

The Mercury



Read this paper...
...or the owl gets it!

Ex-presidents breach code of silence, decry Clinton behavior

By Mike Feinsilber,
Associated Press
WASHINGTON

Within 24 hours, two former presidents--Jimmy Carter expansively, George Bush most reluctantly--breached a longstanding custom of the presidency that says once you've occupied the office you don't publicly criticize those who follow.

Neither offered much in the way of aid and comfort to a besieged Bill Clinton, although Bush said he had no desire "to be out there carping away."

Clinton's fellow Democrat seemed to feel no such reluctance.

In a question-and-

answer session with Emory University students in Atlanta, Carter said Clinton had lied under oath. He also predicted the House would vote to impeach Clinton but the Senate would not "marshal the two-thirds vote that will be required to remove the president."

Carter added that he had both "deplored and been deeply embarrassed about" Clinton's behavior with Monica Lewinsky.

Bush, 74, who lost re-election to Clinton in 1992, was far more circumspect. Throughout an interview Wednesday on NBC's "Today," he said he was reluctant to criticize or sec-

ond-guess Clinton. "He's got enough critics out there now," Bush said.

Finally, pressed to comment on whether Clinton had "diminished" the office of president, Bush said, "I'm afraid, for now, it has been diminished."

But Bush, who now lives in Houston, quickly added that the office is strong, "bigger than any one person."

Beyond that, he said, he did not want to say what may be "in my heart" out of fear of putting his sons on the spot. Jeb Bush is running for governor of Florida and George W. Bush is seeking re-election as governor of Texas and may

become a candidate for the GOP presidential nomination in 2000.

Former President Ford, 85, who succeeded Richard Nixon when Nixon resigned in 1974 and who was defeated in 1976 by Carter, has generally kept his silence about Clinton.

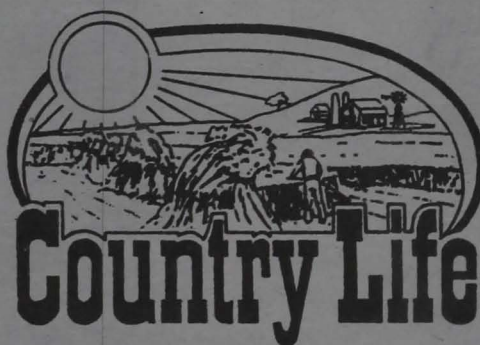
By comparison with his Republican counterparts, Carter was outspoken in his Atlanta remarks Tuesday night.

Carter, 73, said he did not believe Clinton told the truth either in his deposition for the Paula Jones sexual harassment lawsuit or during his testimony for the grand jury led by

Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr.

At the same time, Carter also criticized "the reaction to it, overemphasis of it, matter in which a serious political and issue has been addressed."

Clinton's 1996 opponent, former Sen. Robert Dole, does not have to abide by the rules of the ex-presidents club since he never made it to the White House. In a recent interview on Tuesday, Dole was asked if Clinton was morally fit for the office. "I think it's a close call," he replied.



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Multicultural Fair is on the way

From October 5 to October 8, Glenville State College is once again celebrating diversity during a week of events related to multicultural education and diversity issues. This celebration, called the Multicultural Fair, is in its seventh year. Two evening sessions are of particular interest to the general public.

Monday evening, October 5, from 7-8 p.m., Joseph Bundy of the Afro-Appalachian Performance Company will portray an extremely accomplished West Virginian named Martin Delaney. Delaney was a leading abolitionist orator and journalist, a Harvard-trained medical doctor, and the first African-American to earn the rank of major in the US Army during the Civil War. This performance will take place in the Administration Building Auditorium with Bundy in full costume. Funding for Bundy's performance, History Alive: Martin Delaney, is provided by the WV Humanities Council.

Wednesday evening, October 7,

from 7-8 p.m. in the Fine Arts recital Hall, Dr. Deanna Foxworthy of GS will present research she has done on women painters in a session entitled Women Artists: A Well Kept Secret. Through slides and lecture she will illuminate the wealth of artistic talent of women artists of the past and present. The Glenville Junior Women's Club will provide refreshments immediately following the lecture.

In addition, Ben Bruton of GS is presenting a session on Genealogy on the Internet on Wednesday, October 7, from 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. in the Library's Media Center Classroom. Bruton will demonstrate how to find information about your ancestors using the World Wide Web. He will show several sample searches and reveal typical sites where genealogical information is available.

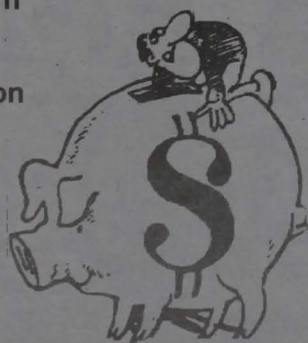
These sessions, and many others, are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Brenda Wilson at 462-7361, extension 307 or bwilson@glenville.wvnet.edu.

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Can you hear me, Ma Bell?"

High demand for phones

Pickens creates a strain

Ann Williams,
Staff Reporter

The intercom system as recently take out of Scott Wing Suites has a major phone problem occur in Pickens Hall. The intercom system of a intercom box hallway in each suite could inform residents incoming call which then be transferred to lounge at the end of floor. Due to the lack of an intercom system, of the students in Scott have opted to have a phone installed in room. That is the problem

with that?" you may ask.

The problem lies in the fact that Pickens Hall and Bell Atlantic were not prepared for the number of students who would want a phone hook-up. Currently many students in the dorms that have ordered phone service will not have their phone installed until the end of October.

Doris Williams, GSC's Maintenance Department secretary explained: "We have installed enough line to handle every room in the dorms. Bell Atlantic does not have enough pair cables. Each line has a pair number, and Bell Atlantic does not have enough to sup-

ply the college."

