

2-24-2012

The Parthenon, February 24, 2012

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Recommended Citation

Myers, Crystal, "The Parthenon, February 24, 2012" (2012). *The Parthenon*. Paper 124.
<http://mds.marshall.edu/parthenon/124>

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FRIDAY

February 24, 2012

THE PARTHENON

VOL. 115 NO. 91 | MARSHALL UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM



SHANE ARRINGTON | THE PARTHENON

Dan Bailey and Ken Woodard teach local high school students how to build a flood wall to protect a model village during a demonstration on civil engineering by representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Huntington District on Thursday in Marshall University's Memorial Student Center. The demonstration was part of the 19th annual Engineering Career Day organized by the Huntington post of the Society of American Military Engineers and Marshall University.

MURPHY SINGS ANTHEM

BY LAWREN HIGHTOWER
THE PARTHENON

West Virginia native, Landau Eugene Murphy Jr., winner of NBC's America's Got Talent season six, will perform at the Cam Henderson Center on Saturday.

Murphy, will sing the national anthem at the Marshall University men's basketball game against Memphis.

Murphy is originally from Logan, W.Va. This will be his first performance at Marshall.

Mike Hamrick, Marshall athletic director, said the event will be special and flattering.

"To have a West Virginia native who has represented his state in such a positive manner on a national stage, for one of the Herd's biggest games, is very special and flattering," Hamrick said.

The Thundering Herd (17-10, 7-5) takes on the Memphis Tigers. The Tigers beat the Herd 83-76 last month at the Fed Ex Arena in Memphis, Tenn.

Will Barton leads the Tigers in both points with (17.9 per game) and rebounds averaging 8.1 boards per contest.

This game is important for the Herd, as they look to keep pace in the C-USA standings.

Marshall head coach Tom Herrion believes that having Murphy at the game will excite the crowd and give the home team an advantage.

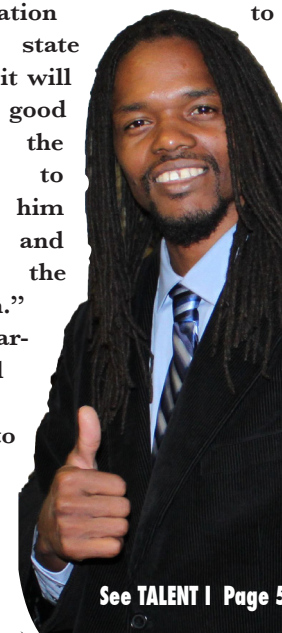
"It's great," Herrion said. "He has become such a global sensation. He's one of West Virginia's own. We are proud of him and glad to have him here to be part of our experience. He's a part of the extended Marshall family."

Murphy previously performed at West Virginia in December 2011

Marshall is honored to have Murphy here said Aaron Goebbel, Marshall associate athletic director for external affairs.

"We are really excited to have Landau here," Goebbel said, "He is a great representation to this state and it will be good for the fans to see him live and in the flesh."

Marshall will try to stay hot



See TALENT | Page 5

SAME shows high school students engineering possibilities

BY SHANE ARRINGTON
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University and the Society of American Military Engineers Huntington Post provided local high school students the opportunity to submerge themselves in the world of engineering during the 19th annual Engineering Career Day on Thursday.

Sophomores from West Virginia, Kentucky and Ohio gathered in Marshall's Memorial Student Center where they were exposed to

local and regional professional engineering companies who took the time to provide demonstrations for the students.

Jeff Huffman, engineering professor at Marshall and a member of the SAME Huntington Post board of directors, said it's important to bring these young minds to events like this and share all that engineering has to offer.

"The United States is getting behind on producing good quality engineers," Huffman said. "With the

infrastructure of the U.S. getting in worse shape, we need people to be able to rebuild it so we can have roads, bridges and dams that work properly."

Huffman also said it's a bonus to Marshall to have this event there. He said it's good for students in the area to know Marshall has an engineering program, and anything that helps grow the program is a great thing.

A Fairland High School teacher agrees with Huffman on the importance of exposing young students to

possible futures as early as possible. So much so, he's been bringing students to this career day for 10 years.

"I think it's a great opportunity to expose the students to the different engineering fields," said Dan Webb, physical science and chemistry teacher. We need engineers for everything. From medical devices to medical procedures, iPods, TVs, bridges and just about everything else. Without engineers, we wouldn't have any of those things."

Along the walls of the

large conference room, engineering companies covering a variety of specialties, as well as Marshall and West Virginia University representatives promoting their programs, gave presentations of their work to the students.

One Ohio student said he was impressed with the event and emphasized how it was an eye-opening experience for him and his peers.

"I think we were all fairly interested in engineering

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Texting while driving ban passes Senate

BY HILARY FREEMAN
THE PARTHENON

In West Virginia, it could soon be possible that texting while at a stoplight could get a driver a ticket.

In West Virginia, a texting while driving ban is being voted on in the House of Delegates that will make texting while driving a primary offense.

Currently, texting and driving is a secondary offense meaning that the driver can only be cited for texting if they are already pulled over for another reason.

"It's hard to keep your wheels on the road when your eyes aren't," said Senator Jeff Kessler, president of the senate and co-writer of the bill, in a video news release.

The bill states that texting includes surfing the internet, instant messaging, short messaging or any kind of text retrieval but does not include looking up a phone number, inputting information into a GPS or

using a music player.

Courtney White, junior photography major at Marshall University, said it was time to make texting and driving illegal.

"It's the same amount of distraction as drinking and driving," White said. "It is fact that if you are going 60 miles per hour on the interstate and you look down at your phone for three and half seconds, you have already driven the distance of a football field, and that is horrifying."

The bill defines operating a motor vehicle as "with the motor running, including while temporarily stationary because of traffic, traffic control devices, or other momentary delays" — meaning that even at a stop sign, texting is not tolerated.

