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The Parthenon, January 19, 2016

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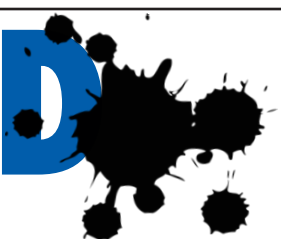
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THE PARTHENON

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2016 | VOL. 119 NO. 48 | MARSHALL UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER | marshallparthenon.com | SINGLE COPY FREE

A last day Q & A with Gary White

By REBECCA TURNBULL
THE PARTHENON

Interim President Gary White took time during his last day in office Friday, Jan. 15, to discuss his initial goals, his present beliefs, and his future outlook for Marshall University.

White was appointed to the interim presidency on Dec. 29, 2014, by the Marshall University Board of Governors after former president, Dr. Stephen Kopp, died suddenly of an apparent heart attack on December 17, 2014.

White said he looks back on his presidency as an opportunity to protect Kopp's legacy and keep Marshall moving forward.

Q: What was on your mind as you assumed the interim presidency?

A: On January the fifth, I left my home in Logan and drove to Huntington for my first day officially on campus as president of the university. It was a very sobering thought to think of how 47 years prior I left Logan coming to Huntington as a student for the first time at Marshall University. And now, those 47 years later, coming to Marshall University as its interim president was a very sobering thought and one that, frankly, had a profound impact on me and, perhaps, even the way I've approached the job as interim president.

Q: How has being a former

student of Marshall University affected the way you have approached your job?

A: Being able to contrast, how it was to be a student almost 50 years ago and how things are today, I believe was very helpful. I think it helped me to relate with the students and understand some of the issues that they are concerned about. There are certainly issues today that didn't even exist back then. But the fundamental experience of leaving home for the first time and coming to the university for your education, that hasn't changed. And the emotions and the challenges that presents to a new student remains the same. And I think having gone through that experience myself has been helpful, as I've considered the issues that are brought to me by faculty and students and staff. As I make decisions about what needs to be done in a particular situation, I always consider the student experience or how that decision would affect the student experience.

Q: Were you hoping to continue Dr. Kopp's legacy or work on some goals of your own?

A: The short answer is both. Dr. Kopp was a very dear friend of mine and he and I talked frequently. I was very much involved in his vision for Marshall University and wanted to see

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Marshall observes MLK



President Jerry Gilbert speaks at the Martin Luther King Jr. Day event Monday.

RYAN FISCHER | THE PARTHENON

By SAGE SHAVERS
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University's Office of Intercultural Affairs and the Huntington-Cabell Branch of the NAACP hosted a student march and celebration ceremony Monday in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.

Maurice Cooley, associate vice president of Intercultural Affairs led the student march from the Memorial Student

Center before the celebration in lieu of the community walk that was cancelled due to inclement weather.

Cooley said students insisted on marching.

Cooley read excerpts from King's "Letters from Birmingham Jail" before the march.

Marshall student RaShad Sanders led a prayer before the march, a tradition of most civil rights marches.

Cooley led the group through campus at 5 p.m., and Marshall President, Jerry Gilbert marched alongside the group. The march was Gilbert's first as the official president.

The observance and celebration took place at the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center and featured several speakers, prayers and performances.

Cooley welcomed the audience and introduced the prayer leaders, Rabbi Jean Elington of B'nai Shalom Congregation, Ibrahim Mohammed, a Marshall junior and Darius Booker, a Marshall health care management and public relations major.

Gilbert shared his views on the holiday, King and Marshall

See MLK | page 5

Huntington semifinalist for America's Best Cities; next steps underway

By CLARA MAYNARD
THE PARTHENON

Plans are underway for the city of Huntington's next steps in the America's Best Communities competition after being announced as a top 15 semifinalist Wednesday, Jan. 13 at the Pullman Plaza Hotel.

The competition, held by Frontier Communications, DISH Network, CoBank and The Weather Channel, seeks

to stimulate growth and revitalizations in small cities and rural towns according to a recent release from the organization.

Mayor Steve Williams said the city still has a lot of work to do in order to be named America's Best Community.

"This is not where we're aiming," Williams said. "We're aiming to be the best in the nation."

As part of the semifinal round, city representatives will attend the America's Best Communities summit April 26 and 27 in Durham, North Carolina. The semifinalists will present their city revitalization plans at the summit. From there, eight finalists will be awarded \$100,000 to help implement their plans.

Communications director, Bryan Chambers said citizen

engagement will be a vital part of moving the city forward. Chambers said engagement shows the community stands behind the effort.

"We anticipate having public events in the near future to not only celebrate how far we've come," Chambers said, "but also to let the community know we need their help to move forward and advance even further."

The top three communities will be announced in April 2017 and will win \$3 million, \$2 million and \$1 million respectively.

Updates on Huntington's progress in the competition can be found by following @ABCommunities and @HuntingtonCity on Twitter.

Clara Maynard can be contacted at maynard294@marshall.edu.

VAC’s National Juried Exhibition features national artists



PHOTO BY JARED CASTO

Thirty local and nationally renowned artists display their works as part of the Fifth Annual National Juried Exhibition in Marshall University’s Visual Arts Center. The exhibition will continue through Feb. 12.

**By JARED CASTO
THE PARTHENON**

The 5th Annual National Juried Exhibition opened at the Marshall University Visual Arts Center Jan. 11, displaying the works of 30 local and national artists.

