

# The Mercury

The student newspaper of Glenville State College  
May 1, 2000 - Volume 71 - Number 20

## A Retrospective on the Past Year

# A Year at Glenville State College

By Hector K. Rodriguez  
Staff Reporter

One year is not a significant amount of time when one considers the greater scheme of things. To those out in what could be considered the "real" world, it simply is a period where taxes are collected, bills get paid, and everyday life happens. Life was not quite that simple at Glenville State College for students, faculty, and administration. It actually got quite interesting depending on which side of the "fence" you were sitting.

This year would be aptly titled "The Year of change" if such a designation were to be given. New and fresh changes were brought to GSC with the addition of Dr. Thomas Powell as President of the college. He came to us from Winthrop University where he was the Dean of the College of Education. His goals at the beginning were to focus on resident hall quality, food service, student enrollment, and weekend student activities. In an earlier article just after his arrival at GSC he commented "I am not saying that what we have here is bad, but there is no reason it could not be better."

Change, be it good or bad, is just what happened. Cosmetic and construction changes were just the start of it as we watched elevators being put into LBH and Science Hall to aid disabled students who cannot use stairs. An enclosed elevated walkway was built between the AB building and LBH. The President's office was enlarged and redecorated. Large banners were displayed around campus displaying the words

Tradition, Innovation, Leadership, and Community. The AB auditorium was remodeled and a first floor AB building classroom was replaced with the Vice President of Academic Affairs office. Last, but not least, the student population saw the Heflin Center cafeteria change from its previous incarnation.

The wide sweeping changes were not simply construction oriented. Several administrative and curriculum based changes were made as well. The new academic year saw the arrival of the campus reorganization although, as with all new changes, this was met with both optimism and concern. The initial plan, proposed by Dr. Powell, was to bring about the changes in an organized flow to make the gears of GSC's administrative body turn more efficiently. The plan, which in a slightly different form, was ratified after much discussion between faculty, administration, and students.

Some of the proposed changes for various campus services and organizations were controversial. One such sore point was *The Mercury* itself which was slated to be placed under the office of Student Life. After much discussion in the various student forums and a number of editorials *The Mercury* was left under the control of the Language Arts Department and advisor Dr. Christopher Orr.

Another change, which brought some pretty heated discussion, was the arrival of the ROTC at GSC. In the fall GSC started to offer Army ROTC courses. The official purpose of the courses are to prepare willing students for a career in the Army.

Not everyone welcomed it as some saw it as "an invasion" or as GSC welcoming a group which did not have a particularly good track record with equal rights concerning females and homosexuals. The problem was that most fired off an extensive amount of rhetoric without actually investigating the problem. The ROTC is designed as a preparatory school for those seeking their "fortune" in the armed services. To others in the course it is simply a way to learn about military history, custom, and job related skills. Quite simply, the ROTC is nothing more than an entry level school for what could be a very interesting job. It stresses small and large group leadership, skills necessary to perform in the environment the Army operates, and physical activities like calisthenics and repelling.

The uproar over the ROTC eventually calmed down and it is business as usual for Captain Newt McCutcheon. Since its inception students can be seen doing PT, or physical training, in the evenings. The groups has participated in a number of field training exercises and participating in a number of other activities to include repelling off the wall in front of the AB building a couple of weeks ago.

The proposed schedule, now ratified, was also met with mixed emotions. A large percentage of students were not happy with the days we would lose initially. With some discussion on behalf of the students, in an open forum, the schedule was reevaluated and a compromise was reached. For the most part it has been accepted although there are

still those angered about having to go to three different extensions to get the required classes to graduate.

Academics were not the only areas affected by change. GSC sports saw changes in key personnel and fielded stronger athletic teams. After a 5-6 season, GSC Pioneer Head football coach Rick Trickett left and was replaced by Paul Shaffner. Mens basketball made it to the second round of the playoff tournament before being defeated by nationally ranked Salem-Teikyo. The womens basketball team finished second falling in a heartbreaker to West Liberty at the WVIAC tournament. All three are young teams and look to be even more successful next season with a good number of returning starters.

These are the stories that made news this year that aren't being discussed in this issue of the paper, our final issue of the year. As *The Mercury* closes up shop for this academic year, there are many potential stories that we will miss. As it stands, the fate of the Oral Communications, Theatre, and Journalism programs hang in the balance. Shared Values, as of April 14, has taken on a new face as administrators look to make it less ambiguous and a bit less menacing for everyone. This previous week, Dr. Powell was in Charleston lobbying for more funds as GSC was \$1.7 million in debt. As said in the beginning of this article, it's been an interesting year. Hopefully, *The Mercury* will be here next year to bring you all the news that is fit to print, and some that isn't.



## Senior Surveying class participates in mapping

By Sherrie Hardman  
Staff Reporter

Glenville State College senior land surveying class recently took part in the Federal High Accuracy Reference Network Densification effort; students visited stations in Randolph and Pocahontas counties. As a result, their observations will contribute to accurate mapping in the area and help them to understand the duties of an accurate base location.

Students utilized a modern global positioning system during observations, which educated them about equipment setup, logging data, and organizing projects. They also developed an appreciation for fish resources in local waters and cruising, as well as tracking weather changes on Point Mountain in their spare time.



Sherrie Hardman, Mercury

**Forestry classes work out a Global Positioning Unit at the old grade school in Mill Creek. Note the large north arrow in the concrete slab beneath the unit.**

## Chi Beta Phi, ACS present awards at spring picnic

By BJ Woods  
Staff Reporter

Members of the Alpha Iota Chapter of Chi Beta Phi and student affiliates of the American Chemical Society held their spring picnic on April 25, 2000 at the Gilmer County Recreation Center; many awards were given.

Advisor Paul Peck was asked to present pins to graduating seniors; recipients were Brandon Craft, Treasurer; Charlie Helmick, Vice-president; Billy Kelley, President and BJ Woods, National Secretary.

Graduating seniors not attending were Colleen Boyle and Kenny Osborne.

BJ Woods and Professor Peck spoke a few moments about Billy Kelley, the most active member of the Alpha Iota Chapter of Chi Beta Phi for 1999-2000. Woods stated, "This young man has so many positive attributes and I wish all students at GSC had these qualities." Kelley said "This is a great honor and I am very appreciative that I was the one chosen to receive the award. I have worked hard and am very excited to have

been chosen to receive this award."

Woods presented Peck with a plaque for his service to Chi Beta Phi. Kelley presented James Goll a plaque for his hard work and dedication to student affiliates of the American Chemical Society.

