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Jocelyn Gibson
Parthenon@marshall.edu

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THE PARTHENON

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2015 | VOL. 119 NO. 23 | MARSHALL UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER | marshallparthenon.com

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STUDENTS UNITE TO TAKE BACK THE NIGHT

Speakers, rally, candlelight vigil aim to break the cycle of domestic violence and sexual assault

By **TAYLOR POLING**
THE PARTHENON

Take Back the Night rocked Marshall University's campus Wednesday night. Public speakers, rallying and a candlelight vigil comprised the events for the night.

Take Back the Night brought attention to the issue of domestic violence and sexual assault. The annual event started off with a variety of speakers.

Tears were shed by both speakers and community members as personal survival stories and poems were shared with the audience.

"The reason why I do it is because I can take pride in knowing that I can be there for that victim," Campus advocate for the CONTACT Rape Crisis Center Kylee McMullen said. "I can be their advocate and I can essentially hold their hand through the process. They don't have to be alone, and I can be that person of support, even if they don't have anyone else who believes them, I can be that person for them."

Associate Professor for the department of psychology Paige Muellerleile ended the speaker portion of the night. Muellerleile explained that the issue of rape and domestic violence is a men's issue, not a women's issue.

"Rape culture is reflected in every part of our lives, wherever there is sexism that allows people to feel entitled to our bodies,"

Muellerleile said.

Muellerleile provided an example of how little girls have to worry about dress codes where boys have more freedom in their clothing choices. Muellerleile said that is an example of rape culture.

After speakers finished, the rally began. Signs were handed out to the participants. Chants such as "survivors unite, take back the night" and "sexist, racist, anti-gay, don't you take our night away" echoed around campus as participants marched from the Memorial Student Center to the first-year residence halls.

Cars honked as the crowd of marchers made their way along Fifth Avenue back to the Memorial Student Center. A passerby yelled, "That's the best shit I've seen all night!"

The event ended with a candlelight vigil. Each participant lit a candle and elaborated on why they came to the event.

Once every candle was lit, participants blew out their candles to send prayers and thoughts to the victims and survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence.

Representatives from Branches Domestic Violence Shelter and CONTACT Rape Crisis Center were there to provide help and assistance.

Taylor Poling can be contacted by poling37@marshall.edu.



ASHLEY SODOSKY | THE PARTHENON

Guests at Interim President Gary White's Presidential Open House Reception mingle with one another Wednesday. White said he feels the event has been successful, but he hopes it will grow. He said students make up the majority at each open house.

President hosts open house featuring INTO MU program

By **ASHLEY SODOSKY**
THE PARTHENON

The Office of the University President hosted Marshall University INTO MU employees Wednesday for the Presidential Open House Reception.

Interim President Gary White hosts an open house every first Wednesday of the month during the school year. Each month sponsors a specific organization on campus.

White said the initiative for the open house was to get to know students and staff better and also to let people talk about things they have done or problems they are having. "We can't fix a problem that we don't know about," White said. "Nor can we give recognition to something we don't know about."

The reception is open to any and all discussion with White and his staff or student government associates.

The featured organization for each month also has several personnel to speak to.

Wednesday's open house featured the INTO program where INTO faculty discussed their initiatives for this year.

The reception is open to all faculty, staff, students and public.

Ginny Painter, Senior Vice President for Communications and Marketing at Marshall University, said the event is meant to be a low-key way to speak to these offices.

"You can just stroll up to the president," Painter said. "It's also a chance to talk to student government in an informal way."

White said students have been the largest percentage at each open house. Students have given positive feedback on the initiative.

"I think it really let's people know what's going on in different areas of Marshall,"

said Amber Govey, junior communications disorders major Amber Govey. "It lets everyone stay connected and up to date."

The open house receptions started during White's first few months in office.

White said he feels the event has been successful but he hopes it will grow.

"I'm a little disappointed that folks have not taken advantage of the opportunity," White said. "I expected to see more members of the faculty and of the staff."

White also said the open house has made various changes on campus from creating initiatives that were brought up at open houses.

