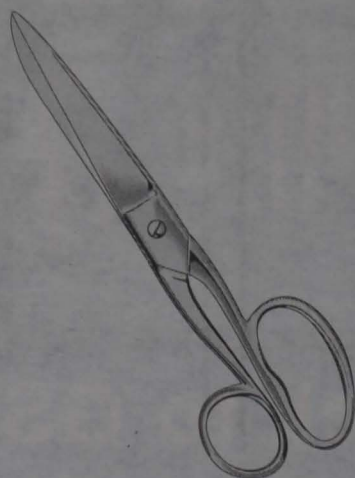
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2nd Floor Above the
Main Event,
101 W. Main Street

Morbid web site keeps hackers up-to-date on the dead and famous

Associated Press

MOUNT LEBANON, Pa.--Wondering if the kid who played Mikey in those Life cereal commercials actually died? How about Sally Struthers or Ricardo Montalban?

To titillate the morbidly curious, a suburban Pittsburgh woman is keeping tabs on who's cold--and who's very much alive, just dead in Hollywood--on her Web site, the Dead People Server.

"It's informative and amusing," said Laurie Mann, 41, of Mount Lebanon, who maintains the site. "If you don't see someone regularly, suddenly they're out of sight, out of mind and you're like, 'Gee, whatever did happen to Chet Huntley?'"

Huntley died March 20, 1974.

"I try not to get overly morbid about it," said Ms. Mann, a technical writer and trivia buff. "It's irreverent."

Entries include Dick Clark, who was born Nov. 30, 1929, and remains immortal; Kenny of television's "South Park," who dies in every episode; Struthers, who is

alive but appears to have a dead career; and John Tesh, who is alive although some Dead People Server fans "remain hopeful."

Although some of the entries seem harsh, Ms. Mann said, "If you do offend a few people here and there you're probably not saying anything."

Celebrities are listed alphabetically and some include links to other pages with home pages and biographies.

The site also debunks false death reports, like the one about Bob Hope that started in June. An obituary in The Associated Press being prepared in the event of Hope's death moved inadvertently on a Web site prompting a congressman to mistakenly announce Hope's death on the floor of the House.

Hope, very much alive, survived to be awarded a papal knighthood a few days later.

The Dead People Server can be seen at
www.city-net.com/~7/8lmann/dps/

Two instructors settle lawsuit

Annie McCourt,
Staff Reporter

Glenville State College professors Charles R. Sypolt and A. Edwin Grafton settled out of court last week in the lawsuit involving GSC ex-president Dr. William K. Simmons.

Sypolt and Grafton filed suit in 1995 after they felt Simmons wrongly denied them full professorship status. They alleged that Simmons took this action after they spoke out against him in a no confidence vote by 74% of Glenville faculty.

Originally the lawsuit included automatic promotion for the two men, but instead a neutral faculty panel has been appointed to review their credentials for promotion.

This suit cost the state \$325,000. From this Sypolt and Grafton will each receive \$50,000, their lawyers will receive \$100,000 for representing the case.

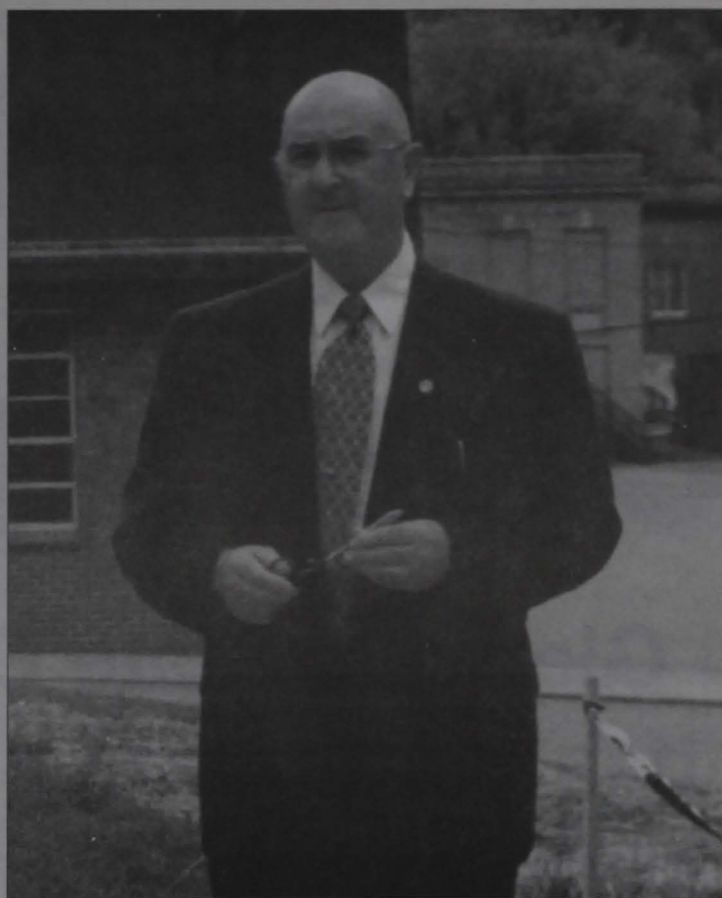
The state itself has already spent \$125,000 on lawyers to defend them in the suit.

The defendants in the suit include Simmons and

The State College Board of Directors, including Phil Reale who called the Simmons's presidency a "reign of terror," have admitted no wrongdoing as part of the settlement.

Simmons stated, "I still feel that the decision my administration made was a proper and correct decision." Simmons will assume a \$79,000-a-year teaching post after he takes a six month sabbatical.

Sypolt refused to comment on the situation of the settlement and Grafton could not be reached for comment.



FILE PHOTO

OFF THE HOOK? -- Two members of a lawsuit against former president William K. Simmons have agreed to settle.

Ambassador Meeting

Tuesday, September 1
12:15 - 1 p.m.

Little Theatre
(Administration Building)

If you cannot attend, please call
Kim Bennett at Ext. 128 or leave
a message at the office.

Sex Passion Intimacy



And that's just for starters!

Relationship Expert

Ellen Gootblatt

Former WABC Talkradio Show Host
Educator
Author
Lecturer

September 1, 1998
Administration Building
Mini Auditorium
7:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.

"Men aren't women
and women aren't men"

Ringling the changes

Glenville State College has undergone a radical change in its administration and its leadership. What can you expect from the coming year?

*By Annie McCourt,
Staff Reporter*

Amidst all the energy of starting a new semester, many readers may not have noticed the changes in administration that have taken place on the campus of Glenville State College.

GSC is starting this year with a new president, a new vice-president of Academic Affairs and a new registrar/director of Enrollment Management.

These individuals are Dr. Bruce C. Flack, Dr. Joe Evans and Dr. Debra Simon respectively.

Dr. Flack's office in the administration building is alive with abstract art work and his own collection of photographs. Dr. Flack, a

native of West Virginia and a GSC veteran, has spent the last ten years as Director of Academic Affairs for the State College and University System of West Virginia. Prior to that he spent a year as Coordinator of the Satellite Network of West Virginia.

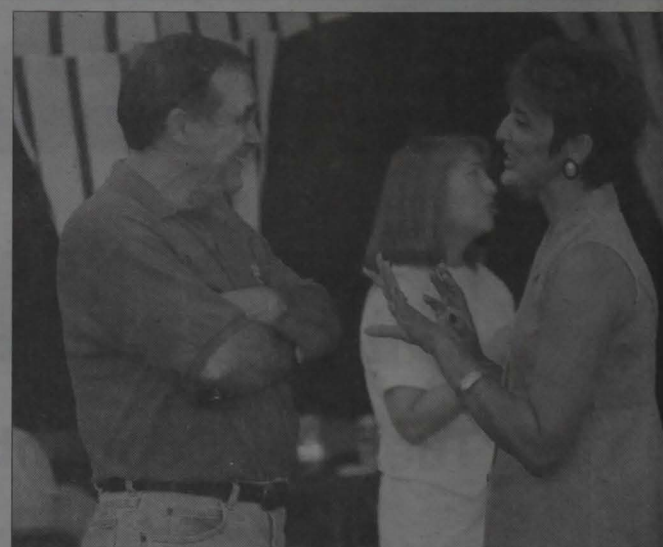
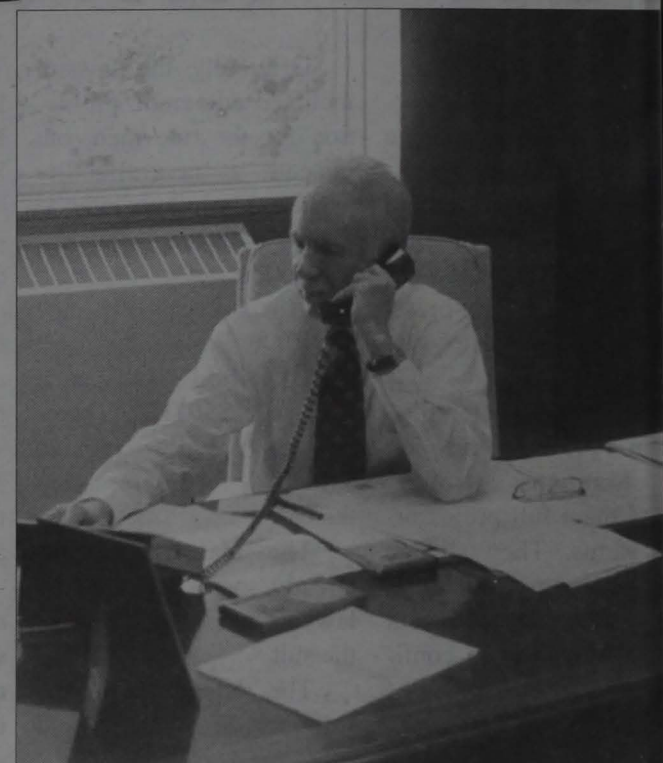
Before that position, Flack made his home on the campus of GSC for 27 years. "I've had a long experience here," Flack stated, "I don't know of any other college with better people who are more committed to doing a good job."

