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The Parthenon, September 15, 2011

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Device simulates drunk driving

Students can see dangers of drunk driving while staying sober | News, Page 2

THE PARTHENON

Thursday, September 15, 2011 | MARSHALL UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER | marshallparthenon.com

UNIVERSITY GROWTH

Kopp's vision includes increasing diversity, degree programs

BY EDEN ADKINS
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University President Stephen Kopp focuses on the current strengths of the university and seizes promising opportunities to continue positive growth of the university.

"We are looking at the potential that this university has and how we go about

actualizing that potential," Kopp said. "This is a shared vision across the university."

Efforts are being made to offer new degree programs including: physical therapy, bioinformatics and public health. In addition to these potential new degrees, the Marshall University School of Pharmacy will open next fall.

"There are an array of

initiatives focusing on degree programs that are in high demand in the employment sector that provide opportunities for our students to pursue an avenue of study that they are very interested in and passionate about building into careers," Kopp said.

The university is working to identify areas of opportunity and determining the

extent to which they build on existing strengths, Kopp said.

"It's more than just growing programs," Kopp said. "We continue to focus on quality and caliber of the academic program offerings."

The university has vowed to participate in the Higher Learning Commission's

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"... the international students will bring the richness of their communities, cultures and native lands to the learning environment and social environment of this campus community and will broaden the horizons of our West Virginian students and all students."

> STEPHEN KOPP



MARCUS CONSTANTINO | THE PARTHENON

LEFT: Marshall University President Stephen Kopp tosses a quoit in a game against members of The Parthenon staff Wednesday. TOP: In celebration of John Marshall's upcoming birthday, a large cake was cut and served to competitors Wednesday during quoits games. The quoits championship is an annual tradition at Marshall University.

O'Keefe's research nationally acclaimed

BY TYLER KES
THE PARTHENON

One professor's research on prehistoric creatures is getting attention much further than in the Marshall community.

Professor Frank O'Keefe, associate professor of biology, recently gained national attention when his paper about the possibility of live dinosaur birth was published in the academic journal "Science."

It had been believed that all dinosaurs lay eggs, but fossils discovered showing a plesiosaur fetus are challenging that belief.

The paper received coverage from places like the BBC, Yahoo! and the Korea Times.

The Bonner family originally discovered the fossils in 1987, but O'Keefe wasn't brought in until last year to take the lead on the scientific portion of the paper.

"It was clear at the time of discovery that there was something special about the fossil, but without the time-intensive (and expensive) process of cleaning and mounting the bones, scientific study could not occur," O'Keefe said.

"Science" is a weekly journal that publishes papers and other scientific research, and it has a lengthy peer-review process.

"We sent the manuscript to another journal first, got rejected, and then sent it to 'Science' in March, I believe," O'Keefe said. "I learned it was being considered

See O'KEEFE | Page 5

In tradition celebrating John Marshall's birthday, local media, Kopp compete for championship title

BY JOHN GIBB
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University students gathered at Buskirk field Wednesday to watch local members of the media battle it out for the title of an old Revolutionary War game.

The quoits were brought out to celebrate the birthday of fourth Chief Justice of the United States John Marshall.

University President Stephen Kopp said the quoits tournament was an opportunity for the Marshall community to celebrate John Marshall's legacy.

According to former board member of the United States Quoiting Association Troy Frey, quoits is a game in which heavy

metal rings are tossed underhanded, or pitched, at short metal stakes driven into the ground.

Frey said the game is scored similar to that of horseshoes but the quoit is rounded like a donut.

"I am ecstatic that Marshall carries on the tradition of Chief Justice John Marshall...it is always good to see the younger generation getting interested in this game that was brought to our country by settlers."

A ringer is scored as three points, a quoit that leans on the stake is scored as two points and the closest quoit to the stake is scored as one point, according to Frey.

Kopp said there is a trick to winning.

"There are a lot of ways to throw a quoit but my

»QUOITS:
A game in which competitors toss or pitch heavy metal rings at short stakes driven into the ground.

preferred way to is throw it like a Frisbee," Kopp said, "the trick is to throw it top side up because this is what scores the points."

WSAZ Television Anchor Tim Irr represented his station with partner Keith Morehouse, sports director for WSAZ, and said Kopp has not won once.