The West Virginia Senate unanimously voted in a 34-to-zero vote to ban texting while driving, and the legislation has now moved to the House of Delegates for a vote.

Senator Richard Brown,

Majority Whip from Wyoming County, said in a video release that the key is to getting a code to let drivers know it is illegal.

"The important thing is getting a law on the books that says you can't text and drive," Brown said.

The writers of the bill

also propose that talking on a cell phone become a secondary offense.

White said banning talking on a cell phone while driving, even as a secondary offense, is a little bit too far.

"Some conversations cannot wait until later,"

White said. "I feel like if you are not driving recklessly while talking, it is not a problem. I do not feel like it makes sense to ban talking because some things cannot wait."

Hilary Freeman can be contacted at roush89@marshall.edu.

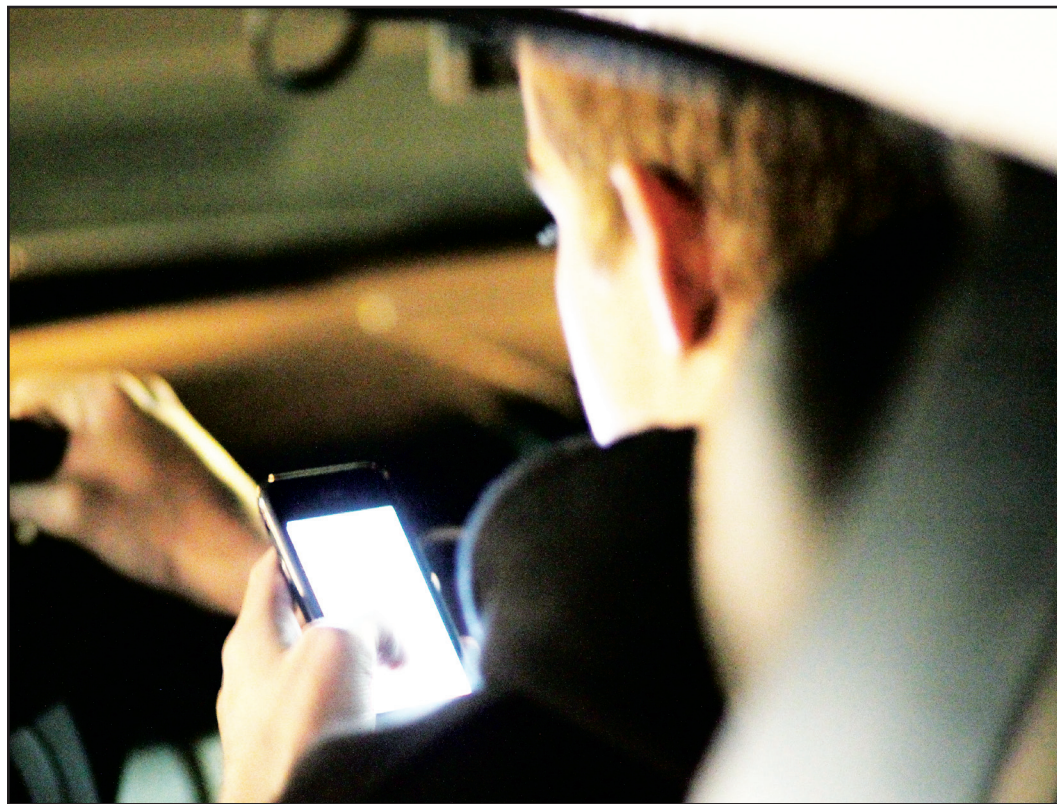


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MARCUS CONSTANTINO

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A PERFECT PAWN
PARTHENON STRIP AD

Students have opportunity to learn about financial aid

BY ANDREW FROBEL
THE PARTHENON

Students in a first year seminar class 100 had the chance Thursday to learn more about financial aid, potential scholarships and student loan debt worries.

Maria Babiuc-Hamilton, assistant professor of the department of physics, took the time to have her FYS class listen to a guest speaker.

Kathy Bialk, director of financial aid, lectured the class on information to apply for different kinds of scholarships, the simplicity of borrowing money for student loans and information about the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

The office of financial aid strives to make the FAFSA process much easier and understandable to the students. Bialk said the main objective for the speech is to enlighten the students on how much money will be spent throughout college and what to expect financially.

Brandon Bain, freshman secondary education major of social studies from

Lewisburg, W.Va., is in the FYS 100 class.

Bain is on two different types of financial aid. One source of aid he receives is from the West Virginia Promise Scholarship, a merit-based financial aid program for West Virginia residents.

His other source of aid comes from the unsubsidized-direct loans at Marshall University. While Bain is on the unsubsidized-direct student loans, he said he can pay the interest while he is in school.

Bain and his other classmates walked away with more knowledge of how to handle their finances throughout their college tenure.

“While sitting through this presentation, I learned that I am racking up a lot of interest,” Bain said.

One of the great concepts that Bialk said she went over in her presentation was the repayment periods available to students. Bialksaid she covered a lot on student forgiveness and loan debt worries.

“I got a much better idea of what Marshall is expected of me, what I need



MARCUS CONSTANTINO | THE PARTHENON

Students in a first year seminar (FYS) class learn about opportunities such as potential scholarships and how to deal with loan debt.

to expect in terms of repayment and how to go about my spending,” Bain said.

“The biggest thing I learned today was the

difference between subsidized and unsubsidized student loans,” Bain said. “They actually have a major difference between the

two.”

The office of financial aid said they plan to continue working hard and get the word out there to students

regarding any of their financial worries.

Andrew Frobel can be contacted at frobel@marshall.edu.

Faculty Senate approves all recommendations

BY SARAH STILES
THE PARTHENON

The seven Senate Recommendations presented to the Faculty Senate Thursday afternoon were approved with little or no discussion.

The recommendations will now go to President Stephen Kopp’s office for university approval.

Camilla Brammer, senate chairman, announced several campus announcements and previous meetings to the Faculty Senate.