The next open house reception will be the first Wednesday of November. The featured organization for the event has not been decided.

Ashley Sodosky can be contacted at sodosky@marshall.edu.

Psychology clinic to offer free and anonymous depression screening

By **ROB ENGLE**
THE PARTHENON

The Marshall University Psychology Clinic will offer students free, quick and anonymous depression screenings Thursday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Harris Hall Room 449 in participation with National Depression Screening Day.

This marks the 25th year the organization Screening for Mental Health has encouraged a nationwide effort to connect people with mental health treatment for depression. The screenings will be conducted by doctoral psychology students, who will determine if patients exhibit depressive symptoms and suggest individualized next steps.

Assistant Professor of psychology Brittany Canady said depression is not an illness that should be taken lightly.

"Depression is a disease that affects many, many Americans," Canady said. "Up to a quarter of people may experience a depressive episode in their lifetime, so it's important for us to be

aware of this and give people opportunities to come in and check in, see how they're doing and help direct them toward treatment, if treatment is needed."

Anyone who attends the clinic will be given a short questionnaire to evaluate their symptoms. Though definitive diagnoses cannot be made, the clinicians will be able to direct patients to a variety of local follow-up options, including Marshall's Counseling Center and free therapy offered by doctoral psychology students.

Canady said despite the stigma, depression is nothing to be ashamed of and encourages anyone who thinks they are experiencing depressive symptoms to attend the clinic.

"It's true that depression is highly stigmatized, as are other mental disorders," Canady said. "The thing to keep in mind is that it's so common. It's one of those disorders that is truly hidden, but is ever-present in our society. There are many people who you would never expect are dealing with depression, who have found

ways to reach out and get help that has made a significant difference in their lives. It can be uncomfortable to reach out, but it can be worth it in the long run."

Clinical psychology doctoral candidate Shelby McGuire noted the clinic may be particularly vital to those who are unsure about their symptoms.

"I think coming here could be especially useful for people who are kind of ambivalent about whether or not depressed and what that means, and we can help them figure it out," McGuire said.

McGuire along with clinical psychology doctoral candidate Emma Bushong will be one of the two of the counselors available at the screening. Bushong said that treatment plans for those who may be experiencing depression will be personalized and collaborative.

"Depression can manifest itself in a lot of different ways, so first, we want to talk about what depression means to that specific person, because it can mean a lot of things to a lot of

different people," Bushong said. "We will work together to come up with a plan to target how that is affecting and talk about the connections between thoughts, feelings and behaviors and how that affects their social life and relationships, among other things."

Director of Programs at Screening for Mental Health Michelle Holmberg said this event is more important now than ever as depression is on the rise among college students nationwide.

"Currently, 13 percent of college students say depression has affected their academic performance, which is up from just 11 percent in 2008," Holmberg said. "A very brief mental health screening can really help people in the long run who need to get into long-term treatment."

Those unable to attend can take a general screening online at helpyourselfhelpothers.org or locate the nearest in-person clinic to discuss their symptoms.

Rob Engle can be contacted at engle17@marshall.edu.

Blakenship mine explosion trial continues

By **JONATHAN MATTISE**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prosecutors painted former Massey Energy CEO Don Blankenship as a profit-hungry executive who prioritized making money over keeping his mines safe Wednesday, while Blankenship's attorney said the executive did not think breaking regulations was a smarter business plan than fixing health hazards, despite his reputation as a tough boss and divisive public figure.

The two sides wove those themes into their opening statements Wednesday in Blankenship's federal trial, which is connected to a deadly Massey mine explosion five years ago.

After four days of jury selection finished Wednesday morning, the government said coal production took priority over safety under Blankenship's tight management of Upper Big Branch Mine in Montcoal, West Virginia.

But Blankenship's attorney said the CEO pushed for safety at his mines and wasn't personally running Upper Big Branch.

Blankenship, 65, is charged with conspiring to break mine safety laws and lying to financial regulators about safety practices at Upper Big Branch, where a 2010 explosion killed 29 miners.

