

October 5, 19 **On Campus** Page 2 Jp-Top" is up and runni

By Ann Williams, Staff Reporter

A new place for students to hang out opened in Pickens Hall on September 17.

The Up-Top, found above Wagner Wing, in Pickens Hall's penthouse, is a chemical-free night club that is open every night from 7 p.m. until 11:30 p.m.

The new club features a 32-inch television with Stereo TV/VCR hook-up to a sound system, showing ESPN Football and ESPN Heat every Sunday night.

Every Monday night ABC Monday Night Football and WWF Warzone and RAW can be viewed.

The Up-Top sells chips and soda, and is planning to offer a wider variety of snacks in the future.





STOP BY FOR A VISIT: The Up-Top provides a place where students can hang out, study, and listen to music. Food and be ages are for sale as well. The Up-Top is the brainchild of Pickens Hall RA Josh Hutzler (left).

operated hangout, the Up-Top is the brainchild of Pickens Hall RA Josh Hutzler, who wanted to create a place where students could hang out.

Females do not need to be A student-created and signed in, but they must stop by

the female to the club.

Pickens Hall House Director Eric Poirier plans to have comedians and student

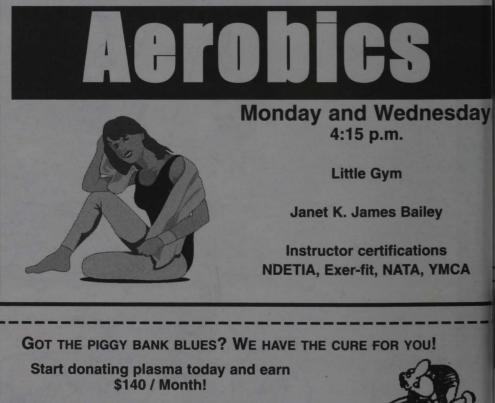
Wagner Office to summon the bands to perform there in the "elevator escort" that Up-Top future. There is a budget set provides. The escort then takes aside to hire student bands and if any student band is interested they can contact Eric at Extension 269.

take a while to become pop but I'm sure things will up," Poirier explains. "The Top is truly a student-cent enterprise. I am definitely l ing for student input "With anything new it will involvement."

Terry Estep, Mer



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he Mercury

On Campus

Study finds college drinking tinues unabated

By Robin Estrin, **Associated Press**

BOSTON -- More than If of college students who ank alcohol last year set ut to get drunk, according a study by the Harvard chool of Public Health.

The survey of 14,521 udents, published in this onth's issue of the Journal American College Health, llowed up on an analysis 15,103 students in 1993. oth surveys queried stuents randomly at 130 colges across the country.

In 1993, about 39 percent respondents who drank id they did so intending to t drunk. That compares to percent in 1997.

Nineteen percent of stuents surveyed said they

year, up from 15.6 percent in the earlier study.

Henry Wechsler, who headed both studies, said it was difficult to gauge why students were abstaining more, but he doubted access to booze was the issue.

More likely, Wechsler said, those students had listened to the warnings of school administrators--or were repelled by the drinking of their peers.

Wechsler's 1993 survey was seen as a wake-up call on many college campuses, and administrators around the country have wrestled with ways to curb heavy drinking and its sometimes deadly consequences. In both the 1993 and

hadn't touched a drink in a 1997 Harvard studies, fraternity and sorority members were the biggest alcohol guzzlers on campus. Four out of five qualified as 'binge" drinkers, those men who drank at least five drinks in a row or women who drank at least four.

Overall, 42.7 percent of students surveyed were considered binge drinkers in 1997, a slight decrease from the 44.1 percent in 1993. Weehsler said the drop is attributed mostly to an increase in students who do not drink at all.

The study did not show which specific colleges had the most drinkers, though schools in the Northeast and Midwest tended to produce more drinking.

Convenience

Store

Multicultural Fair Schedule

Monday, October 5

FOOD FEST 11:30 - 1 p.m. - Pioneer Center

AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY ON THE WEB 1 - 2 p.m. - Clark Hall Tech Lab

BRAZIL: CULTURAL, ECONOMIC, AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES 4 - 5 p.m. - Heflin Center Ballroom

JAPANESE-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP DINNER

HISTORY ALIVE: MARTIN DELANCY 7 - 8 p.m. - AB Auditorium

Tuesday, October 6

INFLUENCE ON AFRICAN TRADITIONAL WV CULTURE AND LANGUAGE 1 - 2 p.m. - Heflin Center Ballroom

