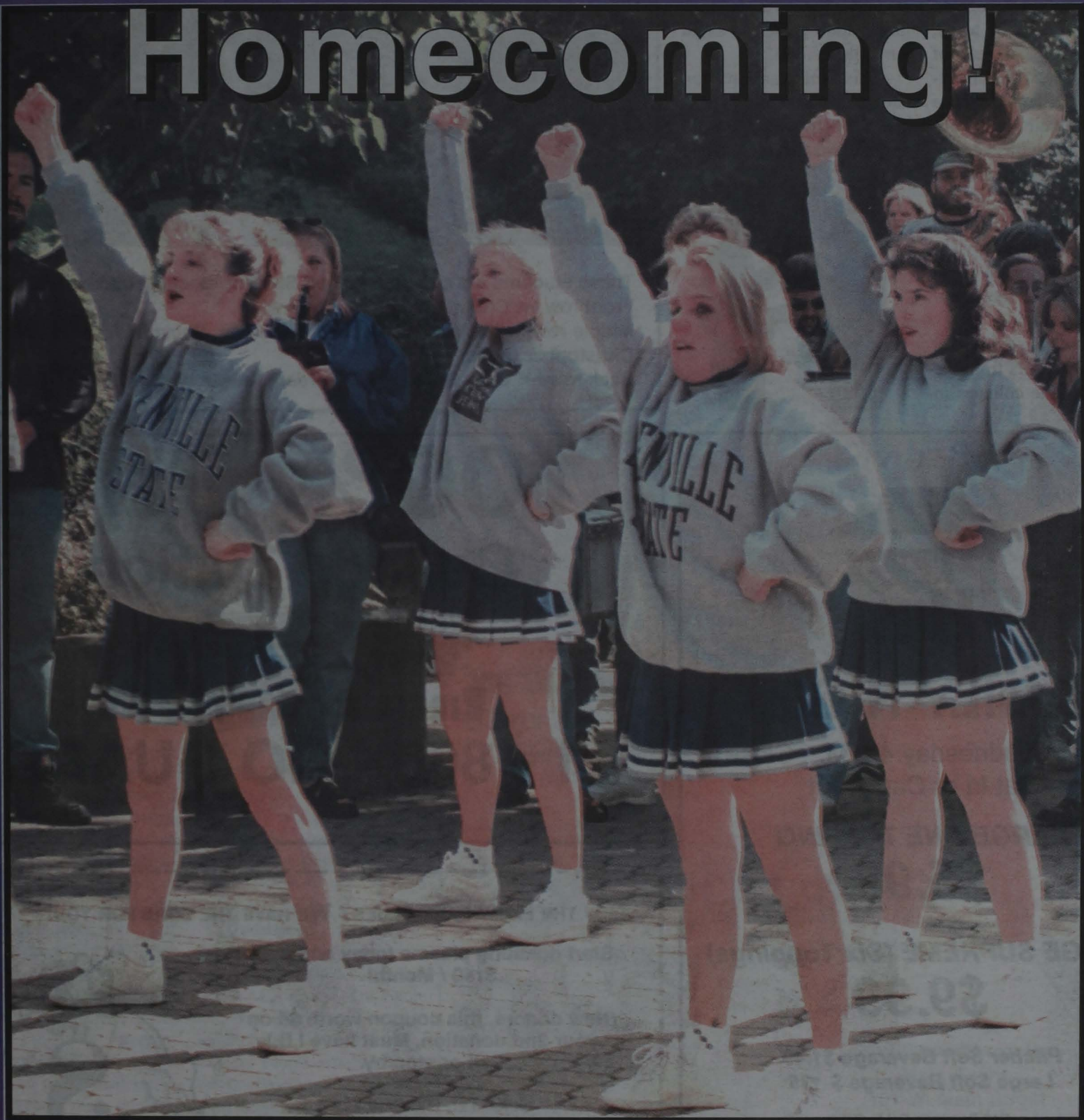


# The Mercury

## Homecoming!





# Advisory Council of Faculty

By Debra Berry-Cline,  
Contributing Reporter

From October 21 to 22, the Advisory Council of Faculty (ACF), will be meeting here at Glenville State College for their second on-campus meeting this year.

Dr. Hilgenberg, chair of the Social Sciences Division, has been Glenville State College's ACF advisor since 1990 and was re-elected again for another two-year term last spring.

Hilgenberg explained that ACF members from the eight other state colleges in

West Virginia will meet here at GSC for two days of information gathering about our college.

This information can later be used at state meetings to help with any need or questions about GSC that may arise.



# Student Teachers



Photo submitted

These students are completing their Student Teaching experiences this fall. Front row l-r: Christa Webb, Bertha Hinkle.

Middle row l-r: Julian Phares, LeeAnn Starett, Kacinda York, Tonya Linville, Christopher Cress.

Back row l-r: Larry Bright, Carla Jordan, Anissa Weese, John D. Drake.



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# Underwood falls short of campaign promise to cut government

By Jennifer Bundy,  
Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- Gov. Cecil Underwood, who campaigned on a promise to cut government 20 percent, has increased his staff by 26 percent and his payroll 48 percent since taking office. Overall state employment has decreased less than 1 percent in the same period.

Underwood, a Republican, employs 18 more people in his office and pays them \$1.04 million more a year than former Gov. Gaston Caperton, a Democrat, an Associated Press analysis shows.

However, state employment in the agencies Underwood controls decreased by 181 workers, or 0.6 percent, or 29,716 between the time he took office in January 1997 and August.

House Speaker Bob Kiss, of Raleigh, said the numbers show how foolish it is for gubernatorial candidates to promise to cut state government, as did both Underwood and Caperton, who pledged to reduce the number of state workers by 10 percent. State employment rose by 255 workers during Caperton's two terms.