Professor Peck presented Andy Burns with a shingle signifying that he is a new member of Chi Beta Phi. Those who also received shingles but were not present included Connie Moll, Carolyn Blair, Dinessica McDougall and Chris Kennedy.

### The Literary Society

will hold its final meeting of the semester on Wednesday, May 3 at 4 p.m. in room 305 of the Administration Building. The book being discussed is Lillia Schlissel's "Women's Diaries of the Westward Journey."

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### Recurring Events

Lunch & Chapel

(WAC 12:00 pm Tuesdays)

Fellowship of Christian Athletes

(WAC 9:00 pm Tuesdays)

Baptist Campus Ministry

(WAC 9:00 pm Wednesdays)

Movie Night

(WAC 8:00 pm Thursdays)

### Monday - May 1, 2000

GSC Golf Division II

Regional Finals - Chicago

Recording Artist Paul Skyland

(Heflin Center 8:00 pm)

### Tuesday - May 2, 2000

Band Concert

(FA Auditorium 8:00 pm)

GSC Golf Division II

Regional Finals - Chicago

### Wednesday - May 3, 2000

GSC Golf Division II

Regional Finals - Chicago

### Friday-Saturday May 5 - 6

Final Exams for Late

Afternoon/Evening Classes

### Monday - Thursday May 8 - 11

Final Exams

### Friday - May 12, 2000

End of Semester

### Saturday - May 13, 2000

Commencement (10:00 am)



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## Final Exam Schedule

### ALL CLASSES MEETING AT:

Friday late evening (4:00 p.m.)  
and night classes (6:45 p.m.)  
Saturday late evening (4:00 p.m.)  
and night classes (6:45 p.m.)

### WILL HAVE EXAMINATIONS ON:

Class Time - May 5

Class Time - May 6

8:00 MWF  
8:00 TR  
9:00 MWF  
9:30 TR  
10:00 MWF  
11:00 MWF  
11:00 TR  
12:00 MWF  
1:00 MWF  
1:30 TR  
2:00 MWF  
3:00 MWF  
3:00 TR  
4:00 M  
6:45 M

Monday - 8:00-10:00 a.m.  
Wednesday - 8:00-10:00 a.m.  
Tuesday - 10:10-12:10 p.m.  
Tuesday - 1:00-3:00 p.m.  
Wednesday - 10:10-12:10 p.m.  
Thursday - 8:00-10:00 a.m.  
Monday - 10:10-12:10 p.m.  
Tuesday - 3:10-5:10 p.m.  
Wednesday - 1:00-3:00 p.m.  
Monday - 3:10-5:10 p.m.  
Monday - 1:00-3:00 p.m.  
Tuesday - 8:00-10:00 p.m.  
Wednesday - 3:10-5:10 p.m.  
Monday - 5:20-7:20 p.m.  
Monday - 7:30-9:30 p.m.

4:00 T  
6:45 T  
4:00 W  
6:45 W

Tuesday - 5:20-7:20 p.m.  
Tuesday - 7:30-9:30 p.m.  
Wednesday - 5:20-7:20 p.m.  
Wednesday - 7:30-9:30 p.m.

## Virginia Tech chemistry professor speaks to GSC Chemical Society

By BJ Woods  
Staff Reporter

Dr. James Tanko, a chemistry professor at Virginia Tech, visited the American Chemical Society at Glenville State College on Thursday, April 6. Tanko did a presentation on the research on which his graduate students are working.

Tanko explained to the group that electron reduction produces a radical anion and an electron oxidation produces a radical cation, which in turn results in a weakened bonding. He also presented

his group's findings that the use of a radical cation will change the pH of a molecule to make it more acidic. Tanko walked the group through the history of how radicals play a part in organic chemistry.

Tanko noted that his group is using electrochemistry and photochemistry to produce the radical ions which increase the speed of chemical reactions as well as to change the pH. Tanko discussed thermodynamics, localization, and delocalization, as well as the change in the spin of the element in its transition state.

## Former county resident named WV Theater Teacher of the Year

By Sherrie Hardman  
Staff Reporter

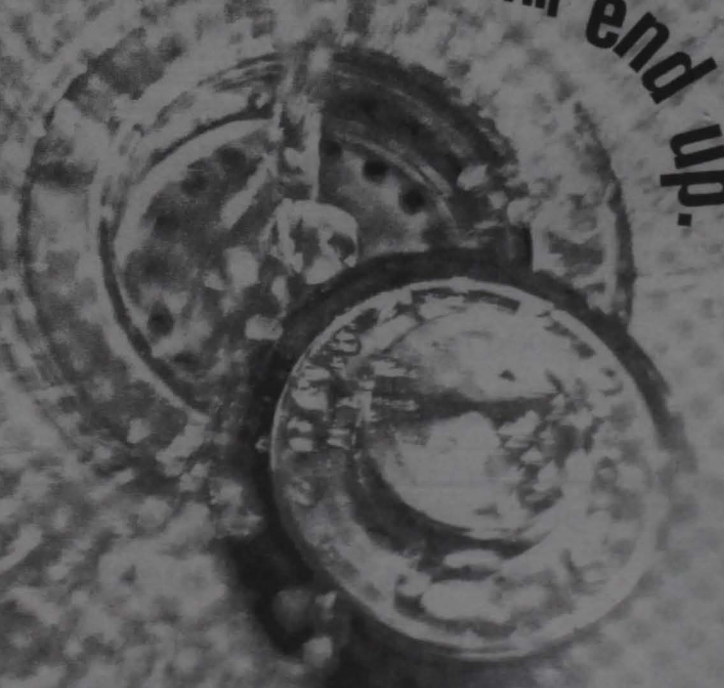
Former Gilmer County resident, Lia Lee, was named West Virginia Theater Teacher of the Year in April. Ms. Lee is now a Drama Teacher at Parkersburg South High School, where she has taught for 21 years.

She was chosen for this award by her colleagues at the W.V. State Thespian Festival in the Cultural Center, located in Charleston. Lee holds an A.B. from Glenville State College and a M.A. degree from Marshall University. She previously taught theater for four years at Spencer High School, taught for three years at Belpre High School, and instructed an introductory theater class at Marietta College. Lee

has also taught at the Governor's Honors Academy.

The International Thespian Festival has invited Lee's Thespian troupe to perform on two separate occasions and she had the honor of representing WV at the Southeastern Theater Conference with an original play produced by Lee and her students. Lee currently chairs the WV Theater Conference Secondary Division and is the Area II representative for the WV Thespians and serves as the WV State Advocate for Educational Theater as part of the National Theater Advocacy Network. Ms. Lee is the daughter of Ruth Annabel Hull Murin and the late Nick Murin, who formerly coached at GSC. She currently resides in Belpre, Ohio.

