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THE PARTHENON

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Mentors provide opportunity for students to connect locally, professionally

BY ZACHARY MORRIS
THE PARTHENON

Ray Harrell, Jr., student body president, has proposed a three-point mentoring program that will help better acclimate students to campus life.

The program will provide students with a peer and faculty mentor who will

contact and plan events with them.

Mentors will act as a liaison for any questions or concerns the student has and will play a key role in ensuring they adapt to the university lifestyle. Each faculty and peer mentor would be responsible for six to eight mentees.

"I attended the

Noel-Levitz Conference in Denver, and one of the sessions focused on mentoring which is where I got the idea," Harrell said. "They discussed how the results were tangible in the aspect of retention as well as psychological development for mentees."

The program targets incoming freshmen outside

of the commuter radius but will remain open to all students.

The mentors would encourage them to reach out to Career Services on campus and participate in the Marshall Mentoring Network. This program would pair students with a professional mentor in their ideal career field.

The program has been modeled after the Mentoring Program at the University of Michigan that has been in effect since 1991.

"The program at the University of Michigan really combines the peer-faculty aspect that I wanted for this program," Harrell said. "They've seen really

positive results. It's a very large program that's grown exponentially over the years, and I'm working with the director of their program in order to develop ours."

Through the program, mentors would be able to see how they individually

See MENTOR | Page 5

Yellow Ribbon program now accepting applications

BY ANDREW FROBEL
THE PARTHENON

The Yellow Ribbon program gives military veterans across the nation, at most public universities, the opportunity to apply for eligibility.

This program is also known as the "Post-9/11" GI Bill and has been around since August 2009. It pays all resident tuition and fees for public school.

The program gives veterans the opportunity to give his or her benefits that they receive from the program to a dependent. The major twist to that option is that the veteran's dependent must be eligible for the program. That dependent must also be kin to the veteran such as a son, daughter, wife or husband.

Lora Varney, veterans' affairs certification specialist at Marshall University, said the qualifications a student must meet in order to register, has its list.

"You first have to serve at least 36 months of active duty after the date of Sept. 10, 2011. You must also be an undergraduate student who is not a resident of West Virginia," Varney said.

At Marshall, the veteran must be from out of state, an undergraduate student and served at least three years of active duty in the United States military.

Another way that a veteran of war can qualify for the program is if he/she was honorably discharged, caused by a disability, after serving at least 30 days of active duty. All branches of the U.S. military, including the Coast Guard and all National Guard services can

See VA | Page 5

Hit the LIGHTS



MARCUS CONSTANTINO | THE PARTHENON

Fans create a kelly green glow as they cheer on the Thundering Herd during introductions of the starting players. Marshall's men's basketball team take on the UAB Blazer at 7 p.m. today at The Cam Henderson Center. Glow sticks will be provided.

PAGE 6 > Player, opponent reactions to pregame rituals
> The story behind the glow sticks

Self-defense class educates women

BY ALLYSON WARNER
THE PARTHENON

A self-defense class targeted toward female students offers techniques for helping them fight against sexual assaults.

Rape Aggression Defense is a nationally known program that shows students how to protect themselves. It has been offered to Marshall University students since 1998.

Sergeant Scott Ballou, of the Marshall University Police Department, said the class is not purely physical, but also educational.

University police teach the class and are all certified through the R.A.D program.

The class covers a wide variety of information but is mainly geared toward sexual assault and abduction, something students can carry with them forever.

According to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, a sexual assault happens every two minutes

See ASSAULT | Page 5

Morrow to begin escorting stacks

BY REBECCA STEPHENS
THE PARTHENON

Visitors of the stacks of the James E. Morrow Library this semester, likely won't be entering alone.

The stacks are currently being reorganized, and the staff and work-study students will now escort visitors to help them find what they are looking for during this transition process.

"As hard as it was to find things before, it's next to impossible right now," said Nat DeBruin, archivist and manuscripts librarian.

When students, faculty or community patrons come to the front desk, they will be asked for the call number of the book, or books, they need. A staff member or work-study student will then accompany

them into the stacks to help them find the materials.

DeBruin said browsing access will be limited, but the stacks are still open.

"We're completely, 100 percent open," DeBruin said. "We don't want anybody to think the doors are closed. We want to help you find what you're looking for."

Three floors of journals and magazines separate the book collection in the current setup. The goal of the reconfiguration project is to consolidate the books and to put the journals and magazines in a call number sequence as opposed to an alphabetical one, DeBruin said.

The call number sequence will make it easier for the staff and work-study students to find

journals that have been requested for loans.

When the reorganization is complete, the top floor of the stacks will be closed off for archival material. Books will start on the second floor, and journals will start where the books end, DeBruin said.

The reorganization will make the stacks easier to navigate for visitors.

"When the stacks were built, it was a non-browsing collection, so they could do things that made sense library-wise, but were totally confusing to patrons," DeBruin said.

There are several work-study students that work for DeBruin in the library, and they spend their work hours moving books.