To make this matter easier to understand she simplified it by adding, "Bell Atlantic did not update on their end." The consultant from Bell Atlantic contacted by *The Mercury* did not know any specifics on the situation. The consultant said the records showed that the "technician was unable to hook up service." He also explained that new lines would have to be ordered, surveyed, and installed.

Students who do not currently have phone hook-ups will be waiting for another month to hear their phone ring.

In light of rapes, students attend self-defense class

Associated Press

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. -- Days after a suspect was arrested for a rape at West Virginia University, students are getting tips on how to protect themselves.

Morgantown police officers Richard and Gina Panico conducted a sexual assault prevention seminar Tuesday at Summit Suites.

The husband-and-wife team told students to be careful and use common sense.

About 50 people attended the workshop held at the campus where four assaults on young women have recently occurred.

Lee Hogan, 31, of Charleston, was charged Sunday with first-degree sexual assault in an Aug. 30 attack on a female student. Police stopped short of linking him to the other attacks.

Hogan was released from the Monongalia

County Jail late Tuesday after posting a \$100,000 bond and ordered to return to magistrate court for a preliminary hearing Sept. 30.

The crimes have people on campus on edge.

"We've tried to put things like this together before, but unless there's an emergency situation like this, nobody wants to show up," said Gina Panico, a crime prevention specialist.

"Be wise. Use common sense, especially at night," she told the students. "Be aware of your surroundings."

Richard Panico said it's a misconception women can't fight off men.

"It's a fact: Most men are stronger than most women," Panico said. "But if you've got two arms, two legs and a brain in your head, you can stop somebody from attacking you. At least for a while."

Dr. Kathy Butler

prepares for NCATE

Jade Dewal,
Staff Reporter

The candy basket that Dr Butler's desk is full of goodies. The sphere is educational there is a sense of family. The wall adjacent to her desk is covered with pictures and West Virginia pride emanates from her presence.

Butler came from Martinsburg, West Virginia in 1989. She has worked in education for 19 years. Her line is in curriculum instruction and she is an early childhood edu-

of this year. Her experience serves as follows: Dr Butler worked as a coordinator for the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) for the past year.

Prior to that, Butler was field director for four years, and in 1993 she worked with former Dean of Teacher Education, Dr. Steve Creasey, when GSC was up for NCATE certification.

"My number one priority is to make sure we retain accreditation," she says. "We have a strong foundation, good people and a talented staff. This year we're going to pull it together to make Glenville State College the number one teacher education college again."



PBL will meet
Thursday, October 1, at
12:15 in Room AB 101

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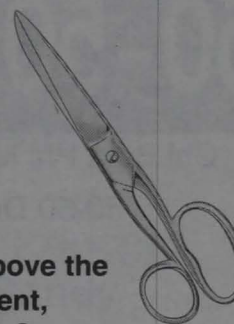
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Math and Science's Karla Scroggins leaving

By B. J. Woods,
Staff Reporter

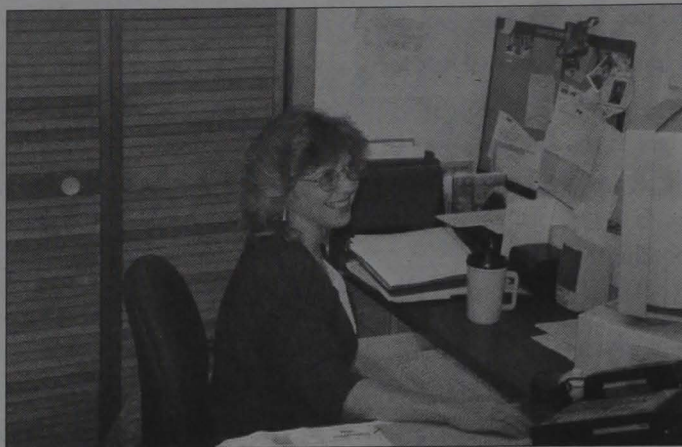
Math and Science's long time secretary, Karla Scroggins, is leaving.

She is leaving after being in Math and Science since Aug. 21, 1989.

"Karla is a peach, a gem," commented Professor Meads, "who we will all miss greatly."

Karla has worked under the late Dr. Chisler and currently works for Dr. Carl Armour.

Karla states that over the



B. J. Woods, Mercury

years her job has gotten more demanding and there has been an increase in her

responsibilities.

Some of Karla's responsibilities include keeping the

budget for the division, maintaining the inventory for the division, maintaining the records of student employees, and filing maintenance and work requests for the division.

When asked what major changes have occurred since her arrival to GSC, Karla stated, "There seems to be an increasing number of non-traditional students and the technology has been upgraded."

She wishes everyone

here at GSC and in the and Science Division best in the future and she will miss everyone will think of all.

Dr. Carl Armour writes, "Karla will be missed and I wish her best. I hope that she will have a job involving computer technology. She will be a wizard at it."

Karla's plans now she is leaving GSC to move out of state and take a job involving health care or the medical

Student Educators Association holds first meeting of the semester

By Jade Dewal,
Staff Reporter

On Wednesday, September 2 the Student Educators Association (SEA) had their first meeting to determine whether this campus would have an active organization of that association this semester.

According to Clark Hall's Professor of Special Education, Brenda Wilson "Students majoring in education have not made an effort to attend meetings or be involved in this organization for the past three years. The SEA can not exist with-

out student participation."

The meeting involved only about ten students willing to commit to membership.

SEA offers many opportunities for education majors. Benefits discussed at the meeting include scholarships, community involvement programs and a chance for the future educators to be represented.

Meetings will be held once a month and last about an hour.

The next meeting will be posted at Clark Hall and elections will be held for executive positions. There

will also be a guest speaker from WVEA (West Virginia Education Association). Kim Randolph is the coordinator of all the SEA organizations.