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Contact Ed Messenger in the Media Center, ext. 313.



# Mercury staff members say goodbye

By Jeremy Burks  
Staff Columnist

As the semester comes to a close, so does my time at Glenville State College. Hopefully I will be moving on to greener pastures where I will relish the fact I got out before GSC hits bottom. At the start of the fall semester, I had great hopes that the new administration would make GSC something great. As the year progressed, I started to see that we are no better off than we were with our last President, William K. Simmons.

The main problem I feel is that Dr. Powell came to GSC with a preconceived idea of what needed to be done and when he got here, he had a rude awakening. GSC is unlike any other college in the world, to assume that a person could come in here and change everything is ludicrous.

Before I leave, I feel

that I should defend my editorial so that it can not be used by the administration as ammunition against *The Mercury*. In every editorial I have written can be backed up with evidence and witnesses. The reason I chose to use colorful language in the past is to make a point; also, it appealed to our target audience, the students. I believe an editorial is supposed to bring to light ideas, rumors, and at the same time, entertain. I feel that I have done this successfully due to student response. After every paper, I get compliments from students and I thank them for their support.

Before I leave, I would like to thank Amy Smith who gave me my job and to all the staff of *The Mercury* for being such good friends. Continue fighting the good fight and keep *The Mercury* a STUDENT newspaper.

By Sherry Newsome  
Staff Reporter

Well, as all things must come to an end, so ends my enrollment and employment at Glenville State College. Due to my transfer to West Virginia State College, I am retiring as Copy Editor for *The Mercury*.

From bursts of uncontrollable laughter to outbursts of obscenities, I must say that I have seen and heard just about everything during my two years at the newspaper. But all in all, I have made friends I probably wouldn't have known otherwise. Students and staff will actually approach a staff writer and say "Man, I really liked your article", or "That last story you did really sucked." The most memorable article I wrote for the paper was an editorial piece about Sexism in the Military.

Dr. Chris Orr, *Mercury*

Advisor and Professor of English, started me on the path as a staff reporter. He recruited me from a freshman English class and I've worked at the paper since.

When Heather Eberle graduated last year, I took over as Copy Editor for the *Mercury*. I must tell you that as mundane as this job may seem, there have been times when I could have literally ripped my hair out trying to decipher what a writer was trying to say because the story was incoherent. Things really get tense on Thursday night when the layout editor is trying to put the paper together and stories haven't been turned in that are supposed to run in the paper. *The Mercury* is really an exciting place to work. But the cohesive glue that really holds everything together are the people who comprise the staff. There are some staff members who contribute more time to

the paper than they do in classes. I don't need to name names, but merely wish to convey my sincere admiration to these individuals for their dedication.

If *The Mercury* is supposed to be the "voice of the campus," then I urge more students to use it as a sounding board for issues that are going on here at the college. Don't be afraid to voice your opinion, this is a free country and there is such a thing as freedom of the press. As I leave this school, I don't want my voice remembered as a whisper, but as a lion's roar for what I believe in.

A special thanks to Dr. Orr for his help with copyediting and for just "being there" for the staff. This school would be hard pressed to find a more devoted advisor.

To *The Mercury* staff, keep on keepin' on. Good Luck to All and Adios.

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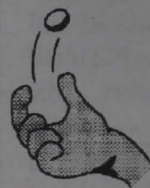
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# Particle Lady: The science of goodbye

By BJ Woods  
Staff Columnist

I guess I'm just an old-fashioned sentimentalist, one who likes to take time every so often to look back upon friends and people who have shaped my life. I was told I could write what I wanted to as it is my last Particle Lady column for *The Mercury*. There is so much I want to say to so many people. But I guess what I want to say first and foremost is thank you to the students of Glenville State College who have allowed me to write in each issue about some aspect of science. I hope that somewhere along the line that my

columns have given you some insight. I realize that my columns were not pretty, and some were rather graphic, but I hope someone took the time to read what I wrote.

I remember the very day Terry Estep asked me if I wanted to write a column on science and we decided to call the column Particle Lady. Terry, thank you for giving me the chance to do something that comes easy for me and something that I truly enjoy.

Many things have changed since that day. New faces have come and gone from *The Mercury* including three editors who have come and gone since those early

days of the Particle Lady. Each one allowed me to write what I chose. To those former editors, I say thank you for letting me continue on with something I have greatly enjoyed.

I did receive some controversial letters about some of the columns over the past three years. I didn't write these columns for controversy, but only to educate. In a way, I was honored that someone took time to write letters to the editor about my columns, for that showed that people read what I wrote.

I am also woman enough to realize that the segments I did on sexually transmitted diseases were rather shocking

to some, but were factual, facts that were written only to open the eyes of those who would rather walk around in a haze and not face the facts that casual sex does have consequences. I know that as a young adult one is constantly hearing about how unprotected sex is so wrong.

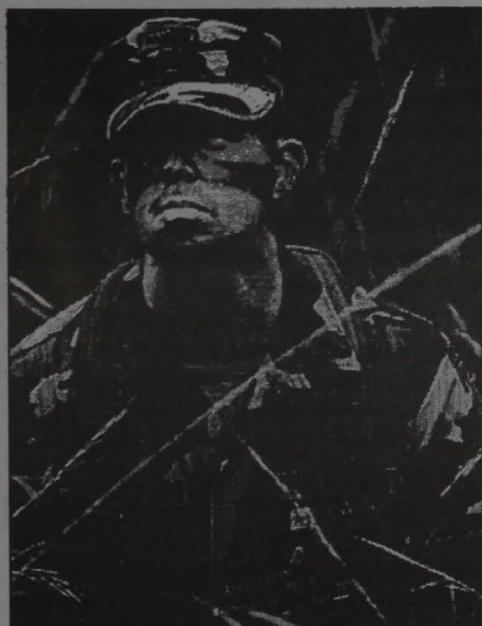
Over the last three years I have written on such a wide array of subjects. I know that I have learned a lot, and have broadened my horizons. I now know that there is much more to the planets other than just being out there in space. I also know that you don't have to be old to get breast cancer. In fact, there are many illnesses and diseases

that I wrote about merely to let the readers know some facts. I learned that even cats can get a form of leukemia. I even looked at new scientific techniques.

Even though this is my last column, I hope and pray this isn't the last Particle Lady column to ever appear in *The Mercury*. The sciences affect each and every one of us. We, as humans, have and face the sciences every day in our lives. From eating, sleeping, breathing, and laughing to our recreational activities, it is all about science.

