1154-20-1569 **Shawn T. Burkett*** (sburket1@kent.edu) and **Mark L. Lewis**. *GVZ-groups.*

A finite group G is called a GVZ-group if every character $\chi \in \mathrm{Irr}(G)$ vanishes on $G \setminus Z(\chi)$, and is called flat if every conjugacy class is a coset of some subgroup. We will show that these two notions coincide, thereby obtaining a character-free definition of GVZ-groups. We obtain several other characterizations of GVZ-groups, and then use a Taketa-type argument to prove that the nilpotence class of a GVZ-group (such groups are necessarily nilpotent) is bounded above by the number of distinct degrees of its irreducible characters. (Received September 16, 2019)