The National Juried Exhibition allowed artists across the nation to submit work. More than 200 submissions were sent in this year. Of those submissions, 30 were chosen for display in the VAC from Jan. 21 to Feb. 12.

This year’s judge, Geoffrey Fleming, is the executive director at the Huntington Museum of Art and former director of the Southold Historical Society, Inc. in Southold, New York. According to Megan Schultz, gallery director and facilities coordinator at the VAC, Fleming did not judge the submitted art by any specific criteria, opting instead to provide an even representation between 2D and 3D mediums.

Schultz said she is happy to see a wide representation of exhibitors. Around a third of the artists are from the tri-state area and exhibitors from as far west as Oregon and as far south as

Texas are represented in the show. According to Schultz, there is an even split of male and female artists.

While the show is open to the public, Schultz said giving students in the School of Art and Design the ability to view distinctive works from across the nation is the primary goal.

“I always put shows together with the students in mind and what I think they’ll get out of it,” Schultz said.

Schultz said she believes the show is a great opportunity to show off local and national art to the community. Schultz said she also views the exhibition as a way to garner attention for Marshall’s School of Art and Design and the VAC.

So far, the National Juried Exhibition has been a success for the VAC. Schultz said the exhibition has seen considerable growth over the years due to the VAC itself and word of mouth from previous exhibitions.

This year’s exhibition is open to the public on weekdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A public

See EXHIBITION | page 5

Q&A with President White continued from pg. 1

that vision continue. But also, once you occupy the responsibility as president of a university, there are issues and opportunities that come up that had not here before presented themselves, and so you just naturally take some of those issues or opportunities and develop them as your own initiatives. But the primary objective was to keep Marshall moving forward and to protect the legacy left by Dr. Kopp.

Q: What was the most difficult part of taking over as interim president for a state university on such short notice?

A: There’s a very steep learning curve, but I had some advantage, having been a member of the Board of Governors and a member of the Board of the Marshall Foundation for a number of years. Probably the single most challenging portion of the job—day one and as I leave today—has been the schedule. The demands on the time of the president of the university is probably the biggest surprise, really, of my presidency. Every day is just back-to-back-to-back. It’s a meeting, it’s a phone call, it’s a trip to Charleston. And these are all equally important things to do and you feel a sense of obligation, you know, to give attention to all these matters. And it’s almost—well, it borders on being humanly impossible.

Q: What helped you to deal with these demands?

A: Well, of course, the senior staff, the cabinet, if you will, that Dr. Kopp had assembled around him to run the affairs of the university was a tremendous help to me as I walked into the office for the first day and has been until I will leave this evening. And, frankly, knowing those individuals and knowing their capability played a significant role in my decision to accept the position.

Q: What was your favorite aspect of the presidency?

A: I think the presidency itself, the opportunities that it gives you to interact with students, with parents, with faculty, with staff, with the community, with the political community, it’s everyone that you interact with in the course of your duties in the presidency.

Q: What will you miss most about your position at Marshall University?

A: Every time that I have left an organization for a different

assignment or opportunity, what I miss most are the people, because that’s what I enjoy the most. Of course I love the institution, but the fact of the matter is, what really makes the institution is the people, those in it associated with Marshall University and, frankly, the entire Huntington community. I’m going to miss that as I begin to distance myself from a day-to-day contact.

Q: What legacy do you hope to leave behind?

A: I would hope that the legacy of my term as interim president would be one of stability, one of keeping a forward momentum and, finally, one of creating an atmosphere for the best available permanent president for Marshall University and I’m very proud of the fact that we did that and I firmly believe that Dr. Jerry Gilbert is the right person at the right time for Marshall University.

Q: What do you believe Dr. Gilbert should keep in mind as he assumes the duties and responsibilities of the presidency?

A: He and I have talked a lot about that. I think that Dr. Gilbert brings a wealth of experience as an administrator in higher education, and that will serve him well. I think he also brings the knowledge that he’s coming into a new environment and that he needs to take advantage of the advice and consent and council of those who have been with the organization for these many years as he starts to establish his presidency and establish his priorities and his management style for running the university for what I believe will be many years to come.

Q: What are your plans now? Will you be returning to the Board of Governors?

Dr. Gilbert has asked me to stay involved assisting him as he transitions into the presidency at Marshall. Near-term, I will remain involved working on special assignment from Dr. Gilbert. I will not be an employee; I’ll be a consultant. I’m going to be very much involved in the day-to-day process of running Marshall University. For the long-term, perhaps when my work assisting President Gilbert is completed, if the governor at the time would ask me to serve as a member of the Board of Governors, then of



PHOTO BY KASEY MADDEN

Interim President Gary White (right) and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Corley Dennison (left), talk during West Virginia Higher Education Day Jan. 28, 2015 in Charleston.

course I would seriously consider it. I would enjoy doing it. Outside of Marshall University, JoAnn and I intend to spend some time travelling and starting to learn what retirement is all about. But I also am going to be doing all of the consulting work for some other companies and other organizations that have asked for my assistance, knowing that I’m leaving the presidency today.

President White said he, on behalf of his wife JoAnn, would like to offer his sincere thanks for all of the support, the words of encouragement, the friendship, and everything the Marshall community has brought to him and his wife in the year that they have been here.

White said he and his wife will be forever grateful.

Rebecca Turnbull can be contacted at turnbull4@marshall.edu.