I don't like good-byes, that is why I must say so long and take care in your journeys through the halls of science.

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## GSC student aces PRAXIS test

A press release from Public Relations offices states that Mary-Grace Gainer-Bearfield, a teacher education major here at GSC received a prefect score on the PRAXIS II exam. The PRAXIS II exam is a state requirement for teacher certification. Mary Grace is specializing in music education (K-12) and English (5-12), and her test was in the content area of English: Language, Literature, and Composition.

"Mary Grace has certainly distinguished herself as an exceptional teacher candidate, we are very proud of her accomplishment," stated Kathy Butler, Ed. D.

Ms. Gainer-Bearfield stated, "The test was very difficult, but I felt well prepared for it." She is a member of Kappa Delta Phi, an education honorary society; Alpha Psi Omega, a theater honorary society; and a member of the Percussion Ensemble. She lives in Grantsville with her husband Allan Bearfield and their son Noah. Ms. Gainer-Bearfield is the daughter of Tom and Emily Gainer of Sand Ridge.

She will begin student teaching this fall.

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Randy Wilson**



# Election 2000

## Prosecuting Attorney: Gerry Hough

By Chris Birkhimer  
Staff Reporter

Spring is here and along with Mother Nature's return, it's voting time again. I'm sure that everyone has seen the ten million signs posted all over God's green earth advertising themselves for the elections. One name that will seem very familiar to Glenville State College students is Gerry Hough. Hough, a GSC instructor, is running for prosecuting attorney here in Gilmer County. I was able to sit down with Mr. Hough after class and ask him some questions that may shine some light on his campaign.

Q. What separates you from your competition, and why do you feel that you'd be the best choice for prosecuting attorney?

A. What separates me from my opponent is that she is not from Gilmer County and is not registered to vote here. I've practiced general business law for a short period of time and in a wide variety of positions, which include broker and appraiser.

Q. What type of cases does a prosecuting attorney deal with?

A. They would get anything that is criminal, and they are the attorney for the state. Some examples are misdemeanors,

felonies, rape, homicides, child abuse, mental illness hearings, and also I would defend the school board of education if it would need defense.

Q. Besides teaching, what else do you do in the community?

A. I'm very active in the church, drama; I like to volunteer for local plays. I was a member of the Lions Club, and have helped with children's tee ball and 4-H. One of my favorite activities is working for the college.

Q. If you don't mind, would you tell me about your family?

A. I'm married to Tamara Stalnaker. I have three kids, ages nine, seven, and

three. I've got two girls and a boy, they are being home schooled right now. So far, home schooling has worked extremely well in our opinion.

Q. Obviously prosecuting attorney will require a great deal of time. Will you still be interested in teaching?

A. Well yes, because Gilmer County's prosecuting attorney is only a part-time position due to a very low crime rate. My first love is teaching, the main reason being that I learn from students as they learn from me; it's a give and take situation. I look forward to helping others develop more for their future. I like to help others expand what they can do.

## Governor:

### Denise Giardina

By Sherry Newsome  
Staff Reporter

Award winning novelist and West Virginia native Denise Giardina is a gubernatorial candidate representing the Mountain Party in this year's upcoming election.

Giardina grew up in a coal camp in McDowell county and is a graduate of DuPont High School and West Virginia Wesleyan College. She went on to earn a Masters Degree in Theology from Virginia Theological Seminary and currently teaches at West Virginia State College in Institute.

Giardina is an active participant in community functions; she has also shown support for labor issues and environmental protection as well as the fair taxation of coal and absentee-owned land. Giardina is a lay preacher in the Episcopal Church and believes in equal rights and treatment and respect for the dignity of all humans.

This candidate focuses on fair and progressive tax policies that call for a replacement for the food tax, requirements

ensuring that coal, timber, and tobacco companies pay their fair share of taxes, lending assistance to small businesses, and imposing an excess acreage tax on large absentee-landowners.

If elected as West Virginia's next Governor, Giardina plans to create jobs for the state's youth as well as diversify the economy of the coal industry.

Giardina is against mountaintop removal and supports the protection of the Black Water Canyon.

If elected, she will concentrate on stemming the spread of gambling, pushing for community based elementary schools, improving the quality of life for West Virginia's seniors and instituting plans for better health care for all West Virginians.

Giardina represents a newly formed political party and needs 12,000 signatures by May 9, 2000, to be placed on the voting ballot. For additional information about this candidate

or phone

462-7638.

## US Congress: Ken Hechler

By Hector K. Rodriguez  
Staff Reporter

*"Equal rights for all; special privileges for none"*

-Thomas Jefferson

The above is a quote in which Secretary of State Ken Hechler stands by. He is not your average politician, as the title of his autobiography by Dr. Charles Moffat would reflect, *Ken Hechler: Maverick Public Servant*. For one, he is a man in his eighties going back to Congress at a time when most at his age would be enjoying the fruits of retirement. Unlike his peers, he also plays tennis four times a week, and walked

330 miles with "Granny D," the great-grandmother who is walking from the Pacific Ocean to the nation's capitol for campaign finance reform. He is anything but typical.

Mr. Hechler has been involved in politics for the better part of 40 years. Prior to his political career, he was a World War II veteran who was decorated with a Bronze Star and five Battle Stars. He is also the author of *Bridge at Remagen*, which was made into a film. While in Congress, he marched with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at Selma and fought for Civil Rights. Another proud accomplishment of Hechler's

is the battles he won to protect and serve miners safety and rights.

Hechler doesn't plan to go back to Washington unprepared. His goals include enabling every high school graduate to attend college through the extension of Pell Grants, universal health care through a single-payer system, as well as campaign finance reform, and banning soft money. He is also against mountain-top removal of coal, bolstering Social Security and Medicare with the budget surplus, more support for Americorps and health start, and to raise minimum wage.

## Supreme Court: Bob Bastress

By Hector K. Rodriguez  
Staff Reporter

Bob Bastress began practicing law in 1974. In 1978 he opted to become a professor of law at the West Virginia University College of Law. Professor Bastress has litigated, lectured, and written quite a lot in the areas of employment and constitutional law. He has also written a book on the West Virginia constitution

which is considered one of the leading texts on the subject. His work as a lawyer has included thousands of hours representing individuals *pro bono publico* or "for the good of the public".

As a candidate for Supreme Court, he has no platform, for it is against the rules. He would like to better shape the law and ensure that the system delivers fair justice. He would also like to

keep politics out of the picture as a member of the court. He feels that he can help the court grasp the "big picture".

Bob Bastress is a graduate of Wesleyan University (B.A.), Vanderbilt University (J.D.), and Temple University (L.L.M.). He currently resides in Morgantown with his family, wife Delegate Barbara Evans Fleischauer, son Robert, and daughter Sarah.