Flack has a hard row to hoe and a lot to prove to the students and faculty of GSC as he comes into this position amidst the scandal left by the Simmons administra-

tion, where several former and present faculty members are involved in a lawsuit with Dr. William K. Simmons, ex-president of GSC, and the GSC administration for termination and denial of full professorship status. The state of affairs last year on GSC campus left a lot to be desired in a new president.

When asked how he felt about the situation, Flack candidly replies, "If you walk around campus today, you'll find that morale is already improving," he continues, "I don't think there are profound problems here."

What happened in the past is the past and I want to concentrate on the skills we have around us on this campus to make a brighter



future."

Flack has a lot of ideas for motivating the educational status of GSC in the technological world.

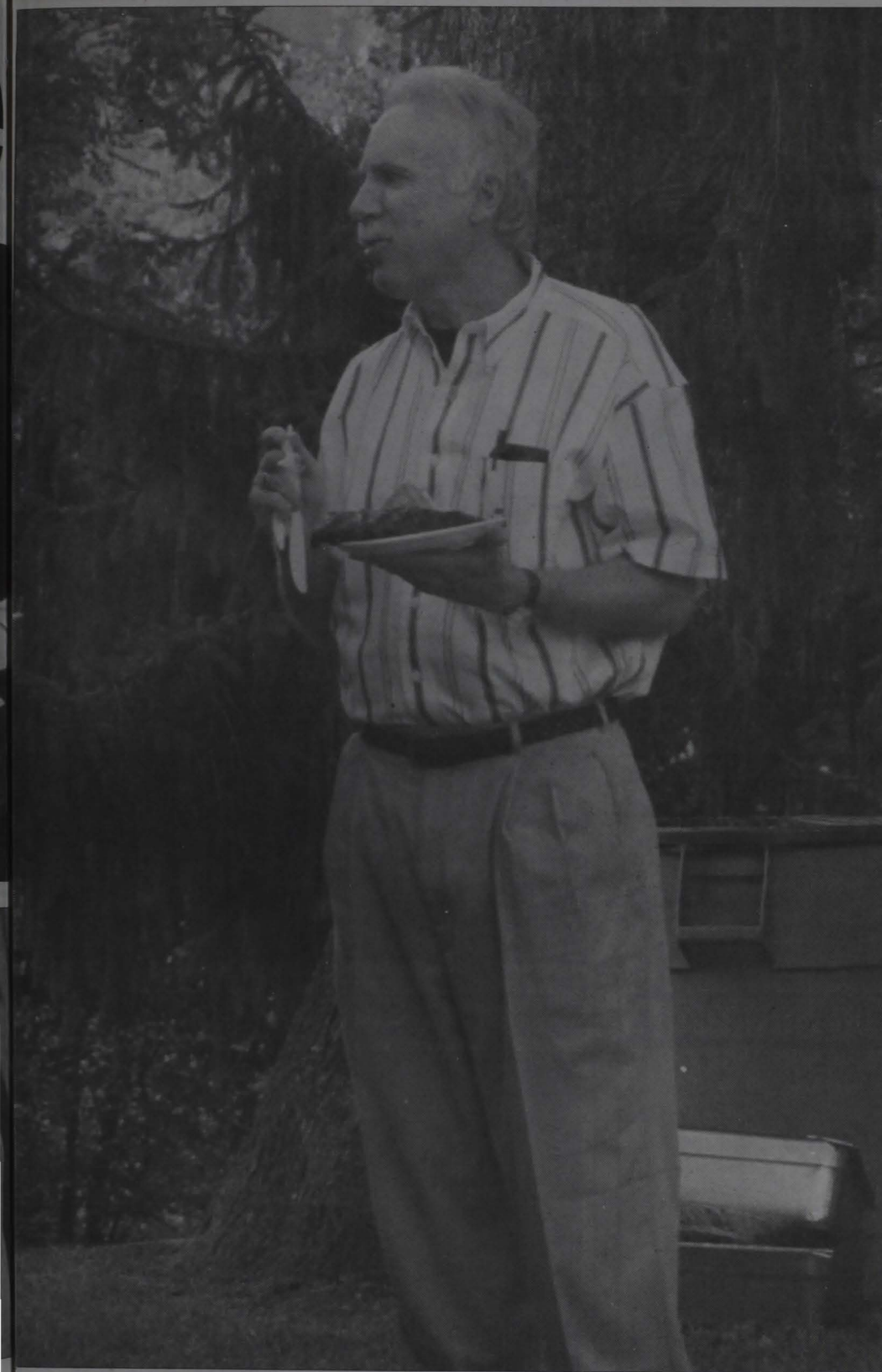
Flack states, "One way of advancing GSC's status in the state college system is to utilize out Internet resources," he further states, "I'd like to see GSC become part of the Southern Regional Electronic Campus (SREC). Which is a collection of 16 state college systems that teach classes over

the Internet."

Flack is also involved in the planning stages of turning the environmental technology degree into a four-year degree program.

Perhaps even offering teacher's education specialization in environmental science in that program area.

President Flack has high hopes for GSC technologically and academically, as he casually states, "I'm just glad to be a part of all this."



TERRY ESTEP - Mercury

How Do You FEED A HUNGRY MAN? - Interim President Bruce Flack, seen here at the recent faculty picnic, is set to enact changes at Glenville State College. A new spirit of optimism has descended upon the campus, one which should make his job easier. OPPOSITE PAGE: Something something something. Below: Registrar Debbie Simon.

Dr. Joe Evans has moved across campus from the Science Hall to the Administration Building to assume the position of Vice President of Academic Affairs. This move became effective August first, but Dr. Evans has been a part of GSC since 1970. He has

chaired many committees, advised clubs and organizations and was a professor of physical science for 28 years.

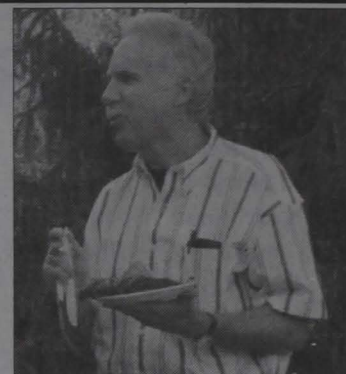
Perhaps these experiences are what prepared him for this new post, "First on my agenda is to try to elevate campus morale." He

continues, "It's pretty obvious that morale on campus, especially among faculty, has been pretty low."

Dr. Evans further stated that his message to students was, "work with your advisors to plan your academic program to graduate in a timely fashion."

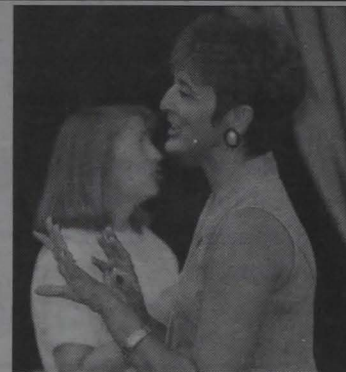
Dr. Bruce Flack Interim President

"I had a long experience here, I don't know of any other college that has better people who are more committed to doing an excellent job. I don't know of any other college where people work harder to make things work, and I'm pleased to be a part of it."