DIALOGUE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE, CRITICAL THINKING, AND ACADEMIC FREEDOM. 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. - Heflin Center Ballroom

THE GLOBALIZATION OF THE CURRICULUM . 4 - 5 p.m. - Heflin Center Ballroom

MUSIC FEST 8 - 10 p.m. - Fine Arts Auditorium

AT RISK STUDENTS IN THE SCHOOLS

Wednesday, October 5

10 - 11 a.m. - Heflin Center Ballroom

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THE MOUNTAIN COVE SPIRITUAL COLONY 11 a.m. -12 noon - Heflin Center Ballroom

GENEALOGY ON THE INTERNET 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.- DLC

GENDER AND LANGUAGE 4 - 5 p.m. - Recital Hall

WOMEN ARTISTS: A WELL KEPT SECRET 7 - 8 p.m. - Recital Hall

Thursday, October 8

DJEMBE DRUMMING 1 - 2 p.m. - Fine Arts Recital Hall

BILINGUAL, ESL & LEP EDUCATION 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. - Verona Mapel Room

CONFLICT RESOLUTION 4 - 5 p.m. - Verona Mapel Room

COLORS OF PRIDE MOVIE NIGHT 7 - 11 p.m. - Wesley Foundation

will full Programs descriptions of activities are available around campus.

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News

se releases school violence re

Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- Rep. Bob Wise used a Putnam County elementary school where a student was accused last spring of threatening the assistant principal's life as the backdrop for the release of 18 recommendations Monday to curb school violence in the United States.

The report, presented to Bill Modzeleski, of the Department U.S. of Education, is based on public hearings Wise sched- mendations

July and August.

In a four-item list of "gold star" recommendations, Wise, D-W.Va., called for a toll-free violence hotline for students and faculty; improvements in alternative education for what he called unruly students; expansion of zero tolerance; and school report cards to keep parents abreast of school issues.

The remaining recomincluded

uled in West Virginia in increased police presence in schools; improved early intervention and special education programs; improved electronic communication between classrooms and central offices; expanded peer mediation training; improved afterschool programs; and reduced class size.

> Wise said the document was timely. Officials in Kanawha and Boone counties already have handled students who have brought guns with them

during this school term. In did not demonstrate th Cabell County, officials are investigating the mutilation of a kitten.

The West Teays Elementary School, the site of Monday's event, was boycotted by parents last May after a fifth-grader was accused of threatening the school's assistant principal. Parents kept their children out of class for several days, insisting that the school had failed to act on the threat. School officials said an investigation the student made the threat

Wise said many recom mendations can be enacte at the state level, an Congress can help by con tinuing the federal Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act and by providing additiona money for police officer in school. Congress als should provide incentive for states to enact legisla tion requiring physiologi cal evaluations for student caught with handguns i school, he said.

Spotlight on Science and Math: Dr. David C. Bradford

By B.J. Woods, Staff Reporter

Dr. David Bradford is the Professor of Physics Glenville State for College and teaches a wide range of Physic related classes. Dr. Bradford, who joined the faculty of GSC in 1996, comes to Glenville from Texas.

Bradford is married and is the father of two gorgeous daughters, Nora and Jessie.

he has seen some changes since he first came to GSC. He has participated in reworking the curricu- for the Science and Math lum and has seen some Division is to get the



Dr. David Bradford

Bradford admits that new scientific equipment be brought in to the Science and Math Hall. His one wish for the future Science Hall in order for Open House and to complete the new water lab setup.

Extras are planned for his students. He wants to be able to offer a new 200 level course for his students. "Environmental Chemistry/ Water Analysis." He also plans on taking some of his Modern Physics students to the AAPT Regional Meeting in Buckhannon.

Bradford has brought new ideas to the Science and Math Division and isn't afraid of a little hard work to see the ideas put to use.

Web-based Instruction Workshop held at GSC

By Ann Williams, Staff Reporter

A Web-Based Instruction Workshop took place September 25, 1998 from 1-3 p.m. The workshop met in the Distance Learning section of the Media Center in the Robert F. Kidd Library. The speakers were Sue Day-Perroots and Sherri Kelly-Langdon, both of WVU.

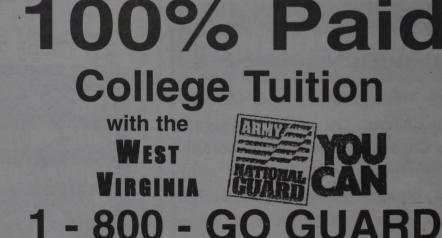
The seminar was geared towards Glenville State College faculty, and there were at least 30 faculty members in attendance. The main focus of the workshop was finding better techniques to reach students taught through distance

learning courses. Other sub jects examined include finding new markets, leam ing objectives, and studer competencies. Definin scopes, goals, objectives and materials needed wer also discussed.