"I always have tough competition...Dr. Kopp has always made it his mission since this began

to win," Irr said.

The WSAZ team has only lost once to WCHS News Channel 8 and Irr said when he won his first tournament, "The sweet taste of victory was so good that I came back every year since."

Irr said he heard from a good source that Kopp was playing hurt and for the past week has been nursing a leg injury.

"If Kopp wins this year, it would be an heroic effort, and he would be like Byron Leftwich being carried down the field by his linemen." Leftwich was quarterback for Marshall University from 2000 until 2002.

University Chief of Staff Matt Turner paired up with the Paul Williams, chief of staff for the Student

Government Association, and said he "underestimated the importance of practice."

Turner said he has not found a single technique that works even though Kopp says otherwise.

Rakeem Cato, new starting quarterback for Marshall's football team, made an appearance at the tournament in which he was able to throw a few quoits.

In the end there could only be one winner, and the trophy went to the defending champions at WSAZ.

Turner said there was a good turnout, but he would like to see more students take this on.

The quoits tournament is an annual event on campus.

John Gibb can be contacted at gibb@marshall.edu.

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Morning rain and cool tonight. Fall is in the air.
62° 46°

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it's memorable
Landau Eugene Murphy, Jr., Logan W.Va. native, was named the winner of NBC's America's Got Talent Wednesday night.

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BCC CAFE INC, SOUTHERN X-POSUR
PARTHENON STRIP AD

Drive ‘under the influence’ for awareness

Student organization works with agencies to raise awareness

BY DALE JOHNSON
THE PARTHENON

A student organization has teamed up with two state agencies to set up a driving simulator on campus today to attempt raising awareness of the risks involved with driving under the influence of alcohol.

Marshall University’s Students Against Destructive Decisions, the Governor’s Highway Safety Program and the West Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Administration joined forces to set up a driving under the influence simulator outside of the Memorial Student Center today and tomorrow from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

“The DUI simulator is a computerized complete driving system,” said Larry Kendall, highway safety coordinator for Huntington. “It has full steering and a passenger compartment. You have to have your seat belt on. You have to start it with a key. You have to watch what you’re doing

with your rear-view mirrors and side mirrors. You get completely immersed with it, just like you would driving a car.”

Kendall said it takes your full concentration to drive the simulator.

“You can set it up for day time, night time, rain, clear, snow, routes on mountains or downtown,” Kendall said. “Whatever scenario we want to throw at the driver.”

The system is set up to test drivers’ ability, reaction times and skills to control the vehicle as the machines simulate blood alcohol content levels rising from .00 to .08.

“Everything is built in to show you that you may not be as good of a drunk driver as you think you are,” Kendall said.

“The simulator is a really neat way to simulate what driving under the influence would sort of be like, in a safe way,” said Beau Evans, vice president of Marshall’s SADD. “It is also designed

to raise awareness that so many college students drink and drive, crash and end up killed. It is kind of an eye-opener.”

Evans said students should not be afraid to go up and try out the simulator or ask questions.

“A lot of times, we see that college students don’t like to talk about these types of things,” Evans said. “We aren’t against anyone who drinks. There are just responsible ways to do it. Drinking and driving is not responsible.”

“The DUI simulator is an eye-opener,” said Nicole Seckman, president of Marshall’s SADD. “People feel like they are invincible. It’s a safer, controlled environment to see how alcohol affects you. We need to see that we are not invincible.”

The simulator was unveiled to the public by the West Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Administration, WVABCA, last November. The simulator was funded



LARRY KENDALL

In 2010 Governor Joe Manchin tests out the simulator set up by the Marshall University Students Against Destructive Decisions, the Governor’s Highway Safety Program and the West Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Administration.

by grants, starting with a \$90,000 grant from State Farm Insurance. The Governor’s Highway Safety Program initially awarded a \$95,000 grant and continues to fund the WVABCA.

The WVABCA also selects counties to set up the simulator by using statistical data compiled by the

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that determines which areas have the highest level of DUIs and alcohol-related accidents.

The WVABCA provides the personnel, financial and other administrative resources for the DUI simulator program.