Brammer also presented a few upcoming events, such as Marshall University Day at the capitol Tuesday and the two commencement ceremonies scheduled for May 5th.

Only one of the Senate Recommendations, SR-11-12-(16) 54 EC, brought discussion.

SR-11-12-(16) 54 EC resolves that by a vote the School of Pharmacy (SOP) be added to The Constitution of the Marshall University Faculty under Bylaw 14 of Article IX.

The discussion included whether the SOP would be added to all documents

including policies.

Brammer ended the discussion, stating the SOP would add to all documents released by the university.

Marybeth Beller, Marshall University College of Liberal Arts representative, announced the five bills her standing committee had been tracking.

“Our committee met this week and had five bills we have been tracking,” Beller said. “As of 3:30 p.m., all five appear dead.”

Several of the house bills (HB) include an increase in funds including HB 2934 which grants a \$1,000 salary increase for state employees but was not on today’s legislative agenda.

There was no one in attendance for the Library or Physical Facilities & Planning Research standing committees.

The Research committee plans to meet tomorrow to discuss the Quinlan and Research Scholar grants.

Chuck Clements spoke on behalf of the Student Conduct and Welfare Committee and said Marshall is at the bottom 10 list of the Committee of Fire that is

the foundation for individual rights and education.

To improve this position, the university must include a statement in the preamble for anything that interferes with an environment conducive to learning.

Clements also spoke on the issue of a tobacco free campus.

“One issue that comes up every few years is a smoke-free campus,” Clements said. “There is no push from the Student Government Association, but we are looking at more of the enforcement of the 20-foot rule when smoking near an entrance.”

He said the issue would still continue to be worked on and get student health involved.

The other idea Clements brought up was mace being carried on a key chain, which is considered a weapon, and the confusion related to that.

“Were going to try and get clarification on that from the MU Police Department,” said Clements.

Dr. Stephen Kopp, Marshall University President, was not in attendance for

See SENATE | Page 5

Ohio professor to speak about religion

BY SHAUN FRENCH
THE PARTHENON

John Bergsma, professor of theology at Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, will be speaking about similarities and misconceptions of different religions.

Bergsma will be at Marshall University to address misconceptions between Protestants and Catholics and emphasize the similarities in a lecture at 2 p.m. Saturday in the Memorial Student Center in room BE-5.

Traci Stanley, music minister and coordinator for community outreach from the Catholic Newman Center, said Bergsma was a Calvinist pastor before converting to Catholicism, and he knows the misconceptions between Protestants and Catholics.

“I thought this would be a good way to break the ice and say we have the same Christ who died on the same cross for all of our sins,” Stanley said.

Stanley said the main misconception about

Catholicism is they worship the Virgin Mary and the saints, or they think they are not limited to their actions and can go to confession.

Stanley said she believes the portrayal of Catholics in Hollywood movies damages the reputation of the religion.

“It doesn’t help every gangster whoever lived in every movie was Catholic and would go mow down a bunch of people with machine guns and then go to confession or receive communion, and all is OK,” Stanley said.

Stanley said she thought, when growing up, Protestants had an attitude of doing whatever they wanted after salvation.

“You can do anything you wanted to do and still go to heaven,” Stanley said. “You didn’t have to live a good life, read the Bible and be nice to people.”

Stanley said anyone can attend the lecture, and she hopes people from different religious backgrounds can establish common ground during the lecture and leave

with more unity.

Stanley said having the different religious groups is good because students can find one that meets their needs, but she said she wants them to do more things together.

“I don’t believe God wanted us to be divided as Christians, I don’t think that was the plan,” Stanley said. “He knew that would happen, but I think his ideal for us to work toward one community of faith.”

Libby Danishanko, junior Spanish and international affairs major from Ravenswood, W.Va., said she was raised Catholic as a child but is now Pentecostal. Danishanko said her main misconceptions about Catholics were they did not love God, and they worshipped the Virgin Mary and the saints.

Danishanko said she wants to learn how Catholics and Protestants can work together and to better understand Catholicism.

Shaun French can be contacted at french25@marshall.edu.

POLICE BLOTTER

THE PARTHENON

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

HARRASSIN HOODLUM

A victim stated her ex-boyfriend was harassing her by phone calls, text messages and by showing up at her workplace

Feb. 13. Campus police informed her on how to obtain a domestic violence petition where she plans on filing one.

iSTOLEN

A complainant reported his 3GS iPhone was stolen from the men’s restroom in the Jomie Jazz Center from 9:30 through 10:30 a.m.

Campus police were

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Mississippi professor discusses civil rights

BY HENRY CULVYHOUSE
THE PARTHENON

A Mississippi State University history professor described “the assault on civil rights following the Civil War” Thursday night at the Marshall University Foundation Hall.

Stephen Middleton discussed how Congress extended civil rights to African-Americans in the late 1800s and how southern states, with the aid of the Supreme Court, weakened

the laws.

Middleton said after the Civil War, Congress passed the most progressive civil rights legislation in American history.

“In 1875, Congress passed its most comprehensive civil rights legislation to date,” Middleton said. “That statute addressed access to all public places, such as theaters, opera houses, parks, public transportation.”

Middleton said the Supreme Court, concerned with growing federal power,

weakened or overturned majority of legislation by letting states enforce civil rights.

“In 1896, the United States Supreme Court legalized segregation by saying as long as the institution was available to both blacks and whites, there was not violation of the constitution,” Middleton said.

Middleton said the Supreme Court’s rulings led to the worst conditions for African Americans in American history.

“African-Americans had reached one of the lowest points in history,” Middleton said. “Into the 20th century, virtually two societies existed – one white, one black.”

Middleton became interested in post-Civil War legislation in his early twenties, after he learned African Americans served in Congress in the late 1800s.