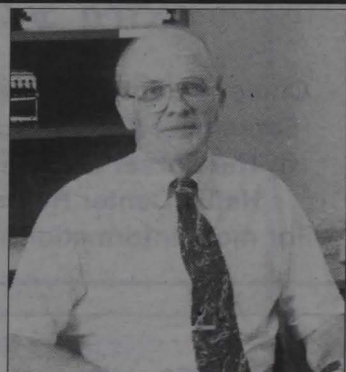
Dr. Debbie Simon Registrar

"One of the most important things I want to do is involve the campus in the recruitment and retainment of students. To be sufficient, I feel that this involves a coordinated effort between faculty, staff and students that will be facilitated and generated by this office"



Dr. Joe Evans Academic Dean

"The most important thing is for students to work with their advisors to plan their academic program to graduate in a timely fashion. It's a dual job of taking responsibility and planning, but students need to know when to seek help from their advisors."



Dr. Debbie Simon will officially begin her new position on September 15, but she has been on the job since the start of the semester.

Dr. Simon has been learning the ropes from Dr. Ray Boggs, who served as interim registrar. "I would

really like to thank Dr. Boggs for all of his help," Dr. Simon stated.

Dr. Simon, a 1975 graduate of GSC, wants students to know, "this office is always open, if you have any questions or comments you should always feel free to come in."

Stockett stocks up

Quic Shop convenience store new addition to Heflin Center

By Terry L. Estep,
Staff Reporter

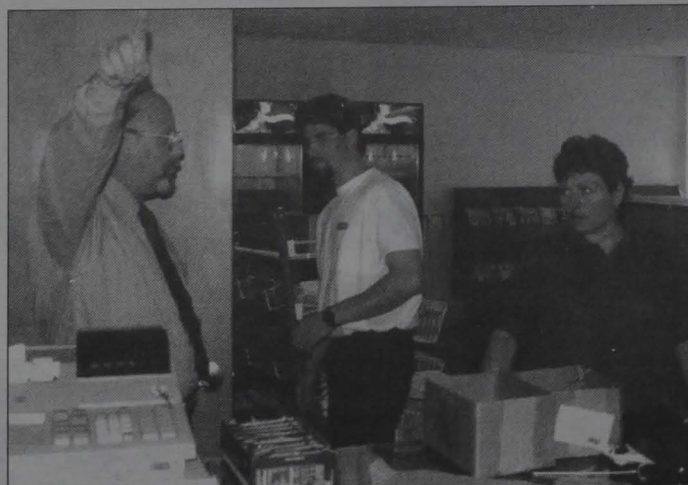
Visitors to the Heflin Center will notice something new on the second floor.

The **Quic Shop** convenience store opened Tuesday and will offer everything from over-the-counter headache medicine to magazines to microwave sandwiches.

Food Services director Bob Stockett is hoping that students will come to the **Quic Shop** instead of walking down the hill or driving out of Glenville.

The store will also carry school supplies, cookies, condoms, and clothing.

"The shop may be very practical for those who may need something quick and affordable," Stockett explains.



TERRY ESTEP - Mercury

WANT SNACKY CAKES AND CHEEZY POOFS? Food Services Director Bob Stockett's Quic Shop convenience store offers items for students. Located at the Snack Bar in the Heflin Center, the store will be open from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.

But will you be able to buy your smokes there? Glenville is tobacco-free in its public buildings, it may be against policy.

Stockett is currently investigating his options for tobacco products. That question may be answered soon.



**Want to help
other students?**

**Want to earn some
extra \$?**

Come to a tutoring meeting on
September 3 from 12:30 -1:00
@ The Career Services Office
Heflin Center Room 204
For more information: 462-4118

Attention Seniors!

- Job Fair -
Operation Native Talent
@ WVU

Over 40 companies represented

September 18

To sign up, stop by the
Career Services Office
Transportation can be provided

Her #1 Status is Classified



TERRY ESTEP - Mercury

SHE'S #1! SHE'S #1! - Susan Persinger has been named Glenville State's Classified Employee of the Year for 1998-1999. She is a Financial Aid Assistant in the Financial Aid Office. She has been employed at the college for the past 17 years.

**GSC
4-H**

The GSC Collegiate 4-H Club will hold its first meeting of the semester on Wednesday, September 2, at noon in Room 216 of the Fine Arts Building.

Everyone interested in "Making the Best Better" is welcome to attend and become a part of this service-based student organization.

Bring your schedules so that we can set meeting dates for the rest of the semester. If you have any questions, contact Cheryl McKinney at Ext. 239 or Ernie Tingler at Ext. 364.

Back in the saddle again

Glenville won its appeal to the WVIAC, but can they make it through an entire season without troublesome penalties?

By James Arnold,
Staff Reporter

This summer Glenville State College's football and athletics program were placed on probation for a series of violations.

The violations and questions began when an improper phone call was placed by Coach Rugeiro to a Farimont State College football player.

Rules state that a player can not be contacted without permission from his or her current school. Coach Rugeiro admitted he made the phone call, but claims that he only called the student one time. However, the player has stated he was

called more than once.

Other conference investigations claimed that there was a repeated pattern of unsportsmanlike conduct before, during and after games. Also the investigations stated that the college was not properly overseeing all the school's athletic teams.

Barry Blizzard, WVIAC commissioner, originally handed down a harsh punishment toward the Pioneers, ruling Glenville ineligible for the conference championship or postseason play. During this period, Glenville was also to be removed from the WVIAC conference. The college was also limited to one off-campus



FILE PHOTO BY TERRY ESTEP

TOUGH YEAR. -- Warren Ruggiero and Steve Harold answer questions at this summer's press conference, addressing WVIAC sanctions that have been successfully appealed.

pus recruiter.

Glenville's Athletic department appealed the

decision. A committee then reviewed the punishment and lessened the punish-

ment.

Glenville is now eligible for post season and championship play, and has regained off campus recruiting rights.

GSC still is under a two-year probation period.

If the college violates a rule during this probation then ALL of its athletic programs will be suspended from competition.

The football team will have to avoid any unsportsmanlike penalties. If the team receives a penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct, they forfeit that game and they won't be allowed to compete for the conference championship.

JUMP SHOTS

By James Arnold

Hey, hey, hey! Welcome to "Jump Shots". This is my chance to share with you my opinions, my thoughts, and my wishes in the sports world.

I might as well go ahead and tell you, I am not a great writer (my editor is agreeing somewhere), however I will do my best to bring you the sports news here on campus and all around the world.

Each week I'll have a new topic here in this column. Topics will consist from, "Big Mac's quest for Maris," to "NASCAR, okay it's growing on me!" I'll talk about Pioneer athletics, Randy Moss' journey through the NFL, and lots more.

So as you grab for your Mercury (CHEAP AT HALF THE PRICE!), look for this column. Somedays we'll laugh together, others we'll cry - but you won't know unless you read it.

Next weeks "JUMP SHOT" will be "Is Michael Jordan God?"

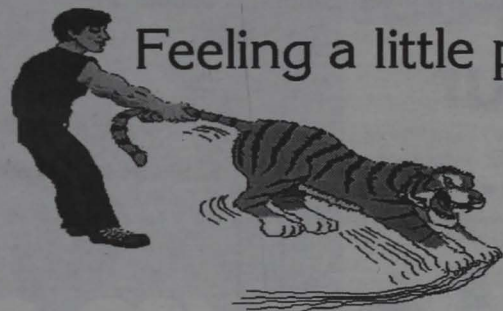
Managers Needed

The GSC Men's Basketball program is currently looking for team managers for the upcoming 1998-1999 season. Managers must be honest and dedicated. Duties will include practice and game preparation and away game travel. Contact Eric Schofield at 462-7361 Ext. 293.

WVU OSU

**Saturday,
September 5
8 p.m.**

Pickens Hall
Main Lounge



Feeling a little primal?

Let's work with those feelings.

The Main Event Sports Bar and Grill LLC

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Serving Food All Hours

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**A large
group of
new fresh-
men...**

**24-hour
weekend
visitation
in the
dorms...**

**New places
to hang out
with your
friends...**

Welcome Back

**Could this be
Glenville's
best year
ever?**



TERRY ESTEP - Mercury

*By Terry L. Estep,
Staff Reporter*

There have been days when it seemed that dorm life at Glenville State College consisted of watching lonely tumble weeds make their way across the sand volleyball court at Pickens Hall. So say that the dorms were dead on the weekend was an understatement of incredible proportions.

A one-two-three punch of new enrollments, a changed visitation policy, and the addition of a new hangout may change everything you thought

you knew about Glenville.

First, there are many new faces on campus and in the dorm. The recruiting has been heavy. Official numbers have not yet been released, but rough estimates from administrators, faculty, and Freshman Counselors put the number of incoming freshmen in excess of 400. So many new students were enrolled that the Williams Wing of Pickens Hall had to be opened to male residents.

24-Hours to a new life?

