WVU NIS

The Mountaineer Spirit Online

February 19, 1998

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WVU community remembers pilots as professionals, friends

By Jim Davis

Two WVU employees killed this week in an airplane crash in Roane County are being remembered by friends and co-workers as safe pilots and ”great ambassadors for the University.“

Pilot Charles J. Whiston Jr., 60, of Cheat Lake and co-pilot Leo Harrah II, 33, of Morgantown and formerly of Cross Lanes, died Monday about 9:30 a.m. when the 1974 Beechcraft King Air E-90 they were flying went down in a field about a mile north of Newton in southern Roane County.

The twin-engine aircraft was en route to Charleston from Morgantown for routine maintenance and to fly back University officials who attended Monday night’s Capital Classic basketball game between WVU and Marshall University.

Engine failure from a possible fuel tank problem has been reported as the apparent cause of the crash. The National Transportation Safety Board and other agencies are investigating and the wreckage of the plane has been taken to a destination in the Charleston area to reassemble as part of the inquiry.

The plane flew to Charleston Sunday with six passengers: WVU President David C. Hardesty Jr. and his wife, Susan; Chief of Staff David C. Satterfield; Kevin Berry, assistant to the president; James Robinson, president of the WVU Foundation Inc.; and Athletic Director Ed Pastilong. It was scheduled to return to Yeager Airport Monday morning and fly back to Morgantown that night with Hardesty; Satterfield; Robinson; Pastilong; and Stephen Douglas, executive director of the WVU Alumni Association. Susan Hardesty was to return Tuesday by car with Berry.

President Hardesty, who returned to Morgantown Monday afternoon upon learning of the crash, has canceled today’s Progress Report to the WVU Family to attend the funerals for Whiston and Harrah.

”Everyone who used the plane on University business became acutely aware of how safety-conscious our pilots were,“ Hardesty said. ”We also grew to be friends because of their generous personalities and we all knew how loyal they were to the institution. I think both men were especially close to their families and both were especially competent pilots.“

He added: ”In more than one way, we are poignantly reminded that the University is a community “ a community built on service, respect, diversity of interests and love of tradition. At the University Monday morning, our community was diminished, and when it is diminished, we are diminished. I will sorely miss them and offer condolences of the university family to the family and friends of Charlie Whiston and Leo Harrah.“

The two pilots had flown for the WVU Foundation for years, and then for WVU when the University assumed ownership of the Foundation’s plane in December 1995. Whiston began flying for the Foundation in 1968; Harrah in 1985. The plane was used by WVU almost daily during the legislative session.

Craig Walker has been vice president and treasurer of the Foundation for the past three years. Prior to that, he was assistant athletic director at WVU for 14 years and had been a passenger on many flights piloted by Whiston and Harrah.

”The one thing I can say that is consistent with what everyone has said is that Charlie and Leo had the reputation of being extremely safe pilots and conservative in their approach when a flight was scheduled,“ Walker said. ”If weather was an issue at all, the flight didn’t get off. I felt much more comfortable getting on a plane with them at the controls than getting on a 727 or a 747 with one of the major airlines.“

In addition to being good pilots, Whiston and Harrah were also men of fine character, Walker added. ”I had a chance to attend a number of events with them and spend time with them in social settings as we went on trips,“ he said. ”They were both fine gentlemen and great ambassadors for the University. They will truly be missed.“

Linda Sanders, accounting assistant in Business Services at the University Services Center, had been in charge of scheduling flights since WVU purchased the plane from the Foundation.

”They were great guys,“ Sanders said. ”They were both very close with their families. They were easy to get along with. We had a good working relationship. I worked with them two years and in those two years we’d grown close. I’m still numb. I just can’t believe this happened.“

The two men enjoyed flying for the University, Sanders added.

”They loved to fly,“ she said. ”They loved that airplane. They took care of it very well. They took care of the passengers on the plane, too. They always made sure there were snacks on the plane for them.“

Whiston and Harrah often went beyond the call of duty if their flying services were needed, Sanders said.

”One situation that I am aware of is that they were on stand-by for a child of a University employee who was on a list for a transplant,“ she said. ”Knowing that when the call comes in that an organ is available and you have only so long to get there, these two guys were willing to take that person to the location no matter what time it was.

”The other situation was flying to pick up parents of a University student whose medical condition required that they be here immediately,“ Sanders added.

For former WVU President Neil Bucklew, the loss of the pilots is a ”personal one.“

Dr. Bucklew, who grew up in Morgantown, said he had known Whiston since his boyhood days and the two of them became reacquainted when Bucklew came to WVU. He also got to know Harrah during his nine years as president of the University. Whiston, he said, flew for five WVU presidents.

”They were special human beings,“ said Bucklew, now a professor in the Department of Management and Industrial Relations. ”They were professionals in our lives, but they were also friends in our lives.

”They were such careful people,“ he added. ”The arrangement was that they made the decision of whether it was safe to fly. That adds to the tragedy, that something beyond their control and their ability to have foreseen would result in their deaths.“

In addition to flying WVU faculty, staff and administrators to and from events, Whiston and Harrah attended the functions themselves. ”They really were ambassadors for the University,“ he said.

Whiston was a lifelong resident of Morgantown and the son of former Monongalia County Sheriff Charles Whiston Sr. and June Jackson Whiston. In addition to his parents, he is survived by a brother, Dr. David A. Whiston of Arlington, Va.; and a companion, Sharon Brooks.

He was a graduate of Morgantown High School and WVU. He also graduated from Sowell Aviation School in Panama City, Fla., as a commercial pilot, multi-engine pilot and instrumental aircraft pilot.

Whiston’s body is at Dering’s Funeral Home in Morgantown, where friends may call from 10 a.m.-noon today. The body will lie in state at the Westover United Methodist Church today from 1-2 p.m., the time of the service with the Revs. George D. Koon Sr. and Richard Sale officiating. Burial will be at East Oak Grove Cemetery. Active pallbearers will be John Whiston, Ed Collins, Keith Collins, Ken Juskowich, Frank Cochran and L.J. Haines. Honorary

pallbearers will be Dave Satterfield, Bob D'Alessandri, Don Nehlen, Gale Catlett, Perry Petroplus, Guy Walls, Richard Polen, Charles Johnson, Ed Byars, Eugene Sellaro, Allen Cage, Aaron Cage, Jimmy Columbo, John Carline, Neil Bucklew, E. Gordon Gee, Gene Budig, Estel Gans, Ed Pastilong, David Hardesty, Richard Hilleary, Harry Heflin and Diane Reinhard.