“The African Americans who served in Congress were lawyers, educators and

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SPORTS

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GEARING UP

Herd prepares for marquee matchup against Memphis

BY JARROD CLAY
THE PARTHENON

After a thrilling victory over the Houston Cougars Wednesday night, the Marshall University men's basketball team has now turned its focus to its next challenge, the Memphis Tigers.

Marshall comes into the contest at 17-10 (8-5 C-USA) after picking up two wins the past week in much different styles.

"If you're going to be a good team, you're going to have to win in different ways," Marshall head coach Tom Herrion said. "We held on at Southern Methodist after going up 20 and obviously didn't close very well. Last night, offensively, we were really and dug a hole, but to our kids credit you figure it out, and change some things and make some adjustments."

Memphis comes into Huntington with a 20-8 (10-3 C-USA) record, putting the Tigers atop the Conference USA standings.

Leading the way for Memphis is sophomore guard Will

Barton who leads the Tigers in scoring with 18.1 points per game and in rebounding with 8.1 a game.

"They're not just one dimensional," Herrion said. "They have too much talent and they're well coached. The biggest difference between this team from last year is Memphis has really become a good defensive club. They're in first place for a reason and we clearly recognize that it's a great opportunity and a wonderful challenge, so you have to embrace that."

This will be the second time the sides have met this season, with the first resulting in an 83-76 victory for the Tigers in the birthplace of Rock and Roll.

Marshall held the lead the majority of that contest before letting the lead slip away in the final moments.

"We're going to be ready for Memphis," said Marshall senior guard Damier Pitts. "They beat us down there. We owe them. I feel like we should have won the game there. We have to have a good two days of practice, and we just have to be ready to play



MARCUS CONSTANTINO | THE PARTHENON

Junior forward Nigel Spikes celebrates after two key blocks in Marshall's 66-58 victory over Houston. Spikes recorded three blocks in the game to go along with a team-leading 10 rebounds. The Herd now turns its sights to C-USA's top team, Memphis.

on Saturday."

In the first matchup between the two, Shaq Johnson lead the way for the Herd scoring 21 points.

When Johnson takes the court Saturday he will tie Darryl Merthie for most games played in a Marshall

uniform with 126.

"It means a lot," said Marshall senior guard Shaq Johnson. "I was blessed to stay healthy through the hard seasons that we've been through only missing one game. But it feels good going out with the most games

played and knowing I'll be in history with some of the greatest."

When Memphis comes to town there is always pre-game hype, with this year being no different. The game is to be nationally televised, and winner of America's Got

Talent, Landau Eugene Murphy Jr. will be singing the national anthem.

For Marshall to have success, Herrion knows the players can't afford to get wrapped up in the

See MBB | Page 5

Women's basketball readies for senior night

BY LAWREN
HIGHTOWER
THE PARTHENON



Hoping to get a win in their last home game, three Marshall University Women's Basketball players bid farewell to the fans. Sunday.

Seniors Alaya Mitchell, Rasheeda Henriques and Lateidra Elliott will play their last home games at the Cam Henderson Center. Elliott said it will be an

emotional start to the game for the seniors, but a win is the main focus for the Thundering Herd.

"I've been playing basketball since I was in fourth grade, and it means a lot for me to reach this point in my career," Elliott said, "I just want to have fun and definitely get a win for the team in my last game."

Elliott is the team's leading scorer contributing 6.9 points per game and is second on the team averaging 2.1 assists.

"I just want to thank all the fans for their support throughout the ups and downs," Elliott said.

The Herd who started the season with a record of 12-3, still has their sights set on a championship.

Henriques said she has made many memories at

Marshall that she will value forever, but hopes to end her career on a winning streak.

"This has been such a great experience, and I have had so much fun at Marshall," Henriques said. "But I hope that we can win these last games we have left and eventually bring home the Conference USA championship."

Henriques ranks fourth on the team in rebounding with 3.2 boards per game and third on the team in assists averaging 1.4 per contest.

"These four years have been great," Henriques said. "Thanks to everyone that has supported us. Go Herd."

While it all may look like fun and games, Alaya Mitchell said, it's hard work that has put her and her teammates in a position to succeed.

"In my time here at

Marshall, I have learned that hard work really does pay off," Mitchell said. "Building leadership qualities, extra practice, just being in the gym and perfecting our craft are things that we all do behind the scenes that makes us better players."

Mitchell leads the team in assists averaging 2.3 per game and ranks second in steals per game averaging 1.5.

"I will miss everyone," Mitchell said. "Especially the fans and my coaches who have supported me over the years. These four years flew by in what seemed like a split second. It's bittersweet."

Along with recognition of the seniors, Marshall University will honor breast cancer awareness. IMG will be presenting the game ball to Zach Rogers on behalf of

the victims and survivors of breast cancer.

"Think Pink" is the slogan for the event. Cabell-Huntington Hospital and St. Mary's Hospital will be honoring victims of breast cancer by placing pink pieces of paper of the back of 250 chairs. The pink pieces of paper are a tribute to the victims in West Virginia who have lost their lives this month because of breast cancer.

At halftime, there will a Challenger League basketball game. The Challenger League is a basketball league for disabled kids.

The game is sponsored by St. Mary's hospital, Cabell-Huntington Hospital, WMUL and IMG.

Lawren Hightower can be reached at hightower5@marshall.edu.

Softball heads to Orlando for Citrus Classic

BY JARROD CLAY
THE PARTHENON

After a 4-1 start on opening weekend, the Marshall University softball team traveled to Charleston, SC for its second weekend of action.

The Herd finished the weekend at 2-2, but day one was a struggle for Marshall dropping both of Friday's games to Charleston Southern (3-2) and Kennesaw State (4-3).

"We let a couple games get away from us, but 2-2 is okay," said Marshall head coach Shonda Stanton. "You're going to win some. You're going to lose some. We were really frustrated on day one when we lost two one-run ball games, and any

time you do that, you're not taking care of business."

