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THE PARTHENON

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2014 | VOL. 117 NO. 71 | MARSHALL UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER | marshallparthenon.com

Winter weather yielding more soggy conditions

By MEGAN OSBORNE
THE PARTHENON

More wintry weather is expected to impact the Huntington area, including snow and freezing rain with a short period of dryness leading into a wet and snowy weekend.

Sunday night gave the area a coating of snow and ice, which caused a winter storm warning until noon and a two-hour delay on campus Monday. Monday's high was at 32 with precipitation continuing into the early afternoon, and a low of 22 during the night.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Tuesday will yield a high near 45 with a 20 percent chance of rain after 4 p.m., and a rainy night with a low around 37.

Wednesday will be rainy early but precipitation is likely to stop in the afternoon. The high will be nearing 37 during the day.

See WEATHER | Page 5

Syllabi bank goes online

SGA resolution puts repository on myMU

By TYLER PRALLEY
THE PARTHENON

Student Government announced Friday that a Syllabi Repository, which will allow students to view current and past syllabi in one place, is now operational on the myMU website.

The repository is an online web application on the myMU website under the student tab. It allows students to reference syllabi from various courses to help them decide which courses they want to take and how that course compares to others.

Student Body President E.J. Hassan said this is an excellent tool and resource from which every student at Marshall can benefit.

"Being able to have a syllabus to look at when deciding on a course gives students much more flexibility than ever before," Hassan said. "They now have a tangible basis upon which to make a decision to register for a course and which course best fit them."

All colleges within Marshall, with the exception of the College of Education and the College of Liberal Arts, now have syllabi on the website. Students will be able to see who a professor is, how they teach, the learning outcomes, the basis and content of the course, the exam dates and assignments throughout the semester.

See SYLLABI | Page 5



WHO'S NEXT?

- 8/30 @ Miami (Ohio)
- 9/6 Rhode Island
- 9/13 Ohio
- 9/20 @ Akron
- 9/27 Bye
- 10/4 @ Old Dominion
- 10/11 Middle Tennessee St.
- 10/18 @ FIU
- 10/25 FAU
- 11/1 Bye
- 11/8 @ Southern Miss
- 11/15 Rice
- 11/22 @ UAB
- 11/28 Western Kentucky

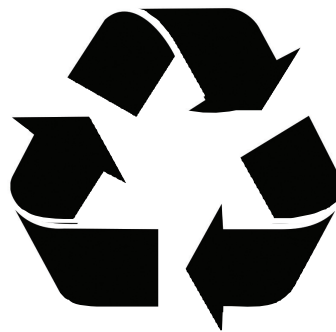
Herd announces 2014 schedule

Full analysis in SPORTS > Page 3

DARRYL ROBERTS JUNIOR DEFENSIVE BACK

RICHARD CRANK | THE PARTHENON

Sustainability Dept., Residence Life launch 'Green Pledge'



By MEGAN OSBORNE
THE PARTHENON

The Sustainability Department and Housing and Residence Life's sustainability committee will kick off an event Wednesday at 1 p.m. in the Memorial Student Center to encourage students to be more green.

The program includes a competition between residence halls and an opportunity for both residents and non-resident students to sign a Green Pledge. The pledge and the competition are designed to give students tangible things to do to reduce their carbon footprint.

The goal is for residence halls to reduce their water and electricity use from last year.

The Green Pledge is a document that any Marshall student or employee can sign. It includes ways to become environmentally conscious with energy, water, waste and transportation, as well as a section on getting involved with sustainable activities in the Marshall community.

Last week, resident advisors hosted mini-parties in the residence halls to preview the event. In these events, students received shower timers to help reduce water usage and learned about ways to reduce environmental impact. More activities will be occurring throughout the semester to supplement the Marshall green program.

The HRL sustainability committee is also working to make students aware of

sustainable practices that are already in place on campus, such as the campus gardens and the bike rental program at the recreation center.

Tiffany Hughes, co-chair of the HRL sustainability committee, said the committee has been focusing on the reduce part of the reduce, reuse and recycle slogan that is commonly used by promoters of sustainable practice. She said it is the least practiced yet most important.

The committee hopes to encourage students to reduce environmental impact by demonstrating how easy it is to follow the practices set up by the competition and the Green Pledge.

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

NPR's Glynn Washington to lecture on campus

THE PARTHENON

Glynn Washington, public radio's rising star, is scheduled for several presentations on Marshall's campus Tuesday. Washington rose to prominence when he created NPR's "Snap Judgment," a storytelling radio show accompanied by hip-hop inspired music. Described as "compelling personal stories - mixing real life with killer beats to produce cinematic, dramatic and kick-ass radio," the show is inspired by "This American Life," hosted by Ira Glass.

"Snap Judgment" is currently simulcast on 250 radio stations nationwide. Locally, the show is broadcasted Sundays at 9 p.m. on 89.9 FM in Huntington and 88.5 FM in Charleston. Fans of the show can also listen to a podcast on the program's website. Prior to becoming the

host and executive producer of "Snap Judgment," Washington composed music in San Francisco for the Kunst Stoff dance performances, produced many works of art, wrote several screenplays and performed spoken word poetry in Detroit, Mich. He has also been an educator, an actor, political strategist and community activist.

Washington will serve as guest speaker in several classes throughout the day for journalism and First Year Seminar students. His visit to Marshall's campus will culminate in "An Evening with Glynn Washington" at 7:30 pm in room BE5 of the Memorial Student Center. Washington's appearance is part of the 2014 Birke Fine Arts Festival, a 5-week series of events dubbed "Trending Now: Artists and Audiences in the Information Age."

The Parthenon can be contacted at parthenon@marshall.edu.



NEWS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2014 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

IBM recruiting students for entry-level positions

By **CHAZZ THOMAS**
THE PARTHENON

IBM will sponsor an information session for students about possible careers with the company Tuesday at 4 p.m. in the Memorial Student Center Room 2W22.

Its purpose in coming to Marshall University is to recruit students to work in its West Virginia office located in Rocket Center, W.Va.

IBM is looking to fill entry-level positions in

management information systems, information technology, computer science and engineering.