## US Congress: Jim Humphreys

By Chris Williams  
Staff Reporter

Jim Humphreys is running as a Democrat for the 2nd Congressional District. In 1982 he was elected to the House of Delegates. He was then appointed by Governor Caperton to the State Senate after proving that he could fight for the rights of families. He has helped pass health care reform laws to control hospital costs.

Humphreys was born in Nitro and is the proud son of a garbage man who had to drop out of high school to support his family. During his childhood Humphreys had to work hard to get a head in life. He has pledged to improve the quality of living to every working family in West Virginia "from day one in Congress he will fight."

He never forgot the problems faced by students who were working hard to get an education. When he visited Glenville in February he stopped at GSC right

after the flood and looked over the campus and all we have to offer. One site that he was able to look at was the new computer lab on campus. He was very impressed, when interviewed, with our campus. His platform has many different points that are needed to help West Virginia move into the 21st century and the world job market.

One is the improvement of education for every West Virginian child or adult. In March, Humphreys unveiled a comprehensive education plan, "Better Schools now!" At the time of the interview he talked about the need to have more teachers and better teaching programs. Humphreys has voted to hire more teachers and to improve the way students are educated. He wants to free children and students from the "shackles of substandard schools." He also points out that if we do not equip students and places of education with the high-tech learning tools needed in

today's modern economy, West Virginia will not have the skilled workforce for the high paying jobs of tomorrow. Without change, at all levels of education, West Virginia will continue to lose its sons and daughters who will have to move out of state to fulfill their dreams of making a living for their family. Another of Humphreys goals is to have an incentive plan for college students that want to go into teaching. It is the offer of loan forgiveness to West Virginian students enrolled in state-run colleges that offer rigorous teacher training programs.

The education plan that Humphreys unveiled in Weston at the Robert Bland Middle School, is only the second in a series of proposals that he has planned to pose before the May 9th Primary. The first was "Affordable Health Care Now!" which was unveiled in Charleston at the Quarry Manor Personal care Home. It will make it easier for all to get better health care.

## US Congress: Mark Hunt

By Lora Conrad  
Staff Reporter

Democrat Mark Hunt is a candidate for Congress in the 2nd District of West Virginia. The seat is being vacated by Congressman Bob Wise.

Hunt earned a B.A. in political science with a minor in education from the University of Charleston in 1982. He received a M.A. degree from Marshall University in public administration. In 1993, Hunt completed his J.D. at the University of the District of Columbia.

In 1981, Mark Hunt was a paid intern for the Democratic National Committee in Washington, D.C. He worked for the Office of Legislative Service of the West Virginia Legislature from 1984-1990 as an analyst. After he finished law school, Hunt became Counsel to the West Virginia State Auditor, and in 1995, Hunt and his

law partner, Anthony Serreno, formed the law firm of Hunt and Serreno, where Hunt has served as President since 1998.

Hunt was elected to the West Virginia House of Delegates in 1994. He is currently serving in his third term, representing the 31st District. He is also a member of the American and West Virginia Bar Associations and the American and West Virginia Trial Lawyers Associations.

Mark Hunt is concerned with safer schools, juvenile crime, care of senior citizens, and affordable health care for all citizens. Hunt wants to make West Virginia a better place to live.

"If we all work together to instill the values of honesty, integrity, respect, and personal responsibility in our youth and reinforce them in ourselves, we can move forward and make our district and nation a better and safer place to live."

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# The Mercury

Volume 71 - No. 20

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Hector K. Rodriguez - Beast of Burden

## The State of The Merc

Welcome to The Mercury's annual political issue. On pages 6 and 7, the students and community of Glenville State College will find a series of articles and interviews that we hope will help you make your choices this spring and fall. While we could not give equal coverage to every candidate, we have covered those who have either visited the campus or provided us with their campaign literature. The articles are in no way an endorsement of any of the candidates by The Mercury.

Speaking of politics, The Mercury has been under extreme stress over the course of this semester. We have lost an editor, and the very future of this, the students', newspaper is very much in question. Due partly to what some in the administration have termed "negatively biased reporting", President Powell has asked that we as a staff take the summer to make changes to The Mercury. As leverage, he has refused to name a editor for next semester until this fall.

A newspaper is supposed to report news, hence calling the employees who write "reporters." It's also supposed to be unbiased. Admittedly, The Mercury has been spotty on that last part at times this year. Nothing you read is totally unbiased, and sometimes our reporters' leanings shine through in the articles you read in the paper.

We share a common goal with the administration, however. We both want to make this college a better place for those who live, work and learn here. The administration and The Mercury differ in the execution of this.

It has been the policy of this paper over the course of the past year to expose some of the problems with this college, hoping to do what we could to make the college a better experience for all involved. For those efforts, we have earned the displeasure of segments of the college community.

It is our belief that by exposing these problems they might be fixed. This was and remains one of our primary ideological goals as a student newspaper. We understand that the college is struggling with a low enrollment problem, and could do without the negative press, but the best way to avoid negative press is to do nothing to warrant it. Any negative press we may have caused we feel has been warranted.

In addition to these political pressures, many staff members are leaving at the end of this semester. They are leaving for a myriad of reasons, and will be sorely missed by this paper. The Mercury will be starting the next semester on a skeleton crew without your help. Stop by the office whenever's available to you and fill out an application. Without you, this paper may not be able to function in the future. It also serves as a spectacular work experience, as one of our departing staff members can attest to when he starts his new job at a daily newspaper.

Did we mention you get paid?

The Mercury 200 High Street  
Box 207 Glenville, WV 26351

All articles submitted for publication in *The Mercury* must be typed and double-spaced. The deadline for stories and announcements is Wednesday at 4 p.m. for publication in the next week's paper. All photographs should be submitted to Sherrie Hardman, photo editor.

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## My Two Cents

By Jeremy Burks

Last week I found out that the Theatre Department, along with the Oral Communications program, could be cut. The reason for axing these programs stems from the fact that Glenville State College is 1.7 million dollars in the hole. So to conserve money, the college, more specifically Dr. Joe Evans, is considering doing away with several programs that have low enrollment.

The Oral Communications program, which includes Theatre, has only 15 students in its program, but if Dr. Evans had seen any of the plays performed this past year, he should realize that there are more than 30 students involved with the program. Just because a select few students have decided to minor in the Oral Communications program does not mean that students do not want the program.

Every year new faces appear in the Theatre Department to help with productions and like many students, they do not do it for credit or a grade—they do it because it's fun. Students enjoy working long hours memorizing lines, building sets, trying to find a costume that fits, and putting smiles on people's faces.

