The Parthenon, July 24, 2019

Hanna Pennington
MOBILE BAKERY SERVES UP SWEET TREATS

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Smith campaign workers first in W.Va. history to unionize

By DOUGLAS HARDING
NEWS EDITOR

Considering the billions of dollars spent on elections in American politics each year, the amount spent on wages and benefits for campaign workers, those doing the brunt of the work for politicians and keeping the show running smoothly for everyone else, seems significantly low.

One campaign focused on fundamentally changing that reality is Stephen Smith’s campaign for governor of West Virginia, as part of the broader West Virginia Can’t Wait Movement, which is currently running 43 candidates on ballots throughout the state. Last week, Smith’s staff announced they had ratified a collective bargaining agreement with the Campaign Workers Guild, rendering them the first campaign staff in West Virginia history to unionize.

“West Virginians are at the forefront of the modern union movement, and we’re proud to now say that our staff is too. In this campaign, we have pledged to stand on the side of working people every time,” Katey Lauer, Smith’s campaign manager, said. “We were excited to support the creation of this union at the outset and are proud of our staff for raising the bar for workers’ rights in campaigns across the state and nation.”

The contract reached by staffers includes protections to improve working conditions for current workers as well as lower entry barriers for potential future workers.

Other benefits include a stipend for staffers to cover technology-related needs when hired and monthly stipends for healthcare, internet and cell phone expenses. As a result of the contract, Smith’s campaign workers will now have unlimited sick and vacation time in addition to various other protections aiming to increase flexibility for their all-West Virginian working-class staff and families.

“Unionizing is a pain worth suffering,” Bailey said. “The burden of an incredibly difficult race ahead has been lightened because I know that my union sisters have my back and that management fully trusts us.”

Smith’s staffers’ agreement ratification with the Campaign Workers Guild comes amid a growing wave of unionizations in American politics, including the 2018 congressional campaign of Wisconsin Democrat Randy Bryce, which became, ostensibly, the first in American history to unionize in February last year, simultaneously launching the Campaign Workers Guild.

Several staffs of 2020 presidential candidates running in the Democratic primary have since announced unionization agreements, including Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont, whose staff became the first presidential campaign workers in U.S. history to unionize in March this year. Other Democratic presidential candidates’ campaign staffs have followed suit and announced agreements to unionize, including workers of Representative Eric Swalwell of California, former U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Julian Castro of Texas and Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts.

Douglas Harding can be contacted at harding26@marshall.edu.

Organizations fight against panhandling prohibition in Huntington

By DOUGLAS HARDING
NEWS EDITOR

Local grassroots community organizations, On the Streets Committee, recently partnered with the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, with support from the West Virginia American Civil Liberties Union, to write a letter demanding the repeal of Huntington’s bans on begging and solicitation, in favor of policies addressing root causes of extreme poverty.

In 2016, the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty and the National Coalition for the Homeless partnered with over 100 organizations throughout the country to kick-off their Housing Not Handcuffs campaign. The letter to Huntington is part of a broader coordinated effort by such groups, started last year, to repeal over 37 ordinances in eight different states.

“Punishing homeless people with fines, fees and arrests simply for asking for help will only prolong their homelessness,” Maria Foscarinis, executive director at the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, said. “Housing, jobs and services are the only true solutions to homelessness in our communities.”

On any given night in likely the wealthiest city in the history of the world, more than half-a-million people are experiencing homelessness, according to a 2018 report by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

In Huntington alone, according to a 2019 count conducted by the Huntington-Cabell-Wayne Continuum of Care, more than 170 people experience homelessness each day, as reported by the Herald-Dispatch earlier this year. That number is down from homeless populations of over 190 in 2018, 205 in 2017 and 228 in 2016.

The letter to Huntington argues citizens’ First Amendment protections, as determined in the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals’ decision in Norton v. Springfield, prohibit the targeting of speech requesting donations for punishment. Since the 2015 decision, more than 35 ordinances limiting soliciting donations have been determined unconstitutional in courts throughout the country. Additionally, 31 cities have since repealed such ordinances prior to being challenged by litigation.