SADD’s mission is to provide students with the best prevention and intervention tools possible to deal with the issues of underage drinking, other drug use, impaired driving and other destructive decisions.

Dale Johnson can be contacted at johnson327@marshall.edu.

Student awarded SMART Scholarship

MELODY FITZGERALD
THE PARTHENON

Sean Sovine, senior computer science major from Charleston, was recently awarded the Department of Defense’s Science Mathematics and Research for Transformation (SMART) Scholarship. This scholarship is part of the National Defense Education Program. Sovine was the first student in Marshall University’s history to be awarded this scholarship.

Scholarship winners receive full tuition, a substantial stipend, paid summer internship, health insurance reimbursement, book allowance, mentoring and employment after graduation.

In order to be considered for this scholarship, students must satisfy all requirements. They must be a U.S. citizen at the time of the application, be 18 years of age or older as of Aug. 1, 2011, and have a GPA of 3.0 or

higher.

Some additional requirements for the scholarship include being able to participate in summer internships at the Department of Defense laboratories, willing to accept postgraduate employment with the DoD, and must be pursuing a degree in one of the 19 majors in the Department of Defense cluster.

For each academic year of the recipient’s award, students are to commit one year of civilian employment with the Department of Defense. Students will be placed in the Department of Defense laboratories in civilian positions. Students must also be willing to travel once they enter the program following graduation. Participants can select up to three preferred Department of Defense laboratories for their placement. Efforts are made to place the students in one of their preferences, but it’s not guaranteed.

Paulus Wahjudi, assistant professor of computer

science in the Weisberg Division of computer science and engineering, said, “Sovine worked as an undergraduate research assistant at Computational Research and Education for New and Emerging Technologies (CoRE-NET) and was a student helper at the College of Technology and Engineering’s Exploring Engineering Academy of Excellence, which is a week-long summer camp.”

“I’m not a very traditional student because this is my second bachelor’s degree,” Sovine said. Sovine was also awarded second place for his undergraduate presentation at the 25th annual Eastern Kentucky University Symposium in the Mathematical, Statistical and Computer Sciences last April.

“I feel very fortunate and thankful to have been awarded this,” Sovine said.

Melody Fitzgerald can be contacted at fitzgerald19@marshall.edu.

Thundering Word works to defend state title

BY NIKKI DOTSON
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University’s Speech and Debate team adds 10 members to the roster to help defend the state title.

The team added 10 members to its five veteran members for this year’s competitions.

Following a successful year, the team’s primary goals of this season are to go to most or all competitions and to defend its current state title.

“We’re approaching everything in a different manner this year and seeing if it works,” said Danny Ray, director of forensics and head coach of the Thundering Word. “So the coaching style has changed. It is my goal to never lose our defending state title.”

One change the team has made is a course for team members.

The new class includes a syllabus with required duties, mandatory team practices two nights a week

and individually scheduled practices throughout the semester.

“I was really interested in getting more involved on campus and also learning how to speak better in public,” said Lance West, Jr., junior international business major. The Thundering Word allows you to go get in front of different crowds in different cities and learn how different people speak.”

West is new to the team this year.

“I’m trying to leave a bit of a legacy for the team,” said Kendrick Vondershmitt, senior history and political science double major. “I’ve been here for four years, since we restarted the team from scratch, and now we’ve got a great coaching staff. So what I want is to leave a group of students who can continue and establish a long-running team that will eventually win national championships.”

The team has 19 competitions across the country on its tentative schedule.

The debate team will be attending a competition Oct. 3 at Lafayette College in Easton, Pa., that offers eight rounds of argumentation opposed to the normal four or six.

Ray said this is an important competition for the debate team because of the eight rounds.

The speech team will attend another event on the same weekend in a different location.

The door is still open to new members if anyone is interested in joining the team. Thundering Word meets 6:30 to 9 p.m. every Monday and Tuesday night in Smith Hall 269.

“People who are nervous about speaking, this is a good opportunity for you to get involved and further yourself in public speaking,” West said. “It really helps with your future. Because in order to be successful, you have to talk in front of other people.”

Nikki Dotson can be contacted at dotson76@live.marshall.edu.