"It is an unattainable target they know is unattainable and so is political rhetoric. I think they are being insincere, or they don't understand the budget of state government very well," Kiss said.

Kiss said that while the increase in Underwood's staff is neither surprising nor inappropriate, a decrease in employment of 0.6 percent in all executive branch agencies is not the 20 percent Underwood promised.

"Even if they match that in the next two years, they are not going to be anywhere near the 20 percent," Kiss said.

Underwood spokesman Dan Page said, "We don't consider it political rhetoric. We

want to make government better, not bigger."

The 20 percent reduction will be difficult to achieve but is still the administration's goal, Page said.

However, Underwood must comply with court mandates to build more prisons, which takes more corrections officers. Congress and the Legislature also sometimes pass laws that require more staff in certain agencies, Page said.

"Even with these mandates we have not experienced any growth. That's a step in the right direction," Page said. "We're still looking for ways to bring down the number of government employees to bring greater efficiencies."

Caperton acknowledged that reduction promises can be rhetoric.

"I think that often happens," Caperton said.

But, he said, "In most cases (candidates) think they can do it and it ends up being a lot tougher than they anticipate it being. People demand better services and new services."

Kiss said legislators have never promised to reduce government because some agencies, like the Division of Corrections and the State Police, need more employees.

"The challenge for state government is to control the growth," Kiss said. The decrease in executive branch employment shows, he said, "We apparently have done a little better job than I thought."

Underwood's payroll for the 87 people on his staff is about \$3.19 million, according to the AP's review. The figure includes several agencies that are budgeted within his office and six people who work for the governor but are paid by other departments.

In comparison, Caperton's payroll for the 69 people on his staff was \$2.15 million in July 1996. Caperton's top staff began resigning shortly after

that and many were not replaced before the end of his term in January 1997.

In the governor's office itself, Underwood has four more people and a payroll \$368,540 higher than Caperton.

Page said Underwood is not following a double standard by increasing his own office while other sections of state government have been reduced.

The additions are due to the new organizational structure under Underwood and the creation of two new agencies, which the Legislature approved, Page said.

The 10-person Office of

Technology coordinates computer purchases and use in all state agencies. The two-person Human Resource Investment Council coordinates the work of six agencies that operate employment, placement and occupational training programs.

Underwood's pledge to use technology to improve and reduce state government was the cornerstone of his 1996 campaign. He still believes that is possible, Page said.

Caperton agreed better training and better technology are necessary to make government more efficient.

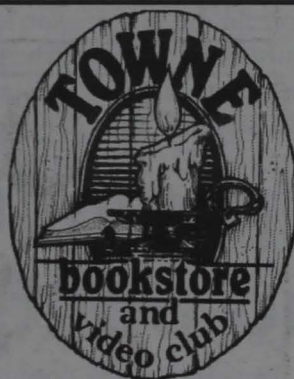
"We just scratched the surface on what needs to be

done," Caperton said of his own tenure.

But government also must be held accountable for investments in technology and training, Caperton said. "There has to be very clear ways to measure performance. ... You can spend a lot of money and still have a less efficient government."

Due to the different office structure, Underwood oversees 29 positions for which Caperton had no counterpart; Caperton had 11 positions Underwood does not.

Of the positions that remained the same, Underwood has 24 employees who are paid more than their predecessor.



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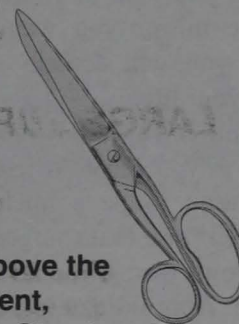
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## A new arrival in math and science

By BJ Woods,  
Staff Reporter

Assistant Professor of Math, Dave Kennedy, and Adjunct Professor of Math for GSC, Holly Kennedy, are the proud new parents of Emily Alekhine Kennedy. She is the first child for the couple.

She also gets to hold the title for being the first grandchild for both sides of her family.

Emily arrived on August 31, 1998 at 11:03 p.m. Other important vitals: she weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces, and was 21 inches long. She was born healthy and mommy, Holly, is doing well.

These days one can find Mr. Kennedy in the Science Hall with a rather large smile. Emily has already

toured the Science Hall and is on her way to a very academic future.

Mr. Kennedy states, "This is great. Everyone had told me that a little one would change my life and she has. Emily is so adorable. I'm the lucky one, I get to sleep through the nights."

In an e-mail message, Mr. Kennedy explained where the middle name Alekhine came from. "In chess there is an opening called Alekhine's Defense, named after a chess champion known for the "artistry, profundity, and dramatic richness." Holly saw this name while I was playing computer chess, and it was her idea to use it for a middle name if we should have a girl."

## Former Louisiana U. prof joins Glenville State faculty

By Allison Tant,  
Staff Reporter

There's a new face on campus here at GSC. It is the new teacher, Ms. Ximena Gallardo C.

She is teaching three English classes and a Spanish class. Ms. Gallardo C. came to the United States in the 1990-1991 school year from Chile.

She said that where she lived in Chile was a lot like here. It's a small country with about fourteen million people. It's a little cold there, the nature is beautiful, and the people are friendly. "It's a lot like here except we speak Spanish."

Some other jobs she has held are a professor at Louisiana University where she taught English, Drama, Shakespeare, and other



New instructor Ximena Gallardo C. (Terry Estep, Mercury)

Literature classes. She was also a visiting teacher for two classes at Yale. She chose to come to Glenville because of the students. The people here are more interested in their education whereas the students at Yale thought that all there was in the world was studying. They normally felt as if they had to have an education and

the people around here seem to treasure it more. She wanted to be part of a school dedicated to teaching. Another deciding factor in her decision to come to Glenville was the staff. She was really impressed by the work of some of the professors here.

