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Megan Osborne
Parthenon@marshall.edu

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SGA resolution to condemn RFRA fails

By JARED CASTO
THE PARTHENON

A resolution to condemn the West Virginia Legislature for the Religious Freedom and Restoration Act, a bill that is increasingly under fire for its perceived discrimination of LGBT rights, failed during Tuesday's Student Government Association meeting.

The resolution in question was the topic of a lengthy debate during the meeting, with multiple senators voicing their opinions on the RFRA, how they believed it would affect the state and whether SGA should condemn it.

Marshall's resolution aimed to condemn the bill as a "clear violation of Marshall University's anti-discrimination commitment, overall mission statement and goal of providing equal education opportunities for all individuals." West Virginia University approved a similar resolution Monday.

Sen. Lara Walker was the first senator to cast a vote against the resolution, arguing the bill is a response to the legislation of same sex marriage. Walker said the bill uses the guise of religious freedom to be discriminatory towards LGBT individuals.

"This isn't really a party issue. It's about people," Walker said. "In the legislature, the problem is that this may be a federal mandate on one level, but the way it's interpreted as of lately in all state legislatures is in a reaction to same sex marriage being legalized."

Sen. Nick Ulana said though he supports marriage equality and gay rights, he believes that the RFRA has the freedoms of businesses in mind.

"The one thing that separates our country from everyone out there is freedom," Ulana said. "If a business owner is stupid enough to deny someone based on their sexual orientation, then let them, because that is your business and it's your wallet within their right."

Sen. David Crawley said West Virginia is struggling in the business sector and a law that could potentially allow employers to discriminate against LGBT workers would only further harm. According to Crawley, Indiana lost $500 million after passing a similar bill.

"If this bill is allowed to pass in the legislature, we're just shooting ourselves in the foot," Crawley said. "We need to send this message to our legislators that West Virginia is better than this."

Additionally, a senate bill was passed to provide funding for Marshall as well as a resolution to investigate the termination of the "Capitol Classic" basketball game.

--SGA SEN. DAVID CRAWLEY

Internship gives MU students hands-on experience at Capitol

By LYDIA WAYBRIGHT
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University students are experiencing state politics firsthand through the Frasor-Simon Internship this week in Charleston.

The internship intends to give college students in West Virginia an opportunity to learn about state politics by shadowing a delegate or state senator for the week.

Sophomore Whitney Ramey said the internship runs two weeks, and students attend one week at a time from Monday to Friday. Ramey said six Marshall students are attending this week and two will attend next week.

"It's supposed to really expose what West Virginia politics are and what that climate is," said Marshal's senior international business major.

"The whole concept of what our legislative session goes through is very foreign to us," Ramey said, adding that the internship makes the process more familiar to college students.

"They're not strangers," Ramey said of state politicians. "They're one of us." Ramey and Ramey said professors were happy to accommodate them on missing a week of classes. "They were all really excited to go," Ramey said.

"Everyone was excited for me," Ramey said. "They wanted to accommodate me, by all means." Ramey found out about the internship through a friend who suggested it to her, and Ramey learned of it through a professor in one of her political science classes.

Ramey and Ramey said the application process was simple. Ramey said the application asked students to list three issues in West Virginia that are most important to them.

"I picked, of course, the drug epidemic that's happening, education and women's health," Ramey said. "Ramey said she indicated on her application that she did not have a preference on what political party she was partnered with because she thought she could learn more from an opposing opinion.

Ramey is shadowing Delegate Bill Anderson who represents Wood County, and Ramey is spending the week with Delegate Matthew Rohrbach who represents Cabell County. They both said they sit in on several meetings Monday including the Transportation Committee, Health Committee, Finance Committee and Energy Committee.

The students also had the chance to sit in on the concealed weapons debate Monday. Ramey said the delegates and senate debated from about 11 a.m. until 3 p.m.

"It was crazy," said Ramey. "They were just going back and forth the whole time."

"I definitely think that if we decide to pursue politics in the future, this is going to be something we will be working for one," Ramey said. She also said the internship will help her gain confidence in the political science field because she is becoming more familiar with the way things run at the Capitol.

"Seeing what (Delegate Rohrbach) does in between sessions, seeing how they collaborate and how they have sound decisions before they even go on the floor, that's where I'm going to learn the most," Ramey said. "I love being immersed in that."
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UKirk students learn about United Way’s importance in community

By Logan Parkulo

UKirk students have received a $10,000 diversity grant from Walgreens for their work in helping students and other professionals understand the importance of diversity in the community.

The grant will be distributed as scholarships. It is Walgreens’ first grant to support the university in helping students and other professionals understand the importance of diversity in the community.

Walgreens’ grant support will go to students and other professionals who have already worked to help diversity initiatives throughout the year. The grant will also provide support for diversity initiatives that are already in place.

