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THE PARTHENON

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2014 | VOL. 117 NO. 67 | MARSHALL UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER | marshallparthenon.com

Bill 330 tops faculty senate agenda

By MALAK KHADER
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University employees met to discuss the effects Senate Bill 330 will have on them during a faculty senate meeting Monday in the John Deaver Drinko Library.

The West Virginia Legislature passed the bill in March 2011 and became effective as

of June 2011. The bill is meant to establish a fair, accountable, credible, transparent and systematic way to determine proper classification status and compensation for employees of higher education organizations.

Senator Robert H. Plymale of Wayne County was the primary sponsor of the bill and was supported by six other senators.

The faculty senate meeting was led by the Vice Chancellor for Human Resources, Mark Toor. About 25 people were in attendance.

The purpose of the meeting was to help inform employees of the implementations of the bill.

"One thing that we've been trying to do for the commission

is get out more information about the real effects of Senate Bill 330," Toor said. "There was a period of time where it didn't sound like anybody was talking about it and that seemed to change about mid-year of 2013 when some faculty from different institutions got a hold of the idea that this was going to affect faculty salaries."

"When that happened, all kinds of bad information started coming out; like, it was going to take hiring authority away from the institutions and give it to the Higher Education Policy Commission. So, one of the things we've been trying to do is limit the dissemination of bad information," he said.

The HECP website contains several different documents to help educate employees on the bill. Some of the documents available include a FAQ sheet and a "myths versus facts" sheet concerning Senate Bill 330.

Malak Khader can be contacted at khader4@marshall.edu.

As Obama prepares for address, many previous proposals remain unfinished

By KATHLEEN HENNESSEY
TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU (MCT)

A year ago, when President Barack Obama delivered his State of Union speech before Congress and imagined providing preschool for all 4-year-olds, he followed his expansive vision with a bit of candor. "That's something we should be able to do," he said.

The president's tone, more aspirational than expectant, was a nod to the reality of this annual Washington ritual. Little of what the president proposes in his most high-profile speech of the year is likely to get done, at least not any time soon.

As Obama polishes a fresh list of ideas to tick off Tuesday night, many of last year's proposals remain unfinished, stymied by politically divided Washington.

His gun-control push has petered out. His immigration overhaul is stuck in the Republican-led House. Congress has not heeded his call to raise the minimum wage. And, in the year since his speech, neither the House nor the Senate, where his party is in control, has even held a hearing on a bill to expand preschool.

White House spokesman Jay Carney conceded that progress on last year's proposals was "modest," but searched for a favorable benchmark: "It was not modest compared to what we'd seen in previous years."

Obama's predicament is hardly unique.

Nearly all modern presidents have used the State of the Union address to showcase policy goals both real and still somewhat imagined. The proposals have been high-minded. But they have also been small-bore (President Bill Clinton famously endorsed school uniforms and watching less television).

See ADDRESS | Page 5



BISHOP NASH | THE PARTHENON

Students walk from the residence halls to class through temperatures dipping into the teens Monday morning. Subzero wind chills were felt throughout the day and expected again into the week.

Campus to weather another freezing week

By MEGAN OSBORNE
THE PARTHENON

Hats, scarves, and gloves have become a familiar choice for campus fashion as the frigid weather persists and classes continue.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, temperatures are not expected to be above freezing until Thursday due

to an arctic cold front moving through the area.

A wind chill advisory is in effect until 1 p.m. Tuesday, with wind chill values as low as minus 13 degrees and wind speeds around 6 mph coming from the west.

Tuesday night temperatures are expected to drop to minus 5 degrees with wind chill values as low as minus 12 degrees.

Wednesday is expected to have a high of 21 degrees and west winds at 3-6 mph.

Thursday, temperatures will rise above freezing with a high of 37 degrees and mostly sunny skies.

Skies will be mostly clear until Thursday night with a 30 percent chance of snow.

These cold conditions are due to the Arctic front, the

same conditions that caused the polar vortex in the beginning of January.

Students have been braving the cold to go to class since the semester began, bundling up as much as necessary to prepare for the walk to class.

"I hate the cold, I hate it!" Tina Nagel, a sophomore nursing student from Harper's Ferry, W. Va., said.

The clear skies are not expected to stay for the weekend, with a 30 percent chance of precipitation on Friday and high of 37 and a low of 29. Saturday there is a 50 percent chance of precipitation with a high of 44 and a low of 36, according to NOAA.

Megan Osborne can be contacted at osborne115@marshall.edu.

SGA to attend PROMISE forum in Charleston

By TYLER PRALLEY
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University Student Government representatives will attend the PROMISE Scholarship Forum at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Clay Center in Charleston to sit in on discussions on the future of the Promise Scholarship.

Former West Virginia Gov. Bob Wise is the keynote speaker for the event and will be on a panel, which includes Marshall University President Stephen J. Kopp, Chancellor of the West Virginia Higher

Education Policy Commission Dr. Paul Hill and several other notable officials. Senate Education Chairman Bob Plymale will moderate the forum.

As of the 2013-2014 financial year, Marshall financial aid officials said that 1,843 university students receive the Promise Scholarships. SGA Business Manager Sam DiDomenico will sit in on these discussions and voice concerns on behalf of the Marshall student population.

"My attendance will be to show our collective support for making sure the Promise

Scholarship is upheld," DiDomenico said. "Just having someone there shows that students do care, we are listening and we are trying to have some sort of impact on what's going on in the legislature."

As a result of the budget cuts to higher education in the state of West Virginia last fall, Student Body President E.J. Hassan said that the Promise Scholarship must be discussed once again.

"Any time questions are raised, any time revenue goes down, the Promise

Scholarship comes to the table," Hassan said. "What this forum is designed to do is . . . to seek to find ways to essentially ensure that the Promise Scholarship is not affected any more than it already has been."

While this forum is not designed to make any decisions regarding the future of the Promise Scholarship, SGA Chief of Staff Jordan Wooldridge said that it is a great opportunity for the general student population of West Virginia to become more educated on this issue.

"I hope that the forum is a way to, not really revamp anything, but more or less just search for possibilities and outlets on what can be done rather than cutting," Wooldridge said. "Hopefully different ways and outlets can be found to try and focus the attention back on the students and not hurt their pockets more than they may already be."

The forum is free of charge to attend and open to the public.

Tyler Pralley can be contacted at pralley@marshall.edu.

NEWS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2014 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

Information tables aim to help students improve future careers

By **CHAZZ THOMAS**
THE PARTHENON

Individual help and attention is being given to Marshall University students to help improve their future careers, with weekly information tables in the Memorial Student Center.

These information tables are rotating between Tuesdays and Wednesdays of each week from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The focus and theme of the tables varies weekly, but those working the table are available to answer any questions students may have.

The next information table will be Feb. 4 and will focus on resumes and cover letters. This table will work much like a workshop, with worksheets available for students to complete.

In the following weeks, the tables will center around

social media, internships, finding a job, the Marshall Mentor Network, Career Expo and the career services' annual etiquette dinner.

"Generally, we are not very busy and we would love to get more students to stop by," Haven Campbell, a graduate

assistant for career services, said. "When we are in the Student Center the number of students that drop by only ranges from about 5-20 depending on the day."

Campbell also said it was an underutilized resource that could be extremely helpful

to all students, particularly those who are looking to begin their professional career soon.