Designing web page was an important topic th was reviewed. The collec tion of the resources needed to formulate a web page wa also discussed. Passwor protecting was a focal poir of the workshop, along wit ways of putting sound an video on web sites Software available to giv on-line tests also proved t be an important part of th Web-Based Workshop.



Drawing October 13, 1998 See any member to purchase a ticket. **Good luck!**



Mercury

On Campus

lilgenberg enjoying return to ivision chair status and duties

y Allison Tant, taff Reporter

esponsibilities.

e has been reinstat- move along Chair Duke here." im ott.

College since 1969 history professor. he has taken on administrative nsibilities again.

within the division. physical stature ob is not to dictate, technology der, or anything like department eople in this divi- shape. o be the best teach-

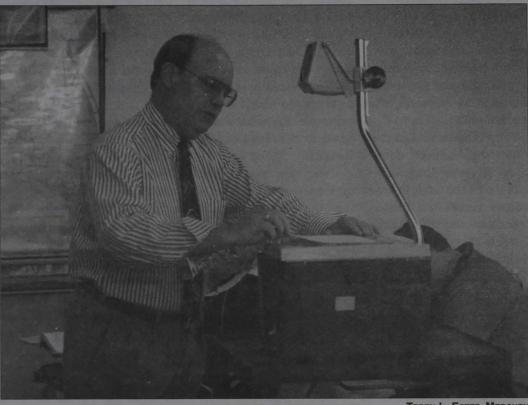
is recruiting good classroom.

faculty and to be able to reward and retain them. r. James Hilgenberg "It is very frustrating to new responsibility hire somebody who's, SC--returning to his say, a very good teacher, and see that person because the Social Science there was something ion Head, replacing wrong with the situation

Another goal he has ilgenberg has been set is to become more oyed by Glenville involved in the recruiting of students. He believes that there is main objective is more that the division to teach history, but could be doing to get students enrolled.

There are some little things that Dr. is position requires Hilgenberg would like to al things of him. see improved within the akes care of prob- division. As far as the and the in go, he It is simply to help believes they are in good

One of his biggest ey can be." He is complaints is the size of to facilitate and the classes. "Education ort the efforts of the should be more interactive." He doesn't think Hilgenberg has that students can obtain everal goals for his the highest quality of The main education if there are he's concerned too many people in a



TERRY L. ESTEP, MERCURY

"He's BAAAAACK." After time spent away from his former post, Dr. James Hilgenberg has been reinstated as the Social Science division chair.

anything he'd like to years I see this college removed Hilgenberg and add, he said, "I think having a very positive other division chairs that Glenville State attitude for a bright from their positions in College right now has future." experienced a remarkable turnaround. We got removed from his posi- dence vote from the a team. It's a very differ- former Glenville State ent atmosphere and atti- College tude than we have had in William K. Simmons. the recent past. I think things are much better... the subject of a lawsuit Division.

When asked if he had For the first time in claiming

Hilgenberg new administrative tion as Division Chair by

The action became

Simmons retaliation for voicing was concerns and a no-confi-Glenville faculty.

Another defendent, President John McKinney, has also be reinstated as chair of the Fine Arts

Irts & Crafts Show orth Bend State Park

aturday, October 10 and Sunday, October 11

artisans displaying crafts may set up starting at m. on Friday, October 9. Booth fees are \$10 for an indoor table and \$5 for an outdoor table.

br more information, call 1-800-CALL-WVA and ask for North Bend

The Main Event Sports Bar & Grill Open 5 p.m. daily Serving Food All Hours Walking Distance from the College **DJ and Dancing Thursday & Saturday DJ Sean Davis** 18 to enter - 21 to drink 462-7098 - 101 West Main Street

Page 6

Sports

October 5, 19 1

Jumpshots

By James Arnold, Staff Reporter

With all the excitement over the homerun race, many people, including myself, forgot about the real race in baseball: the pennant chase.

The American League, which the Yankees dominated all year long, consists of the Cleveland Indians versus the Boston Redsoxs, and the Texas Rangers versus the New York Yankees.

constant the Atlanta Braves versus the Chicago Cubs and the San Diego Padres versus the Houston Astros.

The Yankees are continuing to beat-up on everyone. They have a two game to zero lead over the Rangers.