The Education Department feels that attending these meetings is beneficial for all education majors.

As the great educator John Dewey once said, "There is a need for a working organization that represents all the interests that teachers have in common... and also the protection of children and youth in schools."

Michael Erard

of

College of West Virginia
will give a presentation

on the

Physician Assistant Program

September 29, 1998

at 12:30 p.m.

in Room 302 Science Hall

Hope to see you there!!

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The foot of the master

Michael Newell's passion for the martial arts leads to the International Hall of Fame



Michael Newell and class.
(Terry Estep, Mercury)

By Terry L. Estep,
Staff Reporter

The exercise is called "Flows and Toes," and the goal is to keep your body stationary and solid, but relaxed.

Louis Bennett Hall Director Michael Newell walks among his karate students, checking their positioning with nothing more than a tap with his

foot. That tap lets him know if the students are too tense and if they are breathing properly.

"The point is to have relaxed power," he explains. "If you do anything when you're tense, it becomes an effort. Everything should flow."

Newell checks breathing, and as the exercise draws to a close he pretends to almost trip and fall on one

of the students. Everyone laughs, and he directs them to the next exercise.

This mix of discipline and humor seems to be a key part of Newell's style. His efforts with his students have paid off well.

At the World Sokeship Council International Hall of Fame Banquet this September, Newell was inducted into the Hall of

Fame and given an award as Regional Martial Arts Instructor of the Year.

"This is like an actor getting an Oscar," Newell explains.

Newell has studied karate for 15 years, and has been a black belt for 7.

"When I got my black belt, my teacher told me 'Congratulations, now you're an advanced beginner,'" he laughs.

The martial arts is about more than the right moves and breathing, he explains. Over the years, he has tried to add wisdom to the mix.

Newell and his colleague Mickey Metz are the senseis (teachers) for the Aze-Ki Karate Academy in Glenville and Weston. They stress self-defense techniques that work in street situations. It's an open style that incorporates elements of Japanese and

Korean technique.

"Some of these systems have been around for 5,000 years, but they were fighting against swords," Newell explains.

The Sokeship Council is the most prestigious and elite collection of martial artists in the world. All members of the council are 10th degree Grandmasters, many of whom have founded their individual system of martial arts.

Newell is honored to be recognized--among thousands of nominees--for his contributions to the art and for his work with his students.

"I try to teach every one of them that they are ambassadors of the martial arts," he says.

Newell teaches a karate class for the college that meets every Tuesday evening. The class is free to GSC students and may be taken for one hour of credit.

Lake plea entered

By Terry L. Estep,
Staff Reporter

On Friday, September 25, the Gilmer County Court accepted a plea of "no contest" to a charge of battery from Kevin Lake, a former Glenville College student.

Lake was accused of attacking John Rote.

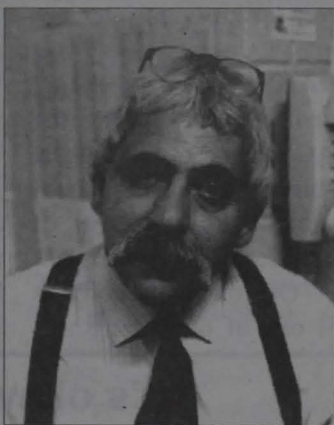
A "no contest" plea is entered as a guilty verdict. The plea agreement was negotiated between Lake's attorney and county prosecutor Shelly DeMarino.

John Rote, who had been injured a few months before the attack as the advisor to the Mercury, suffered a broken leg, perforated left eardrum, bruised ribs, broken nose, heart arrhythmia and vision problems after the attack.

According to Rote, he



Kevin Lake (left) pleaded "no contest" to battery charges against Mercury advisor John Rote (Terry Estep, Mercury)



was struck from behind and knocked to the ground, his jacket pulled over his head, and kicked repeatedly.

Lake was arrested on a misdemeanor charge of battery and released on a \$1000 bond.

Lake left Glenville and received a Bachelor's degree from Fairmont State College. He is currently mar-

ried and living in Virginia.

Lake could face a sentence of confinement in the Central Regional Jail for up to one year or a fine of no more than \$500. His attorney has requested he be placed on probation.

A sentencing hearing has been set for October 30, 1998.

Homecoming Court

Queen
Heidi Cowan

Senior Princess
Margarita "Moe" Tzoneva

Junior Princess
Jennifer Stinnett

Sophomore Princess
Brandy Sandy

Freshman Princess
Samuara Watt

GSC Parents Day a big success

By James Arnold,
Staff Reporter

The Pioneers gave their parents and family members something to be proud of on Saturday against Edmonton University.

Glenville started out of the gate fast jumping out to a 19 to 0 score. Wilkie Perez had a 4 yard touchdown pass to Hajji Ingraham and he ran for a score of his own. Justin Barnes chipped in with a 49 and 27 yard field goal.

Edmonton scored a few times late in the fourth quarter but they never really got close. Glenville improved

to 2-1 on the young season.

Wilkie finished up with a nice game. He threw for 235 yards and two touchdowns, and he rushed for one. Byron Stevenson got the Pioneer running game back on track and rushed for 143 yards.

Also playing large was Brian Palmer on defense. Brian had 12 tackles, blocked two field goals, returned an interception for a touchdown, and broke up many plays.

Palmer was selected as the WVIAC defensive player of the week with his outstanding game.

Jumpshots

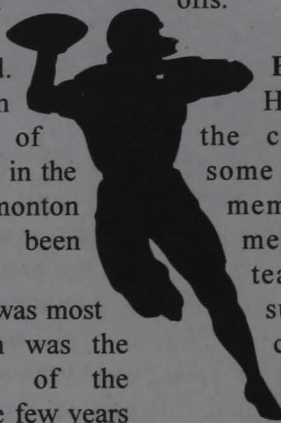
By James Arnold,
Staff Reporter

PIONEER FOOTBALL. I hope everyone had the chance to see the Pioneers last Saturday. It was the first opportunity I have gotten to see them

in action and I was impressed. If it hadn't been for a couple of touchdowns late in the game, Edmonton wouldn't have been close.