On day two of the College of Charleston Classic, the Herd swept the competition with victories over Akron (3-1) and Morehead State (9-4).

"I was happy how we responded on day two," Stanton said. "We got the two wins and did some great things."

The star of the weekend for the Herd was junior pitcher Andi Williamson, who appeared in two games during the weekend. Williamson recorded a career high 13 strikeouts in eight innings work in the Herd's first game of the weekend against Charleston Southern.

On day two, Williamson

dominated Akron, striking out six batters and only allowing five base runners in a complete game win.

"Overall she has worked really hard to get where she is," Stanton said. "She's showed she can give us back-to-back performances, and we're really excited about that."

During the weekend, Williamson put together an impressive stat line with an earned run average of 0.91 and 19 strikeouts en route to being named Conference USA Pitcher of the Week.

"She has proven she can be a dominant force for us, and what's great is that our pitches are all different styles," Stanton said. "Andi is definitely a strikeout pitcher

so we know in a bases loaded jam, she can get out of it."

This weekend, the Herd will face its toughest tests of the season when they travel to Orlando, FL to play five games in the Citrus Classic.

The Herd will be playing a pair of games against Maryland who have recently started receiving top-25 votes, and one game against Florida State who jumped into the top-25 this past week.

"We're ready, and what I'm really excited about is that we have an opportunity to knock off a top-25 team," Stanton said. "We're seeing great competition down there so the caliber of competition is definitely stronger than the opening

two weekends."

This will be the Herd's final tournament away from home, as Marshall will return to Huntington to host the Marshall Invitational before kicking off conference play at home against Houston.

"This schedule was built for us to build some confidence early, to be challenged and to tune us up again in our home tournament

before we face another top-25 team in Houston in our conference opening weekend," Stanton said.

Marshall will open up play at the Citrus Class Friday with a doubleheader beginning at 2 p.m. against Maryland and with a 4:45 p.m. matchup with St. John's.

Jarrold Clay can be contacted at clay105@marshall.edu.

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FEBRUARY SPECIALS
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OPINION

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2012 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

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

Take control of what controls you



BY SYDNEY RANSON
THE PARTHENON

Today, it seems as though there is a medication to cure anything that ails you. You name an ache or pain, and you've got a prescription with your name on the label.

What about those pains that aren't visible by a bruise or lump or scratch? These are a little more difficult to medicate in most cases.

Things such as depression and anxiety can cause physical pain, yes, but the majority of the discomfort that comes with these lies deep inside the person; the hurt is more of a deep-rooted unhappiness than anything.

My senior year of high school, I was diagnosed with both depression and anxiety. In my case, they sometimes came with panic attacks, but more often, physical pain and illness. If it wasn't the depression keeping me from leaving my bedroom, it was the anxiety making me nervous about what each day held for me. It finally reached the point that I couldn't drag myself out of bed or keep food down when I would have an attack. These attacks could be set off by almost anything: Being excited about a road trip, getting in an argument with a friend and even being in an unfamiliar place surrounded by unfamiliar people.

I couldn't live that way anymore—if that is even considered living. I talked to my parents about going to see a doctor and being put on medicine so I could enjoy things

like a "normal" person. My exact words were, "I feel like a freak. I can't live this way." I had been told to "suck it up" and "not let things get to me so easily" by people, but my parents understood. They reassured me there are people that deal with this same thing every single day. I was not different.

My first doctor's visit was a complete disaster. I couldn't even speak to him for crying so much. He was very understanding and told me (and still tells me to this day) that I'm not alone. After I forced myself to spill my feelings out to him, he wrote me a prescription for some pills that didn't work for me.

Now, I rarely have attacks of anxiety or depression. I believe this is not only because of my great support system of family and friends, but also because I went to a physician and was prescribed medicine. It took a bit of trial and error to find the right combination of brand and dosage, but I honestly don't know where I'd be today without it. I have really changed as a person. I am more outgoing and I look at every day as a wealth of new opportunities. I am just a much happier person in general since taking charge of something that I used to let control my life.

I am not embarrassed or scared to talk about this openly. If you are dealing with this issue or something similar, you shouldn't be either. Talk to someone, draw, write, go see a doctor. Do anything that takes that pain away. I know what it's like to feel like you've reached a dead end with nowhere else to turn. Take control of what controls you, don't ever let anyone tell you you're different.

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

EDITORIAL

Bottled water is irrational

In the past two decades, bottled water has become a cultural phenomenon. The purchase of bottled water has skyrocketed from almost nonexistent in the 1960s and 1970s into a multi-billion dollar industry today. According to the Centers for Disease Control, bottled water is the fastest growing drink choice in the United States with Americans spending billions of dollars each year on the product. According to the Natural Resources Defense Council, much of the growth of this industry has exploded within just the last decade, nearly tripling the sales of bottled water in our country.

As the popularity of bottled water rises, many are beginning to speak out about the wastefulness and overall legitimacy of this industry. One campaign called "Ban the Bottle" seeks to end the sale of bottled water in schools, offices and public areas. Many universities have jumped on board with this campaign.

One hundred years ago, people would have laughed at the idea of bottled water — so why is it that Americans have become fixated with a product that seems so impractical? Whose idea was it to sell us something we can get for free? For one, bottled water is convenient. Many may also find the marketing of bottled water to be irresistible. Sitting next to an ordinary cup, the sleek, square silhouette of a FIJI bottle looks much more appealing. Let's not forget the minimalist design of a Voss bottle, which encases water from artesian wells in Norway.