According to Jack Beard, a resident assistant at Pickens Hall, the new 24-hour weekend visita-

tion policy should encourage students to stick around on the weekends instead of running home to their boyfriends and girlfriends.

"Everyone complained," Beard states of the previous situation in the dorms, when students were required to have opposite-sex guests signed out by midnight. "I'm glad we got it accomplished. Lots of people wanted it, but didn't think it could be done."

Under the new rules, students may obtain a visitor's pass for opposite-sex guests over the weekend. Visitors must still be escorted by their

"Students just have to voice their wants in order to take things in a new direction."

--Jack Beard, Pickens Hall RA



TERRY ESTEP - Mercury



TERRY ESTEP - Mercury

It's All Good: Glenville often turns into a ghost town on the weekends, with students flocking home to visit girlfriends, boyfriends, or anyone else who can offer them fun and excitement. New changes on campus may lead to a trend of students remaining on campus during the weekends. With a few hundred new students arriving last week, Freshman counselors were given a workout moving furniture and giving a helping hand.

need to congregate. A proposal by Josh Hutzler, another Pickens resident assistant, will finally come to completion in a few short weeks.

Based on a James Madison University locale Hutzler visited last year, the "Up-Top" will offer a subtle atmosphere with music where students can work or play. Coffee and other non-alcoholic beverages will be served.

"It's a cool place," Hutzler commented. "You'll be surprised when you get up there with what we're doing to it."

The Up-Top will be open from 5 to 11:30. According to Hutzler, that will allow everyone to hang out and still be gone by sign-out, although it may be open later on weekends to accommodate the

new visitation hours.

"Glenville just needs someone to get the ball rolling," Hutzler explained. "The college needs a place for students to hang out."

Another potential location for after-hours fun could be the Snack Bar in the Heflin Center.

With the addition of the Quic Shop convenience store in the space once occupied by the Campus Co-Op, the Snack Bar will undergo a transformation if students provide enough feedback.

Food Services Director Bob Stockett would like to see students come to the Snack Bar to study. "We've got microwavable sandwiches in the store and other products they'll want," he states.

In the planning stages are possible Pay-per-view events or Monday Night Football pizza parties. The Snack Bar would open on those nights as a "trial run" for further late-night openings.

Stockett is also considering moving a pool table to the Snack Bar.

The image of Glenville State College as the commuter college that empties out every Friday at noon may soon be incinerated, replaced by a rising phoenix of student life that has an outlet.

"I've never seen so many people hanging out," Hutzler comments. "They're doing what college students are supposed to do. Socialize and have fun."

to hang out, man."

Changes go beyond the sheer number of people and their weekend locations. Two new areas of the campus will be open for students to hang out with their friends.

The penthouse of Pickens Hall will be opening soon to cater to the student

most at all times.

Beard spearheaded the latest attempt at 24-hour visitation, a goal students have fought over the last few years. "It's what the students need and want," he explains. They just have to voice their wants to take it in a new direction."

"You need a place

The Mercury

Volume 70 - No. 1

A member of the Associated Press

Annie McCourt - Editor-in-chief/ News Editor

James Arnold - Sports Editor

Cris Gravely - A&E Editor/ Astrologer

Tamara Bennett - Advertising Director

Lisa Belknap - Office Manager/ Ad Design

Terry L. Estep - Production Manager/ Layout

Stephen Metz - Staff Cartoonist

John F. Rote - Advisor

</life> - Internet Euphemism for Death

First Editorial of the Year... Yay!

Hey kiddies! Welcome back to the wonderful campus of Glenville State College. Unless you live so far up a holler that they have to pump sunlight in, you've probably noticed the many changes that have taken place on this campus. For one, the bell tower is up and running again. Isn't it beautiful?

You may have also noticed the new faces taking over administrative positions. We have a new president, a new academic vice-president and a new registrar/director of enrollment management. Ladies and gentleman, roughly translated this means the reign of terror is over at Glenville State College. Maybe this is going to be a great year after all.

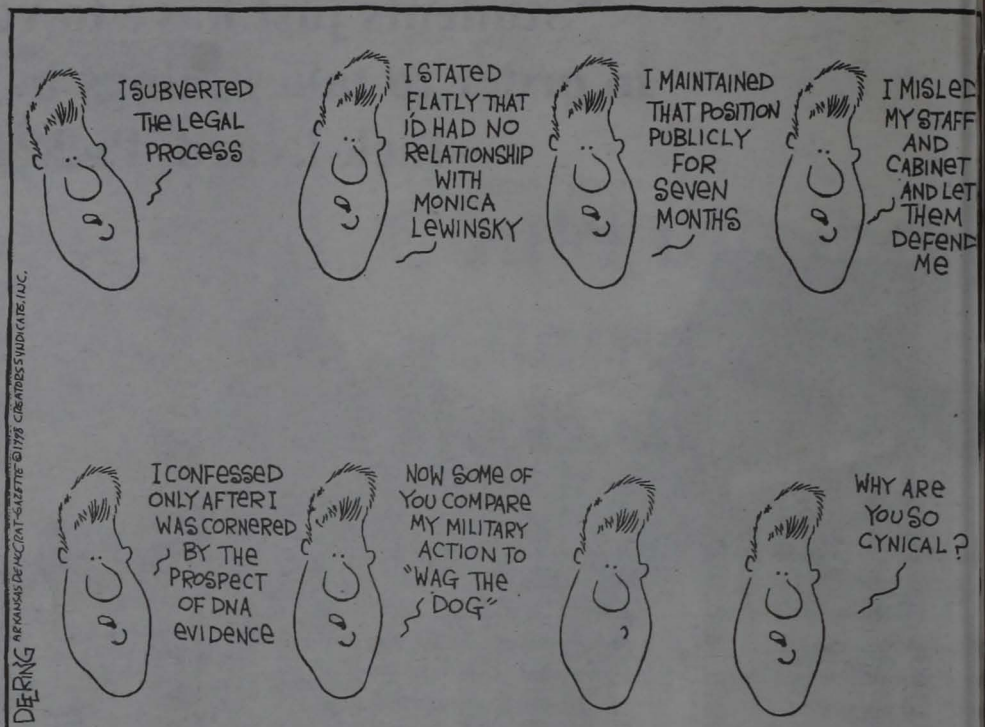
Hey, is anybody else broke as hell out there in happy reader land? If there is, maybe attention should be called to the fact that ex-President Simmons has cost the state at least \$325,000 for denying full professorship to two faculty members. Maybe the reign of terror is not over.

Anyway, those are just a few things that deserved your attention. This tabloid is after all a newspaper. Hopefully you'll notice some changes in **The Mercury** too. Mercury staffers are committed to making this a year to remember.

Remember, **The Mercury** is your newspaper. If you have questions, comments, issues or plain old nasty fetishes that you would like to see discussed in print, drop us a line or stop by the office. Have a great year and remember to brush and floss regularly.



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Diary of a madman

By Chris Hopkins,
Staff Columnist

Since this is my first official work for the Mercury I'd like to take a moment to thank them for recognizing my genius and bright intellect (I've got you fooled already if you believe that).

Through the semester I'll address subjects that affect us as students as well as matters that influence us more importantly as the human beings we sometimes strive to be, and for some of us I know it is an effort to be just that.

I will draw from the time I spent in Raleigh, NC for two months all the way up to the weekend I spent with my step-sister in Cincinnati, OH and the many activities I attended in all locations here and there. I believe that the experiences I had gives me a unique perspective on things such as the comparison of being a West Virginian or North Carolinian.

I hope I can give you something not only to read but to laugh out loud at, smile devilously about, get angry at, or at

the very least to think about after all I'm not doing this for my health or to having something to do even though it is fun to express your opinion in a paper that all your peers read.

With the space I have left in this article I want to tell you a little bit about some personal things that happened this summer to me and family members and then in the next issue I'll try to be more grumpy.

When I left school last year I had an idea of some things I wanted to do and become but needless to say most went undone. I had hoped to come back a little thinner, a little more muscular, and with the combination of the two a little more desirable to the masses of single people on the campus.

As much as we like to kid ourselves on our outer appearance to a lot of us it is who and what we define ourselves as and shallow it maybe but true.

I got trapped in this whole mess this summer for all the wrong or right reasons depending on how you look at. I liked (and still do) this person very,

very much and wanted to make them happy with my appearance and new found attitude but as the summer went on and the realization came to me that I should do all this stuff for me and not for someone else and all else would come in time but to this day I question that decision. If I would've just kept that silly little notion of love in my head maybe I wouldn't have exercised more and been with this person is looking for. There was even days that I would go without eating and do mass amounts of crunches and situps to get the abs that is desired by all us men and the person of my affection.