The thing I was most impressed with was the running game of the Pioneers. In the few years

that I've been here, that was the best I have ever seen Glenville rush the ball. If we continue to run, and run well, plus Wilkie's strong arm, we should be back in the national playoffs.



PIONEER BASKETBALL. Have you had the chance to see some of the new members of our mens basketball team? Well I sure have and I can tell you one thing, it's going to be

an exciting year. This year we will actually have some nice size of the court, the new players are huge and from what I hear they can really fill it up!!

I can't wait until the start of the season behind coach William and his new member mixed with a few veterans, it should be really exciting!

RANDY MOSS. For those of you who don't like Randy Moss - he scored another touchdown and the Vikings won again.

Marshall rolling along without Moss

By Jim Vertuno,
Associated Press

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. -- Randy Moss made touchdown catches look so easy at Marshall, who knew how good the guy throwing the ball was?

This year, even a Southeastern Conference team has learned the hard way as undefeated Marshall and quarterback Chad Pennington answer skeptics who wondered whether they could win without Moss, a Heisman Trophy finalist and

All-American wide receiver.

With Moss, Pennington set an NCAA record for sophomores with 39 regular-season touchdown passes.

Nonetheless, one national sports publication called Pennington the most over-rated player in the Mid-American Conference and Toledo's Chris Wallace is frequently mentioned as the league's best quarterback.

But Marshall's offense has remained productive since Moss' departure last spring to the NFL. Marshall,

now 3-0, was 2-1 after three games last year with a loss to intrastate rival West Virginia. Pennington has eight touchdown passes this year--compared to 11 after three games last season--and is yet to throw an interception.

And last weekend, Marshall went out of the MAC for one of the biggest victories in recent school history, a 24-21 defeat of South Carolina on the road.

"Our receiving corps is still one of our strengths,"

Pennington said. "I'm making crisper decisions and spreading the ball around more and everyone seems to be enjoying it."

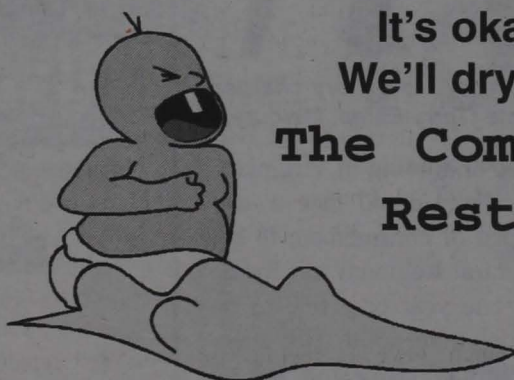
"My main goal this season was just being more consistent," he said. "In two of our three losses last year I had eight interceptions."

Other than some opening-game hiccups at Akron, when Pennington led a fourth-quarter rally to win, Marshall's offense has suffered little without Moss.

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.



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NASCAR Top 20

Associated Press
DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. --
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through Sept. 20

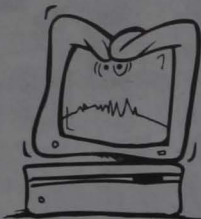
1. Jeff Gordon	4,127
2. Mark Martin	3,933
3. Dale Jarrett	3,790
4. Rusty Wallace	3,637
5. Bobby Labonte	3,419
6. Jeremy Mayfield	3,419
7. Jeff Burton	3,347
8. Dale Earnhardt	3,112
9. John Andretti	2,994
10. Terry Labonte	2,954
11. Ken Schrader	2,910
12. Bobby Hamilton	2,857
13. Ernie Irvan	2,846
14. Sterling Marlin	2,815
15. Michael Waltrip	2,706
16. Chad Little	2,700
17. Jimmy Spencer	2,659
18. Bill Elliott	2,539
19. Johnny Benson	2,511
20. Ward Burton	2,430

THE VIRTUAL LIBRARIAN: Hack... hack... hack...

By Ben Bruton,
Guest Columnist

As the number of computers on campus grows, the issue of security becomes increasingly critical. All over the country, hackers are finding ways to break into college computer networks, delete files, change records, and generally make the systems administrator miserable.

Recently, a hacker in Thailand broke into the computer network of a public library in Massachusetts and repeatedly overloaded the network server with stored computer files. Eventually, the library had to shut down its network, leaving its users Internet



access while it tried to rebuild its system.

Now you may be asking yourself, why would a hacker from Thailand want to break into the network of a Massachusetts public library in the first place? After all, if the guy is so talented at hacking that he can break into computers from halfway around the world, why waste his time with libraries? Why not break into an online bank? At least they've got money.

"For every honest library user who just wants to check his email or write a paper, there's always some prankster who wants to mess up the computer at the college's expense."

It's hard to tell just what mischief lurks in the mind of a computer geek, but more than likely, hackers break into library computers because they make safe hiding places for stashing stolen files. No one is going to suspect any illegally-obtained government secrets to turn up on an anonymous library computer, right?

All a hacker needs to do is install a software program called a "sniffer" (or

"snooper"), which monitors all activity on the computer network and "sniffs" out passwords, email messages, and sometimes, credit card numbers.

Once a hacker has sniffed out the data he requires, he can do all sorts of malicious things—crash the entire network, overload computers with worthless data files, or vandalize college web sites with digital graffiti.

What's the best defense against getting hacked? A good network security program can help. In the library, we use a program called Fortres, which prevents would-be hackers from using Windows commands

or icons, thus locking up each PC's operating system. It's not exactly foolproof, but it serves our needs.