Catlyn Hendricks, freshman

nursing major from Stuarts Draft, Va., said moving the books and escorting students, faculty and patrons helps the work-study students learn where everything is.

"It gives us a chance to show people what we know," DeBruin said. "We understand more about the books because we've been moving them."

"It is really helpful to have to shelve all these books," said Samantha Slade, freshman graphic design major from Chapmanville, W.Va.

The libraries other services, which include EZ-Borrow, Interlibrary loan and hold requests, will continue as normal and will not be affected by the reconfiguration project.

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NEWS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2012

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Students adjust to new Blackboard

BY SHANE ARRINGTON
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University students are in the middle of a change that has taken their routine world and shaken it up.

MUOnline, a program all students have to use eventually, whether sparingly for a traditional course or continually for an online class, has been revamped – causing some dislike, according to one student.

“The biggest thing is just having to relearn the setup,” said Jordan Fulks, sophomore engineering major. “Since I’ve grown up in a tech-savvy generation, I don’t have too much to be confused about. I just don’t like too much change.”

Marshall was using a hybrid system based on old WebCT and Blackboard software prior to the start of the spring 2012 semester.

With this update, Marshall now joins the hundreds of other schools that use the full Blackboard software, according to the Blackboard website.

Monica Brooks, assistant vice president for Information Technology: Online Learning and Libraries, said students should not worry too much because they have

not been left to fend for themselves.

“We have training provided by lynda.com,” Brooks said. “The link to the training is one of the first things you see on the MUOnline homepage.”

To access the Blackboard training on Lynda, students click on the link and sign in using their Marshall ID and password. Once on the Lynda site, students should search for Blackboard 9.x Essential Training for Students.

Brooks said she and her students have come to enjoy the new Blackboard system. She admits, however, her students are generally older and more flexible than the traditional student.

“I think it’s easier for the non-traditional students who are used to changes,” Brooks said. “The thing students need to realize is Blackboard is a package deal. We couldn’t pick and choose which exact things we thought would be best. Blackboard is the leader in the market, and we got a great product.”

The change is still fresh though, and Brooks said she understands it will take students time to get used to the new layout and options Blackboard provides. She also said the change will be good in the

SUBMITTED PHOTO

MUOnline features a new layout this semester. Training is available for students who have trouble navigating the updated website.

long run due to the software being shared by so many other schools.

“This will help transfer students and graduate students,”

Brooks said. “If a student comes here or goes to another school that also uses this Blackboard software, it will be one less thing the student has

to worry about, one less thing they will have to learn. This will help make their transition easier.”

Brooks offered one final

piece of advice.

“Give it time,” she said.

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Program focuses on enhancement for McDowell County schools

BY HILARY FREEMAN
THE PARTHENON

Primary education systems across the nation are looking for new options, and Marshall University is partnering with one county in West Virginia to test one of these options.

“Reconnecting McDowell: Long-Term partnership to Transform a County” is a program in McDowell County through the American Federation of Teachers, including 40 private partners, that has been receiving attention locally and nationally.

Stan Maynard, director of the June Harless Center for

Rural Education, said in a “Reconnecting McDowell” press release, this initiative pushes the state of West Virginia in the right direction.

“The McDowell Project has tremendous potential for the West Virginia educational system,” Maynard said. “This initiative will not only benefit the McDowell County educational system but could help other school systems throughout.”

The program is dependent on public and private sector partnerships to donate money or services that are heavily needed in McDowell such as books, online learning services

and planning funds.

“Efforts will include intensive preparation for pre-kindergartners, a well-rounded curriculum for academics and social development, guidance and other support services, parent engagement and improved college and career readiness for high school students,” said Janet Bass, spokesperson for the AFT.

Another partner in this project is “Save the Children,” a program to promote literacy.

The state of West Virginia has granted Save the Children \$1 million to assist three elementary schools in McDowell

County in training teachers to focus in on literacy education.

“The AFT recognized this need, and we’re excited to be a part of the coalition to revitalize McDowell,” said Mark Shriver, senior vice president of Save the Children United States programs.

An issue being addressed by “Reconnecting McDowell” is a housing shortage due to the mountainous terrain, which can make recruitment of teachers difficult.

The West Virginia American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations has provided funding to begin digging

more water lines for homes to be constructed in the county, Bass said.

Other private partners include Frontier Communication, High Mark Blue Cross Blue Shield West Virginia and the Alliance for Excellent Education.

“McDowell County is an American story that deserves a new chapter,” said Randi Weingarten, AFT President, in the press release. “Given the challenges, being conventional won’t be good enough here. We will be flexible, creative and entrepreneurial and will take risks.”

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Questioning mountaintop removal

THE PARTHENON

Coal may have been West Virginia’s livelihood for more than a century, but several groups are determined to save their mountain from Massey Energy, and Marshall University’s environmental student group is promoting their stories.

The Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC) is featuring the documentary “The Last Mountain” 6 p.m. Thursday in the Robert C. Byrd Bio-Tech Center in Room 101.

A question and answer session with featured activist Maria Gunnoe and coalfield resident Danny Cook will follow the movie, said Danny Taylor, SEAC advisor.