The four words chosen by Dr. Powell, Community, Leadership, Innovation, Tradition, are at the heart of GSC Theatre. Where else on this campus can you find such a large community involvement? I have never seen children or adults from the local community perform with the Music Department.

If you want to talk about tradition, GSC's Theatre program has been here longer than any other program on campus, excluding the Education Department. OhmniGohow Players is the oldest student organization on campus, predating football, student congress, and the Music Department. If Dr. Powell feels that tradition is so important, then why is Dr. Evans wanting to cut the oldest program at GSC? It makes no sense at all.

Within the Theatre, we learn innovation by working with lim-

ited budgets and thinking of clever ways to draw the audience into a world where anything is possible. Leadership is taught by allowing students the chance to direct plays that involve working with large groups of people. The actors that are seen on stage are such a small part of a much larger picture. For every one person on stage, there's three back stage unseen.

Without Theatre classes, students would not be able to learn the necessary skills needed to bring shows alive. Sure, the numbers of students in the classes are small, but that is because those students go on to teach other students how it is done. I have taught countless students over the years how to build, use power tools, and even drive a nail into a board. Through my own experiences in Theatre, I have gained skills needed in the real world and have gone places and met people I have only dreamed of meeting.

That's right, thanks to GSC Theatre, I have been able to work with some of the biggest names in Hollywood, including Olympia Dukakis, F. Murray Abraham, Brad Pitt, Simon Jones, Victor Garber, Michael Learned, Arthur Miller and many others all thanks to Nancy and Dennis Wemm. To think that our little Theatre program is not worth keeping is a mistake. I challenge Dr. Evans to find another student who has been as lucky as me at this school to have had the chance to work with such talent before he or she graduated.

Just last year, 1986 alumnus Tim Mace won the best actor award at the South Eastern Theatre Conference and went on to help his cast win first place at the Festival of American Community Theatre. Another alumnus, Mike McKibben, is an instructor at the Hill School in Pennsylvania, a very famous all-boys school. We have alumnus that worked at Fords Theatre and several other theatres through out the country.

There has been a big push in the last several years to cut programs at schools and colleges around the country and the arts have always been the first to go.

It is the arts that define our culture and who we are as a people. When we do away with the arts we do away with part of our heritage. In Roman days, if a traveling band of actors came to town, wars would be put on hold so that every one from either side could watch the plays.

Not only theatre, but also Oral Communications as a whole is very important. To get into graduate college, students need six hours of Oral Communications classes. Without the Oral Communications program, students from GSC cannot go on to graduate college. The National Association of Colleges and Employers lists communication skills as the number one characteristic employers seek in job candidates.

If anything, the Oral Communications department has gone unused by the rest of the campus. What minor would be better for students going into counseling, education, or in fact, any major? By learning how to communicate better, a person's chance of obtaining a job after graduating from GSC dramatically increases.

If GSC would support the Oral Communications and Theatre Departments like they do the Music Department, then enrollment in the classes would drastically raise. Give the Oral Communications and Theatre Departments the training and recruit students as the music program does. Without Oral Communications, we would no longer have our speech team who have faithfully represented the college over and over again by bringing home trophies from every competition it attends. What other team on campus can say the same thing? No one!

I hope it is clear to the powers that be just how important the Oral Communications and Theatre programs are to this college and the students. Without them, this college would not be able to proudly display the four words that are the pillars of our school, Community, Leadership, Innovation, and Tradition.



# Theater program deserves serious consideration

## To the Editor:

It has come to my attention of late that the Oral Communications and Theater programs may soon be cut from the curriculum.

When I first came to college I had a music scholarship and I was going to major in Music Education. I had concentrations in Voice, French Horn, and Piano. However, this was not my real passion; I was using my music scholarship only as a financial means to get my college career started. I admit that, at that time, I still didn't know what I wanted to "do" for the rest of my college career. Then I found my calling.

That calling was in the theater arts and all that pertains to them. I was a shy person with little self-confidence when I first started in the Theater Department, but slowly and surely my time there brought me out of my shell and gave me more and more self-confidence. Nancy and Dennis Wemm both were great influences on my growth, not only personally but professionally.

From my theater classes I have learned what I will need to know to start a career in theater after graduation or go on to graduate school to earn another degree. I have learned not only the skills necessary for all aspects of theater, but, from working on productions I have also learned dedication, teamwork, and a slew of other important life-skills. From the oral communications classes I learned not only how to be a better public speaker but also how to communicate more effectively in small and large groups.

In general I have found both the Theater and Oral Communication programs to be invaluable tools in helping me grow as a person and as an individual well prepared for a professional life outside of college. Research shows that one of the top priorities in prospective employees is the ability to communicate. With the skills I have learned while involved in the Theater and Oral Communications programs I have the ability to get jobs in any number of fields: Marketing, Public Relations, Education, Administration, etc.

Proof that these programs do work was my first professional job in theater. I got a position as a Stage management Intern at Actors' Theatre in Columbus, Ohio, largely because of the experience I received in all aspects of theatrical production at GSC; also impressive to my future employers was the fact I had taken communication classes to learn how to handle one-on-one situations and group communications. I feel confident that my training in both theater and oral communications secured my position.

My main concern, however, is the future of the young men and women of Glenville and surrounding areas. Glenville

State College attracts a large number of students from local and surrounding high schools. Without the opportunity to develop crucial communication skills, which are necessary in today's workplace, where will all the prospective students go? To Fairmont State, possibly, one of the only other schools in a "local" distance to offer Oral Communications. And let's not forget the students who may wish to pursue careers in the theater. While it may not happen often in this area, it does happen. By denying students who wish to go this route, you are denying them their futures. There have been several graduates of this school with theater components to their degrees who are now working in different aspects of professional theater, proof that the existing program is valuable.

This doesn't begin to count the number of students who may wish to pursue and education degree within the Theater and/or Oral Communications departments. There are a severe lack of speech and theater educators in the United States, and at a time when these programs are becoming more and more a part of every high school curriculum. There is a glut of English, music, and science teachers, but not enough speech and theater instructors to go around. By cutting the education components of the Oral Communications and Theater programs you are denying future educators a very good chance at a career. One recent graduate, Amy Jo Rowan-Smith, secured a teaching position at a high school because her education concentration was Oral Communications; the high school needed a Speech instructor and she was the only applicant with the skills needed.