Is this really necessary? Sadly, yes. Every new medium has its troublemakers, and the Internet is no exception. For every honest library user who just wants to check his email or write a paper, there's always some prankster who wants to mess up the computer at the college's expense.

Until there's a better way, we'll continue to keep a watchful eye on our computers, not just to guard against potential hackers, but to keep things running smooth for everybody else.

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.

How does \$800/week Extra income sound to you?

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GROUP FIVE

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Counseling Services Available

Carol Wolfe, a Graduate Student at Marshall University, will be on campus to offer individual and group counseling to students, faculty, and staff on the following dates:

October 8, 9, 22, 23

November 5, 6, 19, 20 December 3, 4

Office hours are from 9-12 and 1-3 in the Student Development Center - Heflin Center, Room 202

Appointments can be made in advance by calling the Career Services Office at Ext. 118

Science with the Particle Lady: Should you fear rape at GSC?

By B.J. Woods,
Staff Columnist

When was the last time there was a rape on the campus here at GSC? Can you remember? Would you even know? Most of the students here at GSC probably don't even think of rape. On many campuses across the nation rape is a terror that stalks its victims.

National statistics show that 85% of rape victims knew their attackers. The majority of rape victims and offenders are of college age. Then of these college aged victims 42% feel that they may be raped again. What a way of life, to feel that everyday when you awake you have the possibility of being raped again.

College counselors and rape hotlines are experts in how to handle the calls from these women, who have been so violated. Usually these women have a feeling of unworthy, uncleanness, and that no matter how hard they try to forget they can never completely forget the attacker. That's where the counselors and hotline counselors come in

to play. They can talk with the victim and try to help her to understand that, this was in no way her fault. Many victims feel and think this, and this is probably statistically the hardest psychological obstacle for the victim to overcome.

Rape victims have more to fear today than fifty years ago. Today there is the possibility of not only being impregnated by this attacker but, maybe having a sexually transmitted disease passed onto an unwilling victim. Some of these are treatable while others are there for life. The HIV virus is a prime example of this.

Since the symptoms of HIV are usually unnoticeable, one could be infected for years without ever knowing. There is also the physical trauma to the victims. Many of these victims have been torn, or even cut. Some even require surgery to repair the trauma.

When people think of rape, they think of women as being the victims. This is not always the situation. More and more men are being raped. These are truly the ones you never

hear about. For a man, rape is not only a violation of his body but, of all he is. Only 5% of all women who are raped report it and those figures are incredibly lower for male victims.

I was able to speak with Captain Helmick, here at GSC. He stated that in the past three years, there have been no reports of rape on the campus. He went on to say that the last one that he could remember was in 1975. This wasn't even a rape, it was classified as an attempted rape.

Does this mean students here at GSC don't experience rape? Probably not. It means that the victims are too ashamed to come forward or even fear the consequences if they did step forward. What psychological damage has been done to these victims? No one knows for sure. But it definitely gives something for all to think about.

For questions and suggestions, for the Particle Lady, please feel free to e-mail her at gsc01293@mail.wvnet.edu. Till next week, good journeying through the trails of science.

The Mercury

Volume 70 - No. 4

A member of the Associated Press

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James Arnold - Sports Editor

Cris Gravely - A&E Editor/ Astrologer

Tamara Bennett - Advertising Director

Lisa Belknap - Office Manager/ Ad Design

Terry L. Estep - Prod. Manager/ Layout/ Photo Editor

Stephen Metz - Staff Cartoonist

John F. Rote - Advisor (It was fun while it lasted...)

A Riverdance Runs Through It - Lit Society alternate

Sex/semantics make the case

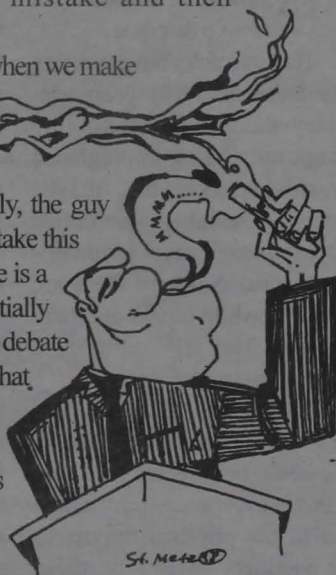
Did you know that in Monica Lewinsky's testimony from August 26, in just two hours and 70 pages of testimony the words "sex" and "sexual" are mentioned 83 times, the word "oral" is mentioned 36 times, the words "bra" and "breast" are mentioned 24 times, the word "cigar" is mentioned 10 times and the word "orgasm" is mentioned 5 times. This is being called to your attention, not just for the sake of gratuitous vulgarity, but because this trial is not just about perjury as some would like to believe.

If you cannot walk into Clinton's office and impeach him without using the words "breast" and "orgasm" than it is not just about perjury it is also about sex and politics.

Wouldn't it be nice if this scandal were over already. It is getting tiresome to listen to somewhat educated people still openly debating what Clinton did or did not use the 'contraband' cigar for. Come on already, he made a grave mistake and then he lied about it.

As adults we are taught that when we make a mistake, we admit to it and then we deal with the conse-

quences. If Clinton was just 'Billy, the guy who lives next door,' we'd never take this kind of crap from him, yet here he is a world leader, with our lives potentially at his fingertips and we'd rather debate the semantics. Think about it, what kind of respect are we supposed to have for a world leader who doesn't take responsibility for his OWN mistakes. That is basically what it all boils down to.



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"SHE STOPPED BY EARLIER TO DELIVER SOME PAPERS"

Keep your opinions to yourself, buddy!

By Chris Hopkins,
Staff Columnist

Have you ever had someone tell you that the music you listen to sucks or the type of books you read aren't worth the paper they're printed on and that your taste in relationships are somewhat lacking?