Possible problem-solving programs and ideas recommended by the organizations challenging Huntington’s bans include homeless employment programs to provide income and access to other services to panhandlers and supportive housing units for homeless residents. Such programs exist in places like Albuquerque, New Mexico and Syracuse, New York, where panhandlers are provided opportunities for 40 hours of work each week to beautify and improve areas throughout the city.

see PROHIBITION on pg. 10
Women and Gender Center provides support for sexual assault victims

By HANNA PENNINGTON
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Marshall University’s Women and Gender Center is working to provide resources and support to students who are victims of sexual assault.

“We definitely want to be able to reach students before they get here, while they’re here and with educational opportunities around these concerns,” Leah Tolliver, director of wellness and gender programs, said. “We are advocates for our campus to be a better and safer place.”

Tolliver said the Women and Gender Center partners with other university resources, including the Counseling Center, the Student Conduct Office, Title IX Coordinator, Student Affairs, Housing and Residence Life, as well as Student Advocate and Success Specialists to widen its reach of support on campus.

“We also partner closely with CONTACT Rape Crisis Center,” Tolliver said. “They are an off-campus site and not necessarily part of Marshall University, and we also partner with Branches Domestic Violence Shelter.”

These resources are not only for Huntington’s campus; South Charleston, Point Pleasant and Teays Valley sites also have programs that offer support to sexual violence victims.

Tolliver said it is important to provide a helping hand to those who are recent victims of sexual violence, relationship violence or stalking situations, as well as those who may have experienced it in the past.

“I know there are many people who come to campus who have already experienced violence, and maybe this is the first time they feel that they can talk about it or seek support,” Tolliver said. “So, I want to let them know that we are very interested in helping and supporting them in that process, as well.”

Tolliver said training allies on bystander intervention is also an important aspect to keeping the community safe.

Various training sessions are provided throughout the spring and fall semesters for Marshall students, staff and faculty.

“Bystander intervention is key. When you see somebody, or a situation, that you’re not too sure about, we want to look at how to intervene safely, for ourselves and for the other person,” Tolliver said.

Tolliver said using the “three D’s,” which are directly intervene, distract or delegate, can help when analyzing a situation.

“Delegate really means calling someone in authority, in a sense,” Tolliver said. “Sometimes you can delegate by telling an RA, sometimes by calling the police, just some way to intervene where somebody else is involved.”

Depending on the situation, Tolliver said, directly intervening could also be an option, however, she advises the bystander to proceed with caution.

“We never want anybody to get involved in something that puts them in danger or makes the situation worse,” Tolliver said. “If we all take on the responsibility, so to speak, to make our campus safer and to help each other out when we’re concerned about each other, we will have less of these situations happening, and even if they happen we will have more people helping that person get support.”

Tolliver said if a student experiences sexual violence, the first step moving forward is to ensure that they are safe and physically okay.

“If that means that you need to go medically checked out or if you need to go to an evidence kit collected, you do that at the hospital,” Tolliver said. “That can seem very scary for people, so we have an on-call staff with the Counseling Center who will be able to go with you.”

The next steps, Tolliver said, are to find emotional support and consider reporting the incident.

“We always encourage people to report to law enforcement, and we want to encourage people to report to the school, because there are two separate entities that will investigate. There’s the criminal aspect, and the school also has an obligation to investigate, which is through Title IX, and that is not criminal, but something the university needs to be aware of,” Tolliver said. “Then we can look at different options that will be able to provide interim measures of protection or support for the reporting party.”

Those who need help, support or would be interested in working to spread awareness of sexual violence may contact Tolliver at tolliver@marshall.edu or Claire Snyder, coordinator for the women and gender program, at snyder71@marshall.edu.

Hanna Pennington can be contacted at penningto131@marshall.edu.

The Women and Gender Center is located on the first floor of Prichard Hall. The center is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Macaron truck ‘rolls’ into downtown Huntington

By HANNA PENNINGTON
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

A new food truck in Huntington with a sugary, French twist is on the move.

Abbey Shae Bakes, named after its founder Abbey Shae Kimball, 22, can be found downtown throughout the week with a plethora of sweet treats, specifically, French macarons.

Kimball, from Chesapeake, Ohio, said she discovered her passion for baking while in college in Nashville.

“I went to college at Belmont University, and I majored in song writing and business. My classes were very music-oriented,” Kimball said. “I loved it, but it started to get very stressful for me, so baking was what I would do when I would come home. It was like a stress relief for me to try new recipes, and in Nashville I discovered macarons.”

The first time Kimball tried the confection, she said she knew she wanted to one day perfect them herself.