The charges against Blankenship tie him to hundreds of safety violations at the mine, where a system was used to alert underground miners when inspectors showed up at the gate, sometimes giving an hour and a half or more notice to workers below the surface.

Prosecutors say Upper Big Branch workers used code words over the radio to cover their tracks. Committing violations wasn't just condoned; it was expected, they said.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Steven Ruby said a variety of witnesses, memos and phone recordings will show the executive was intricately involved at his mines. At Upper Big Branch, Ruby said Blankenship had to approve expenses as low as about \$700, received some production reports every 30 minutes and violation reports every workday.

A quarter or more of Blankenship's wealth was tied up in Massey stock. After the deadly explosion, Blankenship's net worth dropped \$3 million from April 5 to April 7, 2010, Ruby said.

"The motive for all of this is simple: money," Ruby said.

William Taylor, Blankenship's attorney, acknowledged that the former coal baron "wouldn't win any popularity contests in the

state of West Virginia."

But he told jurors to ask themselves whether Blankenship "is on trial for what he did, or who he is."

Before the government successfully objected, Taylor mentioned that Blankenship is a conservative Republican, dislikes the administration of President Barack Obama and disagrees with federal mine safety regulators.

He said citations are inevitable in coal mining, and added that ordering violations wouldn't be cost effective. He said Massey focused on several safety initiatives under Blankenship, and added that Blankenship was not controlling Upper Big Branch at the level prosecutors say he was.

Additionally, Taylor said mine safety violations spiked nationwide at the same they grew at Upper Big Branch. And inspectors placed heightened attention on the mine because Massey miners and federal mine regulators were at odds.

Federal regulators stepped up enforcement of mine safety laws after the explosion at Upper Big Branch, which was the worst U.S. coal mining disaster in 40 years. The U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration began special impact inspections in 2010 at mines that have a poor compliance history or specific compliance concerns.

Generally, prosecuting high-level corporate executives is difficult because they can usually demonstrate detachment from operations on the ground. Blankenship has never shied from a fight. He has battled unions, spent millions to support Republicans in state races and fought regulators over safety and environmental rules.

He rose from a modest, single-mother upbringing in Appalachia to head Massey, where he personally made \$19.7 million in 2008. He retired from Massey in December 2010.

Blankenship will also have to contend with his own voice on tape. He secretly installed a phone recording device in his Massey office.

According to Ruby, in a 2009 call Blankenship said, "Sometimes, I think that if it weren't for the (U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration), we'd blow ourselves up."

In another call, he said, black lung was not an issue worth the effort the industry was putting into it.

His former safety chief, William Ross, is also slated to testify for the government. Ross laid out Massey's safety problems in a 2009 confidential memo that the government is now focusing on.

Huntington Mayor accepting Halloween costume donations

By **JOHN COLE GLOVER**
THE PARTHENON

Halloween is less than a month away and while some children are eager to wear their costumes, other children may be without a costume to wear while trick-or-treating.

But this year, the mayor's office has teamed up with Papa John's Pizza on Ninth Avenue and will be accepting costume donations for children who may have no other means of getting them, so they can enjoy the festivities.

Anyone who donates a new costume will receive certificates for two large pizzas, but used costumes are also accepted.

The costumes will be distributed at local community centers Oct. 28. Boys' and girls' costumes of all sizes will be accepted.

Costumes can be dropped off at Room 8 in City Hall at 800 5th Avenue from now until Oct. 27.

This year, trick-or-treat will be 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Oct. 29, throughout Huntington.

John Cole Glover can be contacted at glover39@marshall.edu.