At the information session, IBM will give descriptions of these careers as well as an overall description of a career at IBM. The session is expected to be about an hour in length.

Recruiters from IBM will accept resumes and if they are interested they will contact the applicant. Interviews

will not take place at the information session.

According to Deborah Stoler, assistant director of outreach and development for Career Services, this IBM information session is a big opportunity for students as well as Marshall University.

"It is a big opportunity and a great time to be able to learn about IBM because they don't normally come to the smaller campuses," Stoler said. "If we get a good response and

can have a bunch of students come out . . . then we might be able to build a relationship with IBM and bring them back to campus more often."

Career Services said its goal is to have the room filled to capacity.

Refreshments will be provided at the information session and there is no required dress code.

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

Ratio Christi looks at Bible with "historian's eye"

By **KRISTA SHIFFLETT**
THE PARTHENON

Ratio Christi, Latin for the "reason of Christ," is a new group on campus, which meets every Thursday at 5 p.m. in the Memorial Student Center in Room 2W37.

During the meetings, the group discusses Bible logic and the reasons why they believe in having faith.

Its goal is to strengthen and encourage the faith of Christian students, offer the truth of the Bible and Christianity to the skeptical and inform others about their beliefs through campus-wide events.

John Mays, chapter director of Ratio Christi, said there

are a few things that set them apart from other campus ministries.

"We give answers for why we think Christianity is true using historical passages from the Bible," Mays said.

He also said they do lectures instead of sermons and they do not have worship. The group is spending time studying the Old Testament of the Bible.

Shane Stevens, junior math major from Huntington, joined the group last semester and said it is a great way to study the Bible.

"My friend Justin introduced me to the group," Stevens said. "It is a way to study the Bible

logically and to look at it with a historian's eye rather than approaching it with blind faith. It is a way of finding real biblical answers to the scrutiny that is placed upon it."

The group will sponsor an event Feb. 24-25 at 7 p.m. in the Don Morris Room called I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist. It will feature Frank Turek, the founder and president of crossexamined.org.

It will also host a similar event Feb 23 at Gateway Christian Church in St. Albans, W.Va.

Krista Shifflett can be contacted at shifflett7@marshall.edu.

US visa backlog leaves Afghan interpreters in limbo



CAROLYN COLE | LOS ANGELES TIMES | MCT

Shafiq Nazari, 38, from left, Shirullah Mirzamik, 23, and Sardar Khan, 26, pictured Dec. 6, 2013, have all applied for amnesty in the United States after working as translators for Americans in Afghanistan.

By **DAVID ZUCCHINO**
LOS ANGELES TIMES (MCT)

Before serving as an interpreter for the U.S. military, Shafiq Nazari passed exhaustive background checks by U.S. military and intelligence agencies.

The military trusted him enough to issue him an automatic rifle. He has fired it during several firefights with insurgents, fighting shoulder to shoulder with U.S. soldiers and Marines on about 200 combat missions in Afghanistan.

Nazari, 38, a compact man with short-cropped hair and a trim black beard, has been issued a badge that gives him free run of a high-security U.S. base in downtown Kabul, where he translates for U.S. military advisers. He has 70 letters of recommendation from American officers, including two generals, praising his loyalty and courage under fire.

But none of that has been enough to persuade the U.S. State Department to grant a visa to Nazari under a program for Afghan interpreters whose lives are in danger because of their service to the United States. Nazari says he has been waiting nearly five years for approval of his application for a

Special Immigrant Visa, or SIV.

With the looming withdrawal of U.S. forces from Afghanistan, thousands of Afghans who have served as military interpreters are in limbo as the State Department works to clear a backlog of SIV applications. Congress had authorized 8,750 visas for Afghan interpreters, but only 1,982 have been issued through Dec. 10.

For Nazari, who has worked for the U.S. military since 2006, years of waiting have left him confused and demoralized — and at risk of retaliation from insurgents who he says know what he does.

"We're living in the 21st century," Nazari said, speaking flawless English while sipping tea at a Kabul guesthouse. "If the State Department wants to find out if I'm a bad guy or a terrorist, just check their computer databases. It should take five minutes, not five years."

Sardar Khan, 26, who has translated for the U.S. military since 2007, said he has waited nearly two years for a decision on his SIV application. He jokes that he and other applicants have "SIV syndrome" from constantly checking a State Department website for updates on their cases.

"We have already proved our honesty and loyalty to the United States," Khan said. "All we ask now is for the United States to return the favor."

Jarrett Blanc, deputy special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, said the State Department improved its processing times last year and has issued more Afghan interpreter visas during the latest fiscal year than in any previous year; a tenfold increase over 2012. In the last three months of the fiscal year that ended Oct. 1, he said, the U.S. Embassy in Kabul issued more interpreter visas than in the previous four years.

The department has also begun an appeals process for interpreters turned down at the embassy level, sped up the visa process for approved applicants and is doing more to spread word about the SIV program.

"We are committed to helping those who — at great personal risk — have helped us," Blanc said.

Officials are concerned that Afghans with ties to insurgents or terrorists will slip through the vetting process. The 2011 arrests of two Iraqi refugees in

See VISA | Page 5

'Stunning' shift on gay marriage is changing political landscape

By **SEAN COCKERHAM**
MCCLATCHY WASHINGTON BUREAU (MCT)

When the new attorney general in Virginia decided recently to oppose his state's ban on gay marriage, it might have been dismissed as an isolated move by a Democrat seeking to reverse Republican policy. But it underscored the speed and breadth of a fundamental change in the country.

Public opinion on same-sex marriage is changing at breathtaking speed. Voters across the nation are dropping their opposition, and many state gay marriage bans just recently adopted are already coming under assault.

"On no issue in American life have opinions changed as fast as they have on gay rights," said Whit Ayres, a Republican pollster and political consultant. "It is truly a stunning development."

The change is especially vexing for Republicans, who used the issue to get conservative voters to the polls just a decade ago and now are torn between their traditional stance and political base on one hand and the quickly changing political landscape on the other.

Among the most dramatic shifts are in politically key battleground states such as Virginia, which was a bellwether in the last two presidential elections.