Not until I saw that it was futile to please people with my appearance but rather my personality did I awaken to the truth of trying to make myself happy and healthy before all others. You only have one lifetime to live and you shouldn't spend it trying to please other people on yourself because if you can love yourself who can love you for you.

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. 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 Terry Estep, photo editor.

101 Uses for a PR campaign

By Molly Ivins,
Syndicated Columnist

AUSTIN, Texas--For a fascinating look at public relations then and now, I recommend comparison of two apparently disparate but superb pieces of work.

The first is an astonishing book about a long-past and most-forgotten agony, "King Leopold's Ghost" by Adam Hochschild, concerning the Holocaust-like destruction of the natives of the Congo between 1890 and 1910 by a hideous system of slave labor. Best estimates are that between 5 million and 10 million people died--murdered, starved, or worked to death--when the entire Congo River basin was the solely owned plantation of one man, King Leopold II of Belgium.

The second piece, in the current issue of Brill's Content, "Making Bill," an examination of the public relations machine that made Bill Gates the head of an entirely different kind of empire. Not that I am in any way comparing Bill Gates to the ruthless and unscrupulous Leopold--the connection lies in the use of public relations. Not only did Leopold use PR in an astonishingly modern way, but the man who almost single-handedly brought an end to the horror in the Congo also used public relations to undermine the king. It's an amazing story.

Most of us who read Joseph Conrad's "Heart of Darkness" remember Mr. Kurtz's last words: "The horror, the horror." The book is now taught as a symbolic work about evil. Actually, it's more like journalism--the horror was

just as real as the policy of chopping off the hands of natives who did not meet their ivory or rubber quotas. With no exaggeration, Conrad called it "the vilest scramble for loot that ever disfigured the history of human conscience." Conrad was a friend and ally of E.D. Morel, the British journalist and reformer who crusaded against Leopold for 20 years. Morel's other great ally was Sir Roger Casement, the Irish patriot who was later hanged as a traitor by the British who had knighted him. A most extraordinary tale.

Leopold went about first stealing an enormous chunk of an entire continent and then exploiting its people--in a way so inhumane that it makes one gasp--by some eerily familiar methods. Posing as an anti-slavery crusader (!), he carefully planted and nurtured the notion that enlightened Europeans must step in to help (!) the Congolese, who were being enslaved by Arab traders. He then hired lobbyists and paid off journalists to get first the United States and then Britain and Germany to recognize the his claim to the Congo River and all the "unoccupied" lands thereof.

Leopold was shrewd enough to put the explorer and journalist Henry Morton Stanley, of "Dr. Livingstone, I presume" fame, on his payroll. He bought influence on three continents, not only through the tried-and-true method of cutting government officials in on his obscene profits but also by controlling the press.

There really is a comical similarity between Leopold's careful wooing of journalists--

he often brought parties of them to his palace and was a master at flattering and steering them--and Bill Gates' methods. According to Content, Gates likewise invites a dozen or so journalists who cover him regularly to stay with him for a few days at his vacation home in Washington, flying them by seaplane. "The off-the-record retreat offers the favored reporters intimate, prolonged exposure to Gates and his ideas," Content reports.

The parallels continue: Gates and Microsoft have an estimated 500 public relations people working for them, and Gates, too, has put journalists on his payroll. And like Leopold, as coverage of his empire has become more critical, Gates has fought back, although Content regards his counteroffensive as counterproductive.

In the bloody and tragic

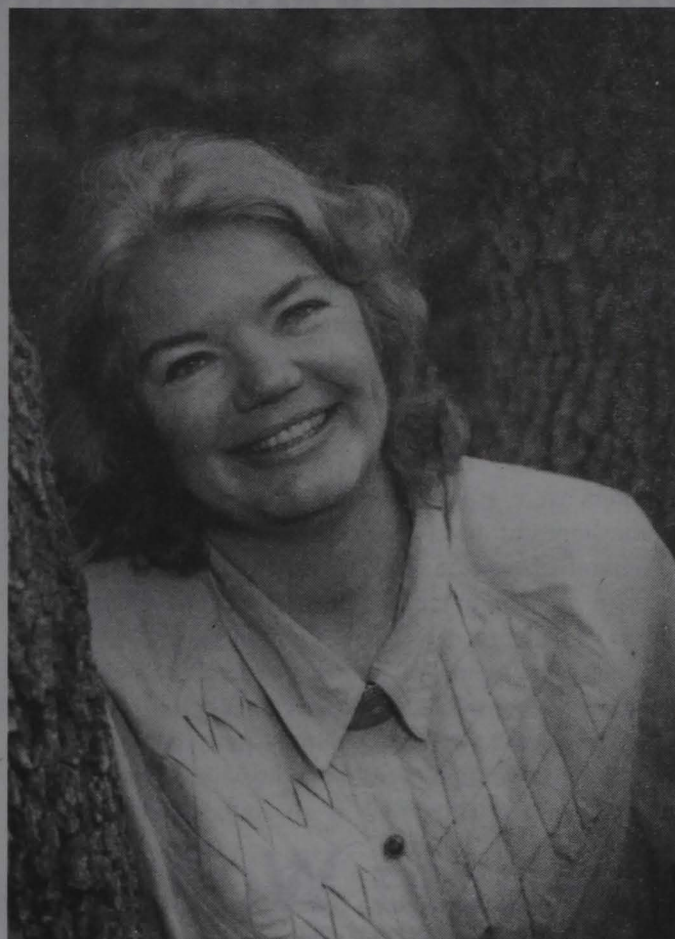
tales of the Congo, at least there is a hero: Morel, who used public relations for a noble purpose, running against what Hochschild says was the first international campaign for human rights. (Obligatory disclaimer: I have known Hochschild slightly for many years.) Morel's greatest weapon was the truth; he not only documented the system of holding the women of a village as hostages until the men fulfilled their rubber quotas, but he also kept careful track of the billions of dollars that Leopold took out of the Congo, sending back only more guns with which to kill the people.

Morel also worked by influencing what we now call "the elites." Mark Twain, himself a brilliant campaigner for human rights in the United States, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in England worked with him.

Morel organized local

Molly Ivins

Molly Ivins is a columnist for the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, where she writes about Texas politics and other bizarre happenings.



Ivins' freelance work has appeared in *Esquire*, *Atlantic*, *The Nation*, *Harper's*, *TV Guide*, and numerous other publications. She also does occasional commentary for National Public Radio and the McNeil/Lehrer program. She served for three years on the National News Council, is active in Amnesty International's Journalism Network and Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press. She writes about press issues for the American Civil Liberties Union and several journalism reviews.

The *Mercury* welcomes her addition to the newspaper.

branches of his Congo Reform Association in Europe and America, persuaded bishops and members of Parliament to appear at his mass rallies (what we would call "using celebrities" for a cause), and tailored his message for different audiences. In another move now used by Gates, Morel used slides at his public lectures; those of maimed natives, sent by missionaries, were particularly effective. Leopold in turn posed as a Roman Catholic victim of the prejudice of Baptist missionaries, brought his own bishops into play and cultivated rich industrialists in all nations. Oh, it was a doozy of a PR battle.

If a moral we must find in this odd twinning of PR campaigns, I suppose it is that PR can be used for good or ill--and journalists now, as then, need to be very careful who they are being used by and for what ends.

THE VIRTUAL LIBRARIAN: Millennium bug blues

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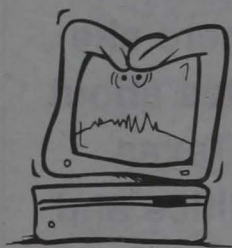
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By Ben Bruton,
Guest Columnist

January 1, 2000: a date which will live in infamy.

No, not because you will have a monster hangover after doing 18 shots of tequila the night before. I'm talking about a computer glitch so big that it threatens to bring the whole Internet crashing to a halt.

Call it the millennium bug. Several decades ago, back when computers were still in the embryonic stages of development, programmers used an annoying form of computer code shorthand to record calendar dates. Instead of typing a four-digit number to represent a given year, like 1962, they would drop the first two digits that signify the century. Thus,

62 would be the code for 1962, and the computer would automatically assume that the date in question was occurring in the 20th century.

Now, flash forward to New Year's Eve, 1999. As you're toasting the new millennium, a strange thing will be happening to computers around the world.

Since most computers still interpret dates using this abbreviated two-digit code, the year 2000 will be recorded as 00, and instead of marking the beginning of a new century, these computers will malfunction and record the new year as, that's right, 1900.

Simply put, your computer won't know what century it's in. It all sounds like a goofy

practical joke, but the implications of this bug are very serious indeed. Any computerized system that relies on dates to function could conceivably crash--everything from an ATM machine to telephone service to--gulp--traffic lights.