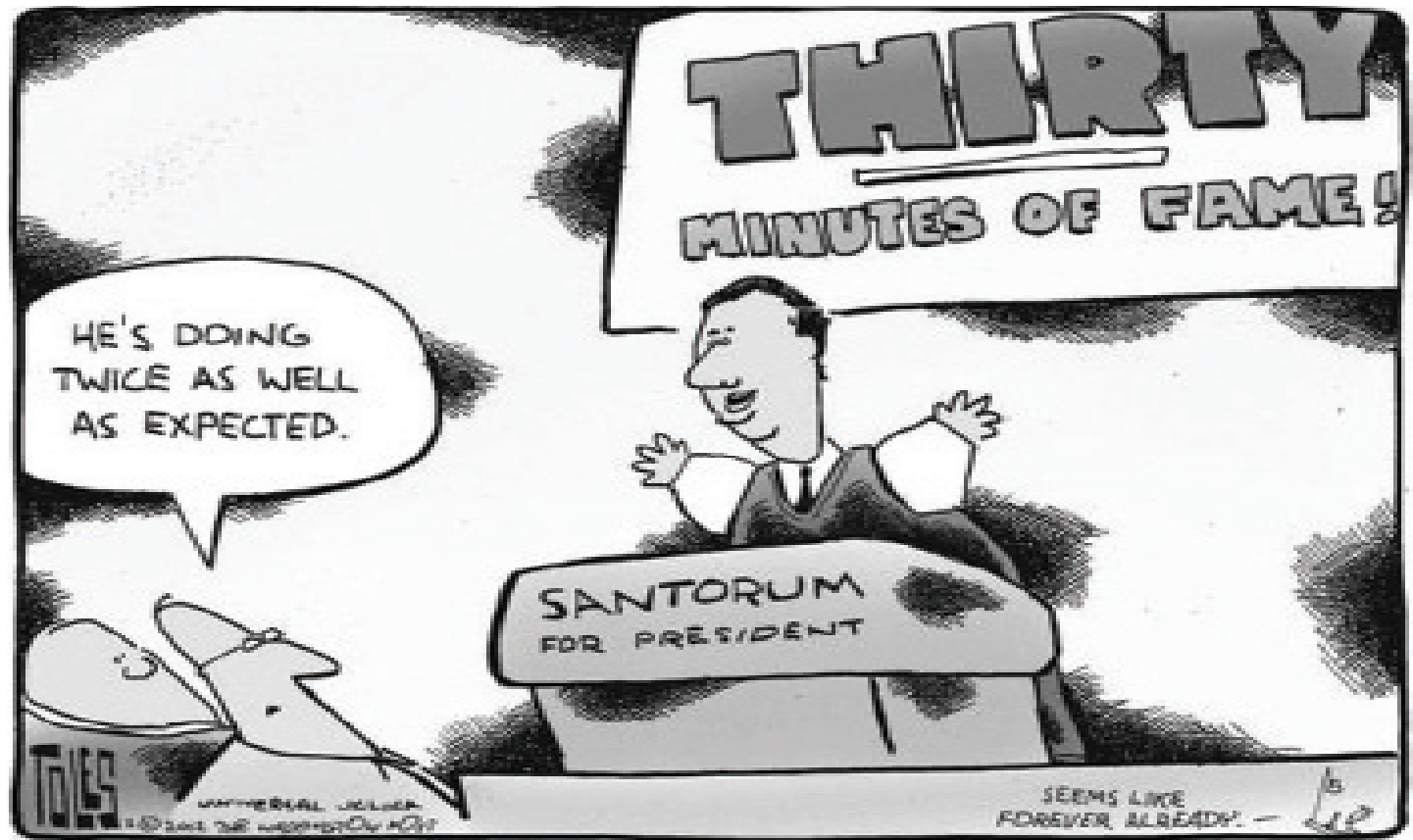
The industry has to sell itself on fancy packaging and

exotic locations because the product itself is irrational and wasteful, both environmentally and financially. According to "Ban the Bottle," the recommended eight glasses of water a day, at U.S. tap rates, equals about 49 cents per year. That same amount in bottled water averages around \$1,400. It takes 17 million barrels of oil per year to make all the plastic water bottles used in the U.S. alone. That's enough oil to fuel 1.3 million cars for a year.

According to the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Environmental Protection Agency's regulations for tap water are much stricter than the Food and Drug Administration's for bottled water. For example, bottled water plants must test for coliform bacteria once a week, while city tap water must be tested 100 or more times a month. If you're arguing that tap water is hazardous, approximately one fourth of bottled water derives exclusively from tap water, according to government and industry estimates. This is all failing to mention there are a number of cheap, accessible ways to filter our water at home.

Given our society's condescending nature toward tap water, it's understandable why the bottled water industry is thriving. However, single-use bottles are excessively wasteful concerning our environment and our wallets. Tap water, though it may be less glamorous, is suitable for consumption. It was the sole source of water in the U.S. for a long time, and those who were consuming it daily seem to be doing just fine.

POLITICAL CARTOON



COLUMN

What makes Afghanistan so special?



BY BISHOP NASH
THE PARTHENON

Do you ever walk into a room and forget what you went in there to do? I feel like the United States did that with Afghanistan.

I mean, seriously, does anyone on the street have a definitive answer as to what the heck we're still doing there? What's the endgame? Where's the frontline? Where are the bad guys coming from? Are the bad guys even the right bad guys? Can you even find Afghanistan on a map? What's a Hamid Karzai?

We really should know what's going on in a country into which we've been dumping hundreds of millions of dollars a day. This is our tax money going into a war with no end in sight, no clear terms for victory and has cost over 100,000 human lives in more than 10 years.

In 1979, the Carter

administration saw the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan as a way to bleed the USSR in what they called the "Afghan trap." The goal was make Afghanistan to the Soviets what Vietnam has been to the U.S.: A giant money pit costing thousands of lives in a war where nobody knew what was going on. It worked.

Nine years and billions of dollars later, the Kremlin discovered their own problems at home and pulled out of the country and let the Afghans fight their civil war undisturbed. What happened in Afghanistan was no longer their problem. Our Vietnam became the Soviets Afghanistan, which became our Afghanistan.