“The movie is about mountain top removal mining in West Virginia and how it affects the people, the environment and the economy,” Taylor said.

Sen. Joe Manchin appears briefly in the movie and “is pretty favorable to the coal industry,” Taylor said.

According to the movie’s website, the activists want a wind farm built on the ridges of the mountain.

Roger Ebert, noted film critic, listed “The Last Mountain” as one of the top 10 documentary films of 2011, Taylor said.

McDowell high school receives makeover in regards to energy

BY HILARY FREEMAN
THE PARTHENON

A McDowell County school, in partnership with Marshall University, is getting a makeover in its energy department.

Mount View initiative is a new program in McDowell County. Marshall has partnered with others to provide assistance in finding ways to promote renewable energy in Mount View High School, a school in the heart of coal country.

Ginny Painter, communications director for the Marshall Research Corporation, released a statement that the Marshall Center for Environmental, Geotechnical and Applied Science and the West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center at Marshall have partnered with the West Virginia Department of Energy to install solar panels, educate on renewable energy sources and provide

opportunities for students to study the panels at Mount View.

The school is placed on a surface mine site at the top of a ridge—an area perfect to pick up solar energy through solar panels.

This program is one of many happening in the state to encourage alternative methods of energy in areas where surface mining has been prominent.

George Carico, program coordinator of the West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center, said this is a creative way to educate the students of McDowell in a hands-on way about renewable energy sources.

“While solar panels have been around for a number of years, most people don’t fully understand the various aspects, both positive and negative, of this type of renewable energy,” Carico said. “At Mount View High School

See ENERGY | Page 5

Faculty Senate to meet Thursday

THE PARTHENON

Marshall University’s Faculty Senate will be hosting its first meeting of the semester Thursday.

Chair dr. Camilla Brammer will deliver current campus announcements affecting most faculty and staff.

The meeting will also cover previous meetings, committee recommendations and committee reports.

Marshall University President Stephen Kopp is scheduled to attend, and a report from Marshall University Provost Gayle Ormiston is on

the agenda.

Dean of Students Steve Hensley has requested to speak to the senate during the meeting.

Hensley will be promoting the Student Leadership and Service Awards Program to the senate.

The Student Leadership and Service Awards Program recognizes students for their outstanding leadership on campus.

Hensley said he encourages everyone to nominate outstanding students to the program.

“We want to recognize our students that excel in student organizations, service to the community and any activity that happens out of class,”

Hensley said.

Hensley said students are often over-looked when participating in projects outside the classroom, and it is a great way for students to be recognized for their efforts.

The program will host a ceremony, where several awards such as a Dean’s Award, Resident Assistant of the Year, Advisor of the Year and Community Service Club of the Year Award will be given to involved students.

The Faculty Senate meeting will adjourn when agenda requests for the next meeting have been completed.

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SPORTS

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BACK HOME

The Thundering Herd men's basketball team returns home to the Cam Henderson Center after a week on the road

BY JARROD CLAY
THE PARTHENON

After losing back-to-back games for the third time this season, the Marshall men's basketball team looks to return to its winning ways Wednesday night against the visiting University of Alabama-Birmingham Blazers.

In Marshall's last outing, it lost its first conference game of the season to Southern Miss but still sits tied for second in the Conference USA standings.

This will be the second meeting between the two squads this season, as the Herd outlasted the Blazers 61-59 on Jan. 11 in Birmingham.

Although a conference win never comes easy, especially a season sweep, having just played UAB a few weeks ago does provide some benefits.

"There's a level a familiarity, especially (the last matchup) being so recent," said Marshall head coach Tom Herrion. "It helps our kids. They're much more familiar personnel-wise, and know some of the things they run. So we'll have a little bit easier times re-dressing our schemes."

In the last matchup, the star for the Herd was big

man Dennis Tinnon, who finished the game with only eight points, but a career-high 19 rebounds.

In the early stages of the season, he was a bit of a secret weapon for the Herd, but Tinnon has now received national attention and sits atop many rebounding categories.

"They're (UAB) obviously going to be much more conscious of him, as is everybody in our conference," Herrion said. "He's arguably one of the best offensive rebounders in America so he's obviously going to get more attention."

Tinnon was not alone in dominating the glass, as Marshall out rebounded UAB 41-33 in the first matchup.

This has been a reoccurring theme this season, as Marshall has only been out rebounded once—against West Virginia.

"Dennis obviously jumps out at you, but we share the wealth in that area," Herrion said. "We've got a lot of guys rebounding the ball, (DeAndre) Kane averages a lot of rebounds for a perimeter player, and Nigel (Spikes) in conference play has really been rebounding well."

Throughout several

occasions this season, Marshall has faced halftime deficits, including a three-point margin against UAB and 12-point margin in its last contest against USM.

However, regardless of its opponent, the Herd has found a way to erase those halftime deficits.

"We keep fighting no matter what, but we have to quit coming out slow in the first half," said junior forward Dennis Tinnon. "We always come out strong in the second half, and if we had that same mentality in the first, we would be able to beat those teams by 20-plus, instead of two or four."