Glenville chose Ms. Gallardo C. because she is a generalist, meaning she knows about a lot of different areas. She is from Latin America so she has a wide background on literature.

Ms. Gallardo C. has many interests. She loves dancing, reading, visiting with people and getting to know them, walking and watching films. If anyone is interested in talking to her, she is interested in getting to know people.

## Jennifer Ruggiero providing students with career portfolio and options for the future

By Allison Tant,  
Staff Reporter

The alarm clock is going off and it's time to get up for another one of those general studies classes bright and early in the morning.

As you brush away the smell of beer from your breath you look at yourself in the mirror you wonder what you will actually do with your life.

You have a few good ideas as you debate whether you want to be a nuclear physicist or a brain surgeon.

Don't worry, you're not alone. Approximately 50% of all students enter college undecided. In case you're not aware, there is someone on campus to help you wade through these big decisions that

affect the rest of your life.

Jenny Ruggiero came to GSC last September from Clarion University in Clarion, Pennsylvania. Her duties here include being the Director of Career Services, the coordinator for students with disabilities, the coordinator of tutoring and testing, and teaching an Oral Communications class.

If you need help trying to decide on a major, she is there to lend a helping hand.

Ms. Ruggiero has started a new program to help students get everything organized and help them with career choices. She has gone into several English 101 classes and started students out on a career portfolio.

Included in this portfolio are many things such as an autobiographical summary, work experience, volunteer experience, church/community activities, letters of recommendation, transcripts, work samples, information about club and professional memberships, and photos of activities, and achievements.

From this portfolio students will be better able to make a resume and will have everything together when it comes time for job interviews.

This portfolio is being geared towards freshmen and sophomores, but it is for all students. She chose to go into English 101 classes because it's a class everyone has to take at one point in

time or another, so she will be able to reach more people this way.

Ruggiero is concerned about student decisions on majors because, "if they don't make a good decision then they're probably not going to do well in their classes, and not going to do well in college, and become frustrated, and want to leave."

"We're here to try to help them make sure they make a good choice in their major; that it fits their personality, it fits their abilities, and it fits what they're interested in," she adds.

These portfolios are being kept in Ms. Ruggiero's office and students are encouraged to come in at any point in time

during their college career and update their folder.

Updating it every so often will aid in remembering where you worked and when. It also will help as a reminder of what organizations a student has been involved in.

"A lot of seniors come in and they want to do their resume but they can't remember what clubs they were in or where they worked at, and this will help them to keep track of that information."

Students who have already been through English 101, but are interested in doing a portfolio, are welcome to stop in the Office of Career Services and fill one out.



# THE VIRTUAL LIBRARIAN: Webcams windows

By Ben Bruton,  
Guest Columnist

Have you ever had the chance to peer into the private lives of friends, coworkers, or even total strangers?

Well, whether you admit it or not, the Internet is now pulling us all into Peeping Tom territory with the development of webcams.

A webcam is a digital camera that is connected to the World Wide Web via a desktop PC. With the aid of special software that captures the camera's images and transfers them to a web page every few minutes, you can invite the whole world into your living room to watch in awe as you



**"There are thousands of live cameras recording scenic views of sites all around the world... If you can think of it, chances are that someone has already aimed a camera at it."**

eat potato chips and watch Jerry Springer in your underwear.

You think it's funny? Well, just look at the phenomenal success of "the Jennicam". Jennicam (that's [www.jennicam.org](http://www.jennicam.org), fellow voyeurs) is a website created by Jennifer Ringley, a 22-year-old recent college grad who has a webcam mounted in her bedroom, monitoring her actions 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Jenny uses her website to document her own every-

day life. You can watch Jenny sleep, dress, stare vacantly into her computer screen, undress, talk on the phone—did I mention undress? Yes, Jenny is an exhibitionist, and she charges a \$15 annual membership fee to observe her boudoir activities. Apparently, Jenny's bedroom is a happening place to be—she receives 100 million hits a week.

Of course, Jennicam is not an "adults only" site, and it is very tasteful compared

to the literally hundreds of "girlcam" sites flooding the 'Net. Some of these sites are pornographic, others are simply windows into other people's dreary homes or workplaces.

Webcams are not just for those online exhibitionists, however.

There are thousands of live cameras recording scenic views of sites all around the world, cameras that observe animals at play, cameras that record major news events, and cameras that document the most minute details of everyday life (there's a NostrilCam, a ClosetCam, a CoffeePotCam, even a ToiletCam). If you can think

of it, chances are that someone has already aimed a camera at it.

Call it voyeurism or just plain human nature, but thousands of people are actually willing to sit for hours and observe other people's domestic affairs. I find this troubling. I mean, is Jenni's life really that much more exciting than yours or mine? Does the prospect of watching Jenni change her clothes really mean that much to you?

Have we reached the point in our society where people would rather stay home and watch other people's lives on the Internet than pursue lives of their own?

Can you say "pathetic"?

## Science with the Particle Lady: Fog-- The Blinding Killer

By BJ Woods,  
Staff Columnist

I think everyone has had a drive in the fog at one time or another. I know, coming from the Eastern Seaboard, we never had fog here. I've seen since moving west to Central West Virginia.

Fog makes any type of travel dangerous, especially long-distance travel. This was proven again this past Monday morning when a fire-fighter/paramedic, 25-year-old Tom Haddad, was killed while responding to a call. The fog was extremely dense and the ambulance ran into the back of a tractor-trailer.