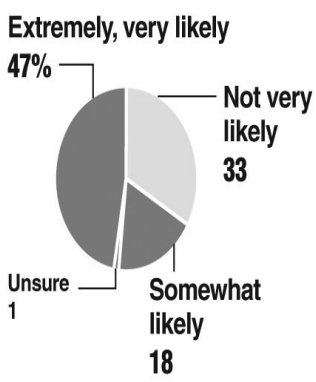
The information tables are open to all students.

Chazz Thomas can be contacted at thomas448@marshall.edu.

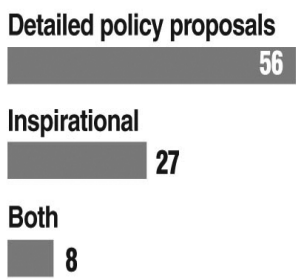
Views on Obama's big speech

President Barack Obama will deliver his sixth State of the Union address looking to reinvigorate his presidency. What Americans think about this annual address to the nation:

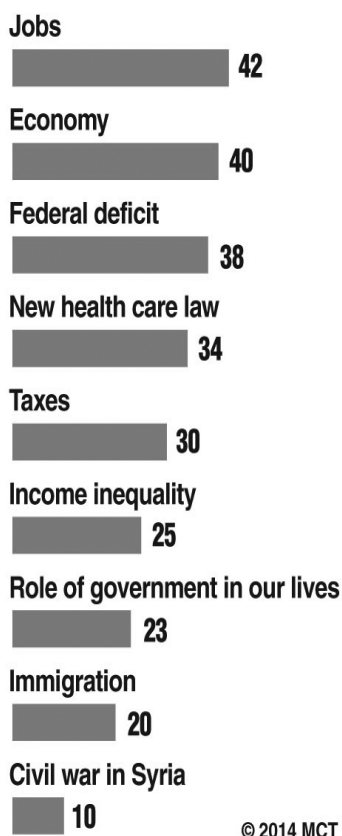
• Likelihood you'll watch



• What kind of a speech does the nation need to hear?



• Percent who said it's extremely important for Obama to discuss



Source: Battleground 2014 poll of 1,000 likely voters; Jan. 12-16, 2014; margin of error: +/-3.1 percentage points
Graphic: Judy Treible

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Obama looks to big State of the Union speech to jump-start second term

By **LESLEY CLARK** and **ANITA KUMAR**
MCCLATCHY WASHINGTON BUREAU (MCT)

Eager to put the past year behind him, President Barack Obama will deliver a State of the Union address Tuesday looking to reinvigorate his presidency.

Obama opens his sixth year with some of the worst job approval ratings since he took office and with a bitterly divided Congress already turning much of its focus to the November election.

The White House will use the high-profile speech to try anew for momentum for the president's agenda — and perhaps his legacy — as he declares 2014 a "year of action" with or without congressional support.

Obama is expected to make the widening income gap between rich and poor a centerpiece of his speech, calling on lawmakers to restore jobless benefits for 1.3 million long-term unemployed Americans,

expand preschool initiatives and boost the federal minimum wage.

Obama said recently he planned to use the address to "mobilize the country around the national mission of making sure our economy offers every American who works hard a fair shot at success."

Republicans expect Obama to throw "the kitchen sink" of federal programs in the speech before both chambers of Congress in hopes of firing up the liberal base for this year's congressional elections, said Ron Bonjean, a Republican consultant and former aide in the House of Representatives. "This is all about politics for the elections."

The White House is taking a campaign-style approach to the speech itself: turning its Instagram account into a photo album of State of the Union preparation, including photos of drafts of the speech and Obama's meetings with

speechwriter Cody Keenan. And it announced that he will hold a post-speech "virtual" tour Friday on Google, answering questions from around the country on topics from his speech.

Tens of millions are expected to watch the 9 p.m. EST address, which Obama will deliver from the U.S. Capitol; House Republican Conference Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers of Washington state, a rising star in her party, will deliver the GOP response.

The president is also expected to defend his signature health care law, sullied by the chaotic website rollout and a broken promise that Americans could keep their insurance plans. Republicans already are campaigning against vulnerable Democrats for supporting the law, but Obama is likely to tout that more than 3 million have successfully signed up.

See **OBAMA** | Page 5

Medical marijuana headed to Florida ballot

By **MARC CAPUTO**
THE MIAMI HERALD (MCT)

A Florida constitutional amendment calling for medical marijuana will be decided by Florida voters in November now that the state Supreme Court ruled Monday that the proposed initiative and ballot summary aren't misleading.

"Voters are given fair notice as to the chief purpose and scope of the proposed amendment, which is to allow a restricted use of marijuana for certain ... debilitating medical conditions," the court said in a 4-3 ruling in which conservative justices and one moderate dissented.

"We conclude that the voters will not be affirmatively misled regarding the purpose of the proposed amendment because the ballot title and summary accurately convey the limited use of marijuana, as determined by a licensed Florida physician," the court ruled.

If the amendment passes — it takes 60 percent of the vote to do that in Florida — the state would become the 21st to decriminalize marijuana for medical use, though marijuana remains illegal at the federal level.

A host of polls show Florida's measure would pass, with one survey showing support as high as 82 percent.

In issuing its ruling, the court rejected a host of arguments advanced by Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi, Florida House Speaker Will Weatherford, Florida's Senate President Don Gaetz and conservative-leaning lobby groups based in the state capital.

The opponents claimed that voters would essentially be tricked into legalizing marijuana under the guise of helping sick people.

One of the most-conservative members of the court, Justice Ricky Polston, echoed the arguments of opponents — sure to be amplified on the campaign trail — in saying this proposal is designed to "hide the ball" from voters.

"The normal and common sense meaning of the words used in this initiative's ballot summary and title are significantly different than the normal and common sense meaning of the words used in the amendment's text," he wrote in a lengthy dissent in which fellow conservative, Charles Canady concurred.

The citizens' group that pushed for the proposal, People United for Medical Marijuana, said the opponents were twisting the words of the initiative and ballot summary. People United also pointed out that the Florida Legislature, led by Republicans, has repeatedly blocked medical-marijuana efforts from even getting a hearing in the state Capitol until recently.

But as poll after poll showed outsized and bipartisan support for medical marijuana in

See **MEDICAL** | Page 5

Tank-car woes date before crude oil concerns

By **CURTIS TATE**
MCCLATCHY WASHINGTON BUREAU (MCT)

Long before crude oil and ethanol were transported by railroads in large quantities in minimally reinforced tank cars, other flammable and poisonous materials were riding around the country in the same cars, threatening major cities and waterways.

Federal regulators might be weeks away from issuing new safety guidelines for tank cars carrying flammable liquids, after a series of frightening rail accidents over the past six months.

But the type of general-service tank car involved in recent incidents with crude oil trains in Quebec, Alabama and North Dakota — the DOT-111-A — has a poor safety record with hazardous cargoes that goes back decades, raising questions about why it took so long for the railroad industry and its federal regulators to address a problem they knew how to fix.

Other, more specialized types of tank cars received safety upgrades in the 1980s, and the industry's own research shows they were effective at reducing the severity

of accidents.

Tank car manufacturers have built new DOT-111A cars to a higher standard since 2011, but the improvements haven't caught up to tens of thousands of older cars.

To be sure, improper railroad operations or defective track cause many accidents involving tank cars. But the National Transportation Safety Board, which makes recommendations but has no regulatory authority, has cited the DOT-111A's deficiencies many times over the years for making accidents worse than they could have been.

"Moving as quickly as possible to upgrade the tank cars is critical," said Peter Goelz, a former managing director of the NTSB who's now a transportation safety consultant. "No one wants to see it happen again."

