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THE PARTHENON

VOL. 115 NO. 66 | MARSHALL UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

School of Medicine receives \$50K grant

BY MOLLY URIAN
THE PARTHENON

University Physicians and Surgeons, Inc. and the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine at Marshall University received a \$50,000 grant to

19.2 percent of births in West Virginia are positive for drugs or alcohol.

begin a new Maternal Addiction and Recovery Clinic.

Carelink Healthcare Plans, Inc. awarded the grant last Wednesday to provide a new treatment option for expecting mothers with abuse issues. Opiate addiction is currently the most common high-risk problem found among pregnant women. Dr. Robert C. Nerhood, interim

dean at the School of Medicine said a study conducted by the West Virginia Department of Maternal and Child Health confirmed in a randomly sampled cohort, 19.2 percent of the births in West Virginia were positive for drugs or alcohol.

The opiate addiction clinic

will be incorporated into the already existing high-risk clinic within Cabell Huntington Hospital. It will not be a freestanding clinic or an inpatient facility. Inpatient services will be provided at Cabell Huntington Hospital just like they are for any other patient in the faculty

practice or high-risk clinic. Dr. David Jude, professor and chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the School of Medicine, said the goal of the clinic is to provide a comprehensive prenatal and

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STATE OF THE STATE

Tomblin discusses jobs, substance abuse, expansion

BY SARAH STILES
THE PARTHENON

Earl Ray Tomblin, West Virginia's governor, gave his State of the State Address in Charleston on Jan. 11.

Topics included in his speech were jobs, substance abuse and the expansion of opportunities in West Virginia.

In response to the address, Marshall University President Stephen J. Kopp, had very positive remarks toward the improvements made by Tomblin.

"He painted a very good picture of the state's financial health and what separates West Virginia from the rest of the country in terms of the very prudent physical management that has guided decision making both through legislature and executive branch," Kopp said.

According to Tomblin's address, a key point that affects higher education places of employment, including Marshall, is the Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) liability, which offers post-employment benefits to employees received during retirement.

The OPEB and annual audits have the potential to add liability, drop Marshall in the red zone and look weaker than what the total financial positions are.

Tomblin discussed recent actions taken by the Public Employees Insurance Agency board dropping the estimated OPEB liability to \$5 billion rather than a previous \$10 billion.

Kopp said although \$5 billion is still a huge financial obligation, anything Marshall can do to resolve the liability is to the advantage of West Virginia.

"The liability is calculated on a prorated basis

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WVU takes the win

MARCUS CONSTANTINO | THE PARTHENON

>> Mountaineer sophomore guard Christal Caldwell fights for a rebound in Tuesday's game against the Thundering Herd. WVU won the 2012 women's Chesapeake Energy Capital Classic 69-57. WVU and MU's men's teams will face off at 7:30 p.m. today, at the Charleston Civic Center.

Martin Luther King, Jr. meets Malcolm X

BY TRAVIS EASTER
THE PARTHENON

Monday, two legends of the American Civil Rights Movement met on Marshall University's campus.

"The Meeting," a play about a fictional meeting between Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X, explores themes from the lives of both leaders. It was staged Monday at the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center by Marshall University's Office of Multicultural Affairs as part of the annual celebration of King's birthday.

"I hope this inspires you to stand up and let freedom ring in your neighborhoods," Rev. Roy Terry, of the 16th Street Baptist Church, said of the play.

The play was preceded by a march from the 16th Street

Baptist Church to the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center. Before the play, the Martin Luther King Jr. Male Chorus performed a musical selection. The Chorus is based in Charleston and is made up of clergy from throughout the Kanawha Valley. They have performed at many events throughout the state — most notably, the nationally televised memorial service for the late United States Senator Robert C. Byrd.

The event was hosted by members of the Eta Zeta Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. in honor of King and his widow and the Theta Omega Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. in honor of Malcolm X and his widow. Both women were instrumental to the civil rights movement and continued to work

long after their husbands were assassinated.

The play takes place inside a Harlem hotel room in February 1965 — just days before Malcolm X was assassinated. The play uses a mixture of comedy, drama and arm wrestling to focus on a debate between King and Malcolm X on their methods and belief on how to bring about equality for African Americans. The play showed how the men believed in very different means; but had great respect for one another. King believed in pacifism, peace and overcoming aggression. Whereas, Malcolm X was more radical and inclined to act aggressively to protect African Americans and civil rights from those who meant harm to them.