**What is fog?** Fog is composed of a multitude of minute water droplets, which are suspended in the atmosphere. It forms as a cloud that hangs near the ground.

**Where does fog come from?** Fog occurs when the

dew point and the air temperature become the same. This happens in two ways. One way is by elevating the dew point by adding moisture to the air mass. The second way is by cooling the air to its dew point.

**What are the types of fog?** Radiation fog is caused by cooling close to the Earth's surface. If the temperature drops to the dew point close to the ground, then radiation fog can form. Radiation fog may also be called ground fog.

Up-slope fog occurs when the winds come from the east and the air flows up as it rises in elevation while approaching the mountains.

Evaporation fog is caused by cold air crossing warm bodies of water, such as lakes and rivers. The water evaporates its moisture into the colder air and immediately fog is formed due to condensation.

The last type of fog is

advection fog. Advection fog results from the movement of warm moist air from the south over a colder land mass. This is common during the winter months. This type of fog is widespread and very dangerous to air travel.

Here in Glenville we see a lot of radiation fog. This is the most widespread fog on Earth. It is produced by the Earth's cooling. At night, the heat is first conducted upward and the air rapidly cools near the ground. As the air cools it becomes more dense and heavier than the air around it.

You may be traveling along a country road and run into the fog. This is because the heavier air will drain into low spots like river valleys or depressions.

Send your questions to the Particle Lady at [gsc01293@mail.wvnet.edu](mailto:gsc01293@mail.wvnet.edu). Happy travels in science!

### Mathematical Mystery of the Month

Use the digits 1 through 9 each to form a 9-digit number. Any such number will be divisible by 9. Try, though, to construct one where the first 8 (leftmost) digits form a number divisible by 8, the first 7 digits form a number divisible by 7, etc.

If you think you have a solution, let your math instructor or Dr. Caulfield know. Be sure to have reasons justifying your answer.

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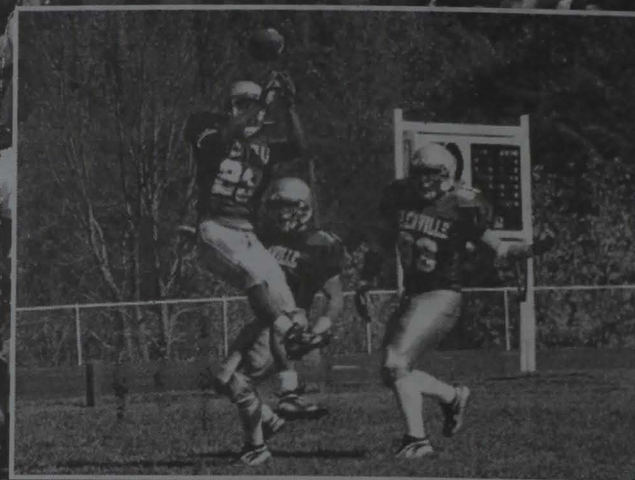
Appointments can be made in advance by calling the Career Services Office at Ext. 118



# Homecoming Defeat

Falcons defeat Pioneers in a fast 14-0 match

Photos by Terry Estep



By James Arnold,  
Staff Reporter

The Pioneers came into Saturday's Homecoming game with an undefeated record in the West Virginia Conference. Their opponent, the Falcons of Fairmont State were also unbeaten in conference play.

The game was huge, a clash of WVIAC powers. Fairmont was picked to win the conference in this year's pre-season poll, and Glenville was picked to finish second.

Neither team jumped out very well. Both teams seemed a little slow and couldn't get much an offense going. The score going into the locker room at half time was zero to zero.

The second half wasn't much different for the Pioneers.

Quarterback Jaycee Goree and the offense just couldn't get it together.

I'm sure no one was



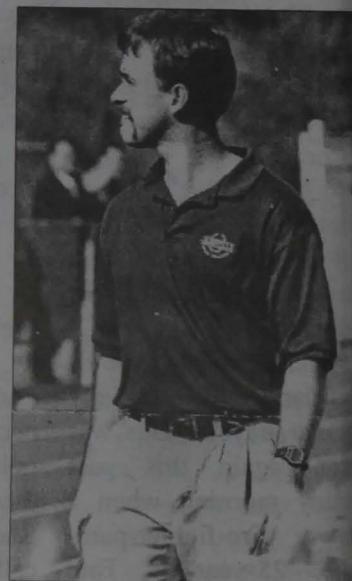
questioning the skills of Goree, but the question of NCAA Division II quarterback standout Wilkie Perez's absence from the game stands out. Last week, against West Virginia Wesleyan, Wilkie threw

only five passes, completing four. Saturday Perez was absent from the sidelines. At press time, the coaching staff had no comment about the absence.

Fairmont, on the other hand, used the second half to

score two touchdowns. Their offense wasn't exceptional, but they did put together two tough scoring drives against the Pioneer defense.

The Pioneer defense played well, however they



just couldn't get a break. They were on the field constantly throughout both the first and second half.

A bright spot for the Pioneers was the punting game. During the first half in fact one comment I heard was, "the punting game is keeping us in this."

Glenville falls to two in one in the WVIAC and Fairmont improves to three in zero.



# Cowan crowned as Homecoming Queen

By Allison Tant,  
Staff Reporter

The sun beat down today morning at 11:00 as students, staff, par-alumni, and others as awaited the coronation of the sixty-fifth annual Homecoming Queen.

Mr. Wayne deRosset led the ceremony with introduction of the new student president, Bruce

Joshua Watt. Following her was Sophomore Princess Brandi Sandy and her escort Matthew Chambers. Then the Junior Princess Jennifer Stinnett escorted by Drexell King,



and the Senior Princess Margarita Tzoneva escorted by Christopher Birkhimer.

