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SGA promises change within alliance, throughout university

By ANARDA GIBSON
THE PARTHENON

It is no secret buying books for the new semester can be a pricey endeavor. Books can either stay below $100 or exceed $500, but no matter the cost, students see opportunities to save time and money in different ways when it comes to buying books.

Management and marketing major Amanda Nelson said she usually goes to the Marshall University Bookstore to buy her books first. From there, Nelson said she will compare bookstores prices to Amazon.com for more expensive books. Nelson said Amazon usually has books for a lower price.

Nelson said her books cost approximately $500 this semester.

“It was ridiculously expensive,” Nelson said. “I think [prices] are incredibly high. Some of them are reasonable, but most of them are just ridiculous.”

Nelson said she chooses Amazon over the bookstore because of prices.

“The bookstore is really convenient because I can just pick them up here and don’t have to lug them to school or anything,” Amanda Nelson said.

For other students, the campus bookstore is the top choice for buying books.

Communications major Larry McCarty said he will look multiple places before buying books, including campus bookstore rentals and Amazon, but McCarty said most of the time he will pick his books from the bookstore because it is the easiest.

“I’m going to say that three out of my four books are probably from the bookstore,” McCarty said. “McCarty said he gets campus rentals quickly and he will choose campus rentals and Amazon because they have better prices.

Computer science major and graduate student, Sethlala Mungur also said she bought her books from Amazon this semester. Mungur also said this is her first time living in the United States and also the first time buying from Amazon.

“This is my first time I’m living in the U.S. and my home country is India and books we purchase, we directly go to the bookstore and see what book we get used books, which is like a weekend bargain or a lot and we get it,” Mungur also said. “I got a lot of suggestions before purchasing from Amazon.

Mungur also said she got the best price for used books on Amazon, but the prices were very similar to the bookstore. Mungur also said she chose Amazon over the bookstore mostly for the length of time she could keep a rented book.

Biological science major Mathis also said she prefers to rent her textbooks on Chegg.com, where she said her books are “significantly cheaper” than the Amazon.

“And Chegg sends you free samples of things, which is nice,” Mathis said. “And their late fee is only like $2 and I’m very forgetful, so that’s cool.”

When students do order their books from places like Amazon or Chegg, they do not tend to worry about shipping dates and if they will fall behind in their coursework while waiting for books to ship.

McCarty said he usually orders his books early and when he orders books doesn’t worry about them being shipped late most of the time.

McCarty said he was currently waiting for his books to arrive of his interview, but said that his classes weren’t using the books yet and said he wasn’t really falling behind in class. McCarty however said it is possible you could fall behind while waiting for a book to ship, though.

Mathis said she doesn’t worry about waiting for her books to ship and that Chegg usually ships them in time.

Mungur, on the other hand, said being a computer science major she is required to study computer languages like Java, so she definitely needs her books.

Amanda Gibson can be contacted at gibson269@marshall.edu.

By JARED CASTO
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University’s Student Government Association’s first meeting of the spring semester Tuesday provided a forum of change amongst the alliance and the campus they serve.

SGA met in the Memorial Student Center Shaeley room for its opening Senate meeting. President Pro-Tem SGA president Alex O’Donnell led the meeting in place of President Isabel Rodrigues. Rodrigues will be unable to attend meetings this semester due to her conflict with her class schedule.

“All of us are sort of new at first because I was afraid I wasn’t going to screw up. But I think I did just satisfy enough,” O’Donnell said.

“We didn’t run over. We get everything accomplished and hopefully people liked it.”

A large portion of the meeting was dedicated to the reformation of the Campus Life and Service Committee.

Rachel Rhobart, chairwoman of the committee, invited senate members to join her committee, promising the committee would involve enjoyable event planning and time efficient meetings.

The senate offered resolutions that the body can address during the semester. Popular topics of concern were library hours, the lack of benches in Smith Hall and inspiring words amongst the student body.