To close the event, Rev.



MARCUS CONSTANTINO | THE PARTHENON

Actors depicted Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr. arm wrestle during "The Meeting," a play staged by the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

Terry led the audience in singing "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing" by James Weldon Johnson. The poem and music was written in 1900 and

is regarded as the African-American national anthem.

Travis Easter can be contacted at easter14@marshall.edu

SGA discusses upcoming projects for spring

BY ZACHARY MORRIS
THE PARTHENON

The Marshall University Student Government Association had their first meeting of the semester Tuesday.

The meeting began with swearing in the group's seven new senators the welcoming back of Senator, Kayla Johnson who spent last semester studying abroad, as well as a greeting from Dr. Stephen

Kopp, president of Marshall University.

Kopp congratulated the SGA on a job well done during the past semester and discussed some of the upcoming projects on campus.

"After the discussions I've had with my predecessors, I feel that the relationship between my office and Kopp's office is as strong as it has ever been," said Ray Harrell Jr., Student Body President.

"I feel that the constant dialogue really paves the way for students voices to be heard on campus."

Kopp said new programs will be available to students such as the School of Pharmacy, the addition of a physical therapy program and a forensic science program for those at the undergraduate level.

He also mentioned several projects for the university

including the construction of the parking garage next to the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse, the groundbreaking of the biotechnology incubator, a new soccer stadium and an indoor practice facility.

Kopp said the Stone & Thomas building next to Pullman Square will be renovated as a Fine Arts building in an effort to connect campus to downtown and there are tentative plans

to create a new academic building where Laidley Hall is located.

Shortly after Kopp finished speaking Harrell delivered, his opening speech to the senators and discussed the efforts of the previous semester as well as where their focus will be for the spring.

Harrell said some of the

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Fans race to Big Sandy for annual Indoor Motocross Championship

BY CHELSIE SCHULDIES
THE PARTHENON

The 2012 West Virginia Indoor Motocross Championship brought more than 4,200 fans to the Big Sandy Superstore Arena in downtown Huntington this past weekend.

Action Sports Indoor Motocross sponsored the race with competitors as young as five-year-olds to more experienced riders to race to the finish line. Racers are not required to be members of the American Motorcyclist Association.

In order to build the race-track, 1,200 cubic yards of dirt had to be transported to the arena. Double, triple and tabletop jumps launched riders more than 60 feet in the air.

Event promoter, Drew Wolfe, said the winning purse for professional riders was up to \$5,000.

"Only the pro-racing class is eligible for a cash prize," Wolfe said. "It is the way it has always been. Youth and amateur riders race for awards and trophies. In order to gain professional status, racers just have to keep riding bigger and better races."

"Once amateurs race long enough, they can try a professional race. Eventually, team managers will see them race and then they will

get sponsors. Everything is based on the results of their races."

Jason Stroud, 27, of Kermit, W.Va. started motocross February 2011 after his friend introduced him to racing.

"This is my first indoor race," Stroud said. "I would race outdoor all summer, but now I'm going to try indoor racing."

Stroud finished fifth in his division Friday night. He then jumped ahead two slots and placed third during the Saturday event. He rode a Honda CRF 450 and was in the Open C Group I class.

Also racing were brother and sister, Garrett Holliday, 12, and Lauren Holliday, 9, of Coal Grove, Ohio.

"Our Pappy owns a shop in Ironton so we've always been around motocross," Garrett Holliday said. "I like to ride my bike at the race tracks in Athens. Motocross is definitely better and way more fun than videogames."

Garrett Holliday has been racing since he was four years old. During the championship race, he rode a Super mini bike in the 150cc. He placed seventh Friday night and fifth on Saturday.

Lauren Holliday participated in the 65cc 7-9 class and was one of few girls racing over the weekend.



MARTY CONLEY | SUBMITTED PHOTO

A crowd of more than 4,200 motocross fans gathered at the Big Sandy Superstore Arena in Huntington this weekend for the 2012 West Virginia Indoor Motocross Championship.

"It is really fun," Lauren Holliday said. "I have been racing for a year. The jumps don't scare me anymore."

Lauren Holliday finished third in her class Friday night and then placed fifth Saturday.

Garrett and Lauren Holliday's mother, Kim Holliday, attended the race Friday evening.

"You get nervous with every race," Holliday said. "But I am not scared to have my children race in

these events."