Gov. Snyder: Clinton politicizing Flint’s water crisis

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder responded Monday to criticism from presidential candidate Hillary Clinton during the Democratic debates for his handling of Flint’s water emergency, saying Clinton is making it a political issue.

During Sunday’s debate, Clinton said “every single American should be outraged” by the water crisis, adding that “if the kids in a rich suburb of Detroit had been drinking contaminated water and being bathed in it, there would have been action.”

Following a speaking engagement at a Martin Luther King Day event in Flint, the Republican governor said her tactic doesn’t help solve the problem.

“We’re going to keep working on putting solutions in place,” Snyder told The Detroit News. “And what I would say is: Politicizing the issue doesn’t help matters. Let’s focus in on the solution and how to deal with the damage that was done and help the citizens of Flint and make Flint a stronger community.”

U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, who is also running for the Democratic nomination, has called for Snyder’s resignation.

The crisis began in 2014 when a state-appointed emergency manager switched Flint from Detroit water to Flint River water to save money. The corrosive water caused lead to leach from old pipes. Flint returned to the Detroit system in October after elevated lead levels were discovered in children.

But officials remain concerned that damaged pipes could continue to leach lead, which can cause behavior problems and



JUNFU HAN/THE ANN ARBOR NEWS VIA AP

Mike Ahrens of Muskegon, Mich., poses for photo with his sign about Flint’s water crisis Monday, Jan. 18, 2016, in Ann Arbor, Mich. Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder responded Monday to criticism from presidential candidate Hillary Clinton during the Democratic debates for his handling of Flint’s water emergency, saying Clinton is making it a political issue.

learning disabilities in children as well as kidney ailments in adults.

Snyder declared a state of emergency in Flint earlier this month. On Saturday, President Barack Obama signed an emergency declaration but denied Snyder’s request for a disaster declaration based on the legal requirement that such relief is intended for natural events, fires, floods or explosions.

Flint Mayor Karen Weaver said Monday that she will travel Tuesday to Washington in hopes of securing a disaster declaration anyway, The Flint Journal reported. That declaration would provide more money and resources than the emergency declaration.

Dozens of people protested outside Snyder’s residence in downtown Ann Arbor on Monday afternoon, marching there from the nearby University of Michigan campus. They said he didn’t act swiftly enough to help Flint residents and held signs calling for his dismissal and arrest.

Members of Michigan’s National Guard have been called in to help volunteers pass out drinking water, testing kits, filters and other supplies to city residents, and the state said more Guard members arrived Monday to bring the total to 70.

Nearly 5,000 homes were visited Sunday.

NRHH provides opportunity for on-campus students to get involved

**By CHEYENNE DEBOLT
THE PARTHENON**

The National Residence Hall Honorary organization exists for the top one percent of the residence hall population on campus. Marshall’s chapter of NRHH began in 2014, dissolved the following semester and saw reconstruction in the fall of 2015. Marshall’s housing population is 2,300 residents; the top one percent of that population would be 23.

“The number 23 is not concrete due to the fact we understand that more than 23 residents could reach beyond the point of residence hall excellence,” said Olivia Giovingo, president of NRHH. “Currently we have 16 active members, all with the exception of one are resident advisors or academic mentors.”

Giovingo said NRHH is an opportunity for residents to get involved with housing and residence life.

Anyone living on campus is eligible to become a member. To become a member, a resident must be nominated by a current member of NRHH. After being nominated, a resident may fill out an application and submit it to the general assembly. From there, the general assembly will review and vote on the applicant.

“Recruitment has come primarily from the resident advisors because the chapter is so small, but we are looking to change the stereotype that only resident advisors are involved,” said current NRHH member, Chris Eddy.

NRHH operates on two pillars of recognition and community service. Under the pillar of recognition, members help show appreciation to those who work hard everyday to make the residence halls operate smoothly. NRHH members make banners and buy gifts for desk coordinators, resident directors, assistant resident directors, housekeeping and maintenance.

The NRHH works under the second pillar by volunteering at local non-profit agencies such as the Ronald McDonald House.

NRHH members said they want the organization to become more prominent within the residence halls.

“Keep your eyes open for progression, changes, and development as we grow as a chapter,” Eddy said.

Cheyenne DeBolt can be contacted at debolt2@marshall.edu.

Noteworthy Academic Dates		
Feb.		
	5	applications for May graduation due
March		
	3	2nd 8 weeks begins
	18	last day to drop individual course
	21-27	spring break
April		
	25	last day to drop 2nd 8 weeks course
	25-29	dead week
May		
	2-6	finals week
	7	spring commencement

Track and field team earns multiple top-30 finishes in Invitational

THE PARTHENON

The Marshall University track and field team earned several top-30 individual finishes Saturday at the Kentucky Invitational in Lexington, Kentucky.

Senior Asia Bange led the way for the Herd in the 60-meter hurdles. Bange earned a spot in the finals and finished eighth with a time of 8.75 seconds.

Freshman Elisabeth Paulina finished 13th in the 800-meter run, posting a time of 2:17.84.

The top finisher for the Herd in the 200-meter dash was sophomore Naja Greer, who finished with a 26th place time of 25.20.

Marshall also had strong performances in field events. Freshman Hasana Clark emerged as the top Herd finisher in the weight throw with a 15.85-meter heave for 25th place.

Freshman Sarah Bever tied for 24th in the high jump (1.50 meters).

Freshman Elena Marchand also earned a 24th place performance in the shot put (12.43 meters).

