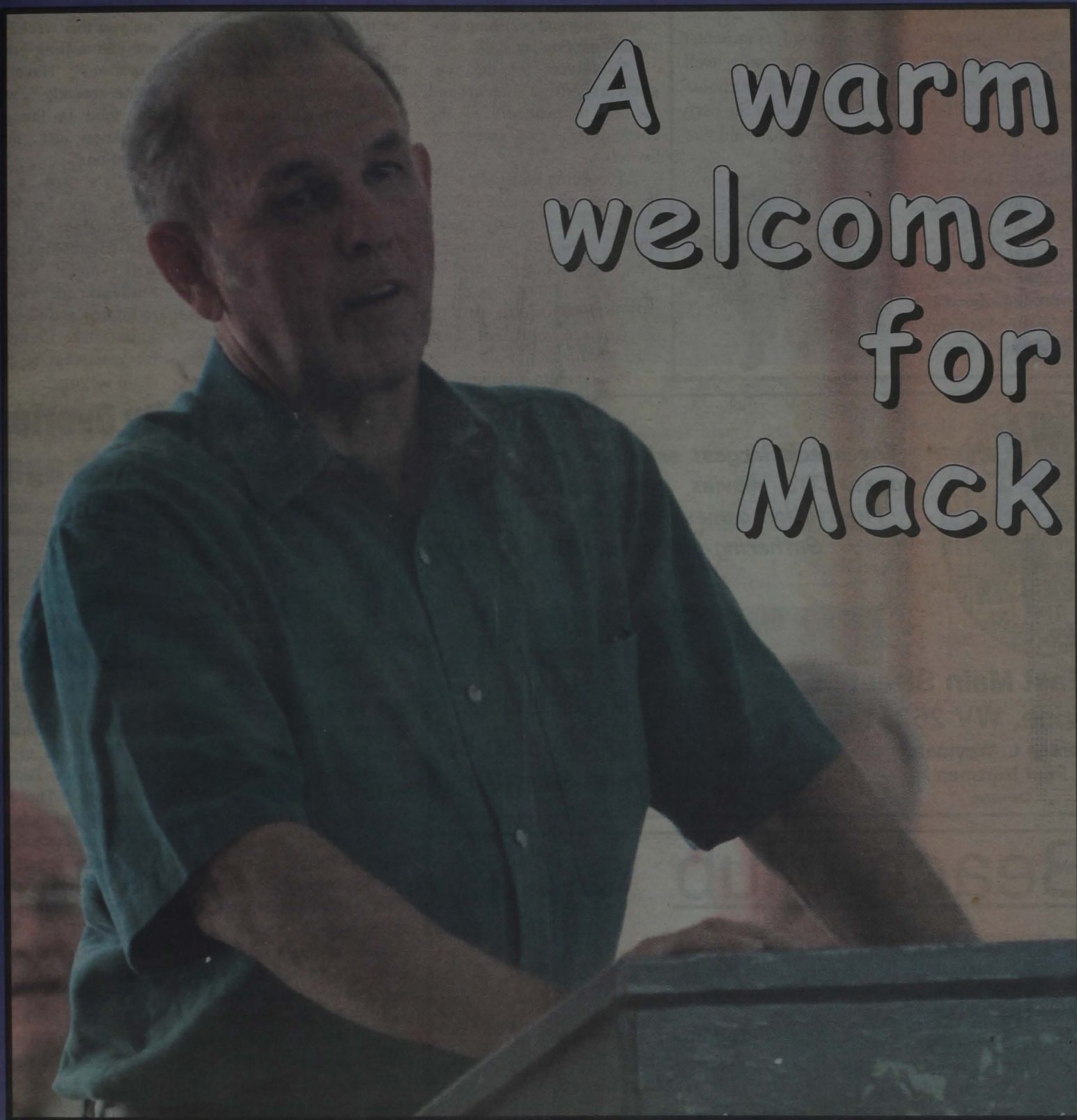


The Mercury

A warm
welcome
for
Mack



Halloween Party scares up good attendance

By Allison Tant,
Staff Reporter

Anyone passing by Pickens Hall Tuesday, October 27, at around 7 p.m. could see that there was clearly a party going on as the music blared and colored lights were flashing.

There was a Halloween Costume Party sponsored as a group effort by the RA's, Student Activities, and Governing Board.

Festivities included disc jockey Neil "Thunder" White, food, music, and cash prizes for costumes.

First prize, and thirty dollars went to Matt Groves for his bat costume. Second place was a tie between Amanda Nicholas' scare-

crow outfit and Matt Chambers, who was dressed as Indiana Jones. They split twenty dollars.

There was another tie for third place. Christina Brown and Matt Hartline split ten dollars for their pirate costumes.

Pam Boyd commented that, "It went really well. We had a great turnout." When asked about the party Amanda Goodwin said that, "It was groovin'."



Like to talk? Conversation Partner Program wants you

By W. E. Owens,
Contributing Reporter

Glenville State's Conversation/Partner Program, headed by Dr. Gayle Burkowski, interactively assists the English-as-a-second-language (ESL) student in establishing and polishing conversational English skills.

Volunteers for the program range from students and faculty, to members of the community and business owners.

According to Burkowski, there are an average 20-30 ESL students at any given time; although most of Glenville's foreign student body now boast sponsors within the program, half of the required volunteers must normally be sought out.

Involvement in the pro-

gram is as easy as this, says Burkowski: "Contact me. I will give you the name of a student, then ask them where they would like to meet you. Sometimes people want to be introduced, maybe in my office, or at the dorm or the cafeteria. If a faculty member is the volunteer, I'll ask the student to meet in their office. After that, you just arrange to meet somewhere and converse."

Burkowski stated how previous CPP recipients do at times assume volunteer roles, but smiled while arbitrating the concept. For instance, Glenville's current CPP/ESL amalgamation consists almost entirely of Japanese students.