Student organization raising awareness with Safe Space Program

JOHN LEWIS
Parthenon

The Safe Space Program is having a Safe Space Orientation from Sept. 19 through Sept. 20 to give lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender Marshall students and faculty a chance to come out.

The program was implemented for LGBT individuals to declare their sexual orientation and get information on any concerns they might have regarding the “coming out” process and letting it be known without getting hurt or abused by anyone.

“This is an awareness program,” said Ray Blevins, graduate assistant in LG-BTO Resource Center. “This program raises awareness visibility for students and faculty who are a part of LG-BTO, and it’s available for anyone on campus community.”

Blevins said students and faculty don’t have to come to both sections of the meetings. But if they can’t make one, then they have other options from which to choose.

“What happens during an orientation section is we do activities to have some fun

and not just talk,” Blevins said. “It’s not going to be boring.”

“We now have three societies: Lambda Society, GSBA (gay, lesbian and bisexual alliance) and Adore’ which is a Christian group here on campus looking to close the gap between being gay and being Christian and seeing where they fit in the Christian community,” Blevins said.

Safe space is trying to reach out to many people who are having issues on campus or in life who need help in dealing with these issues. They want students and faculty to know they are

not alone, and they can get help by coming to these sections offered.

Robert Cooper, Lambda Active Group on campus said, “This program is a way to educate faculty and students about resources available to LG-BTO students on campus. It helps prepare students if they come out.”

“It’s a huge resource program that helps dealing with depression if they have been bullied or harassed,” Cooper said.

Blevins said people who participated last year do not have to attend this year’s section. But if students do

attend, then they may share their past experiences or mention what the program has done for them.

LG-BTO history month is in October, and Blevins said he plans to have another section in that month if students and faculty won’t be able to participate in the upcoming sections. Blevins also said he wouldn’t mind helping faculty if they are too busy to attend any of the sections. He said he wants this program to be as flexible as possible to accommodate anyone.

“The programs help me know what resources I can give to other people,”

Cooper said. “It also told me where I could go if I needed something. There were a lot of things I didn’t know. I was unaware of a lot of counseling services, like the 24-hour hotline and all of the numbers for therapists.”

Blevins said he sent out announcements and got a lot of feedback. He said things are changing on campus, and that it was for the greater good.

“It makes me feel better about what I do here,” he said.

John Lewis can be contacted at Lewis301@marshall.edu.

“We don’t want to be the kind of band that requires a lot of massive, corporate dollars to keep us running and promoted.”
-Damian Kulash, OK, Go

TIME MAGAZINE

ON THE CHARTS | TOP 10 VIRAL VIDEOS

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1: Double Rainbow | 6: General Larry Platt “Pants” |
| 2: Merton on Chatroulette | 7: Insane Clown Posse “Miracles” |
| 3: Bed Intruder | 8: Next Media Animation |
| 4: OK Go, “This Too Shall Pass” | 9: “Trololo” Guy |
| 5: Old Spice, “The Man...” | 10: Phil Davison |

CMT comes to Huntington

Luke Bryan headlines

BY ASHLEIGH HILL
THE PARTHENON

CMT on Tour will kick off in Huntington tonight.

The concert will be take place at Big Sandy Superstore Arena, located between Seventh Street and Eighth Street.

Luke Bryan will be headlining the tour, with special guests Lee Brice, Josh Thompson and CMT’S Next Superstar winner, Matt Mason.

The doors will open at 6:30 p.m., and Matt Mason will take the stage at 7 p.m.

Tickets are still available at the Big Sandy Arena, priced at \$26.50, or \$34.50.

CMT on Tour has come to Huntington for the past few years. Last year’s tour featured Miranda Lambert, and the year before featured Jason Aldean.

“It’s a great fall event,” said Tiffany

Bajus, Big Sandy Superstore marketing and sales manager. “The concert usually has a lot of really good up and coming artists.”

Bajus said the artists would be selling out bigger arenas with more expensive tickets in a few years.

Luke Bryan was named the Academy of Country Music’s top new artist and top solo vocalist for 2009. His newest album, “Tailgates & Tanlights,” released in September, is currently 37th in digital album downloads on iTunes.

“This is a great chance to come out and hear some new music,” Bajus said.

CMT on Tour’s next stop after Huntington is Sept. 16 at Terminal 5 located in New York City.