Event sponsor Action Sports Indoor Motocross plans to sponsor indoor races in both Columbus, Ohio and Huntington. The group said they hope to continue to create top quality events. Action

Sports future events such as the outdoor Grand Prix, Motocross and Harescramble will be at the Action Sports Moto Park in Athens, Ohio.

Chelsie Schuldies can be contacted at schuldies@marshall.edu.

Alumni Association to host Chesapeake Energy Capital Classic pre-game reception to celebrate Marshall anniversary today

BY ASHLEY FOSTER
THE PARTHENON

The Marshall University Alumni Association will be conducting the Chesapeake Energy Capital Classic pre-game reception Wednesday.

This will be the first of many events celebrating Marshall University's 175th Anniversary. The reception is

open to the public.

Doors will open at 6 p.m., and the reception will run until the start of the men's basketball game between Marshall and West Virginia University at 7:30 p.m. The reception will be located in the South Hall of Charleston Civic Center. The first 175 people to attend will receive a kelly green Marshall T-shirt.

Admission to the reception is free.

Nancy Pelphrey, Marshall's coordinator of Alumni Programs, said she expects a turnout comparable to last year's reception.

"There will be 500 to 600 excited Marshall fans wearing their new kelly green, getting ready to cheer on the Herd," Pelphrey said. "We

encourage everyone to come out and support our basketball team and celebrate our 175th anniversary."

The pre-game reception is sponsored by CSX Transportation, ELCO Mechanical, Liberty Mutual Insurance, Pepco and Marshall University.

The following organizations at Marshall University will be presenting information to

visitors during the reception:

The W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications; Career Services; Graduate School of Education and Professional Development; Office of Outreach and Continuing Studies; College of Business; College of Health Professions; Marshall University Research Corp.; College of Fine Arts; Joan C.

Edwards School of Medicine; School of Pharmacy; College of Education; Office of Recruitment, and Information Technology.

The reception will feature complimentary appetizers, giveaways, music and a cash bar.

Ashley Foster can be contacted at fooster108@marshall.edu.

Tutoring center reopens

BY HILARY FREEMAN
THE PARTHENON

Now that Marshall students are back to school, the Marshall Tutoring Center is ready to reopen its doors to students who are struggling with the new semester and those who just need an extra push.

The tutoring center offers a wide variety of peer tutoring and is free to Marshall students who have paid their student activity fees.

"The tutoring center is opening this week because the earlier you engage in a tutoring program, the better off you will be," said Patricia Gallagher, director of Tutoring Services. "Don't wait until midterm— if you feel like you are struggling or might struggle, come see us."

The center offers tutoring in a wide variety of areas—math, languages, business, science, social sciences and even a miscellaneous category.

The center also offers help in more specific and high demand courses like math, biology, chemistry and accounting, Gallagher said.

Gallagher said students seeking assistance from the

center can drop-in or schedule an appointment.

Each tutoring session is one-on-one between a tutor and a student, but near midterms or finals the tutors may ask to put students into a small group with others working on the same subject, Gallagher said.

All of the schedules for the center's tutors are available online, and tutors encourage all students to drop in whenever they feel they might be struggling.

As for their appointment scheduling, the center requires a minimum of a one-hour session for each appointment and restricts the weekly use of the center by appointment to two hours per subject and two subjects per week.

"[The Tutoring Center] is not just for remediation, it's for academic excellence," Gallagher said. "Don't ignore the problem and hope it will go away. If you think you have a problem or might have a problem, do something about it now in case it can be taken care of easily and could be a real mess later."

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

Drinko makes changes

BY REBECCA STEPHENS
THE PARTHENON

The John Deaver Drinko Library has made numerous changes recently, which include the addition of a learning commons, more computers, tables and study areas.

Johnny Bradley, supervisor of operations, said all of the additions have increased Drinko's usage.

"We've almost turned it into, like, a coffee shop," Bradley said. "We want the students to be comfortable no matter what."

The library made an overall change to its hours, and Bradley said he isn't sure if students are aware of that change.

"I don't think they know we're open all the time," Bradley said. "We'll have a lot of people come up and check the front doors after 11 p.m."

The library opens at 1 p.m. on Sundays, closes at 6 p.m. on Fridays and is open from 10 a.m. through 6 p.m. on Saturdays. Drinko is open 24 hours during the week.

Doug Smith, senior Japanese major, said he uses

the library three times a week but wasn't aware of the change in hours.