After the princesses was the introduction of the flower girl, Allison Fischer, and the crown bearer, Thomas Snyder.

The sun radiated as the Homecoming Queen, Hiedi Cowan made her entrance escorted by the Glenville State College Pioneer, James Duffield.

After Hiedi was crowned by President Flack the crowd stood as the brass ensemble played the *Alma Mater* under the direction of Harry Rich.

## Jumpshots

By James Arnold,  
Staff Reporter

**BASEBALL.** Okay so last week my predictions weren't the best, and everyone who was here last year know how good my predictions are.

Anyway, I was right about the American League pennant, the Yankees were victorious, although it was a little tougher than many, including me, expected.

However in the National league it is a different story. The Padres showed me and many others that they weren't going to just die.

Behind Kevin Brown and Tony Gwynn the Padres defeated the heavily-favored Atlanta Braves. It should be an inter-

esting series—the Padres are on a roll, but the Yankees are still a much, much better team. Yankees in six games.

**NBA LOCKOUT.** Well, they did it. The NBA has cancelled the first two weeks of the season. The first time ever this sport has had a work stoppage. This isn't good for the game of basketball. Major League Baseball had a strike a few years back and are just now beginning to recover from that. Fans, especially those who have purchased tickets, won't get over this quickly.

There can be one positive taken from this, NCAA (college) basketball will get more attention, and some think that's real basketball anyway.

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# The Mercury

Volume 70 - No. 7

A member of the Associated Press

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Stephen Metz - Staff Cartoonist

Ford Prefect - Fictional Advisor of the Week

"Gonzo" - Journalism Style created by Hunter S. Thompson

## Intolerance is not an American value

In America we are granted the right to protest verbally anything that we feel violates ourselves and our person. It does not give us the right to raise our hands in violence against another living being because we disagree with them or their lifestyle. The beating death of Matthew Shepherd, a gay college student in Wyoming, is intolerable.

As humans, we, above animals, are given the gift of competent verbal skills and the ability to talk things out rationally and in an adult manner. Whenever you raise your fists in anger or concede to any act of violence against another human being you waive those gifts and are no greater, in this editor's eyes, than the beasts of the forest.

It is okay to oppose other people's opinions and to stand up, in an adult manner, for the things that you believe in, but when your self-righteousness infringes upon someone else's given rights you concede to intolerance and your opinions will not, for the most part, be respected.

We, as a global nation, need to realize that we live in an ever-changing world where people of all races, religions, backgrounds and lifestyles should be respected and valued for the distinct and important part that they play in our societies.

How can you expect to have your voice heard when you trample upon the voices of others? How can one expect to be respected when they have no respect for others? It is a really sad day in America when we are still faced with the lack of respect and tolerance that was shown in the beating death of the gay student in Wyoming for no more than being what he was.

Please wake up and realize that these acts of intolerance and hate will no longer be tolerated.

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## Hey, don't mind me

By Chris Hopkins,  
Staff Columnist

Have you ever heard the saying that a person that can read and doesn't is worse off than a person who can't read at all?

In a world where computers are taking over and the written word seems to be fading back into the dark ages, reading is as important as ever.

How can you run the computers if you can't read the manuals or the programs that help you do the activities you need, like typing reports or balancing a budget? We need to be able to tell the computers the function we need it to perform if we want to get the job done. Being able to read will put you into the driver's seat.

For me, reading isn't just a task or a job--it is a gift and a privilege that allows me to travel to various parts of fictitious universes. You can go anywhere when you read and learn an infinite amount of information that could someday save your life or at the least

help pass a test (and in some cases, passing a test could save you from the wrath of your parents or even your boss).

I can't quite remember when I started to read as far as my formal education goes, but my recreational reading started sometime during middle school when I got interested in the *Titanic* and finding out more about America's past; truth be known, I probably learned as much information from my own efforts as I did from the teachers. That's not to say they weren't good educators--I just wanted more than they were giving and I found it in reading.

Did you know that where the *Titanic* sank on the ocean floor there is three-and-a-half tons of pressure per square inch of space on the ocean floor?

This and many other useful or useless tidbits of information can be found by just opening the cover of a book and reading a sentence that will possibly, in turn, make you want to read about other subjects which could help

you decide on a career you want to pursue.

Information and work are not the only thing that read can accomplish, because it is also a form of communication that has been around a longer than the phone or computer. If not for reading how could you even understand letters or e-mail you'll receive?

It seems to me that people are taking a simple yet complex effort and wasting it because they think they do need to know how to read that it wouldn't serve them enough to waste the time learn (which is false and plainly stupid because if you can do for yourself you'll just be inconveniencing someone else). Wouldn't it be rewarding to pick up the written word and say "I found this out for myself!"

Remember that reading is a privilege, power, and gift that no one can bear to lose without, so pick up a book, open it up, and discover the universe for yourself. Tell them I sent you.

### SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The Mercury 200 High Street - Box 207 Glenville, WV 26351  
All articles submitted for publication in *The Mercury* must be typed and double-spaced. 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.



# Matthew Shepherd's murder brings homophobia out of the closet



**Two Cents**  
 Commentary by  
 Terry Estep

The beating death of gay student Matthew Shepherd is forcing attention on the need for greater leniency in hate crime legislation in our country. Critics are theorizing recent anti-gay state-

ments by sports star Reggie White and Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (not to mention the "make them straight" rhetoric of a conservative religious group's ad campaigns hoping to "reclaim" homosexuals through prayer) have created an open climate for homophobia.

Reverend Fred Phelps, of the Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kansas, is planning to picket Shepherd's funeral. According to his flier, he wants to show that "All who say it's 'Okay to be

gay' have the blood of Matthew and millions more on their hands." I doubt he's proving anything.

