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The Parthenon, March 30, 2012

Crystal Myers
Parthenon@marshall.edu

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THE PARTHENON

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Drinko to have fine free days

THE PARTHENON

Students with library fines have an opportunity for their expenses to be lowered and to give back to the Huntington community over the course of the next week.

The John Deaver Drinko Library will have its first Fine Free Days from April 1 through April 6. Any student with a library fines is eligible to have their fines forgiven for each canned food item they donate, and the donations will be given to the Huntington Area Food Bank, said Kelli Johnson, reference and instruction librarian.

"We understand that students don't have a lot of money, and sometimes you keep things a little bit longer, and you accumulate these fines," Johnson said. "So it was something we could do to help out the people who use our library, and also help out the community."

Students can bring the books they've checked out that need to be returned, as well as their donations, to the circulation desk at Drinko Library. Each canned food item equals \$1 off the students' fines, Johnson said.

Sarah Greer, managing director of online learning and libraries, said the Huntington Area Food Bank is looking for protein-rich foods such as peanut butter as well as dry, non-perishable items, and they request

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Students submit doodles to Google

THE PARTHENON

The Huntington Museum of Art will present artworks from West Virginia's state finalists chosen in the Doodle 4 Google 2012 competition.

Students from grades K-12 submitted their themed artwork to Google for the chance to redesign Google's logo. According to Google's website,

the company asked students to center their artwork around the phrase "If I could travel in time, I'd visit.."

"The Huntington Museum of Art is very proud to have been selected by Google to display the works of West Virginia's top student finalists," said Margaret Mary Layne, Huntington Museum of

Art executive director in a press release.

The local exhibition begins May 22 and continues until June 26, and admission to the exhibit will be free.

"Huntington Museum of Art is very excited about this project as the Museum's goal for the past 60 years of fostering creativity in children parallels perfectly with the

goals in this contest," Layne said in a press release.

The museum serves several schools districts in the Tri-State area and encourages creativity with tours and art-making opportunities.

A team of Google judges, as well as a panel of guest judges — including Katy Perry, Phineas and Ferb creator Jeff Marsh and

singer Jordin Sparks will choose the state finalists.

Public voting begins May 2 to choose the national finalists, one from each grade group.

The winning logo will be presented on Google's website on May 18.

EMPTY BOWLS fighting hunger in Huntington

BY KEYAIRA MCCAULEY
THE PARTHENON

The Ninth annual Empty Bowls Event continues fighting hunger one bowl at a time from 10:30 a.m. through 2 p.m. Friday, April 27 at First Presbyterian Church on Fifth Avenue in Huntington.

Jaye Ike, special projects coordinator for the College of Fine Arts at Marshall, said it's really important for us to remember that hunger is a huge issue.

"It's awful to think that somebody is hungry and it's something I think we can get under control," Ike said. "I think hunger in Huntington is much more prevalent than we think it is, I just can't fathom not knowing how I was going to feed my child."

Empty Bowls is a national initiative committed to ending hunger. At an Empty Bowls fundraiser, patrons pay \$ 12 and choose a hand-made ceramic bowl. They wait in a cafeteria line and choose a soup and beverage.

"We call it a modest lunch and it's that way on purpose," Ike said. "The point is to feel like you've gone



FILE PHOTO

through a soup kitchen line."

Brittany Spencer, of Cross Lanes, said when she heard about Empty Bowls from friends at Marshall last year, she immediately knew she wanted to participate.

"It's great that people are really trying to help other

people and do something about this," Spencer said. "I have a three-year-old son and I'm glad that he can still have an example of how a community is supposed to come together to support something so important."

Ike said every penny of the

\$ 12 goes to the Huntington Area Food Bank.

"For every person that attends, the food bank is able to provide 64 meals and they serve 96,000 people a month," Ike said. "I think the problem is we don't think about how big it is here."