In distance runs, senior Alexandra Phares (10:50.85) and sophomore Victoria Dent (10:54.94) finished the 3,000-meter run 38th and 42nd, respectively.

In the one mile run, the Herd's highest finisher was junior Andrea Porter who finished 44th with a time of 5:33.11.

Marshall head coach Jeff Small said he felt his team should have performed better than it did during the invitational.

"Our team looked really rusty coming off the winter break," Small said in a news release. "We will go back to work on Monday and look forward to better performances in our upcoming meets."

Small said despite a subpar overall performance by his team, he thought Bange and Paulina had good individual races in the invitational.

The Herd will be back in action Friday at the two-day Hokie Invitational, hosted by Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia.

Women's basketball team rolls over Rice Owls with 29-point victory



RYAN FISCHER | THE PARTHENON

Marshall University redshirt sophomore guard Taylor Porter dribbles the ball up-court Saturday in the team's win against Rice University at the Cam Henderson Center.

THE PARTHENON

The Marshall University women's basketball team put on a show in front of new university president Jerome Gilbert Saturday as it dominated Rice University 81-52 to achieve its largest margin of victory over a Conference USA opponent in its 11 seasons as a member.

The Herd (12-4, 2-3) were led by senior forward Leah Scott who scored 18 points on 6-12 shooting to go along with three rebounds and three assists.

Freshman guard Logan Fraley totaled 13 points off the bench, connecting on all four of her 3-point attempts, while fellow reserve Chelsey Romero pulled down 13 rebounds to go with five points.

The Marshall bench played a key role in the victory as it outscored Rice's bench 30-9 and helped lift the Herd to a 42-24 halftime lead after the team outscored Rice 20-7 in the second quarter.

Scott said the team's victory had more to do with its intensity level than anything else.

"It was our energy," Scott said. "I think our energy has to be there if we're going to keep winning. We have plenty of talent. We just have to keep up that energy."

Head coach Matt Daniel said after losing three

of its last four games, it was nice to see his team playing with a renewed amount of energy.

"When our energy is there, we are dangerous," Daniel said.

Daniel said the Herd's energy led to improved efficiency in all aspects of the game.

"We did not turn the ball over too bad," Daniel said. "We owned the glass, and we shot the ball better. And it all comes from energy."

The Herd will attempt to maintain that level of energy when it hosts the University of North Carolina at Charlotte 6 p.m. Thursday at the Cam Henderson Center.

Marshall cheerleaders to compete in national competition



RICHARD CRANK | THE PARTHENON

Marshall University cheerleaders perform for the crowd before a game outside of Joan C. Edwards Stadium during the 2015 football season.

By DANIELLE WRIGHT
THE PARTHENON

After a semester supporting the university's athletic teams, Marshall University's cheerleading team is now focusing on its own competition as it recently found out it will compete in the National Cheerleading Association Collegiate Cheer & Dance Championship.

The competition team, which consists of 16 women and four men, will head to Daytona Beach, Florida April 6-10 for the NCA Championship.

"The team has been transitioning to get better," junior cheerleader Ashley Morgan said. "And I feel that this year, we

definitely have what it takes to step it up and compete."

The team is required to perform a 45-second game-day cheer followed by a two-minute 30-second cheer routine during the event.

In preparation for the championship, Morgan said the team plans on taking a different approach to its typical training routine.

"Practices will become more intense and the team will start two-a-day practices," Morgan said.

Along with the different training approaches, the team plans to work the score sheet in an effort to be at its strongest when the competition arrives in the spring.

"I am really excited about going to nationals because I heard it was a great experience," freshman cheerleader Lilly Haley said.

Cheer and dance teams across the country will compete in the event, which consists of two rounds of competition.

The Marshall cheer team will continue its game day support for the university's sports teams while training for the upcoming competition.

The College Cheer & Dance Championship will air on CBS Sports Network.

Danielle Wright can be contacted at wright317@marshall.edu.

Men's basketball defeats Rice, remains unbeaten in C-USA



MEGAN OSBORNE | THE PARTHENON

Marshall University head coach Dan D'Antoni instructs his team from the sideline Nov. 12 against Bluefield State College.

THE PARTHENON

Marshall University's men's basketball team defeated Rice University Saturday, 94-90, to remain undefeated in conference action.

Senior forward James Kelly poured in a game-high 32 points for the Herd (9-9, 5-0) in its victory against the Owls (6-12, 1-4) at Tudor Fieldhouse in Houston, Texas.

Kelly, who shot 13-of-19 from the field and grabbed six rebounds in the contest, is second in Conference USA in points per game (19.4) and third in rebounds per game (9.6).

The Herd has posted a 9-2 record since starting the season 0-7.

Ryan Taylor, who scored 14 points against Rice, recorded a season-high 15 rebound on his way to his fourth double-double of the season.

With the win, the Herd earned its best start to conference play since going 7-0 in 1996-97 when the team was in the Southern Conference.

Marshall's next match is 7 p.m. Thursday against the University of North Carolina at Charlotte at the Dale F. Halton Arena.

OPINION

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2016

| THE PARTHENON

| MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

THE PARTHENON

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THE FIRST AMENDMENT | The Constitution of the United States of America

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people to peaceably assemble; and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

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.

WHERE WILL YOU BE
WHEN SOMETHING
HAPPENS ON CAMPUS?
PROBABLY ON TWITTER.