"When Japanese students are together, they don't speak

English," noted Burkowski. "They hang out primarily with their Japanese friends. And so, everyday English conversation is minimal."

"They need to get used to speaking and hearing English at a normal pace; like, 'How are you this week?' or 'What are you writing your English paper on?'; 'Have you called home recently?'; or, 'How is the food in the cafeteria? You know, just... normal conversation.'"

"It's not a teaching thing," says Dr. Burkowski. "Sometimes it develops into friendships and people will meet every day. Students are often invited to homes and to go on trips. Things like that. However far you want to develop is up to you."

Proposed Faculty Overload Policy on the boards again

By Ann Williams,
Staff Reporter

The Faculty Overload Policy is a proposal set forth by the Compensation Committee and Faculty Senate of Glenville State College.

The purpose of this policy, as stated in it, is to: (1) formally define the levels beyond the minimum faculty workload expectations which constitute overload; (2) provide tangible incentives in the form of overload pay, to faculty who significantly exceed the minimum faculty workload expectations.

Simply put, this is a policy, though still unofficial, to define what is considered an overload of how many classes are taught by the instructors, and how much pay should be received for the overload.

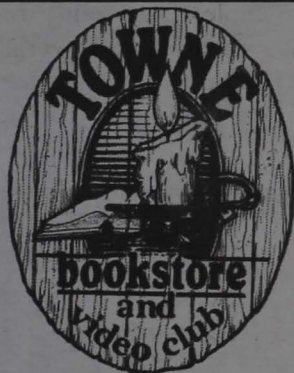
The Faculty Overload Policy was submitted in May 1997, and the entire Faculty Senate endorsed it. The next step was to publish the proposal in the Faculty/Staff Bulletin and submit it to the college president.

Due to the fact that the proposal was submitted so late in that school year, ex-president Simmons returned the proposal to be resubmitted the Fall of 1997.

No further action was taken until Spring 1998, when it was reviewed by the College Administration Council. The Overload Policy was then sent to the Merit Salary Review Panel for consideration. The Panel discussed the policy last year, but took no further action.

Faculty Senate President John McKinney decided to resubmit the proposal to President Flack this month for reconsideration and that is where the situation currently lies.

Mr. Paul Peck, Chairman of the Compensation Committee and Secretary of the Faculty Senate stated, "I hope the resubmission of the proposal will lead to discussion of the overload issue and eventually a satisfactory policy."



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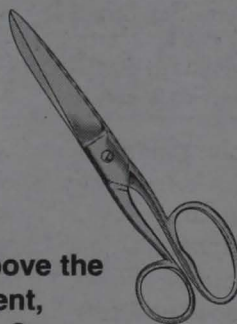
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Return of the Mack

Successful awards ceremony brings former registrar Mack Samples back to Glenville State

Terry L. Estep,
Staff Reporter

Awards ceremony in Administration Building at former registrar Mack Samples back to Glenville State College.

The Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers presented Samples with the Anderson-Milam Award for Service to the Profession during his time at the organization during his time at GSC.

He was honored by a large crowd of community members, faculty and staff. "I'm flattered," Samples said, "I'm still thinking of the time I've been gone for years."

The plaque, containing

Sample's name and the names of former recipients, will hang in the registrar's office until the award is given to someone else.

"It really speaks volumes for the work that happens at GSC in recruiting and retaining students," states registrar Debbie Simon, who was a student during Samples' time at Glenville.

Samples was hired in 1973 as Associate Academic Dean before becoming Dean of Records two years later.

"One thing I remember," Simon explains, "is that students came first."

Samples resides in Clay County, where he works as an extension agent for West



Samples (left and above) receives the plaque from Ray Mull of the WV Assoc. of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers. (Terry L. Estep, Mercury)

Virginia University.

The Anderson-Milam award is the highest award given by the organization. It is named after J. Douglas Anderson and Otis Milam,

Jr., who were distinguished members of the profession. The award has been given only 12 times in 66 years.

Ray Mull, the registrar from Concord College, was

on hand to present the award to Samples. According to Mull, there were several nominations this year, all for Samples. "That made it an easy choice," he joked.

Meet the Presidential Candidates

Charleston -- The State College of West Virginia has announced that the four candidates for President of Glenville State College will visit the Glenville campus November 2-5.

The public is invited to an open meeting each day, November 2 from 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. in the ballroom at the college's Heflin Center. A reception will follow on November 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. in the same room.

A different candidate will be on campus each day for a variety of activities including meetings with faculty, staff, students and administrators.

	Candidate 1	Candidate 2	Candidate 3	Candidate 4
	Monday, November 2	Tuesday, November 3	Wednesday, November 4	Thursday, November 5
8:00-8:45 a.m.	Non-Classified (Verona Mapel Room)	Non-Classified (Verona Mapel Room)	Non-Classified (Verona Mapel Room)	Non-Classified (Verona Mapel Room)
9:00-9:45 a.m.	Faculty (Verona Mapel Room)			
10:00-10:45 a.m.		Faculty (Verona Mapel Room)	Faculty (Verona Mapel Room)	Classified Staff (Verona Mapel Room)
12:00-12:45 p.m.	Students (Verona Mapel Room)	Students (Verona Mapel Room)	Students (Verona Mapel Room)	Students (Verona Mapel Room)
1:00-1:45 p.m.	Classified Staff (Verona Mapel Room)	Classified Staff (Verona Mapel Room)	Classified Staff (Verona Mapel Room)	Faculty (Verona Mapel Room)
2:00-3:00 p.m.	Open Meeting with Community, Alumni, Students, Faculty, Classified Staff, and Administration (Ballroom)	Open Meeting with Community, Alumni, Students, Faculty, Classified Staff, and Administration (Ballroom)	Open Meeting with Community, Alumni, Students, Faculty, Classified Staff, and Administration (Ballroom)	Open Meeting with Community, Alumni, Students, Faculty, Classified Staff, and Administration (Ballroom)
3:00-4:00 p.m.	Reception (Ballroom)	Reception (Ballroom)	Reception (Ballroom)	Reception (Ballroom)

Division Chair Ed Palm wins photo contest

By Chris Kenna,
Staff Reporter

Dr. Ed Palm has shown his versatility not only as a professor and a writer, but now as a photographer.