A review of federal reports and documents going back four decades shows that the DOT-111A tank car factored into a wide range of calamities, including:

—A 1981 rail yard accident that shut down a portion of Newark International Airport and blocked traffic from reaching the Holland Tunnel into



Railroad tank cars carrying ethanol are stored in a Norfolk Southern rail yard in Alexandria, Va., surrounded by homes, schools and businesses, Jan. 13. The most common type of tank car used to transport flammable ethanol and crude oil has a long history of punctures and ruptures in derailments. Recent fires and explosions in Quebec, Alabama and North Dakota have prompted a new review of the cars' safety.

Manhattan until a punctured tank car finally burned out its contents of flammable ethylene oxide after 40 hours.

—A 1983 rail yard accident

that triggered the evacuation of 9,000 people in Denver when corrosive nitric acid escaped through a puncture in a tank car, forming a large vapor cloud.

—A 1991 derailment — the worst chemical spill in California history — that sent

See **RAILROAD** | Page 5

3 Senate Republicans offer alternative to Obamacare

By **RENEE SCHOOF**
MCCLATCHY WASHINGTON BUREAU (MCT)

On the eve of the president's State of the Union speech, Republican Sen. Richard Burr of North Carolina on Monday offered a plan to repeal President Barack Obama's signature accomplishment, the Affordable Care Act, and replace it with a plan he says would lower costs and expand access to coverage.

His proposal would keep popular elements of the law, commonly known as

Obamacare: the ban on limits on lifetime insurance benefits and the option for people to keep adult children on their plans until age 26.

But the rest is different, and its rollout the day before the president's annual report to Congress helped put Republican ideas on how to replace the law into public debate, though it has virtually no chance of passing as long as the Senate is controlled by Democrats.

The White House dismissed the plan as "just another repeal

proposal."

But Burr in a press statement said it addressed cost problems.

"Our nation's health care system was unsustainable before Obamacare, and the president's health care plan made things worse," he said.

Republican Sens. Orrin Hatch of Utah and Tom Coburn of

Oklahoma joined Burr in support of the plan, called the Patient Choice, Affordability, Responsibility and Empowerment Act. It would not require Americans to buy insurance, a

key element of the health law.

Insurance companies would be allowed to charge older people five times what they charge younger ones, compared to the 3-to-1 ratio allowed under Obamacare. The Republican senators say that the result would lower health care costs for many.

One major difference is how people with pre-existing conditions would be protected.

Under the Republican proposal, if they moved from one health plan to another, they

could not be denied a plan based on pre-existing conditions.

There would be a one-time open enrollment period for people who are uninsured.

The plan gives some details on how this would work, but others have not yet been spelled out, according to Joe Antos, a health policy expert at the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative research group in Washington.

The penalty probably would

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SPORTS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2014 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

Herd women's sports reach out with 17th Sweetheart Clinic



MONTY GREEN | THE PARTHENON



RICHARD CRANK | THE PARTHENON

(Left to right) Marshall women's soccer after a home match and members of Marshall's cheerleading squad at the 2013 Military Bowl. Both teams, along with Marshall's other women's sports teams, will participate in the 17th annual Sweetheart Clinic.

HERDZONE.COM

The Marshall University Department of Intercollegiate Athletics will host the 17th Annual Sweetheart Clinic Feb. 15. Girls ages 4-12 are invited to participate in the FREE event. There is limited space available, so participants must pre-register individually on a first-come, first-served basis. No walk-up participants will be accepted.

Pre-registration, which will be accepted via e-mail only, will begin Monday, Jan. 27, through Wednesday, Feb. 5, or until the clinic is full. To

pre-register, please visit HerdZone.com and click the 2014 Sweetheart Clinic link at the top of the page. Registrants must provide their name, emergency contact number, e-mail address, t-shirt size, and age. Group registration is not permitted.

The Sweetheart Clinic is conducted by Marshall Athletics. The program began in 1998 in recognition of National Girls and Women in Sports Day. Since its inception, more than 2,000 girls have participated and had the opportunity to learn developmental skills in nine women's sports. Each year the

Sweetheart Clinic is made possible through loyal partners, who have a true appreciation for the National Girls and Women in Sports Day. Marshall University would like to thank Pepsi, Strike Zone, Little Caesars, Marshall Recreation Center, Superior Chrysler of Ashland, Valley Health WV WIC Program, Marshall WMUL, Tumble World, Tumble World Encore, and Signs Unlimited for helping to make the 17th annual Sweetheart Clinic a possibility this year.

Participants will be divided into age groups and will rotate through nine

different stations, learning developmental sports skills from each of the Marshall's women's sports coaches and student-athletes. In addition to developmental skill instruction, participants will receive a free t-shirt.

Check-in for participants will last 9 to 9:30 a.m. in the Marshall University Recreation Center. The clinic will begin promptly at 9:30 a.m. Following the clinic, participants will enjoy a pizza party and a Marshall University Cheerleaders-led pep rally. Participants will then be invited to join us with free admission

into the Marshall women's basketball game versus Charlotte at 1 p.m. in Cam Henderson Center.

The clinic, including pizza party, pep rally and the women's basketball game, is free to participants. Sweetheart Clinic family members and observers may purchase a ticket to the women's basketball game at the clinic for \$3.

Registration information or questions regarding the Sweetheart Clinic may be sent to Sarah Davenport at davenport8@marshall.edu or by calling (304) 696-3394.

Coach Grobe leads men's golf into spring season

By SARAH CONNERS
THE PARTHENON

Head Coach Matt Grobe of the Marshall Men's Golf team is preparing for his second spring season back at Marshall University.

Grobe is focusing on how to prepare for tournaments on the road this spring as well as their practice schedules.

"In the fall we would arrive and then practice a little bit at the course," Grobe said. "Then play the practice round the next day, and we had pretty good success there."

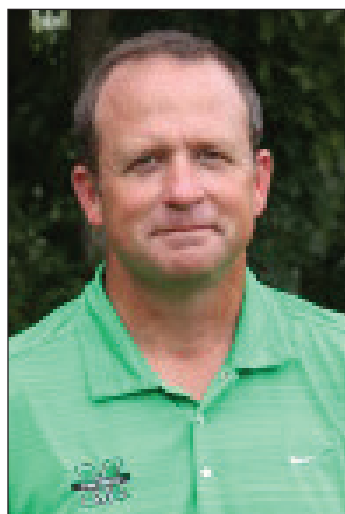
Grobe is a returning three time letterman who played golf for The Thundering Herd from 1993-1995 after attending the Air Force Academy. Returning to coach at Marshall has always been a dream job for Grobe.

"When I got this opportunity I did everything that I could to

get the job," Grobe said. "The coach that was here before me was my coach he had been here for 40 years, so it took a while but I always knew that this was where I wanted to be and I knew that I wanted to be coaching."

Coaching runs in Grobe's blood. His father, Jim Grobe, was a defensive football coach at Marshall University from 1979-1983. Jim Grobe recently resigned from the head coach position at Wake Forest in 2013 where he received the ACC Coach of the Year Award, the Bobby Dodd Coach of the Year Award, and the AP Coach of the Year in 2006.

Joe Feaganes, Grobe's golf coach while at Marshall, also helped jump-start his golf career by helping Grobe's acquire his first job at the Sleepy Hollow Golf Club as an assistant manger days



COACH GROBE

after he graduated.