@MUParthenon

For the latest campus news

MLK's ideas continue to change and grow today's society

By **NANCY PEYTON**
THE PARTHENON

Many people today question the prominence of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

King's ideas can still be seen growing and changing in today's society.

Here are four of Martin Luther King Jr.'s most prevalent ideas about civil rights, equality and life in the United States that are still important today.

"The American Dream"

"For in a real sense, America is essentially a dream, a dream as yet unfulfilled. It is a dream of a land where men of all races, of all nationalities and of all creeds can live together as brothers."

Despite the progress that the United States has made since the 1960s, there is still a lot of ground to cover before all men (and women) will be treated equal.

The year 2015 saw the Supreme Court ruling allowing same-sex marriages in all 50 states, a rise in requirement of police to wear body cameras at all times and continued outrage against Donald Trump's call for a ban on Muslims in the U.S.

These events all pointed to the U.S. taking steps in the right direction to finally obtain the ideals of the "American Dream."

"A Look to the Future"

"In order to look to the future, it is often necessary to get a clear picture of the past. In order to know where we are going, it is often necessary to see from whence we have come."

The U.S. is a young country, but it has an extensive and complicated history. This history is vitally important in understanding where the nation is headed in the future.

King is an important piece of the history of African Americans in the U.S. The study of his life, work and speeches is key in understanding the obstacles minorities had to overcome to get where they are today.

"A Statement by Dr. King"

"It must be remembered that genuine peace is not the absence of tension, but the presence of justice."

The incidents in Ferguson, Missouri after the shooting of Michael Brown showed just how important the presence of justice is to people in the U.S.

King fought for justice for African American people during segregation. The fight for justice is still rampant today, especially with the spreading use of social media allowing news to travel faster than ever.

"Address at Conference of Religious Leaders"

"There has been some progress, but even the most casual observer must admit that we are far from the Promised Land in the area of equal job opportunity."

Job equality is not only a race issue. There has been growing attention to the difference in pay between men and women. California passed a pay equity law in October 2015 in an effort to close this gap.

Elected officials in some states are still working toward



AP PHOTO | BOB SELF | FILE

Kathy Williams walks the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day parade route with a portrait of the Civil Rights leader during the parade in Jacksonville, Fla., Monday, Jan. 18, 2016.

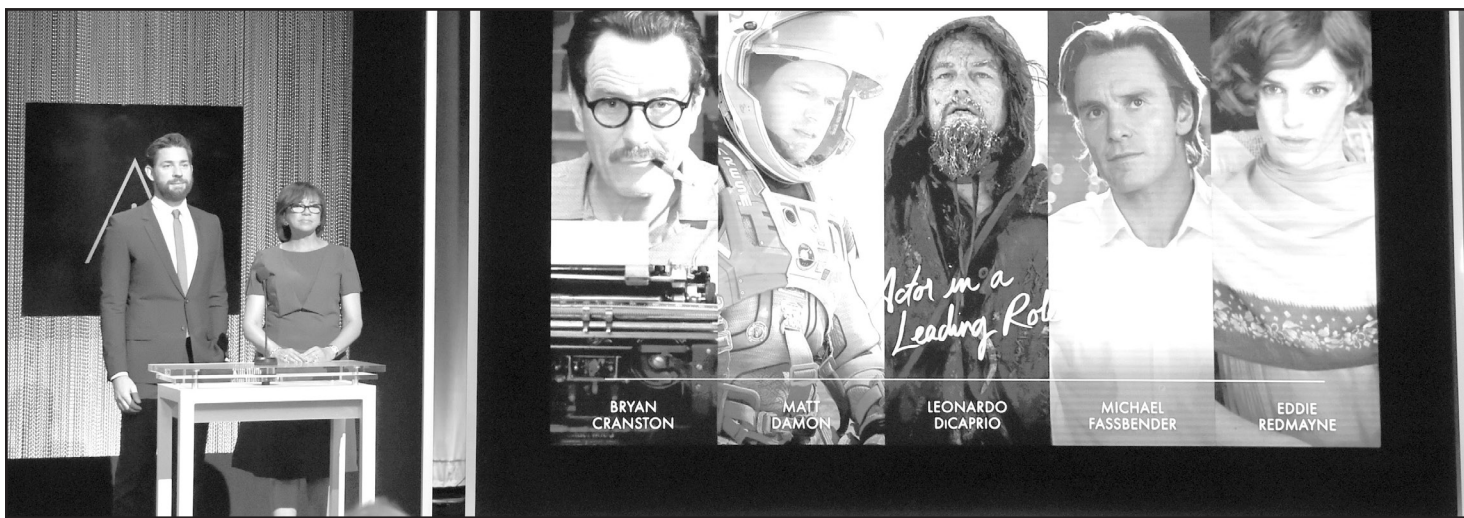
equal pay and opportunity for all people.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day isn't just about remembering King's life and legacy. It's about celebrating the progress that

America has made in race relations, equality and civil rights throughout the years.

Nancy Peyton can be contacted at peyton22@marshall.edu

EDITORIAL



AP PHOTO | CHRIS PIZZELLO | FILE

John Krasinski, left, and Academy President Cheryl Boone Isaacs announce the Academy Awards nominations for best performance by an actor in a leading role at the 88th Academy Awards nomination ceremony on Thursday, Jan. 14, 2016, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

The overwhelming whiteness of the Oscars...again

With the nominees for the 2016 Academy Awards announced on Thursday, January 14, it is easy to get caught up in the meticulous scrutiny of the celebration of the whitest content and creators. This year can be seen as rather predictable, with zero out of 20 nominations going to non-white actors.