Raised in Cross Lanes, Harrah was the son of Leo R. "Pete" and Della Harrah. In addition to his parents, he is survived by a sister, Sandy Rucker of Poca; his paternal grandmother, Georgia Harrah of Lewisburg; a niece, Christa Rucker; and a nephew, Matthew Rucker. He was a 1982 graduate of Nitro High School; WVU; and the Bolivar (Tenn.) School of Aviation. He was a certified flight instructor and a former pilot and instructor for Eagle Aviation in Charleston. He was a member of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association and the Rock Branch Independent Church in Nitro.

Harrah's body is at the Rock Branch Independent Church, where friends may call from 6-9 p.m. today and one hour prior to the service at 2 p.m. Friday with Pastor Delbert Hawley officiating. Burial will be at Tyler Mountain Memory Gardens in Cross Lanes.

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Sick leave policy focus of Staff Council debate

By Karen Zeller

Discussion about whether a classified staff member can take sick leave to care for an ill family member stirred debate at yesterday's Staff Council meeting.

Staff Councilor Trish Cook introduced the subject under new business stating that numerous staff have complained to her that the policy is too vague, may not follow state law, and is being applied inconsistently.

According to the way she reads the policy, Cook said employees can only take sick time to "arrange" care for a member of one's immediate family, but it's often interpreted to mean that employees can take sick leave to be the primary care-giver.

The policy's wording also is problematic, she said, because it says that employees can only use sick leave to provide care if the illness or injury is "serious"—a subjective description.

"I know a lot of parents who think it's serious when their child has a temperature of 104, and one supervisor might agree that it would be proper use of sick leave for an employee to stay home and take care of the child," she said. "But another supervisor might not consider a condition serious unless someone is lying in a hospital bed."

Human Resources Employee Services Director Myrtho Blanchard said she is always available to help staff with questions about leave usage.

Staff Council President Hayward Helmick said the final word rests on state law. "The state law is very clear that it's appropriate to use sick leave for an immediate family member's illness, regardless of the level of seriousness of the problem, and not just to arrange care," he said. "The bottom line is WVU policy cannot supersede state law."

Staff rep updates legislative developments

Paul Martinelli **By Paul Martinelli**

With March 14 marking the end of the regular West Virginia Legislature, this issue of the Spirit signals the half- way point. In the coming weeks, legislative committees will be reporting many bills for consideration. It is imperative that our legislators hear from us during these last four weeks regarding those bills that are of concern to classified staff.

According to the Feb. 6 legislative newsletter, Wrap-Up, more than 1,043 bills have been introduced. These must be routed through 14 standing committees of the House of Delegates and 19 standing committees of the Senate. Some of the bills of interest Senate Bill (SB) and House Bill (HB)are:

Senate Resolution 6 - Creates a select committee on Public Employees Insurance.

SB 93 - Providing tax credit to employees providing child day care.

HB 2094 - Tuition and fee waivers for children and spouses of full time faculty and staff employees in Higher Education.

2. HB 4037 - Removing the 20 year of service cap to determine increment increase.

HB 4107 - Increasing the salary increment from $36 to $50 for each year of service.

HB 4262- Regulation of on-campus parking.

Classified staff or faculty interested in the progress of these bills and others that are introduced, can track them daily on the Internet.

Classified staff statistical data that I requested from the Board Central Office, based on the Fall 1997 data file, has been finalized. These tables and charts will be found in the 1998 Profile Information Package that will be used by BOT ACCE members during future meetings with legislators, Board of Trustees, campus presidents and their staff. A preview of the annual increment data should be of interest.

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES
with over 20 years of service
688 or 12.71percent

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES
with 20 years of service
88 or 1.63 percent

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES
with less than 20 years of service
4,637 or 85.66%

TOTAL CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES

5,413

3. Estimated cost to increase annual increment from $36-$50 for FY 1998-99, based on maximum 20 years, is $706,300 for state funded and $213,200 for federal/other, a total of $919,500. Classified staff are requesting that the legislature provide the $706,300 funding from state general revenue, with costs not being absorbed by the colleges and universities due to commitments made through Senate Bill 547.

HB 4107 in its original form, in addition to increasing the increment from $36-$50 called for moving the years of service from 20-30 (additional state funding of $194,000) and providing a one-time salary increase to compensate classified staff for difference over the last two years. (estimated state funding of $1,412,700). This represents a grand total of $2,313,000 in state funds. The bill has now been revised to only include the $36 to $50, thus having a better chance of approval.

An update of classified staff salary for 1998 documents the total dollars needed to fully fund the salary schedule:

ALL STAFF 5,413 **STATE-FUNDED** 3,823

Staff Above Schedule
ALL STAFF 2,989 (55 percent) **STATE-FUNDED** 2,097 (55 percent)

Staff at Schedule
ALL STAFF 156 (2.88 percent) **STATE-FUNDED**80 (2.09 percent)

Staff Below Schedule
ALL STAFF 2,268 (41.90 percent) **STATE-FUNDED** 1,646 (43.06 percent)

Amount to Fund Salary Schedule
ALL STAFF $5,763,177 **STATE-FUNDED** $4,340,812

4. The most alarming figure of the salary schedule is the staff above schedule. You can project that if 55.22 percent are above the schedule then these staff will unlikely be eligible for an increase in 1998. I once again urge you to take the time to either e-mail, call or write your legislators for support of the bills you believe are important to classified staff. Please contact me if you have comments or questions regarding the current legislative session.

Contact: webmaster@info.news.wvu.edu

Holocaust historian to lecture at WVU

How could the Holocaust happen?

Historian and author Daniel Jonah Goldhagen will address this question when he gives the fourth Pi Lambda Phi Jewish Studies lecture this month at WVU.

Goldhagen, an associate professor of government and social studies at Harvard University and author of Hitler's Willing Executioners, will speak at 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, in the Marlyn Lugar Courtroom of the WVU Law Center. His lecture is entitled *Hitler's Willing Executioners: Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust*.