You can pretty much take to the bank that NY has that series, but the other series is tied up and is showing signs of excitement. The Redsox and The National league, of Indians are going to battle,

course, has the postseason but I think the Indians will finally out-pitch them.

As far as the National leage goes, San Diego and Houston are out of their league, and for that matter, so is Chicago. Sosa can't beat Atlanta himself, and regardless of who wins between the Padres and the Astros, they'll be swept by the Braves.

Look for a NY Yankees/Atlanta Braves World Series. I don't who will win that but it will be exciting.

Former UNLV star Adams convicted

Associated Press NEW YORK — Richie

Adams, a former UNLV basketball star, convicted of manslaughter in the 1996 beating death of a 15-year-old girl, faces a maximum sentence of life in prison when sentenced Oct. 26.

A jury deliberated for nearly four days before finding the 35-year-old Adams guilty Saturday of a lesser of first-degree charge manslaughter in the beating death of Norma Rodriguez. The high school student was found Oct. 15, 1996 in the hallway of a housing project in the Bronx where both she and Adams had lived.

Adams, who has been and out of jail for sever felony convictions since t 1980s, was once considered defensive whiz at UNLV. played under coach Jer Tarkanian and was known shot-blocking his rebounding talents.

He was jailed three tim on robbery and grand larcer convictions before beir charged with second-degree murder in Rodriguez's deal Police said a bloody size 1/2 basketball shoe print | them to Adams, who was li ing with his mother one flo below where the high scho freshman was found savage beaten.

B'ball excitement growing Mix of new recruits and familiar faces

By James Arnold, Staff Reporter

There is a lot of excitement surrounding this season of men's basketball here at Glenville. Many people have been talking about the new recruits and about some key returning members of the rebuilding Pioneer squad of last year. One of those key returners is Terry Clark.

Terry is in his second year here at Glenville and his senior year of college. Clark is a Behavioral ferred here last year from Division I, North Eastern University in Boston MA.

Now that Clark has had a year to adjust to the system here and Division II basketball he says, "The only difference is there you're playing against tough competion all the time. The players you face are some of the top in the country everyday."

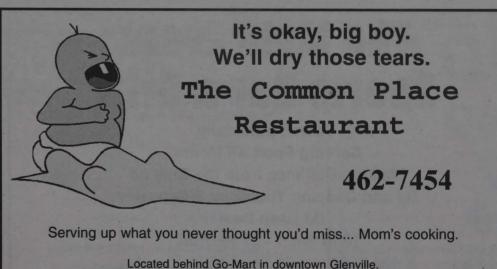
Clark is really excited about this season as well. He is very confident, and when asked about the new

Science major who trans- recruits and the new additions he said, "The new guys are a great addition. We got some size now and we can bang with anybody. "

The men's basketball season is coming soon and I guarantee it will be exciting,

They've been working hard with their conditioning, running, and their individual workouts.

A new look in the gym, plus some new key players equals one heck of a year for the mens basketball program.



Getting in a little practice...



Science/Tech

THE VIRTUAL LIBRARIAN: Computer urban legends

By Ben Bruton, Guest Columnist

These days, rumors pread faster over the iternet than they do at a local church supper. omeone thinks up an nlikely story then emails it all of their friends, who in irn email it to everyone tey know, and before you how it, an urban legend is brn.

Probably the most mous example of an iternet hoax is the "Good imes" email virus. Several ears ago, someone on the primercial service rovider America Online egan warning others that n email message with the ords "Good Times" in the



subject line was circulating it's the Internet, and that if you or p received the message and sage read it, a virus would infect tract your computer and wipe Sou

out its memory. Scary, huh? But true? Not a word of it.

The simple truth is, you can't get a virus by displaying or reading an email message. Viruses can only exist in files, and since an email message is not a file, viruses cannot be transmitted through them. Therefore,

"Someone thinks up an unlikely story, then emails it to all of their friends, who in turn email it to everyone they know, and before you know it, an urban legend is born."

> it's okay to read, display, or print out an email message without fear of contracting a computer virus. So unless your email contains a file attachment, like a word-processed document, there's no cause for alarm.

Occasionally, new email virus hoaxes pop up. Not too long ago, I received a message warning of another email virus bearing the words "Win a Holiday" in its subject line. Again, it proved to be just another

Another infamous Internet is the hoax Neiman-Marcus cookie recipe. It goes like this: A woman and her daughter are eating lunch in a Neiman-Marcus restaurant. Being cookie lovers, they order the "Neiman-Marcus Cookie" for dessert. The cookie is delicious; the woman asks the waitress for the recipe. The waitress replies that she can't give out the recipe. Undaunted, the woman offers to buy the cookie recipe. The waitress says, "Okay, that'll be twofifty." The woman tells her to add it to her tab.

hoax. Old legends die hard.