"Coach Feaganes called on Friday and said there's a job opening up at Sleepy Hollow and you'd be great for it you need to drive up there today and get your interview in," Grobes said. "I drove up on Thursday they hired me on

Friday, we had our business graduation on Friday, I graduated on Saturday, and I started on Monday."

After beginning his golf career at Sleepy Hollow, Grobe relocated to the Las Vegas area. From 1998-2004 he served as the head golf professional at Rhodes Ranch Golf Club in Las Vegas and also the assistant golf professional at Primm Valley Golf Club in Primm, Nev.

In 2004 he was named the Southern Nevada Chapter Golf Professional of the Year and in 2007 he received the Bill Strausbaugh Award.

Grobe will lead the Marshall Mens Golf Team to their first tournament in Davidson, N.C., March 3, for the Davidson College Invitational.

Sarah Connors can be contacted at conners2@marshall.edu.

Herd swimming makes strong showing at WKU

By GABI WARRICK
THE PARTHENON

The Marshall University Swimming and Diving team traveled to Bowling Green, Ky, for a two day meet Friday and Saturday.

While competing against host Western Kentucky, Vanderbilt and Cumberland, the Herd managed to capture one victory against Cumberland with a score of 224-120, while also dealing with two losses, with final scores of 241-103 to Western Kentucky and 235-111 against Vanderbilt.

Katie Kramer, a junior from Naples, Fla., ended the meet on a high note, clocking her season best time in the 100 meter butterfly, with a time of 1:01.12.

Senior Madison Lawhorn, from Baltimore, Ohio, said the

Herd should be proud of its accomplishments last weekend.

"I was really happy with my individual performance," Lawhorn said. "However, this season I'm planning on working on my technique to hopefully get some time off my walls."

The diving team also had a chance to compete in two events at the meet.

Casey Kyriacopoulos, a junior from Charlottesville, Va., scored 179.32 in the three-meter diving event and Megan Wolons, a freshman from Williamsburg, Va., scored 175.65 in the same event. Both are new to competing at the collegiate level in diving.

The Swimming and Diving team will be back in action this weekend to finish off the

See SWIMMING | Page 5

Pete Carroll returns to N.Y. with chance for ring

By TOM ROCK
NEWSDAY (MCT)

Twenty years ago this month, Pete Carroll was named coach of the Jets. Nineteen years ago this week, he was fired from that job.

Now he returns to the city where he got his first shot at running an NFL team, with a chance to win a Super Bowl. It's hard to imagine that symmetry did not cross his Zen-like thoughts as the Seahawks' charter plane swooped down and landed at Newark Liberty International Airport last night.

Carroll insisted it did not. At least not at that time. He has given some thought to it, though.

"I always loved playing in New York," Carroll said. "To have a chance to be a head coach in New York is an extraordinary honor because of the history and the following and all that goes along with that. Unfortunately, it didn't last very long."

Carroll was a defensive coordinator for four years with the Jets before he was promoted to replace Bruce Coslet. And he often needs to remind people that he had the Jets winning and nearly

secured first place late in the season. They were comfortably ahead of the Dolphins in a late November home game, and a win would have put them atop the AFC East.

So what happened?

Just one of the most notorious plays in Jets lore. The fake spike.

Dan Marino pretended to throw the ball into the turf to stop the clock, but instead threw a touchdown pass to give the Dolphins the win. The Jets still had four games left. They lost all of them and finished 6-10. Carroll was fired (although he may have gotten some vindication by being replaced by Richie Kotite).

"It didn't have to be," Carroll said of that game — that play — being the defining point of his first season as a head coach. "It just kind of went south on us."

Carroll learned two lessons that day. First and most obvious: Don't ever assume that a quarterback is going to spike the ball.

See CARROLL | Page 5



JOHN LOK | SEATTLE TIMES | MCT

Seattle Seahawks head coach Pete Carroll reacts after running back Marshawn Lynch scored a touchdown in the second half against the Arizona Cardinals at University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Ariz., on October 17, 2013. Seattle won, 34-22.

OPINION

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2014 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

EDITORIAL

Gates disprove myths about poverty and inequality

Judging by the news of today, it is easy to assume the condition of the world is in constant decline. Children are dying, people are poor and many countries are relying on foreign aid. But taken in context, it is evident that the world is actually better off today than it has ever been before in terms of eradicating world poverty and improving economic inequality.

In an effort to dispute this idea of the degradation of humanity, Bill and Melinda Gates recently released the annual letter for the Gates Foundation, illuminating three myths they believe are keeping the poor from progress.

Myth 1: Poor countries are doomed to stay poor.

Bill Gates explains the transformation of “the global picture of poverty” from scenes of desolation into nations beginning to improve their wellbeing through modern technology and opportunity. The point being that many previously impoverished cities including Mexico City, Nairobi and

Shanghai, have not stayed poor.

Though more than one billion people remain in poverty throughout the world, the percentage of people considered very poor has dropped by more than half in the past 20 years. Few if any countries can be considered to be in worse shape than they were 50 years ago with the efforts to improve health, education and overall economies.

Myth 2: Foreign aid is a big waste.

The letter points out that not only do wealthier countries spend a significantly smaller portion of their budgets on funding than what most Americans suspect, but the countries receiving aid have also reduced the amount of money they receive in advances toward self-sufficiency.

The reality of foreign aid comes down to the results. Overall, people live longer, healthier lives thanks to aid from foreign nations. These people are then able to contribute to improvements in agriculture, the

mental and physical health of their children and overall productivity. Take away assistance to overseas countries and take away their opportunity to ever become self-sufficient.

Myth 3: Saving lives leads to overpopulation.

Melinda Gates argues just the opposite, claiming that it is not a choice between saving the people and saving the planet. Instead, she presents the idea that decreased child mortality leads to decreased birth rates and that “health, relative prosperity, fundamental equality and access to contraceptives” are the only ways to create a sustainable planet.

As the Gates’ point out, the only way to a better world is to improve the health and well being of the people in it. The only way to improve health in impoverished nations is to give them the assistance they need to thrive on their own.

Online Polls

YOU CAN BE HERD

Which team do you want to win the Super Bowl?

The Denver Broncos
The Seattle Seahawks
I don't have a preference

Who will win Album of the Year at this year's Grammy Awards?

Daft Punk	25%
Macklemore & Ryan Lewis	58%
Taylor Swift	17%

Voice your opinion. It is your right. Answer our poll at www.marshallparthenon.com or tweet us your answer at @MUParthenon.

NATIONAL EDITORIAL

Bipartisan effort results in amendment to Voting Rights Act

FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM (MCT)

In the continued pursuit of that ever-elusive “perfection,” a bicameral, bipartisan group in Congress has proposed new legislation to amend a crucial portion of the Voting Rights Act that the Supreme Court struck down in June.

The high court said the powerful civil rights-era law’s Section 4, the part that determines which jurisdictions must submit any voting changes to federal preclearance, must be updated with a new formula to reflect current conditions.

Preclearance is a measure designed to protect minorities against discriminatory practices in elections.

The court determined that the previous formula for subjecting jurisdictions to preclearance was based on historical data that kept some states and localities with no recent history of discrimination entrenched in a dark history that had long ago been shed.

Other states, like Texas, still struggle to draft and enforce even-handed voting measures.

In allowing the preclearance requirement itself to stand, the court invited Congress to re-consider how to make the formula more equitable and based on more contemporary and relevant circumstances.

The proposed legislation, drafted by Reps. John Conyers, D-Mich., and Jim Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., and Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., is the first meaningful attempt to accept that invitation.