Palm recently entered the Mountain State Forest Festival's annual Photo Exhibit that takes place in Elkins, West Virginia. Of the 152 photographs entered in the five categories, Palm's photographs took honors in two.

In the Black and White category, Palm took first place, receiving a blue ribbon and a \$100 cash award. He also took second in the People category fetching a red ribbon and a \$25 purse.

His award winning photograph "Aunt Jo and Daniel" depicts the strong family bond that is very present between Palm's

own Aunt Jo and his son Daniel.

His second place photograph was taken while he served in Vietnam. "Brothers" shows the love between two brothers as the elder of the two carries his brother on his back.

Palm's first experiences in photography came when he was in the military. Stationed at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana, Palm took a three month course that offered a focus in photography.

There he learned the basic rudiments and has since developed his own technique and eye for a good photograph.

"I'm happy to have gotten some outside validation that maybe I do have some talent for photography."

Dr. Palm plans to take more pictures and enter more contests.

Wesley Foundation Newest Wonder

Pastor Mike Ford making a difference

By Chris Kenna,
Staff Reporter

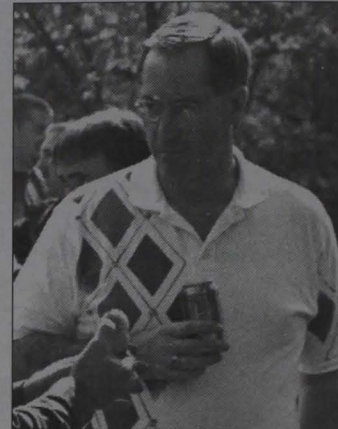
Located across from the Pickens Hall dormitory, the Wesley Foundation is a building that almost everyone knows but few frequent.

It has often been thought of as a place where only the ultra-religious go. But there is someone that hopes to break that stereotype. His name is Mike Ford.

A 48-year-old Methodist minister, Ford came to Glenville with his family from his previous parish in Richwood, West Virginia.

When asked what he hopes and plans to do with the Wesley Foundation, Ford said, "I want this place to be a safe place...an oasis...where anyone that wants to come can come."

Ford also plans to close the gaps between campus organizations. He has already begun to build bridges between the



Wesley Foundation and Baptist Campus Ministry, Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Not afraid of controversy, Ford allowed the gay and lesbian organization, *Colors of Pride*, to show movies at the Foundation as part of the recent Multicultural Fair.

As director of the Wesley Foundation, Ford seems to be fitting in to his new role here at GSC.

Ford is humble about his

Wesley Foundation director Mike Ford wants to create a welcoming haven for everyone at Glenville State. He mixes with the crowd at the Homecoming Pep Assembly (Terry L. Estep, Mercury Staff)

role in the changes. "I want to be a friend, not special, just a friend."

In addition to working at the Wesley Foundation, Ford is also pastor at the First Methodist Church in Glenville. He hopes to set up programs that will tie relationships between Trinity and the Wesley Foundation.

Ford holds a degree in social sciences and teaches at the Nicholas County Center.

Pastor Ford would like to extend a hand of friendship to all and invite them to lunch and chapel on Tuesday at noon in the Wesley Foundation.

Proposed program would create greater emphasis on writing

By Allison Tant,
Staff Reporter

A new program, in the early planning states, has been proposed that will help ensure that Glenville State graduates leave with an ability to write.

The program is called "Writing Across the Curriculum," an idea proposed by Language Division Chairman Edward Palm.

There are two key points to the program. Students must have a portfolio of all their writings through college. For example, a student's research paper would be included after it's graded and returned.



The portfolio will help the student keep track of ideas, hypotheses and proposals they may have had, depending on their major.

The second part of the program is to encourage a profession-intensive writing class in each major. For

"Graduates should be able to show that they can write, make sense, and use standard language."

--Gayle Burkowski (at left)

example, a Psychology major would have a class in Writing for Psychology.

"We thought there should be more writing," explains Professor Gayle Burkowski, who serves as the head of the committee. "Graduates should be able to show that they can write, make sense, and use standard language."

This project is still in the early stages and has several bugs that need to be worked out.

The committee has met once already and will have another meeting in November.

The committee sent surveys to all members of the faculty. The survey included questions about the average length of papers assigned, the number of papers assigned per course, and the type of writings required for class.

One problem they are looking at is funding. In order for some of these

classes to be taught, several additional teachers would have to be hired. The proposal should be formulated by the end of the year and it could in effect start in 1999.

Writing Across the Curriculum has a team from every division. Committee members are Robert Burkowski from the Science Division, Dennis Wemmer from the Fine Arts, Sherry Jones from the Business Division, Robert Burkowski from Education, Jan Hilgenberg from Social Sciences, and Kay Clark from the Physical Education Department.

National Chi Beta Phi Meeting to be held at GSC

by BJ Woods,
Staff Reporter

The Alpha Iota Chapter of Chi Beta Phi will be hosting the National Chi Beta Phi meeting on November 27 and 28th.

The Alpha Iota Chapter decided to host this meeting in November and have been working on the preparations ever since being granted permission to host the meeting in December of last year.