It would be easy for someone to argue that the criticism towards the Academy Awards is illegitimate considering that "12 Years a Slave" took home the award for Best Picture and Lupita Nyong'o won Best Supporting Actress in the past two

years. However, it is important to recognize all that has happened within those two years.

"Black Lives Matter" has become a mantra for a generation within a year. There have been filmmakers that have used the spirit of those movements to generate films that take these aspects and give them a voice. Civil rights movements were shown in "Selma" and the urban angst of a group of rappers was depicted in "Straight Outta Compton."

It is not fair to assume that artistic creators of other races than Caucasian didn't deserve

nomination based on them not standing up with other productions.

It's also not fair to assume that there is some ethical criteria that only white nominees are meeting and that the tastes of the Academy aren't full of aesthetic biases, which include race. As of 2014, the Academy was 94 percent white, 76 percent male and an average of 63 years old.

Is it possible to have critics be able to identify with a rap group dealing with racism and inner city struggle.

Major studios just simply

aren't greenlighting enough productions that tell the stories of other races and cultures. Recognizing content that has been produced doesn't mean that it needs to undervalue the way that "Selma," "Straight Outta Compton," "Beasts of No Nation," "Creed" and many others have recently.

It is impossible to white wash art from other races and cultures out of American society. It is time to start and continue asking why Hollywood is still turning a deaf ear.

Get your voice Herd

Want the chance to give your fellow students valuable advice? Is there any topic you love to talk about, but you know your friends' eyes glaze over when you talk about it? Whether it's music, politics or Marshall University, The Parthenon is looking for regular columnists for its opinions page.

Columns should be between 300-500 words, well-written and researched. Columns will be edited for grammar, libelous statements, available space or factual errors.

This is your chance to let your voice be heard.

For more information, contact managing editor Kaitlyn Clay at clay122@marshall.edu.

ICYMI: States of the Union and State



AP PHOTO | CAROLYN KASTER

President Barack Obama winks as he speaks during a town hall at McKinley Senior High School in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Thursday. After giving his State of the Union address, the president is traveling to tout progress and goals in his final year in office.

President Obama continues to hope for change

By **NANCY PEYTON**
THE PARTHENON

President Barack Obama will bid goodbye to the oval office after this year, but he will leave behind a legacy of ideas, change and hope for the future of America.

Obama shared his plans for America to continue making breakthroughs not only in the last year of his presidency, but in the years ahead. Obama said citizens should embrace the changes ahead because America shows its greatest strength in times of massive change.

"We made change work for us, always extending America's promise outward, to the next frontier, to more and more people," Obama said. "And because we did, because we saw opportunity where others saw only peril, we emerged stronger and better than before."

Obama touched on a wide variety of topics in an attempt to reiterate his plans for the remainder of his final term. Obama acknowledged progress can only be made when American people come together in a consensus.

"But such progress is not inevitable," Obama said. "It is the result of choices we make together. And we face such choices

right now. Will we respond to the changes of our time with fear, turning inward as a nation, and turning against each other as a people? Or will we face the future with confidence in who we are, what we stand for, and the incredible things we can do together?"

Obama encouraged citizens to be aware that America's economy is growing and thriving despite what others may say.

"Anyone claiming that America's economy is in decline is peddling fiction," Obama said. "What is true, and the reason that a lot of Americans feel anxious, is that the economy has been changing in profound ways, changes that started long before the Great Recession hit and haven't let up."

One of Obama's key points was the importance of social tolerance and equality. Obama said that fingers should not be pointed at the poor or immigrants for the financial crisis.

"Food Stamp recipients didn't cause the financial crisis; recklessness on Wall Street did," Obama said. "Immigrants aren't the reason wages haven't gone up enough; those decisions are made in the boardrooms that too often put quarterly earnings over long-term returns. It's sure

not the average family watching tonight that avoids paying taxes through offshore accounts."

Obama continued his comments on social equality and urged citizens to treat all people equally despite differences in race, religion, or ideology.

"...I'll be right there with you as a citizen, inspired by those voices of fairness and vision, of grit and good humor and kindness that have helped America travel so far," Obama said. "Voices that help us see ourselves not first and foremost as black or white or Asian or Latino, not as gay or straight, immigrant or native born; not as Democrats or Republicans, but as Americans first, bound by a common creed."

Obama said the hope for the future of America lies within the citizens.

Obama said he was "optimistic that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word."

"That's what makes me so hopeful about our future. Because of you, I believe in you. That's why I stand here confident that the State of our Union is strong."

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AP PHOTO | WALTER SCRIPTUNAS II

Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin is acknowledged by House Clerk Stephen Harrison, R. West Virginia, at his annual State of the State speech on Wednesday in Charleston. During the speech, Tomblin highlighted his budget proposal for the upcoming fiscal year.

Tomblin hopes to preserve culture, introduces initiatives

By **LEXI BROWNING**
THE PARTHENON

During his sixth and final State of the State address Wednesday, Governor Earl Ray Tomblin introduced a series of reforms regarding education, employment and methods to combat substance abuse for the remainder of his time in office.

Tomblin said despite repercussions of the wilting coal industry, 2016 would host a variety of "bold" initiatives to renovate while simultaneously preserving West Virginia's unique past.