Who cares if you don't like what I'm reading or if you don't share the same taste in a person that I do? You don't have to live my life, so back up a little and check your opinion at the door because the only person a opinion matters to is the person stating it and that's the way it should be.

You would be shocked by the fallacy of ignorance and the pure stupidity that entails some reasoning. For instance I'm criticized on a daily basis because I am a fan of the Backstreet Boys. I aspire to

some day be in a group like them and be able to attract attention like they do.

They are very positive in their messages and there should be no reason that I shouldn't like them but to some it's wrong and I for one would like to know why?

I'm as guilty as the next on this one when I say that because I don't like someone it doesn't mean that he/she isn't good for one of my friends. How can people honestly set back and say that she/he isn't good for you? How in God's name do other people know what's right for me--when I'm not sure what's good for myself.

Here's something else that burns my butt when I hear it is that the way you dress is wrong or the job you work at sucks. First off if I want to wear my camouflage pants, a plaid button up shirt, hiking boots and

an armless BSB shirt then by God I'll do it and feel perfectly fine.

There are days when I want to wear torn-up dirty clothes with holes in them and mismatched socks and shoes and I'll damn well do what the little voices in my head say to do or until otherwise is decided.

When someone tells me I have a bad job--well, excuse me if I say at least I have one and at this moment I'm content in my situation and if it wasn't for people like me working the jobs I do, people like you wouldn't have it so easy. So until I'm on your payroll why should you care where my money comes from.

In short if you base your life around others opinions and not your own then you should be drug out, beaten with a horse-hair whip, and drawn and quartered.

That's my opinion.

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.

Political correctness is about playing nice. Don't go overboard.

By Molly Ivins,
Syndicated Columnist

As politics increasingly become a game of "gotcha" -- almost the only reason anyone watches political debates anymore is to see if one of the candidates will say something spectacularly stupid-- we invariably get a crop of controversies over "racial insensitivity."

Among these flappettes was Jesse Jackson's mid-80's reference to New York as "Hymietown," which was supposed to convince us that Jackson's lifetime struggle against racism did not apply to Jews. Then, there was Candidate Bill Clinton's diss of Sister Souljah, which supposedly meant that he has no respect for black culture, or maybe it was that he was playing to white racists (always a big voting group to him) -- I forget.

Remember the time president Bush referred to some of his grandchildren as "the little brown ones," and we had to hear about that for a week? It may not have come out right (Bush's thoughts often didn't),



but did anyone really doubt that in his inarticulate way he was trying to say how much he loved those grand children?

In 1992, Rick Perry-- who is now the Republican candidate for lieutenant governor -- was speaking against South Texas trial lawyers who bring frivolous lawsuits. He said, "Every Jose in town wants to come along and sue you for something" -- a *faux pas* that is now the source of flak from Democratic activists who have resurrected it.

Well, now, I grant you that using "Jose" rather than "Joe Bob" or "Bubba" was not the brightest thing that Perry ever did. In fact, if he had used "Joe Bob" or "Bubba," we probably

"[I do not think] it is too much to ask of the white majority that we recognize that our racial and ethnic minorities are peculiarly sensitive to dumb remarks."

would have heard a few yowls from those dedicated to defending the honor of the white race.

Nevertheless, it seems to me that this is insufficient evidence with which to charge Perry with conscious racism. It may have been a stupid thing to say, but if all the people who have never said anything stupid in their lives (or, for that matter, in the last week) would stand up, ya'll can go caucus in the nearest phone booth. Politicians talk a lot more than the rest of us, particularly in public, so it stands to reason that they have a higher batting average than the rest of us in the I Didn't Really Mean That Department.

Political correctness--a term that started as an inside joke among liberals about our excessively genteel language (we're the ones who make up

those absurd lists to amuse ourselves calling bald people "follicly challenged") is really just about thoughtfulness or kindness. Why offend people unnecessarily? Why not demonstrate just a smidgeon of sensitivity, otherwise known as good manners.

The right wing then evaluated this occasionally laughable tendency to the level of serious threat to the First Amendment, which is patently absurd. If you think political language in this country has been gelded, you haven't listened to talk radio lately.

Nor do I think it is too much to ask of the white majority that we recognize that our racial and ethnic minorities are peculiarly sensitive to dumb remarks like Perry's. In itself, that crack is not so offensive that it qualifies as racism,

but it comes on top of a long, bad history of racism that has made people sensitive even to unintended slights. It's like being hit on a bruise -- or, perhaps more accurately, on a broken leg. Is that so hard to understand?

One can take the sensible position that where there is no offense intended, none should be taken. Fair enough, but it still seems to me that a slight effort to understand other people's sensitivities is not too much to ask. Or as Rodney King said, "Can't we all just get along?"

Speaking of free speech, here's an item for you irony buffs. Defenders of the First Amendment nearly had a cow last year when Congress passed the repellently named Communications Decency Act (the name is one of those masterpieces of public relations cleverly disguising the laws real impact). Fortunately, the Supremes threw it out, nine-zip. Had it been allowed to stand, Congress would now have to prosecute itself for having put the Starr report on the Internet.

The Mercury says goodbye to a friend



My Two Cents
Commentary by
Terry Estep

Just over a year ago, I sat down in the Heflin Center cafeteria and had lunch with John Rote, the man who would be the advisor to *The Mercury*.

John was bright, energetic, and full of ideas about where the *Mercury* could go. My

thoughts tended to be more insular and paranoid about an "outsider" who would change the way we do things... the way we've *always* done things at the student newspaper.

John's energy and professionalism, not to mention his passion about the field of journalism and the incredible responsibility it carries, proved infectious.

The Mercury had stumbled and lost its way. There's no need to point fingers, but our credibility was at an all-time low, we were full of errors and terrible writing of little relevance to students.

