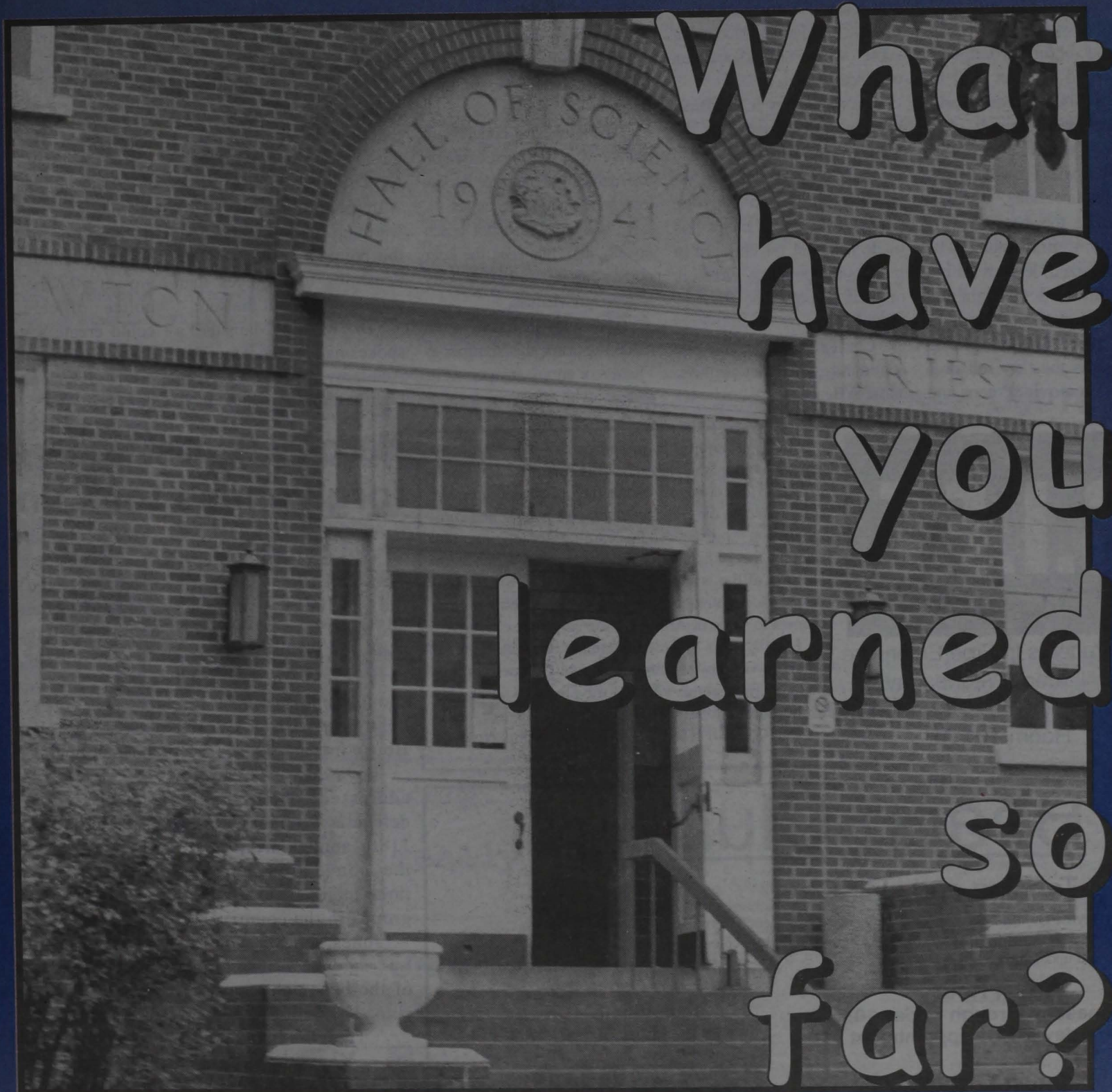


The Mercury



What
have
you
learned
so
far?

Communities rush to stamp out annoying new fad: laser pointers

By Nichole Ziegler Dizon,
Associated Press

CHICAGO RIDGE, Ill. --Blame it on Luke Skywalker's famous sword or the '80s game of high-tech tag, but kids have a longtime love affair with lasers.

So it was only a matter of time before youngsters discovered a secret kept for years by the business world: handheld laser pointers.

The pointers, once seen only in boardrooms and college lecture halls, are fast becoming the hot new toy for young pranksters. The lipstick-sized devices emit a concentrated dot of light that can hit a mark up to hundreds of feet away.

But as the tiny red dots appear on movie screens and

body parts across the country, some communities are working to stamp out the annoying fad.

"It's become a big nuisance. It's annoying with them flashing this around on people," said Eugene Siegel, mayor of Chicago Ridge, a blue-collar suburb about 15 miles southwest of Chicago.

Prompted by complaints from security guards at the local mall, Chicago Ridge recently banned the sale of laser pointers to anyone younger than 18. The city also made it illegal for children to possess the pointers. Violators or their parents face fines of up to \$750.

Chicago Ridge isn't the first community to restrict pointers. Virginia Beach, Va., Westchester

County, N.Y., and Ocean City, Md., all have made it a crime to misuse the lasers. Some school boards also have banned them, and a fan was ejected from a New Jersey Nets game last winter for trying to distract a player with one of the dancing red dots.

So when did laser pointers turn from corporate boon to public bane? When they became affordable.

The lasers cost hundreds of dollars when they first came on the market, but the price is now less than \$25 in many stores.

"If there was a hot beach novelty item this year, the laser pointer was it," said Ocean City Mayor Jim Mathias.

The coastal resort town made it a crime this summer to "harass or annoy any person or animal" with a laser pointer after

police officers and bus drivers complained that tourists were using lasers to distract them.

Mathias saw just how popular the pointers had become a few weeks ago, when television crews asked for his thoughts on Hurricane Bonnie. Three or four of the telling red dots appeared on his chest during the interviews.

Besides the annoyance, some health experts worry that the pointers pose a danger to children's eyesight.

The Food and Drug Administration issued a warning last December that the pointers could be more damaging to the eyes than staring directly at the sun.

Dr. Martin Mainster, a spokesman for the American Academy of Ophthalmology, said it is

possible to damage the retina by looking directly into a laser beam. However, he said he is not aware of any documented reports of eye damage from a pointer.

Suzie Kavar, who works in a jewelry booth at Chicago Ridge Mall, does not understand all the fuss. She said lasers are popular with her friends and seem generally harmless.

"If little kids want to use them, I don't see a problem with it," said Kavar, 18.

But even if laser pointers are safe for the eyes, some police officers say they could create a more dangerous situation if mistaken for laser sights produced

National Baptist leader urges forgiveness for Clinton

Associated Press

GREENVILLE, S.C.--The spiritual leader of the 4.5 million member National Baptist Convention of America says President Clinton should be forgiven for his behavior with a White House intern.

E. Edward Jones addressed about 6,000 delegates Thursday at the 118th annual meeting of the convention, one of three major black Baptist groups in the country.

Jones, of Shreveport, La., said he's suspicious of the behavior of prosecutor Kenneth Starr.

"The cloud surrounding Kenneth Starr's investigation is hazy to me," he said.

Not many people could survive such

scrutiny, he said.

"If Congress was scrutinized like the president, the seats in Congress would be empty and could not be filled by any of us," Jones said.

But Jones said he is not concerned about Starr's apparent findings.

"If the reports are accurate, the president has committed a sin," Jones said. "When the Lord will forgive us, but we must pay the consequences."

Jones said Clinton should focus on governing, with the Lord as a guide.

"We have forgiven this president," Jones said. "We have to pray for the country, I tell you. This country is not without sin."

S.I.F.E.