The additions of the Procter & Gamble manufacturing plant, along with the expansion of Addivant, is expected to strengthen the business climate of the Mountain State and provide an abundance of job opportunities for West Virginians.

"Projects of this size and scope strengthen our economy, create new jobs and serve as an investment in both our state and our people," Tomblin said, noting that the facility would create 1,000 jobs during its construction phase. "Once fully operational, it is projected to employ the company's fifth largest workforce in the country."

With a pause for applause, Tomblin described the ongoing partnership between Procter & Gamble and the BlueRidge Community and Technical College that will create workforce training in engineering, electronics and computer science in order to prepare students for their careers.

"We've worked hard to bring these jobs to West Virginia for West Virginians and now, they must be filled," Tomblin said.

Tomblin said he had proposed legislation that would redirect \$300,000 from the state's current budget to the Learn and Earn program, an initiative that assists students in gaining hands-on, classroom experience while earning a "competitive salary" and preparing them for careers with companies such as Gestamp.

"Through a partnership with BridgeValley Community and Technical College, students can earn a one-year certificate, an associate's degree and a journeyman's card," Tomblin said.

Tomblin introduced the Self-Employment Assistance Act, an initiative to offer grants for small business owners and those starting new businesses in the Mountain State, particularly those who have been recently laid off.

"Ninety-six of West Virginia's employers are small business owners and they are the backbone of our economy," Tomblin said. "While we work to help tens of thousands of West Virginians on unemployment find new opportunities to succeed, we can't overlook the training and skills they already have."

In September 2015, the state's first 24-hour hotline for substance abuse debuted to offer assistance and direction for those battling with addiction. Since it's founding, Tomblin said, more than 700 West Virginians have been connected with treatment and recovery services.

Tomblin said he also plans to propose legislation to expand further access to Narcan, a medication used to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. In 2015, approximately 3,000 doses of the medication were administered in response to an overdose.

"Tonight, I once again urge this Legislature to expand access to Narcan by supporting my proposal to make it available to any West Virginian – without a prescription," Tomblin said.

Tomblin said he also has hopes to restructure the education system with the Innovation in Education proposal.

If passed, the legislation will allocate \$2.5 million in existing funding to improve programs in science, technology, and entrepreneurship while promoting critical thinking in every student's career.

In an effort to discourage youth from using tobacco products, Tomblin also announced a raise in tobacco taxes from 45 cents to \$1 per product.

"This increase will be considered too high by some people and too low by others," Tomblin said. "But it strikes a balance that protects retailers in our border counties and discourages our young people from smoking, while generating nearly \$71.5 million annually in new revenue."

Tomblin closed his final address with a heartfelt call to action for both residents and members of the political system.

"Over the next 60 days and throughout the coming year, we know there is work to do and difficult choices to make. Tonight, I challenge each of you to find the courage to make these decisions for the sake of the next generation – not the next election," Tomblin said. "It's time to get to work."

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MLK

Continued from page 1

University.

"We give thanks today and all days for his life and legacy," Gilbert said.

"In my mind, Dr. King was about integrity, respect and perseverance," Gilbert said.

Gilbert said as a Southerner during the 60s, he also learned from King. "We must continue the fight."

Gilbert said since he has been at Marshall University, he has learned the importance of the

word "we." Gilbert referenced Marshall's motto, "We are Marshall." "There is love, hope and spirit embedded in the phrase," Gilbert said.

Sylvia Ridgeway, the president of the Huntington-Cabell branch of the NAACP and Derek Rankin, the president of the youth council of the branch also spoke about the legacy of King.

There were performances by the Marshall University Chamber Choir, De'Asia Hill, the Rainbow Music Ministry of Young Chapel AME and Majesty

Hill.

Reverend Kary Williams of Young Chapel AME ended the celebration by singing "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing" and blessing the observance.

Marshall student, Eric Williams, attended the event to honor the life and legacy of King, noting that, he was proud to be "honoring one of the greatest civil rights leaders in the black community and the world."

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EXHIBITION

Continued from page 2

reception will be held on Jan.

21 from 4 to 6 p.m. to recognize artists whose work is on display. The reception will include a presentation of the Juror's Choice Award, a \$200 prize for

what piece is judged to be the best in the gallery.

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Remembering the starman



From left: Jess Hurst, Alexis Stewart, Sarah Lane, Cait Cool and Briana Mayer pose for a photograph during Totally Bowie Thursday on Jan. 14 at the V-Club.

Below: Jess Hurst, left, and Briana Mayer partake in Totally Bowie Thursday, a tribute to the late singer, artist and activist on Thursday, Jan. 14 at the V-Club.



By LUKAS HAGLEY
THE PARTHENON

“Look up here, I’m in Heaven,” a familiar voice cooed over noir saxophones. “I’ve got scars that can’t be seen.” David Bowie’s final single and music video, “Lazarus,” is the tragically reflective ballad left behind in the wake of his sudden death Jan. 10. After an 18-month, secret battle with an unspecified cancer, the legendary musician, artist and actor passed away in New York City. Bowie’s final album, “Blackstar,” was released just days before his death, cumulating unanimous critical and fan praise.

At 69 years of age, Bowie left his fans 25 wildly eclectic studio albums, numerous film and television appearances and decades of inspiration. One of the first popular entertainers to display and promote individuality and sexual androgyny, Bowie’s signature style remains an icon of the 1970s.