A reception will follow the lecture, which is open to the public. In Hitler's Willing Executioners, Goldhagen contends that the Holocaust was committed not just by members of the Nazi party or SS, but also by ordinary Germans motivated by anti-Semitism.

The controversial best-seller includes testimony from German perpetrators, who paint a portrait of people driven by an ideology that encouraged ordinary citizens to assist in the torture and systematic extermination of millions of Europe's Jews.

Goldhagen's book is producing a national and international sensation. The Sunday Times of London has hailed the work as a "monumental achievement" and The New York Times calls it "masterly...one of the rare new works that merit the appellation 'landmark.'" Holocaust survivor and human rights advocate Elie Weisel calls the book a "tremendous contribution to the understanding and teaching of the Holocaust."

The author has appeared on such national television and radio programs as the Today show, Firing Line, The News Hour with Jim Lehrer, CNN's Talk Back, Live, Talk of the Nation and All Things Considered. His writings have appeared in The New York Times, The New Republic and Commentary.

Goldhagen has a Ph.D. in political science from Harvard. The Pi Lambda Phi Jewish Studies Lectureship and the WVU Office of Academic Affairs and Research are co-sponsoring the lecture.

Contact: webmaster@info.news.wvu.edu

Legislative Honors

LEGISLATIVE HONORS—The greatest gymnast in WVU history, Kristin Quackenbush, was recognized for athletic and academic excellence by the Legislature, including Monongalia County Del. Barbara Evans Fleischauer, left, in Charleston Monday. Other Capital Classic activities included a reception to honor 25 years of women's varsity sports at WVU. On Monday, WVU and Marshall University Alumni Associations hosted their third annual luncheon. Following the women's basketball game, events culminated with the men's defeat of Marshall.

Photo by Dan Friend

Distinguished Service Recognition Ceremony

PIN PALS—With a combined service to WVU of 115 years, Gordon Thorn, of Student Affairs; Margaret Lopez, of the Center for Student Advising and Recreation; and Hong Nack Kim, of Political Science; display their service pins at a reception yesterday afternoon. They were among more than 300 faculty and staff honored for their service during the annual Distinguished Service Recognition Ceremony. President David C. Hardesty told the audience that, "We would surely have failed without those we honor here today."

Photo by Bob Beverly

Prof to discuss Italy's response to Holocaust

Sister Margherita Marchione will speak about “Italian citizens’ extraordinary response to the plight of the Jews in Italy during the Holocaust and World War II” Monday, Feb. 23, at 7 p.m. in the Mountainlair’s Rhododendron Room.

The WVU Department of History and the Committee for the Preservation of Italian-American History & Culture, a local organization, are sponsors.

Yours is a Precious Witness: Memoirs of Jews and Catholics in Wartime Italy, Dr. Margerhita’s most recent book, will be the focus of her presentation. The book is an anecdotal and historical account.

Sister Margherita is Professor Emerita of Italian Language and Literature at Farleigh-Dickinson University in Madison, N.J. She has written over 30 books and 60 articles and is an internationally recognized author and lecturer in Italian history.

Prior to her presentation, Steven M. Zdatny, WVU associate professor of history, will provide introductory comments on the Holocaust.

A reception follows the presentation. The Mountainlair garage has parking. For more information, call 293-2421.

Contact: webmaster@info.news.wvu.edu

U signs business ed pact with 3 colleges

WVU's College of Business and Economics has signed an agreement with the business programs at three historically black colleges in West Virginia and Maryland to prepare students for the changing face of the workplace.

The West Virginia and Maryland Business Education Compact includes WVU, West Virginia State College, Bluefield State College and Morgan State University in Baltimore. The agreement was announced during a press conference Tuesday at West Virginia State.

The agreement calls for collaboration among the four educational institutions to encourage educational outcomes that emphasize leadership, diversity and economic globalization. With the assertion that various higher education programs could be more effective, the document also places emphasis on the development of students' leadership skills.

Sydney Stern, dean of WVU's College of Business and Economics, said another area the Business Education Compact addresses relates to the management of a diverse work force.

Officials at the four schools plan to develop curricula, activities and cross-institutional teamwork opportunities to establish interaction among culturally diverse students and faculty. The schools will share technology to achieve that end.

Representatives from each institution will form a task force to further define the scope of the arrangement.

Contact: webmaster@info.news.wvu.edu

Student Affairs Task Force: A Report to the University Community

Upon his arrival on campus in July, 1995 as WVU's 21st President, one of David C. Hardesty Jr.'s first acts was to initiate the Student Affairs Task Force.

The challenge issued to the Task Force by President Hardesty in 1995 was not just to come up with a list of recommendations to improve the student experience at WVU, but to make sure they created a "living document," a plan of action rather than a lifeless plan.

This story features the results of the Student Affairs Task Force report and is a report to the University community.

At a progress report meeting in July 1997, Herman Moses, Dean/Associate Vice President of Student Affairs and chair of the group's Implementation Team, said more than 80 percent of the report's 136 recommendations had been addressed or accomplished. The report featured recommendations ranging from a focus on improving interpersonal skills of service providers to multi-million dollar facilities upgrades. The report was divided into the following categories: Organizational; Enrollment Services; Student Focused Services; Technology; Living/Learning Environment (WVU Residence Halls, Off-Campus); Academic/ Learning Environment (Academic Adjustment, Faculty, Libraries, Campus Life Transition, Academic Advising, Career Development); and Facilities.

"This certainly is not a report that was shelved," said William Collins, one of 19 members of the task force. "I really am surprised with how fast we have moved. We are making a difference and I'm surprised there haven't been more difficulties getting things accomplished.

"President Hardesty wanted this to be a work in progress and indeed it has been. We're constantly modifying what we're doing."