A month goes by, and the woman receives her

VISA statement in the mail. To her horror, she discovers that she has been billed \$250 for the cookie recipe! She calls Neiman-Marcus and patiently explains that she thought the waitress meant \$2.50, not \$250.

Neiman-Marcus refuses to refund her money. Furious and hell-bent on revenge, the woman says, "Alright. Since you've got my \$250 I'm going to have \$250 worth of fun."

She sends out the entire recipe in her email and encourages her friends to pass it on. Now that she's paid for it, the rest of the world can have it for free.

Believe it? Yeah, right.

Science with the Particle Lady: Fall: That's when it changes

By B.J. Woods, Staff Columnist

Being a commuter, I get to end much time traveling est Virginia's roads. Fall has t to be one of the best times the year, simply for the fact at the leaves are changing lors.

These colors add a touch beauty in what would be y, dismal, brown in just a uple of months in the future. hy the change in colors? hat effects the leaves changg from the greens of summer the warm colors of yellow, ange, rust, gold, and reds?

Scientists have studied the anges in leaves for many ars. They do know some of a factors that effect the anging of the leaves: the eather, and the length of the ghts. One may ask, what es the night have to do with changing of the colors of leaves? This color changdoesn't take place until the ys grow shorter and the ghts grow longer and cooler.

There are three types of gments involved with the anging of the leaves--

chlorophyll, carotenoid, and anthocyanin. The chlorophyll is what gives the leaves their basic color of green and is also used photosynthesis. in Carotenoid are what produces the brown, gold, yellow and orange colors. These are the same pigments that give carrots their color. Anthocyanin are water soluble and are what gives the rust and reddish colors. Anthocyanin are found in cranberries and strawberries, just to name a couple of fruits.

During the growing seasons of spring and summer, chlorophyll is constantly being produced and broken down so the leaves appear to be green. As fall moves in, the nights are longer and the chlorophyll production is decreased. It gradually decreases until it eventually stops. This leads to all the chlorophyll being destroyed. This is when we get to see the carotenoid and anthocyanin, as they are now displayed.

Not all trees will have just red or orange leaves. Specific species of trees will have specific colors. Oaks will turn to red, rust or brown. Dogwoods will turn a purplish red. Maples will differ from species to species by being orangishred, to scarlet, and yellow. Elms have the tendency to shrivel up and appear to be dead brown.

What happens to the leaves as they change colors? With the leaves not making chlorophyll, the leaves are no longer able to make a sugar supply and essentially die of lack of nutrition. These leaves will fall from the trees but are still not wasted, as they are turned into compost and recycled in this circle of life. These dead, decomposing leaves are good for holding in moisture on the ground, and when they totally decompose they supply essential nutrients back into the earth.

Enjoy fall, as it comes but once a year. See the colors and remember, it is all just another facet in this circle we call life. If you have nay questions that you would like to see explored, please feel free to contact the Particle Lady at gsc01293@mail.wvnet.edu. Until we meet agin, happy travels through the wall of science.



Chi Beta Phi will hold its next meeting on Oct. 13, 1998 at 12:30 p.m. in Room 302 S.H. Finalizing the National Meeting.

How does \$800/week Extra income sound to you? Amazingly profitable opportunity. Send self-addressed stamped envelope to: GROUP FIVE 6547 N. Academy Boulevard. Dept. N Colorado Springs, CO 20918

Counseling Services Available

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

Editorials

October 5, 1998



Volume 70 - No. 5 A member of the Associated Press

Annie McCourt - Editor-in-chief/ News Editor James Arnold - Sports Editor Cris Gravely - A&E Editor/ Astrologer/ Copy Editor Tamara Bennett - Advertising Director Lisa Belknap - Office Manager/ Ad Design Terry L. Estep - Prod. Manager/ Layout/ Photo Editor Stephen Metz - Staff Cartoonist Alan Smithee - Advisor Coccyx - Really awesome triple-word score

A Culture Club..

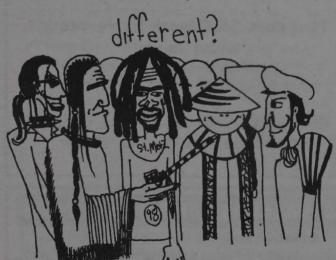
Hello again to all of you out there in happy reader land. Did you know that today marks the beginning of GSC's annual Multicultural Fair? It is a week every year dedicated to ethnic diversity in the heartlands of West Vriginia.