Banks stand to suffer the most, as massive data errors in interest rates on mortgages and loans are sure to result from the bug. The federal government will become even slower than it already is, with electronic billing and processing systems on the fritz, and air travel may be delayed indefinitely due to a breakdown in the Air Traffic Control System.

Of course, this is all a worst-case scenario. The fact is, no one really knows for sure

just how bad it could get. Correcting the problem is not difficult, but since so many different kinds of computer systems and programming languages are affected by the glitch, programmers have their hands full trying to modify all of the software.

More than likely, I predict things won't be too radically affected by the millennium bug. Yes, the government and free enterprise will slow down from a creep to a crawl, but is that really such a shock? Has the American bureaucratic system ever been anything other than slow and inefficient? I don't think so.

Let's look at the bright side: the IRS is expected to get hit the hardest.

Ask the Particle Woman: "The Planet Jupiter"

By B. J. Woods,
Staff Columnist

Jupiter is our solar system's largest planet. It is 318 times the size of Earth. But what makes this planet so distinct, is the fact that it is a "Gas Planet."

Jupiter is made up of 90% hydrogen and 10% helium. It also has traces of ammonia, water, and methane. Jupiter is not the only planet in our solar system with this type of composition. Saturn's composition is similar to that of Jupiter's.

Uranus and Neptune have much less hydrogen and helium than that in Jupiter's composition.

We don't know for sure, but we suspect that the interior of the core is made of a type of rocky material. Above the core is the main bulk of the planet.

This is a liquid metallic hydrogen. The liquid metallic hydrogen consists of ion-

ized protons and electrons. The temperature and pressure of Jupiter's interior makes this a liquid instead of a gas. The outermost layer is made up of everyday molecular hydrogen and helium. It starts out as a liquid near the liquid metallic hydrogen and gradually gets into the gas phase further out.

NASA has been very interested in Jupiter and that is clear as they have sent Pioneer 10, Pioneer 11, Voyager 1, Voyager 2, and Ulysses into its orbit.

Galileo, a spacecraft, is currently in Jupiter's orbit. It is sending back information to Earth on various scientific data collections. It will continue to send back this type of information for the next two years.

Galileo has uncovered many interesting and unique characteristics about Jupiter. The atmospheric probe has indicated that there is much

less water than what scientists had expected to find. There had been a hypothesis that there was much oxygen in Jupiter's atmosphere. This was in comparison to that of the atmosphere of the sun. Scientists were also very surprised of the extremely high temperatures in the outermost levels of Jupiter's atmosphere.

Galileo's atmospheric probe also discovered a new intense radiation belt located in between Jupiter's ring and the outermost atmospheric layer. This new belt was found to have a high energy content of helium ions of an unknown origin.

More on Jupiter in upcoming articles of the PARTICLE LADY. To send any questions that you would like the Particle Lady to answer.

Write to Particle Lady, at gsc01293@mail.wvnet.edu. Thanks and good voyaging along the scientific trails.

Mathematician solves 400-year-old riddle

Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Michigan --A U.S. mathematician has spent 10 years and three gigabytes of computer space figuring out what every 17-year-old grocery clerk already knows: The best way to stack fruit is in a pyramid.

Thomas Hales, a professor at University of Michigan, used computers and an equation with 150 variables to conclude that when stacking spherical objects, the fruit-stand arrangement is the most efficient use of space.

Stacking spherical objects directly on top of one another in a cubic configuration uses just over half of the cube's space. Stacking them in a pyramid, with the objects rest-

ing off-center in the cracks between spheres, fills 74 percent of the overall space.

"The problem seemed simple to me," said Hales, 40. "But the more I studied the problem, the more I saw the complexities."

Of course, oranges and grapefruits are stacked in pyramids in the grocery store not because it's an efficient use of space, but because it keeps them from rolling onto the floor.

For about 400 years mathematicians have been trying to figure out the most efficient way to pack spheres.

But testing all the different possible combinations of stacking has been beyond pencil-and-paper approaches. Hales' finished proof runs to 250 pages.

Byte Me

Guide to New York City's
Public Rest Rooms

www.nycnet.com/toilets

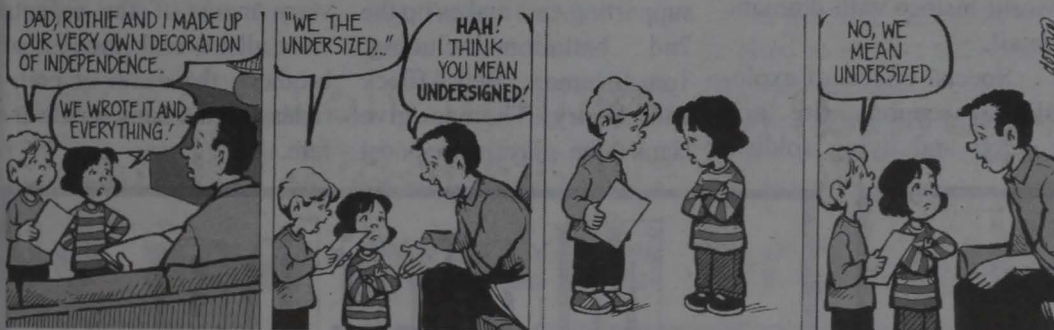
LIBERTY MEADOWS by Frank Chow



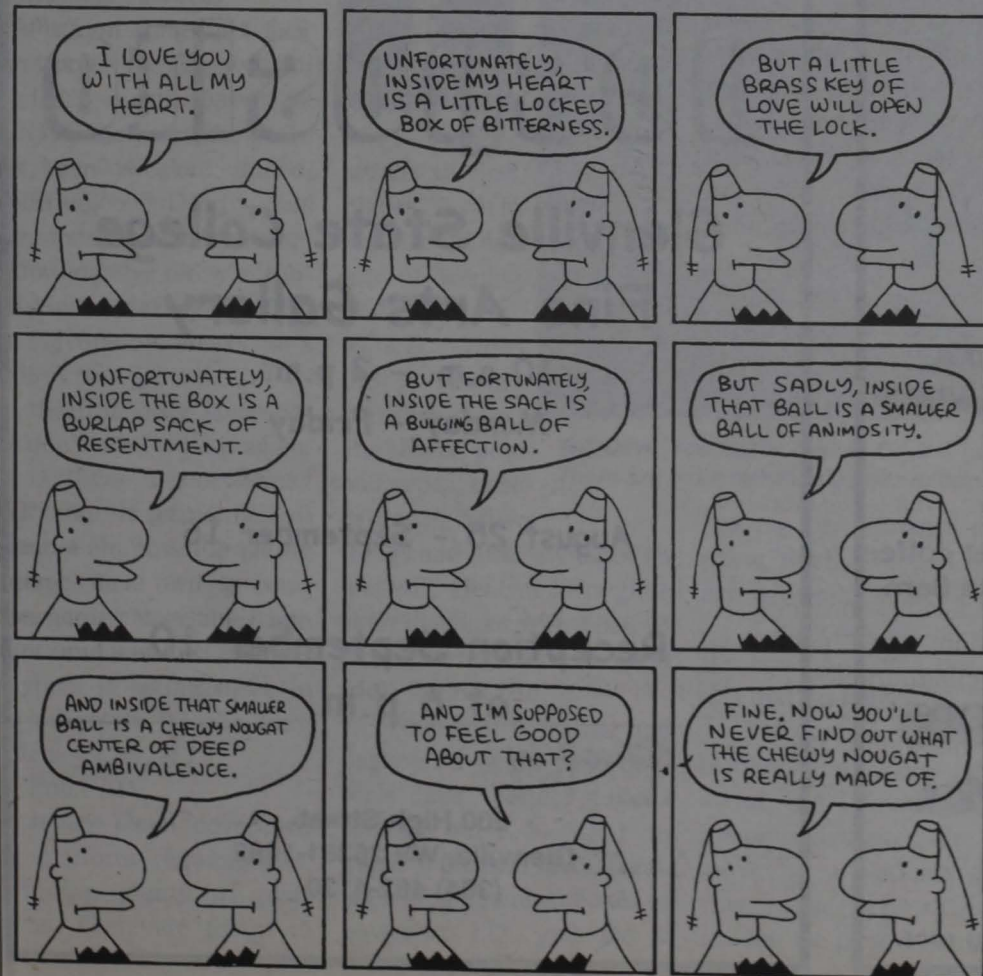
KUDZU by Doug Marlette



ONEBIG HAPPY by Rick Detorie



LIFE IN HELL by Matt Groening



Mistress Anna's Predictions

ARIES: (March 21 - April 20) - There is a touchy family matter which will resurface, since it has never quite been resolved - so the less said, the better. As your week gets under way, you are right on target with your well directed energies and initiative. All efforts will be noticed.