Leading the way for UAB is senior Cameron Moore, who scored a team-high 22 points in the first game against the Herd.

The 6' 6" forward is averaging a double-double, and presents a major mismatch for a defense.

"He plays in, he plays out, and they put him in the post a lot," Herrion said about Moore. "He's very versatile and very skilled."

The Herd and Blazers will tipoff inside the Cam Henderson Center for their sixteenth meeting at 7 p.m. Wednesday night.

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



MARCUS CONSTANTINO | THE PARTHENON

TOP: Sophomore guard

DeAndre Kane looks to pass during the Thundering Herd's last home contest against UCF.

Kane leads the team in points per game, averaging 16.4, while also occurring 28 steals.

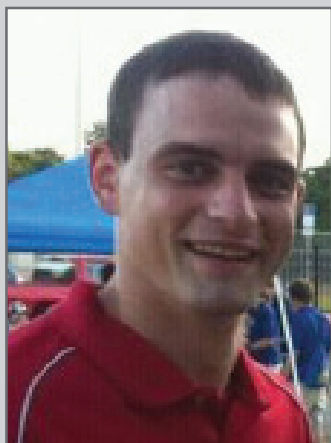
BOTTOM: Tom Herrion has

lead Marshall to a 13-6 record, including a 4-1 conference record. Herrion and company head into Wednesday's matchup with UAB on a two-game losing streak, falling to Southern Miss on Saturday and WVU on Jan. 18.



COLUMN

UAB's transfer troubles



JAKE SNYDER
SPORTS EDITOR

As the Thundering Herd men's basketball team prepares to take on the University of Alabama-Birmingham on Wednesday, the Blazers will be missing a 7-foot, 250-pound player that has never donned a UAB uniform.

That's because 22-year-old graduate student Todd O'Brien's appeal for a transfer release from Saint Joseph's University was denied one week ago.

O'Brien, who played two years under Saint Joseph's coach Phil Martelli, graduated last summer and chose UAB in order to pursue a

graduate degree in public administration.

Unfortunately for O'Brien, Martelli and Saint Joe's athletic director Don DiJulia denied the player's transfer request. Last Wednesday, the NCAA made the decision official, denying O'Brien's appeal.

This decision is wrong on several levels.

First of all, O'Brien was looking to move to a program Saint Joe's does not offer. To punish a student for wanting to move to a different school for education reasons is unfathomable, especially when O'Brien has a full year of eligibility remaining in his basketball career.

The next problem that arises in this situation is that this is not an uncommon practice. Don't believe me?

Marshall fans, see Willy Korn.

Remember him?

Korn transferred to Marshall after graduating from Clemson in 2009. Korn came to the Herd football program to take a shot at the starting quarterback

job while attending grad school. Sure, Korn was moved to the defense and subsequently disappeared from the Marshall campus faster than the fleeting thought of baseball field. But I digress.

Point is, Todd O'Brien should be dressing Wednesday night, and every other night for that matter.

Sure, O'Brien had a bit of a fallout at Saint Joe's. Last season, an on campus incident left him suspended for four games. O'Brien was reinstated on the team after the incident but only averaged a little more than seven minutes per game on the year.

An article by Sporting-News on Thursday reported that O'Brien stated Martelli and the Hawks were denying him his transfer release "because he's (Martelli) angry the 7-footer decided to transfer." The article continued to denote that Martelli has yet to comment on the situation.

"I don't know why this happened," O'Brien told ESPN that same day. "I'm mad. It's so stupid. It's so

petty."

Kudos, Mr. O'Brien.

O'Brien had the fortitude to come out and say exactly what everyone should be thinking. And petty is the only way to describe it. Perhaps sour grapes works as well.

Then, as if it was not bad enough that Martelli shot down a request from a player who averaged a meager one point per game in his final season with the Hawks, the NCAA chose to compound the problem by denying the appeal.

Here's hoping they know something I don't.

If not, it's time to reevaluate the transfer process for a grad student. Take it out of the coaches' hands. Let players decide where they want to go to grad school. And if they have a year or two left of basketball eligibility, let them play.

ESPN reported Thursday that O'Brien and his attorney are looking into other courses of legal action.

Here's hoping he finds it. Jake Snyder can be contacted at snyder100@marshall.edu.



Around the league...

USM
ECU 7:00 PM

The Golden Eagles are searching for the season series sweep, while the Pirates are hoping for their first C-USA victory.

UCF
Tulsa 8:00 PM

UCF has won three of four and Tulsa is on a four-game winning streak, with each looking for separation at the top of C-USA.

SMU
Tulane 8:00 PM

Two teams in the bottom half of C-USA meet up attempting to get on the right track before it's too late.

Rice
Memphis 8:00 PM

The Tigers put their 9-1 home record on the line, as the Owls leave the nest for just the ninth time this season.

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.

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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.