Empty Bowls was started in Michigan by a high school teacher in 1990. According to the Empty Bowls Aberdeen website, guests were served a simple meal of soup and bread, and were

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Students say iPhone makes life easier

BY SHANE ARRINGTON
THE PARTHENON

Go out onto any university campus and ask students if they would make their lives easier right now if they could. While there may be a random student who gives you an answer against the norm, chances are most will give you the same answer.

Smartphones claim to make lives easier. They provide quick access to the Internet and other media and keep students, professionals, anyone connected while mobile. One Marshall University student, who owns a smartphone, said he'd upgrade to an iPhone in a second because he feels it would go above and beyond his current smartphone.

"They just make life so much easier in my opinion," said Nathan Nau, an international affairs major. "Your overall communication is better — email, text, phone calls, everything. You can also play games

with your friends and connect to the Internet."

Walk around any common area on Marshall's campus, and you will see many people with their smartphones out and fingers moving, engaging in one of the various activities available to them in this digital age.

Brittany Cavender, elementary education major, recently exchanged her Blackberry, another popular smartphone, for an iPhone — something she considers an upgrade.

"I actually just got my iPhone about a month ago," Cavender said. "I got one because everyone else has one. But it is worth it. With all the apps on there, I am never bored. I'm always listening to the Pandora app I also downloaded the Marshall app. So I could check my email quickly and access Blackboard right before class to see if any of my classes have been cancelled. It's very convenient."

The Marshall MU Mobile app is a free app that

provides students with quick access to a large variety of Marshall specific information. As Cavender said, students can access their email and Blackboard accounts, but on top of that they can also check Marshall news, athletic schedules, campus maps and more.

"The Marshall app is great, and I think more students should download it," said Hilary Gibson, pre-communications disorder major. "I use that and I also use Google a lot. If there's something I'm questioning I automatically go to my Google app and Google whatever question I have and there's the answer, so quick."

The convenience of the iPhone is so great, according to Gibson, that she uses it not only uses it while on the go, utilizing Wi-Fi and 3G, but also while it in her room. She said just bringing out the iPhone is easier and faster than powering up and using her laptop

when looking for a quick answer.

"I'm definitely team iPhone," Gibson said. "My roommate has a Droid, and I hate it. It's so confusing and she doesn't have access to all the apps I have so there are things we can't do together."

Cavender agrees with Gibson in finding iPhone's better than other smartphones.

"My Blackberry wasn't anything special. I'm definitely pro-iPhone," Cavender said. "I'm definitely a fan of the Otterbox cases. I have dropped this thing off a two-story building and it's still perfect."

Cavender and Gibson said they both agree that their lives are easier because of their iPhones. They help them stay connected through various apps, not only to the world in general, but also to specific things like Marshall.

Shane Arrington can be contacted at arrington16@marshall.edu.



NEWS

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Financial aid options for summer classes now open

THE PARTHENON

The options are open for students who are in need of financial aid for summer classes.

According to the Office of Financial Assistance, about 74 percent of Marshall University's undergraduate population receives financial aid.

These students receive their financial assistance from loans, grants, scholarships and student employment.

Kathy Bialk the director in the Office of Financial Assistance said Marshall offers a wide variety of merit-based scholarships and need-based financial aid programs to provide you with even greater value and affordability.

The office awards just about \$140 million to graduate, undergraduate and professional students.

Financial aid determination has many different factors. For the students who rely on financial

aid every semester to help them through their undergrad, the amount you receive back from financial aid all depends on your attendance.

Students who take summer classes, in order to receive financial aid, must apply before the April 16 deadline.

"The deadline for financial aid for the state of West Virginia grant is on April 16," Bialk said. "If any students miss this deadline, they will have to borrow more money

towards student loans."

Erik Bjornson, undecided junior from Huntington, said he needs to make sure he gets some credit hours under his belt this summer.

"In order for me to graduate on time, I will need to take summer courses," Bjornson said. "That means I will have to apply for financial aid, and I am so glad that I did."

Bjornson said he already receives money from the state during his fall and spring semesters, help

during the summer to help pay for courses.