“It was a lot of Youtube. When I would want a break from homework, I’d get on Youtube and watch tutorials of macarons,” Kimball said. “I knew they were hard, and I kept failing, and so I would just do trial and error to try to improve.”

When Kimball came home from school and began making macarons for her friends and family, she started to receive more and more requests.

“Friends and family started asking, like, ‘hey, can you bring some to my party or can I get some from you?’ And I set up a rinky-dink Facebook page, and people started messaging me,” Kimball said.

Kimball said she used the skill she gained from business classes at Belmont to officially start her business last fall.

“About a year ago, we got an old Direct TV truck and completely gutted it and redid everything,” Kimball said. “We started in October in Ohio, and we did some events in Lawrence county, but there’s not a whole lot going on, so in April we got everything approved for Huntington and we’ve been doing everything here since then.”

Kimball said the bakery on wheels has seen growth since its beginnings, especially over the past few weeks.

“It’s kind of blown up, and it’s only me,” Kimball said. “I think a lot of people picture that it’s a bunch of people in a kitchen somewhere, but it’s literally only me.”

Kimball said she hopes to continue to see even more expansion of Abbey Shae Bakes in Huntington.

“It’s going really well with the food truck, but ideally it would be nice to get a brick and mortar place around here and open a bakery,” Kimball said. “But the goal is really just to continue to grow, even if it’s just little things, like we just got our first real point-of-sale register, so just small things like that.”

Kimball’s homemade macarons may be sweet, but she said the line of business is even sweeter.

“It’s so much fun,” Kimball said. “Just being able to work events where people are so excited and happy and everyone is in a good mood is great.”

Kimball said the location of the truck varies day-to-day, but updates can be found on the Abbey Shae Bakes Facebook page.

Hanna Pennington can be contacted at penningto131@marshall.edu.
Local activists protest “cruel, inhumane” U.S. border conditions

By DOUGLAS HARDING
NEWS EDITOR

Amid recent controversies surrounding living conditions for those detained in border facilities run by the United States federal government, Women’s March West Virginia members and other concerned residents took to the streets of Huntington Thursday to raise awareness about the issue and make their voices heard.

“We are protesting to demonstrate our opposition to the cruel and inhumane conditions at the U.S. border, where children are being held in facilities without basic medical care, soap, water and safe sleeping arrangements,” Larry Brumfield, a local artist at the protest, said.

Since President Donald Trump took office, according to a recent analysis of federal data by NBC News, roughly two-dozen immigrants have died while in custody of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), a federal law enforcement agency of the United States government.

Additionally, last month, as reported by the Washington Post, the Trump Administration attempted to appeal in court an Obama-era ruling, which found that, “child migrants and their parents were detained in dirty, crowded, bitterly cold conditions inside U.S. Customs and Border Protection facilities along the southern border.”

Less than a month before, the Washington Post reported that of the nearly 2,000 children being held in U.S. Border Patrol facilities, hundreds were kept there for more than a week, despite federal law and court orders requiring they be transferred elsewhere, to more hospitable shelters.

In the 2017 ruling, U.S. District Judge Dolly Gee found immigrants in southern Texas were given inadequate meals, sometimes forced to share a cup of water between 20 individuals and not provided access to necessities like showers, toothbrushes, soap and towels. The ruling also found individuals were forced to use the toilet in front of up to 50 other detainees and were unable to sleep at night on cold concrete floors, with the lights left on, equipped only with an aluminum blanket. Detainees have also regularly been made to stay behind chain-link fences resembling cages or pens.

As reported by the Washington Post, the Trump Administration argued the current conditions do not violate such a requirement because the Flores Settlement Agreement does not technically mention providing specific items and necessities like toothbrushes, towels, dry clothing, soap or sleep.

Another Washington Post article released only four days later describes the perspective of David Rohde, an executive editor for the New Yorker who was kidnapped and kept hostage by the Taliban for seven months in 2008.

“The Taliban gave me toothpaste and soap,” Rohde wrote in a recent Twitter post.

Brumfield said the situation and conditions at the border are made even more despicable considering that many immigrants and detainees come to America to escape horrific and dangerous conditions in the countries they come from, largely as a result of U.S. sanctions and detrimental actions in those countries.