EDITORIAL

Supreme Court's decision secures Fourth Amendment rights

The Supreme Court ruled in favor of United States citizens and their Fourth Amendment rights Monday. In a unanimous ruling, the court was able to declare it strictly unconstitutional for law enforcement to attach tracking devices on suspects' cars without a warrant. This decision comes at a crucial time in the U.S. With the ever-expanding world of technology, more ways are being created for people to be tracked. Whether it is cell phones or GPS devices installed on vehicles, privacy is becoming a major issue. People are now much more easily tracked, and it is up to the courts to enforce the Constitution against such actions. The ruling by the Supreme Court on Monday was made in favor of people and their constitutional right against illegal search and seizure.

U.S. v. Jones was the case decided on Monday and will serve as one of the first as this country explores a new era of technological advancements. The defendant was a suspected cocaine dealer that the police attached a GPS device to his vehicle. They followed the movement of Jones for 28 days. Later, he would be arrested for conspiring to sell cocaine and receive a life sentence. Where did this evidence come from? It was based upon the evidence gathered during the period of surveillance.

However, all this occurred on an expired warrant. Jones was surely involved in some dubious activity, but he should have not been convicted on the evidence gained through an unwarranted tracking device on his vehicle.

This case is different, and pertinent to the digital age, in the sense that no physical intrusion occurred. The Supreme Court could have said because there was no physical intrusion, then there was no constitutional protection. Luckily, this was not the case. Called a "signal event in Fourth Amendment history," by the defense lawyer, this case will hopefully pave the way for at least future protection of the Fourth Amendment.

However, let us not forget that after 9/11, many actions were taken and bills were passed to monitor and scrutinize American citizens for suspected terrorism ties. Many of these, including the Patriot Act and the most recent National Defense Operation Act which states that suspected terrorists can be "indefinitely detained," are still being enforced against citizens. So, yes, let us revel in this Fourth Amendment victory, but let us not forget that we are still a ways to go from having the full constitutional entitlement to barring illegal search and seizure.



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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POLITICAL CARTOON



COLUMN

GOP presidential hopefuls disregard women's rights by being against abortion

BY KATIE QUINONEZ
NEWS EDITOR

Sunday marked the 39th anniversary of landmark United States Supreme Court case *Roe v. Wade*. Courts ruled in 1973 that a right to privacy under the due process clause in the Fourteenth Amendment extended to a woman's right to have an abortion. Although it has been in existence for nearly four decades, its validity is being threatened by a scathing group of rich, white bureaucratic men none of which will ever become pregnant. I pose the question: Who the hell do they think they are?

To refresh readers, Republican presidential abortion stances are as follows: While Newt Gingrich does not support a constitutional ban on abortion, he does not believe abortion

clinics should receive federal funding. Mitt Romney opposes abortion rights, though he previously supported them. He believes *Roe v. Wade* should be reversed, leaving the decision of legality to the states. Rick Santorum not only favors a constitutional ban on abortion, but he also opposes abortion in rape and incest cases.

Abortion has been under scrutiny and attracted many diehard critics since its beginnings. This is mostly credited to the role religion has been allowed to play in government when regarding matters of abortion or the reproductive rights of women. It is simply absurd that both Democrats and Republicans would allow their own personal religious views to infiltrate government and their own civic

duty. I am tired of politicians attempting to crush the rights of women in the name of religion just for some political leverage.

With the current state of the law, heavy regulations exist to prevent state regulation or involvement in matters of abortion. If any of the Republican candidates have it their way, my access to female healthcare becomes limited. If states are left to decide, it would most likely be the death of a woman's right to choose in the majority of southern states. Being a woman from West Virginia, this terrifies me.

The potential of life is taking priority over an existing life, and I have to wonder if the circumstances would be the same if men were able to become pregnant. Would middle-aged white men be so quick to develop opinions

on the matter? Would presidential hopeful Romney be so noble as to "save a beating heart?"

The U.S. has the second highest teen pregnancy and birth rate in the world, trumped only by Bulgaria, according to a study released by the Center for Disease Control in 2009. We have a higher rate of teen pregnancy than any other industrialized nation in the world. According to the CDC, major factors that contribute to teen pregnancy are predominantly socioeconomic. Aside from the obvious factors, being sexually active and a lack of contraception, most can be attributed to living in poverty. Thus, the war on *Roe v. Wade* becomes not only a war on women as a whole but also on the poor.

Katie Quinonez can be contacted at quinonez@marshall.edu.

CORRECTIONS

Department of Physical Therapy to add new program

In Monday's edition of The Parthenon a story on page 1 by Molly Urian stated the Department of Physical Therapy was expecting

"full accreditation in the spring." This should have stated the department is expecting "full candidacy status," not "full accreditation."

Business fraternities begin recruiting efforts

In Tuesday's edition of The Parthenon a story by Frances Lazell regarding a business fraternity stated they have "core values of brotherhood, knowledge, integrity, service and unity." The article should have said they have,

"the core values of professionalism, service and scholarship." Also, the name of the fraternity is the XI Upsilon Chapter of Delta Sigma Pi, not the Zeta Rho chapter of Alpha Kappa Psi business fraternity, as stated in the article.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

As a Marshall professor, a Penn State alumna, and someone deeply concerned with the portrayal of sexual violence in our culture, I was genuinely appalled by Monday's editorial covering Joe Paterno's death. Not because I don't agree with your point—in fact, your argument, and the editorial as a whole, was thoughtful and just.