Ashleigh Hill can be contacted at hill281@live.marshall.edu

SUBMITTED PHOTO

From the river to campus, Schooner’s opens new location near Marshall

BY TYRELL CARLTON
THE PARTHENON

Diners no longer need to have a boat to try the food at Schooner’s.

The riverboat restaurant, Schooner’s, has recently opened up a new location next to the Joan C. Edwards stadium, offering Marshall students deep discounts with a variety of food that fits with the collection of

restaurants in the area. Schooner’s Stadium Front Grill, located on 2010 3rd Ave., is a recent addition to the multitude of restaurants in the area, competing with Fat Patty’s and Giovanni’s, creating a trifecta of eatery options for Marshall students.

“This Schooner’s, in particular, opened Aug. 15,” said Terry Toliver, manager of the restaurant.

Schooner’s offers a 10 percent discount, to Marshall students and has happy hour from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. and a late night happy hour from 10 p.m. to 12 a.m. Friday and Saturday, Tolliver said.

The restaurant features a full bar and large indoor area for seating, with a gaming machine and several flat screen TVs throughout the

establishment. The food they serve here is less “fine dining and more burgers, flat bread pizzas and bar-type food.”

The restaurant actually is working on weekly specials and game days specials that are being ironed out, Toliver said.

“I like being closer to town,” said Veronica Veals, restaurant employee and former server

at the Schooner’s waterfront location. “I felt very far away when working at the waterfront. It’s really nice to be apart of the town and when things happen in the town, we get a bit of the run-off from town.”

“We’ve also created a good relationship with Giovanni’s, we eat over at their place, and they eat at ours,” Toliver said.

“We are getting used to the whole football game thing and the whole flood of people,” Veals said.

The restaurant picked up the football package, fifteen 55-inch TVs, free Wi-Fi, and the DirecTV NFL package for the sports fans in the area.

Tyrell Carlton can be contacted at tyrellcarlton@gmail.com.

Columnist suggests Ferris Bueller offers lesson on positivity

BY COURTNEY MOON
THE PARTHENON

“How could I possibly be expected to handle school on a day like this?” The first question given to the audience in the 1986 film, Ferris Bueller’s Day Off, is one that many students, no matter what age, tend to ask themselves every once in a while.

Reaching the end of his senior year, Ferris Bueller (Matthew Broderick) decides the monotony of school has gone on for long enough, and it’s time for some excitement. He recruits his uptight best

friend, Cameron Frye (Alan Ruck), and fun-loving girlfriend, Sloane Peterson (Mia Sara), to join him on his day of adventure by all skipping school and traveling to the city. Throughout the course of the day the group steals a reservation, goes to a baseball game, participates in a parade, and causes serious embarrassment to their principal all to avoid getting caught.

Unfortunately, there is no remedy to fix the 175 miles that somehow get put on Cameron’s father’s most prized possession, a 1961 Ferrari 250 GT

California; the car that the group borrows for the day in order to get away with skipping school. After deciding to take a stand against his father, Cameron accidentally causes the car to get totaled. He walks away from the scene unafraid and more carefree.

Still attempting to avoid getting caught by his parents, Ferris starts an epic journey on foot back to his house before anyone else can arrive. All the while, his sister Jeanie (Jennifer Grey) is on a mission to have their mom and dad finally realize what Ferris

is truly up to. Once the moment is perfect, however, she decides to take the advice given to her by a criminal at the police station and help her brother instead.

We watch throughout the film as characters transform their way of thinking into more of a carefree mindset. Yes, Ferris worries about what the future will bring between him and his friends, Cameron worries if he will ever be able to rise against those who continuously push him down, and Jeanie worries that she won’t ever be able to step out from

behind her brother’s shadow, but maybe that just goes to show that we all need a day off every once in a while. We need time to relax and not fret about the things going wrong in our life, but rather take solace in seeing what is going right. After all, “life moves pretty fast. If you don’t stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it.”

Courtney Moon can be contacted at moon13@marshall.edu.



FROM MCT DIRECT

Thursday, September 15, 2011

THE PARTHENON
marshallparthenon.com

OPINION

“The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows”.