Collins, director of the Honors Program, joined others in developing the initial report: Melissa Albert (student); Carolyn Atkins (speech pathology and audiology faculty; parent of a WVU student and Class of 2001 Class Advocate); Anoop Bhasin (law student); the late Lester Beavers (Interim Dean of Academic Affairs, Potomac State; parent of a WVU student); Richard Beto (Printing Services, Assistant Director); Robert DiClerico (political science faculty); Pat Esposito (former student, Student Administration President); Corey Farris (Student Affairs/New Student Services Coordinator); Garrett Ford (assistant athletic director, support services); Barry Linger (graduate student); Jeff Petersen (chemistry faculty); Frances Bennett Riley (Admissions & Records counselor); Jason Ross (former student); Reba Thurmond (campus ministries); Sherwood Williams (former graduate student); Jack Byrd, Facilitator (engineering faculty; Center for Entrepreneurial Studies and Development; parent of a WVU student); Jennifer Fisher (graduate student; office of Vice President, Administration, Finance and Human Resources); and Carl Hadsell, Facilitator (CESD).

The report from the task force focused on improving and fine-tuning many programs already in place but also detailed several newly-created initiatives.

After the report was presented to President Hardesty, it was refined through a comment period, in which suggestions were solicited from administrators, faculty, staff and students.

Through it all Operation Jump-Start became the centerpiece.

Conceived in 1996 for the Class of 2000 and beyond, it is a multi-faceted plan to improve students' living/learning environments. It's a way of making WVU a smaller, more intimate community within the larger institution and also a program that helps students make social and academic adjustments to college life. Key to the plan are the Resident Faculty Leaders (RFLs), which have been assigned to live near each of the eight residential complexes and serve as mentors and facilitators for first-year students.

"It is clear that the recommendations contained in this report have reinforced our commitment to becoming a more student-centered institution," Hardesty said. "The report reflects the hard work and enthusiasm of many members of the University community and includes a broad range of ideas that are enhancing the

student experience. More importantly, these ideas are being implemented quickly, to the great benefit of our students and the entire University.“

Statistics compiled by Boreman RFL David Stewart add impact to Hardesty’s statement. Stewart said the number of Boreman students under a 2.0 grade-point average dropped by nine percent from Fall 1996 to Fall 1997. The number of 3.5-4.0 students increased by 11 percent, he said.

Stewart said the program is having a similar effect in the other residence halls, with grade-point averages and WVU’s freshman retention rate increasing.

”This is evidence that Jump-Start is working,“ he said. As a spin-off of Jump-Start and its mentoring strategy, the University has also initiated the Career Success Academy, in which a confederation of alumni and career professionals will assist students with career exploration.

The program, which is believed to be the only one of its kind in the nation, involves students in a comprehensive career development program beginning in their freshman year. Students progress through five learning clusters with the aid of an on-campus career professional and are also assisted by an alumni mentor.

The Career Success Academy was launched this year as a pilot program and is housed at the Career Services Center in the Mountainlair. Many of the report’s recommendations have already had a major impact on campus or will have soon.

For instance:

• Registration, financial disbursement and scheduling have been automated through WVU’s STAR computer system, eliminating paper work, long lines and simplifying procedures.

Students can now register via telephone through a system similar to the Telefile method used to pay income tax. They can also access information from the Office of Admissions and Records website (http://www.arc.wvu.edu). Financial aid checks are now mailed to students’ local addresses, eliminating “arena processing” at the Mountainlair Ballrooms and Health Sciences Center. Students can even fill out federal FAFSA forms on their computers at (http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) and rapidly speed the process of acquiring aid.

• As reinforced by the report, the University has formally adopted a ”master plan,“ a multi-million dollar strategy that calls for the expansion of Wise Library and the installation of the latest computerized retrieval systems in all branches; construction of a new Life Sciences Building; and constrution of a new student recreation center on a 12-acre site on the Evansdale Campus. Already, plans for the new student recreation center are taking shape: The architect firm of Moody/Nolan is finalizing its design with input from students and site preparation is scheduled to begin in December 1998. Renovations to three academic buildings—Oglebay, Brooks and White halls—and an addition to the Agricultural-Sciences Building and the Creative Arts Center also loom on the landscape. WVU also hopes to buy land for more parking.

• The Mountaineer Parents Club, formed by Susan Hardesty in 1995 as a support group for WVU students, has grown to include more than 4,500 families and 53 clubs across the state and nation. Parents regularly give feedback through the Club’s toll-free help line, donate hardback books to a Leisure Reading Library and have become members of various committees and task forces designed to improve the student experience.

• Expert Business Offices (EBOs) have formed in Institutional Advancement, Student Affairs and Academic Affairs to reduce fixed costs and improve efficiency. In EBOs, employees who perform business functions are grouped in one central unit. Employees in EBOs receive cross-training, so one employee’s absence because of vacation or illness has no affect on a college or division.

To make sure the report continues to ”live,“ at its accelerated pace, the Implementation Team of Moses, Provost Gerald Lang and Chief of Staff David Satterfield has been quick to monitor and report on progress.

”When I see what we’ve accomplished, I can’t thank enough the task force members and the other members of the University community for making this effort

a success,“ Lang said. ”I believe we’ve carried out the spirit of the report as originally intended. We’ve created a living document and I hope the success of this report will inspire other task forces around campus.“

Below is a report charting the progress of some other important initiatives of the Student Affairs Task Force report:

ORGANIZATIONAL
• One of WVU’s distinguished alumni, Kenneth Gray, began serving as VP for Student Affairs in May 1997 • Moved Office of Service Learning to Academic Affairs Expert Business Offices (EBOs) have formed in Institutional Advancement, Student Affairs and Academic Affairs to reduce fixed costs and improve efficiency.

ENROLLMENT SERVICES
• Advising Center staff have worked with students to adopt a second plan of study in case they either do not like their first choice or are unable to be admitted into their chosen program.

• Each freshman student starts each year with a lengthy appointment with their advisor.

• Staff have developed one universal application that applies to admission as well as University-wide scholarships.

• New recruiting literature was developed, based on numerous focus groups, market research and surveys. From this research, a new theme, ”Success. Expect it.“ was created.

• Numerous focus group held around campus to enhance strategies.

• Personal attention on Visitors Resource Center added in terms of visiting a model room in the residence hall and a visit to a classroom

• Key communicators representing the colleges and service production units meet monthly to work on coordinated strategies. Efforts to collaborate with regional campuses are also under way.

• A CD-rom for recruiting was developed and is promoted through CollegeView to 4,500 high schools in all 50 states and 27 countries.

• Recruiting information has been incorporated into the WVU homepage. Groups are working to improve the web site; a design class from the CAC is working with each college in identifying best practices and recommending design strategies

• WVU’s Survey Research Center completed first year of study with Class of 2000.