Will Justice a business sophomore from St. Albans, W.Va., said he likes that Marshall offers summer courses for him to take online and on campus.

"The classes are very convenient for me, but the greatest thing is being able to receive that financial aid so I can take them" Justice said.

Justice said his friends plan to take one three credit hour class online and one

three credit hour class on campus this summer.

"The chance to be able to take summer classes so I can get ahead of my graduation date, and to have that opportunity to have aid is such a blessing" Justice said.

Justice said overall the tuition that him and his family pay for him to go to Marshall has been very affordable and easy to work with.

Marshall's tuition and fee rates are 31 percent lower than the national average at any public four-year school.

Sophomore gives back to Vietnamese community

BY KAYLA MARCUM
THE PARTHENON

Sophomore public relations major Alexandra Franke spent her spring break giving back to a community: A Vietnam community.

Franke and her church, the Vineyard Community Church of Etna, Ohio, participated in the "Free Wheel Chair Mission." The idea behind the mission is to take a small team of church members to Vietnam to assemble wheelchairs for those in need.

This past trip was Franke's second to the country. She said her first trip to the country was an experience she'll never forget.

"It was a huge culture shock," Franke said. "It just felt like a totally different world. When I first went, it seemed like it was a completely different planet. I tell people it's hard to believe that God made all this. It's just a totally different world."

Franke said she had always had an interest in mission trips, but when her pastor first announced that he would be taking a small group to Vietnam, she knew she had to go.

"(Mission trips) are



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Alexandra Franke (left) spends her spring break in Vietnam to assemble wheelchairs for those in need. This was her second trip to the country.

something I prayed about for a long time and just waited for the right time," Franke said. "But when our pastor told us that he felt like he needed to send a team to distribute the wheelchairs that we bought, I just felt it."

Franke was very emotional about the decision.

"I started crying," Alex said. "I told my mom 'I have to go.'"

When Alex's mother met her enthusiasm with some hesitation, Franke became even more passionate about her cause.

"I was like 'No! I have to go!'" Alex said. "I just really felt it and everything just started happening."

Franke said it's very humbling to meet people in such great need and be able to assist them.

"Some people show up

being pushed in wheelbarrows just to get their chairs because they don't have limbs," Franke said. "There are children with mental disabilities that come in. It's hard for their parents to take care of them, so the wheelchairs really help their family out."

Franke said assembling the wheelchairs is simple, and she thinks she gets

more than she gives out of the situation.

"It takes about two minutes to assemble a chair. They're kind of like our plastic lawn chairs without the legs. We attach them to a metal frame and put a couple of mountain bike tires on them and give them out at distribution centers with the help of the Red Cross," Franke said.

Franke said the memories

and blessings the communities bring her far outweigh the work she puts in to the assembling.

Franke said she is most grateful for an experience she had on her first trip to Vietnam.

"There's a Bible school there (that we work with) where students are being trained to be evangelical

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POLICE BLOTTER

BY ALLYSON WARNER
THE PARTHENON

The following information was provided by the Marshall University Police Department.

AIN'T NOTHIN' BUT A KEY THANG

On March 16, a victim reported to campus police her vehicle had been damaged while in a student parking lot. She stated an unknown person scratched the paint off her vehicle between March 7 and March 9. The suspect scratched the hood, roof, passenger side, and trunk. There are no suspects at this time.

STONED STUDYING

On March 19, an odor of marijuana was noticed coming from a dorm room on campus. During a routine room check in South Residence Hall, the compliant discovered a plastic container of marijuana in an opened desk drawer. The drug was then seized and placed into evidence.

FROM THE WINDOOOOW...

On March 23 at 5:52 p.m., a campus service worker discovered room 122 in Gullickson Hall door had been vandalized. The complaint noticed the small window on the door was broken out. There are no suspects at this time.

Allyson Warner can be contacted at warner65@marshall.edu.

Pancake breakfast set for Saturday

THE PARTHENON

Students from Marshall's Public Relations Campaign Club are hosting a pancake breakfast from 9 a.m. through noon Friday at Huntington's Kitchen. The breakfast is taking place to raise money for River Valley Child Development Services.