The state's newly elected attorney general, Democrat Mark Herring, announced recently that he'd join a lawsuit to overturn Virginia's ban on same-sex marriage. It wasn't just an abrupt reversal from his Republican predecessor, Ken Cuccinelli — who vehemently opposed gay marriage and who lost a bid for the

governor's office in November — it underscored a turn for the state itself.

The ban passed eight years ago with the support of 57 percent of the state's voters, including Herring, who says his views on the issue have evolved. He's not the only one to change his mind. Polls find that most other Virginians now support same-sex marriage, with 56 percent of likely voters opposing the state's ban in an October poll by Virginia's Christopher Newport University.

Many Republican legislators in Virginia, faced with those numbers, are hesitating to defend the gay marriage ban on its merits.

Their focus instead is on arguing that the attorney general has a duty to defend the ban because it's a law passed by the voters, said Larry Sabato, who directs the University of Virginia's Center for Politics.

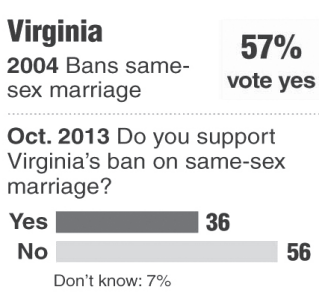
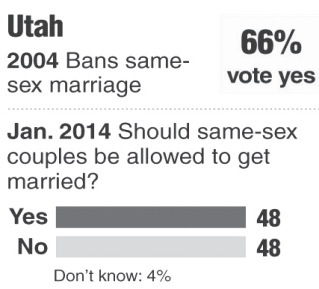
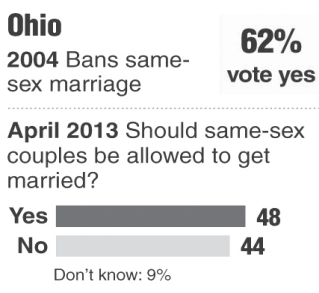
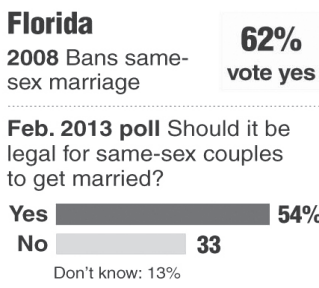
"In Virginia it's the same thing that's happened nationally: Public opinion has shifted dramatically in favor of same-sex marriage," Sabato said. "It was an alien concept for most people. Then the more they thought about it and the more they discussed it with gay friends and gay family members, the more they were inclined to back it."

As recently as 2009, Gallup found that only 40 percent of Americans thought that gay and lesbian marriages should be legally recognized. That number has swelled to nearly 60 percent, including 81 percent of Americans under age 30, according to a Washington Post/ABC News poll last year.

See GAY MARRIAGE | Page 5

Changing views on marriage

Four states where attitudes toward same-sex marriage have changed dramatically in recent years:



NOTE: Figures don't total 100 percent due to rounding

Source: Quinnipiac University poll of 1,138 Ohio registered voters, April 10-15, 2013; margin of error: +/-2.9 percentage points; Christopher Newport University poll of 753 Virginia likely voters; MOE: +/-3.6 percentage points; SurveyUSA poll for the Salt Lake Tribune of 600 Utah adults, Jan. 10-13, 2014; MOE: 3.7 percentage points; Washington Post poll of 925 registered voters, Sept. 19-23, 2012; MOE: 4 percentage points

Graphic: Judy Treible © 2014 MCT

Coffee with the Mayor SGA event gives students a chance to express their opinions to Huntington mayor

THE PARTHENON

The Marshall University Student Government Association will sponsor the event Coffee with the Mayor Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Memorial Student Center lobby.

Coffee with the Mayor is a once a month event where Huntington Mayor Steve Williams comes to Marshall to hear the concerns and ideas of Marshall students.

At past meetings, students have brought up the topics of campus safety and the cities

effort to clean up Huntington

A press release from the mayor's office, Williams said he wanted students to know he is their mayor and he is always approachable.

"City hall isn't just a building at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Fifth Street," Williams said in the press release. "I want there to be a consistent presence of city government on campus."

In addition to Thursday, Coffee with the Mayor will be at the same time March 6, April 3 and May 1.

SPORTS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2014 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

German duo fast friends on and off tennis court

By BRAXTON CRISP
THE PARTHENON

More often than not, players on an athletic team take a little while to get to know each other, especially in collegiate athletics when student-athletes come from all over the country and even all over the world.

For sophomore Dana Oppinger and freshman Derya Turhan of the Marshall University Thundering Herd tennis team, the transition to being teammates was an easy one, despite going to college so far away from home.

Oppinger is from Weingarten, Germany while Turhan is from Bad Salzuflen, Germany, about a three-hour drive on the German A7 Autobahn.

The two met in a youth tournament in Turkey nearly ten years ago.

"We met there, then we went to have dinner together and really got along with each other," Oppinger said. "Then somehow the contact got lost."

Years later when Marshall head coach John Mercer was trying to lure Turhan into playing collegiate tennis for the Herd he asked Oppinger if she knew a girl named Derya.

"I looked on Facebook and we had a huge number of common friends," Oppinger said. "She came on a recruiting trip and she decided to come here, which was amazing. I was so happy and I think that everyone can notice it every single day that I'm happy she's here."

In terms of tennis, Oppinger and Turhan said

it is extremely beneficial to have similar playing styles as well as being able to communicate on the court in their native language.

"No one understands it, so we can communicate in German while I'm at the net and she's at the baseline," Turhan said.

The pair is 3-3 on the season in doubles action after falling to the No. 4 ranked doubles pair, Francesca Fusinato and Raluca Mita of Virginia Tech on Sunday.

Part of what helps Oppinger and Turhan get along so well is playing tennis. Mercer said it is the same game regardless of where it is played.

"Tennis is the same everywhere," Mercer said. "It's kind of like a universal language. The court is the same size everywhere."

Outside of tennis, Oppinger and Turhan are commonly together, and have found a favorite food in the U.S.

"We love going to frozen yogurt," Oppinger said. "I think we had one week when we went three times. It's probably not the best food, but we love it."