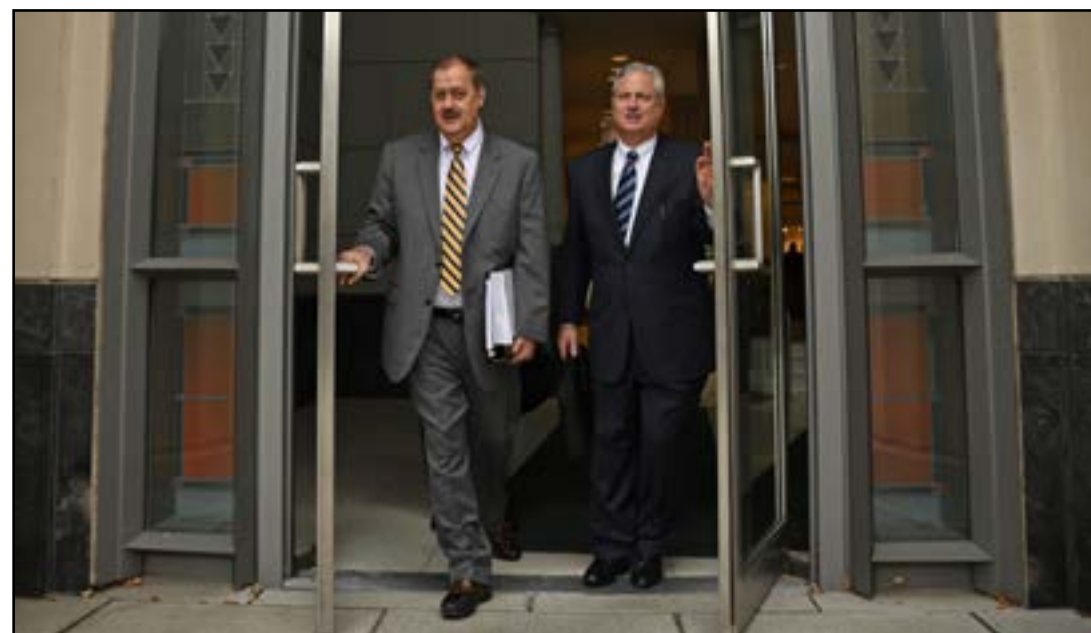
A bumble-bee and a ninja get candy in the residence halls.

FILE PHOTO



Snow White hands out candy to Donatello the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle.

FILE PHOTO



Don Blankenship, left, makes his way out of the Robert C. Byrd United States Courthouse on the first day of jury selection in Charleston Thursday.

TYLER EVERT | AP PHOTO

SPORTS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2015

| THE PARTHENON

| MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

Column: Sneaker Prices

By **MALCOLM WALTON**
SPORTS EDITOR

Unless you follow basketball closely, chances are you are not too familiar with the career of Stephon Marbury.

Marbury, a two-time NBA All-Star who left the league in 2009, now plays for the Beijing Ducks in the Chinese Basketball Association where he has revitalized his basketball career, leading his team to three league championships in the last four seasons.

Accolades aside — not that he had many to remember during his NBA playing days which was spread across five teams in 13 seasons — the former fourth-overall draft pick from Brooklyn, New York is probably most known for his extremely affordable sneakers, which sold for \$15 a pair to be exact.

Partnering with Steve & Barry's, Marbury first released his "Starbury" shoe line in 2006, but the venture ended in 2009 as the retail company was forced to file for bankruptcy.

Earlier this week, Marbury announced he plans to re-release his sneaker line, which was quite successful while it lasted.

Marbury took to Twitter on Sunday to not only make the announcement but to point out a social dilemma involving the king of basketball and basketball sneakers, Michael Jordan.

Marbury slammed Jordan for the violence that has ensued over his highly sought-after, expensive sneakers, calling the six-time NBA champion "greedy." The former New York Knick also noted the struggles some parents may face to provide their children with a pair of Nike Air Jordans and the fact that the masses have gotten "caught up in the greatness" of the heralded NBA player.

To the surprise of absolutely no one, Jordan has yet to publicly respond. And he probably won't.

Everyone knows Jordan has never been one to speak out on social issues, political issues or anything, really. Mike has made it clear that his agenda is to make money, which he obviously does very well.

Prime example: after being asked to publically endorse an African-American senator in 1992, Jordan declined the North Carolina democrat's offer, reportedly telling a friend later, "Republicans buy sneakers too." That infamous quote perhaps defines Mike outside of basketball almost as much as hitting clutch shots and hoisting trophies define who he was within it.