"Besides doing the trivia night, we wanted to include a family style fundraiser," said Libby Clark, senior public relations major from Martinsburg W.Va. "We hope to reach our ultimate goal of about \$8000 for this campaign."

The cost is \$5 a person. Proceeds from the event will go directly toward funding a benefit for River Valley Child Development Services.

The benefit will fund is called Questions and will be

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Students try hand at trivia with 'JEOPARTY'

BY MARISSA DEMARIA
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University students gathered in the Ed Gross Room Thursday for an evening of trivia with guest Sandy Sowell.

The game consisted of four rounds with 12 questions in each round. Sowell posed the questions, and participants were eligible for cash prizes at the conclusion of each round.

Guests were given a digital voting device to record their answers, and once those answers were recorded, they appeared onscreen for the audience to see. Each possible answer was followed by the percentage of audience members who guessed that particular answer.

Sowell plays host to a series of individualized events geared toward the interconnectedness of audiences through what she calls, "audience interactive games and shows."

She coordinates events for local corporations and institutions year-round, while keeping

each game or show unique to the audience she serves.

Sowell, from Hurricane, W.Va., brought some Marshall pride to participants by coordinating select prizes in green and white - in an attempt to connect with her audience.

While many of the participants might have been lured in by the notion of winning a cash prize, one guest followed the crowd for a different reason.

Jacob Terry, senior music education major, attended the event along with his friends for one simple reason.

"I really enjoy the competition involved in games like this," Terry said. "My friends were going so I figured, I may as well go too."

While the event is modeled after the television show "JEOPARTY", Sowell said the one quirk separating the two is that her version is very much like a party, hence the tokened phrase "JEOPARTY."

Meghann Ferguson, resident director for both the Willis and Gibson residence



MARISSA DEMARIA | THE PARTHENON

"JEOPARTY!" participants celebrate as the results of the first round are given.

halls said the students who participated at "JEOPARTY" had were provided with an excellent platform to engage themselves in the Marshall community.

"I think it is important for

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SPORTS

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2012 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

Herd prepares for Liberty

BY CAITIE SMITH
THE PARTHENON

The Marshall University baseball team will be traveling to Beckley this weekend for a “home” series against the Liberty University Flames. This matchup will be the final non-conference weekend for the Herd.

The Herd enters the series on a three-game losing streak — having lost six of the last nine games.

“This weekend our team just needs to play to our ability and do the things we’ve been working on and practicing,” head coach Jeff

Waggoner said.

While the Flames are coming off a two game losing streak, they post an overall record of 23-5 and are 5-1 in Big South conference play.

“They’re a good team and they have a great record,” Waggoner said. “We’ve got our hands full.”

Marshall is 2-12 against Liberty all-time and last faced the Flames in 2007 when they were swept in a three game series.

The Herd hopes smart moves on the base path and aggressiveness at the plate will play into their performance this weekend. First

baseman Nathan Gomez enters the series leading the team in batting average (.322) and run production (27 RBIs).

Alfredo Brito comes into the weekend with a 12 game hitting streak.

Juniors Isaac Ballou and Gray Stafford will be looking to increase their stolen base numbers. Ballou enters the game with 10 (second in C-USA) and Stafford with seven (tied for fifth in C-USA).

“We’re not so much concerned about our opponent,” Waggoner said. “We just want to play good baseball.”

Probable starters for this

weekend are likely to be sophomore Aaron Blair on Friday, veteran Mike Mason on Saturday and junior Wayland Moore to cap off the series on Sunday.

Blair has an ERA of 3.89 in 34 and 2/3 innings of work, while Mason’s ERA is 3.41 in 37 innings pitched.

The two pitchers likely to go against Blair and Mason, John Niggil and Patrick Eckelbarger, each have two complete games under their belts, and Liberty is 12-0 in their starts.

“We need to get this team rolling and do the things that will help us win games.

It’s important that we have a strong week leading into Memphis,” Waggoner said.