The psychological damage being inflicted upon children in the detention facilities will negatively impact them throughout their lifetimes, Brumfield said.

see PROTEST on pg. 10

New campus counselors available to Marshall students

By SARAH INGRAM
CAMPUS EDITOR

Marshall University expanded students’ access to mental health care after hiring two new counselors this summer who are both eager to work with new students in the fall, counselor Stephanie Shaffer said.

“I hope to just bring a new perspective to this team,” Shaffer said. “I’m excited, [and] I’m ready for the new semester. I like to be busy.”

- Stephanie Shaffer

not originally plan to pursue careers in counseling.
Shaffer grew up in Chesapeake, Ohio and graduated from Marshall’s graduate program in December 2018. Having grown up watching her mother teach, Shaffer said she came into college fully believing that teaching was the right profession for her.
She wanted to teach art or English, but a realization that perhaps teaching was not her best option came just after an experience visiting a third-grade classroom, Shaffer said.

“Then I got to a third-grade classroom, and I just didn’t get that feeling, so I started exploring. Then I had some psychology classes, and I was just like, ‘That’s it!’ It just sucked me in, and from there I’ve been total mental health.”

see COUNSELORS on pg. 10
Conference USA announced the 2019-2020 Men’s Basketball schedule

**By SYDNEY SHELTON**
**CONTRIBUTOR**

Conference USA announced on Tuesday the upcoming schedule for the Marshall men’s basketball team.

Per Herd Zone, Marshall head coach Dan D’Antoni said, “With the losses of the key seniors last season, I’m looking forward to bringing new Herd leadership into conference play this season.”

Marshall opens the C-USA portion of the season in the Cam Henderson Center against Rice on Jan. 2 followed by a game against North Texas on Jan. 4.

After that the Herd will head to Middle Tennessee on Jan. 9 and then to UAB on Jan. 11.

A three-game home stand will be next on the plate for the Herd. Marshall will face Charlotte on Jan. 16, Old Dominion on Jan. 18 and Western Kentucky on Jan. 22.

A three-game road trip against WKU on Jan. 2, FIU on Jan. 30 and Florida Atlantic on Feb. 1 will wrap up Jan. and kick off Feb.

Marshall wraps up the regular season with Southern Mississippi on Feb. 6 and Louisiana Tech on Feb. 8th at home and on the road against UTSA (Feb. 13) and UTEP (Feb. 15).

Before the Conference tournament the bonus play will begin. There will be a bye week Feb. 15-21. There will be three pods, which will be determined by the standings after the first 14 games of conference action.

The following dates are open for bonus play and every team will have one of the dates off: Feb. 22, Feb. 27, March 1, March 4 and March 7.

Sydney Shelton can be contacted at shelton97@marshall.edu.
Softball welcomes three to the Herd

By SYDNEY SHELTON
CONTRIBUTOR

Marshall Softball added three transfers to the Herd for the upcoming 2019-2020 season on Tuesday. Head Coach Megan Smith announced that these transfers include junior pitcher Megan Stauffer, senior catcher/third base Haleigh Christopher and junior infielder Saige Pye.

“We are thrilled to have all three of these exceptional players and young women as a part of our program,” coach Smith said per Herd Zone. “We had such a strong group of seniors leave our program this Spring and the addition of experienced players like Megan, Haleigh, and Saige will add depth and fill in gaps to help us continue to be successful in the Spring. We are all excited to see them compete as part of The Herd!”

Stauffer, a native of Lansdale, Pennsylvania, comes to Marshall after spending two seasons at Monmouth University and sitting out the 2019 season. While pitching for the Hawks, Stauffer earned nine wins, including seven in 2018. She has tallied 39 appearances with 15 starts and a 3.54 ERA over 122.2 innings. In 2018 she earned the win in the Hawk’s Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference opener with a complete-game victory against Fairfield. Later in the year Stauffer won back-to-back appearances against Princeton and Saint Peter’s and then again over Marist and Siena. The right-hander also pitched one inning against Tennessee in the first-ever NCAA Tournament appearance for Monmouth (2018).