Do I think we should leave the Afghani people out to dry to get butchered by gangs of their own people? Of course not. Do I believe it was a good idea to knock out some al-Qaeda camps and weapons stockpiles? Of course.

But if we're so bent on ending genocide and crippling groups who would harm us, why aren't we in

Haiti, Syria, Somalia, Yemen, Sudan, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, North Korea, wherever. There are plenty of places internally bleeding to which to U.S. has no interest spreading democracy too.

Point being, the U.S. government isn't in the business of either. Everyone here loves freedom and democracy and baseball and apple pie, myself included, but in the eyes of those making the decisions around here, that's just money wasted. They've got to get something good out of the deal.

Iraq had its oil, Afghanistan has more than \$1 billion worth of mineral resources and Iran has a ton of oil underneath it as well (watch out!). What would we get out of "liberating", say, North Korea? Millions of malnourished Koreans and the peace of mind that Tokyo or Seoul isn't going to get nuked into oblivion. We'll pass on that deal.

People bought the excuse that al-Qaeda attacked us because they were "jealous of our freedom." Are you kidding me? That's the lamest

excuse from a president since Bill Clinton said he didn't inhale.

I do not doubt al-Qaeda's position on the crazy scale, but that's like the Netherlands invading the U.S. after American soldiers attacked Amsterdam because they were jealous of their leniency on marijuana. You can't invade and occupy an entire country because of a fringe group acting out of it. Even if we were to go in and knock out their current camps, that doesn't take nine years and trillions of dollars.

There are a ton of other countries with despotic governments and organizations eating them alive and even more of those who want to harm the U.S. Why aren't we messing with them too? What makes Afghanistan so special as to not only get invaded, but occupied for more than ten years.

Ten years.

That's a long time and too much money we're not going to get back.

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Obama scoffs at critics on gas prices, defends energy policy

BY KATHLEEN HENNESSY
TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU
(MCT)

WASHINGTON – President Barack Obama tried to deflect criticism over rising gas prices on Thursday, as he accused Republicans of cheering the bad economic news and asked for patience from Americans anxious about the cost.

“It’s the easiest thing in the world to make phony election-year promises about lower gas prices,” Obama told a crowd at the University of Miami. “What’s harder is to make a serious, sustained commitment to tackle a problem that may not be solved in one year or one term or even one decade.”

The president’s remarks were his first on an issue that has emerged both as a potential threat to the nation’s increasingly upbeat view of

the economy and as a cudgel for his political opponents. Amid concerns over the access to oil from Iran, prices in the U.S. have jumped to an average of about \$3.60 per gallon for regular gasoline, up from \$3.20 a year ago.

Analysts note that such price swings are generally driven by the cost of crude oil on the global market, leaving a president with few options. Still, the White House is mindful that presidents inevitably are blamed for things they can’t control.

Administration officials say they believe Americans are tired of the cycle of blame and contend any political damage will be limited once prices recede. In the meantime, Obama is moving to counter the critics.

The president was once one of those critics. As a senator and presidential candidate in 2008, he blasted President George W. Bush and Sen. John

McCain, Obama’s Republican rival for the White House, for policies he said favored “Big Oil,” while Democrats called for an investigation into price manipulation.

Bush countered that there was “no magic wand” to reduce prices, a notion echoed by Obama today.

“There is no silver bullet; there never has been,” Obama said.

In another flashback to the last campaign, Obama revived his dismissal of Republicans’ demands to expand drilling, a policy captured in GOP vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin’s call to “Drill, baby, drill.”

Characterizing Republicans’ energy policy, he said: “Step one is drill, step two is drill, and step three is keep drilling. You know that’s not a plan, especially since we’re already drilling. That’s a bumper sticker.”

Republican candidates are, indeed, ramping up their attacks on Obama and calling for more drilling. Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich is airing an infomercial devoted entirely to gas prices. On Thursday, he called the administration “anti-American energy” and said he would aim to bring gas prices down to \$2.50 per gallon. Rick Santorum blames Obama’s “radical environmental



PATRICK FARRELL | MIAMI HERALD/MCT

U.S. President Barack Obama shakes hands as he visits the University of Miami on Thursday 2012, in Coral Gables, Fla.

BLOTTER

Continued from Page 2

involved in a purse-snatching that occurred on Sixth Avenue Tuesday. Huntington Police enforced a traffic stop in the area where they found the suspect.

BUSKIRK BATTERY

A domestic battery case was reported from Buskirk

Hall on Saturday. The victim said her old boyfriend hit and threw her to the ground. She had visible marks on both her neck and elbow and is able to sign a domestic battery petition.

The suspect was arrested for charges of domestic battery and was taken to Western Regional Jail.

SENATE

Continued from Page 2

Thursday’s meeting but Provost Gayle Ormiston, Provost, gave his report.

Ormiston spoke about the Campus Conversation club to all Senate members and gave several meeting times as well the availability of the book, “Art of Changing the Brain.”

Ormiston gave a presentation on the mapping out learning zone website, which

is available to all faculty to map course levels to a program level.

Marty Amerikaner, Marshall Board of Governors, presented a report from today’s Board of Governors meeting and summarized several meeting topics which were discussed.

An advisory council of faculty report was given by Karen McNealy, who discussed several matters relating to the campus faculty.

Only one request was

made at the conclusion of the meeting which dealt with an employee user fee payments, which Brammer said she would relay to Accounting Services to find the problem and whether or not employees were to receive a refund check.

No requests were made for the next Faculty Senate meeting and Brammer adjourned the meeting after 43 minutes.

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CIVIL RIGHTS

Continued from Page 2

ministers,” Middleton said. “I grew up in a time when I didn’t know any attorneys. As a young 24-year-old, I was intrigued by this.”

Marshall political science major Mariah Njoku, 19, from Beckley, W.Va., said she thinks Middleton was thoughtful and concise.

permit before the Feb. 21 deadline set by Congress.

And on Thursday, Obama said that his administration had approved “dozens of new pipelines, including from Canada” and that oil production had risen during his three years in office.