Students In Free Enterprise
will meet Wednesday,
September 23, at 12 noon at
Room 101 AB.

SIFE, a nonprofit organization, helps students achieve their dreams through a free enterprise education. SIFE provides college students the opportunity to make a difference, to develop leadership, teamwork, and communication skills through learning, practicing, and teaching the principles of free enterprise. Upon completion of the academic year's activities, SIFE teams present their outreach programs in a competitive environment to some of America's top corporate executives.

Locally, the GSC SIFE team brought regional honors to GSC by winning Regional Competition last spring in Richmond, VA, and traveled to Kansas City for the International Exposition during May.

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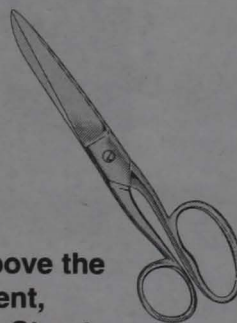
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Jobs impact debated on Welfare changes Ban to mountaintop mining criticized

Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.V. -- Environmentalists are examining the economics driving mountaintop removal, recording their efforts to stem strip mining practice. "It will go nowhere if we can't counter industry claims of job losses."

It's always difficult to get the Legislature over environmental issues because it tends to be overruled into a jobs issue," Wendy Radcliffe, for-state environmental leader.

One of the 90 environmentalists who attended a week-long conference in Beverly, West Virginia, say a moratorium on mountaintop removal

would give coal company officials a chance to prove that the mining sites do not damage streams with fill.

"We are at a point in environmental history where we can take on coal and make some significant changes," said Norm Steenstra, a board member of the Environmental Council.

But others say there may be a need to permit the practice to some extent.

"A ban on valley fills can be interpreted as shutting down mining in West Virginia," said Perry McDaniel, a past president of the council.

Michael Miano, director of the state Division of Environmental Protection, said such a move would not work.

"A moratorium is not the

solution," he said.

A ban would be effective if mountaintop mining immediately harmed the environment or endangered West Virginians, he said.

Mountaintop removal entails blasting the tops off mountains to expose massive seams of coal. The unused rock and earth often are dumped into valleys and bury streams.

David Todd, spokesman for Arch Coal, said a halt in mountaintop removal permits would cost jobs.

State and federal officials are reviewing a permit to expand the company's Dalton mine in Boone County.

A permit is required to continue operating the mine, which employs 350 workers.

Associated Press

MORGANTOWN, W.V. -- State welfare officials are defending a policy that counts Social Security benefits as income when determining welfare eligibility, effectively moving more people off public assistance.

Advocates for the poor have criticized the decision, saying the new policy punishes families with disabled children. But change is unlikely.

"The department did not take the decision ... lightly," Sharon Paterno, director of the Office of Family Support, told lawmakers Monday.

Reverting to the old policy and restoring benefits to 6,317 households would cost the state \$16 million, she said.

That would raise the state's cash assistance caseload by 50 percent and increase the likelihood that West Virginia will not meet its goals for reducing the welfare rolls, Paterno said.

Failure to meet specified federal cuts in the program could result in a fiscal penalty of \$5.5 million a year.

Only West Virginia, Idaho and Wisconsin count Social Security benefits as income when determining welfare eligibility. Federal law permits the practice.

If West Virginia does not count Supplemental Security Income, it cannot fairly count other sources such as pensions, child support, alimony and military benefits, Paterno said.

**Writers
are
a
curious
breed.**

**Time to share
your pedigree.**

The Trillium--Glennville State College's literary magazine--is now accepting submissions for the Spring issue. If you have short stories, plays, poems, screenplays, photos or drawings (all that creative stuff), submit copies to Prof. Gayle Burkowski in the Language Division or Terry Estep at the Mercury office.

Woof.

Your mother was wrong.

**Some things in life really
are free.**

Now it may be hard for some of you to accept, but mothers do make mistakes. Especially when they say nothing is free. Take United's free student check program for example. You can write as many checks as you want with no minimum balance requirement and no monthly fee. Plus, with our Automatic Check Safekeeping program, we'll even maintain a file of your canceled checks so you never have to worry about losing your records. All this and an ATM card. Life is too good for words.

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Homecoming Banner Contest

The contest is open to all organizations, groups, or residence hall floors on campus. In order to participate, you must fill out and return the participation form below and send it to the Office of Student Services by Thursday, October 15, 1998 by 12 noon. This is also the deadline to have your completed banner approved in the Office of Student Services and hanging in its place.

The rules for the contest are:

1. Sheets or lightweight canvas are recommended backgrounds. Waterproof ink or paint is advisable to prevent damage from possible rain.
2. Banners should reflect the theme of Homecoming: Hawaiian Luau 1998.
3. The completed entry form must be turned in at the time the completed banner is approved.
4. Banners must be safely displayed on campus at one of the following locations: Heflin Center, Science Hall, Administration Building, PE Building, Clark Hall, Library, Pickens Hall, LBH, or the Fine Arts Building. In case of rain, banners must be hung from the bleachers in the PE Building by 12 noon for judging and taken down by 4pm that evening.
5. To qualify for the contest, banners must be carried in the parade Saturday, October 17 at 10am. they may afterward be taken to the field for display on the fence at the far end of the field, opposite the scoreboard.
6. Judging will be based on: originality, theme, and overall appearance.
7. Judging will occur on Thursday, October 15, afternoon. Winning banners will be announced either at the pre-game or half-time ceremonies during the Homecoming Game, October 17.
8. Winners will be awarded: \$50 for first place, \$25 for second, and \$15 for third.

Organization: _____

Title of Banner: _____

Display Location: _____

What would you like to have announced about your banner during the parade?

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Pumphrey out to make a name for himself

By BJ Woods,
Staff Reporter

Professor Pumphrey is the new adjunct professor in Biology Lab. He is not only teaching a Biology Lab, but also a Botany Lab.

Professor Pumphrey is married with no children. He began his career at GSC in the Fall of 1993. He graduated from GSC in December 1997 with a B.S. in Biology and a B.A. in Chemistry. He is looking towards joining West Virginia University in 1999, where plans to pursue a Masters Degree in either Biology or Botany.

Pumphrey thinks that the greatest change in

GSC since he has been here has been the advancement of the computer systems. His one wish for GSC is that some rich benefactor would leave the college a huge amount of money that all divisions would have an unlimited funding at their disposal.

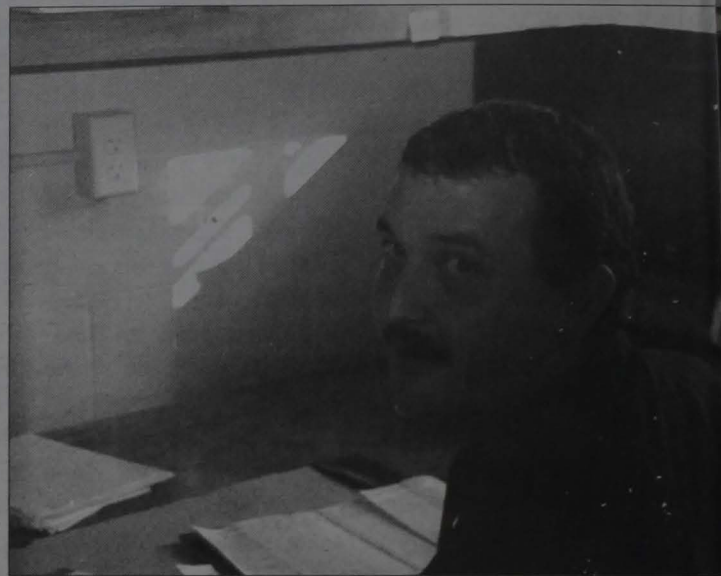
He also hopes that in this fall and spring semester he can get the students to start thinking less of themselves and more of the world around him.