One reason why frozen yogurt is such a hit with Oppinger and Turhan is because they don't have it in Germany.

"We have ice cream, but we don't get to pull the handle and put all the toppings on it," Oppinger said.



Freshman Derya Turhan (left) and sophomore Dana Oppinger during their doubles match against Virginia Tech Jan. 31 at the Huntington Tennis Club.

See TENNIS | Page 5

Marshall Thundering Herd

2014 Football Schedule

The Miami (OH) Red Hawks



Game 1 - at Miami (OH)
Location: Oxford, Ohio
Mascot: Red Hawks
2013 record: 0-12, 0-8 in MAC

The Thundering Herd and the Red Hawks have had bad blood since 1971 when the Red Hawks showed no mercy to the Young Thundering Herd. The Red Hawks were winless in 2013, thanks in part to playing Marshall, Kentucky and Cincinnati in the first three weeks of the season. Head Coach Chuck Martin was hired at the end of the 2013 season

The University of Rhode Island Rams



Game 2 - vs. Rhode Island
Location: Kingston, R.I.
Mascot: Rams
2013 record: 3-9, 2-6 in CAA

The cupboard is not bare for new Rams head coach Jim Fleming, with six Rams being named to the Colonial Conference all-conference team despite their record. The Thundering Herd is 13-1 against FCS opponents since moving to the FBS in 1997.

The Ohio Bobcats



Game 3 - vs. Ohio
Location: Athens, Ohio
Mascot: Bobcats
2013 record: 7-6, 4-4 in MAC

The 2014 meeting between these two rivals will be the 58th Battle for the Bell. The Bobcats had a down year in 2013, including a 49-0 loss to less-than-intimidating Bowling Green. Last season the Bobcats ended their season with a 37-20 loss to East Carolina in the Beef 'O' Brady Bowl. The Bobcats have defeated the Herd in their last three meetings

The Akron Zips



Game 4 - at Akron
Location: Akron, Ohio.
Mascot: Zips
2013 record: 5-7, 4-4 in MAC

The Zips will be the third Mid-American Conference team on Marshall's 2013 season. The Zips had a rough 2013, but ended on a high note as they won three of their last four games. Second year head coach Terry Bowden (a 1978 WVU alumni) is 141-72-2 all-time as a head coach.

The Old Dominion Monarchs



Game 5 - at Old Dominion
Location: Norfolk, Va.
Mascot: Monarchs
2013 record: 8-4 (Independent)

Old Dominion is a new member of Conference USA for the 2014 season and will have to get acclimated early as the Monarchs draw Rice, Middle Tennessee and the Herd as their first three opponents in their new conference. The Monarchs went 6-0 at home last season.

The Middle Tennessee State Blue Raiders



Game 6 - vs. Middle Tennessee
Location: Murfreesboro, Tenn.
Mascot: Blue Raiders
2012 record: 8-5, 6-2 in C-USA

The Blue Raiders had a great first season in C-USA and are projecting to be a contender in the East division. The Blue Raiders handed the Herd its only regular season conference loss in 2013.

The Florida International Golden Panthers



Game 7 - at Florida International
Location: Miami, Fla.
Mascot: Golden Panthers
2012 record: 1-11, 1-7 in C-USA

The Golden Panthers struggled in their first season in C-USA, only defeating lowly Southern Miss by one point. Head Coach Ron Turner has his work cut out for him in his first season.

The Florida Atlantic Owls



Game 8 - vs. FAU
Location: Boca Raton, Fla.
Mascot: Owls
2013 record: 6-6, 4-4 in C-USA

Florida Atlantic had a good first season in C-USA, winning six games but being snubbed from a bowl game. The Owls will have to hit the ground running in 2014, with road games against the Nebraska Cornhuskers and Alabama Crimson Tide early.

Sarah Kay: a butterfly in the water

By GABI WARWICK
THE PARTHENON

The swimming and diving team gave recognition to their seniors at the meet Feb. 1, giving special attention to Sarah Kay.

Kay, a 22-year-old from Cape Town, South Africa, swam for the last time in the Frederick A. Fitch Natatorium. She touched first in the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 58.51, a season best, making it her fourth first place finish in that event.

Her win in the 200-yard butterfly was her sixth on the season.

Before coming to Marshall, Kay competed with her high school team in South Africa, and was selected for the national team her senior year. She was also a finalist in the Olympic trials for her favorite event, the 200-yard butterfly.

After four years of swimming for Marshall, Kay said that she is done with swimming, which means that she has had time to reflect back on her time competing. Her favorite memory comes from this year with the team.

"Our travel meets together and the training trip were very special," she said. "However, the senior meet is probably the best memory. The girls pulled together and got the seniors really meaningful gifts. It makes the four years definitely worth it."

The last chance Kay will have to swim with the team

will be at the conference championships, which will begin Feb. 26, and continue for four days in Atlanta, Ga. She is staying focused on giving her best for her last performance.

"I want to work on my times and make the finals on all three events," she said. "The training trip we took was tough, but I feel like the results will really show at the championship."

One of the biggest challenges Kay said she has faced through being at Marshall is the fact that she is so far away from home.

"Being independent has been tough to overcome," she said. "Home is very far away, which means I only go back over the summer. But I have my Marshall family here, which makes it a lot easier."

Although she has been feeling rather nostalgic, Kay said she won't miss the training aspect of being on the team.

"Some of the days the workouts are really mentally challenging," she said. "There are days where you just can't seem to perform like you should, and mentally that's extremely difficult."

Although Kay will complete her fourth year at the end of spring semester, she will be at Marshall for another year to complete her master's in Business.

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

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OPINION

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2014 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

EDITORIAL

Oscar campaign rules need clarification

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences announced Wednesday its decision to revoke the original song Oscar nomination for "Alone Yet Not Alone" from the film of the same title, clarifying the announcement with more detail in a press release Saturday.

The revocation followed an email from Bruce Broughton, the song's music writer and a longtime Academy member serving on the music branch's executive committee.

The message, sent to about 70 of 239 members, attempted to draw attention to "Alone Yet Not Alone" and "be remembered among the many worthy songs from more highly visible films," as Broughton stated in the email.