In a letter to the editor,

Language Chair Edward Palm blasted us for the countless inaccuracies and breaks in grammar. He stated that he refused to believe Glenville students couldn't do better. Those words still hang in the newsroom as a constant challenge to improve ourselves.

We still needed to know *how* to do that. John Rote dusted us off and pointed us in the right direction. He trained us, gave us advice, made a few enemies, and instilled in us an honest work ethic for our chosen craft.

Our credibility is at an incredible high, and we're still amazed at how seriously everyone takes what we do.

When he was hospitalized last November, we put out the newspaper on time. It had nothing to do with how brave we were to keep going on in the face of such tragedy --it was professionalism.

John brought in state-of-the-art equipment and computer software. He took us to Chicago where we competed well against student newspapers across the country. We plan to win this year.

Through it all, John has been a good friend. His resignation was not completely unexpected, and the staff of the *Mercury* will miss him, but we welcome Yvonne King into



Good luck, John!

our family once again.

The *Mercury* will continue the trend you've seen and embraced. The paper doesn't stop for one man. John taught us that, too.

Video Review: Sphere sparkles

By Brent Wood,
Staff Columnist

Buried at the bottom of 1000 feet of water lies the new meaning of fear.

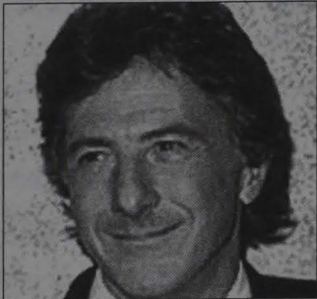
Currently out on home video is the film *Sphere* starring Dustin Hoffman, Sharon Stone, and Samuel L. Jackson as a psychologist, a molecular biologist and a mathematician, respectively.

Along with a physicist and three military personnel, the group embarks on a journey to the bottom of the sea where an alien spacecraft has been discovered. What waits for them on the inside no one can fathom.

The smooth sailing they encounter as they enter the alien craft for the first time ended when they discover they are not alone.

How did a dead American astronaut end up inside an alien spacecraft buried for three hundred years? That is just one mystery, but the next is even more frightening.

Locked in a cargo hold,



illuminating the drab interior, is a huge golden ball, a perfect sphere, that reflects everything around it... except for the people looking at it.

Only fear and death emerge from it, to torment the humans below.

Plagued by killer jellyfish and mythical sea creatures, only the most intelligent will survive the nightmare.

Sphere contains incredible special effects, marvelous actors, and a story keeping with Michael Crichton's original novel.

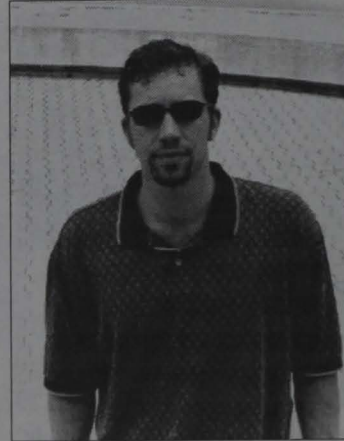
Barry Levenison directed a "guess who?" thriller, for the most avid of science fiction and suspense fans.

This is a great film for mature adults.

Chapman's art part of New York exhibition

Craig Drennen, a 1998 Glenville State College graduate, Artist and Gallery Curator, along with 1993 graduate and Visiting Assistant Professor of Art at Glenville State College, Duane Chapman, will be involved in the "99-44/100% PURE" art exhibit at the Abraham Lubelski Gallery on Broadway, New York, September 2 through October 3.

The title for the show comes from the packaging subtitle for Ivory soap. "99-44/100% PURE" in this context means any artist who works within an essentially



DUANE CHAPMAN (SHERRIE HARDMAN, MERCURY)

purist strategy, but allows a degree of "impurity" into the work. While Chapman has been involved in many exhibitions in his career, this

makes his first major exposure in the New York metropolitan area. This will make Drennen's tenth New York exhibit.

Chapman stated, "I am interested in the concept of the human condition as it relates to its environment and materials (sometimes the mediums become the concept) as well as the concept of art and its place in society and culture -- when in history will these factors meld together and how will we represent them? I seem to bounce between these worlds their freedoms."



Star Briefs

LAURENS, Iowa (AP) --Sissy Spacek is in Iowa to film a David Lynch movie and said the locals are too busy to pay much attention.

"It's refreshing to meet people who aren't completely swept away by a film production," Ms. Spacek said. "It's a very busy time here since this is the harvest

season, but still, people have been very helpful, very friendly."

Ms. Spacek lives on a farm in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. Her first impression of Iowans was on an airplane stuck on a runway because of mechanical problems.

"It was a plane full of Iowans, and for that entire hour nobody complained, nobody said a word," she said. "When I got on the new plane, I said to the stewardess, 'Have you noticed how patient everyone is? They haven't made a peep.' The stewardess responded, 'Well, they're Iowans.' Iowans are very sensible people."

Comedian leaves an impresssion

By Cris Gravely,
Staff Columnist

Playing to a half-filled auditorium last Wednesday comedian Frank Caliendo got laughs and gave it to hecklers.

The Milwaukee, Wisconsin native did impressions of everyone from Bill Clinton to Kermit the Frog.

One obvious highlight of the evening was the impression of Jerry

"YOU SMELL GOOD, BUT THERE ARE OTHER ISSUES HERE."

Seinfeld on acid. "There's little people on my fingers!" exclaimed a dazed Seinfeld.