The Alpha Iota Chapter is adding their own "spin" to the National Meeting by having a scrapbook competition between the chapters. There will be a trophy given

out to the chapter with the best scrapbook at the banquet. The Alpha Iota Chapter has also contacted the charter members of Alpha Iota and have invited them to return for this meeting. There will be a small presentation for the charter members at the banquet on Saturday evening.

This National Meeting will consist of elections of national officers for the next term. There will be some business discussed as well as having presentations from various Chi Beta Phi members. This is the first two day event being held in many years, but because of

last year the group was unable to get all the business of the organization completed and the board of directors opted to have the meeting over a two day period.

The delegates will be arriving at GSC on Friday evening and staying at various motels in the area. There will be members of Alpha Iota at the bowling alley in case any incoming delegates wishes to meet with them.

The Alpha Iota Chapter has planned this meeting to be memorable for the delegates as well as educational and informative.

Basketball "Skills for Kids" Clinic

The Glenville State College Men's Basketball coaching staff and players will conduct a skills clinic for boys and girls in grades 3-10, Saturday, November 28, from 9 a.m. to noon at the college gymnasium. Shooting, passing, and ball handling will be emphasized with contests including a 3 point shoot-out, foul shooting, and knockout. Each student will receive a "Skills to Improve" workout booklet. Plus, the Glenville State Pioneers will put on a *Slam Dunk Show*. Cost of the clinic is \$15. For an application or further information, contact Coach Bob Williams at (304) 462-7361 (ext. 285).

Our Mistake...

Last week, the *Mercury* erroneously reported that the Criminal Justice Department had organized Halloween Patrols in the past to help children trick or treat safely.

Professor Lori Kepford denies making the statement in the article, inform-

ing the editorial staff that no such patrols have existed in her memory, as the local police have made it clear such a patrol would open the college to liability.

Kepford was also wrongly identified as a division chair.

We regret the errors.

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THE VIRTUAL LIBRARIAN: Get your space on the web

By Ben Bruton,
Guest Columnist

By now, most everyone knows that email accounts are available for free through websites like Hotmail and Yahoo. But what you probably didn't know is that you can get your own free website too.

All you have to do is visit Geocities (<http://www.geocities.com>), a web-based company that actually gives each user 11 megabytes of web space absolutely free.

Upon registering at the site, you become a "homesteader" and are given your very own little piece of the virtual frontier, a place where you can express your



"Upon registering at the site, you become a 'homesteader' and are given your very own little piece of the virtual frontier, a place where you can express your innermost thoughts or just let your freak flag fly."

innermost thoughts or just let your freak flag fly.

Geocities is structured like a theme park, with 40 different neighborhoods, each appealing to a different interest.

If you're a yuppie, go to "Wall Street". Sci-fi dweebs beam up to "Area 51". There's an "Enchanted Forest" for the kiddies, a "Bourbon Street" for jazz and cajun food fans, and even a "Sunset Strip" for rockers.

Geocities gives you

tools that help you design your page, so that even if you don't know the first thing about HTML or web page design, you can still make a cool page filled with colors, photos, and text.

Once you complete your web page, you become a member of the Geocities community, and it really is a community. Members share their interests, chat together, and there are even community leaders who answer questions and help

out new homesteaders.

Currently, Geocities is ranked as the no. 3 most-visited site on the Internet, according to a market research firm. Recently, shares in Geocities more than doubled on the stock market, which means that we can expect many more of these cybercommunities in the future.

Is there a catch? Well, yes and no. Geocities does allow you to build a free web site, but it also insists on placing paid advertisements at the top of the screen—they have to make money somehow, right?

So no matter what you do, the top part of your Geocities website will

always look like a board.

Also, you don't have total creative control. Geocities does occasional practice censorship—doesn't allow pornography, pictures, pictures of naked people, or other objectionable materials.

I guess that kinda ruins out your plans, huh?

I have to admit, "community" aspect Geocities makes me a little uneasy. I don't like to be categorized or pigeonholed based on my interests. It seems like Geocities treats its "homesteaders" like demographics, not people.

But still, free web space is hard to beat, right?

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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:

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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 Frost: Icy scourge of Fall

By BJ Woods,
Staff Columnist

I really like the fall season of the year with the exception of frost on my windshield every morning.

I really don't relish going out and starting my car and waiting for the windshield to defrost so I can go on my way. To me this seems to be such a big waste of time so, I plan activities that can be done in these few minutes while my heater does its job. This doesn't change my opinion of frost, but it does make things a little easier.

What is frost and why does it occur? I hope to answer these questions and add a few notes along the way so all will be able to understand this occurrence.

What is frost? Frost is ice that is sublimed directly onto surfaces. This occurs when the humidity in the air goes directly from a vaporous state into a solid

state. The humidity is in the form of water vapor.

One needs to think in terms of energy when thinking of this. Water vapor is at a higher energy level than that of solid and liquid water.

In order for it to be transformed into frost there must be a decrease in the amount of energy in the air. This decrease in energy occurs when the temperatures drop.

As the energy is removed from the air some of the energy comes from water vapor molecules. Eventually there is enough energy removed so the vapor has to change its state. This leads the water vapor tuning to liquid or ice.



With the temperatures being so low the water vapor turns to ice.

It doesn't have to be below 32 degrees for frost to form. The reason for this is the thermometer only takes the temperature where it is located at. That temperature doesn't hold true. Most thermometers are located a few feet up from the ground; they don't give an accurate reading at ground level.

WVIAC championship is looking less likely for GSC

By James Arnold,
Staff Reporter

Glenville football has reached a tough point in the season. The Pioneers have been struggling as of late—they've dropped their last two games. Both games were important conference (WVIAC) matchups.

The first loss was the road-out loss to Fairmont, which was followed by another loss to Concord.

The Concord defeat was a turn around from last year's game versus Concord. The former Pioneer quarterback Wilkie Perez had his best Illustrated and NFL-worthy performance with one touchdown pass.