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Women's basketball remaining schedule
2/14 vs. Western Kentucky
2/18 @ Charlotte
2/20 @ Old Dominion
2/25 vs. UAB
2/27 vs. Middle Tennessee State
3/3 @ Louisiana Tech
3/5 @ Southern Mississippi

"I want to go for far away from Huntington," Evans said. "But when (head coach Matt Daniels) came and started recruiting me, I really liked the coaches. I thought that maybe I wasn't ready to go so far away from home, so I stayed."

Neither Hamilton nor Evans thought they would end up two-and-a-half miles down the road from where they grew up, but now they can't imagine wearing any other green and white.

Brittanie Fowler can be contacted at fowler85@marshall.edu.
The Huffington Post takes on Donald Trump

By Michael Brown

The readers submitted some questions about life, love and everything in between. I answered them as honestly as possible. I’m here to keep it real with you. I do not have a fear of judgment and am able to answer with no judgment, because I don’t know you. Here are some of the questions I got this week:

How do I pretend to care about the things my peers are inter-

est in? Everyone is different and likes different things. I’m going to tell you to fake it. Learn to smile like you’re enjoying all the idiotic things that your friends care about. I would have a really hard time deciding if you’re alive, who would it be? I’m hoping between three people: Tyler Oakley, Clay and my bestie in life, Terrance. I do not have a sex preference. There are a number of things that I’m not looking for in a relationship. I’m not looking for regular or religious sex. I’m not looking for a blowhard in a bad hairpiece. People truly do have the power in elections and it is imperative that the collective voice unity stop buying into the Trump brand of nationalism.

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**Scuba Club makes waves in Florida**

**By DARIUS BROOKER**

Deep under the Florida waters, Marshall University students had the opportunity to dive and study different aspects of environmental science as well as swim with the manatees.

The Marshall University Scuba Club took one of its annual trips to Florida over winter break, diving under water, while many other students were home dealing with the cold weather.

Allysa Brady, MU Scuba Club president, said she enjoys diving and has become accustomed to the techniques of breathing and functioning underwater.

“It’s definitely something that I am hooked on,” Brady said.

Brady said while underwater, everything looks different, sounds different and even your senses are attuned to something different.

“It’s a totally different world,” Brady said.

The Scuba Club “officially” started a little over six years ago now has approximately 60 members with an interest in a variety of majors.

Nursing major Jennifer Colby said all students no matter their major should try scuba diving.

Colby, who has only been diving for a semester now, said it has changed her entire world.

“It’s an absolutely incredible experience,” Colby said.

Students who usually become familiar with the scuba team start in one of Dr. Thomas Jones’ environment science courses.

Jones said the club has been filled with first graduate students, then environmental science students, and now non-science major students.

Jones said the Scuba Club gives students a learning experience different than the typical textbook and note- book paper experiences they are used to.

“Face fears, work your way through and at the end you realize that you can do something,” Jones said.

During the most recent scuba trip, seven students explored the deep waters, researching manatees and other endangered species.

The club enjoyed two days of boat diving, drift diving and cavern diving.

Two members also became certified scuba divers, allowing them to dive on their own without an instructor being present.

One of Jones’ students who usually studies environmental science as well as swim with the manatees, said trading the Scuba Club scuba trip for Bonaire in June.

The Scuba Club will return to Florida to visit Key Largo over spring break.

Darren Booker can be contacted at booker25@marshall.edu.

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**Student group encourages peers to abstain from substance abuse**

**By TROY ALEXANDER**

The Cabell County Substance Abuse Prevention Program partners with students from schools all across the district to educate and help prevent them from being susceptible to substance abuse.

Student volunteers participate in activities such as peer-to-peer health classes about things parents may not be comfortable talking with their kids about.

Alternatively, the CCSSAPP will teach parents how to talk to their children about these tough subjects.

“So many people think that the Red Cross is just about blood drives, when in real- ity, it is doing so much more for the community,” Perdue said.

The summit and other projects show that, even though they may be from different schools and may move out of West Virginia, Cabell County will always be their home and they should try to invest and give back to the community.

The CCSSAPP is responsible for giving students in public schools surveys such as the PRIDE survey and the West Virginia climate survey, which asks questions related to drug use and gives programs a good idea of problem areas within their schools.

They also introduced another PRIDE, a program all Marshall freshmen are required to take, to the administration.

Students are joined by a coalition of about 40 people who come from all walks of life.

Businessmen, media personalities, local government, religious leaders and other public and private organizations make up the community-at-large effort.

Those interested can contact the United Way office.

Volunteers are always welcomed.

The Community Coalition also holds meetings open to the public every third Wednesday of the month at the United Way of River Valley.

Troy Alexander can be contacted at alexan- der53@marshall.edu.