• Carolyn Atkins, Class Advocate for the Class of 2001, has formed the Council of 2001, a group of freshmen who will give feedback on problems they’ve experienced and work toward solutions.

STUDENT-FOCUSED SERVICES
• Customer service training is provided through WVU’s Training & Development at no cost to participants.

• Housing & Residence Life conducted a self-study and a professional review of its Residential Dining through the National Association of College and University Food Services.

• Advising Center holds evening advising at ERC.

• 24-hour payment drop boxes were placed around campus.

• Dining halls offer ”continuous hours“ during first few weeks of school as students adjust to the new campus. Continuous hours are offered during finals week.

• The Mountainlair remains open 24 hours a day and provides special meals through the night during finals week.

TECHNOLOGY
• Residence halls wired to connect campus network.

• Developed efficient system to provide every student with an e-mail account.

LIVING/LEARNING ENVIRONMENT (RESIDENCE HALLS)
• Effective in Fall 1996, four living/learning communities were created (General Studies, Engineering, Business & Economics, Health Sciences). Live & Learn means courses are blocked so that students expressing an interest can have two courses with their floor mates and often an orientation course (taught in the hall).

• In Boreman, relationship with Arts & Sciences has involved faculty in programs attended by hundreds of students and alumni.

• Part of RA training includes increased attention to social justice, safety & drug/alcohol issues.

• Other special programs have been offered in residence halls by Office of Social Justice.

ACADEMIC ADJUSTMENT
• RFLs taking active role in developing effective strategies for early intervention in academic and other personal problem areas.

• STEP, a summer program to ensure success of at-risk students, continues to show successful results.

• STAY, EXCEL ON TRACK are successful programs from University Advising Center.

• Learning Centers in residence halls offer broad range of tutoring and specialized support.

FACULTY
• Faculty Senate is developing a new course evaluation format.

FACILITIES/LIBRARIES
• Libraries stay open late during finals week.

• Library has developed a home page that features thesis/dissertation guidelines.

• Developed multi-year formula-based University funding commitment to substantially increase the library’s base budget through Senate Bill 547.

TRANSITION TO CAMPUS LIFE
• Volunteerism and community activity encouraged; one residence hall theme is community service.

• Jump-Start provides for programming in halls: cultural performances, academic lectures/seminars and group trips.

• The Mountaineer Parents Club has grown to include more than 4,500 families and 53 clubs across the state and nation.

ACADEMIC ADVISING

• Alumni network developed through Career Success Academy.

•Three professional advisors have been added since Fall 1996.

• Each student assigned to an advisor.

• Freshman/sophomore program reorganized and expanded to include: in-depth advising for each new freshman early in fall; a plan for academic progress and a matriculation plan developed together by the freshman and advisor outlining courses needed each semester to enter an academic program; declaration of a Plan B alternate major; file reviews for each sophomore with 40 or more credits to determine readiness to enter academic major; communication with parents advising them how they can help their student succeed; letters to first semester freshmen who receive grade below 2.0 informing them of their status and possible consequences and giving suggestions for what they can do to raise their GPAs (letter to parents also); weekly evening advising at the residence halls.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

• Through Career Success Academy, hundreds of alumni have joined network being set up through alumni office, and career profiles of alumni being compiled.

• Assessment Committee, IAP, Career Services, and Survey Research Center have developed data collection template for tracking students after WVU.

• Many departments are active in developing career awareness program; some have dedicated staff to this issue.

• Staff from Career Services hold many workshops for students.

• Orientation 51 (for credit) expanded to STAY program, a structured schedule that helps students who face academic suspension.

• Career Success Academy being expanded to provide additional transitional support for STEP.

Contact: webmaster@info.news.wvu.edu

Libraries to hold open house for online catalog

The WVU Libraries will hold an open house and dedication next Friday to introduce the University community to Mountainlynx Plus, an upgrade and new face to the online catalog and library information system of the Libraries.

Funded by a special technology grant from the Provost's Office, Mountainlynx Plus will feature a Windows-based menu with more than 70 electronic databases, including both CD-ROM and Web based products. MountainLynx Plus represents a significant step in expanding access to library information resources, Dean Ruth Jackson said. Databases which were previously available at only a single library location are now accessible from every library on campus.

Scholars and students from the Health Sciences and Evansdale campuses, for example, can access CD-ROM databases such as PsycLit from any one of the WVU Libraries without having to travel to the Wise, Dr. Jackson noted.

The point and click organization of the new front end and the introduction of scholar's work stations are a major step in the Libraries' program to support easy access to information and to continue the building of a digital library environment at WVU, she added.

A reception will be a part of the dedication. Featured speakers will be Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Gerald Lang and Vice President for Health Sciences, Robert D'Alessandri. The dedication and open house will be held at the Wise Library (Reference and Information Department) and in the Health Sciences Library simultaneously. The time for both events is 3:30-5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 27.

Contact: webmaster@info.news.wvu.edu

WVU Foundation's Robinson to retire

James A. Robinson

By Pam Fronko

WVU Foundation President James A. Robinson has announced his retirement effective Dec. 31. Robinson has headed the foundation since April 1984.

"The foundation is preparing to map fund raising strategies to move into the 21st century and I believe those plans should be created by the president who will lead the foundation into that era," said Robinson. "At this point in my life that would entail a longer time commitment that I am willing to make."

During his 14-year tenure, Robinson has directed efforts that have increased the foundation's assets from $32 million to $272 million. When he arrived, the foundation was raising an average of $6 million a year in gifts. During fiscal year 1997, $26 million was raised in support of the university and during the first six months of fiscal year 1998, a record $18.2 million has been secured. Disbursement of funds to the university has grown from about $8 million to $20 million annually.

Through his efforts scholarship and academic support has increased dramatically. The number of scholarship funds has grown from 70 to 710 including endowed scholarships which have gone from 54 to 598. Academic support has seen increases in endowed academic chairs from 3 to 19, endowed professorships and lectureships from 4 to 30 and 6 to 31, respectively.

"By any measure Jim Robinson has been an outstanding president, loyal to the foundation, to the university and to the state," said C. Howard Hardesty, Jr., chairman of the foundation board of directors.