"It's good to know that they have it," Smith said. "Some people function better at those later hours."

This semester, the library will see another change in hours. The reference librarians will now be available from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

"Hopefully, those extended hours will be helpful for those who are working through the night," said Eryn Roles, reference and instruction librarian. "There is absolutely no reason why a student shouldn't ask a librarian a question if they have one."

There are no other immediate plans for change, Bradley said. However, he said he would eventually like to see the library be open 24 hours on the weekends, as well.

If the library's gate usage, the number of people who enter the front doors, continues to rise, the extending Drinko's hours would be taken into consideration, Bradley said.

Rebecca Stephens can be contacted at stephens107@marshall.edu.

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SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2012 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

Mountaineers topple Herd in Capital Classic



MARCUS CONSTANTINO | THE PARTHENON

The Marshall women's basketball team fell Tuesday to West Virginia in a tough contest that featured 52 combined fouls.

BY JAKE SNYDER
THE PARTHENON

After stumbling out of the gate, the Thundering Herd women's basketball team made a contest out of the 51st consecutive meeting with West Virginia University in the Chesapeake Energy Capital Classic.

In the end, however, foul trouble and 22 turnovers by the Herd allowed the Mountaineers to walk away with a 69-57 victory.

"West Virginia is a great basketball team," said Marshall Head Coach Royce Chadwick. "They have all the parts of the puzzle that make them great. They can shoot the three, they can play power basketball and (play) tremendous defense."

The first half was sloppy — at best — for the Herd as the club managed just seven field goals while committing 15 turnovers.

After falling behind 13-1 to open up the first stanza, Marshall steadily climbed back into the game by grabbing

nearly as many take-a-ways from the Mountaineers.

Several timely three pointers by five Herd players along with the 11 turnovers by WVU allowed the team to bridge the gap created in the first seven minutes of the game.

"It takes just a lot of mental toughness," said senior guard Alaya Mitchell. "You can't just let a run like that get you down. You have to let it fuel you and just be like 'alright, we're still in this. We can do this.'"

In total, the Herd went six-for-15 from behind the arc in the first half, including a two-for-four performance by sophomore guard Jasmine Shaw. That, coupled with Marshall shooting seven-for-nine from the free-throw line, found the Herd trailing by just four at the break.

The Herd continued to play with the Mountaineers at the outset of the second half. Down by just a point near the 16-minute mark, Marshall took possession after a turnover. But a Shay Weaver shot

just rimmed out and was followed by a three-pointer by WVU's Taylor Palmer.

Not to be outdone, Marshall's Lateidra Elliott followed with a three-point play of her own — this one coming the old-fashioned way to leave the Herd again down by just one.

The two teams traded baskets for the next four minutes, West Virginia pushing the lead and Marshall responding but never being able to even the score.

"I thought if we could ever get ahead of them that they would maybe second guess," Chadwick said. "I just kept thinking we were one play away. We were one play away."

Just under the 12-minute mark, the Mountaineers began to break away. The Thundering Herd committed 10-plus fouls in the first eight minutes of the half to put WVU into the double bonus for the rest of the contest. The Mountaineers would reach the free-throw line 40 times in the game, converting 32 of the freebies.

West Virginia rode free throws and dismal Marshall shooting for the rest of the half. In fact, the Herd did not hit a field goal from just under the 12-minute mark until the 7:58-mark, a span in which WVU outscored the green and white 16-5.

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"It was a wild game. I thought our players fought hard all night long and tried to make some things happen down the stretch."

> ROYCE CHADWICK

Men's team gears up for Capital Classic

BY JARROD CLAY
THE PARTHENON

Wednesday night, the Marshall Thundering Herd (13-4, 4-0) and the West Virginia Mountaineers

(13-5, 4-2), will meet up in Charleston for the 40th meeting between the only two Division I schools in the state.

Last season, Marshall exploded in the first half to

take a 14-point lead into the locker room. The Mountaineers came out and were able to claw back into the Capital Classic, but in the end, Marshall, led by Damier Pitts' 25 points, was able to

hold on for a 75-71 victory.

After a preseason loss at home to Northern Kentucky, many people around the rivalry wrote off West Virginia — including many on the campus of Marshall. However, the Mountaineers have done a complete 180 and Herd coach Tom Herrion said he knows they are one of the most improved teams in the nation.