Though his early Ziggy Stardust persona won him legions of fans, Bowie shifted gears musically and visually countless times throughout his career. Ranging from the timely, folk-tinged “Honky Dory,” to the sonically experimental “Heroes” and “Low,” Bowie was never content

staying in one area of music (or art, for that matter) for too long. Bowie’s limitless ambition and ability to carefully manipulate every aspect of his music’s production inspire artists to this day.

Artists including Madonna, Marilyn Manson, Kanye West, Lady Gaga and others have all acknowledged a debt to Bowie’s trailblazing career and shifting personas. Bowie’s influence is apparent not only in the realm of entertainment, but also in the lives of local fans.

Tri-State theatre star and musician, Ryan Hardiman, said he felt a huge loss at the artist’s passing. “I can’t bring myself to speak of him in the past tense, because through his work and influence he achieves immortality in the hearts of so many. To me, Bowie simply is.”

A die-hard fan since Bowie’s 1983 album “Let’s Dance,” Hardiman performs his annual cabaret act, “Moonage Daydream: The Bowie Songbook,” each New Year’s Eve with pianist, Mark Scarpelli.

“We share a respect and love for Bowie’s music,” Hardiman said. “We started tossing around the idea of creating an evening of it, arranged by Scarpelli and performed on piano, vocals

and a string quartet. There are so many layers to explore in all of his music. Bowie seems to transcend generation and genre to appeal to a very wide audience. I love performing his work because it comes from an otherworldly, but very real, and timeless place... It feels right to me.”

Bowie’s influence on the art world is evident on Marshall’s campus. Having transcended music and maintained a steady acting career, Bowie’s numerous film appearances were instantly iconic.

“He was primarily a musical artist, but he also had a very striking visual image,” said Montana Rock, a senior in Marshall’s theatre department. “It wasn’t made to sell things, it was just a part of his act. You can see over the course of his career that he continued to re-invent himself, not for any need of popularity or sales. Coming from an acting perspective, the man understood presentation. I remember when I was a kid, I rented ‘Labyrinth’ 10 or 12 times.”

Huntingtonians took to social media to promote tribute events during the week of Bowie’s death. Local venue, The V-Club hosted an all-Bowie night Thursday, Jan. 14 to remember the late legend.

“There is absolutely no way that you can be some kind of a freak or a weirdo, or creative individual without owing some debt to Bowie,” said V-Club resident artist, DJ Feminasty. “I appreciate him more as a cultural icon. 80s Bowie is my favorite. [Fellow V-Club DJ] Charlie Brown Superstar likes the 70s, so I let him focus more on Bowie’s earlier career and I tried to focus on the 80s, up until ‘Blackstar.’”

An artist who never remained stagnant, Bowie was considered one of the definitive musicians of his generation. An early declaration of his bisexuality made Bowie the first popular artist to identify with, and liberate, the global LGBT community in a time when queer visibility was only a far-off idea.

Flowing seamlessly from genre to genre, Bowie’s vast musical catalogue results from his myriad influences and boundless ambition, and is a true testament to the power of self-reinvention. Bowie made it okay to be weird. Bowie accepted the misunderstood. Thank you, Mr. Bowie, for showing us that we could be heroes. Forever and ever.

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Sly Roosevelt, Scroungehound take the stage



Ryan Fischer
THE PARTHENON

Three bands delivered a powerhouse show before a full crowd Saturday, Jan. 16 at Huntington’s V-Club.

ScroungeHound, a “gypsy rock” group played the first set of the night, prepping the audience for an intense follow up from bands Sly Roosevelt and Ford Theatre Reunion.

To close the opening act, ScroungeHound featured a new song titled “Wasted.”

“[Gabe Smith of ScroungeHound] reminds

me of Jim Morrison,” said local resident Angela Cheek during the performance.

Sean McDaniel, lead singer of the second act, Sly Roosevelt, said that they had been performing at the V-Club for approximately five years after gaining local attention in the Huntington music scene.

“Probably since 2010, we’ve done maybe twenty or thirty shows a year here,” McDaniel said.

Several in attendance claimed that the band had picked up a “harder,” more punk sound.



(Far Left) Sean McDaniel performs with Sly Roosevelt at the V Club, January 16, 2016.

(Left) Ford Theatre Reunion singer Alex Johns performs Saturday, January 16, at the V Club.

Shawna Harless, McDaniel’s wife, said this transition could be due to the recent departure of keyboardist Alexander Durand.

“I want people to be immersed with us in it,” McDaniel said. “I don’t want it to be so us versus you. I want it to be us as one thing, you know?”

Sly Roosevelt also debuted a new song, “Tears as War Paint,” near the end of their set Saturday night.

“I just told them in a text ‘I wanna do that song in honor of Bowie and all that,’” McDaniel said. “We literally probably played that two times in the last week. We haven’t really like hammered it that hard.”

McDaniel said that the next big steps for the band would be happening in the next week or two as they hit the studio to record some of their material for a new release entitled “Kirilan.”

Notable amongst the attendees of the club was a distinct presence of fifties-era fashion, brought about by the image of the final performance, Ford Theatre Reunion.

“Ford Theatre Reunion is my favorite though,” said Angela Cheek, in baroque costume. “They’re pretty eclectic.”

Coming up at the end of the week, the V-Club will play host to another round of performances.

Two local bands, Friendly Fire and Shenanagram will be featured, as well as Noise from Charleston, West Virginia. The performances will take the stage at 10 p.m. Friday, January 22 at the V-Club.

Admission will be \$5 per entry.

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