The curriculum is to promote a more global view and to show the students that their actions not only effect them and the immediate area, but the whole world.

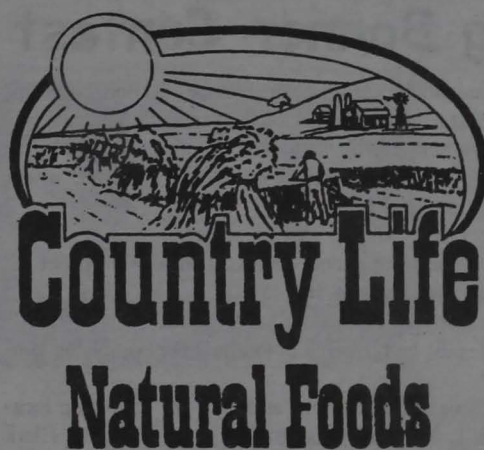
NEW KID ON THE BLOCK.
Robert Pumphrey is the new adjunct professor in the science hall. (BJ Woods, Mercury)

His one wish for the math and science division is that students graduating from GSC will have no obstacles attending graduate school or any other professional school of their choice.

Professor Pumphrey is a definite asset to the Math and Science Division. His personality shines along with his rapport with the students.



He is trying something new with the students this year with labs being taught about the ozone and acid rain. Professor Pumphrey is out to make a name for himself as a professor who cares not of the students, but enough to get the students to think of the world around them.



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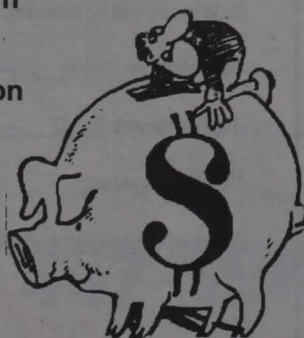
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Computer Lab Hours

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	TOTAL
1	2:00 - 10:00	12:15 - 2:25 4:00 - 10:00	11:00 - 2:25 4:00 - 10:00	12:00 - 10:00	11:00 - 2:25 4:00 - 10:00	12:15 - 4:00	45
2	Closed	8:00 - 4:00	8:00 - 4:00	8:00 - 4:00	8:00 - 4:00	8:00 - 4:00	40
3	Closed	1:00 - 5:00	8:00 - 9:30 2:00 - 5:00	1:00 - 5:00	8:00 - 9:30 2:00 - 5:00	1:00 - 3:00	19
	8 hrs.	20.25 hrs.	22 hrs.	22 hrs.	22 hrs.	13.75 hrs.	108

1) Ernest Smith Lab (basement of the
Administration Building) - 27 PCs

2) Teacher Education (Clark Hall) - 20 PCs

3) Office Simulation (Basement of LBH Academic
Complex) - 16 PCs



Does not compute...

Pickens Hall computer lab to open soon

By Ann Williams,
Staff Reporter

Are you tired of trying to find a computer to type your paper on? Are you sick of trying to fit your schedule with that of the computer already on campus? Then, getting your paper typed on time will get a whole lot easier.

A computer lab has been installed off the Main Lounge in Pickens Hall. Ten computers have been set up, but must be upgraded before they are available to GSC students. Some pieces are still needed before the upgrade can happen. When these pieces are brought in



and installed, then the computer lab can open.

The computers will feature WordPerfect 8.0 software and will be compatible with computers in labs

across campus.

Pickens Hall house Director Eric Poirier added that, "There will be no printers available in the beginning."

Not to worry, because a



WHERE'S THE "ON" SWITCH? - The Pickens Hall computer lab still needs upgrades before it can be opened for student use. (Sherrie Hardman, Mercury)

paper that is typed in the dorms can be printed on the other printers at GSC.

"It will make it a lot more convenient for students," Poirier explains,

"since they can do their work in the residence hall, and then print it out in the computer labs."

The computer lab's opening date is not known.

Andy Burns 98-99 Freshmen Rep

By Ann Williams,
Staff Reporter

In a general election the freshman class chose Andy Burns as the 1998-99 Freshman Representative. The election usually takes place during freshman orientation.

Freshman Representatives handle decisions concerning Homecoming Float,

including design, materials used, and transport.

The election was coordinated by Student Congress. Student Congress President, James Arnold replied, "Eighty-six votes were cast, which is a good turnout. There were four people for the position, and Andy won."



Tree of Life Synagogue

"It is a tree of life to those who grasp it..."

We would like to extend an invitation to any Jewish members of the student body and faculty to join us for religious services during the High Holy Day period and throughout the year.

**Services conducted by
Rabbi Noach Shapiro**

For more information,
contact Donald Berman
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Movie and CD Sale

I've got a lot of previously-viewed movies to sell, as well as CD's and cassettes.

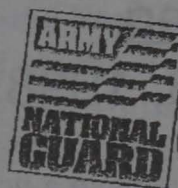
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Groundour presentation explains scientific research inner workings

By BJ Woods,
Staff Reporter

The American Chemical Society hosted a presentation given by Dr. Richard Grandour. Grandour, a native of Sistersville, WV, has ties to West Virginia and especially to Glenville. Dr. Joe Evans, Vice-President of Academic Affairs, son Kevin has worked with Dr. Grandour.

The presentation was entitled, "Proximity Effects in Chemistry." Grandour talked of the research Kevin Evans did while at University of Louisiana, which entailed working with benzene rings and getting the correct elements attached to them, to find out why they are held in such close proximity of each other without ever attaching.

This was being done to compare the syn and anti of various molecules, since this had to do with orientation. Some of this research entitled taking of the

THEY BLINDED ME WITH SCIENCE. Grandour (pictured at right with Dr. Armour) and his research were the focus of "Proximity Effects in Chemistry," a presentation for the American Chemical Society (BJ Woods, Mercury)

methyl-oxy group and adding a tether to the molecule. This only worked part way as the triple bond that was formed was very reactive. It was after this discovery that they decided to switch from using the oxygen group to the more stable nitrogen group. The research group then used a reduction method to get an amine. This research was never fully completed. In fact, Kevin continues to work on this research.

The second part of the presentation was about a gentleman at Virginia Tech who is working with Buttress Toluenes. He is taking a closer look at the crowded halides on the



group. He is wanting to make a molecular switch. He is hoping to find a way to get a strong reaction but not a covalent bonding between the molecules.

One of the big problems that he is facing is that these molecules, don't wish to interact. He is working

on substituting other groups on in the place of the place of the oxide group. He was able to get two spots on the NMR. He got a green on and a blue spot. He was able to get crystals from the green material. He is still working on getting crystals on

the blue material.

Grandour gave a very informative presentation some of the research that and his graduate students have been doing. He showed that sometimes research takes many years and then it never gets completed.

50-50 Drawing

Chi Beta Phi Members
will be selling
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Drawing
October 13, 1998

See any member to purchase a ticket.

Good luck!

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KAREN OSTROM
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MEGHAN WOOD

ABRAHAM LUBELSKI GALLERY 473 BROADWAY, NYC, 7th FL., TUES-SAT., 10-6

umpshots: Sports News

By James Arnold,
Staff Columnist

Ah, the sports world. There a lot of great things going on figured I talk about a few of favorites. Goldberg and stling. Baseballs Big nder with McGwire and a, and Rookie of the Year dy Moss.

WRESTLING. Goldberg, dberg, Goldberg!!! That the chant coming from my n last Monday night. The W World Heavyweight mpion, Bill Goldberg was ing his belt on the line nt Sting, a great wrestler in own right.

Sting met Goldberg early year and was defeated easi- y the undefeated giant. This e was quite different. Sting a plan, he used his cat-like kness and agility to tire the

big champion. Though Goldberg wasn't as quick as Sting, he made up for that with brute strength. In fact a loud cry went up from my "Nitro wrestling party" when Goldberg stood straight up after a huge maneuver put on him by Sting.