I get it. Yes, it is unfair to expect an athlete to be anything more than an athlete. However, after making hundreds of millions of dollars with his primary customers being inner-city kids, you would think Mike may have something to publically say about the violence being provoked over his coveted sneakers.

A pair of Nike Air Jordans is considered an expensive target in certain neighborhoods across the country.

I can remember my elementary school teacher telling the class not to wear Air Jordans if you walk home because you were basically asking to get robbed.

In December, a 16-year-old Ohio boy was shot and killed after attempting to steal a pair of limited edition Air Jordans. Unfortunately, this type of violence happens often over a pair of Mike's signature shoes.

Could Mike ask Nike to drop the outrageous prices of his sneakers, which costs around \$5 to produce in some small factory in China? Who knows? Maybe.

Either way, Mike's lack of concern for this issue is rather disturbing.

By selling his sneakers for \$15 — roughly a tenth of what a pair of Air Jordans cost — Marbury is attempting to make a much needed cultural change.

Malcolm Walton can be contacted at walton47@marshall.edu.

Swimming and diving team opens season in fifth annual W.Va. State Games



Members of Marshall University's swim team dives into the water in a match against Western Kentucky University last season.

RICHARD CRANK | THE PARTHENON

THE PARTHENON

Marshall University's swimming and diving team opens its regular season 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the fifth annual West Virginia State Games in Morgantown.

The two-day event, which is hosted by West Virginia University, picks back up 11 a.m. Friday.

The West Virginia State Games is hosted each

year by Marshall or West Virginia, the state's two NCAA Division I schools. The meet also features Alderson-Broadus University, Davis & Elkins College, Wheeling Jesuit University, Fairmont State University, West Virginia University Institute of Technology and West Virginia Wesleyan College.

Last year, Marshall finished second in the event behind West Virginia. The event was held at

Frederick A. Fitch Natatorium in Huntington.

The Herd is coming off a successful season in which the team posted its highest finish in Conference USA Championships last season, with a fourth place finish. The team broke 13 school records during the championships.

Marshall head coach Bill Tramel enters his fourth season with the program.

Taylor named to All-Conference team but Herd selected to finish toward bottom of conference



Ryan Taylor goes up for a shot over a defender last season during a game at the Cam Henderson Center.

RICHARD CRANK | THE PARTHENON

THE PARTHENON

The preseason men's college basketball Conference USA standings and All-Conference team were released Wednesday.

Marshall University was picked to finish ninth in the 14-team conference.

The University of Alabama at Birmingham was selected to win the conference, receiving 11 first-place votes followed by Old Dominion University, which received the remaining three first-place votes.

The rest of the projections are as follows: Middle Tennessee State University, University of Texas at El Paso, Louisiana Tech University, Western Kentucky University, Rice University, the University of North Texas, Marshall, Florida International University, the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Florida Atlantic University, the University of Texas at San Antonio and Southern Mississippi University.

As for the All-Conference team selections, Marshall forward Ryan Taylor

was the lone member of the Herd to be voted a member of the All-Conference squad.

Taylor earned a third-team All-Conference selection last season as a sophomore after leading Marshall with 14.1 PPG and 8.6 RPG. Taylor's combination of scoring and rebounding led to 14 double-doubles last season, the most in C-USA.

UAB and Louisiana Tech each placed two players on the team, the most in the conference. Representing UAB was forward William Lee and guard Robert Brown, while guard Alex Hamilton and forward Erik McCree were the two players picked from Louisiana Tech.

Rounding out the all-conference roster was Florida International forward Adrian Diaz, Middle Tennessee forward Reggie Upshaw Jr., Old Dominion guard Trey Freeman, Rice guard Marcus Jackson and UTEP guard Earvin Morris.

OPINION

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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.