The Academy's board of governors decided to revoke the nomination, claiming

Broughton's message violated the ethical nature of campaigns.

"Using one's position as a former governor and current executive committee member to personally promote one's own Oscar submission creates the appearance of an unfair advantage," Academy President Cheryl Boone Isaacs said in a statement.

Beyond the shock and devastation many reacted with after the announcement, revoking the song's nomination could be a chance for the Academy to reevaluate campaign policy. In an effort to ease the minds of those upset by the decision, the Academy should clarify these campaign rules.

Most of the hurt expressed by Broughton and others comes from confusion about campaigning and what is or is not allowed.

The low-budget, faith-based film needed a major boost to stand a chance among big-budget studio campaigns.

Broughton's only mistake was using his own name as a campaign tactic. Had he brought in a third party and completely avoided using his own name in the email, the campaign would have been acceptable. However, in 2010, a producer for best picture winner "The Hurt Locker" emailed members to campaign against what was called "that \$500 million movie" (a reference to "Avatar"). The producer's tickets were revoked, but not the nomination.

So the question stands, where does the board draw the line? The Academy needs to make a decision about where campaigning becomes unethical and apply it to all potential nominees.

Online Polls

You Can Be Herd

What is your favorite Philip Seymour Hoffman film?

- "Capote"
- "Charlie Wilson's War"
- "The Big Lebowski"

Which team do you want to win the Super Bowl?

The Denver Broncos	43%
The Seattle Seahawks	48%
I don't have a preference	10%

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

COLUMN

Time to follow Prezioso's lead

By **TOMMY D. G. FERRELL**
COLUMNIST

On Jan. 28, a bipartisan group of 13 members of the West Virginia Senate introduced Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 18. The resolution, primarily sponsored by Senate Finance Committee Chairman Roman Prezioso of Marion County, lays out its purpose in frank and certain terms from the outset: This is a resolution "[r]ecognizing that any additional cuts to the funding for higher education institutions would be detrimental to the growth and the financial well-being of West Virginia."

The resolution was announced Jan. 27, but Prezioso had made known his intentions to safeguard higher education at the outset of the year, ahead of Governor Earl Ray Tomblin's State of the State Address, telling attendees of the Marion County Chamber of Commerce's annual legislative breakfast, "I am adamant about higher education institutions not taking another cut."

The short story here is that we have a significant friend and ally in Prezioso. As the head of the powerful State Senate Committee on Finance, he has significant sway in the outcome of this legislative session's budget decisions. His advocacy, as we all know too well, is not unfounded, either; at the breakfast, he pointed to last year's 9 percent statewide cut as reason enough to keep our colleges off the chopping block, on top of the crucial nature of education to our citizens' economic struggles where it hits hardest: home.

We're important to the state's future, we have the backing of a significant figure in state politics, and we've already had our turn at the cuts. What more could we need? This is where the short story becomes a long story.

Prezioso's reasoned and broad support simply is not enough.

Let's start with the actual resolution. If you read it, it screams all of the points we already know to be true: Tuition costs are on a long-term upward trend with no end in sight, retention rates are dropping in the state, textbook prices have

skyrocketed and higher education is ultimately an investment for West Virginia's future. This is awesome! But it has absolutely no teeth whatsoever.

Say this resolution passes the Senate—which it is likely to do, since, of the 18 votes it needs, thirteen senators are already sponsoring the thing. What then? The House of Delegates will take it up, where it may well get the same approval. And what then? Nothing. A concurrent resolution like this merely makes a statement about what the legislature thinks; it does not enact a law. One would imagine the government would hold true to its word, right?

Wrong. Tomblin said everyone would take a 7.5 percent across-the-board cut last year. By the time all was said and done, Marshall University was looking at a double-digit loss while some smaller state programs lost not a dime. Of course, I am not calling anyone a liar. I genuinely believe most public servants enter their offices with the best intentions in mind. Unfortunately, there is no reason to believe that the legislature and the governor will hold up to the ancient game of politics or, more importantly, a wide array of competing interests fighting for the same money.

Prezioso must care about many things which benefit the welfare of his district and the state as a whole, but he cannot protect every single one of them, especially as the amount of revenue coming into the state continues to drop.

This column presents a bleak image this week. I have given up trying to be rosy, as we all probably should (for now). It's time to get loud. Call your members of the House of Delegates and the State Senate, and give the governor a call as well. A loud, unified voice on behalf of the students of West Virginian public education is the best hope we have.

I give Prezioso generous thanks for this resolution, but it's our turn to do something.

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MCT CAMPUS

NATIONAL EDITORIAL

What makes a good college?

LOS ANGELES TIMES (MCT)

The commission that accredits California's community colleges is under fire from above and below. The federal government has given it a year to improve its performance, noting, among other criticisms, that it has too few educators on its panels. That might help explain the groundswell of discontent among the colleges, which need the commission's approval to keep their classroom doors open; many of them contend that it is harshly punitive and insufficiently focused on the quality of education.

The discontent came to a head when the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges moved last year to strip accreditation from City College of San Francisco. Unaccredited schools generally cannot receive state funding; in this case, the college would most likely be forced to close, leaving 80,000 students in the lurch. The commission, one of three private, nonprofit accrediting groups

within the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, needs the approval of the U.S. Department of Education to retain its authority.

San Francisco City College's loss of accreditation is on hold pending the outcome of a court challenge. Critics of the accrediting commission see this as the right time to question its authority and style. We see it as the perfect time to think bigger, and refocus the assessment of colleges nationwide on how well they educate students.

That sounds elementary. But most of the recent actions taken against community colleges across the country have had more to do with administrative, financial and governance issues than with academic quality.

That's not to say that such issues are necessarily unimportant. The San Francisco college's reserve fund contained only enough money to last a few days in case of a financial emergency. It was doing a poor job of tracking student outcomes.

That's unacceptable. But the available data show that the college's students are more likely to graduate or transfer to a four-year college within six years than students statewide. It would be a shame to see a worthwhile school closed over administrative matters.