> SYDNEY J. HARRIS, JOURNALIST

THE PARTHENON

ABOUT US

The Parthenon, Marshall University's student newspaper, is published by students Mondays through Fridays during the regular semesters, and weekly Thursdays during the summer. The editorial staff is responsible for news and editorial content.

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THE FIRST AMENDMENT

The Constitution of the United States of America

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people to peaceably assemble; and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

COLUMN

High hopes for home state

BY BISHOP NASH
THE PARTHENON

As my high school graduation approached, all I would begin to hear were the murmurs of “getting out of West Virginia”.

It didn't make a difference if they were bound for college, enlisting or taking another path. Finding some way out of here seemed to be some mark of success in a person's life.

Not mine. Never. To me and people like me, carving a life out of the land and community I've been born into is more rewarding than running to another part of the country.

But you know what? It's a little hard to try staying here when there are so little professional jobs.

Let's look at good ole Huntington for example. Since I took my first breath at Cabell Huntington Hospital in 1991, the Jewel City has lost 11 percent of its population. As for the whole of West Virginia, population growth has stagnated at more than 3 percent over the same 20 years.

Is Huntington and the Mountain State at large that bad of a place to live?

For me, it's the only place to live.

But as I grow older, it becomes more and more apparent that intangibles

like loving a community are not enough to keep a man staying.

West Virginia has so much to offer an individual and families alike. The quality of life around trees, deer and friendly neighborhoods are beyond fantastic, but it just doesn't put bread on the table.

People aren't leaving West Virginia because it sucks, they're leaving because the job market's growth is stunted in the shade of the million trees.

I don't want to leave. I mean, I really don't want to leave. One of my greatest fears for the future is that my home state won't come up with anything of substance and meaning to keep me here.

I feel like a child begging, “I don't wanna go. Please! Let me stay!”

But there may not be enough to go around when I graduate, no matter how qualified I became while at Marshall.

People talk about revitalizing Huntington and West Virginia. It has to start by attracting professional jobs, not just patching up the wounds of coal and steel.

If you build it, they and their families will come.

Don't let the youth slip away.

Bishop Nash can be contacted at nash24@marshall.edu.

ONLINE POLL

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to let us know what you think.

What was your favorite 90s Nickelodeon cartoon?

- Hey Arnold!
- Rugrats
- CatDog
- Doug
- Rocket Power

EDITORIAL

United States Postal Service faces possible end

The dawning technology age is claiming another victim – the United States Postal Service. According to The New York Post, the U.S. Postal Service is so deeply in debt that it could be forced to default on its \$5.5 billion retiree benefit payment.

But debt isn't the Postal Service's biggest problem – overall lack of mail is. In the article entitled Postal Blues, The New York Post explains that the amount of mail has decreased 20 percent in the last four years, and Americans are sending stamped mail only half as much as they did in 2000.

But are those statistics really that much of a surprise? With over 200 million Americans using e-mail for everything from staying in touch to paying their bills, regular mail has fallen to the wayside. Why would American's pay 50 cents for a stamp when

Yahoo is free?

Even the Postal Services' advertising revenue is packing up and moving online. Advertisers are now sending their endorsements via email, bravely risking the spam folder. Strong competition has also played a large part in the failing of the U.S. Postal Service. UPS and FEDEX are both boasting strong numbers.

In an attempt to come back from their financial edge, the Postal Service has requested that congress let go 220,000 employees and fix its damaged healthcare system.

While downsizing its personnel would cut costs in the most tragic way, it still would not improve its falling numbers. Fact is, the digital era has left the Postal Service behind and its only option now is full reform.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
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EDITORIAL CARTOON | FROM MCT DIRECT



COLUMN

Quitting – the most selfless decision you can make

BY RAUDA TELLAWI
CAVALIER DAILY, U. VIRGINIA VIA UWIRE

In medical school, one of the first lessons we are taught when learning to interview patients is how to be an active listener. We are taught different ways of asking open-ended questions, how to ask sensitive questions in a kind and respectful manner, how to talk to patients facing a difficult diagnosis and how to broach the topic of quitting with patients addicted to alcohol, drugs or smoking. Throughout years of medical school we are given most of the tools we would need to handle difficult situations with our patients, but like a carpenter starting his first day at work, just knowing what the tools are is no substitute for experience. One situation which still frustrates me, and which no amount of classroom teaching could have prepared me for, is discussing smoking cessation with women who are pregnant.