"They're one of the most improved, hottest teams in America," Herrion said. "I know how good they are and how good they've gotten with him (Bob Huggins) as coach."

As for Marshall, it is coming off a run of nail biters, winning its last three contests by a combined five points. The latest of those came against conference rival UCF, and senior Damier Pitts said not only was that a crucial conference win, but a big momentum builder heading into the Capital Classic.

"We just want to keep on feeding off the momentum we've got right now," Pitts said. "We just have to hold it down for the school, hold it down for Marshall. We're going to go out there and play hard and give it everything we've got."

As for coach Herrion,

he knows the UCF victory changes nothing with West Virginia, but if nothing else, the victory gives Marshall an advantage in its mindset going into the game.

"It's obviously a little better coming off a great win than it would be overcoming a tough loss and getting ready for that team," Herrion said.

West Virginia is led by a trio of returning starters, including Kevin Jones who leads the Big East not only in scoring (20.1 points per game) but in rebounding as well (11.6 per game). Along with guard Truck Bryant, and big man Deniz Kiliçli, the Mountaineers have flown under the radar and have won nine of its last 12 contests.

"When you have one of the best point guards in the Big East, one of the best forwards in the Big East, and one of the best centers in the Big East, you have a pretty good team with a hall of fame coach," Herrion said.

When the Capital Classic tips off at 7 p.m. in Charleston, the most intriguing matchup will be that between Kevin Jones and Marshall's Dennis Tinnon, who are first and second in the nation in rebounds per game. Both are sure to be centerpiece in their team's efforts to take home the Capital Classic Trophy.

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



MARCUS CONSTANTINO | THE PARTHENON

Senior guard Shaquille Johnson celebrates after the Herd's 65-64 victory over UCF on Saturday. The team now looks forward to the Chesapeake Energy Capital Classic on Wednesday.

More demand means bigger atmosphere at Capital Classic

BY LAWREN HIGHTOWER
THE PARTHENON

The Marshall University men's basketball team travels to Charleston on Wednesday to take instate rival West Virginia University in the Chesapeake Energy Capital Classic.

Marshall 13-4 overall and 4-0 in conference USA is putting their four-game winning streak on the line against the Mountaineers who are 13-5 overall and 4-2 in the Big East.

"As the program improves, so does the atmosphere that the game is played in," said Dave Steele, Marshall assistant director of athletics for administration and business. "There is always

great excitement for this game. It's always a great environment."

The game, which will be held at the Charleston Civic Center, will be played in front of a soldout crowd of 12,337 people. The tickets were split between Marshall, WVU and the West Virginia Legislature. Marshall season ticketholders and members of the Big Green Scholarship foundation also had tickets available to those who wanted to attend the game.

"Tickets for this game are always in high demand," Steele said. "This game is good for the students, fans and legislation. Everyone involved benefits."

The final attendance numbers for the Marshall women's basketball game, which is now played the day before the Men's game, are expected to increase as well.

"Marshall actually put about 12,000 tickets into circulation," said Aaron Goebbel, Marshall associate AD for external affairs. "With every purchase of a men's ticket, we gave fans a ticket to the women's game."

Marshall looks to beat the WVU for the second straight year, which hasn't happened since the Thundering Herd beat the Mountaineers in consecutive years during the 2005 and 2006 seasons.

This will mark the 40th

time the two schools will play each other in men's basketball. The two schools started playing annually in 1978.

The Chesapeake Energy Capital Classic is being held at the Charleston Civic Center for the 21st consecutive year, and the 23rd time overall. The game was moved to Charleston full time in 1992.

The Charleston Civic Center has a new floor in the arena. The \$82,000 floor is being sponsored by the Friends of Coal, which sponsors the football series between the Thundering Herd and the Mountaineers.

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

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OPINION

"All war is a symptom of man's failure as a thinking animal."

- JOHN STEINBECK

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THE PARTHENON

ABOUT US

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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

House fires pose a serious risk

BY MICHAEL McATEER
THE PARTHENON

Two years ago, on Christmas day, my wife got a phone call from southern Virginia that her favorite aunt, "Aunt Sylvia," and her husband Dan had both perished in a house fire. It was a shock to say the least. We had just seen Sylvia and Dan at Thanksgiving the year prior. The fire inspectors noted that Sylvia was found near the front door, but apparently she had been overcome and was not able to make it out of the house safely.