Matthew Shepherd wasn't killed because he was a bad kid. He was killed for being himself. He was lured out of a bar by two guys who told him they were gay and wanted to rob him because he embarrassed one of them with flirtation. They pistol-whipped him and left him tied to a split-rail fence.

Conservative groups who believe homosexuality is a choice rail against granting

gays "special rights" and protected minority status. If homosexuality was a hideous crime or a mental disorder, I might even agree with that. I don't know why anyone would choose to be gay, because there are so many strikes against you for possessing an innate character trait.

I can't read the descriptions of what he suffered without wondering if that will ever happen to me or my friends. As a gay man who chooses to be open about my sexual orientation in order to promote communication and

acceptance (and so I can be myself and not have to lie about everything), I open myself to attack.

I have walked across the Glenville campus and been called a queer and a faggot. Words sting, but I wonder how long it will take someone to think words aren't enough for someone like me to be taught a lesson.

Don't let Matthew Shepherd's death be in vain. It was senseless, brutal, and motivated by hate. We can't afford to live that way anymore.

## Campaigning finance reform is needed

**Molly Ivins,**  
 Syndicated Columnist

Arizona politics has such a *laissez faire* attitude. They keep having to get rid of these unusual characters whom they have a policy to elect there. And they have a chance to elect for a real pip: the Libertarian candidate for governor, a hair stylist (with very long hair) named Kat Gallant, with authority on lingerie. Ms. Gallant (emphasis on the last syllable) owns a men's hair salon where the all-female stylist wear lingerie.

Last year, Gallant went on a "freedom ride" to protest against smoking in her hometown of Mesa. She rode three days on a rotating basis around the country to protest cigarette regulation and unnecessary laws. Unfortunately, she was charged with animal cruelty when she got to West Virginia, and her three horses were seized. Authorities there said the horses were malnourished and in need of medical attention and had been abused. Gallant failed to appear for trial and is now wanted as a fugitive in West Virginia. She is like a perfectly normal person by Arizona standards.



Now, it happens that what is probably the single most important item on any ballot this year is an Arizona initiative for public campaign financing. But so far, Proposition 200 has gotten less attention than another initiative to outlaw cockfighting. I'm telling you, Arizona is "special."

Arizonans for Clean Elections, the beleaguered dogooders behind Prop. 200 (including your basic League of Women Voters, United We Stand America, Common Cause, and Citizen Action), have crafted a strikingly intelligent public-financing proposal. It would work like this. A pool of money would be collected from:

--A \$5 voluntary income

tax checkoff that triggers a \$5 tax credit, just like on the federal tax form.

--Increased registration fees on lobbyists (a touch I especially like).

--A ten percent surcharge on criminal and civil fines and penalties.

--Donations to the Clean Elections fund.

The system is strictly voluntary, but it gives candidates strong incentives to participate. Matching funds, up to three times the original qualifying amount, are provided to participating candidates. To receive money from the Clean Elections fund, candidates must agree to limit their campaign spending--and the limits in the Arizona initiative are realistic: \$950,000 for a gubernatorial candidate.

In order to qualify for public money, candidates would have to meet a qualifying bar (One rather doubts that the divine Ms. Gallant could qualify.) A candidate for state senator or representative would have to find 200 donors of at least \$5 in his or her district, meaning that a fair number of your fellow citizens have to think highly enough of you to

fork over some money before you can qualify. This bar is set higher for statewide offices in ascending order of importance.

Maine and Vermont have already passed public campaign financing, but the Arizona initiative is the most thoroughly well-thought-out effort we have seen so far. The usual attack on public campaign financing is that it's "welfare for politicians" --a cute but meaningless phrase that marries two of the things the public most dislikes (welfare and politicians) to cut off thinking about what is really at stake.

The advantages of this system are extraordinary; when you get special-interest contributions out of politics, you quite simply restore democracy. The insane system of legalized bribery that now rules politics is ruining our entire nation, and it gets worse every year. Public campaign financing also levels the playing field so that candidates who aren't big-rich themselves can afford to run, and it means that politicians won't have to spend their time kissing up to big campaign givers.

Watching the opposition to

Prop. 200 is a remarkable reminder of just how closely people cling to their special privileges. What's really funny is their indignation that someone would actually want to take their special status away. Lobby money, of course, is being gathered against Prop. 200. It is likely that national special-interest money, tobacco in particular, will kick in against it.

One state senator made the ludicrous claim that anyone can walk in to see his senator or state rep and be treated just like a major campaign contributor. "But people just aren't interested."

Sure. Right. We see that all the time. Joe Doaks and the lobbyist from the oil industry get their phone calls returned at exactly the same speed.

Well, Arizona does have this funny hitch in its get-along, and I bet it's just maverick enough to become the first important state (with due apologies to Vermont and not-so-populous Maine) to slam the brakes on the entire corrupt, money-obsessed system that now passes for American politics.



## Scary stories come true in *Scream-y Urban Legends*

By Brent Wood,  
Staff Columnist

Urban Legends are folktales told by each generation in every town in America--A murderer in the back seat of a woman's vehicle, the hanging boyfriend's feet dangling on the roof of the car, or the radio host murdered while on the air.

In the new film *Urban Legends*, Alicia Witt and Rebecca Gayheart face a nightmare come true as a crazed killer stalks the two girls at their college.

The college has a dark history of mass murders and cover-ups. To tell how the movie begins would reveal too much of the fun and adventure that follows. This film will keep you

guessing until the very end and even after that you're not sure.

The list of possible suspects includes an eccentric teacher specializing in urban legends; a prankster; a sexy radio DJ; an always-drunk party animal; a bizarre gas station attendant; the preppy best friend; or the too-nice journalist boyfriend.