Cigarette smoking has been a hot topic in the news recently, namely because of the changes the Food and

Drug Administration plans to make to the warning labels on cigarette boxes. The new warnings, scheduled to appear on boxes as soon as September 2012, use graphic images of a person with oral cancer, another having a stroke or heart attack and even a person who has passed away from the long term effects of smoking, to help prevent you from buying the boxes of harm. The United Kingdom uses a similar tactic for helping you avoid cigarettes. There, cigarette company labels are dwarfed in size by large warnings, reminding shoppers that “Smoking kills,” or that “Smoking when pregnant harms your baby.”

Smoking also puts mother and baby at risk of complications in other ways, such as increasing the risk of a placental abruption — where the placenta peels away from the uterine wall before delivery, preventing the baby from getting enough oxygen and also putting the mother at risk for major blood loss — and even increasing the risk of having a stillbirth.

The risk for children born to mothers and families who smoke

continues as they grow. The new FDA warning labels show that babies are at an increasing risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. In addition to that, a study recently published in the journal Pediatrics showed that 1/3 of all children in America live in homes with a smoker, and about 56 percent of those children, between the ages of 3 and 11 years old, have detectable levels of the chemical cotinine, a breakdown product of nicotine, in their blood.

This brings me back to the issue of sitting in a room with a patient who is pregnant and smoking, or is already a mother who smokes. I do not think parents who smoke understand that the decision to continue smoking is no longer one they are making for themselves — it is a decision they have made for their children as well, children who are too young to even know what a cigarette does. I do not know how effective the new FDA labels will be, but I do know that educating parents about the far-reaching effects of their decisions is a step in the right direction.

Time's top 10 hangover cures

1. Drink lots of water
2. Another Beer
3. Gatorade
4. Greasy food
5. Running
6. Headache Pills
7. Multivitamins
8. Coffee
9. Self Pity
10. To not drink!

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Cato plays quoits



MARCUS CONSTANTINO | THE PARTHENON

During a game of quoits on Buskirk Field Wednesday, Rakeem Cato stopped to try his hand at the game. Cato is the Herd’s true freshman starting quarterback.

KOPP

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Pathway Project for regional accreditation. The Pathway Project includes a degree qualifications initiative designed to assess the value of a Marshall University degree in terms of accomplishment, learning outcomes and achievement on both the bachelor’s and master’s level.

“We’re very excited about this project because it aligns so well with our initiative to reshape the general education programs,” Kopp said. “There’s a whole series of initiatives that we have been working on to improve learning outcomes of our students and be far more targeted in what those learning outcomes should be in order to prepare students for success and competition.”

In order to effectively deliver programs of excellence, the university is also working to maintain high quality facilities.

“We have done a lot to develop our facilities in the past six years,” Kopp said.

“We are continuing that dedication to expand facility resources for the benefit of our students.”

Efforts in the past six years include: Construction of the Recreation Center, First-Year Residence Halls and the Engineering Building.

“I think that President Kopp and the administration have done an excellent job in taking the proper steps to fulfill their strategic vision,” said Ray Harrell, Jr., student body president. “In addition to the many new degree programs approved by the board of governors, the \$100 million in capital projects in progress to update classrooms and add facilities, like the addition to the engineering center and the new parking garage, show a commitment to that vision.”

The university has seen the largest freshmen classes in its history throughout the past two years, and the overall student population has also grown. The university is optimistic to see

continued growth of the student population within the next 10 years. Kopp said he envisions an undergraduate enrollment of 15,000 students and total enrollment to be near 20,000 students.

“Given the aspirations that we have for what Marshall University can become, I think that the student population is essential to actualize our goals.”

There are also initiatives to diversify the student population.

“One way we are working to do that is to grow our international student population very significantly, focusing heavily on increasing undergraduate international student numbers here on campus,” Kopp said. “We feel very strongly that in doing that, the international students will bring the richness of their communities, cultures and native lands to the learning environment and social environment of this campus community and will broaden the horizons of

our West Virginian students and all students.”