Christopher is from Huntington and attended Spring Valley High School, before spending her first three collegiate seasons at the University of Charleston. The standout slugger put up extensive power numbers while playing for the Golden Eagles. She hit 42 home runs over her career, tallying nearly half or more than half of her team’s home run totals for the year. As a freshman in 2017 Christopher smacked 15 of Charleston’s 38 total home runs for the year and also led the team with 21 doubles and 62 RBL. In 2018, Christopher delivered with 11 of the team’s 18 homers and again led with 41 RBL. Finally in 2019, the right-hander hit 16 of UC’s 28 home runs and drove in 51 more runs. For her career, Christopher has tallied 175 hits, scored 84 runs, and drove in 51 more runs. For her career, Christopher has tallied 175 hits, scored 84 runs, and drove in 51 more runs. For her career, Christopher has tallied 175 hits, scored 84 runs, and drove in 51 more runs. For her career, Christopher has tallied 175 hits, scored 84 runs, and drove in 51 more runs. For her career, Christopher has tallied 175 hits, scored 84 runs, and drove in 51 more runs.

Pye, a native of Stockton, California, comes to Marshall from Georgia Tech. Pye was a standout hitter was twice named league MVP in 2014 and 2015 and was also a three-time San Joaquin all-area first team selection. She appeared in 32 games over two seasons at Georgia Tech and started six contests. Pye made her collegiate debut against Lipscomb on Feb. 9, 2018 as the designated player. She recorded her first collegiate home run against Pittsburgh as a freshman in 2018. In 2019 Pye drove in one run, earned one walk and stole one base in limited action.

“With such a strong group of seniors leave our program this spring and the addition of experienced players like Megan, Haleigh, and Saige will add depth and fill in gaps to help us continue to be successful in the Spring. We are all excited to see them compete as a part of The Herd!”

- MEGAN SMITH

Herd baseball’s Pastrana signed AAIP Contract to play baseball

By SYDNEY SHELTON
CONTRIBUTOR

Former Herd catcher Rey Pastrana has a signed contract with the Winnipeg Goldeyes. The Winnipeg Goldeyes are a part of the American Association of Independent Professional Baseball.

“I’m very excited for Rey to sign a professional contract and continue his playing career,” head coach Jeff Waggoner said per Herd Zone. “He was one of the best to ever play at Marshall and he played a major role in elevating the program to a championship level as a part of the winningest team in program history. I’m excited to see him get a chance to prove what he can do at the next level.”

In his junior season, he was named as the All-Conference USA First team catcher, was a Johnny Bench Award finalist for the best catcher in the NCAA and was named to the Mideast ABCA/Rawlings All-Region First Team. He started in all 49 games and picked off 20 of the 37 runners attempting to steal against him. He led the Herd in batting average (.355), hitting 13 home runs and driving in 31 runs.

During his sophomore and freshman season, he started 62 games. Sydney Shelton can be contacted at shelton97@marshall.edu.
Lessons learned from Apollo 11 moon landing

Fifty years ago, Americans gathered at their television sets and witnessed history as man walked on the moon for the very first time. For those few, precious moments while glued to their screens, American citizens did not feel divided; instead, they were united and shared in a pride that is uniquely American.

But now, that American pride and unity seems to have diminished. Instead of celebrating our differences and our accomplishments, all too often we knock each other down for those very same reasons.

America was not perfect in 1969, but with the help of more than 400,000 people, including native Appalachians, we made it to the moon. It was a collective effort, with men, women and people of different ethnicities and backgrounds collaborating to achieve an American dream. An American flag made it out of our country and into outer space, to be forever planted in this new territory. That alone should send a small tingling of chills through every American’s spine, as well as make our hearts swell with pride. It certainly did 50 years ago.

America is certainly not perfect now either, but it seems we have lost something in these past 50 years. When John F. Kennedy was president, he vowed to get us to the moon. In a way, he succeeded, though unfortunately he did not live to see man’s footsteps on the moon.

Here was a president who boldly proclaimed on his inauguration day: “Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country.”

Those 400,000 people working on the Apollo 11 project did so for their country. Kennedy was absolutely correct to ask that every American do what they can for the greater good of our country.

But in a stark contrast, 50 years later, our president is now telling people to leave the United States, even though they have immigrated here legally and are doing what they believe is right for their country. They are serving in government offices and fighting for their beliefs. Regardless of political spectrum, serving one’s country and trying to improve it should be praised, not reduced and belittled.

No American citizen should be told to “go back to where they come from” or be told to leave our country, unless, perhaps, it is to go to the moon. To get us back on the moon, to plant another American flag planted on that cratered, lunar surface. Maybe that will inspire relative peace and unite Americans once more.

If Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed on the moon today, how different would the reception be? We wouldn’t tell Armstrong to go back to where his family came from, would we? And we certainly wouldn’t tell the people of color who worked on the Apollo 11 project to go back to where they came from. If we did, we wouldn’t have made it to the moon.

In 1969, the moon landing sparked patriotism in our country. Yes, people back then still had their differences, and politics still weren’t pretty, but people took pride in America and worked to fix what they weren’t so proud of. Let us learn from them. If we focus on the bad things about our country, including negative and disrespectful comments from our president and other officials, we will only feel discouraged.

Under the light of the moon, with its American flag, we are not so different.
COLUMN: Disney has creativity problem, not casting problem

By AMANDA LARCH
MANAGING EDITOR

Ariel is about to look different than we remember: Disney recently cast Halle Bailey as Ariel in the new live action remake of the classic princess tale, “The Little Mermaid.” When I first heard of Disney’s decision, it made me think about representation.

If you’re unaware of who she is (and if you know me you are aware), Merida is the curly redhead girl from the animated Disney movie “Brave.” Yes, I’ve sung her praises before, and I don’t intend to stop now. Seeing a Disney princess who actually looked like me was inspiring. I felt elated; finally, some representation!

And that’s why I’m excited for the new “Little Mermaid.” I want every black girl to look at Ariel and feel those same feelings I had when I first saw Merida. Representation matters, especially to young children. I want them to feel love for themselves when seeing someone who looks like them on the big screen and then over and over again on DVD, or however kids watch movies these days. I also want other young kids who don’t look like the new Ariel to appreciate her for who she is and look beyond her skin color. Ariel is a mermaid. She’s not real, so she can look however she and her creators please. I can’t understand all the backlash I’ve been seeing on social media for Disney’s casting decision.

The only question I have is, why did we have to remake a Disney movie in order to have a black lead? Black girls are worthy of and deserve their own stories, not remakes of other stories. It took Disney years to create their first black princess, and Tiana from “The Princess and the Frog” is amazing. Plus, it’s an all-around good movie with Paris being a mermaid that was new territory for Disney. Three years after Tiana, we finally had Merida. At some points, Disney has certainly lacked, or been very slow, in the representation category.

So while I’m ecstatic for the representation the new Ariel will bring, I do wish Disney would be telling a new story with Halle Bailey instead of replacing another one. They have a creativity problem, with most of their recent movies being sequels or remakes anyway. Disney is taking a step in the right direction, but is it enough?

I still want to see myself represented more, and that’s why I firmly believe that if you want to see something, you have to create it. I’d love to see more movies or television dramas about journalists (redheads too), because that’s who I am, and who knows, maybe I’ll get to create some one day. But I do not think I will replace or recreate anyone or anything to do it.

In short, I’m excited for the new “The Little Mermaid.” I’m hoping they give Ariel red hair, even if the actress isn’t a natural redhead. Have you seen Ariel’s hair in the cartoon? It definitely comes from a bottle. Or magic. Because, again, she’s not real, and we can and should enjoy the new “The Little Mermaid” for what it is, and it is a work of fiction, a fairy tale for children. Let’s stop creating false problems, such as fixating on fictional characters, and start fixing real ones in the world.

Amanda Larch can be contacted at larch15@marshall.edu.

Halle Bailey arrives at the world premiere of “The Lion King” on Tuesday, July 9, 2019, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

RED’S READS: ‘Interview with the Vampire’

By AMANDA LARCH
MANAGING EDITOR

Turning into bats? Skin that sparkles in the sunlight? Transylvania? While “Interview with the Vampire” by Anne Rice doesn’t have any of these things, it’s still an amazing vampire novel. But in order to read it, you have to get rid of all your preconceived notions, ideas and stereotypes about vampires. Buckle up, because “Interview” is nothing like “Dracula” or “Twilight.”

Let’s get right to it. This novel is unlike any narrative book I’ve read. The whole story, as the title suggests, is a vampire telling his story via an interview. As a journalist, I both love and hate this concept. Almost the entire book is in quotes, as the vampire Louis is recounting his life story to an unnamed interviewer. How did this interview happen? Well, the novel never explains. Get used to it, because this novel hardly explains anything you want to.