Subsequently, executives addressed the senate. Student Body President Duncan Waxman first discussed new rules of executive members, budgetary changes and upcoming events such as MU Day at the Capitol. Waxman suggested looking into a different meeting time so SGA of all senators would have an opportunity to attend meetings.

“I’m not asking for change, but I’m asking for us to look at it,” Waxman said. “I want to see maybe if there’s another time that works best for other people.”

Executive O’Donnell, parliamentarian Greg Schuster, treasurer Matt Jarvis and Roebert also spoke about their respective roles.

Following the executives, SGA advisors discussed some of the resolutions brought up at the meeting and ruled potential paths for successful information.

Senate advisor, Michelle Barbour prominently suggested more outreach to the LGBT community.

“We really need to have a presence there. They are in the house, no full time staff,” Barbour said. “We need to back them and we need to be a part of that community”.

O’Donnell was also dedicated to devoting more resources to minorities.

“I want to see more involvement within minority groups, getting them involved,” O’Donnell said. “Not just Black United Students or the LGBT group, but also groups like India and Somali Arabic.”

President O’Donnell, having an interest in such issues in working with the administration at MU, hopes to allow SGA to adapt to the changes the university is currently going through.

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Jennifer C. Kerr

McDonald House and Food Fair.

The Obama administration was expected to announce a broader Pell grant program to help students return to college — by providing them with money to attend classes year-round and reward them for taking more credits.

Two new programs were announced Tuesday by the Education Department, which expands the $20 billion program by $2 billion in the new fiscal year. They’ll be part of President Barack Obama’s budget proposal next month.

One proposal, called the Pell Redo-Completer Program, would help low-income students who have left college — by providing them with money to attend classes year-round and reward them for taking more credits.

The other, called the Pell Plus Program, would help low-income students who have left college — by providing them with money to attend classes year-round and reward them for taking more credits.

Another proposal, called the Pell Incentive Program, would help low-income students who have left college — by providing them with money to attend classes year-round and reward them for taking more credits.

The department looks to continue its higher education, said Planned Parenthood’s Kate Duggan, said college completion for students in low-income households.

One of the departments of the Pell program was to help an estimated 2.3 million students next year. The goal is to help 10,000 students graduate by 2015, on average, for college.

The Pell program is one of the most successful programs in the country. It has helped millions of students attend college. The average Pell grant was about $4,500. The maximum Pell grant for the 2015-16 school year is $5,755.

The expansion would need congressional approval next year. The department looked to continue its higher education, said Planned Parenthood’s Kate Duggan, said college completion for students in low-income households.

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Zerkle selected to 2016 USA Elite Team

By BRITTANIE FOWLER

The Marshall University softball player Morgan Zerkle was recently added to the 2016 USA Women’s Elite Team following the selection camp in Tuscon, California.

Zerkle, a Mihar, West Virginia native, was one of 40 players from around the country to try out for Team USA and was the only player from Conference USA to be named to the team. However, this is not the softballer’s first accolade that has garnered national spotlight as she was the 2015 Golden Shoe Award winner, leading off of Division I softball in stolen bases.

The junior took her speed and talent to Southern California during winter break for an opportunity to add her name to the Team USA roster.

“I was really good. And not just good, but the best.” – Morgan Zerkle

“I’m extremely thankful to have had the opportunity to go tryout and now be able to play with USA across my chest. It’s certainly a dream come true.” – Morgan Zerkle

The Elite team will also play in the World Cup of Softball XI, which will take place in Canada.

Only one other Marshall softball player has earned the same honor to play on the Elite team, which was 2012 senior catcher Rebeca Cady.

“I’m extremely thankful to have had the opportunity to go tryout and now be able to play with USA across my chest,” Zerkle said. “It’s certainly a dream come true.

Brittanie Fowler can be contacted at fowler53@marshall.edu.

Zerkle was named to the mix. However, she said her nerves did come true.” – Morgan Zerkle

Marshall women's basketball coach Shonda Stanton said she was extremely proud of her and excited about her opportunity to wear the red, white and blue.”