To reveal more than I already have would give away too much of the surprises to come.

In the Kevin Williamson-inspired tradition of *Scream*, *Scream 2*, and *I Know What You Did Last Summer*, *Urban Legend* is another modern slasher film with a twist.

# Comedy of Errors wows GSC audience

By Cris Gravely,  
Staff Reporter

The Aquila Theatre Company of London wowed the small audience at Glenville's Fine Arts Auditorium Wednesday night with a hilarious romp through William Shakespeare's "A Comedy of Errors."

The London-based troupe was energetic and funny, a combination of traits not usually associated with Shakespeare's plays.

The beautiful and simple set of three silk tents, a stand, and a white dance floor provided a spacious and picturesque area for the group's physical acting style. Peter Hilton, who played one set of twins,

truly proved that he is a strong and versatile actor. His portrayal of two different people, complete with different personalities, was amazing. His cohort onstage was Louis Butelli, who played the other set of famous twins. His characters could well be described as Ed Grimley on acid. How Butelli and Hilton pulled it off I'll never know, but it was amazing to see.

Other noteworthy characters were Adriana (played by Lisa Carter) and her sister, Luciana (played by Mira Kingsley). This comic duo, one a repressed virginal woman and the other a worldly-wise beauty, played off of each other with evi-

dent skill.

One theme throughout the performance that obviously delighted the audience was the sexual innuendo players used to get laughs across. Laughs from everyone in the audience could be heard over the performance.

The Aquila Theatre Company of London was a real treat for those who saw it. It is rare that a troupe of very talented actors come to rural West Virginia when they do they make great entertainment. For those of you who think Shakespeare has to be boring, you missed your chance to experience the fun classics can provide.

## Soundbytes: Audio Reviews

By Mike Kohlman,  
Associated Press

### "Dada" -- Dada

Dadaism is alive and well --and self-titled this time.

The Los Angeles band Dada introduced itself in 1992 with an edgy, sarcastic trip through "Disneyland," the first cut off "Puzzle." The edges are fuzzed a bit in its fourth album, but much of the alternative bite continues.

"Information Undertow" laughs at the 24-hour ability to know everything ("I lit up my Apple, surfed through the shrapnel, accessed my online babe"). "Playboy in Outerspace" rocks through the downside of nightlife. The West Coast dream gone bad is relived in the album's first single, "California Gold."

The group sputters a bit when it tries to slow things down, as in "This Thing Together." Thankfully, it more than makes up the dif-

ference with rattling gems like "Beautiful Turnback Time Machine." Its songs have a bouncy creativity that supplants any surreal effects you'd expect from a band with a name like Dada.

### "Hatful of Rain, The Best of Del Amitri" -- Del Amitri

Del Amitri still satisfies with a "Hatful of Rain, The Best of Del Amitri." The Scottish pop band has never reached top-billing success despite a consistent run of catchy, thoughtful tunes. But even those who don't know Del Amitri from Dell Computer should recognize more popular songs, like "Kiss This Thing Goodbye" and "Roll to Me."

The rest of the album balances out nicely for the faithful who are familiar with the band's quest for love in "Stone Cold Sober" or its geographic lovesickness in "Not Where It's At."

## Banging fenders on the N64

By William Schiffmann,  
Associated Press

If you love watching NASCAR's hotshoes trading paint, you'll love NASCAR '99.

While the NASCAR series from EA Sports has been around for a while, this is its debut on the N64, and it works pretty well on Nintendo's premier system. There are a few flaws, but nothing that will seriously erode your enjoyment of the game.

You have 37 drivers to play as, including half a dozen legends like Richard Petty, and you can put them to work on any of 17 tracks which match their real counterparts very well.

The game comes with most of the things you expect in a driving game. You can customize your car setup, altering such important features as tire pressure and spoiler angle to adjust handling and top speed.

Race length is adjustable up to the actual length of the race in question. But pit work, vital in long races, is pretty tame.

Tracks follow the real design but are short on detail. The cars, on the other hand, are big and bright and painted perfectly to match the actual racers.

You get several views, including three outside and a really cool behind-the-wheel view that lets you watch the driver at work. One thing you don't get is a rear view, which lets you keep track of who's catching up.

Although the announcing is bad, sound effects, including crashes and engine noises, are pretty good and really enhance the driving experience.

Accidents are always fun in racing games--sometimes I even drive the wrong way to see how the game

handles head-on collisions. In NASCAR '99, touching another car too hard crumple sheet metal and can even send parts flying.

Turn on the damage option, however, and if you bang around too much, your car can be sidelined with a too smashed to repair.

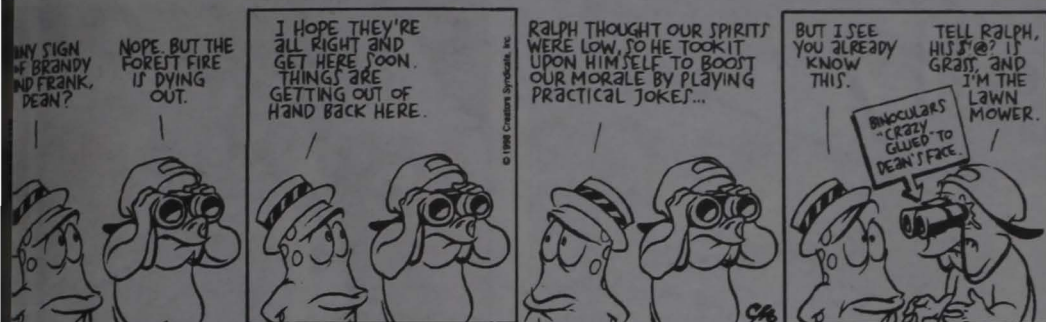
There are tons of options, including several race formats--quick race, single race championship, which lets you run an entire season against the toughest competition.