The match went back and forth until Sting looked as if he was going to hand the undefeated champion his first loss. Sting used his patented move, the "Scorpion Death Lock". Just when the submission moved was about to be locked, the aging Hollywood Hulk Hogan interfered. He kicked Sting off Goldberg without the referee seeing it. Goldberg jumped up and "speared" Sting, and ended the match with a huge "jackhammer"

on the challenger.

Goldberg wins again. The thing that bothers me is that the senior citizen Hogan had to interfere. I believe Goldberg would have won, but we'll never know for sure. Sting fought a great fight but I think Goldberg would have added to his number of wins. Damn you Hogan, now there will be a large asterisk next to this win for Goldberg.

The champion meets Diamond Dallas Page (DDP) soon. Page will make his bid to defeat the champion.

MARK MCGWIRE AND SAMMY SOSA. Here's my thought. Congratulations to Mark McGwire for breaking Maris' record. However, major league baseball will be look like the biggest asses if Sammy Sosa ends up hit-

ting more home runs than McGwire.

You see McGwire hit his home run, everyone stops, cheers, cries, and celebrates. Big "Mac" gets a lot of recognition and even a car but what if Sosa hits more. I just think that baseball should have waited until the end of the year. You can bet your last dollar that their holding their breath and hoping that McGwire hits more.

RANDY MOSS. Whether you like him or not you have to admit that Randy is making a big impact already for the Minnesota Vikings. They are sportin' the 2-0 record and are scaring some of their opponents. I just hope that every team that passed up on Moss are kicking themselves. Randy Moss, I'm calling it here and now, "Rookie of the Year"

NASCAR Top 20

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. -- The top 20 in the NASCAR Winston Cup points and money standings through September 13:

1. Jeff Gordon, 3,952
2. Mark Martin, 3,748
3. Dale Jarrett, 3,644
4. Rusty Wallace, 3,477
5. Jeff Burton, 3,298
6. Bobby Labonte, 3,259
7. Jeremy Mayfield, 3,254
8. Dale Earnhardt, 3,018
9. Ken Schrader, 2,864
10. John Andretti, 2,851
11. Terry Labonte, 2,845
12. Bobby Hamilton, 2,718
13. Ernie Irvan, 2,704
14. Sterling Marlin, 2,700
15. Michael Waltrip, 2,603
16. Chad Little, 2,588
17. Jimmy Spencer, 2,577
18. Bill Elliott, 2,539
19. Johnny Benson, 2,393
20. Ward Burton, 2,366

First loss of the year for Pioneers

Associated Press

INDIANA, Pa. --Grandvell lor returned a punt 30 yards for ouchdown to help Indiana of nsylvania beat Glenville State, 17, last Saturday.

Taylor's score in the first quar- was followed by a 2-yard touch- wn run by Rich Montague for iana (2-0).

Glenville (1-1) came within a chdown of Indiana later in the ond quarter when Wilkie Perez

connected with Kenny Hinton on an 11-yard scoring strike.

But Indiana came back with two consecutive field goals by Jeremy Sauve and a short touch- down run by Paul Failla.

Justin Barnes kicked a 41-yard field goal at the end of the first half, and Perez passed to Rashod Gillespie for a touchdown with 4:34 left to play.

Indiana held Glenville to just 21 yards rushing.

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Managers Needed



The GSC Men's Basketball program is currently looking for team managers for the upcoming 1998-1998 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.

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Where are they now? Science and math students make it big

By BJ Woods,
Staff Reporter

Incoming freshmen have much to achieve if they wish to follow in the footsteps of their predecessors.

There were three pre-med, one pre-pharmacy, nine nursing students, one pre-vet, one pre-physical therapy, six biology, five math, and three chemistry students to start this year.

In the past two years the Science and Math Division has had six students to get accepted in the WVU Pharmacy School. In 1997 Arron Crumbston, Amy Grogg, Christy Stout, and Andrea Nichols. The lat-

est being Dawn Lancaster and Amanda Amick.

Theresa Cowan stated that there were 13 nursing students to graduate this year. Other recent notables to the Science and Math Division are: Andrea Echols, who was accepted in to Dental School at WVU;

Hillary Miller, who is attending the Osteopathic School of Medicine at Lewisburg.

Amy Zigman a graduate from Glenville's Nursing Program is now in attendance of the Osteopathic School of Medicine.

Craig Zirkle is attending the University of Kentucky at

Louisville. He is working in a graduate program in Chemistry.

Devona James and Kerri Kennedy are both in attending the Public Health Program at WVU's Graduate School.

Mike Minnie a math major from Glenville is now attending WVU School of Law.

Carrie Kirkpatrick a 1998 graduate is working for Ashland Oil in Beckley.

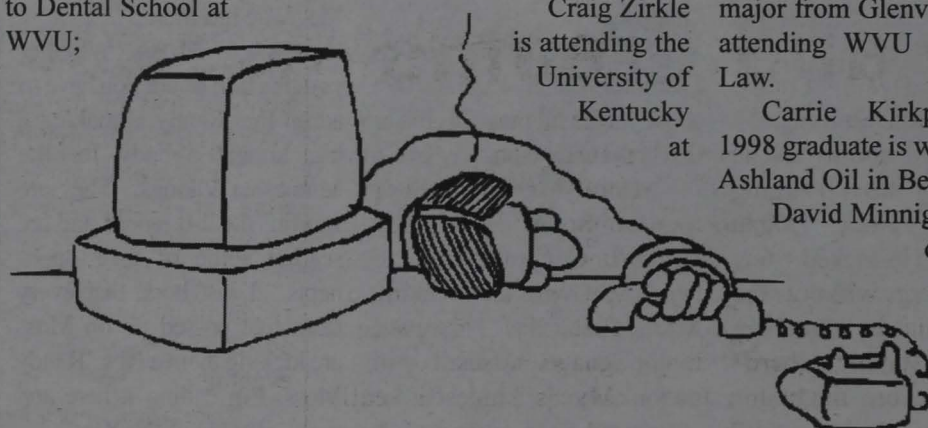
David Minnigh is a student of the Graduate

Chemistry program at Marshall University. He also a graduate teaching assistant.

Dan Jackson is in Marshall University graduate program for Molecular Biology.

Wes Gladwell is now working at NIH Raleigh-Durham as a biologist.

These fine young people have cleared a path for all upcoming graduates from the Science and Math Division to travel. They have shown that yes, graduates from Glenville can make a difference in today's professional world.



"Visions of Vietnam"

A joint photography exhibit



Featuring the
photography of
Thomas F.
Morrissey
and
Edward F. Palm

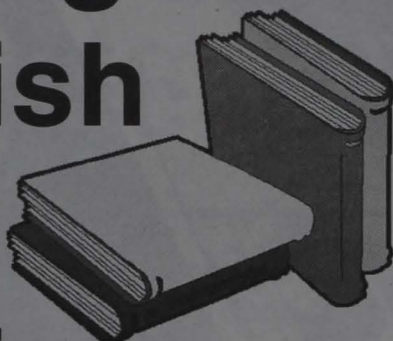
September 21 through October 9
Fine Arts Gallery
Glenville State College

The public is invited to a reception and reading to be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, October 8, in the gallery. Morrissey will read from the introduction to his book "Between the Lines" and Palm will read a short excerpt from his Combined Action memoir "Tiger Papa Three."



ART GALLERY

The changing face of the English department



Williams and Myers: Fresh face and dreams

By Amy Smith,
Staff Reporter

Two new adjunct professors have joined Glenville State College's language division.

Amy Williams, a resident of Morgantown, is on a one semester contract, teaching English 101, 102 and also an American Mosaic Literature class.