JOCELYN GIBSON
EXECUTIVE EDITOR
gibson243@marshall.edu

MEGAN OSBORNE
MANAGING EDITOR
osborne115@marshall.edu

MALCOLM WALTON
SPORTS EDITOR
walton47@marshall.edu

BRADLEY HELTZEL
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR
heltzel1@marshall.edu

KAITLYN CLAY
ONLINE EDITOR
clay122@marshall.edu

DONYELLE MURRAY
SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER
murray91@marshall.edu

SARA RYAN
NEWS EDITOR
ryan57@marshall.edu

SHALEE ROGNEY
LIFE! EDITOR
rogney@marshall.edu

WILL IZZO
COPY EDITOR
izzo@marshall.edu

EMILY RICE
PHOTO EDITOR
rice121@marshall.edu

MIKAELA KEENER
ASSIGNMENT EDITOR
keener31@marshall.edu

SANDY YORK
FACULTY ADVISER
sandy.york@marshall.edu

CONTACT US: 109 Communications Bldg. | Marshall University | One John Marshall Drive
Huntington, West Virginia 25755 | parthenon@marshall.edu | @MUParthenon

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.

BE HERD: 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.

STATE EDITORIAL

On obesity and disease in West Virginia

The Inter-Mountain, Elkins

West Virginia's obesity rate is one of the highest in the nation. We, along with Arkansas and Mississippi, have a population in which more than 35 percent are obese - not just a little overweight, but obese.

That is bad news, but it is nothing we have not been hearing for many years.

West Virginia's Department of Health and Human Resources Secretary Karen Bowling explained that obesity and tobacco use continue to be the leading causes of the chronic diseases that plague the Mountain State. And both are, for the most part, entirely preventable.

Why, then, do we as West Virginians have such a hard time eating a little healthier, moving a little more, and avoiding tobacco use?

Is it an education problem? An attitude problem? A cultural problem? An economic problem?

Politicians who believe the best solution to any problem is to throw more money at it will say we simply do not have enough funding for programs that would solve the problem.

Other solutions cannot be neglected. For example, Bowling said "DHHR is working with communities, health care systems, and decision-makers to develop initiatives improving access to physical activity and nutritious options."

Want access to physical activity? Open your front door. Go for a walk. Get a dog and take it for a walk. Use a push mower instead of a tractor. Put down the remote or video game controller and run around the house with the kids, instead.

Want access to physical activity and nutritious food? Plant a garden next spring.

Yes, all of those ideas take effort, time and planning. Staying healthy takes effort, time and planning.

No one else can do the work for you, no matter how much of your money they spend.

EDITORIAL

Literally any presidential candidate will do, just not Donald Trump



ILLUSTRATION

Grammarly published an infographic detailing the average number of grammatical errors in Facebook posts and comments from supporters of each presidential candidate, concluding that those who support Donald Trump have the most grammatical errors per 1000 words at 12.8 mistakes.

As it turns out, the candidates with the fewest mistakes in their supporters' comments were the five Democratic candidates, with Lincoln Chaffe supporters coming in first place in grammatical correctness at 3.1 mistakes.

Whatever that may actually mean, the fact that Trump is dead last is quite telling. Trump is likely gaining support because he's already famous (not to mention filthy rich), making him more accessible to less educated Americans, not because he has good ideas, because he doesn't.

Let's review why no intelligent individual would actually vote for Donald Trump.

Trump once said he would have sex with his daughter if she weren't his daughter.

He also said he actually thinks President Obama is secretly Muslim, though the president has spoken of his Christian faith several times throughout his time in office.

On Twitter, Trump also said Obama "hasn't exactly had a positive impact on the thugs who are so happily and openly destroying Baltimore!"

Sure, he speaks his mind, but he's a reality TV star. His entire life is devoted to shock value. That's the bottom line. If everything that comes out of Trump's mouth is awful, it doesn't matter that he speaks his mind because that's only showing us that everything in his mind is utterly useless.

It also doesn't matter that he's good at business, because the United States government isn't a business. It's a governing body. The two things are not synonymous. Being good at one doesn't make you good at the other. Trump can't go around screaming "you're fired" at everyone who he thinks has screwed up.