HARD TIMES. Losses to Fairmont and Concord are reducing the chances of a WVIAC win this year. (File photo)

At presstime, Glenville is now 4 - 4, and they still have at least one really tough game left. WV Tech shouldn't be any trouble but then the Pioneers travel to the eastern panhandle to battle the Shepherd College Rams.

The game at Shepherd will be a tough, tough game.

The Pioneers probably won't win their 6th consecutive conference championship, however they can close out this season with three big wins.

Jump Shots

By James Arnold,
Staff Columnist

NFL FOOTBALL

Randy Moss and the Minnesota Vikings are proving themselves as the real deal. They moved themselves to 6 - 0 last week. Only the defending champion Bronco's are also undefeated.

The Bronco's can thank the outstanding performance they've been getting from Terrel Davis. He's on a record-setting pace, breaking a 1000 yards after only seven games. Keep your eyes on these teams, it might be early, but I think one will be the Super Bowl Champs.

NBA BASKETBALL

The NBA has cancelled

more games for this season. The owners and players just can't come to an agreement. It doesn't look like there'll be games played this season. It's sad, but the NBA won't realize their mistake until they look back on this next year.

WCW WRESTLING

Goldberg easily defeated Diamond Dallas Page (DDP) last week at "Halloween Havic". The injured Goldberg, arm injury, managed to slow down the quicker Page with his brute strength. Goldberg used his patented "spear" and "jack hammer" to put down the challenger. Goldberg retains his title and continues to easily defeat the competition.

Intramural Competitions

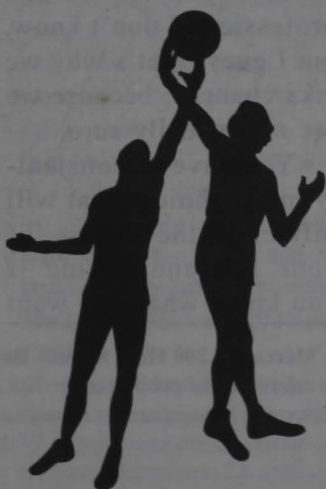
By W. E. Owen,

Contributing Reporter

GSC's Athletic department is organizing an intramural Basketball/Wiffleball competition to be held November 16th through December 4th.

Participants must organize their own teams, submitting their line-ups November 2nd-6th. 5-8 competitors are needed for Basketball teams, 9-15 players required for Wiffleball, with participants encouraged to maintain as many of the same players interchangeably on both entered teams. A free-throw competition will also be held.

Teams wishing to enter the intramural are to contact women's volleyball coach Ms. Tracey Fluharty, in her office or at ext. 345 for further information or organizational assistance.



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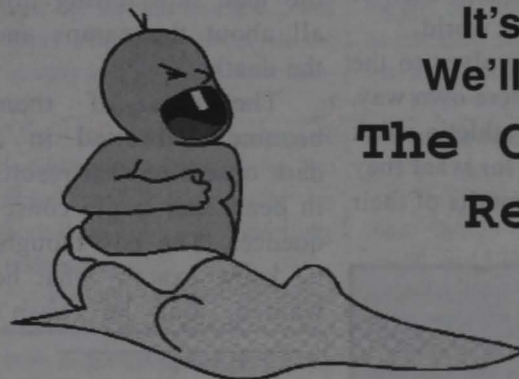
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The Mercury

Volume 70 - No. 9

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Stephen Metz - Staff Cartoonist

Marcus Garvey - Fictional Advisor of the Week

"Testicles" - Ancient Greek Sex Philosopher

Judge not, lest ye be judged, 'kay?

Hello to everyone out there in happy reader land. How have you been doing this week... err.... maybe I should ask, how have you been looking. Did you ever stop to notice the importance we, meaning society as a whole, put on appearance, and the way in which we judge someone else by the way they look.

It's very apparent on this campus and especially noticeable when we have so little outside influences. It happens when we look at someone carrying a beeper and think they are a drug dealer, and the way the guy wearing a Grateful Dead shirt is judged as a slacker, or how about the athletic chick who we judge as being stupid or the overweight kid who we all subconsciously think is lazy.

These labels are pretty counterproductive, but they serve an even deeper purpose than just pure shallowness. They serve as a way of isolating other people and putting them into tidy little groups so we, society, can feel safe and snug in our cocoon-like beds each night when we lay our pea-sized heads down to sleep.

It's as if by calling someone else a slacker we can eliminate the slacker in ourselves. Or maybe we can boost our own IQ if we get someone else to be the stupid kid. Or better still we'll have no fear of growing old and losing our youthful beauty if the fat, lazy kid sticks around.

We place these labels subconsciously without even realizing what we are doing. Yet, what we really need to realize is that there are many facets to each of our personalities and maybe there is a little fat, lazy kid in each of us, as well as a young lion trying to tame the world.

Won't it be a great day when society evolves to the point where everyone truly is beautiful in their own way, and the fat kid, the Grateful Dead fan, the athletic chick and the kid with the beeper are not judged for what they look like, but for the very contents and the merits of their own souls?

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Choices, choices.

By Chris Hopkins,
Staff Columnist

Have you ever asked yourself what do you really want out of life and, when you finally get what you want, is it all you thought it to be?

This past weekend a friend of mine and I went to the movies to see *Apt Pupil* which is based on a novella by Stephen King. It is about a boy who is obsessed with the Holocaust discovers that a Nazi war criminal is living in his town. He blackmails the man into telling him all about the camps and the deaths.

The two of them become embroiled in a dark obsession that results in death and tragic consequences. The boy thought he knew exactly what he wanted, but he wasn't

mature enough to be able to see the consequences of his actions. He begins to doubt his sanity and his place in the world while the old man who has tried to feel the consequences of his own actions find that they will always be there waiting for him.