This week truly is one of the best things going at GSC. Not only can you learn about different ethnic cultures, but you can get a better grasp on the trials and tribulations of your homosexual friends while sampling fine cuisine from around the globe.

Wouldn't it be great if all of the money spent on bringing the Wheeling Symphony Orchestra (WSO) to GSC twice a year could be used to welcome more educationally rewarding things, like the Multicultural Fair?

Granted WSO does bring in a lot of publicity for the music department, but the Multicultural Fair is a week-long celebration that benefits everyone, from English majors to business buffs, in every facet on campus. Also, the people involved in the Multicultural Fair are usually pretty nice.

In further news, the apathy on this campus is astounding. Come on people, there has to be something that you care about. You can't all agree with this editorial all of the time. This editorial has done everything it could to raise some eyebrows and questions from you readers out there and yet, not a single letter to the editor has been found anywhere. I'm talking to you readers at the extension campuses as well (Hello mom) you can mail letters to us too. We want to hear from all of you.



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"Technobabies" will be the death of us all

By Chris Hopkins, Staff Columnist

Can you remeber when you were a little baby sitting on one of your parent's knees listening to them tell you a story about how the two kids beat the old witch, or how the bears and goldilocks argued about whose bed she was sleeping in?

Probably not, because these days it seems that parents are using televisions and technology, such as gaming machines and cd players, to keep their children busy instead of handing them a book or some paper and crayons.

It just seems as of late that parental duties are being shifted to a flashing object that could care less who or what is using it.

I've babysat for friends and family, and it seems the first place the children run to is either the television or to the computer. While these are not bad things in themselves (and they have an abundance of information available for kids to access and to learn), I have to wonder what happened to the carefree days of running around outside and climbing trees.

To tell the truth, I'm not an anti-technology neo-Luddite. I just wish everyone wasn't so dependent upon machines and electronics to make life better.

It should be our jobs to help each other as humans to make life better. Think of how much interaction between people we're losing. It's no wonder that studies are showing people who surf the web often are developing feelings of isolation.

It sort of saddens me to

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES **The Mercury 200 High Street - Box 207 Glenville, WV 26351** All articles submitted for publication in *The Mercury* must be typed and doublespaced. Stories and announcements should be addressed c/o 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.

see a parent set a kid in front of a television and tell them to be good and watch the movie while mommy or daddy rests. Excuse me? Didn't you give up the right to lounge around when you had a kid?

I may be wrong, but I think a parent's duty is to the children until they leave home and even then you should be there if they need your continued guidance.

At first I couldn't decide if I wanted to rant and rave about irresponsible parents or "Techno-Babies," so I decided that it is almost impossible to talk about one and not the other.

Only an irresponsible parent would let their children be raised by a machine that can only do what it is told.

Page 8

e Mercury

Op-Ed

he spectre of rape at GSC

Dear Editor:

This past Monday I was ding the Mercury and I e upon an article titled ence with the Particle v: Should You Fear Rape SC?

The article starts off by ng "When was the last there was a rape on the pus here at GSC?" tain Helmick answered there had not been any rts in the last, and he s on to say that the last orted incident of rape in 1975. I guess the tain needs a little help embering.

have been here at GSC

since the Fall of '93 and I know of one occurrence in the Fall of '94 when a friend of mine was raped by two male students while out at the bar. She went to the police and they did nothing.

Let me correct myself-the police put her on the spot and made her feel like she was the bad guy. It's no wonder that last year when she was drugged and gangraped by six men at an offcampus house she did not report it. The men involved did not go completely unpunished--they were arrested for drugs the very next week.

This is the story of one person here at GSC, and there are dozens more worse than this one.

I know of another girl who was raped by two men in her dorm room in Pickens Hall about two years ago. She reported it to campus police and they did nothing. She told me that they informed her that because she let them into her room there was nothing they could do.

Why do we bother signing people in if it gives them a get out of with this town and with this school? What do they care about? I guess it's not the women who go here.

ily

I for one have had a fammember who went through the horror of rape and I have no wish to see anyone else go through the experience. What can we do about it? Well, to start, we can go out with our friends to make

jail free card? What's wrong sure that if they party, nobody takes advantage of them.

> We also have to let women know that they can speak up and be heard. If the police or campus security will do nothing, we should find someone who will.

Next time something like this happens, they can call me and I will call TV networks and everyone else I can think of. No longer will rape be the silent animal stalking the women of GSC. Someone out here cares.