Paterno was a good coach who made a mistake that rightfully cost him his job—and that contributed to the suffering of innocent people. However, the language your editorial board chose in describing the scandal was unfortunate at best, and, in my opinion, significantly undermined an otherwise strong piece.

The so-called "Penn State Scandal" did not involve, as you put it, "sexual relations between grown men and children," nor did it involve "sexual relations between Jerry Sandusky and young males." The correct term is "sexual abuse of children" or "sexual abuse of boys by

Jerry Sandusky," or, perhaps most accurately, "the (alleged) rape of children by a member of the Penn State coaching staff." The use of the term "sexual relations," particularly in the second construction ("sexual relations between Jerry Sandusky and young males") implies that Sandusky's violent actions were either consensual, misconstrued, or downplayed—in other words, that phrase implies what Sandusky did was not nearly as serious as it was.

By refusing to call sexual violence what it is, we contribute to a culture that downplays its impact. The events at Penn State were nothing short of monstrous, and choosing language that deliberately downplays the reality of those events perpetuates the kinds of inaction that ultimately brought down Paterno.

Thank you, Jill Treftz
Marshall University
English professor

Obama focuses on economic fairness in State of the Union

BY STEVEN THOMMA
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS
(MCT)

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama urged Congress on Tuesday to level the playing field for the middle class, in part by making the rich bear more of the country's burdens and cracking down on Wall Street excess.

"Millions of Americans who work hard and play by the rules every day deserve a government and a financial system that does the same," he said, according to excerpts of his State of the Union address released by the White House in advance of his speech to a joint session of Congress.

"It's time to apply the same rules from top to bottom: No bailouts, no handouts and no copouts. An America built to last insists on responsibility from everybody."

The remarks appeared to frame his agenda for the 2012 re-election campaign year on familiar terms: Asking the wealthy to pay more taxes, vowing greater regulation of Wall Street and using the federal government to do more to help the working and middle classes.

"No challenge is more urgent. No debate is more important," he said. "We can either settle for a country where a shrinking number of people do really well, while a growing number of Americans barely get by. Or we can restore an economy where everyone gets a fair shot, everyone does their fair share, and everyone plays by the same set of rules."

The speech was written to flesh out a broad vision he laid out in December in a speech in Osawatimie, Kan., one modeled after a 1910 speech that Theodore



Photos by Olivier Douliery | Abaca Press/MCT
U.S. President Barack Obama greets Rep. Gabrielle Giffords (D-AZ) before giving the State of the Union address before a joint session of Congress, Tuesday, January 24, 2012, in Washington, D.C.

Roosevelt gave in the same town laying out themes for what would become the Progressive Era.

Under the broad theme of helping build a fairer economy, Obama laid out proposals in four categories: helping restore U.S. manufacturing, improving U.S. energy independence, teaching workers new skills for a changing economy, and what he called "a renewal of American values."

Obama looked out on a Congress where Republicans control the House of Representatives and have ruled out most of his proposals, particularly tax increases for the wealthy.

"As long as I'm president, I will work with anyone in this chamber," Obama said. "But I intend to fight obstruction with action,

and I will oppose any effort to return to the very same policies that brought on this economic crisis in the first place.

"We will not go back to an economy weakened by outsourcing, bad debt and phony financial profits," he added.

"Think about the America within our reach."

Obama framed his vision this way: "A country that leads the world in educating its people. An America that attracts a new generation of high-tech manufacturing and high-paying jobs. A future where we're in control of our own energy, and our security and prosperity aren't so tied to unstable parts of the world. An economy built to last, where hard work pays off, and responsibility is rewarded."

Republican congressional

leaders spent most of the day saying it was Obama, not Congress, that's to blame for the nation's economic condition.

"If the president wants someone to blame for this economy, he should start with himself," said Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. "The fact is, any CEO in America with a record like this after three years on the job would be graciously shown the door."

"The president's policies, again, are just going to double down on what hasn't worked," said House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio. "We're hopeful that the president will extend something of an olive branch tonight to work with us on those policies that will help get our economy moving again, and help create jobs in our country."

ASSAULT

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in the United States. With the help of R.A.D. students can gain insight on how to protect themselves with hands-on techniques and a manual with basic information.

Participants in the class said they feel better about themselves knowing they do not have to rely on someone else to protect them.

"I found a new side of

me that I never knew existed," said Meaghan Jarrell, school counseling major. "I felt somewhat aggressive and empowered."

Ballou said after taking the class, women are guaranteed to have a better chance at surviving an attack with the techniques they are taught.

"We show them you do have options, and this is what you can do in the situation," Ballou said.

"Nobody knows when or where an attack can take place—it can be anytime."

At the end of the course students take part in a one-on-one mock assault allowing them to experience an attack before it actually happens.

"Now I walk around and feel comfortable being by myself by becoming more aware, especially during night classes," Jarrell said.