I hope that my statements will make you reconsider the decision to cut the Theater and Oral Communications programs. As a student, and soon to be graduate, involved directly with these departments I can say that they have been inestimable in helping me focus on my college career and planning for my future. I feel secure and confident in my abilities to communicate well. I have developed a sense of self-esteem and confidence thanks to my involvement in theatrical productions and classes. I feel prepared to leave Glenville State College and start my professional life because I have been armed with the skills necessary to tackle just about any job thanks to the training and experience I gained while involved with the Theater and Oral Communications programs.

Sincerely,  
Criston B. Gravely

Dear Editor,

Seeing as how this is my last and sixth

year here at Glenville. I believe that it warrants me some time and space to speak my mind on various happenings. Seeing as how I've been here longer than some teachers and the president, I believe I have a good perspective on how Glenville is, was, and will probably end up.

I first got here in 1994 just as Mack Samples was leaving (which was a great loss to GSC) and the end of the Simmons regime was coming to a close. Interesting times indeed. I've seen lawsuits happen between faculty members and the president, the reconstruction of the campus look and atmosphere, the mass slashing of the school's overall budget, which results in some departments losing funding such as the library, theater department, and just about everywhere. Yet we still can afford mass renovations of the AB building and a brand spanking new office with not so cheap furniture for the president. The explanation I found was because whether we need it or not it should be done, because we want to give perspective students a good impression and make parents feel good about their choices as to where to send their children. My counter argument to this would be fix what would matter to the students if you want to impress them. Get us new desks that not only can fit people as skinny as a wafer but also can help the full-figured people be more comfortable.

Don't only paint over the asbestos in classroom areas and the AB auditorium but actually remove it. I know it is expensive but it could be done if all the new carpet and remodeling of offices were put on hold.

Something very nice and helpful to the students would be a mass removal of all old library books that are older than dirt, and replaced with more current materials. That would be too much to ask, so let us just buy some new landscaping for the campus, information kiosks, and those signs that let you know which building you are going to. I know the library is doing some removals, but believe me, after all the years of working there, the staff goes out of their way to do as much as they can with as little as they are given.

My final two complaints I want to speak about center around Dr. Joe Evans. I respect the man deeply for all his work, and sometimes believe he cares about the total welfare of the students, but I have to question some of the things he said in his "shared values"...or what I would like to call "forced morals" program. Obviously Dr. Evans does not know any knowledgeable biologist, because any I know would teach every possible aspect of human evolution and creationism so that we, as students, adults, and critical thinkers could make the choice and decide for ourselves. Seeing as how we

are a "unique community of learners in the hills of WV", we are probably too stupid to do so for ourselves.

It really does not matter what you believe per-se, but what you can prove by the use of evidence and other cold hard facts. Ignorance of a subject is no excuse for forcing your own values and moral of way of life on a mass of people who could either care less or care a lot.

In short, your values and morals may not match with the population you are forcing them on, consider that.

The last topic is the possible loss of the theater department. How could you take away something that is so dear to so many students and community members? Too bad it is a headache for some people, but for those who care, this more than a atrocity it is simply a loss of a resource which helps the college and community come closer together. WE can't always do plays and musicals that people will easily grasp because there aren't any plays out there that everyone will understand all at the same time. IU guess sometimes we are to big city new Yorkist for some people, which I believe is a crock, and must tone it down to children's shows all year around but then we would be insulting ourselves and the audiences by not giving the community a chance to see what else is out there as far as stories and other aspects of life go. Live theater gives you a chance to see life from many perspectives and not have to deal with the problems yourself but to at least let you know that you are not alone in this world and that some problems can be better faced.

I strongly suggest you re-evaluate your plans to take away such a valuable resource because of someone getting a headache over it or because the money can be better spent buying trees for the AB lawn that will eventually die.

Theater will live on in us all because we all are nothing more than actors on a stage which is the world but if you take away this most important form of entertainment we will lose not only a great resource and way to escape from our daily troubles but a way of communicating and interacting with a community we so strongly strive to be more in tune with.

In closing, I am proud to be a soon to be graduate of what GSC was and what it will continue to be if properly evaluated and taken care of from a students perspective not a bureaucratic soon to be what seems another dictatorship that concerns itself with administration benefits and not the students welfare.

Sincerely,  
Chris Hopkins



## Letters to the Editor

## Theater program advocacy

Dear Dr. Joe Evans,

My name is Eric Squiers and I'm currently attending Gilmer County High School. It has been brought to my attention that you, along with others, are wanting to do away with the drama club "Alpha Psi Omega" as well as theater program. I am in the eighth grade and I love to do drama in my spare time. So far, I have been in six GSC plays. When I grow up, I plan to become an actor and in order for me to do this, I will need to attend drama classes. I, along with others, love these types of classes.

When all of the Alpha Psi Omega members get together, it is like we are all one big family. I believe that the best part about this club is to get in front of little children and see them light up because they enjoy the play I was in. Or when we all, as actors, get down off the stage and talk to them after the play is over.

Gilmer County doesn't have much to offer in terms of recreation. This drama club and program is a lot of fun and recreation for many students in Gilmer County. We learn new things for each play we do. For example, throughout my acting experience, I have to talk without being nervous in front of a couple thousand people. I have also learned to memorize many things at once, build many different props, and I have also learned that drama is one of the greatest things in this town that I enjoy doing and am old enough to do. So I ask that you please take this letter and all others you receive into consideration and change your mind on this matter. Thank you for your time and patience.

Sincerely,  
Eric Squiers

Dear Dr. Evans,

My name is Amber Dodd and I'm a junior at Gilmer County High School. I am currently majoring in medicinal plant study. Glenville, the town in which I have lived all my life in, does not have much to offer in my chosen field of study. Right now, I am changing my career path

because this is a small town and it does not have a lot of recreational activities to offer. In my spare time, I do drama activities. I feel very much at home when I'm with all the students in the Alpha Psi Omega club. I get the

chance to express myself and am very happy in what I do to get others to express themselves as well.

I would like to inform you that it has been brought to my attention that you and other staff members are trying to push away the Alpha Psi Omega club. Please, Sir, don't take away the only opportunity and hobby I have. It makes me happy and I love it!

Yours truly,  
Amber Dodd

To whom it may concern,

My name is Ernest Kingdon, and I'm currently a senior here at GSC. I'm Parliamentarian of the Student Congress, and President of Phi Beta Lambda. I also work part-time, full time student, and a member of the S.T.A.R.S. program here at GSC.

This past semester I was introduced to the theatre department, while working on two productions. The first, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, and I also worked with children's theatre.

I have heard rumors that with the allocation of fees next year, the theatre department may be left out due to the fees being given to the fine arts department as a whole, and I feel as a GSC student planning to come back in the fall, that this decision needs to be looked at in more detail.