Jeremy Burks

Ve need a bill of rights for patients

By Molly Ivins, Syndicated Columnist

Sorry, Congress can't be ered to do anything about es by HMOs and other ged health-care plans -busy reading the Starr t.The House did pass a concerning health maintee organizations, but it's bad that it would actually parent's rights, and dent Clinton has already he'll veto it. In the Senate, re still bickering about to debate the issue.

Meanwhile, HMO lobbyre stepping up their public ons campaign with televiads, claiming that a nts' bill of rights with real in it would "swamp the m, drive up costs and deny h care to millions." The ampaign, paid for by the ness Roundtable, is coordiby the same guy who the "Harry and Louise" hat destroyed the Clinton 1-care plan in 1994.

happen to know that llegations made in these ads are not true because , of all places, is ahead of curve on this one. We're nly state in the country had already passed a g patient's bill of rights --



major credit to state Sen. David Sibley, R-Waco-- that allows patients to sue HMOs and establishes a seperate appeals process when insurers refuse to pay for needed treatment.

Gov. George W. Bush and other Republican candidtaes would have you believe that Texas teems with shark-like trial lawyers, everlooking to sue big companies. According to The New York Times, after more than a year of having the right to sue insurers, exactly zero cases have been brought. There have, however, been a number of appeals, and half of them have gone against the insurers.

None of the horrors predicted by opponents of a national patient's bill of rights have come to pass. The system has not been swamped (There have been fewer appeals than expected); costs have not soared or even gone up; businesses have not dropped their coverage; and health care has not been denied to millions.

It's true that more than four million Texans don't have health insurance (thats 23.9 percent of non-elderly Texans -- the second-highest rate in the nation, according to the Kaiser Commission), but they didn't before the bill was passed, either. Unlike Pennsylvania, Texas does not even provide health insurance for children; 17.8 percent of our kids have no health insurance, and our school-based health clinics were only recently saved from budget cuts by election-year politics.

If not one lawsuit has been filed, one could argue, perhaps such provision is not needed. But Texas doctors say that HMOs are showing more willingness to go along with their treatment plans since the law was passed, according to the Times article.

Another major medical mess that's being ignored in the furor over the president's sex life is the home health-care situation. This beleaguered industry chose the day that the Starr report was delivered to Congress to stage a rally at the Capitol hoping to draw attention to this issue. It got no coverage.

The problem here is misguided effort to cut down on Medicare fraud and waste in the Balanced Budget Act. Medicare administrators responded to the congressional directive by imposing an annual cap on per-person home health-care costs. No matter how much the home health care costs, medicare will reimburse the agencies only for \$3,400.

According to the Dallas Morning News, since the cap was imposed last October, 650 of Texas's 4,000-plus licensed homehealth-care agencies have closed, and more are going under almost daily. The consequence, ofcourse, is that many frail, elderly people can no longer get home health care and must now go into nursing homes, which cost Medicare much more money. This is not a shrewd response to fraud and waste.

There was abuse of the system before. According to the Morning News, the average annual number of home visits jumped form 33 to 74 between 1990 and 1996, with Medicare getting billed for each visit. The trouble with capping perpatient costs is that even though one patient may require only a monthly visit to check on heart medication. another --say, a double amputee with advanced diabetes--may require daily visits.

In theory, this problem will be solved when Medicare goes to something called a prospective paymet systems (PPS), which is the same system they use to pay hospitals. Unfortunately, by the time the PPS is up and running, there will be no homehealth-care agencies left unless Congress acts now to remedy the problem.

Taxas Rep. Bill Archer, chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, has been notably tepid. In July, he sent out a "Dear Republican Colleague" letter that consisted entirely of how to handle the poltical fallout from this mess rather than addressing a solution. Since Archer is so hellbent on cutting Medicare costs, I point out again that forcing elderly people into nursing homes is the most expensive option possible. The \$1 billion that he claims the PPS will save Medicare is nothing compared to what forcing folks into nursing homes will cost.

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Wheeling Symphony: Mix of sizzle and fizzle drowned out by the support- which Latin sounds and of enthusiasm on the part

By Cris Gravely, Staff Reporter

On Saturday, September 26, the sounds of George Gershwin filled the Fine Arts Auditorium. Why? The Symphony Wheeling Orchestra was celebrating the composer's birthday.

Led by maestra Rachael Worby and joined by special guest artists Katherine Terrell and Lewis Dahle von Schlanbusch, the evening could aptly be described as the best of times and the worst of times.