I bring this up because it is a little-known fact that house fires are still a very real problem, particularly in Appalachia and the southeastern United States. According to FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Administration), house fires are on the decline from 392,000 in 2006 to 362,000 in 2010. During that same period, the number of deaths related to house fires remained constant—averaging 2,500 per year. That does not sound all that troublesome, except that according to the CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention): "On average in the U.S. in 2010, someone died in a fire every 169 minutes, and someone was injured every 30 minutes." How is this happening and why?

In Aunt Sylvia's case, we believe they were heating their house with kerosene heaters, or some other type of non-traditional heat source. This only accounts for approximately 27 percent of all house fires, particularly during winter months. According to FEMA, cooking-related accidents are by far, the leading cause of house fires. But, according to the CDC, "Smoking is the leading cause of fire-related deaths."

To be clear, this is not conflicting information. FEMA says most residential fires are caused by cooking, while the CDC denotes smoking as the leading cause of fire-related deaths. It is this distinction about fire-related deaths that is most intriguing to me, especially because West Virginia has one of the highest percentages of smoking-related death by fire in the nation. West Virginia is ranked 24 in the country in overall residential fire deaths with 29 in 2004. By contrast, West Virginia was ranked second in smoking-related residential fire deaths, with 26.9 percent, following only Louisiana.

FEMA reports that African Americans and Native Americans have the highest rate of fire-related deaths. The same report notes that men are less likely to survive a house fire than women and that it is smoke inhalation that causes death by fire, not the fire itself. But, West Virginia has a very low African-American and Native American population per capita. So what gives? There are other indicators that would place West Virginia at the top of the list. Alcohol consumption, along with smoking, has been attributed to house fires. In some cases, poverty, rural communities and lack of smoke detectors play a role in house fires starting and fire-related deaths.

A friend of mine, who was a Marshall student at the time, survived a house fire a couple of years ago, where three other students perished. It still haunts him to this day to know that while he did not start the fire, that he could do nothing to save his friends. It is the responsibility of each of us to be mindful of our actions.

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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Visit us at marshallparthenon.com, click on the OPINION link in the navigation bar to write a letter to the editor, and let your voice be heard.

EDITORIAL

Defense cuts long overdue

As the official end to the debacle that was the Iraq War is announced, one must take time to consider that despite the actual "war" being officially ended, the costs, both financial and emotional, will stay with the countries involved for many years.

Wars are not fought without consequence and, in the coming post-war years, those consequences will be highly visible to both the United States and Iraq.

Despite the broadcasted end of the war, there are still nearly 115,000 Iraqis dead and 6,000 American troops — mostly individuals from lower echelons and minorities — who lost their lives. This decade-long conflict seemed only to drag on and accomplish nothing but an egregious number of deaths, especially on the Iraqi side. So, yes, the War has come to an end, but what does that really mean?

America has the largest defense spending budget in the world. It spends as much on defense annually as the majority of all countries worldwide combined. For the next fiscal year of 2012, Congress has already passed for a sum of \$662 billion designated for defense costs. However, within the next decade defense spending is expected to drop by nearly 10 percent. This is hopefully a sign that the U.S. is over its long-standing complex of being the number one spender on defense.

Nothing comes out of investing in war, and weapons of war, except more wars and more deaths. When America is facing its current economic situation, there should be significant cuts in defense — more than already planned — and more spent on taking care of its citizens, who are facing an entirely different kind war on the home front.

Cut the defense budget and take care of your people instead of waging constant wars and costing hundreds of thousands of lives. Invest and spend taxpayer money not on the idea that there are always enemies and we must always be prepared to fight a war. Instead, invest in something that will better the lives of U.S. citizens such as education and healthcare.

It is a great thing to be done with a war, but let us not forget our history. There is already talk about U.S. intervention in Iran due to their nuclear weapons program. Not even half a year after the Iraq War ends are people talking about another invasion.

What is to be gained from war? If Iraq and Vietnam have not taught us anything by now, it is hard to tell when they will. For as long as there is so much money invested in war, and the idea that there is always a threat of war, there will be war.

POLITICAL CARTOON

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COLUMN

Is the new MU Online better or a bust?

BY ERIN MILLER
THE PARTHENON

Anybody taking online courses this semester has probably already noticed that Marshall has made some changes to its online presence. In an effort to simplify its online system, Marshall completely updated its front page and the way professors design their online course.