Williams received her Master's Degree from West Virginia last May; although she does not have a concentration Early American and Romantic Literature are her favorites. Williams regrets not making Education part of her major, but she still

loves teaching.

"The basic writing classes are the most rewarding to teach," she explains, "because you can see the most progress in students."

Williams would not mind staying here at Glenville but might like to try other avenues of life as well. She would like to continue teaching, but one of her most important goals would be raising a family.

Another new face is that of Norma Myers. She is an adjunct professor in the Language Division, teaching English 102, and Spanish.

She has taught at various private institutions and more recently has taught at a Community College in Moline, Illinois. There she taught mostly ESOL or English as a Second Language classes.

Myers said, "I really loved teaching those classes, and I hope to become more involved with the Japanese students here on campus."

Mrs. Myers is also on a one semester contract. She likes it very much here at Glenville, and really likes her classes.

Welcome back, Dr. Zane

By Amy Smith,
Staff Reporter

Dr. Nancy Zane is now back on Glenville's campus. Dr. Zane has taught American Literature and Introductory English classes here in past years.

Last year she took a leave of absence from G.S.C. and went to Burke, Virginia located in the northern part of the state, outside of Washington, D.C.

There she taught part-time at North Virginia Community College in Annandale. Dr. Zane mostly taught introduction literature courses, in the evening.

There was a much larger population, with much more diversity, in terms of race, religion, and cultural background. Dr. Zane felt that "With such a wide variety of students, it was almost like teaching an United Nation's classroom."

Dr. Zane also tried

another job while she was on sabbatical. She was the Educational Director for the Manassas Center for the Arts. She created and scheduled class in many areas including dancing, music, writing, art for both children and adults.

"That job was very challenging and different," Zane comments, "but I missed being in the classroom."

For a period of time Zane considered leaving Glenville for good. Her students that brought her back. "Glenville students are a lot of fun," says Dr. Zane. The main reason she continued to teach along with working at the Manassas Center was to stay fresh with the classroom.

"I have always known I was going to be a teacher," she explains.

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The Mercury

Volume 70 - No. 3

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Good Will Humping - Latest XXX title

Why birthdays are really unlucky

Have you ever had someone tell you that you'll have good luck on your birthday? It happens all the time. You say, "Well my court appearance for that DUI violation is on September 14, and heck, that's also my birthday." Then some well-wishing friend replies, "Well shoot, you'll get out of that one. It's your birthday, you'll have good luck all day long."

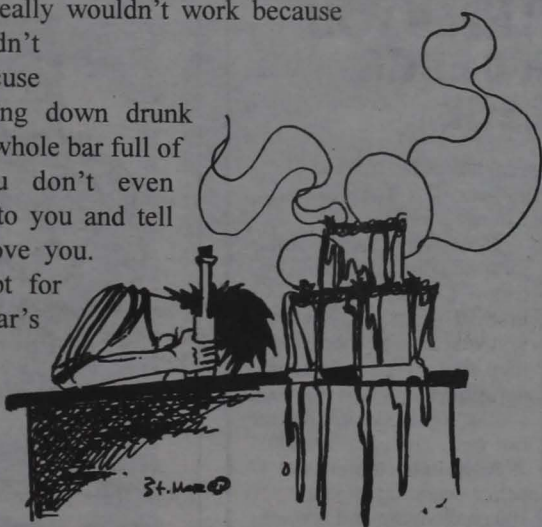
Well friends, that's a crock of boiling shit. The only luck there is to be found on a birthday is that nine months prior a sperm met an egg, a fetus was created and you were lucky enough to make it to term. Birthdays mean, basically, that you're another year older and its time to brood and remember the fact that you still haven't passed that correspondence course in animal husbandry and you're one year closer to your demise.

Perhaps this sounds a little cynical, but have you ever noticed that everyone else is so much happier than its your birthday than you are. They buy you cards, they send you gifts and they hug you and tell you congratulations, but what they're really thinking in their heads is, "God! That poor bastard. I'm so glad its not MY birthday."

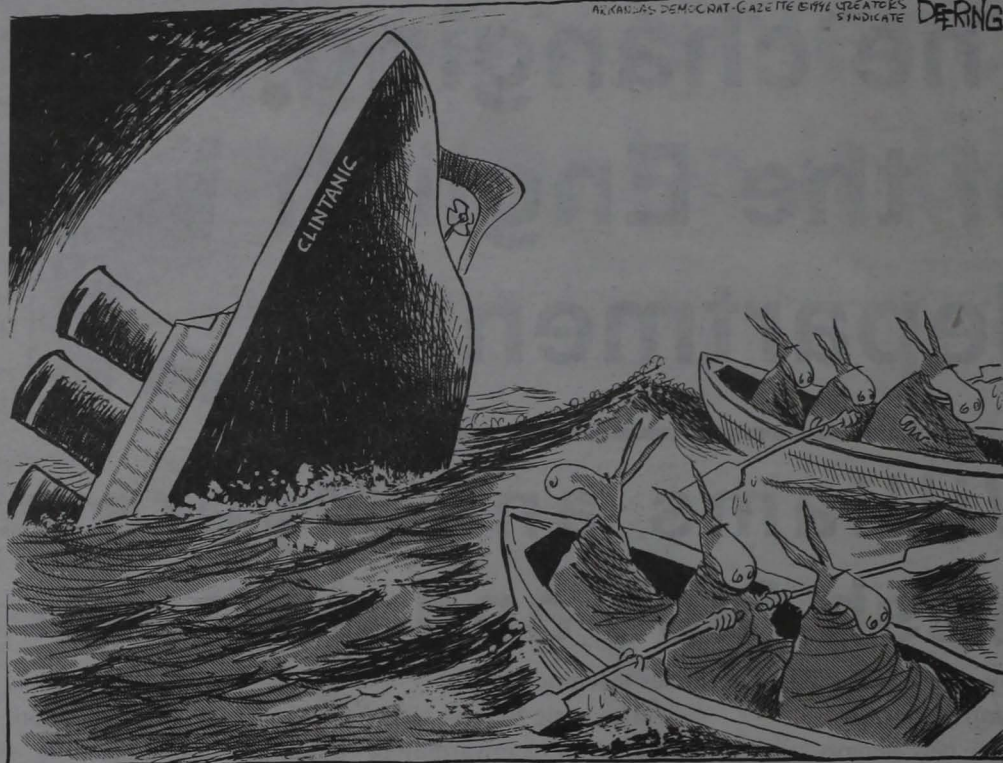
What do you say we ban all birthdays forever. Well, that really wouldn't work because you wouldn't have an excuse

to get falling down drunk and have a whole bar full of people you don't even know sing to you and tell you they love you.

Well, except for New Year's Eve, that is.



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Friendship is vital

By Chris Hopkins,
Staff Columnist

Friends are friends forever and you should never fall apart is some kind of song lyric from "the eighties" that just comes to mind when I'm around the people that I love as much if not more than my blood family.

There are very few people in the world I am as close to as the people I call friends. I couldn't imagine how I'd get through the day without their support, love, encouragement, and aggravation.

Friends are a support system, my conscience and a pain in the neck. The thought of living alone without a companion, friend, or ever having a loving family is much to chilling for me to even consider.

The way friends are perceived vary throughout the span of your life--starting with your nap time friend in kindergarten through the adolescent peer pushers of middle school onto high school buddies and finally the life-long friends of col-

"[Humans need friends] to survive. It is a basic human need that has to be fulfilled in order to progress onto the next stage of life..."

lege. The people you meet in college or early adulthood are the ones who will shape your life more than anyone before or after.

The people I've met in the last few years have shaped my life in more ways than I probably know. I have learned who I am from them, what I am, what I want from life, and most importantly what a true friend is and how to be one. If you have a problem with me blame it on them--they made me this way.