"He has worked in close harmony with the university administration, recruited and developed a strong staff, run a tight ship in terms of expenses and adherence to fund management, and structured good foundation board committees that are attentive to the challenges ahead. Anyone who can come into an organization and in 14 years take its assets from $32 million to more than $270 million is a remarkable leader."

WVU President David C. Hardesty Jr. added, "West Virginia University has been extremely fortunate that the most productive years of this exceptional executive were devoted to supporting our faculty, staff and students.”

Injury, illness data released by EH&S

In accordance with Occupational Health and Safety (OSHA) Regulations, Environmental Health and Safety is posting the following injury and illness figures for the 1997 calendar year.

Total number of occupational related injuries and illnesses- 235

Total number of injuries/illnesses with lost-work-days, and/or restricted-activity-days and/or medical treatment- 133

Total number of minor injuries/illnesses not requiring lost-work-days, restricted-activity-days and or medical treatment- 102

Total number of lost-work-day cases- 82

Total number of lost work-days- 428

Total number of restricted-activity-day cases- 38

Total number of restricted-activity-days- 309

All figures reflect only totals known to date. Final totals will be available in the 1997 Annual Injury and Illness Report.

Questions regarding the above injury and illness figures may be addressed to Health and Safety Specialist, John Hyman, at 293-3792 ext. 1307.

As bad as it gets: WVU's Bad Fiction winners

The people have spoken. By a significant majority, faculty and staff have chosen the worst of the worst in the 1998 News and Information Services Bad Fiction Contest.

And the winner is: Susan Jennings Lantz, developmental advising specialist. Lantz will receive a WVU sweatshirt from the WVU Bookstores for this egregious entry:

As the afternoon's dreary, dark sky began to pepper the West Virginia March mud with yet more rain, our heroine, Skyler Dawn Smouse (her mother having purloined "Skyler" from a favorite soap opera character and allowed an aunt, who was particularly taken with the title character in the legendary '70s ballad "Delta Dawn" to choose a middle name, leaving Floyd Smouse, a truck driver who drove to Arkansas a few weeks after Skyler had been conceived and never returned, to supply a surname) stepped out of her modest home at the most nouveau bourgeois apartment complex suburban Morgantown had to offer, and walked briskly towards her destiny, which, that day, happened to have taken the shape of a stunningly attractive UPS delivery worker who carried on his face the bemused smile of a man who had looked danger in the face and had turned and run like hell into the arms of his former sixth grade teacher, a woman who not only looked like a battle-ax, but sometimes carried one for the singular purpose of indulging the carnal pleasures of former students and an occasional paying customer.

Second prize goes to Extension Associate Professor Richard Fleisher, who will receive a thesaurus from the Bookstores for this awful attempt:

As the president and the princess darted off the dilapidated Guatemalan bus and melted into the teeming crush of hawkers and shoppers converging on the bustling marketplace of far off Chichicastenango, swarms of paparazzi and secret service agents fanned out frantically in search of the two legendary icons who sought only to steal a moment of precious privacy and escape from the maddening crowd — she disguised as a nun, he in an ill fitting British military uniform (how ironic); as they pushed past scores of diminutive Mayan peasant women he mused how easily Donna Shalala could blend in here, and then after what seemed like an eternity they reached their sacred secret rendezvous site, a 16th century convent deserted a decade ago during the crackdown, where they fell breathless and exhausted into each other's expectant arms in apparent seclusion; but just as she implored urgently in his good ear, "don't soil my habit this time," the insufferable sound of his pulsating presidential pager and it's ensuing message riveted them back to righteous reality: "Daddy," it beseeched, "the Stanford-Arkansas game starts in 10 minutes, you promised!!"

Contact: webmaster@info.news.wvu.edu

Grammy-award winning group to perform

By Sharon Orr

Tickets are still on sale for a concert featuring the traditional music of South Africa's Ladysmith Black Mambazo when the Grammy-Award winning group comes to the WVU Creative Arts Center Concert Theatre at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 4.

This 10-member ensemble sings traditional folk songs called ISICATHAMIYA—music born in the mines of South Africa.

Don't miss this captivating concert. Tickets, on sale now at the Mountainlair and CAC Box offices and Ticketmaster outlets are $17 for full-time students, $19 for faculty, staff and senior citizens, and $21 for the general public.

The concert is sponsored by Arts & Entertainment and One Valley Bank. For information, call 293-SHOW or visit www.events.wvu.edu.

Former pharmacy faculty member dies at 101

Virgil Ross Hertzog, a former WVU student and assistant professor, died Feb. 14 at his home in Fairmont. He was 101.

Hertzog graduated from WVU's School of Pharmacy in 1922 and was an assistant professor for three years. He owned the Worthington Pharmacy from 1925 to 1970. He helped institute the West Virginia Pharmacy Board and was the state's first drug inspector.

He was born March 16, 1896, on his family's farm in Taylor County, and was a U.S. Army veteran of World War I, having served in Germany and France.

Friends may call from 6-8 p.m. Thursday at the Frey Home for Funerals and from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday at the First Baptist Church. Services will be held at 1 p.m. Friday at the church.

Contact: webmaster@info.news.wvu.edu

U to celebrate National Engineers Week

WVU's engineering program will be observing National Engineers Week Feb. 22-28.

The College of Engineering and Mineral Resources in Morgantown and the Leonard C. Nelson College of Engineering at WVU Institute of Technology at Montgomery are now working under the common WVU banner. The program has 147 faculty; 160 staff; 2,300 undergraduate students; and 700 graduate students.

Contact: webmaster@info.news.wvu.edu

Rimes, White to give U 'something to talk about'

By Sharon Orr

If you're not in the *The Right Place* (the WVU Coliseum) on Saturday, March 7, then you'll be *Blue*—having missed LeAnn Rimes and Bryan White—with nothing to talk about *Between Now and Forever*. Why? Because Rimes and White are two of country's hottest new stars. Their *Something to Talk About Tour* will begin at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are on sale now.

"Superstar" and "sensation" are just two of the terms used to describe LeAnn Rimes. This 15 year-old singer has taken the country music world by storm. Ever since her hit album *Blue* became a multi-platinum seller, Rimes has become the award-winner of the year.