The Herd will resume conference play next weekend when they host a home series against Memphis.

Caitie Smith can be contacted at smith1650@marshall.edu.



Small senior class leads Herd through spring

BY JAKE SNYDER
SPORTS EDITOR

To say the Marshall University football team is lacking seniors would perhaps be a gross understatement.

The Herd boasts just four seniors on the spring roster practices beginning this week. But for head coach Doc Holliday, young does not necessarily mean green.

“You’ve got a bunch of other young guys who have played a lot of football,” Holliday said. “You look around

and (junior) Darryl Roberts is a young corner, but he’s started for two years now. You have a lot of guys in that same boat. Youth doesn’t bother me.”

Holliday continued, pointing out several of the juniors who have stepped into leadership roles.

“I’ve been telling these guys all along, ‘you don’t have to be a senior to lead,’” Holliday said. “(Junior) Marques Aiken is a guy I have talked about. (Junior) Billy Mitchell has done a nice job. (Junior) Jeremiah Taylor

has done a great job. We’ve got a lot of young kids that have assumed that role.”

For the four seniors — Aaron Dobson, Antavious Wilson, Devin Arrington and Martin Ward — the responsibility lies upon them to be leaders.

“I was always a voice on the team since I’ve been starting,” Arrington said. “I was always in the huddle motivating guys or on the sideline motivating guys so I just have to pick it up extra — a little bit more.”

Dobson said he learned

how to be a leader based on an old friend now bound for the National Football League — Vinny Curry.

“It’s a different role,” Dobson said. “You have to be a different personality to be that. I was watching Vinny last year, and I’m just kind of following in his footsteps.”

Holliday said Dobson’s leadership position began immediately following the Herd’s victory in the Beef ‘O’Brady’s Bowl, St. Petersburg.

“I told Aaron right after the bowl game that night,”

Holliday said. “I said it’s his turn now. He’s has to step up. He has to be a vocal guy. He’s got to do for our football team this year what Vinny did a year ago. Vinny made the same decision he made, and Aaron needs to come back and have the same goals set for himself, which he does — as Vinny did.”

For Arrington, leadership comes through action.

“I’m trying to come out here and practice hard every day so young guys can see me,” Arrington said. “I try to be a voice on the sideline

helping them out.”

With three of the four assuming skill positions on the offensive side of the ball, it seems Dobson kept it simple as to what the group had to do.

“We definitely have to come out and lead our offense,” Dobson said.

The third spring begins at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, with 12 practices left in the session leading up to the April 28 Spring Game.

Jake Snyder can be contacted at snyder100@marshall.edu.



MARCUS CONSTANTINO | THE PARTHENON

Senior wide receiver Antavious Wilson takes a break during Thursday’s spring practice. Wilson makes up one quarter of the Marshall senior class.

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THE VILLAGE ON SIXTH
PARTHENON - 1/4 PAGE
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OPINION

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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.

STAFF

CRYSTAL MYERS
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

myers132@marshall.edu

WILLIAM LINEBERRY
MANAGING EDITOR
lineberry2@marshall.edu

KATIE QUINONEZ
NEWS EDITOR
quinonez@marshall.edu

JAKE SNYDER
SPORTS EDITOR
snyder100@marshall.edu

KELSEY THOMAS
LIFE! EDITOR
thomas336@marshall.edu

ADAM ROGERS
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR
rogers11@marshall.edu

MARCUS CONSTANTINO
PHOTO EDITOR
constantino2@marshall.edu

TYLER KES
DIGITAL EDITOR
kes@marshall.edu

ARIAN JALALI
COPY EDITOR
jalali@marshall.edu

JOHN GIBB
ASSIGNMENT EDITOR
gibb@marshall.edu

PATRICK WEBB
CARTOON EDITOR
webb190@marshall.edu

CONTACT US

109 Communications Bldg.
Marshall University
One John Marshall Drive
Huntington, West Virginia 25755
parthenon@marshall.edu

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.