The proposed legislation:

- Establishes a new formula for preclearance coverage based on current conditions. Any state or jurisdiction could trigger coverage based on a specific number of violations (five for a state, three for a jurisdiction, or one violation and “persistent, extremely low minority turnout”) in the last 15 years. Under this formula, Texas is one of four states that would remain subject to preclearance.
- Strengthens Section 3 by lowering the trigger requirements for “bailing-in” jurisdictions. Under

the original language, federal courts could designate jurisdictions for preclearance because of intentional violations. The proposed legislation says the results of even non-intentional violations could trigger bail-in.

- Improves transparency by requiring jurisdictions to post voting changes on the Internet in advance of elections.

- Exempts judgments against “reasonable” voter ID legislation from counting as state violations. The proposed law has its flaws.

The new formula would unevenly prejudice larger states with many jurisdictions, such as Texas, making it harder for the state to release itself from its oversight burden.

This concern is exacerbated by the requirement for all counties, many of which don’t even have websites, to post all of their voting changes on the Internet.

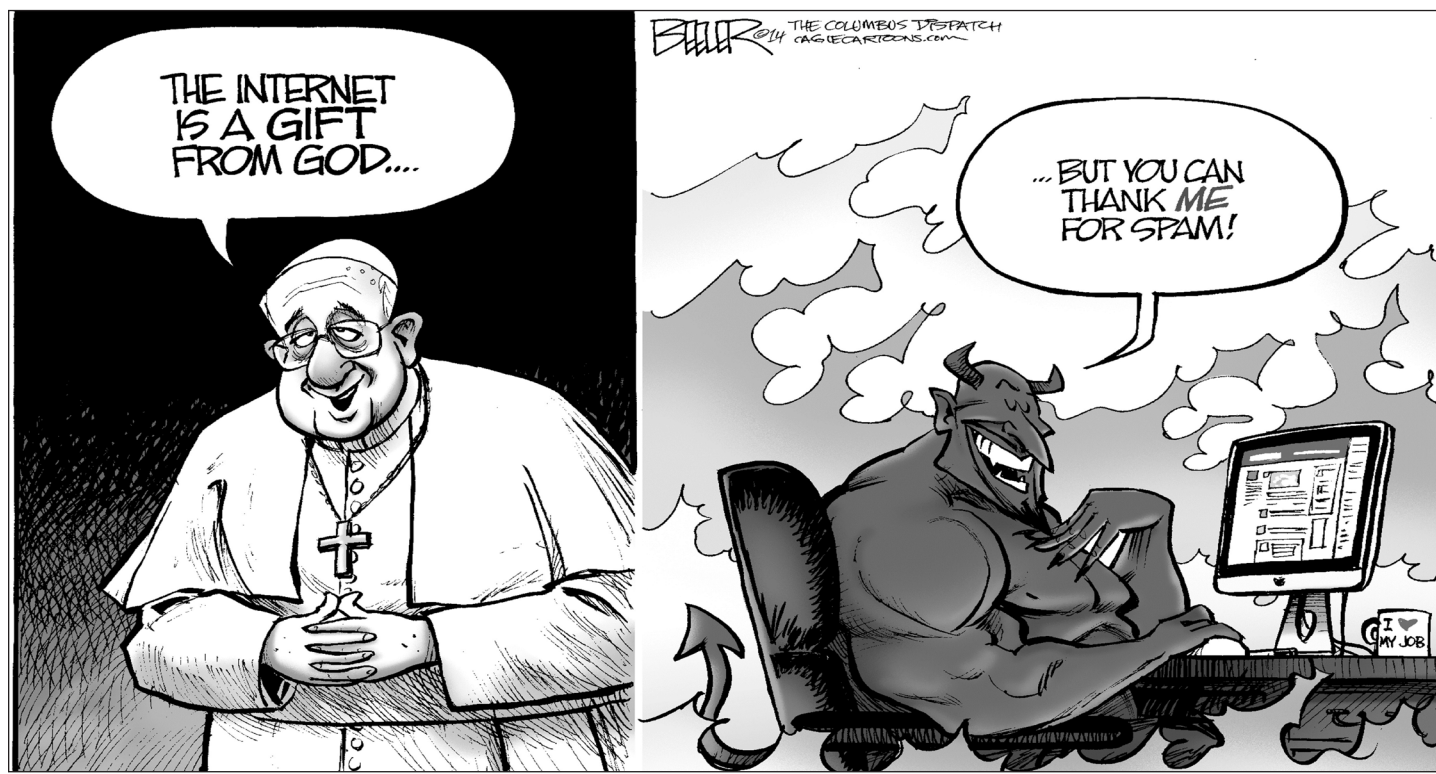
John K. Tanner, voting rights expert and former head of the Justice Department’s Voting Section, says this would “be a huge mess for local governments since the question of what constitutes a voting change is very complex,” and many jurisdictions have failed to fully understand it, even after 40 years of preclearance coverage.

In the interest of equity and of avoiding further constitutional questions, the law should also offer the same protections to minority and nonminority voters, for example in districts where fewer than half the voters are white.

Other than as a ploy to gain votes for passage in Congress, the provision to exempt voter ID laws as possible triggers for preclearance requirements seems arbitrary.

The bipartisanship on this bill is encouraging, although it has a long way to go before becoming something that is fair, effective and politically palatable.

While perfection may never be achieved, every effort toward a less race-conscious society — one in which such legislation will one day not be necessary — is a step worth taking.



MCT CAMPUS

COLUMN

Reality check needed for White House on college affordability

By JULEYKA LANTIGUA-WILLIAMS
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE (MCT)

The White House needs a big dose of reality when it comes to the needs of low-income college students.

On Jan. 16, the White House held a summit on college access. As a community college professor working with low-income students every day, I have a few ground-level suggestions for President Obama and his team.

First, talk to actual students.

At the forum, which touted attendance by more than 100 “college and university presidents and leaders from nonprofits, foundations, state governments and the private sector,” there were few actual students present. Seems to me like the people being talked about should be well represented in the room.

Second, use technology like you mean it.

Though the by-invitation-only summit was live-streamed from the White House, there was no way for the general public to

participate. If a national, well-publicized YouTube town meeting is good enough for a presidential campaign, it’s good enough for something as important as figuring out how to increase our appallingly low college success rate.

Third, find more people whose stories mirror Michelle Obama’s. She climbed out of Chicago’s South Side to the Ivy League and a career in law. The White House needs to hear from countless people like her and like me — who crawled out of the South Bronx to an elite education and a career as a writer and professor — and broadcast those stories to the millions of low-income children who have no idea it’s possible to live a life different from the one they’re stuck in.

Fourth, focus less on the individual student and more on her entire family. The White House should encourage colleges to treat recruiting more like scouting. The admissions rep should develop relationships with

prospective students and their families over several years, not just during a recruitment day in the high school gym.

Low-income students of color are under tremendous pressure to contribute to the family’s livelihood, and to many it makes no sense to go to college, where they may end up in debt. That is a huge cultural hurdle that must be overcome slowly by establishing a comfort level with parents, siblings and grandparents. In the case of Latinas, this is especially critical.

Lastly, tuition should be free for low-income students. Right now, a public four-year education costs about \$18,000 on average; a private one costs about \$41,000, according to the College Board. If the federal poverty line is \$23,550 for a family of four, no promising student whose family falls under that income should have to pay for college.

It’s time to get real, creating solutions that will change the course of millions of lives, and our country along the way.