The Obama administration has suggested overhauling the accreditation process for all colleges to pay greater attention to dropout rates and affordability. That's closer to but still short of the mark. The dropout rate is easy to game with grade inflation, and a school should not lose accreditation over how expensive it is.

The questions that should matter most are the basic ones: whether the college offers a good selection of courses for its mission; whether academic standards are rigorous and instructors are adept at imparting knowledge and building student skills; whether students receive the counseling they need to plan the right course of study and achieve their goals.

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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GUIDELINES FOR SENDING LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Please keep letters to the editor at 300 words or fewer. They must be saved in Microsoft Word and sent as an attachment. Longer letters may be used as guest columns at the editor's discretion. Guest column status will not be given at the author's request. All letters must be signed and include an address or phone number for confirmation. Letters may be edited for grammar, libelous statements, available space or factual errors. Compelling

letters that are posted on The Parthenon website, www.marshallparthenon.com, can be printed at the discretion of the editors.

The opinions expressed in the columns and letters do not necessarily represent the views of The Parthenon staff.

Please send news releases to the editors at parthenon@marshall.edu. Please keep in mind, letters are printed based on timeliness, newsworthiness and space.

Countdown to Sochi: Two days



CHRISTOPHER REYNOLDS | LOS ANGELES TIMES | MCT

In the Laura ski complex, in the Sochi mountain sports area of Krasnaya Polyana, cross-country skiers work out on a course that that will probably be part of the 2014 Winter Olympics.

SYLLABI

Continued from Page 1

Students will not only be able to see what courses fit best for them prior to registration, but they will also be able to see what professors fit best for them and their learning styles.

The idea for the repository was brought back from a conference that members of the SGA attended in the spring of 2013. A resolution was drafted, approved by

President Stephen J. Kopp and passed unanimously through the Student Senate in the fall.

Prior to the implementation of this repository, professors were required to upload their syllabi to the MU BERT interface which was only accessible to faculty and staff. Now, students have a full access to past and current syllabi whenever they need them.

Chief of Staff Jordan Wooldridge said that the implementation of this repository can only benefit students.

"This repository is a huge resource for students and will be extremely helpful for them as they continue their education here at Marshall," Wooldridge said. "In the long run, this could help with student retention at Marshall and help students be more successful in the classroom."

Several schools also utilize the repository in their network, including the University of Kentucky, the University of Louisville and Northern Kentucky University. Hassan also

said the implementation is yet another important resource that Marshall can offer prospective students as well as current students.

"This just puts us even further ahead of the curve," he said. "It makes Marshall a more competitive school to not only bring in new students, but also help retain students that are currently enrolled."

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VISA

Continued from Page 2

Kentucky on terrorism charges slowed the visa process, though neither had been an interpreter.

The Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project calls the SIV process "prohibitively complicated, bureaucratic and opaque." The group, which also assists Afghans, says more than 5,000 Afghan applicants are backlogged. It says only 6,675 of the 25,000 visas authorized for Iraqi interpreters have been issued.

In December, Congress extended the Iraq SIV program through Sept. 30, but failed to extend the Afghan program, which is set to expire Sept. 30.

Interpreters are the eyes and ears for U.S. troops, few of whom speak Afghan languages or comprehend Afghan culture. So-called terps do far more than just translate. They help U.S. commanders navigate the bewildering tribal and family alliances that dominate Afghan culture, while also guiding them through fraught relationships with their allies in the Afghan army and police.

And in many cases, they wear U.S. uniforms, carry weapons and fight alongside American troops — all for about \$450 to \$500 a month.

"To be honest, without Shafiq we would have been lost," said Army Maj. Michael A. Lee, who worked with Nazari in eastern Afghanistan in 2008 and 2009. "His ability to explain the issues between the different tribes and ethnic groups helped me understand the problems we were having."

The jobs come with enormous risks. Hundreds of Afghan interpreters have been killed or wounded by insurgents. Even though many interpreters wear masks, they are well-known in their hometowns or villages. The Taliban has repeatedly warned interpreters that they and their families will be killed unless they stop working for Americans.

The American Embassy in Kabul has rejected 20 percent of SIV applicants, saying they had not documented a credible threat linked to their service to the United States. Among them is an interpreter who gave his name only as "Ahmed" for fear of hurting his case; he said he was turned down in November, more than

two years after he applied.

Ahmed said a "threat letter" he provided was deemed inadequate. He was encouraged to file a second letter, which was also rejected, he said. He has filed a third as part of an appeal.

"Each case is evaluated on its own merits," a State Department official said.

Other interpreters say they face even greater threats after being laid off as American troops withdraw, depriving them of the safety of U.S. bases.

Shirullah Mirzamalik, 23, who worked five years as a military interpreter, said he was given a stark choice when his SIV interview at the embassy in Kabul was scheduled for the same day he was ordered to report for work with a U.S. unit in eastern Afghanistan. He chose to attend the interview, he said, and was fired.

Even though he no longer works directly for Americans, Mirzamalik said, he still fears retaliation against him, his wife and infant son. "We're not safe — everybody knows I worked for the Americans," he said.

Navy Lt. Mike Hammond said Mirzamalik proved invaluable while Hammond was stationed in eastern Afghanistan in 2010 and 2011.

"I often told Shirullah and our other interpreters that they've shown more patriotism and loyalty to the United States than the vast majority of our own citizens," Hammond said, adding: "Once U.S. forces pull out and the interpreters are left to fend for themselves apart from our bases, they and their families are going to be in serious danger."

For Nazari and Khan, time is running out. They fear they will be left jobless and unprotected when all U.S. combat troops are out of Afghanistan by December. A security agreement that would keep some U.S. forces here is threatened by a political stalemate.

Nazari said American officers have interceded on his behalf, but to no avail. He harbors no bitterness and remains hopeful of a new life in America for himself, his wife and two children. Immediate families are included in the program.

"We love American troops and the American people," he said. "It's the visa system that sucks."

TENNIS

Continued from Page 3

The two will not stop being together during the offseason this coming summer.

"We have already said when we go back this summer we're going to hang out with each other," Oppinger said.

Oppinger and Turhan, along with the rest of their Herd teammates will return to the court Feb. 8 in Lexington, Ky. in a dual match with the No. 40 ranked Kentucky Wildcats.