TAURUS: (April 21 - May 21) - Getting organized as early in the week as possible will assure successful results either in business or your personal life. There are various complications which show the need for a new approach to a current problem with a mate or a close associate.

GEMINI: (May 22 - June 21) - Whether single and eligible, or married, you may discover that dreams really do come true in the love-and-marriage arena. Pursuing your heart's desires in a no-nonsense way keeps others on their toes, and can strengthen important ties.

CANCER: (June 22 - July 23) - Fantastic trends should enable you to get more mileage out of your efforts by simply following your instincts. Both romance and financial gains are favored. Be prepared to cope with a sudden and unexpected development regarding a partnership; it will pass.

LEO: (July 24 - August 23) - Tread gently on the sensitive feelings of a mate or lover, comments may result in a fiery overreaction, so guard your manner and speech. Although you may be in the mood to have things go your own way, it's not time to insist on it - back off a bit.

VIRGO: (August 24 - September 23) - Give your best efforts to your job and health interests. Don't let others sidetrack you or go overboard about any private matters. The time is right to follow through on any financial dealings.

LIBRA: (September 24 - October 23) - Behind the scenes manipulations may be the key to getting ahead now where business and career aims are concerned. Be attentive to those to whom you mean alot; this may be more welcome than you think. Both creativity and romance are high.

SCORPIO: (October 24 - November 22) - The work ethic is strong in you this week and you may feel compelled to take on a sizable project, or new self-improvement program. An on-the-job problem may also be a worry, but the prognosis will be good. Extra effort now will pay off.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 23 - December 21) - This will be one of your better weeks on which relationships, financial interests, home and health matters all seem to be going smoothly. It is a gratifying time of personal accomplishment, for people around you seem to be receptive to your practical ideas.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 - January 20) - It's definitely a working week, and you may be tied down to chores or routine tasks while others seem to be having the time of their lives. Follow through on a project which you have been mulling over for some time.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 - February 19) - Your financial prospects look relatively good right now, although you may be on the brink of some large expenditure that will possibly change that monetary cushion swiftly. You may have to put in extra effort at work, with little to no thanks.

PISCES: (February 20 - March 20) - The week will begin with encouragement from your mate or lover who are sympathetic to your ideas. The way you manage your financial affairs is the focus of an argument between you and a family member.

Saving Private Ryan moving film with power

By Brent Wood,
Staff Columnist

This week I witnessed an incredible masterpiece of cinema. *Saving Private Ryan*, starring Tom Hanks and produced and directed by Stephen Spielberg, is sure to be a classic.

The premise of this film is the search for World War Two Private James Francis Ryan, a paratrooper in the United States Airborne. Private Ryan (Matt Damon) has been sent deep into Normandy during the D-Day invasion of Europe, June 6th 1944.

Tom Hanks plays

Captain Miller leader of the Rangers 2nd Bravo Battalion. The film begins with the actual invasion of a European beach. After a life-and-death battle to take the beachhead, the eight remaining members of the company are given a more daunting mission: Private Ryan has lost his three brothers in the first few months of the war and--being the only one left--has a ticket home to his mother.

The eight men of the 2nd Bravo Battalion search the Normandy countryside being held the Germans. It's a bloody trek to find Ryan.

There is very little wrong with this film, except for a few discrepancies and the violent realism of war. From the first thirty minutes of the D-Day invasion to the final fierce battle in the ruined Normandy town. Spielberg has recreated a horrific time in world history with dramatic detail.

Special effects of explosions, weapons fire and injured and dying soldiers



GUESS WHO'S GETTING AN OSCAR? - *Saving Private Ryan* is the years' best film. Starring Tom Hanks, Matt Damon, and Ed Burns.

are sure to be nominated for Academy Awards. A great supporting cast makes up the 2nd battalion--including, Tom Sizemore, Ben Affleck and Henry Thomas--give Hanks the players to boost

his command performance. While this was not a true story many of the aspects were all too real: the loss of brothers, the death of comrades and the danger of warfare.

8am.

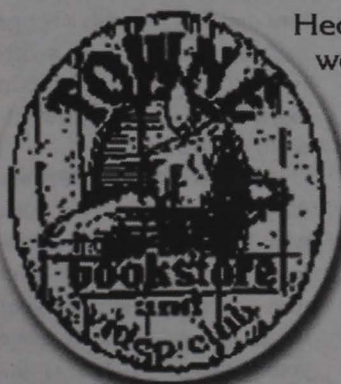


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Wag the Dog rentals heat up

Associated Press

TORONTO--**Wag The Dog**, the movie about a spin doctor who saves a presidency from a sex scandal by distracting the public with a fake war, has a new lease on life across North America.

The movie, released in February, came out on video in June. Turnover would normally be tailing off by now but video stores say weekend rentals are up dramatically.

Last Thursday, U.S. President Bill Clinton ordered missile attacks against targets in Afghanistan and the Sudan three days after confessing to an affair with White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

Rogers Video head office in Vancouver has recorded an 11 per cent growth in Canadian rentals of the



NEW LINE CINEMA

The President is in trouble... let's go to war! Barry Levinson's political satire has gained new life with Clinton's confession of impropriety with Monica Lewinsky.

movie since the attacks.

At the Blockbuster Video headquarters in Dallas, spokeswoman Stephanie Cota reported a "significant increase" in continent-wide rentals.

Unlike the president in the movie, Clinton is not seeking re-election. But the Afghanistan action brought to

mind **Wag The Dog's** faked conflict with Albania, manufactured by a Hollywood producer and swallowed whole by the media.

In the film the producer is hired to distract attention from allegations the president has molested a member of a Girl-Scout-like troupe on a White House tour.

Three-part *Lord of the Rings* to be filmed in New Zealand

Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand -- The volcanic mountains and glaciers of New Zealand will be used to portray the Middle Earth of J.R.R. Tolkien's fantasy classic **Lord of the Rings** in a trilogy of films director Peter Jackson.

Jackson said shooting will begin next year on the first of a three-film, \$130 million project for New Line Cinema.

"I'm a huge admirer of the books and think it could make a great sequence of movies," Jackson said. "Somewhere over the next two years I've got to find those great movies and shoot them."

Jackson, whose previous films include the Oscar-nominated **Heavenly Creatures** and **The Frighteners**, made in New Zealand with Hollywood money, said prin-

cipal photography would take about a year, with 18 months set aside for postproduction.

The first film, **The Fellowship Of The Ring**, is due for release around Christmas 2000. The sequels, **The Two Towers** and **The Return Of The King**, six and 12 months afterwards.

Published in 1954-55, **The Lord of the Rings** is an epic saga of a battle between good and evil Halflings, elves, wizards, dwarves and men battle to preserve the land from the dark lord Sauron and his armies of orcs, goblins and wolves.

Jackson said new software has been developed to bring Tolkien's characters to life. "With computers, we've arrived at a time when anything you can imagine can be put on to film," he said.

No new ground broken in *Jersey Devil*

By William Schiffmann, Associated Press

Platform games got their start when Nintendo gave birth to a little guy called Mario.

Over the years, the genre has been tweaked, tuned, modified, 3-D'ed and anthropomorphized to death. Unfortunately, today's subject, Sony's **Jersey Devil** for the PlayStation, breaks not a whit of new ground.

Seen it, done it, probably don't need to do it again.

Is there a story line? Well, sure. It seems the evil scientist Dr. Knarf is taking hostages and turning common garden vegetables into killer mutants--and all this mayhem is taking place in the otherwise bucolic burg of Jersey City, N.J.

Enter J.D.

Jersey Devil covers all the platform requirements, including plenty of platforms. There are things to collect, a variety of enemies

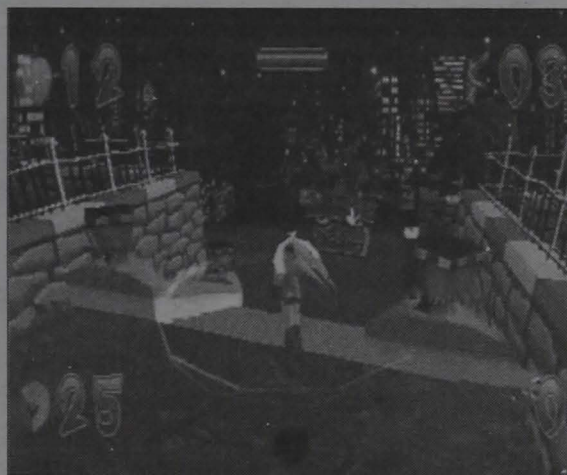
Rated
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For Everyone

to clobber, secrets to find, places to explore and lots of leaping to do.

J.D. does the normal platform stunts.

He climbs poles and ropes, pushes items, throws things and turns switches on and off. He can also glide short distances with a pair of stubby wings--not a great trick, but not bad.