There are so many students here at GSC who love theatre. I myself, totally support the theatre department. It's a way of life! There is so much work, time, and money that goes into each and every single show.

There are many students involved with theatre as part of their studies, and others like me, who just love to help and be involved with it. Please take this letter into consideration when planning the allocation of the fees.

Without the theatre department, GSC would be closer on its way to being a commuter college. None of us want this to take place. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Ernest Kingdon  
Computer Science/Networking Major

## Get involved

By Hector K. Rodriguez  
Staff Columnist

I love being an American and I do not mean that to sound sarcastic. It isn't intended to be taken that way. I enjoy having the freedom to do what ever it is I want within the limit of the law. If I wanted to spend the next couple of paragraphs berating those to whom I hold in low-esteem I could. Freedom of speech gives me that right as long as I am able to back up what it is I am saying about said individuals.

This is the last editorial, I have two to my credit, that I will ever write for *The Mercury*. I have opted for greener pastures that I feel will help me progress faster in *academia*. What I wanted to do is discuss some of the events I have seen transpire over the last two years that I have spent at GSC.

In two years I have seen both an interim and acting President. I have seen a "changing of the guard" so to speak as older administrators move on and others move up. I have seen a radical changes take place in under a years time to include the explosion of the Greek system, the campus reorganization, the new schedule, and the beginning phases of the Shared Values initiative.

What troubles me is what I haven't seen. College is a time of learning, self-discovery, and learning to express oneself in an "adult" world. Student forums have provided a great opportunity for this and gave students a "sense" of democracy in action. But I have also seen students stand in small groups outside buildings venting to one another without taking the chance and being heard by the people who need to hear it. I have listened to "street corner" lawyers tell their fellow students what they can and cannot do without checking the facts on their own.

**STOP LISTENING AND START DOING!** If you have a problem with something at the college, or anywhere, nothing is going to be solved if you just gripe to your friends. Tell the people in power what you think. Heck, you pay to come here and even if you don't you're the one who has to live through it. As long as you have a voice, and reasonable argument, all you can do is try to make the changes necessary to make life better for you.

Do you like the health care currently provided by the college? If not say something about it. If yes say something about it. Questions about Shared Values? Go to your advisor and ask them about it, research it, and then make a decision be it good or bad based on facts. Do you know who represents you in Student Congress? Are they doing what you want done? Their meetings are Thursday at lunchtime. I'm sure President James Arnold would be glad to have you and would appreciate the support as they begin what could be a difficult year for them. Even better is if they are doing something you don't like run for Student Congress. Change it from within if you feel your voice isn't being heard on the outside.

These processes will only help as you venture into life outside of college. This isn't intended to be inflammatory, just eye-opening. We are the masters of our own destiny and there are many parts of our lives we can change with merely a word and no violence. Sometimes you're the bug and sometimes you're the windshield as the saying goes.

You don't want to be the bug do you?



# The evolution of values

Dear Editor,

In the last issue of the Mercury, the front page article was an interview with Dr. Evans. All I can say, after reading the interview, is that it is no wonder that GSC is not, and probably never will be, at the forefront of academic world. With people like the administration such as Evans, Glenville will soon be destroyed from the inside out.

What worries me so much is the "Shared Values" initiative that has so many people on campus talking, with good reason. In the article it was stated by Hector K. Rodriguez, the staff reporter in charge of the interview, that "rumors run rampant on the Potential Shared Values proposal being nothing more than religion being forced on GSC students." He was not from the mark, is anyone who has read Dr. Evans' remarks on the subject well knows.

Dr. Evans was quoted in the interview as saying "The good, Knowledgeable biologists I know would never verbalize that man descended from monkeys, that man came from monkeys." What, exactly, does Dr. Evans mean by "good" biologists? It may seem vague, but taken in the context of the interview it would seem that Dr. Evans is using the word "good" as synonymous with "Christian." But even more troubling is what would bring about such a ludicrous statement?

Creation versus evolution and how they would be taught in college classes.

I can not believe that any college would consider teaching Creationism as it is a sticky subject. There would be several things to consider. Among them, which story of creation would be taught? The Mesopotamian? The Ancient Greek/ the early Chinese? I think we all know that what would be taught would be the Christian version of the myth. Then there is a problem of, in what classes would the myth be taught. According to Dr. Evans it would be the duty of the English professors in the composition classes to "teach" the creation myth. Wouldn't that be better suited to a Religious Studies class, much like the one that the college offered years ago?

So, it seems that the "rumors" are going to be well founded in fact: religion is going to be forced on the students of GSC. Not just any religion, the Christian religion and its mythology. Why do I say mythology? Because it is just that. We do not study Greek religion, we study Greek mythology. We don't talk about Roman gods, we talk about Roman mythology. Just as these older religions have passed

into the realm of mythology, so will Christianity.

So what are some of the other "shared" values? From the interview: "[Dr. Evans] felt that shared values meant that everything would be value based, the values being part of academic life. Such values included the search of evidence, civility and manners, health and wellness, and how to operate in a democratic society." First, if part of these "values" is the search of evidence, then why teach the creation myth? There is no scientific evidence that some all-powerful being suddenly decided to make the earth and its inhabitants (except the dinosaurs; apparently that's a big joke that god played and that scientists just haven't figured it out yet). As for civility and manners, how does Dr. Evans expect the students to act civil when, as soon as the students are out of ear-shot, professors begin gossiping about them? The walls have ears, folks. Not everything said in confidence remains that way.

Hector Rodriguez also wrote "other stories go the more totalitarian route saying that we will be forced to follow programs that may impinge on individual freedoms, the cornerstone of one's college life," again, he was more correct than he probably suspects because that is exactly what will be happening. One of my individual freedoms is the freedom to not believe in Christian creation myth "taught" to me then my individual freedom has, indeed, been impinged upon. Other faculty have proposed questions about the "Shared Values" initiative and the reason, according to Dr. Evans, is that "they were troubled by the ambiguity." Is it any wonder when the person to explain the initiative contradicts himself about the supposed shared values? "Shared values is not church oriented" Dr. Evans was quoted as saying." However, from the information given in the interview it is absolutely church oriented, Christian church orientated, that is, people should think before they speak. At least they should have prepared statements in order to avoid embarrassments such as the interview Dr. Evans had. Take heed, Glenville State College. Be careful what you say and how you say it.

Faculty and students are afraid that GSC will be turned into a community college or become a branch of WVU. But why should people worry about outside influences when we have people in the administration destroying the college from the inside? With friends like Dr. Evans, who needs enemies?

Criston B. Gravely

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