Have some self-respect and vote for literally anyone else but Trump, even if it means casting a write-in for Vermin Supreme.

Steve Marmel @Marmel · 6s
Donald Trump supporters am terrible at grammar. And in related news, Duh.

Donald Trump: Presidential Candidate's Supporters Have Worst Grammar on Facebook, Study Finds

← 2 ★ 5 ...

sP0opY FiShY TrAsH @DylanTheFishy · 10h
Can we just take a second and notice just how horrible Donald Trump is going to be if he's president?

Let that sink in...

← 27 ★ 83 ...

LOST CAT Aghast Dad™ @LostCatDog · 16h
DONALD TRUMP: "fills a garbage bag with kittens and slams it repeatedly into a curb" Sorry if I don't have time to be 'politically correct'

← 895 ★ 1.5K ...

Chris Rock @chrisrockyoz · Oct 6
Kardashians are America's first family, McDonald's is our top restaurant & Donald Trump might be President. No way we're making it to 2016.

← 152 ★ 170 ...

lil lit @LilMessyBitch · now
Literally anyone other than Donald Trump's crusty ass

m. @thesouthernmel

6. Who are you (or would you) vote for in this election?

← ...

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Tweet us @MUParthenon with #ParthenonOpinion to get in on the conversation

Kerouac's knickknacks go on the road to author's hometown

By **WILLIAM J. KOLE**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The eclectic bric-a-brac that comforted and inspired writer Jack Kerouac is going on the road.

"Kerouac Retrieved," an exhibition of the clutter that surrounded Kerouac at the simple wooden desk in Florida where he wrote many of his works, opens Thursday in the author's hometown of Lowell.

It's a hodgepodge of personal items: family photos, Christian and Buddhist figurines, a Frank Sinatra album, cat carriers he fashioned by hand. Kerouac experts at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell, which is hosting the show, say the items help humanize the Beat Generation icon who wrote "On the Road," "The Dharma Bums" and other celebrated works.

"Actually touching something he touched — it's really an uncanny experience," said Michael Millner, a UMass-Lowell professor who runs the school's Jack and Stella Kerouac Center for Public Humanities.

Millner and fellow Kerouac scholar Todd Tietchen arranged to have the items brought to Lowell from the novelist's bungalow in St. Petersburg, Florida — the last place he lived before essentially drinking himself to death at age 47 in 1969.

Kerouac was born in gritty, industrial Lowell in 1922. Though most of his works were written elsewhere, they're peppered with references to his hometown. At the time of his death, Kerouac even kept a Lowell telephone directory on his desk.

It's the other trinkets, though, that capture the imagination.

There's the little plastic bride and groom



TORY GERMANN | AP PHOTO

In this Sept. 18, photo provided by the University of Massachusetts, Lowell, a windbreaker bearing the logo of Lowell Tech — one of UMass Lowell's predecessor institutions — is displayed in the exhibit "Kerouac Retrieved: Items from the John Sampas Collection," at the university in Lowell, Mass. The exhibit opens in Kerouac's hometown Thursday.

that topped his wedding cake. The tiny model of a Triumph motorcycle — a curious knickknack for someone who never got a driver's license. The whimsical fisherman and sea captain salt and pepper shakers. The records (Sinatra's "Someone to Watch Over Me" and music by Cole Porter and Tchaikovsky.) The incense burner.



TORY GERMANN | AP PHOTO

In this Sept. 18 photo provided by the University of Massachusetts, Lowell, some of author Jack Kerouac's belongings, including a Frank Sinatra album and collection of figurines, are displayed on the desk where he once wrote, in the exhibit "Kerouac Retrieved: Items from the John Sampas Collection," at the university in Lowell, Mass. The exhibit opens in Kerouac's hometown Thursday.

"These things give us a sense of who Kerouac was," said Tietchen. "People think of him as being on the road, aimless, shiftless. But he was also a domestic person, a cat lover. These items tell the story of his life."