ONLINE POLL

Visit us at
marshallparthenon.com
to let us know what you think.

Who will win the NCAA basketball championship? Results

- University of Kentucky Wildcats : 45 percent
- The Ohio State University Buckeyes: 25 percent
- Kansas University Jayhawks: 20 percent
- University of Louisville Cardinals: 10 percent

EDITORIAL

MU should strive to raise its retention rate or lower its admissions rate

As Marshall University continues to have record high freshman enrollment numbers, there is much to be taken into consideration when evaluating this — mainly the university's high admission rate. Marshall, according to college-board.org, is a 'less selective' school, with an acceptance rate of 81 percent. This is compared to other schools which average around 70 percent admissions for incoming freshmen classes. So, yes, it is good that Marshall is increasing its enrollment and getting more people into college. However, there is the question of quantity over quality. Often times it seems that many people are admitted but some tend drop out after the first semester, or full year. According to college-insight.org, Marshall has a 70 percent retention rate after the first year. What about the other 30 percent?

Last year, Marshall's enrollment went up by three percent. It was the largest freshman class the university had ever encountered. But, if the numbers are correct, 30 percent of those admitted will drop out of school. Thus, the high admission rate paid off little

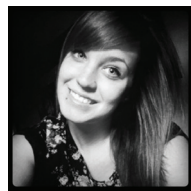
when looking at enrollment in the long run. More efforts should be made if Marshall is going to continue to have a high admission rate. If no efforts are going to be made to do such, the admissions rate should be lowered.

It also might raise the standards of the institution that has great potential to be a national competitor in regards to academic research. This is not to say that Marshall is not a good institution, we all know it is. What it is meant to say is that if Marshall is going to continue to recruit and admit heavily, all efforts should be made to keep those admitted until they graduate.

Marshall's average graduation rate (around 45 percent, according to college-insight.org) is nearly the same as schools like West Virginia University and the University of Louisville. But the admissions rate to Marshall is nearly 10 to 20 percent higher than the previously mentioned institutions. If Marshall chooses to continue with a high admission rate, record size classes will continue to come in. And if this is the case Marshall should strive to retain as many freshmen as

COLUMN

Money shouldn't determine what major people choose



BY SYDNEY RANSON
THE PARTHENON

Money or happiness? Doctor or a not-so-established career? Comfortable living or scraping for change to afford this month's rent? These are questions with which I was constantly faced when I was declaring my major and concentration at the beginning of college.

When I was a senior in high school, I thought I had my perfect future all figured out. I was going to go to West Virginia University and major in biology with a concentration in medicine. After that, I would pursue medical school and eventually become a cardiologist. I can't say how proud this made my parents, and how happy it made me to see them so proud. My dad would tell all of his buddies at work, "My daughter is studying biology in Morgantown. She's going to be a doctor."

I did attend West Virginia University and study what I had planned, but after only one semester there, I just didn't feel quite like I belonged. That's when I decided something had to change. I transferred to Marshall University for the second semester of my freshman year, and continued to pursue my degree in biology, still with hopes to go to medical school.

Since beginning college, I had mainly taken science and math courses for three semesters in a row. Although they used to be my favorite areas of study, I was more than burned out on equations and numbers. I had been taking my first English course here at Marshall, and that's when it hit me: I had found what I loved to do, and that is

to write.

I told myself over and over, "Sydney, you can't switch majors. You've come too far already to give this up. Your parents are so proud."

I felt like my parents had placed me on a pedestal for having dreams of becoming a cardiologist, and thinking about letting them down or failing them in any way broke my heart. I knew I couldn't just make this huge change in my life without so much as consulting them, so after I had a much needed meeting with a professor of mine, I made the dreaded phone call home.

My parents were shocked at first, because I had always wanted to have a career in the medical field. After crying into the receiver about my fear of them being disappointed in me, they told me they were supportive and only want me to be happy in whatever I decide to do in life.

After hanging up, I went to Old Main and filled out paperwork to transfer to the college of liberal arts. Now I am finishing up my first semester as an English major, and I couldn't be any happier with my decision. I love every minute of every class that I am taking, and I can't wait to see what the future has in store for me.