Your goal is to find and destroy all of the mad doctor's labs, collect tokens spelling out K-N-A-R-F to move to the next level, break open all green nitro boxes to power up J.D., grab the K token by defeating area



THE DEVIL YOU KNOW--*Jersey Devil* is hampered by poor control, but the most damning is the lack of innovation. There are more tempting games to buy for your Sony Playstation.

bosses, free hostages and--pew, finally!--defeat Knarf and wipe out his secret lab.

A busy day for anybody. It's how the game does all this that's a bother.

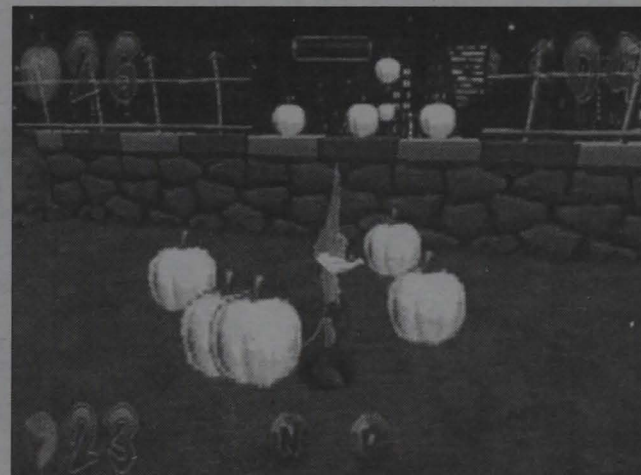
The controls are at times troublesome. They aren't awful, but I found judging jumping distances--the key move for a platform game was often very difficult, leaving the poor critter tumbling to a devilish death.

Judging distance for attacks is also treacherous, with plenty of tail-flailing and punchless punches while you get bonked. The camera is annoying, with a wandering angle and no way to look up or down, where goodies often are hiding. And J.D.'s moves are pretty limited.

On the other hand, the full motion video cutaways

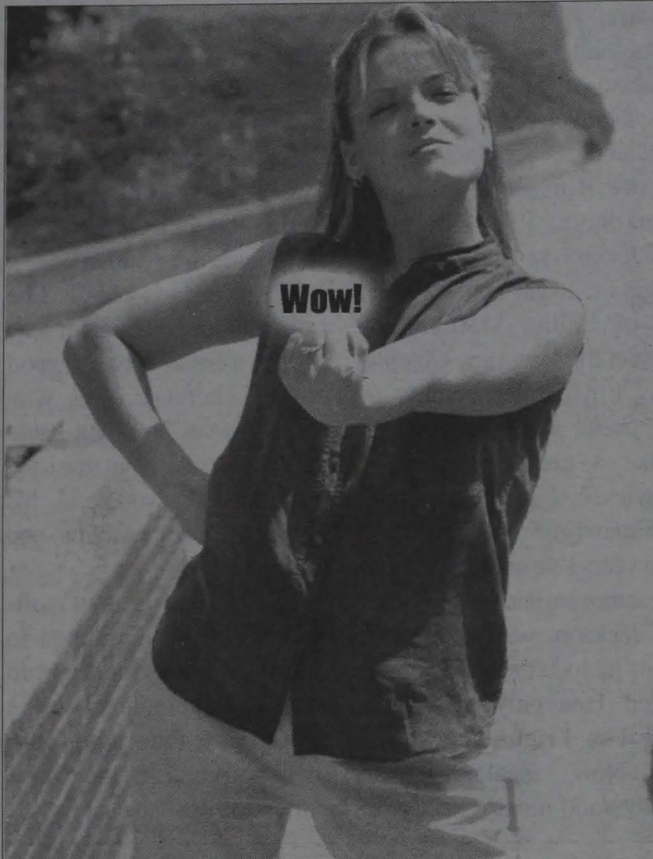
are fun to watch, the 3-D graphics are crisp, spare and amusing and the sound is solid and unobtrusive.

The real sad news for **Jersey Devil** is that there are any number of better platformers available for the PlayStation now or in the pipeline--**Crash Bandicoot** leaps to mind, or **Spyro the Dragon**. **Jersey Devil** isn't a bad game. It just isn't good enough.



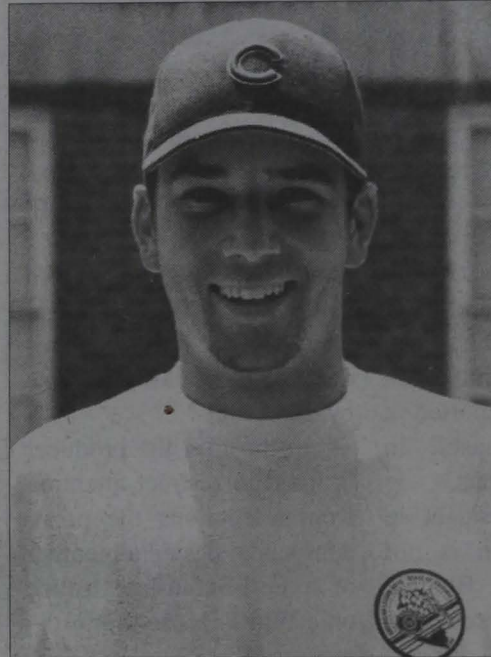
Push my buttons, fanboy!

We asked several people: "If you were an action figure, what would your name be and what would you do when someone pushed the button on your back?"



Name: Katrina Hamrick
Codename: "Super Bitch"

Action: "I would let out a rude display of vulgar language, including facial and body gestures. Because of my innocent appearance, it would scare off evil-doers."



Name: Matthew Lemn
Codename: "Stud Boy"

Action: "I would strike the Heisman pose."



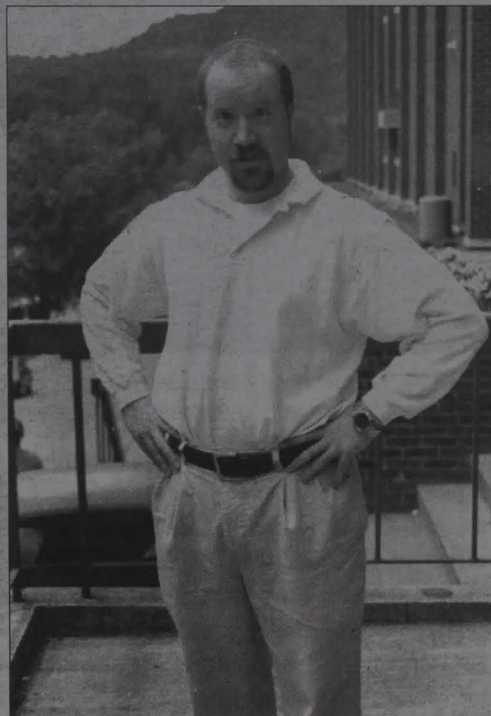
Name: Misty Lei Tomblin
Codename: "Mighty Misty"

Action: "When you push my button, I explode into a million mercury pieces but fuse back together after spraying my enemy with poisonous gas."



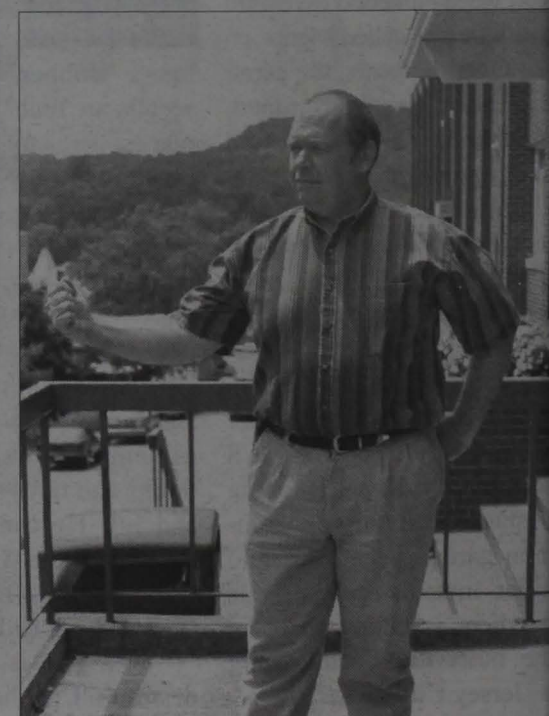
Name: Gayle Burkowski
Codename: "Negotiator Woman"

Action: "My hands fly out in a 'why me?' gesture."



Name: Eric Poirier
Codename: "Karaoke Man"

Action: "I would come to the aid of unsuspecting victims and sing 'Love Shack.'"



Name: Dennis Wemm
Codename: "Drama Don"

Action: "I would fall down."

No action figures were harmed. If you see any of these people running around in tights--especially Eric--try not to let on that you know their secret identities. --Terry