The R.A.D. course lasts eight weeks and is offered every semester with both

basic and advanced classes.

"There's really nothing more important than your own safety," Ballou said. "If you feel like you can take care of yourself, I believe that's a huge step in empowering their lives."

More information about the class is available by contacting Ballou at 696-6407 or by visiting the Marshall Police Department.

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

PREGAME

Continued from Page 6

"It's like another advantage to the game so I think the glow sticks are great," Pitts said.

Hanlen, who has played many different teams in multiple conferences said Marshall's pregame is one that is special.

"We travel around and play opponents from multiple different teams including major teams like Duke," Hanlen said. "I thought that the rituals you guys had, added a special touch that made Marshall stand out over

some of the other schools we play at."

After being here since the first "glow out," Pena said Marshall fans mean everything to the team.

"We probably have the best fans in Conference USA by far," Pena said. "It's so easy to win here. If I wasn't on the team, I would hate to come play at Marshall, definitely."

The Thundering Herd takes the court 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Cam Henderson Center. As usual, glow sticks will be provided.

Crystal Myers can be contacted at myers132@marshall.edu.

VA

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register for the Yellow Ribbon program.

Varney said there are approximately 53 Yellow Ribbon recipients as of this semester. "Currently, 520 students at Marshall University are certified for these benefits," Varney said.

Some schools across the country have a cap on how many students can receive the Yellow Ribbon benefits. However, Marshall has an unlimited amount on how many students can become recipients.

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

ENERGY

Continued from Page 2

the students, teachers, parents and members of the community will be getting first-hand knowledge. We'll

be educating a wide variety of people about this energy resource."

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

Study finds link between airline profitability, risk

BY JOHN TERNIEDEN
THE DAILY UNIVERSE,
BRIGHAM YOUNG U. VIA
UWIRE

A Brigham Young U. professor has conducted a recent study that suggests an airline's ability to meet financial goals may increase the likelihood of accidents.

Peter Madsen, assistant professor of organizational leadership and strategy in the Marriott School of Management, investigated 133 United States airlines between 1990 and 2007 and found a relationship between an airline's ability to reach its financial aims and its number of accidents. According to Madsen, the study indicates as an airline exceeds or falls short of its financial aims, there is a decrease in the risk of an accident.

Madsen based his study on a theoretical tradition called the 'Behavioral Theory of the Firm.'

"Behavioral Theories of the Firm ... focus more on the behavior that leads to outcomes. In other words, these theories are more concerned with why people do things," said Mark Hansen, assistant professor of organizational leadership and strategy, in an email.

According to Madsen, the increased risk generated when companies are close to meeting their performance targets is caused largely by subconscious decisions.

"People pay a lot of attention to goals," said Madsen. "If a company knows it's close to a financial target and might miss it, there is a tendency to take a few more risks, or to not act as carefully. Whereas if you are far away from targets, there isn't that emphasis on making sure you're getting the company over the financial

hump."

Despite these findings, Madsen isn't suggesting travelers check financial statements before booking their next vacation.

"Commercial aviation in the United States, and the first world, is so incredibly safe," said Madsen. "The effects of this study were statistically meaningful, but still very small."

In fact, the aim of his findings were not geared towards informing passengers of potential risks, but intended for those decision makers responsible for the safety of travelers.

According to a study used by Madsen, a traveler could fly every day for about 35,000 years before being killed in an accident.

"What I found, was that as profitability declines or increases relative to the target by 10 percent, you'll see a drop-off in accident risk of 7 percent," said Madsen. "Even a 7 percent increase in accident risk still means you could take a flight every day and still not be killed in a crash for over 32,000 years."

The results of this study may also extend beyond aviation and be transferable to other industries.

"The theory I developed is very general," said Madsen. "I have to be careful because I've only studied this in terms of aviation, but I expect that these findings could be even more defined in other industries only because aviation is so safe and so heavily regulated."

The Federal Aviation Administration has also taken an interest in his findings and Madsen said he hopes as a result, his model could be used to help decision makers emphasize safety measures when companies are close to financial targets.

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MENTOR

Continued from Page 1

affect the college experience of their mentee and they would also be able to gain an hour of credit.

Harrell plans to send materials to students over the summer as well as reach out to parents to educate them about the program and its benefit to students.

"Parents really influence a first year student's

decisions, and if you can get the parents sold on the idea then they will encourage their child to participate once they get to Marshall," Harrell said.

Harrell said he has sent the program to the

Strategic Enrollment and Planning Council, the Student Resource Center and Student Affairs for their input on the proposal.

Zachary Morris can be contacted at morris243@marshall.edu.

*Life!

GUIDE TO
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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2012 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

Fans create unique atmosphere: IMPRESSES PLAYERS, OPPONENTS

BY CRYSTAL MYERS
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

As Herd fans continue to create a glowing energy in the Cam Henderson Center, the men's basketball team enjoys what has become a pregame ritual.

After a student shared his "glow out" idea during last year's basketball season, Marshall University fans have since created an atmosphere the Thundering Herd's three senior players said is unlike any other.