For decades, Lowell's most famous son was underappreciated in his hometown. That changed in the 1990s, when John Sampas,

Kerouac's brother-in-law and literary executor, labored to make the writer's works and personal effects more accessible. New manuscripts were published; older ones republished.

"Now there's a real celebration of his legacy. It's a doorway into the history of the city," Millner said.

As Tietchen puts it: "Kerouac is to Lowell what Emerson is to Concord."

"Bringing his belongings to UMass-Lowell is a little like bringing Jack Kerouac back to his hometown," said university chancellor Jacquie Moloney.

Today's hipsters are discovering Kerouac — not just because he favored plaid flannel shirts and Levis, but for his freewheeling, freethinking prose and his pursuit of what Tietchen calls "a principled state of marginality."

An exhibition wall features a stenciled quote from "Beat Spotlight," Kerouac's last unfinished book: "... There was nothing nobler for me to do than with my lifetime than to dedicate it to telling true stories about life as I had seen it and lived it."

On a period typewriter tucked in a corner, visitors are invited to peck out their impressions.

"Typing is now an old thing," wrote one. "But your writing is not."

Historic outhouses underappreciated in Southwest

By **RUSSELL CONTRERAS**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

At a time when life could be harsh in the American Southwest, outhouses served more than one important role. They provided structure, protected water resources and created important social norms, a New Mexico professor says.

Many of the aging wooden structures still dot the landscape in the region and across the Great Plains. Richard Melzer, a University of New Mexico-Valencia history professor, wants to see the iconic buildings preserved before they're gone from the memory and legacy of the Old West.

Melzer has been researching the historic lavatories and hopes his work will encourage outhouse conservation efforts since they helped modernize areas like present-day New Mexico amid drought and limited plumbing.

"They had a tremendous cultural impact on the region," said Melzer, who has collected hundreds of photos of old outhouses in New Mexico.

The outhouses assisted in creating social norms on sanitation and personal hygiene, he said.

In New Mexico, they served residents such as ranch hands tending to cattle and rural teachers educating the children of chile pickers. And they did so while protecting the environment



RUSSELL CONTRERAS | AP PHOTO

This Sept. 29, photo shows a 19th century-era outhouse at Casa San Ysidro in Corrales, N.M. At a time when life could be harsh in the American Southwest, outhouses served more than one important role. They provided structure, protected water resources and created important social norms, a New Mexico professor says.

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Inside, one might find a Bible, old tools, or catalogs from Montgomery Ward or Sears, Roebuck and Co. Two seats meant a higher economic status for owners, and the walls might be plastered with wallpaper to keep away insects or unwanted audiences.

Such items can still be found in some abandoned outhouses.

"They tell the story of the past," Melzer said. The exact number of historic outhouses

throughout the Southwest and Great Plains is unknown.

The New Mexico Historic Preservation Division, for example, says around 40 outhouses occupy historic ranches and homesteads in the state.

But Melzer says there likely are hundreds more in the Southwest, and people are beginning to collect them. One Roswell aficionado has amassed around a dozen or so, he said.

Outhouses also are part of a number of

properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places across the country. That's the case with the Anderson Lodge, an 1890 two-story multi-room log cabin in the Washakie near Meeteetse, Wyoming, listed on the registry along with its outhouse.

A late 19th century outhouse is a feature of the Casa San Ysidro: The Gutierrez-Minge House, a Corrales home owned by the Albuquerque Museum. The home's origins go back to the 1870s.

Collector Ward Allan Minge bought the outhouse from another location and preserved it, Casa San Ysidro site manager Carol Lopez said.

"Outhouses remained common, especially in rural areas, until after World War II because of the lack of indoor plumbing and electricity," Lopez said. "Here in Corrales, they were common up until the 1970s."

In fact, when indoor plumbing finally came to parts of New Mexico, some residents shunned the idea of bringing what went on in the outhouse into the home where they ate and slept.

"People thought it was just gross," said Melzer, who is scheduled to release the details of his outhouse study Oct. 10 at Casa San Ysidro. "That's what the outhouse was for, they thought. For out there."