THE PARTHENON

The Parthenon, Marshall University’s student newspaper, is published by students Monday through Friday during the regular semester and Thursday during the summer. The editorial staff is responsible for news and editorial content.

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.

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Obama said to rescue spy aircraft from budget ax

By GREG GORDON
MCCLATCHY WASHINGTON
BUREAU (MCT)

In a surprising reversal, Northrop Grumman's Global Hawk unmanned aircraft is now seen as having a strong shot at avoiding the Pentagon's ax when President Barack Obama sends his proposed fiscal 2015 budget to Congress in March, a person familiar with the matter said.

The Air Force said in 2012 that it favored scrapping the Global Hawk, one of whose production facilities is just outside Biloxi, Miss., in favor of Lockheed Martin's U-2 spy plane.

But increasing demands for drones to help the service fulfill its high-altitude surveillance mission may have

swung things in the opposite direction.

Renee Freeland, a spokeswoman for Northrop Grumman, declined to confirm the development, first reported by Aviation Week and confirmed by Defense News.

Pentagon and Air Force spokeswomen declined to comment on the reports.

A person familiar with the matter, who lacked authorization to speak for the record, said word has circulated that the administration had shifted directions and that funding is likely to remain intact at least for the Global Hawk Block 30, the aircraft's third generation.

"The Air Force didn't want to fund it," this person said, but noted that there aren't many U-2s or Global Hawks, of which

39 have been delivered, and the Air Force is facing increasing demands for surveillance of activities on the ground.

Among those demands are the need to track the resurgence of groups affiliated with al-Qaida in Africa and the Middle East, the ongoing hunt for al-Qaida leaders in northeastern Pakistan and movements by Taliban in Afghanistan.

Global Hawks, which can operate anywhere in the world at altitudes of more than 11 miles, also aid humanitarian, scientific and environmental causes. They have supported military operations in Libya, Afghanistan and Iraq.

If the reports prove accurate, it won't mean a major economic boon to Mississippi. Northrop Grumman's plant

in Moss Point, outside Biloxi, employs 26 people. The plant's sole Mississippi supplier is Aurora Flight Sciences Corp. in Columbus.

The Global Hawk is on its fourth generation. Seven Global Block 10s were retired in fiscal 2011. Half a dozen Block 20s were built, but the Global Hawk gained traction when 17 Block 30s were delivered. Nine of the latest-generation Block 40s, some of which are now being used in Afghanistan, have been put into service since Oct. 1.

The U-2 is a one-seat, single-engine, high-altitude reconnaissance and surveillance aircraft first used in late 1950s.

Lockheed Martin did not respond to a phone message seeking comment.

OBAMACARE Continued from Page 2

be higher premiums if people didn't buy insurance at the enrollment time, he said.

The proposal also would give small businesses help with the high costs of insurance through a tax credit. People with incomes of up to 300 percent of the federal poverty level — \$34,470 for an individual — would be eligible for a refundable tax credit to buy health coverage or pay health bills.

The amount could be modest. A person age 18 to 34 who earns 200 percent of the poverty level — \$22,980 for an individual — would receive \$1,560, according to an outline of the plan.

In addition, it would rely on high-risk pools to help people with expensive health problems who don't have insurance.

The Republican senators also said they would not expand Medicaid, as the president's health law does, to provide insurance to the poor who haven't had it. Instead they would encourage state reforms

of the Medicaid system. States would receive federal grants to help low-income children and families, elderly people and those who are disabled if they aren't able to buy insurance.

"We believe our proposal is roughly budget neutral over a decade," the senators said in a question and answer sheet. They said that the insurance, Medicaid and tax changes they recommend would lower costs.

White House spokesman Jay Carney said on Monday that it looked like "just another repeal proposal, another attempt to raise taxes on the middle class, to keep uninsured Americans with pre-existing conditions locked out of the market, to raise costs on seniors, and to take away Medicaid from the millions of Americans who stand to gain coverage, thanks to the expansion that was part of the Affordable Care Act."

It also would give insurance companies the power to deny people coverage because of pre-existing conditions and charge women more than men, Carney said, adding: "We strongly believe that's the wrong course of action."

RAILROAD Continued from Page 2

a tank car loaded with a toxic pesticide tumbling into the Sacramento River, poisoning a 40-mile stretch of one of the state's most important water supplies and fishing areas.

—A 1992 spill near Superior, Wis., that resulted in the release of benzene into the Nemadji River, leading to the evacuation of 40,000 people in Superior and nearby Duluth, Minn., and the deaths of 16 species of wild animals near the accident site.

—A 2001 derailment midway through a 1.7-mile, century-old

rail tunnel beneath downtown Baltimore in which a punctured tank car carrying flammable tripropylene fed a raging fire that burned for five days, ruptured a 40-inch water main and prompted the evacuation of the Camden Yards baseball park.

Many tank cars that were built starting in the 1960s were designed to carry as much cargo as possible, which meant thin shells that could easily puncture or rupture in a derailment. While economical, the designs proved disastrous in a number of horrific incidents involving toxic and flammable gases.

The deaths of numerous

railroad workers and emergency responders in the 1970s spurred regulators and the industry to improve the safety of the pressurized tank cars used to transport "all kinds of exotic materials that cause battlefield-like damage," NTSB official Edward Slattery told The Associated Press in 1978.

By the early 1980s, pressurized cars were equipped with puncture-resistant shields, fire-resistant thermal insulation and devices to help the cars stay coupled in derailments, reducing the risk that they could strike and puncture each other.

The non-pressurized DOT-111A, however, was left mostly

unaltered. Upgrades probably weren't necessary when the cars were carrying benign products such as corn syrup or vegetable oils, but regulators also allowed the cars to transport flammable and corrosive materials.

In accident after accident over the next three decades, the NTSB repeatedly referred to the cars' shortcomings.

"The inadequacy of the protection provided by DOT-111A tank cars for certain dangerous products has been evident for many years," the NTSB wrote the Federal Railroad Administration in a letter dated July 1, 1991.

CARROLL Continued from Page 3

Second?
"It was a moment," he said. "It showed you how fine the balance was. It could have been entirely different had we won that game."

Carroll went on to coach the Patriots for three years and then became head coach of Southern Cal, where he won one BCS title and two AP national championships. In 2010 he left there to become head

coach of his third NFL team, the Seahawks. He's been in Seattle as long as he was at his first two head-coaching jobs combined, and has found success now that he's been able to have a voice in picking players and defining characteristics of his team.

Carroll joked last week that he was little more than an interim head coach with the Jets, having replaced Coslet while the rest of the staff remained intact.

"It happened very suddenly,

without any preparation for that to occur," he said. "Sometimes I think it kind of looked like that."

Asked if he would do anything differently during his first spell with the Jets, Carroll smiled and said, "I'd do what I'm doing now."

In some ways, he gets a chance. The stadium where the fake spike took place was demolished a few years ago, but Super Bowl XLVIII will be played in the same metaphysical space, at MetLife Stadium.

And he'll be spending the next week preparing for the game in a state — and near a city — that was, for five years of his life, home. Before it threw him out.

"It still was a great experience and I remember it well," he said of his brief tenure. "I'm really proud to come back here and coach a game like this, of this status, in a place where we lived and worked. It's a special honor to do that."

To win it would certainly make it more so.

ADDRESS Continued from Page 1

They have been dreamy (President George H.W. Bush wanted money "to plant a billion trees a year"). They have been catchy (Obama's "Buffett rule" would have ensured that billionaires paid a higher tax rate).