What I'm trying to get at is that we as humans need friends or companionship to survive. It is a basic human need that has to be fulfilled in order to progress onto the next stage of life, plus who would want to go through life without someone to call a friend. I surely wouldn't want to.

In my little circle of

friends we all serve a function that complements another member of what we call the "group". One of

my friends gives me technical advice on computers and other electronics when I'm lost and the wires are crossed. Another one of my friends has taught me about my outer appearance and vanity which made me more aware of how I looked and that I should take care of myself because there's only one me. One last example is the intellectualist of our group that helps me keep a reign on the sarcasm or shows me how to deal with life in a very educated way.

We need to have companionship in our lives and we shouldn't give up on friends when we leave school, get a job, and move on in life. A true friend will always be in your heart no matter how old you get. I will be there for my friends till the day I die.

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.

Cynicism and disgust mark the political landscape in the U.S.

Austin, Texas— As our grotesque national soap opera continues, the most important issue to be debated during this session of Congress appears to be dead in the Senate floor in a blizzard of indifference. Campaign-finance reform, the one shot we had at stopping the continuous purchase of our political system by corporate money, stalled again at 52-48, still eight votes short of the two-thirds required to break the filibuster engineered by Majority Leader Trent Lott.

Some die-hards are urging reformist Sen. John McCain to hang in until the last dog dies and keep reintroducing his bill, putting more and more pressure on at least eight Republican senators now up for re-election. Of course, the polls show that the people in their states overwhelmingly favor campaign-finance reform. For that matter, 58 percent of the people in Lott's Mississippi favor passage of the McCain-Feingold campaign-finance reform bill.

In the House, massive persistence finally paid off this summer. The House



leadership tried every parliamentary trick in the book. Speaker Newt Gingrich made a mockery of every promise he ever made to give the bill a fair hearing. And the reformers won out anyway (special credit goes to the Republicans who defied their own leaders).

But we are perilously close to the end of the session, with huge spending bills still to be passed. Of course, those very spending bills are simply larded with special-interest provisions, all of them payoffs to major campaign contributors.

Unfortunately, I know of no way to calculate the full damage done to this country by the legalized bribery that now masquerades as representative democracy. In theory, one could tote up all the

"I know of no way to calculate the full damage done to this country by the legalized bribery that now masquerades as representative democracy."

special-interest tax breaks, loopholes and outright subsidies now going to corporations and come somewhere within the range of the hundreds of billions that alone costs taxpayers annually. That's a reachable sum.

Then, we could theoretically figure out the cost of letting the oil companies drill on public lands at a fraction of the royalties they have to pay to drill on private land. Ditto the mining companies; ditto the timber companies; ditto the ranchers who graze cattle on public land for a pittance. That can be figured out.

But the bulk of what this system actually costs us is not the government budget at all; it's the license to steal in the private sector that congress has granted so many campaign contributors. What's the total cost of allowing banks to rip off their customers, the credit

industry to change the bankruptcy laws in its favor, the pharmaceutical industry to hang onto its patents and obscene profits, the cable industry to raise prices, the phone company to charge customers who do NOT use long distance, and so on and on and on?

How do we put a price on the fact that for three years now, Congress has frozen fuel economy standards for cars? The auto industry knows how to make cars and trucks that burn less gas— in fact, Toyota is about to market a gas electric hybrid that gets 51 miles per gallon— but U.S. auto makers know that it would hurt their bottom line to change over. Global warming doesn't make campaign contributions; the auto industry does.

What is the cost of damage to the air, to the water? What is the price of lost wilderness? Does the market

care if wood comes from a thousand-year-old redwood or a 20-year-old pine? (Actually, it does make a price distinction there, but not that much).

What is the price of not regulating the chemical industry (admittedly a task so complicated as to almost boggle the imagination, but at least we could start at "From here on out...")? What is the price of ignoring mounting evidence that chemicals cause breast cancer, disrupt the reproductive system, affect developing fetuses? Developing fetuses don't make campaign contributions; the chemical industry makes huge ones.

I do not know how much damage President Clinton has done to this country by being unfaithful to his wife. I do not. But I do know that the cynicism, disgust and apathy that mark the political life of this country have other causes. I do know that democracy does not work unless citizens participate, and I know that citizens do not participate when they know the system is not working for them. Hang in, McCain.

This newspaper is yours! Take advantage of it!



My Two Cents
Commentary by
Terry Estep

Walking through the dorm, I saw last week's Particle Lady column ["Men need to take care"] hanging on a bulletin board with a handwritten note accusing BJ Woods of male-bashing.

My first thought was "Why didn't they write a letter to the editor?"

The Mercury doesn't happen in a vacuum, readers. We're students like you, and we can't create a paper you want to read without your input. If you don't like something you see or

read in our pages, take a stand. Share your point of view.

I don't know if it's something Stockett puts in the cafeteria food or if this apathy is 100% student-created, but surely there was ONE person on this campus who thought we went too far by running a picture of Elvis Presley on the cross instead of Jesus.

We're here to serve your needs. Do you have a story you think we should be writing? Do you know a piece of

dirty work that needs a bright and shining light going after it? Hey, why not take two or three seconds and LET US KNOW ABOUT IT. It's a novel idea, I'll grant you, but you'd be surprised at the results you can get.

There's always room for improvement at a student newspaper. If you think things could be better but do nothing about it, you deserve what you get stuck with.

Prove me wrong, folks. I dare you.

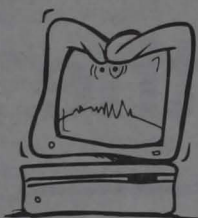
THE VIRTUAL LIBRARIAN: A S...L...O...W... internet

Why is the Internet so slow? It's a question that I'm repeatedly asked by students whenever our Internet workstations in the library freeze up.

Just when you're about to access your favorite "Elvis Is Alive and Well and Working at Wal-Mart" Web site, everything grinds to a halt: the page takes forever to come up, and when it finally does, it gradually materializes on the screen while you pull your hair out with impatience. Sometimes the response times are so slow that you're lucky if you can even connect to a site.

Who's responsible for these infernal delays?

Well, slow connectivity



"Until these companies can provide bigger, faster fiber optic lines to increase bandwidth, we can continue to expect slow service and more hair-pulling."

can be attributed to many things, the most common being a slow modem. Modems, as some of us may not know, come in different speeds, based on how many kilobits-per-second they can download. A modem with a speed of 28.8-kbps is the standard these days, and that's what we use in the library. Of course, if you have more money and less patience,

there are faster modems to be had—a 33.6-kbps or even a 56-kbps modem will speed up your access time quite nicely.

But even with a fast modem, you still have to contend with delays caused by your Internet service provider. The college's provider, WVNET, has been known to go on the blink from time to time, causing endless

delays and mucho frustration. WVNET is responsible for all the hardware we never see—phone lines, fiber optic cable, etc.

Providers like WVNET have to rely in turn on national "backbone" providers—major telecommunications conglomerates like AT&T, MCI, or Sprint—for their central Internet connection.

So I repeat, who is to blame for the slowness?

Well, I was going to say the phone company, but in truth, no one company is to blame. The biggest contributor to Internet slowness is popularity. With a constant

influx of new users, new Web sites, and new technologies, the Internet is becoming a crowded place, making it difficult to surf the 'Net with ease.

Phone companies can't keep up with the demand to increase Internet user capacity. Until these companies can provide bigger, faster fiber optic lines to increase bandwidth, we can continue to expect slow service and more hair-pulling.

So the next time your Internet connection freezes up on you, don't go prematurely bald with frustration. Just remember that patience is a virtue and above all, don't blame the librarian, okay?