The university has broadened its recruitment base, and there has been an increase in nonresident students.

“We have a place for every qualified W.V. student who wants to attend Marshall University, but, by growing enrollment, we can now reach out to students across the nation and provide them with opportunities at Marshall University as well,” Kopp said.

These efforts strive to manifest the potential of the university and focus on the ultimate goal of providing excellence in education.

“We are identifying where those areas of opportunity are, the extent to which they build on existing strengths of the university, and which ones make most sense for the university to develop,” Kopp said.

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Panama Disease threatens future of the common Banana

BY NICHOLAS ST. FLEUR
CORNELL DAILY SUN, CORNELL U. VIA UWIRE

Bananas are America’s favorite fresh fruit. Every year Americans eat more of them than apples and oranges combined. But unlike apples, for which there are Granny Smiths, Red Delicious, Fuji, among others, and oranges, which are members of the citrus family, there is only one banana variation readily found in American markets: the Cavendish.

The Cavendish is the seedless, yellow “desert type” banana that Americans slice into their morning cereal and adorn their banana splits with. Of the thousands of banana cultivars, or variations, available worldwide the Cavendish is by far the most common. As a result of the vegetative growing techniques that large corporations use to produce the Cavendish, each of the over 100 billion commercial bananas sold annually is a genetically identical clone of one another. This lack of natural diversity, though beneficial for international marketing, has left the Cavendish vulnerable to species wide disaster—and unfortunately for the billions of people who enjoy them, a tropical threat known as Panama disease is currently devastating banana plantations throughout South Asia and Australia, and threatens to spread to the Americas.

Panama Disease, also called Fusarium wilt, is caused by the fungus *Fusarium oxysporum*. The fungus originates in the soil and travels up the plant’s vascular system, essentially rotting it from the inside out. A January edition of *The New Yorker* refers to the disease as the “H.I.V of banana plantations” because it can be

easily transmitted from plantation to plantation through contact with infested soil.

“The problem with Fusarium wilt is that it is caused by a fungus infecting the roots of the banana plant, eventually moving into the vascular system and basically plugging it up so that the plant can’t get sufficient water and minerals,” said Dr. Alice Churchill, Cornell U. professor of plant pathology and microbiology. “This causes the leaves to wilt and turn yellow, resulting in reduced photosynthesis and eventual death of the plant,” she said. Churchill’s own research is with a similar fungus caused disease that affects banana plant leaves called Black Sigatoka, also known as “black leaf streak.”

Black Sigatoka, while serious, is successfully controllable with chemical sprayings, unlike Panama disease.

Currently placing quarantines around infected areas in South Asia and Australia is one of the few protective methods that scientists can take to prevent the Fusarium wilt from spreading. Though many question the possibility of a banana apocalypse, according to Churchill, such an event is likely to occur because it has happened once before.

“By the end of the first half of the last century, a strain of the Panama disease pathogen, known as Race One, had basically wiped out the ‘Gros Michel’ cultivar, which was the commercial banana grown at that time in Central America,” she said.

The Gros Michel was the dessert banana that grandparents enjoyed as kids; it was apparently bigger, hardier, and tastier than the Cavendish variety that is eaten now.

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O’KEEFE

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for acceptance in June, when I was doing fieldwork in Portugal. I got the final acceptance around the last week of July and worked on final revisions and press outreach up until the actual publication on August 12.”

The website for the journal said that “Science” only accepts about 8 percent of the manuscripts submitted, and

about 80 percent of those manuscripts are rejected over the initial screening phase.

“Obviously, I was thrilled to have a high-profile publication, and getting that kind of press coverage was really fun and a highlight of my career,” O’Keefe said. “I am particularly proud that I did it here, at Marshall, a university with a deep commitment

to undergraduate teaching. I share that commitment and feel like teaching and research do not need to be mutually exclusive.”

O’Keefe is currently in the process of writing another paper. This time, it will be on the wolves of the La Brea tar pits.

“It’s a project that has been on hold while I have been wrapped up in the

plesiosaur baby,” O’Keefe said. “Given its obvious importance, that project became my research priority, aside from some fieldwork I did in Utah, Wyo., and Portugal. I am looking forward to getting back to my work on the wolves and finishing that project.”

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