Isn't that what college is all about? Not getting a degree to make money, but getting a degree that will help you do what you love. I've always said, "I'd rather be poor and happy, than rich and miserable." I still have people ask me what my major is, and when I tell them I'm studying English, they ask what I plan on doing. The truth is: I'm not sure. But I think I like not having it all figured out, because it didn't work so well the first time around.

Sydney Ranson can be contacted at ranson17@marshall.edu.

GREEK WEEK GHOST STORIES



COLUMN

Put a face on welfare before judgment is passed



BY BISHOP NASH
THE PARTHENON

There is nothing more blasphemous — in my eyes — than a human forgetting their humanity. To the religious minded, we are the greatest, most intricate of God's creations. To those of a more skeptical nature, we're blessed to have formed into beings capable of this much feeling and reason. Whether the latter, the former or otherwise, you can't look at this with clear eyes and not see the beauty of who you are.

You've got some of the most complex tools on the planet at your disposal right now. I've got 10 fingers to bang this out on simulated glowing paper and eyes to watch the letters grow line by line down my laptop screen. I've got a mind that can translate my brain's dialogue into written words,

so that you can take this and read it in your own voice — or mine if you've heard it. Doesn't matter to you or me really, we've got the power to do both if we like.

Do you really understand how lucky you are to be alive and human? You're the most dominant of mammals and the only creature capable of processing these very words.

Who are we as individuals to not preserve and take care of such equally marvelous creations: Our fellow man?

You've probably got food in your belly, or are not far from it. This is the first civilization in history where starvation isn't even a minor issue. Whether you like it or not, your taxes are going to feed your fellow man through our welfare programs. Forced charity is heartless, but food gets put on the table all the same.

I truly believe most of the poor aren't lazy. My parents were on welfare when my little sister was born in 1993, when dad was working doubles left-and-right waiting tables and mom was busy handling baby Bishop in a house with no heating,

cooling or city water. Eighteen years later, two kids were well-fed, taken on vacation yearly, given braces and Christmas presents, put into college and handed cars to get them there. My 10-year old brother will get the same, if not better.

Don't tell me welfare is for the lazy.

Yeah, I've seen the lazy. I've also seen the tired, the despairing, the wanton whores and those just happy to have a fake prescription for something nice and numbing. I may have grown up and lived in Cabell County, but not in Huntington. I'm from "the bad parts." The backwoods. The meth labs and the stray dogs. Where deer are kings of the road. Derelict trailers sit next to the nicely kept houses of shut-in geriatrics. The new blood rots while the old withers. I've seen the drug addicts sitting in thresholds with no doors, cigarette in hand, watching their shirtless, shoeless toddlers run in the yard in the middle of October. I've seen men with teeth that looked worse than mine when the Tooth Fairy was slipping me money at night. I've seen

women standing behind gas station counters with voices smoked to sound like Tom Waits and faces as leathery as my beloved baseball glove.

I'm surrounded by those who need help.

Either way you look at it, humanity could be God's greatest creation or the most spectacular cosmic accident ever. The fact that you're reading this is a miracle. If you could look past the politics of the welfare question while tossing out the predisposed notion of your tax dollars going to crack heads, you might catch your heart breaking a bit. It's not an issue of numbers or spreadsheets, it's about people and the faces you meet everyday, especially in West Virginia. The bitter idea of the welfare system handing money to the lazy and drug-addicted has to go. Our lives are worth too damn much to let others live in misery while those who can afford it sit with poison in their hearts.

If you're going to be a human, be a good one.

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

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Proposed Visual Arts Center hopes to expand college of fine arts

BY ALLYSON WARNER
THE PARTHENON

With its new building in the making, the department of art and design hopes to make Marshall University, the college of fine arts and the city of Huntington proud.

The department is hard at work in the design phase to obtain the best possible outcome of its soon-to-be new home.