Bryan White's love for music also began at an early age. The oldest of two professional musicians, White was destined to entertain. His mother put him on the road to country music at age 10 when she took him to a show where she opened for Loretta Lynn. When he was 18, White moved to Nashville and his music career began to evolve. Within three months, he landed a songwriting and management deal with Glen Campbell Music and GC Management.

The concert is presented by WVU Arts & Entertainment. For more event information, call 293-SHOW or visit www.events.wvu.edu.

Contact: webmaster@info.news.wvu.edu

Festival of Ideas continues with NBA star, more

A former tobacco mogul turned anti-smoking advocate, an NBA basketball great and two love analysts will be the featured speakers at WVU's Festival of Ideas as the lecture series continues.

Tonight, Feb. 19, Patrick Reynolds, grandson of tobacco-company founder R.J. Reynolds, will present Tobacco Wars: The Battle for a Smokefree Society at 7:30 p.m. in the Mountainlair ballrooms.

World famous NBA basketball great Kareem Abdul-Jabbar will present Black Profiles in Courage on Monday, Feb. 23, at 7:30 p.m. in WVU's Creative Arts Center Concert Theatre.

An NBA Hall-of-Famer, Abdul-Jabbar plans an exciting, motivational program that will bring black history to life. His presentation will include powerful and inspiring readings about strong role models like Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman and Rosa Parks, as well as a cross-section of black achievement.

Valentine's Day may be over but talk about love will abound on Tuesday, Feb. 24, when MTV Loveline hosts Dr. Drew and Adam will present an open discussion with students at 7:30 p.m. at the CAC.

Loveline, MTV's hit advice show, has college students nationwide asking Dr. Drew and Adam about sex, drugs and relationships.

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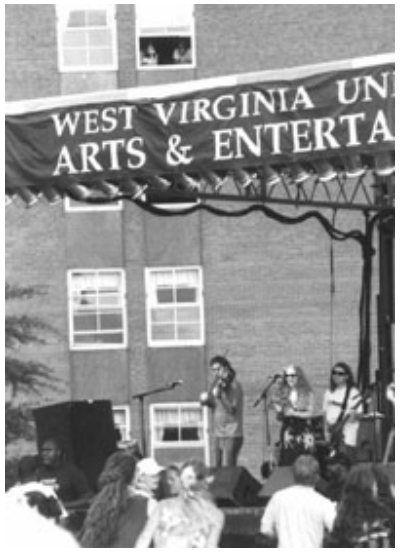
Campus Calendar



Thursday, February 19
Festival of Ideas—*Tobacco Wars: The Battle for a Smokefree Society*, presented Patrick Reynolds, 7:30 p.m., Mountainlair Ballroom.

Faculty Development—W*hat's New Under Ada*, presented by Barbara Judy, 3:30-5 p.m., Greenbrier Room, Mountainlair.

Department of Physiology Seminar—*Renal Nitric Oxide & Hypertension: A Cause or a Cure?* Presented by William Beierwaltes, Ph. D., 4 p.m., Room 3067 Health Sciences Buliding.

Movie—*Eve's Bayou*, 7 & 9:30 p.m., Mountainlair Gluck Theatre.

Friday, February 20
Doctoral Final Defense—*Placental Xenobioic and Steroid Metabolism in Normal and Diabetic Patients*, presented by Donna J. McRobie, 2 p.m., Rm. 1141 Health Sciences North.

Movie—*Ink Well*, 7 & 9:30 p.m., Mountainlair Gluck Theatre.

Saturday, February 21
Square Dance—presented by Friends oF Old Time Music, 8-11 p.m., Percival Hall, Evansdale Campus.

Rifle—WVU vs. Murray State, 8 a.m., Shell Building.

Movie—*Singin' in the Rain*, 7 & 9:30 p.m., Mountainlair Gluck Theatre.

Sunday, February 22
Men's Basketball —WVU vs Seton Hall, 2 p.m., home.

Rifle—WVU vs Tennessee Tech, 8 a.m., Shell Building.

Movie—*Eve's Bayou*, 7 & 9:30 p.m., Mountainlair Gluck Theatre.

Monday, February 23
Festival of Ideas—*Black Profiles in Courage*, presented by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, 7:30 p.m. Creative Arts Center Concert Theatre.

Eating Disorders Screening Program—Information Booth, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Mountainlair and Coliseum, continues through Friday. Carruth Center Screenings, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., no appointment needed, also continues through Friday.

Eating Disorders Discussion—presented by Al Kastrowicz, 7:30 p.m., Chestnut Ridge Hospital.

Dept. of History Presentation—*Yours is a Precious Witness: Memoirs of Jews and Catholics in Wartime Italy*, presented by Sister Margherita Marchione, 7 p. m., Mountainlair Rhododendron Room.

Small Business Development Center Seminar—*The Internet" Get on the Information Superhighway*, presented by Craig Behr, 9 a.m.-noon, Allan B. Mollohan Innovation Center Computer Lab, Fairmont.

Faculty Development—*Effective Ways to Deal with Major to Career*, presented by Robert L. Kent, 3:30-5 p.m., Laurel Room, Moutainlair.

Tuesday, February 24
Festival of Ideas—*An Open Discussion with WVU students, presented by Dr. Drew and Adam*, 7:30 p.m., Creative Arts Center Concert Theatre.

Women's Basketball—WVU vs Miami, home, 7 p.m.

Movie—*Iron and Silk* (China), 7 & 9:30 p.m., Mountainlair Gluck Theatre.

Graduate Seminar Series—*Moving from the Traditional Human Resource Department to Human Performance Technology*, presented by Ms. Kim Kavanagh, US Coast Guard, 12:30-2 p.m., 405 Allen Hall.

Poetry Reading—5 p.m., Center for Black Culture and Research.

Health Sciences Center Presentation— *Parenting: The Most Joyful and Toughest Job You'll Ever Have*, presented by Jennifer Forester, 6:30 p.m., Weston.

Health Sciences Center Presentation— *Nutrition and Diabetes: Food Choices and Blood Sugar Control*, 9-10 a.m., Medical Specialties Clinic, Third Floor, Physician Office Center.

Wednesday, February 25
Division of Safety Research's Lecture Series—*Effect of Circumferential Compression of the Trunk and Pelvis on the Lumbar Erector Spinae Response to Lifting Efforts and Unexpected Load*, presented by David G. Wilder, Ph. D., 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., Large Conference Room, Suncrest Facility.