Opening with "An American in Paris," an energetic modern pastorale, the evening got off to a wonderful start. A trio of vocal numbers by Gershwin was then sung Terrell and by von Schlanbusch, whose wonderful soprano and bari-

tone were a definite plus for the evening, but often

ing symphony due to microphone troubles.

Still, the duo made up for lack of sound with an electrifying stage chemistry. The first half of the show concluded with a sampling of Gershwin's most cherished pieces from Hollywood, including "Let's Call the Whole Thing Off," "A Foggy Day," and "Our Love is Here to Stay."

The second half opened with "Cuban Overture," in

rhythms pervaded and provided enough power to jump-start the audience's flagging energy.

Von Schlanbusch and Terrell followed, each singing a trio of vocal numbers which really showed their talent.

Von Schlanbusch's baritone shone during "I Got Rhythm," filling the auditorium with his voice. Terrell truly wowed the audience. when she sang "Stairway to Paradise," an energetic song that audiences can't help but tap their feet to.

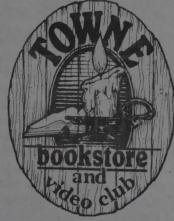
The show closed with a medley from Gerwhin's "Porgy and Bess," including "Bess, You Is My Woman Now," which earned the duo and the symphony a standing ovation from the crowd.

While the evening was perfect musically, the show lacked energy on the part of the symphony and the audience, leaving the job entirely to the guest artists. This lack the audience was embaras ingly obvious during t encore, which entailed sing-along with the au ence; only three or four pe ple participated.

As for the symphony itse the lack of energy was pro bly a reflection of Worby's k of enthusiasm while onstage

The only time seemed truly happy when she was asking audience to buy CD's when she was raising fur for GSC's Mu Department; a zeal for fu raising does not make entertainment.

Overall, the perfe mance from the WSO Katherine Terrell Lewis Dahle Schlanbusch provided evening of perfect mus if not perfect audien chemistry. If you miss them, don't worry; they be back again, hopeful with more excitement a entertainment.



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CBS wins first week of new season

By David Bauder. **Associated Press**

NEW YORK -- Pro football helped CBS score an upset victory in the prime-time ratings.

The network narrowly beat last year's Nielsen Media Research's prime-time ranking for the opening week of the fall season.

The last time CBS

won a premiere week was 1993, the year before it lost the football contract.

The network paid \$500 million to broadcast the NFL this fall and is heavipromoting its ly champ, NBC, in prime-time schedule during the games, hoping to attract the young fans and men that advertisers covet. `'It's not like football is going around turn schedule, but going to get blood flowing ag in the younger den graphics," Leslie Moonv CBS Television pre ident. CBS scored doub

digit increases over year in those desira demographics week.

he Mercury

JBERTY MEADOWS by Frank Chow

Fun Stuff

NEVER



Cristola's Magical istical Predictions Horoscope by Cris Gravely

Aries (March 21-April 19) — When you reach one goal, a new one always comes to take its place. A major goal is nearing completion and you have only to work hard to reach it. Prepare for new challenges.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — By facing anger from others, you learn how to handle your own aggressive drives and impulses. Be strong, but don't be strong-armed. Trial by fire is never easy.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) — Take time out for yourself this week to learn the virtues of patience. Learn to respect your limitations and use the time to build foundations in your life.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) — Leadership is the word of the week for Cancer. Others look to you for ideas and you have plenty. Now, start to implement them and make change. It's good for you.

Leo (July 23-August 22) - Hobbies and pasttimes may not be just for leisure. Look to them as a means of employment. There are real opportunities there, if you take it seriously and work hard.

Virgo (August 23-

September 22) — This is your week to feel great about things. Things are definitely going your way; even "bad" things turn out for the best right now. You have the Midas touch.

Libra (September 23-October 22) — This week should be a time of introspection and introversion. Stillness is needed for healing to begin. Take this time to put your life in order.

Scorpio (October 23-November 21) — All things must come to an end. How painful it is depends on your acceptance of endings. New things in life can be yours, if you can let go of the old ones.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21) — Be pleased with what you have accomplished this week. Take enjoyment out of your abilities; you don't need someone else's validation.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19) - Money will be yours soon if, this week, you take all your extra energy and use it and your resources effectively. If you know the money game, play it.

Aquarius (January 20-February 18) Marriage or proposal is in the air. If it's what you want, take time and Ab patience to make it happen. If it's not what you want, make a change in your life.

Pisces (February 19-March 20) — You must give something up this week. Face the truth; no other action will avail. the future cannot be manipulated. Prepare for a depressing week.

Parting Shots by Terry Estep - Intermural Football

October 8, 199