"It makes the place more unique," said Shaquille Johnson, guard from Jacksonville, Fla. "I think we might be the only place that does it, and it's just something that's cool to see before we play."

Damier Pitts, guard from Charlotte, N.C., said glow sticks are something he hasn't seen anywhere else he has played.

"Other teams will turn the lights off and do an introduction," Pitts said, "but I'd say we've got one of the more exciting pregame rituals in the NCAA — that's what I think anyway."

Since the "glow out" idea was first initiated, fans have faithfully stood during the introduction of the players at the beginning of each home game to wave kelly green glow sticks in the air and welcome the team.

Dago Pena, forward from Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic said, the atmosphere in the arena continues to improve.

"When we have over 5,000 fans, all with glow sticks here for the games it gets us pumped and makes us play better," Pena said.

The glow sticks are accompanied by the "Fan Plan," which includes different cheers the crowd is encouraged to participate in.

Belmont University senior guard, Drew Hanlen, who played at Marshall on Dec. 19 said the glow sticks were unique, but the fans are what were most special about Marshall.

"Obviously the team had a lot of cool pregame rituals — the glow sticks and a pretty cool video screen presentation," Hanlen said. "But I thought, ultimately, the fans were a big driving force in the opening play that actually led Marshall to have a big lead on us in the first portion of the game."

Pitts said the pregame has improved dramatically since he began playing for Marshall.

"The fans have brought a lot more energy to the gym," Pitts said. "Before it was just kind of plain, there wasn't really a lot of excitement before the game, but now it gets the crowd excited, and in return it gets us going."

Johnson said the crowd's enthusiasm gives the team an edge.

"To come out and see that and start out the game, it's a cool thing," Johnson said. "It kind of gives us someone to go out and play for, to give back to the faithful fans."

Hanlen said he agrees about the importance of the atmosphere within an arena.

"We've lost one game in the last two years at home so we obviously feel really comfortable playing at home in front of our fans," Hanlen said. "We feed off of the atmosphere they create."

Hanlen said a lot of coaches are superstitious when it comes to pregame rituals so the Bruins continue to keep their lights on during introductions.

"But I thought you guys had a special pregame ritual," Hanlen said. "It definitely stood out, and we were actually talking after the game about how we thought it was pretty cool that you all brought in the glow sticks and a couple of the other things you guys did that were kind of unique and different than a lot of the arenas we play in."

Pitts said he hopes, after this year, they continue with the pregame activities because it gives the team a lot of momentum.

See **PREGAME** | Page 5



MARCUS CONSTANTINO | THE PARTHENON

Marshall fans cheer during introductions at the Jan. 14 game against UCF. The ritual of waving glow sticks began after Derek Casteel planned a "glow out" last year.

Fans light up the Cam Henderson

BY LAWREN HIGHTOWER
THE PARTHENON

The "Fan Plan" is in full effect as Marshall University men's basketball fans continue to light up the Cam Henderson Center during home games.

Senior Derek Casteel first posted a "glow out" plan for Marshall home games, which included glow sticks, last year on Herdnation.com.

Casteel, with help from Mark Campbell, Big Green Scholarship Foundation board of trustees member and co-founder of herdnation.com, and the Marshall Maniacs have turned the glow stick phenomenon into a staple at every home game.

"The atmosphere at the home games has changed significantly," Casteel said. "It gets everyone involved before the game. Players, coaches and fans, everyone is a big part of this — especially the Marshall Maniacs."

The use of glow sticks has gained a lot of positive attention. Home game attendance this season demonstrates

more students and fans are coming out to participate in pregame ceremonies.

"Thirteen hundred student tickets were handed out last game" said Aaron Goebbel, Marshall associate athletic director for external affairs. "Attendance for students is up this year, and we believe the glow sticks may have something to do with that."

The "Fan Plan" is more than just glow sticks, however. There are also specific colors fans are asked to wear to certain games, as well as different chants and cheers that Campbell, the Big Green Scholarship Foundation and the Marshall Maniacs have suggested for the fans to participate in throughout the game.

"One thing I would love for Herd Nation to do is a better job of in participating in the color out games," Campbell said. "It seems like a simple little thing but sitting in an area seeing every fan wearing all white or kelly green creates a feeling of camaraderie and excitement. That excitement translates in to a higher level of crowd

participation and exuberance, which further feeds in to the cycle of fan enjoyment. Fans are being asked to wear all white for the upcoming ECU game. I genuinely hope everyone gets on board and blows the socks off the Pirates." Marshall head coach Tom Herrion said he has noticed the increased amount of energy the fans have been bringing to the arena.

"The turnout of our fans has been very impressive thus far," Herrion said. "The crowd is a huge factor in getting these guys ready to play."

The Marshall Maniacs have used social media websites, such as Twitter and Facebook to help spread the word.

"Glow sticks are available for every home game but students and fans are encouraged to bring their own," said Amanda Branch, Marshall Maniacs President.

Marshall Maniacs can be followed at www.twitter.com/MarshallManiacs.

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