Health Sciences Center—Bone and Marrow Transplant Families Support Group, 7-8 p.m., Ruby Memorial Hospital, Conference Rooms 7 & 8, Fourth floor.

Red Cross Blood Drive—10 a.m.-4 p.m., Law School.

Comedy Caravan—9 p.m., Mountainlair Hatfields Restauraunt.

C. Eugene and Edna P. Bennett Careers for Chemists Program—7:30 p.m., Durrett Hall, Erickson Alumni Center.

5th Annual Spring Break Wellness Fair and Food Show—10 a.m.-2 p.m., Mountainlair Ballrooms.

WVU in Southern Africa: Faculty Research Presentations—4-6 p.m. Whitewater Room, Mountainlair.

Movie—*Devil's Advocate*, 7 & 9:30 p.m., Mountainlair Gluck Theatre.

Thursday, February 26
Festival of Ideas—*Meeting, Dating, Relating & Mating*, presented by Ellen Gootblatt, 7:30 p.m., Mountainlair Ballroom.

JoAnne and Charles Dickinson Symposium—*Contemporary U.S. Families: Responding to Realities*, 7 p.m., Eisland Hall, Rm. G-24.

Dept. of Physiology Seminar—*Microvascular Regulation of Blood Flow and Hypertension*, Jeff Falcone, 4 p.m., Rm. 3067 Health Sciences.

Faculty Development *Undoing Prejudice*, presented by Peggy Douglas, 3:30-5 p.m., Monongahela Room, Mountainlair.

Career Fair/Summer Jobs Expo—9 a.m.-3 p.m., Mountainlair Ballrooms

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CAC This Week

THE MESAROS GALLERIES—The Mon County Theme Show. Annual exhibition of artwork on a particular theme by Monongalia county school students in grades K through 12. Selected and organized by county art teachers. Open Feb. 14-21.

Mesaros Gallery hours are Monday through Saturday, Noon to 9:30 p.m. Closed Sundays and University holidays. For more information, call 293-2140, ext. 3210.

Thursday, February 19
Community Music Recital—Chang Lu and Catherine Crotty, piano, 8:15 p.m., Choral Recital Hall.

Friday, February 20
Wind Symphony Concert—conducted by Don Wilcox and guest conductor Dr. Kenneth Ozzello, Director of Bands, University of Alabama; 8:15 p.m., Concert Theatre.

Saturday, February 21
Honor Band Concert—2 p.m., Concert Theatre.

Sunday, February 22
Faculty Recital—Keith Jackson, trombone, 8:15 p.m., Choral Recital Hall.

Monday, February 23
Visiting Artist—Velvet Brown, tuba, 8:15 p.m., Choral Recital Hall.

Tuesday, February 24
Student Recital—Brittany Betts, trumpet, 7 p.m., Choral Recital Hall.

Senior Recital—Gregory Franklin, composition, 8:15 p.m., Choral Recital. Hall.

Student Recital—Lisa Cavalier, soprano, 8:15 p.m., Falbo Theatre.

Thursday, February 26
Young Artist Concert—8:15 p.m., Concert Theatre. Ticketed Event.

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Campus Scene

News and Notes

Wellness programs set
Health Sciences' Wellness program is offering the opportunity for individuals to participate in a free study to evaluate a stress reduction program geared toward people with heart disease.

The Wellness Office is also offering faculty and staff an eight-week mindfulness-based stress reduction program. Sessions will be held Tuesdays from 5 to 7:30 p.m. beginning Feb. 24.

Anyone interested in participating in either program should call 293-2520.

Strange dealings in the 'Lair
The Mountainlair and Century Communications are sponsoring Casino Night in the Lair Ballrooms from 7-10 p.m. tomorrow, Feb. 20.

Casino Night will feature Las Vegas style entertainment and Black Jack, Big Six Wheels, E-Z Craps and six other authentic casino games.

Tickets are $3 per person and will be on sale from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., through Feb. 20, in the Lair Commons Area.

For more information, call 293-2702.

Aid director leaving
Elizabeth "Libby" Sturm, assistant director of Financial Aid at Health Sciences, left WVU on Feb. 16 to assume the director of Financial Aid position at Shepherd College. Sturm began working at WVU in 1991 as a part-time financial aid counselor.

Candance Hostutler has been appointed interim assistant director.

Alumni to appear in Chicago
Dr. Bill Neal and Stephen Coonts will be guests of the WVU Chicago Metro Alumni Chapter in Chicago March 15.

Dr. Neal, a WVU medical graduate, is the chairman of the School of Medicine's Pediatric Department.

Coonts, a 1968 political science graduate, is a member of WVU's Academy of Distinguished Alumni and the author of six best-selling books. For information, call (630) 554-8197.

Faculty Footnotes

Development programs set
Faculty Development Sessions have been scheduled for Feb. 23 and Feb. 26.

On Feb. 23, Robert L. Kent, Director of the Career Services Center, will moderate a panel discussion entitled, *Effective Ways to Deal with Major to Career*. The session will meet from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in the Laurel Room of the Moutainlair.

On Feb. 26, Peggy Douglas, Executive Officer for the President's Office for Social Justice, will present *Undoing Prejudice*. This session will meet in the Mountainlair's Monongahela Room from 3:30-5 p.m.

Anyone interested in participating in these sessions should register before Feb. 20 for the Kent session, and Feb. 25 for the Douglas session. For information, call 293-2021 or check out the Academic Affairs website at http://www.wvu.edu/~acadaff/fac_dev_sessions.htm.

Classified Clips

T&D workshops have openings
T&D will begin registration on Feb. 16 for the following March sessions: *Developing a Mission, Career Exploration: Reviewing Your Options, P.R.O.T.E.C.T. Self-Defense for Women, President's Forum, Building Group Esteem, Effective Operations Through Performance Management* and *Dealing with Negativity in the Workplace*.

Spaces also remain in the following February workshop, *Guidelines for the Mountaineer Temps Program.*

Dates for and times for each session can be found at http://www.wvu.edu/~humanres/td.htm or call T&D for more information. Classified staff wishing to complete the required registration should call 293-7217 during normal business hours.

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