For me, I think that someday I would like to be a world famous entertainer or a great speaker because I like doing what those jobs entail, but is the reward worth what you will go through because you are in this profession? I don't know, but I guess that's why we take chances; because we are never really sure.

You have to constantly make choices that will influence the course of your life and decide if you know what you want

or what is best for you.

You won't know until it happens and it may be a little too late to change. That's how you learn and mature. You make choices that are a little wiser. Make sure what you ask for is something you're willing to accept, including the rewards and the consequences, no matter the outcome.

If there is one thing you can be sure of in life it is that you will be faced with choices and you may not want to make; but, not choosing is another choice and the outcome could be the same or worse.

Take control, live the best you can, and be ready for what you ask for. It all can't be that bad can it?

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.

Dorm Renovations story more fantasy than truth

Dear Editor:

The article "New funds flow Pickens Hall new renovations" is more fantasy than truth.

Eric Poirier, House Director at Pickens Hall, was interviewed with the implication that existing furniture could be replaced for incoming freshmen next year. From this article it was construed that a new lock system, air conditioning, new furniture, files, computer Internet

access and computers in every room would be an immediate reality.

We are extremely sorry that the article implied that the new funds were in hand, because they are not. Estimates of costs have not been completed; and, if there is a five million dollar price tag, the more realistic bonding amount would be one half that price, making it necessary to prioritize the projects listed. If the college is suc-

cessful in getting bond approval, this will enable us to proceed with the air conditioning and plumbing needs of both residence halls, Pickens and Louis Bennett.

If we are unable to get a successful bond issue approved and completed, we will have to make improvements on a delayed basis, paying as we are able to accumulate enough funds to engage one or parts of one project at a time.

Again, we regret this premature release by a *Mercury* staff reporter saying the funds are currently available for renovations.

We remain hopeful of obtaining funds, but we are currently far from the point of implementation. We will keep the residents in residence halls posted as this plan develops.

Sincerely,
Alfred T. Billips,
Dean of Student Services



The *Mercury* will not be publishing an issue next week.

The editorial and production staff is scheduled to attend the National College Media Convention in Kansas City, Missouri, where we will compete against student newspapers across the country.

We will resume publication on November 16, 1998.

Education/contraception debates

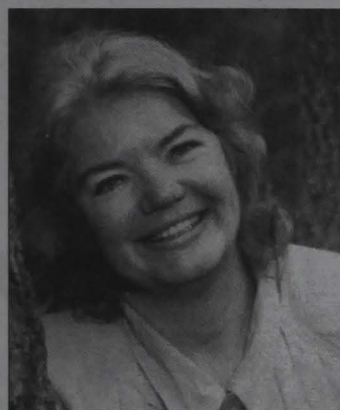
Editor's Note: Molly Ivins is a syndicated columnist. The following column was originally published in February 1997.

By Molly Ivins,
Syndicated Columnist

Berkeley, Calif. -- I believe it to be one of life's great truths that there is no group of people quite so wonderful as those who were seniors when you were a freshman. This applies to both high school and college. Didn't you notice that the jurors who became seniors when you were a sophomore were just not quite as... naive, fascinating, dangerous, original as the seniors before them?

The same thing is true of the world of work. I belong to a peripatetic profession; most of us move on fairly frequently. I was exceptionally lucky with my first group of professional "seniors" at the Minneapolis Tribune--now folded in with what used to be our competition, the Star, to make the *StarTrib* of today.

True, I had worked for the Houston Chronicle before going to Minneapolis, and that was enough to convince me that Hildy Johnson of The Front Page was alive and well and that "my chosen field of endeavor," as Mel Mencher used to say, was deliciously sprinkled with outlaws and rascals. But the Tribune was my first "grown-up" job, and it



was the first time I worked with a group of bright people trying to put out a first-rate newspaper. (At the old Cronk, our editor was given to solemnly informing us that our mission in life was "not to rock the boat.")

In Minneapolis--which could be the best city in the country except it needs to be shut down for six months of the year because it's too cold--I encountered a group of professional journalists who, bless their hearts, never thought of themselves as anything more pretentious than "newspapermen." The "seniors" of my first job have been croaking left and right lately, and when word came last week that Stu Baird, our beloved city editor, was gone, it seemed past time for a tribute.

Can anyone remember Stu Baird not laughing? He couldn't have laughed all the time--it only seems that way. He was bald even when I worked for him 30 years

"Many years of covering school issues have also convinced me that locally elected school board members are not necessarily wise and just."

ago. I can remember many a tense huddle at the desk: "Here's the story, take you 15 minutes to get there, 40 to deadline, file 500 words, go!"

But mostly I remember Stu's laughter ringing through the newsroom about anything and everything: about Holbrook's love life, about the time a truckload of photochemicals plunged off a bridge into a river and he decided to see what developed, about the fact that John Addington on the copy desk could recite all 71 counties of Wisconsin in alphabetical order, about the time we ran the headline "Area Bears Watching," about all the insanity and folly and sheer stubborn Midwesternness of Minnesota. Long before anyone had heard of Garrison Keillor, Stu Baird knew that Minnesota was bone-deep funny and wonderfully endearing.

He also relished the sheer oddity of the people who worked with him. Newspaperpeople are not necessarily, or even often, your seriously normal human beans. That was fine by Stu. He positively cherished our assorted lunacies--would even boast about

them. If a particularly peculiar citizen had a redeeming social value, Stu would always point it out, and if there was a good enough excuse for unseemly behavior--"You'd be that grumpy too if you were married to *his* wife"--it was always given due recognition. And when there was not excuse for perfectly dreadful people, Stu would just roar over stories of how wretched they were.

Baird left the Tribune, as newspaper people used to do in those days, to go into public relations so he could afford to send his kids to college. His successor at the city desk was Frank Premack, as relentless and driven as Baird was loose and easygoing.