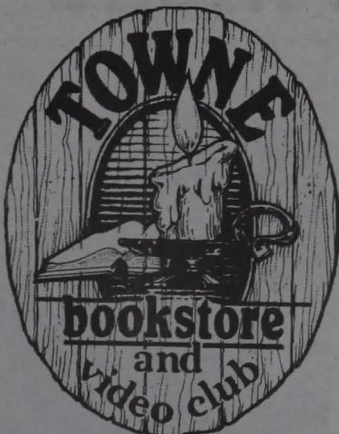
Other crowd-pleasers were Caliendo's wonderful Chris Farley impressions and the one-man Wizard of Oz starring Robin Williams.

The only bad things about the night were the



front row hecklers and the ruined ending of *Titanic*.

"He dies?!"



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LIBERTY MEADOWS by Frank Chow

HELLO, I'M FRANK CHOW. ACCORDING TO A RECENT COMIC SURVEY IN A NATIONAL NEWS-PAPER, OUT OF 55 COMIC STRIPS, LIBERTY MEADOWS WAS RANKED THE TOP 5 BY MEN AND WOMEN AGES 12-30 YEAR-OLD, BUT SCORED POORLY BY MEN AGES 46 AND OVER.

SO, TODAY, WE ARE PLEDGING TO MAKE LIBERTY MEADOWS MORE ACCESSIBLE TO THE SENIOR MALE READERS BY INTRODUCING AN "ANGIE DICKINSON" LOOK-ALIKE CHARACTER, REFERENCES TO THE "RAT PACK," MORE GOLF JOKES, AND...

WHAT? WHAT DO YOU MEAN ADVERTISERS DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT AGE GROUP? DON'T CHANGE ANYTHING? 12-30-YEAR-OLDS ARE THE PRIME CONSUMERS...

FOLKS, NEVER MIND.

SOMEBODY GET MICHAEL JORDAN ON THE PHONE!



UDZU by Doug Marlette

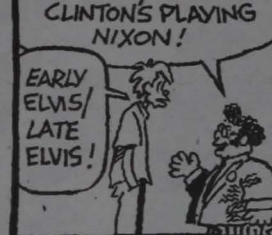
GOOD NEWS -- THE ENTIRE COUNTRY IS GEARING UP FOR A SIXTIES RE-ENACTMENT!

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GOING TO TOPPLE A PRESIDENT!

THIS'LL BE BIGGER THAN WOODSTOCK, CHICAGO... EVERYBODY PARTICIPATES!

I'M PLAYING THE YOUNG BILL CLINTON-BACK WHEN HE BELIEVED STUFF! CLINTON'S PLAYING NIXON!

EARLY ELVIS/LATE ELVIS!



THE BIG HAPPY by Rick Detorie

WHAT'S THAT WANT FOR MY BIRTHDAY?

BUT IT'S OVER \$1000!

SAYS WHO?!

IT'S IN MY CONTRACT.



BE IN HELL by Matt Groening

WHY CAN'T YOU LOVE ME?

YOU'RE NOT VULNERABLE ENOUGH.

I'M ABSOLUTELY, HOPELESSLY, DESPERATELY IN LOVE WITH YOU.

NOT VULNERABLE ENOUGH.



I'VE TOLD YOU ALL MY DEEPEST DARKEST FEARS AND SECRETS.

NOT VULNERABLE ENOUGH.

I'VE CONFESSED MY MOST DEPRAVED FANTASIES TO YOU.

NOT VULNERABLE ENOUGH.



I'VE CRIED IN YOUR ARMS.

NOT VULNERABLE ENOUGH.

I'VE THROWN MYSELF AT YOUR FEET AND BEGGED FOR YOUR ACCEPTANCE.

NOT VULNERABLE ENOUGH.

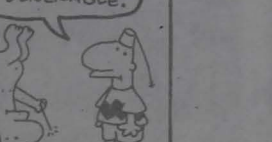


I'VE BARED MY SOUL AS WELL AS MY BODY.

NOT VULNERABLE ENOUGH.

LOOK! I'M NAKED, STANDING ON MY HEAD, SHAKING MY BUTT, AND WAVING SPARKLERS.

A LITTLE TOO VULNERABLE.



Cristola's Magical Mystical Predictions

Horoscope by Cris Gravely

Aries (March 21-April 19) — There is something in yourself that you're ashamed of. Face it, and you'll be a better person; ignore it, and continue to live in uncertainty and doubt.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Leadership is one of your under-used skills. People will follow you, if you take the initiative. Long-term planning is a strong point. Use it to your advantage.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) — By facing aggression in others, you also face the beast in yourself. Learn how to control your anger and rage. You will be victorious.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) — This week is marked by optimism, hope, and clarity about the future. You have a goal and are able to move forward with it. Ride the momentum.

Leo (July 23-August 22) — The initial completion of a long-term goal is not a final ending. There is enthusiasm about the future, but only through hard work will it be achieved.

Virgo (August 23-September 22) — Prepare to fall in love...again.

Someone poetic and sensitive is about to enter your life, and you can learn a lot from them. Romance is the key word.

Libra (September 23-October 22) — Everything in life is cyclical. As you overcome one challenge, a new one rises up to meet you. In this way, we never stop trying, and neither should you.

Scorpio (October 23-November 21) — A new relationship, or a reconciliation, is just around the bend. We look for what we need in others, and hope to fulfill ourselves. Now is your chance.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21) — This week is a time of fluctuation, uncertainty, and confusion. Hold on to your hopes and dreams; they'll be your lifeboat in this turbulent time.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19) — Face the contradictions in yourself in order to begin to accept others and their personality flaws. Aggression towards others needs to be contained.

Aquarius (January 20-February 18) — You must give something up this week. You know it's true, but are still holding on. There is no way to go except to let go. Move on.

Pisces (February 19-March 20) — Communication is a must in relationships. Without it, we can't understand one another and happiness cannot be achieved. Open up.



Who takes Karate?

A variety of students attend Mike Newell's Karate class every week, learning the art of self-defense. (Photos by Terry Estep)