And they have included fixtures, such as health care reform, that have featured in nearly every address for decades. For Obama, the revolving cast has also included mortgage assistance, infrastructure spending, tax reform and college affordability. Despite the prime-time spotlight, many proposals seem to fade quickly.

"I think what you're going to hear from the president on Tuesday night is a series of concrete, practical, specific proposals on how we restore opportunity through a wide set of means: job training, education, manufacturing, energy. And these will be some legislative proposals, but also a number of actions he can take on his own," White House

adviser Dan Pfeiffer said on "Fox News Sunday."

The president wants to work with Congress, Pfeiffer wrote over the weekend in an email to supporters, but "will not wait for Congress."

Obama made similar pledges to flex his executive muscle in last year's speech and spent the last few weeks making good on some. He named five "promise zones," impoverished areas that received top priority for federal money. He awarded a research project in North Carolina millions of dollars, as part of his goal of creating a network of manufacturing innovation centers. He accepted a report on voting reform from a commission he had touted.

On Tuesday, he will announce new initiatives, which the White House has declined to discuss. "He'll certainly aim high," Carney said. "Presidents ought to aim high. I don't think any president has ever gone before Congress and said, 'I hope to do this, this, and this with you that year' and, at the end of the year, discovered that his list was too short, that everything got done."

Still, the status of past proposals offers a glimpse of the prospects for success. Most initiatives Obama can push on his own are incremental, while most large-scale proposals move at glacial pace, or not at all.

Republicans on Capitol Hill are no more likely this year than last to endorse expensive programs — even in the name of job creation. They have shown little interest in minimum-wage legislation; bills that would raise it to more than \$10 per hour have drawn no Republican co-sponsors. Immigration reform stands as the notable exception, not because Obama has prioritized it, but because some Republicans see it as a necessary step for the party to win over Latino voters.

The first year in the life of Obama's preschool plan illustrates the nature of the hurdles ahead. Although GOP governors have moved to expand public preschool and polls show such efforts are popular, the launch of the federal effort was slow and sputtering.

The White House proposed paying to make preschool

available to 4-year-olds in nearly all low- and moderate-income families with a 94-cent tobacco tax, an idea spurned by lawmakers from both parties. "I was happy to see they at least had some sort of plan for paying for this. It was in itself a bold statement," said Lisa Guernsey, director of the early education initiative at the New America Foundation. "But in reality the idea of raising a tax to pay for this was met with a lot of silence."

The bill took months to draft and, even then, did not include a way to pay for it. In November, it was unveiled by Education Secretary Arne Duncan, Democratic lawmakers and its one Republican co-author in the House. Two months later, only one other Republican has signed on.

But the budget bill passed earlier this month included \$250 million to help states expand preschool programs. The White House and its allies view that money as a "down payment" on the president's plan. House Republicans deny it had anything to do with Obama's proposal.

OBAMA Continued from Page 2

The speech comes as another debt ceiling limit looms. A rare bipartisan budget deal in December that broke two years of near-constant budget brinksmanship sparked some optimism, and Obama is expected to sign some congressional compromises.

"It would be taken as a negative sign for the president if he didn't put a reasonably robust legislative agenda out there," said William Galston, a former policy adviser to President Bill Clinton who's a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, a center-left policy research center. "I think he has to push back against the perception that he's given up on anything but administrative action, and he'd be wise to lead with some items where there's evidence of movement toward bipartisanship."

That could include efforts to boost spending on infrastructure and a rewrite of the nation's immigration laws — an issue Obama has

been touting since before he was president but that has stalled in Congress.

Robert Lehrman, a former speechwriter for Vice President Al Gore who teaches at American University in Washington, said people often dismiss the State of the Union as "empty rhetoric," but it's actually a substantive policy speech. He cites a study that shows modern presidents have used the address to ask for a laundry list of requests from Congress — a median of 31 requests since 1965. Of those, about 40 percent of the requests get adopted.

Still, in recent weeks, Obama has made it clear he plans to go it alone when he can't get congressional buy-in, using the power of the White House — a "pen" to sign executive orders and a "phone" to rally support.

"Where Congress is debating things and hasn't been able to pull the trigger on stuff, my administration is going to move forward," he told a group of mayors Thursday night. "I've got a pen and I've got a phone. And that's all I need."

MEDICAL Continued from Page 2

the nation and Florida, state lawmakers began giving more consideration to a limited medical cannabis proposal.

That limited proposal is aimed at a niche strain of marijuana that contains a low level of high-inducing THC and a stronger level of a substance called CBD that, parents and physicians say, helps prevent severe epileptic attacks,

especially in children.

But that legislative proposal, which is being resisted by some Republican leaders, is far more limited in scope than the proposed constitutional amendment. The amendment targets nine specific "debilitating medical conditions."

Physicians could recommend marijuana for other ailments if, after conducting an examination, they determine cannabis would help patients more than it would hurt them.

SWIMMING Continued from Page 3

season against Bowling Green at home. After which they will take a break until they travel to Atlanta, Ga., for the Conference USA Championships, which will begin Feb. 26.

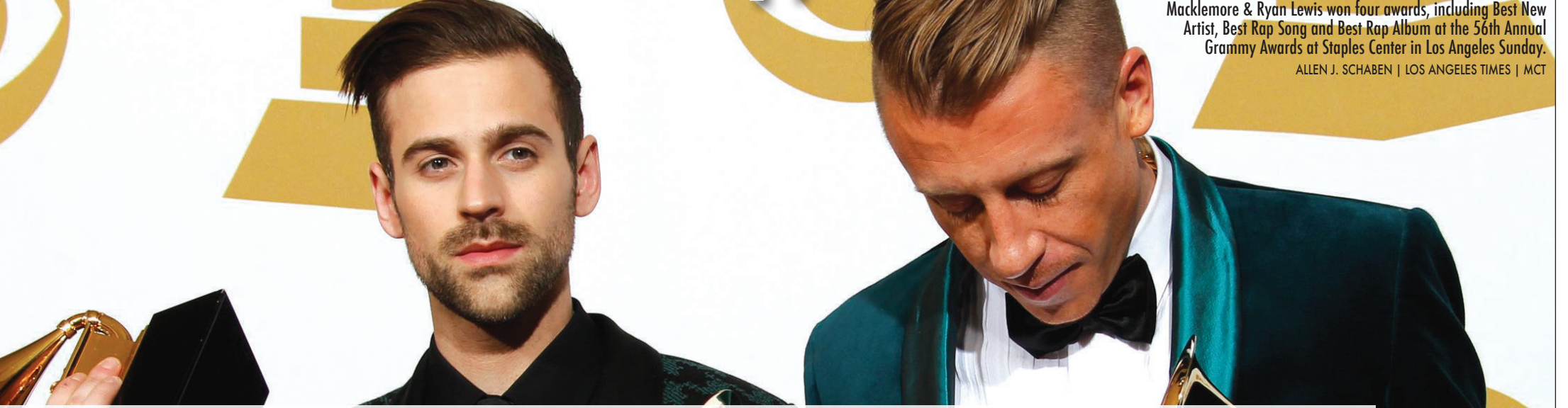
Gabi Warwick can be contacted at warwick@marshall.edu.



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Macklemore takes rap, kills Kendrick's vibe

Macklemore & Ryan Lewis won four awards, including Best New Artist, Best Rap Song and Best Rap Album at the 56th Annual Grammy Awards at Staples Center in Los Angeles Sunday.
ALLEN J. SCHABEN | LOS ANGELES TIMES | MCT



By **GERRICK D. KENNEDY**
LOS ANGELES TIMES (MCT)

The gasps, groans and expletives were abundant backstage Sunday as Macklemore & Ryan Lewis swept the rap categories during the untelevised portion of the Grammy Awards ceremony.