This being the first semester I have taken a completely digital semester, my first thought was "Great. Change it on me now that I had finally figured out how

to use the first system." Not to mention the little notice I received informing me that some of my emails and contacts had fallen through the digital cracks into what I can only assume is the great abyss of dead media.

Even worse, I needed to download a new version of Java just to open the system. What is Java and why the heck does it take so long to download? So after downloading what I can only assume was a Starbucks beverage onto my computer and logging on I begrudgingly began

to like Marshall's new system.

After my initial bout of cursing about where the heck my necessary features were, I began to see some of the improvements that the new layout provided. Professors can now personalize their online courses to fit around the class, not vice versa.

For example, "course content" is still a page choice after you log into your class, but now there can also be a "schedule" page and a syllabus page. No more last minute searching for due dates for this girl.

Organization has also

been improved. Any announcement, grades or emails a professor has sent to the class or to an individual is now shown (partially) on the home page, making it easy to keep up with the course going-ons even if you are in a hurry.

Beyond the actual annoyance with another online change I have to get used to (yeah, I'm looking at you Facebook) I really think the new online template is an improvement.

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GRANT
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“They receive their prenatal care that is directed by two high-risk pregnancy specialists, Dr. Chaffin and Dr. Stone,” Jude said. “They have a full-time addictions counselor here. We do it all internally compared to seeing multiple physicians. The grant from Carelink gave us the ability to cover the salary of our counselor and expenses of nurses and support staff.”

Dr. Yolanda Campbell, Cabell Huntington Hospital Obstetrician and Gynecologist, said they are dealing with highly addictive medications that are hard for mothers to get off.

“We see a lot of women who seem to want to do the right thing but fail unfortunately because they are so addicted. The biggest obstacle for a program like this is patients being able to follow through and stick to the program,” Campbell said.

The Maternal Opiate Addiction Clinic is already accepting patients and plans to increase the number of patients seen in the future.

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STATE
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and there is no authentication to what an institution’s liability truly is,” Kopp said.

Any assumptions or predications may not be accurate as they overstate real liability.

“Marshall uses five-year budget projections,” Kopp said. “The state is resolving the issue so we can begin to look at what we are going to be responsible for and how we can plan for liabilities from a year to year basis as well as a five-year rolling basis.”

As a higher education institution, Marshall is producing thousands of educated college graduates every year.

Earl Ray Tomblin’s plan to create several jobs that offer benefits in the state

of West Virginia is a great way to keep the new graduates in state.

“We know we are producing college graduates,” Kopp said. “We want them to stay in the state. We want them to use their intellectual horsepower to help our state grow and develop economically and socially.”

A positive campaign that continues from the former Manchin administration is the goal to eliminate substance abuse throughout the state.

The emphasis given to this campaign correlates with the new, as well as the existing industries expanding in the state.

Kopp said the single most important consideration is that we have an educated and drug-free workforce.

“Students need to recognize that they have a

personal responsibility to not only prepare themselves intellectually for their chosen career paths, but they have the responsibility to how they live their lives that is constant with employability,” Kopp said.

Student Body President, Ray Harrell Jr., said in the issue of substance abuse that it should be tackled proactively rather than reactively.

“People need to be educated or they’re not going to know any better,” Harrell said. “It is important for our present and future West Virginia workforces to know the dangers of drug abuse.”

The state legislature resumed last Wednesday where more progress was jumpstarted on statements discussed throughout the State of the State address.

Budgets and project

timelines will be completed and many might be effective to higher education facilities such as Marshall.

In closing, Tomblin said, “Together, we can make West Virginia all it can be.”

These future changes to be established throughout the state will expand West Virginia allowing us to compete with current, economically strong states.

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UNITY
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Unity Carnival, the Homecoming parade, the Cee Lo Green concert, and the annual plane crash memorial ceremony. He also said that the updated SGA website allows more content, is more

user friendly, and allows for students to contact the SGA directly with their concerns.

Harrell said some of the programs he hopes to unveil in the following year include a mentoring program for students, a more useful evaluation process for students to fill out about professors,

and a university sponsored food pantry for students that can’t afford meals.

The SGA meets at 4p.m. Tuesdays in the Memorial Student Center, room 2W22.

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WOMEN
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with all five of the Herd’s points coming on free throws, to put the Mountaineers up 58-45.

The Thundering Herd put together a 12-5 run in response but would never bring the score closer than six.