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WEATHER

Continued from Page 1

Wednesday night is expected to have a low around 21 accompanied by partly cloudy skies with no expected precipitation.

Thursday is expected to be dry but partly cloudy day and night with a high of 33 and a low near 18.

Friday is also expected to be dry and cloudy with a high near 38 during the day and a low near 25 into the night, but the dry weather will not persist into the weekend.

Clouds are expected to accompany a wintry mix of rain

and snow is likely all day Saturday and into the night, with a 60 percent chance of precipitation. Temperatures will be at a high of 43 during the day and a low around 27 during the night.

NOAA forecasts currently show precipitation will continue into Sunday during the day, with a chance of snow and a high of 35, finishing off a cold and soggy weekend.

All this slushy mess will be the perfect opportunity to pair galoshes with hats and scarves to combat the cold.

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GAY MARRIAGE

Continued from Page 2

The survey was taken soon before the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a key portion of the Defense of Marriage Act last June, giving momentum to efforts around the country to defeat prohibitions on gays and lesbians getting married.

The reversal in public opinion puts Republicans who oppose same-sex marriage in a tough spot that was nearly impossible to foresee a few years ago. Republican political strategist Karl Rove used opposition to gay marriage in mobilizing voters to help re-elect President George W. Bush in 2004. At the time, he called it one of the most potent issues to inspire the electorate.

Now Rove says he could imagine the next Republican presidential candidate supporting gay marriage. Ken Mehlman, Bush's campaign manager in 2004 and a former chairman of the Republican National Committee, came out as gay in 2010 and now fights for same-sex marriage.

Virginia isn't the only pivotal state where the tide has turned so dramatically. Florida and Ohio, other key swing states in deciding presidential

elections, have seen huge transformations in public opinion. Both passed bans on same-sex marriage in the last decade with support from nearly two-thirds of their voters.

But 54 percent of Floridians now back same-sex marriage, according to a poll last year by the Public Religion Research Institute.

It could become a major issue in November elections, with Florida Republican Gov. Rick Scott opposing gay marriage and his likely challenger, former Gov. Charlie Crist, supporting a court effort to overturn the state's ban.

Recent polling found that Ohio voters support gay marriage as well. Ohio's Rob Portman became the first sitting Republican in the U.S. Senate to endorse same-sex marriage last year, quickly followed by Sens. Mark Kirk of Illinois and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska.

Portman's approval ratings dropped after he announced his stance. But that loss of support was just a temporary blip, said Paul Beck, a political science professor at Ohio State University. Beck said his state might see a ballot attempt to legalize gay marriage this year.

SCHEDULE

Continued from Page 3

The Southern Miss Golden Eagles



Game 9 – at Southern Miss
Location: Hattiesburg, Miss.
Mascot: Golden Eagles
2012 record: 1-11, 1-7 in C-USA

The Golden Eagles are 1-23 since winning the C-USA Championship in 2011. Southern Miss may have given themselves a bit of momentum by beating UAB in the last game of the season. Two SEC teams (Ole Miss and Alabama) are on the golden eagles schedule

The Rice University Owls



Game 10 – vs. Rice
Location: Houston, Texas
Mascot: Owls
2012 record: 10-4, 7-1

The game between the Owls and Herd will be a rematch of the 2013 C-USA Championship, which Rice won 41-24. Head coach David Bailiff is also reigning C-USA coach of the year.

The University of Alabama-Birmingham Blazers



Game 11: - at UAB
Location: Birmingham, Ala.
Mascot: Blazers
2012 record: 2-10, 1-7 in C-USA

The Blazers were poised to take a step out of the C-USA basement in 2013 before turning in a poor season. First year head coach Bill Clark has a difficult non-conference schedule to work with, including two trips to SEC teams.

The Western Kentucky Hilltoppers



Game 12: - vs. WKU
Location: Bowling Green, Ky.
Mascot: Hilltoppers
2012 record: 8-4, 4-3 in SunBelt

Western Kentucky is another new member of Conference USA for the 2014 season. The Hilltoppers were one of the top teams in the Sun Belt, but lost former head coach Bobby Petrino to Louisville.

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TODAY IN THE LIFE!

iTUNES TOP 10 SONGS

1. "Dark Horse (feat. Juicy J)" by Katy Perry
2. "Let Her Go" by Passenger
3. "Happy (from Despicable Me 2)" by Pharrell Williams
4. "The Man" by Aloe Blacc
5. "Timber (feat. Ke\$ha)" by Pitbull
6. "Pompeii" by Bastille
7. "Locked Out of Heaven" by Bruno Mars
8. "Just the Way You Are" by Bruno Mars
9. "Say Something" by A Great Big World & Christina Aguilera
10. "Team" by Lorde

iTUNES TOP 10 ALBUMS

1. "Frozen (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack)" by Various Artists
2. "Night Visions" by Imagine Dragons
3. "Doo-Wops & Hooligans" by Bruno Mars
4. "Pure Heroine" by Lorde
5. "Bad Blood" by Bastille
6. "Thrive" by Casting Crowns
7. "Random Access Memories" by Daft Punk
8. "Pure Heroine (Extended)" by Lorde
9. "Unorthodox Jukebox" by Bruno Mars
10. "Restoring Force" by Of Mice and Men

'Tonight Show' ends Leno and Burbank eras

NBC is taking "The Tonight Show" back to its home in New York City with Jimmy Fallon as new host.

By **SCOTT COLLINS**
LOS ANGELES TIMES (MCT)

The sign advertising his show still looms over the NBC parking lot, and for a few more days throngs of fans will crowd the studio gates in Burbank before tapings. But Jay Leno says he's ready to leave — and this time, he says he really means it.

After more than 40 years, "The Tonight Show" is leaving Southern California and heading back to New York, with the 63-year-old Leno, who first became host in 1992, handing off the show to Jimmy Fallon, just 39.

Four years have passed since NBC botched a similar passing of the torch to Conan O'Brien. This time it's the passing of an era, and not just for Leno, one of the most polarizing figures in show business. It's also a sobering inflection point for the TV industry and Los Angeles generally, both of which are struggling to adapt to economic and technological forces that are threatening a cultural primacy that looked assured back in 1972, when Johnny Carson transplanted "Tonight" to what he jokingly called "beautiful downtown Burbank."