Dick Cunningham, a rare and gentle soul, was perhaps the greatest humanist I ever met at a city desk. I'm still not sure how these things are strictly measured--and I know most people never associate this with newspaperfolk--but Cunningham may have been the best Christian I ever knew. It gave him remarkable insights into what news really was.

The Sunday late shift used to knock off at midnight--no bars

open--and repair to Bob Crabb's house to play chess. At the beginning of World War II, Crabb was working for some long-since-defunct news service in the Philippines, was caught by the Japanese and spent the war in a concentration camp. He occasionally referred to it, but it was not until I later read the histories of the camps that I had any grasp of what he had been through.

We would play chess until 3 or 4 a.m., often until dawn, five or six games going on at once. We developed a sort of running patter, referring to the pieces by elaborate formal titles. "Aha! I have seized your Noble Knight upon his Prancing Steed with my Humble Peasant here. Take that!" Those who were between games would gather to give strategic advice to those locked in close matches.

Just a few months ago, shortly before his own death, I received a note from Cunningham with a copy of Crabb's obituary enclosed. Cunningham's note, a reference to those long-ago chess matches, said simply: "Remember, always seize the long diagonal!"

Chess is a complicated game, but it's nowhere as complicated as life. If there is a long diagonal in this world, I suspect it has to do with staying true to those who have taught so much and given so generously to you.

Entertainment Briefs

Hope Floats a sweet movie

By Brent Wood,
Staff Columnist

Out on video is the romantic comedy *Hope Floats*, starring Sandra Bullock and Harry Connick Jr.

In storybooks, the captain of the football team and the head cheerleader get married right out of high school and live happily ever after. However the life portrayed in *Hope Floats* is much more like reality.

The football captain cheats on the cheerleader and leaves her to raise a young daughter. Hurt and

alone, the mother and daughter leave to return to her childhood home.

This is a wonderful and funny film. After two disappointing films, *Hope Floats* was a revitalizing hit for Sandra Bullock's career.

This film was a emotional roller coaster ranging from the joy of love, the sorrow of loss and the anger of betrayal.

It does not portray life in the Walt Disney stereotype. It does portray it in a semi-life like vision. There is still hope for divorcees that love does still exist.

Comedian Randy Riggle returns

By Allison Tant,
Staff Reporter

A sprinkling of students came out to the AB Auditorium at 9 p.m. on Wednesday night to see comedian Randy Riggle perform.

Riggle is a contributing writer for the "Tonight Show" and has opened for people such as Bob Dylan, Jerry Seinfeld, and Gallagher.

One funny part of the evening was when off the daily agenda of a college student starting at 7:30 am with the snooze button on the alarm clock and ending the evening studying for finals at a frat party after two kegs wondering if they could get enough money selling plasma to get another keg.

Riggle showed his musical abilities by singing Billy Ray Cyrus' "Achy Breaky heart" as Bob Dylan, Bullwinkle, Marvin the Martian, Milli Vanilli, and--the one that got the most laughs--Macho Man Randy Savage.

The performance ended with a twisted rendition of Cinderella called Rinderella, where he twisted all of the words around.

After the performance, student Brian Cadle commented "For a man who opens for Jerry Seinfeld I would expect his humor not to be so dry." Neal Young stated, "He had a few funny bits but overall it sucked." Amanda Conrad said, "I liked his Macho Man impression".

Lend Me a Tenor long on laughs

By Terry L. Estep,
Staff Columnist

Three nights last week, the Glenville State College Theatre Department performed Ken Ludwig's operatic farce *Lend Me a Tenor*.

Quite frankly, this is the funniest play they've performed in recent memory.

An Italian opera star (Wayne Richmond) is slated to make his American debut in a Cleveland opera house. When he appears to have killed himself, chaos ensues when Max (Cris Gravely) must impersonate the star in order to save the show.

Director Nancy Wemm has selected prime source material for this cast. Becky



WHERE'S MAX? As the charade is about to be exposed, the cast tries to find Max for an explanation. (Terry Estep)

Seymour, Heather Eberly, angry opera house owner Michael Brooks, and Joelle Harris and Lisa Jeremiah Jones offered Belknap shine as strong-willed women.

Solid timing and great comedy made for a wonderful show.

Newest incarnation of Metal Gear series offers solid Playstation gameplay

By Terry L. Estep,
Staff Columnist

The Metal Gear series began on the Nintendo Entertainment System and has reached its third incarnation on the Playstation.

Metal Gear Solid unfolds like a John Woo action film, complete with duplicitous villains, an exotic location, and allies who may not be completely trustworthy.

The plot runs like this: an elite group of terrorists have captured a nuclear disposal facility in Alaska and have taken hostages. They demand the remains of their former leader or they will launch a new weapon--a

walking battle mech dubbed "Metal Gear"--on the United States.

The player controls Solid Snake, who must slip quietly into the base. The player begins with a pack of cigarettes. Weapons and items must be procured on-site.

Unlike most action titles, the player cannot stride into a room and start blasting away. The name of the game here is stealth, as guards will gun you down if they see you.

Metal Gear Solid has been the buzz of the industry ever since it was first announced two years ago. Clearly, a lot of work has

gone into this title. Sound effects and voice acting are top-notch, and beating the game will earn items that boosts replay value.

The programmers have taken full advantage of the Playstation's Dual Shock Analog Controller. Run up behind a guard to snap his neck, and the controller will jerk in your hands to simulate his struggle.

My only complaint is that the game tries to be a completely immersive experience, but annoyingly reminds you that it's a game by referring to the controller and game packaging during cinematics. Otherwise, it's certainly worth checking out.