Zerkle said it was nice seeing how she fit into the program. However, she said her nerves did come true.” – Morgan Zerkle

The committee announced its decision to make two teams: the Women’s National Team and the Elite Team. Zerkle was named to the Elite team along with 17 others.

The Elite team consists of 16 current college players, two former NCAA performers and one high school player.

The Elite team will compete this summer against the National Team in a series of exhibition games across the country. The Elite team will also play in the World Cup of Softball XI, which will take place in Canada.

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EDITORIAL
Charleston Tent City dismantled

A pedestrian drops money in a cup for a homeless man near Times Square, Jan. 4, in New York. As bitter winter temperatures finally arrived in the northeast, New York’s governor issued an executive order requiring the homeless to be forcibly removed from the street in freezing weather.

It’s not likely that the 400 residents will find safety anywhere, but we can only hope they do.

As for this weekend’s storm, temperatures are expected to be as frigid as Jones’ heart.

A homeless woman, who only wanted to be identified as Lulu, asks for money on a street corner Jan. 5 in midtown Manhattan in New York, Jan. 5.

STATE EDITORIAL

The Exponent Telegram on the state's economic development:

Sometimes when leaders are trying to spur economic development, they look for the mega-deal, the factories that will employ hundreds or even thousands of workers. We should look at smaller projects.

But in West Virginia, there is opportunity for growth across a wide variety of sectors. One of those is tourism, or destination marketing.

“With that in mind, we’re excited to learn of the Barbour County Development Authority’s efforts to bring Amish businesses to the region,” said Staff Writer Melissa Toothman.

Reg Trefethen, who manages business development for the authority, said Staff Writer Melissa Toothman that the county had reached out to Amish communities in this in hopes of bringing in businesses that will feed, wear and other products.

Trefethen told The Exponent Telegram that at least 50 Amish will visit the county in February. And there is already talks of haying the businesses open during Christmas.

That would be an amazing feat, especially when you consider that the Barbour County is small in population base and not on a ma-jor highway. It needs destinations that will keep people to visit.

“We are isolated from the highways ... and it’s difficult for trucks to navigate those roads,” Trefethen said. “What we determined what we did was turn Barbour County into a destination and, at the same time, improve our abandoned buildings in our town so we can dress up the look.”

We found the effort to reach out to Amish industries to be intriguing, out of the box thinking — exactly what is needed in rural areas of West Virginia.

But that’s not the only positive effort taking place in Barbour County as the development authority and Chamber of Commerce are looking for ways to spur revitalization efforts in downtown areas of Philippi and Barington, as well as throughout the region.

Working together to forge a common vision and mission, these industries and business leaders in Barbour County, are working diligently to bolster a stagnant economy.

And the forward thinking demonstrated by the effort to reach out to the Amish is exactly what Barbour and other counties in North Central West Virginia need.

We applaud their efforts and look forward to their success.
Harry Potter fans mourn loss of Alan Rickman

BY EMILY KINNER

Many of Huntington’s Harry Potter fans are feeling nostalgic as they mourn the loss of Alan Rickman, who played Severus Snape in the Harry Potter films. Rickman, the English actor and director, died after battling cancer at age 69.

Anya Chahryar, a senior taking Professor Jill Treffet’s Special Topics Harry Potter English class, said Snape was not her favorite when she started reading the series, but said she ended up liking him more as she read and got to know his character better.

"Snape was kind of a silent guardian over Harry," Chahryar said. "Snape is one of my favorite professors that Harry Potter had.

Bradley Brown, a senior with a self-proclaimed fondness for Rickman’s work, said Neville Longbottom is his favorite Harry Potter character throughout the series, but said he really did enjoy Snape and how he was played.

"Alan Rickman is just a fantastic actor," Brown said. "Anything I have ever seen him in he just completely emanates the character and I don’t think there could have been a better actor to play Severus Snape.

"I have read the books a bunch of times, Chris said he thought Snape’s character was one of the greatest characters in the series and said Rickman’s portrayal of the character, "Harry Potter fans are truly lucky.""