"We are in the design phase right now, and how long that takes depends on a number of factors," said Byron Clercx, chairperson of the department of art and design. "We have already identified a lot of our programming space, and we're waiting for the architect's viewpoint now."

The university has explored options for having a fine arts complex in the past, except this was to be placed on campus, but the idea didn't turn out. The university continued looking for a location and eventually found a building in the downtown area.

Clercx said by positioning the Visual Arts Center in a highly-visible downtown location, the influx of people and money will build on the investments that have reinvigorated the downtown core. With the help of this new building, it will help the

economic and cultural revival of the area.

The new building will be located in the old Stone and Thomas Department Store located on Third Avenue across from Pullman Square.

"After exploring options on campus, the downtown area had a prominent but vacant storefront," Clercx said.

The department is hoping the building will be move-in-ready by August, however a realistic time frame for the building to be up and fully functional is currently aimed at January 2014. The ending project will have seven different floors and each floor at almost 10,000 square feet.

One reason for the new Visual Arts Center is for the program to grow into something bigger in the coming years.

"With the new Visual Arts Center, curriculum can be expanded and they will have the room to accommodate more students," said Donald Van Horn, college of fine arts dean.

The Visual Arts Center will house most of the departmental coursework the program offers to students. These programs include graphic design, an art gallery, art history, painting and more.

"It will surely be an active

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Department of Art and Design at Marshall hopes to expand the college of fine arts by positioning the Visual Arts Center in a highly-visible downtown location. The building will be move-in-ready by August.

Local comedic talent showcased at Black Sheep

BY CHELSIE SCHULDIES
THE PARTHENON

Local comedians showcased their talents at the Black Sheep Burrito and Brews Comedy Night.

Comedy Night is at 9:30 p.m. every other Wednesday.

Comedian Ian Nolte has been performing stand up comedy since last summer.

"This place is the best place I've ever done comedy," Nolte said. "I've mainly done comedy in bars."

Eric Crusan has been a stand up comedian for a year.

"I first started at the Funny Bone," Crusan said. "My first time performing, the judges asked me if I was sure I had never done comedy before. That was my first time on stage so I guess I did pretty good."

Crusan said the second time he participated in open mic night he won and was the host of his third mic night.

"Since the Funny Bone closed, I started doing stand up in burrito places and coffee shops in Logan," Crusan said. "I'm moving in a week and a half to Florida, and I already have shows lined up in actual comedy clubs when I get there."

Nolte said he enjoys watching Crusan tell jokes because he is telling stories.

"Crusan tells stories, which is what people like to hear," Nolte said. "I also like watching him do it because every time he does it, it's like watching him figure it out for the first time — which I think is exciting."

Crusan said he cannot write jokes. Instead, he goes on stage and tries to tell stories and hopes they work.

"For the most part, my brain just grabs stuff and

goes with it," Crusan said. "I pretty much just wing it. If I can just drag the same story out for 10 minutes and be hilarious the whole time, I feel like I am everywhere."

While Crusan does not plan his own jokes, Nolte said he spends time writing out bits.

"Basically what I do is spend one evening writing all the possible things I might say up there," Nolte said. "Then I try to go up there and try to say the ones that feel the funniest right then."

Nolte said a huge part of comedy is making sure comedians connect with the audience, and that is not always an easy thing to do.

"Everybody gets 30 seconds," Nolte said. "If you don't make the audience pay attention to you in 30 seconds, everyone goes back to their conversations."

Comedian Cody Lambert is one of the hosts of Comedy Night and has been performing stand up comedy for a year and a half. He has performed at "Go Bananas" in Cincinnati, Ohio, Comedy off Broadway in Lexington, Ky., and various shows in southern West Virginia.

"Whether or not people want to believe it, there are some really funny people in this town," Lambert said. "Comedy in this town can really go someplace, just like anything in this town. People have got to get behind it."

Lambert said he has opened for big-name comedians such as April Macie from "I Am Comic," Ryan Singer who was on the "Tonight Show" and Chad Daniels who had his own Comedy Central special.

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