FRANK CHO by Frank Chow

FRANK CHO IS ATTENDING THE SMALL PRESS EXPO IN BETHESDA, MARYLAND, AND IS ABLE TO PRODUCE TODAY'S COMIC TIP. REPLACING CHO TODAY IS A LOVED AMERICAN CARTOONIST WHO WISHES TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS.



WHO GAVE DEAN A "WEDGIE"? NOT ME.

NO.
IT'S NOT
MORT
WALKER.

SMALL PRESS EXPO INFORMATION: 703.342.9412

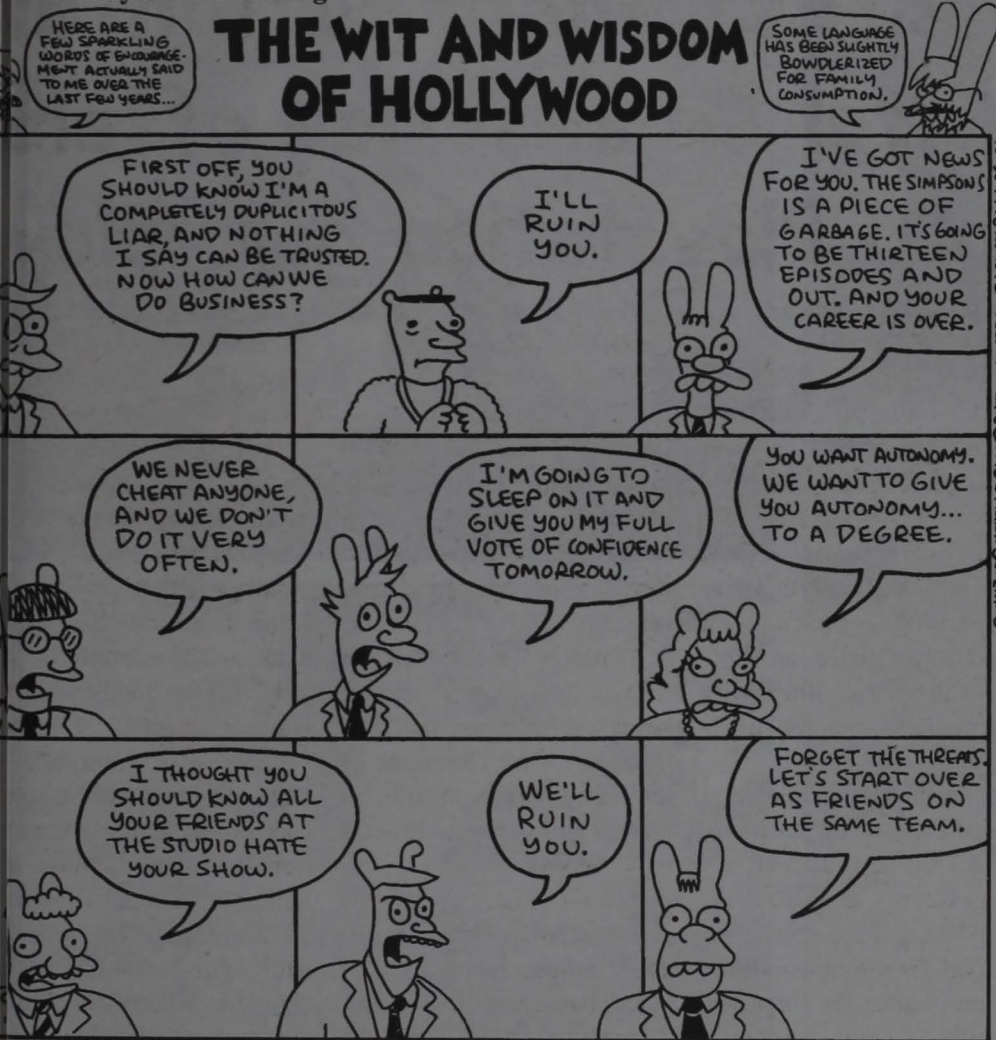
by Doug Marlette



GIG HAPPY by Rick Detorie



IN HELL by Matt Groening



Cristola's Magical Mystical Predictions

Horoscope by Cris Gravely

Aries (March 21-April 19) — In order to gain something of greater value, you must voluntarily sacrifice something else. It could be material or metaphysical, but the time to act is now.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Thinking of moving? Need to seek greener pastures? If so, this is the time to do it. Explore your adventurous side and learn to take risks. This is not a time for indecision.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) — Trying to make a decision is not always easy, especially in this situation. Take time to consider all sides with a balanced heart: not too much emotion, and not too much intellect.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) — Exhaustion is the word of the week for you. Keep trying, though; when you least expect it, the solution to your problem will come to you. This may be trying, but all things take time.

Leo (July 23-August 22) — Materialistic describes you this week. You are allowing yourself to be defined by what you own, not by what you are. Give up some material possessions and start to live for yourself, not objects.

Virgo (August 23-September 22) — Weird dreams and feelings are a harbinger of things to come. Learn to trust your instincts and let those dreams and feelings take their course. Good things will happen.

Libra (September 23-October 22) — Confusion, fluctuation, and uncertainty have you in a downward spiral. Hang on to your dreams and hopes; this will all be over sooner than you think. Don't give up.

Scorpio (October 23-November 21) — Learning a new skill takes time and effort. It may be difficult, but stick to it; this could lead to a new career or a life-enriching hobby.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21) — Conflict and struggle will lead to a stronger personality. Learn to live in harmony with your aggressive drives. You are an adult now, so act like one.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19) — A love affair is just around the corner. This is a week of emotional fulfillment and promise, an initiation into learning about your own heart.

Aquarius (January 20-February 18) — Learn to be more industrious and humble this week. Reliability and gentleness are qualities that everyone likes, so develop them. Pick up a social project.

Pisces (February 19-March 20) — Learn about your sensuality this week and explore your feminine side. Be generous and willing to indulge yourself and others if it fits your purposes. Have fun and explore.