Their massive hit "Thrift Shop" took rap performance and song, and their debut, "The Heist," nabbed the trophy for rap album over breakout rapper Kendrick Lamar's striking debut, "Good Kid, M.A.A.D City."

The controversy was immediate. The indie Seattle duo's early wins sparked a trending topic on Twitter as outraged hip-hop purists and critics admonished voters for picking the pair's work over albums from Drake, Kanye West, Jay Z and Lamar.

It was always unlikely that the duo, up for seven awards including song and album of the year, would leave the Grammys empty-handed. Still, many didn't expect the Seattle hip-hop outliers to make a clean sweep of the genre categories.

But neither did Macklemore.

Following his bounty of wins, the rapper sent a text message to Lamar and later posted a screenshot of the message to his nearly 3 million Instagram followers.

"You got robbed. I wanted you to win. You should have," he wrote. "It's weird and sucks that I robbed you. I was gonna say that during the speech. Then the music started playing during my speech, and I froze. Anyway, you know what it is. Congrats on this year and your music. Appreciate you as an artist and as a friend. Much love."

In a longer caption for the photo, Macklemore said Lamar "deserved best rap album."

"I'm honored and completely blown away to win anything much less 4 Grammys. But in that category, he should have won IMO," he wrote. "And that's taking nothing away from The Heist. Just giving GKMC ('Good Kid, M.A.A.D City') its proper respect."

He never posted Lamar's response — if one ever came.

Rap fans have been heavy-handed with criticism of Macklemore's success. With a more pop-oriented brand of rap informed as much by indie rock as traditional hip-hop, he's dominated mainstream radio with hits like "Thrift Shop," "Can't Hold Us" and "Same Love."

Despite a rise from underground rap

to mainstream star that took more than a decade, Macklemore has become an easy punchline in the rap world, often dismissed as a gimmicky pop act.

Some of the harshest criticisms, unfairly, have focused on his race, and the leg up that it may have given him over his black peers — think pieces are plastered all over the Internet — and he's discussed the role his race may have played, once telling Rolling Stone that being white helped his success.

"We made a great album," he said, "but I do think we have benefited from being white and the media grabbing on to something. A song like 'Thrift Shop' was safe enough for the kids. It was like, 'This is music that my mom likes and that I can like as a teenager,' and even though I'm cussing my ... off in that song, the fact that I'm a white guy, parents feel safe. They let their 6-year-olds listen to it. I mean, it's just ... it's different. And would that success have been the same if I would have been a black dude? I think the answer is 'No.'"

Controversy aside, "The Heist" is, at its core, a hip-hop album — though many debated that point during Grammy week,

and a recent report from Associated Press indicating that some members of the Recording Academy had questioned its rap category credentials only added fuel.

Queen Latifah, who officiated at the vows of more than 30 straight and gay couples during Macklemore & Ryan Lewis' performance of "Same Love," said their success should serve as a reflection of the longstanding social and cultural impact of hip-hop.

"Honestly, I don't think that this is new ground for hip-hop in terms of what Macklemore is capable of, I think this is exactly what hip-hop is capable of," she said. "When I started rapping, it was much more common for rappers to speak about things going on in the world ... anything that was some type of social injustice, we've always been able to talk about through hip-hop."

"I hope this is inspiration to the rappers and hip-hop artists out there that you can continue to tackle any subject you want. Macklemore and Ryan Lewis are hugely successful ... from making good music, No. 1, and No. 2, speaking about things that actually affect people. Or just talking about a thrift shop."

Swift leads Grammys red carpet metal brigade

By **BOOTH MOORE**
LOS ANGELES TIMES (MCT)

We saw gravity-defying hair, mother-and-son dressing and one batty hat, a striking wide-brimmed Smokey Bear-style worn by Pharrell Williams.

But fashion with a capital F? There wasn't much of it on the Grammys red carpet this year. In fact, it was kind of a bust.

One reason? Though she performed, style diva Beyoncé didn't walk the walk, neither did Rihanna. No Gaga or Miley either. But Taylor Swift did, and she was the best-dressed of the rest, leading the charge in the metallic brigade.

Swift's Gucci gold lame column gown was overlaid with so many crystals, she told E! Entertainment TV, "I think it's bulletproof."

John Legend's wife, Chrissy Teigen, also sparkled, showing some killer cleavage in a strapless gold sequin gown by designer Johanna Johnson. A pregnant Ciara collaborated with Emilio Pucci's Peter Dundas on her copper-beaded, serpentine-looking style. Amber Rose shimmered in Naeem Khan with a maze of sequin details. And in a twist on the precious metal front, Rita Ora chose a short, woven metallic Lanvin cocktail dress in absinthe green with lavender undertones.

Going for a lighter touch, Katy Perry wore a gossamer-like gown, emblazoned with musical notes, that came down the Valentino Couture runway just last week. Kacey Musgraves chose an Armani Prive soft pink



Taylor Swift arrives for the 56th Annual Grammy Awards wearing Gucci at Staples Center in Los Angeles Sunday.
WALLY SKALJ | LOS ANGELES TIMES | MCT

tiered tulle gown scattered with crystals that was reminiscent of spun sugar. And Paris Hilton made a grand entrance in a beaded white turtleneck gown with sheer scroll-patterned insets that showed her assets. The gown was by L.A.-based Haus of Milani, which was one of several under-the-radar labels flying high on the Grammys red carpet.

In the too-cute category, Madonna and her 8-year-old son David both turned up in Ralph Lauren tuxedos and black hats. (The queen mum of pop really piled on the accessories, adding a gold mouth grill, Maltese cross pin, crystal hand bracelet and walking stick.) Yoko Ono and Sean Lennon also wore matching lids.

TODAY IN THE LIFE! EDITOR'S PICKS BEST DRESSED: 56TH GRAMMY AWARDS

TAYLOR SWIFT | GUCCI

Swift went into the show prepared for battle. "It's like a suit of armor ... it's really heavy," Swift told E! News. She may have lost the battle for Album of the Year, but the singer's heavy metal gown surely kept her safe from dragons.

KATY PERRY | VALENTINO

The Song of the Year and Best Pop Solo Performance nominee brought the music to the Grammys in a music note-adorned Valentino Haute Couture gown. "It's musical for music's biggest night," she said to Ryan Seacrest.

MACKLEMORE & RYAN LEWIS | MR. TURK

Already winners for the night, the duo stepped onto the red carpet with style, showcasing their personalities in patterned and velour suits. Combined with an emotional performance, loafers to die for and some serious arm candy, Macklemore and Ryan Lewis stole the show.

BEYONCÉ | MICHAEL COSTELLO

Bey's stylist, Ty Hunter, found Michael Costello, the designer of the artist's Grammys looks, unconventionally through Instagram. She looked flawless in the designer's white lace gown. "I did the fitting the day of," Hunter, told E! News. "[Michael] didn't even have her measurements, but when she put it on it fit perfectly." Costello also created the "Drunk in Love" singer's steamy performance look.

HONORABLE MENTION

Daft Punk (Saint Laurent), Rita Ora (Lanvin), Chrissy Teigen (Johanna Johnson), Jay Z (Tom Ford) and Pharrell Williams's Vivienne Westwood Mountie hat.