ACS Picnic

Chi Beta Phi and the American Chemical Society will be sponsoring a picnic on Sept. 30, 1997 at the Rec. Center Picnic Shelter. This will begin at 4:30 p.m. and end around 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. We invite all math and science majors to join us for fun, food and fellowship. A sign up sheet will be placed on Mr. Peck's office door on the third floor of the Science Hall. All math and science majors are encouraged to attend.

Science with the Particle Lady: "Methane gasssss..."

**By B. J. Woods,
Staff Columnist**

One of the most important green-house gases is methane. It has become more abundant in our atmosphere over the past 100 years. One of the problems with this methane gas is that it is long-lived. This in turn results in an increase of methane in the tropospheric ozone.

Over one-half of the methane produced in the world is due to landfills. The land-fills with the largest amount of methane production are in the United States and Europe.

Decomposition of refuse in landfills is a major contributor to the methane. In the past we were led to believe by government sources that it was our vehicles that was the major contributor to methane in our atmosphere. We all went out and had anti-fog parts put on our vehicles. This

dropped the amount of methane in our atmosphere by a small margin.

One may ask what type of landfills produces all this methane gas. It is the municipal landfills, that by government regulations must cover their refuse.

In under-developed countries, there is not this high production of methane. Possible reasons for this could be that in these under-developed countries, the landfills are not as such as we know of landfills of today.

These people dump their refuse where they see fit and not always in a compacted area such as a land-fill. Another possible reason is because in municipal landfills, they are covered. The covered up refuse produces methane and it is not allowed to disperse randomly it, it concentrated and by the time enough builds

up that it goes through the covering soil it is in a really high concentration.

We cannot have our land-fills uncovered. The health risks alone are unimaginable. The environmental hazards are wide-ranged. How do we control this methane gas from destroying our atmosphere?

One way is to have the covering soil to have a organic level with a low carbon-nitrogen ratio. This carbon-nitrogen ratio has shown to suppress the methane emission. Also owners, operators of these landfills need to have better soil cover designs and management practices.

For questions or topics for the Particle Lady, please contact her by e-mail at gsc01293@mail.wvnet.edu. Until next week, good voyages through the halls of science.

"Matrix Development for Peptide Mapping Identification of Proteins Using Ion Cyclotron Resonance Spectrometry"

**Presented By
Dave Tingle**

**Hosted By
Chi Beta Phi**

September 22, 1998

Room 302 Science Hall

12:30-1:00 p.m.

All Welcome. Hope to see you there!!!

LIBERTY MEADOWS by Frank Chow



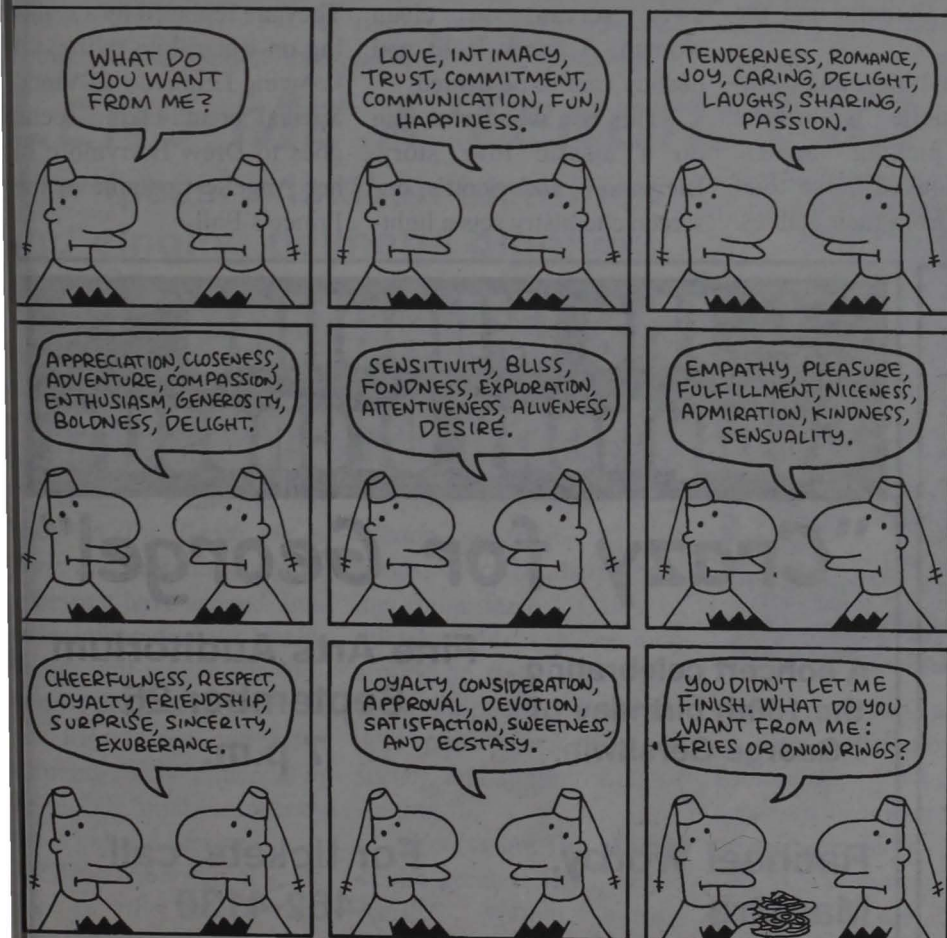
KUDZU by Doug Marlette



ONEBIG HAPPY by Rick Detorie



LIFE IN HELL by Matt Groening



Cristola's Magical Mystical Predictions

Horoscope by Cris Gravely

Aries (March 21 - April 19) - Marriage is on your mind, or at least children are. If that's what you want, then patience is a virtue.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) - Conflict is necessary this week because you need to realize that you can't go through life with blinders on. Learn this, and healing can begin.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20) - You are a being not only of spirit, but also of flesh. Learn to appreciate your body and sensual pleasures. Indulge yourself, and others, if necessary.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22) - If sharing is not your strong point, better learn to like it. Others are looking to you for support and money. Cough it up, or face the consequences.

Leo (July 23 - August 22) - Others acknowledge your achievements and look up to you. Being in the spotlight is the reward for your efforts. Be warned: fame has its own perils.

Virgo (August 23 - September 22) - Getting bored with your life? Change it. People follow your ideas. Be fiery and

impulsive and others will catch on. You can generate change if you try.

Libra (September 23 - October 22) - There is a conflict you can't avoid. Face it and things will get better. You'll come out of it a stronger person, more mature.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21) - There is no way to go but to let go. You must face the situation; there is no choice. It may be depressing, but loss always is.

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21) - New opportunities are on the horizon if you have the courage to stray away from the beaten path. Explore all possibilities before making a final decision.

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19) - Learning a new skill takes time and effort, but the rewards will be great. Explore your talents and interests. A new career could come out of it.

Aquarius (January 20 - February 18) - Use excess energy to your advantage. Material success can be yours if you work for it. Invest wisely; it will pay off.

Pisces (February 19 - March 20) - High ideals and standards may be a good idea, but they are also a protection against getting hurt again. Being human dictates that we express emotion, even if that means taking risks.



Audio Reviews

By David Bauder
Associated Press

"CELEBRITY SKIN"
(DGC) - HOLE

Hole's "Live Through This" was a grunge era landmark, its impact magnified by lead singer Courtney Love's loss of her husband, Kurt Cobain. It takes a listen to "Celebrity Skin" to realize just how long ago that was.

Much has been made about how Courtney has moved on, with designer dresses and acting aspirations replacing thrift-shop clothes and grunge style footwear. Her music has, too. And it's likely to be underestimated yet again.