But the rise in production, like the spike in prices, has little to do with this administration’s energy policies, said David Pumphrey, energy analyst at the Center for Strategic and International Studies and a former energy official in the George W. Bush administration.

Increased production today is largely the result of entrepreneurial investment undertaken several years ago, he said.

“It’s absolutely essential,” Perry said. “We have to know where we’ve been, where we came from and where we may be heading.”

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SAME

Continued from Page 1

before coming today,” said Ryan Vansteenburgh, South Point High School sophomore. “Most of us are in higher math and science classes. I’m really here because engineering is everywhere. I think it is very important to our society.”

Keeping the students interested throughout the entire event can be challenging according to Huffman. He said a speaker with a few posters and nothing more risk having students simply walk by. Then he pointed to a man in a bright yellow/green shirt, white hardhat and safety harness.

“He doesn’t have that problem,” Huffman said.

“The reason I go all out is when I was in high school, I had someone go all out for me,” said Rodney Holbert,

civil engineer with Burgess and Niple. “I’ve had a great career in engineering thanks to her. I’m here because I owe her. She helped me so maybe I can talk to one kid about civil engineering who look think ‘wow, that sounds like something I want to do’ or even ‘you know, that’s not for me.’ No matter what they think is fine, the point is to find something you love and you’ll always enjoy your job.”

After all the students were done making the rounds of the booths and seeing all the demonstrations, Representative Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.) provided the keynote address. He loosened up the crowd by talking about his love of old video games – and the fact few of the students would have played his favorite game, Pong. Then he moved into reemphasizing what had been discussed all

day, the importance of engineering.

“When I was your age the big talk was landing a man on the moon, and, by golly, we did it. We did it thanks to engineers,” Rahall said. “From the immensity of space, the universe and heavenly bodies – to nanotechnology delving into the smallest recesses of the human body – the principles of engineering science operate.”

The importance of engineering was a common theme spoken and demonstrated by those involved in the event. A U.S. House Representative, Marshall University professors, professional engineers and even high school students all said they considered it a great opportunity to attend this event.

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MBB

Continued from Page 3

excitement, but rather, use it.

“We need to embrace the environment and the atmosphere that we are going to have in this building,” Herrion said. “Our fanbase has been tremendous all season. Our students need to come out in droves. We need more students. There shouldn’t be empty seats in this building.”

When Memphis came to the

Cam Henderson Center last season, the Herd dominated the Tigers. Marshall had four players in double-figures lead by DeAndre Kane’s twenty in the 85-70 victory.

Marshall currently sits tied for fourth in the conference standings and needs to hold on to sole possession of the position to earn a first round tournament bye, and Herrion says this game is the time to make a move.

“What a great opportunity

for the entire community, the fan base, our university and our basketball program to put ourselves on the national stage on national television against the premier program in this conference,” Herrion said.

The Thundering Herd will take on the Memphis Tigers at 4 p.m. Saturday in the Cam Henderson Center.

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TALENT

Continued from Page 1

against Memphis and finish the season out strong. A visit from Murphy, which will create a good buzz around the Cam Henderson Center, might be exactly what the Herd needs.

The game will start at

4 p.m. For ticket information, contact the Marshall University ticket office.

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TAN

Continued from Page 6

The salon seems to be a happy place for employees as well.

Halley Shapero, junior communication studies major from Charleston, W.Va., started working at City Tan Express in January.

“I started tanning there my freshman year and really loved the place. I remember wanting to work there because of the fun atmosphere and the type of people that ran it,” Shapero said.

Shapero said the salon turned out to be what she had expected as a freshman.

“I actually look forward to coming into work, and I like all the people I work with,” Shapero said.

In a college town on the verge of spring break, this business has a busy season ahead. City Tan Express is open until midnight seven days a week.

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A local affair

Brothers team up in Huntington business

BY JUSTON DONADIEU
THE PARTHENON

Despite bipolar weather in recent weeks, one thing is still for sure: Spring is just around the corner, and some students have been busy preparing. Just a few steps away from Marshall's University's campus, City Tan Express on Fourth Avenue has been enjoying an influx of patrons that only spring fever can bring.

Co-owner Brian Peach attributes the increase in visitors to a couple major upcoming events.

"The spring is usually the busiest time of the year because people are getting ready for spring break and proms," Peach said.

Co-owners Brian and Alex Peach share an interest in tanning and a knack for business. The brothers have owned and operated City Tan Express since it was started in 2008 – two years before they graduated from Marshall University.

"I've been tanning since high school, and I noticed there weren't any tanning salons within walking distance of Marshall,"

Brian Peach said. "I have family members who have started their own businesses, and I've always been interested in being an entrepreneur."

Peach said he worked at a tanning salon before and quickly began to learn the basic functions of the business – although the experience was not without its challenges.

"It was difficult, at times, to balance the salon, school and a social life, but I made the best out of the situation and learned more in the process," Brian Peach said. "The positives definitely outweighed the negatives."

Peach said Huntington is an interesting and complex place to run a business.

"We enjoy seeing local residents, as well as people from all over the country, who attend Marshall so we get a lot of input from people with different perspectives," Peach said. "Essentially, it comes down to providing beautiful tans in a clean environment at an affordable price. Making customers happy and seeing them continue to allow us to earn their business is the most rewarding aspect of owning the salon."

See TAN | Page 5



TYLER KES | THE PARTHENON



JUSTON DONADIEU | THE PARTHENON

TOP: Halley Shapero, junior communication studies major and City Tan Express employee, has been working at the tanning salon since January. She said she was drawn to the fun atmosphere and the people who work there.

BOTTOM: City Tan Express is located on Fourth Avenue and has been in operation since 2008, when two Marshall students took their interest in tanning and knack for business to the next level and opened the salon.

page designed and edited by KELSEY THOMAS | thomas336@marshall.edu

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