The analog controller is perfect for this type of racing, allowing minute adjustments in direction. But the key to winning, especially in a long season, is lots of practice trying different car setups.

NASCAR '99 is an excellent cart for racing fans, especially if you like to watch the big stock cars run. It needs a few fixes to make it close to perfect.



**PROPERTY MEADOWS by Frank Chow**



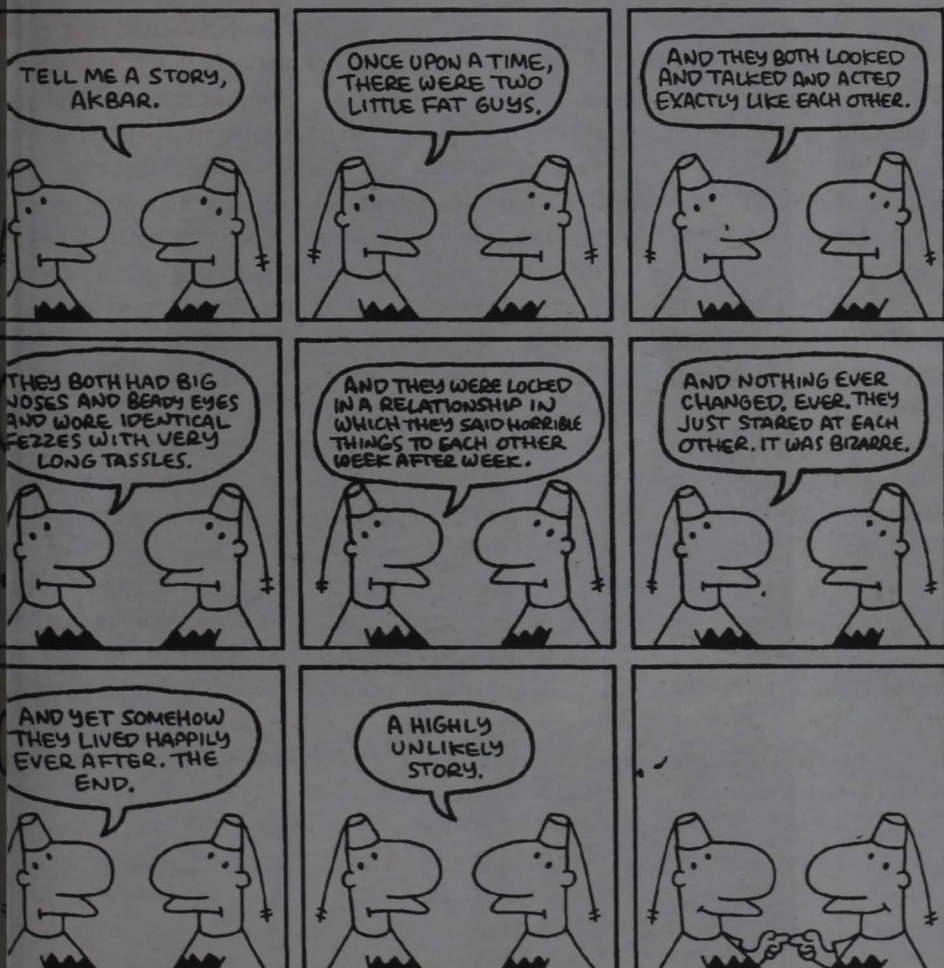
**POZU by Doug Marlette**



**THE BIG HAPPY by Rick Detorie**



**THE LIFE IN HELL by Matt Groening**



**Cristola's Magical Mystical Predictions**

*Horoscope by Cris Gravely*

**Aries (March 21-April 19)** — Good things do not come to those who wait. Take action this week. A leap of faith is what is required if you hope to achieve your goal.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20)** — Learn to be more poetic and sensitive this week. There is a young man in your life who can help, and (for you women) he may be the one for you. Romance is in the air.

**Gemini (May 21-June 20)** — After trying all possibilities to solve the problem, the answer will come to you. Do not get discouraged and don't give up. It will come to you when you least expect it.

**Cancer (June 21-July 22)** — Have you done something you're proud of? Something you're ashamed of? Better make sure, because everyone is going to know soon. All eyes are on you this week. Be prepared.

**Leo (July 23-August 22)** — People naturally fear change, but you can do nothing about it. The changes occurring this week are necessary and unstoppable. Get set for a new life.

**Virgo (August 23-September 22)** — Ignoring a

situation will not make it go away. The conflict will happen even though you don't want it to. Face what's in front of you, don't ignore it.

**Libra (September 23-October 22)** — Everyone has ideas about how things should work, but yours are different and better. Stiff competition this week with other people's creative ideas is the challenge.

**Scorpio (October 23-November 21)** — The conflict you're facing now is not all for the worse. A new viewpoint will emerge, making change in your life. When the old is threatened by the new, conflict is unavoidable.

**Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)** — High ideals are good, but not when they are a protection from being hurt again. Everyone is vulnerable, including you. Lower those defenses and don't expect so much from others.

**Capricorn (December 22-January 19)** — Deep feelings emerge this week. That special someone for whom you feel these emotions is there for a reason: you need to learn more about yourself. Take advantage of it.

**Aquarius (January 20-February 18)** — Confusion and uncertainty mark this week.

While in the dark, you can do nothing but hold on to your dreams and faith. The answer will come, but hang on until then.

**Pisces (February 19-March 20)** — A decision about work must be made soon. Give this careful and serious consideration. Should you continue what you've started, or seek something new?