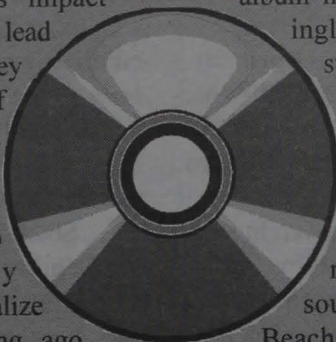
This album had lousy advance buzz--its long gestation, sexist rumors that Smashing Pumpkin Billy Corgan had come in for a repair job and word that pop had replaced grunge

were all red flags for fans. The notion of a brightly polished Hole, in particular, frightens their followers.

Don't worry. Yes, this album has a surprisingly mainstream pop sheen to it ("Boys on the Radio," with its layered harmonies, sounds like a Beach Boys tribute) but that doesn't mean Love has lost her bite or sense of humor. "Make me over," she sings in the opening couplet. "I'm all I want to be. A walking study, in demonology."

It's a deep record, too, stocked with sturdy melodies and more musical experimentation than could be expected from Hole's rather limited palette.

Give it a try. Courtney's career--her life, really--is a lesson in how appearances can be deceiving.



EVER AFTER: A new spin on an old tale displays Drew Barrymore's charm

By Brent Wood,
Staff Columnist
Once upon a time...

Ever After, the new motion picture starring Drew Barrymore is the story of Cinderella, but not like the fairy tale our parents read to us when we were kids.

This is an alternate version of the story, retold with present day insights. It is the story of a young girl, whose father is a kind, generous and educated land owner.

When she was eight her father brought home a new wife and two stepsisters. Then the father dies.

Ten years later, Danielle (a.k.a. Cinderella), is serving her stepmother and two step sisters as if she were a servant. Anjelica Houston is the wicked stepmother that torments the Danielle and the servants.

One day the young beautiful Danielle is in the orchard picking apples, when a cloaked horse thief rides past from their stables.



She subsequently dismounts the thief only to discover it is the Prince of France, Henry, played by Dougray Scott.

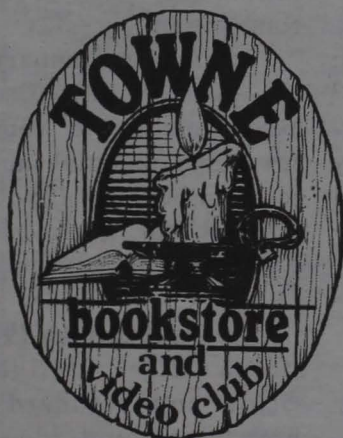
He is running away from an arranged marriage and she has assaulted royalty. They strike a deal to remain silent about one another.

By chance the Prince and Danielle meet again. Only he does not recognize the woman who has gone from dirty servant to clean woman. A spark is lit and destiny cannot be denied.

This is a wonderful spin on a classic love story. Barrymore and Scott's on-screen chemistry sets a light-

hearted mood for romance. Houston plays a horribly evil stepmother. Notice should go to the two stepdaughters, the snobby brat Marguerite (Megan Dodd) and the chubby and shy Jacqueline (Melanie Lynskey).

Two aspects missing from this version are the talking rats and the fairy godmother. But fear not. They are replaced by a walking on water, kite flying, all knowing Leonardo da Vinci. Special breath-taking scene goes to Drew Barrymore in her Angelic Costume at the Prince's Ball.



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How hard can it be to whip up a good golf game?

By William Schiffman,
Associated Press

How hard can it be to make a good golf game?

It's not like football, where you have 22 players running in all different directions, or even basketball, with 10. You only need one golfer--and all he does is stand there.

Despite that, Nintendo and T&E Soft have managed to put together a very disappointing package for the N64's debut golf game--*Waialae Country Club: True Golf Classics*.

The key problem: There's only one golf course. Good grief! That's like a baseball game designed so you have to keep playing the Florida Marlins and Arizona Diamondbacks over and over.

To show you what a problem that is, the first time

I played the game I shot an 88. Not horrible, not great, not bad for someone whose career high point was getting the ball through the windmill at Gary's Goofy Golf.

The second time I played, I cut 12 strokes off my 18-hole total. If I'd had time to play seven or eight rounds, I would have been beating Tiger Woods like a gong.

Surely, Hawaii has more than one golf course.

There are a number of ways to play the lone course you're offered. *Waialae Open*, for one to four players, is probably the most fun, especially if you have a friend or two around to play with you. In the *Open*, you play two rounds. If you finish in the top 40, you move on to the two championship rounds, provided you haven't nodded off from boredom.



Under *Tournament Play*, you play only the final day of the *Open*.

There's *Stroke Play*, which simply means that the player with the lowest score wins. There's also *Match Play*, in which you play against a live opponent or against the CPU. Your goal is to win more holes than your opponent.

And then there's *Skins*, for two to four people, where the player with the lowest score on each hole wins a cash prize for that hole.

"This isn't the worst game ever made, but it sure could have been a lot better."

You also have a *Practice* option.

To its credit, the game does give you a lot of ways to set up your shot. You can select a club other than the one the game thinks you should use. The game also lets you adjust your stance, pick the point where your club hits the ball and the direction the ball will go.

The game uses the by-now standard swing arc to allow you to decide just how much power you want to put into your stroke.

Sounds like a lot to do, and I found that in most cases all these options are overkill. I shot that sparkling 76 using just the clubs I was given and not altering anything about the way the golfer approached the ball.

Graphics are just adequate. Following the ball is about as exciting as watching it on television, and though the greens themselves are very pretty, the crowds are a swirling blur.

Sound is also mediocre, with repetitious effects that even annoyed my dog, and an announcer who has about five lines.

This isn't the worst game ever made, but it sure could have been a lot better. If you're dying to play golf on your N64, this is all you've got. Me, I'd wait for the sequel.

LEND ME A TENOR: Fall play in production

New faces, mistaken identities, and singing bellhops highlight Nancy Wemm's production

By Terry L. Estep,
Staff Reporter

"Has anyone seen our cast members today?"

Ten minutes into the first rehearsal for *Lend Me a Tenor*, and only three people in the cast have arrived. In a few minutes director Nancy Wemm will realize she didn't post the practice session, but for a few stressful moments she is immersed in the mobile mini-emergency that is college theatre.

"This show has a good mix in the cast," she explains after she catches

her mistake and cancels the read-through. "We've got new and old faces in the production."

Lend Me a Tenor is, as Wemm describes it, "an almost-Marx Brothers drawing room farce." Cases of mistaken identity, running around on stage (two pages of the script are dedicated to description of action in one scene), and singing. Lots of singing.

"You've got Tito Morelli as the greatest tenor in the world," Wemm muses. "Pavarotti and the rest wish



they were as good as he is."

Tito is played by Wayne Richmond, who has appeared in numerous GSC productions since 1987. In fact, it was during that first play that he met his wife, Mercedes.

When Wayne cracks a joke to cast newcomer Jeremiah Jones, Wemm assures him, "You'll get used to him. He's one of the most dedicated guys I've ever known."

Jeremiah Jones will have

his GSC acting debut with this play. The freshman has acting experience from his high school days, but is a little wary of swimming with bigger fish.

In this play, opera singer Tito Morelli is due to perform his greatest role, *Otello*. His arrival at the opera house is met with mishaps that lead the cast to believe he is dead. It then falls to Max (played by Criston Gravely) to try to impersonate the tenor.

"Choosing the play was funny," Wemm explains. "[My husband] threw it at me when I was having a panic attack and saying 'I'm never directing another play.' He threw it at me and I started laughing."

Cedar Creek State Park

A place to play around with your friends...

When students start splashing around in the creek, there are plenty of photo opportunities. During a recent trip, Stephen Metz, James Salisbury, Cris Gravely, Chris Hopkins, and others were all wet. (Photos by Terry L. Estep)