“It was a wild game,” Chadwick said. “I thought our players really fought hard all night long and tried to make some things happen down the stretch.”

The Herd finished at a struggling 25.5 percent shooting on the night including going one-for-15 from behind the arc in the second half. The team did manage to outrebound

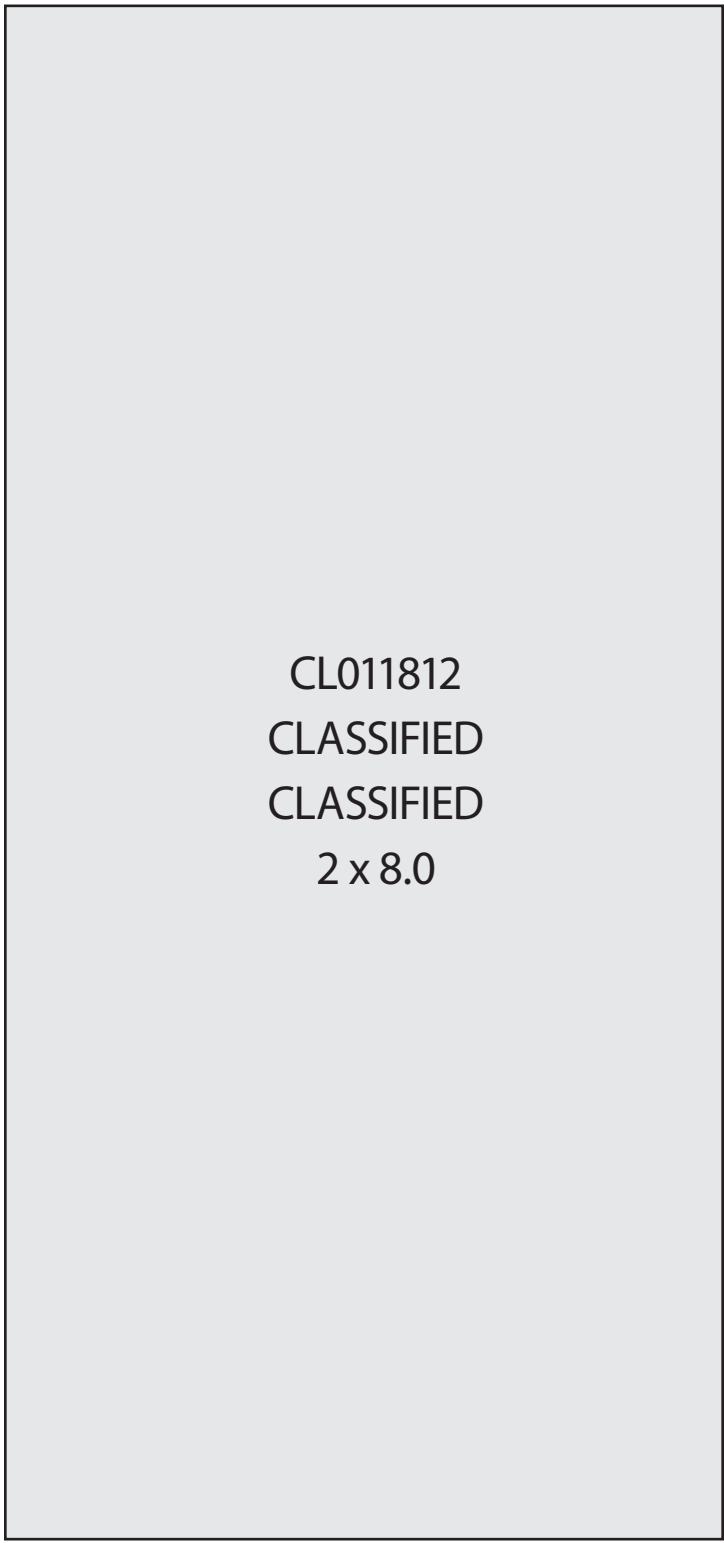
the Mountaineers 44 to 33, including 18 offensive boards.

Lateidra Elliott led the Herd in scoring, grabbing 13 points. Twelve Marshall players scored at least once. Rebounds were spread across the board, as well, as 13 members of the Herd picked up at least one.

The women’s basketball

team now returns back to Conference USA play as they take on the University of Central Florida on Sunday at the Cam Henderson Center. The Knights (7-9, 2-2) will come into the Henderson Center on just two days’ rest, after a home contest against Rice.

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