"I'm old enough to remember when I was in New York and I was a kid, it was, 'Oh my God, the "Tonight Show's" leaving New York and going to Los Angeles,'" Leno recalled, sitting in the green room next to his studio. "It seemed like the most glamorous thing in the world."

Things change. New York — a safer, more prosperous city than it was in the 1970s — has solidified its standing as the nation's media capital, with most of the major news and talk shows originating there.

"New York is the bustling city and blah, blah, blah," Leno said. "All the excitement's there, all the movie studios, they start their big campaigns in New York. So now it's going back."

Where once "Tonight" was part of a vibrant complex that was home to "Hollywood Squares," "Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In" and other shows, the studios will after this week become another symbol of the runaway production that has seen more than \$3 billion in film and TV crew wages slip away from Southern California over the last decade. The "Tonight Show" move will cost more than 150 local jobs alone.

Leno understands that the loss of "Tonight" is a shock to the local system. "That's kind of sad to see happen," he said.

The sense of loss is palpable. "The Tonight Show" put Burbank on the map," said Burbank Mayor Emily Gabel-Luddy. "We stole the

"Tonight Show" from New York originally, and I guess they're stealing it back."

"The real impact is the loss of tradition," she said, "and that's what our community is feeling. We see Jay Leno around town, he participates in our car shows, he drives around our streets and he's been part of the community ever since he's been here doing the 'Tonight Show.' People really love that."

But it's more than a New York vs. Hollywood dynamic, many believe. Leno and his brand of gentle, easily digestible comedy is no longer the kind of fare that captivates the mainstream — if "the mainstream" still exists at all.

"Leno proved that comedy could be clean and square, and still be funny," said Marty Kaplan, a media professor at University of Southern California. "That kind of non-edgy humor once won a mass audience, but now it's just another niche."

Indeed, viewers these days must pick their way through more than 20 late-night talk shows on broadcast and cable, including O'Brien's TBS show, Comedy Central's "The Colbert Report" and E!'s "Chelsea Lately."

"Tonight" has commanded just under 4 million nightly viewers this season, compared with 2.9 million for CBS' "Late Show With David Letterman" and 2.6 million for ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live," according to Nielsen. But "Tonight's" audience has been declining for years amid all the competition, following a now-familiar pattern seen by nearly every TV show. Once a cash cow for NBC, "Tonight" was forced to lay off about 20 staffers in 2012, and Leno took a 10 percent pay cut.

None of this was foreseeable 22 years ago, when Leno took over "Tonight" from Carson, who is still considered the gold standard of late-night talk show hosts nearly a decade after his death.

The backstage battle over who would succeed the retiring Carson was so fierce that it was chronicled in a bestselling book, "The Late Shift," which revealed how Leno hid in a closet so he could secretly listen to a conference call of executives discussing his future. The episode sealed the comic's image as a striver of considerable talent but perhaps even larger ambition.

Leno's first months as host were a disaster. The comic's then-manager and executive producer, Helen Kushnick, sent Hollywood into an uproar by seeking to blackball celebrities who appeared on other talk shows. David Letterman, Leno's rival for the "Tonight" desk, left NBC to start a competing program on CBS in mid-1993 that was soon beating "Tonight" in the ratings. On-camera, Leno seemed ill-at-ease, off his game.

"It was a shaky start," acknowledged Warren Littlefield, who was the NBC Entertainment president who greenlighted Leno's takeover of "Tonight."

But Leno, who grew up in the Boston area raised by Italian and Scottish immigrant parents, persisted. Kushnick was booted and the producers eventually scrapped the old Carson set and built a new one that allowed audience members to crowd the stage and high-five Leno at the opening, underscoring Leno's roots as a nightclub comic. A 1995 sit-down with British star Hugh Grant, then disgraced in a sex scandal, signaled the start of a ratings turnaround that sent "Tonight" to No. 1.

"The show was kind of rebuilt around Jay. And he flourished in it," Littlefield said. "He was flexible; he adjusted."

Maybe too flexible, according to some critics. As a young comic, Leno was known for his "What's my beef?" comic rants, but detractors say he relaxed into dumbed-down comedy for the masses on "Tonight." His best-known bit is "Jaywalking," which consists of an amused Leno quizzing clueless passersby on basic knowledge. Leno doesn't deny adjusting his humor for a big audience.

"You're dealing with just a broad cross-section of America," said Leno, whose worth has been estimated at \$350 million by CelebrityNetWorth.com. "You're dealing with people who work really hard and they just wanna have a laugh before they go to bed."

"So is it not as cutting edge? Sure, probably. I'd cop to that."

Bill Zehme, who co-authored Leno's best-seller "Leading With My Chin," compares Leno to Bob Hope, another NBC funnyman forever tied to Burbank (the airport is named after Hope, who lived in nearby Toluca Lake). "Like Hope, Leno seems to fill a nationalistic need as America's Comedian," Zehme said.

But unlike Hope, Leno has sometimes been cast as a villain. In 2010, when he bombed with a 10 p.m. EST talk show, NBC returned him to "Tonight" amid intense pressure from local affiliates. The tortured maneuvers displaced O'Brien, who eventually quit. Leno was painted as a back-stabbing climber, with much of the toughest criticism coming from fellow comics and hosts, such as Letterman and Kimmel. "Shame on Jay Leno," Rosie O'Donnell told reporters.

Today, Leno laughs off those kinds of attacks.

"My favorite was, 'Jay Leno went back to NBC and demanded his show back,'" Leno said. "If I had that power, I wouldn't have been fired in the first place."

Leno proved that comedy could be clean and square, and still be funny.

You know what gets me calm, baby? Success.



Kanye West to INTERVIEW Magazine

E. JASON WAMBSGANS | CHICAGO TRIBUNE | MCT

GARY FRIEDMAN | LOS ANGELES TIMES | MCT
Jay Leno, host of "The Tonight Show," performs his opening monologue at the studio, Jan. 28, 2014 in Burbank, Calif.