So, as Louis explains in his long-winded, wordy way, he became a vampire in the year 1791, at age 25, outside of New Orleans at his plantation, Pointe du Lac. By the way, in the present when Louis is talking with the interviewer, it’s about 1976. Grieving after the death of his brother, Louis longs for death, and death comes to him in the form of the vampire Lestat. Lestat has been watching Louis and chooses him to be his fledgling vampire companion. At first, Louis is indifferent, and the reader must wonder, did Louis really take the time to think this through?

After experiencing the excruciating transformation into becoming a vampire, Louis is immediately starkly different than Lestat. Charming, smooth talking Lestat has a dark side, while quiet, shy Louis can’t even bring himself to feed on humans. (Yes, vampires still do drink blood in this book.) Lestat is interested in Louis’ money, and all Louis is interested in is learning more about his kind, with Lestat being no help at all.

After a devastating fire, the details of which I won’t get into, the two vampires realize they must leave the plantation and head into the heart of the city. Here comes the next big plot point: while wandering through New Orleans one night, Louis stumbles across a young girl and her mother. Upon further examination, Louis discovers the mother has died from the plague, and the girl is too young to comprehend her death. Desperate and emotional, Louis drinks the child’s blood and flees. Lestat, always the devilish type lurk in the shadows, discovers that Louis did not kill the girl when he fed. After a few days, Lestat takes Louis to an orphanage where the girl is staying. They convince the Overseers that they are her relatives and take her away.

Once back in their townhouse, Lestat convinces Louis to turn the young girl, Claudia, into a vampire. Louis begins but cannot finish the task; Lestat takes over, and the vampire
PROHIBITION cont. from 2

Furthermore, in Charlotte, North Carolina, when the city implemented significantly more permanent supportive housing units, nights spent in jail by formerly homeless residents decreased by nearly 90 percent. The drastic decrease saved Charlotte nearly $2.5 million in just two years.

“Making it unlawful to ask for money has not changed the fact that people lack access to the resources they need and deserve,” Loree Stark, legal director for the WV ACLU, said. “Municipalities should take these unconstitutional laws off the books and instead work with community members in pursuit of constructive solutions to alleviate poverty and homelessness.”

Aaron Llewellyn, a member of Huntington’s On the Streets Committee, said those who panhandle have the same priorities as other citizens, and the city’s prohibition of soliciting and criminalization of poverty are mostly counterproductive in terms of genuinely combatting crime and homelessness.

“Most people do not enjoy having to panhandle. We do it because we need to,” Llewellyn said. “Most of the time, people are just trying to pay rent, pay a bill or keep from resorting to more desperate means.”

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PROTEST cont. from 5

“Can you imagine anything more terrible than a child kicking and screaming, being taken away from their parents’ arms to be caged?” Brumfield asked. “What if it was your child trapped in there?”

Amie Maynard, another of the Huntington protestors, said the detention centers seem to be more like concentration camps.

“It reminds us of the concentration camps in WW2 for Japanese people in the U.S.,” Maynard said. “It’s something we thought we’d never see again in this country, and I never thought I’d see something like this in my lifetime. It is extremely disturbing.”

Maynard said too many people have a misconception that immigration is bad for the country and that immigrants have a negative impact on regular working people, such as by taking away potential job opportunities.

“It is really interesting to see how this is playing with Trump’s base and how they are being manipulated,” Maynard said. “These people [being detained] are powerless. They are not coming in and taking anyone’s jobs. It’s the people with real power making all our lives more difficult.”

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READS cont. from 9

Claudia is born. On top of all his other emotional problems, now Louis must deal with being partially responsible for bringing a vampire child into the world.

At first, the three vampires are happy. They enjoy the world and all the culture and human blood it has to offer. But one day Claudia becomes unhappy; she realizes she’ll never grow up and become a woman. She’s trapped in a child’s body forever, though her mind has matured. She takes her anger out on Lestat, and she plans to kill him. Good, sweet Louis tries to intervene, but he realizes he cannot stop Claudia. Plus, he’s felt resentment toward Lestat for years because Lestat would never give him the answers he sought. As a reader, I was looking for these answers as well, such as where did vampires come from, how many are there, etc.

Flash forward. Louis and Claudia have left New Orleans behind and are headed for Europe on a ship. What happened to Lestat you might wonder? I don’t have the space to answer...you’re just going to have to read it yourself. So, once in Europe, the pair are on a mission to discover other vampires. You must understand, they’ve never met another one besides Lestat, and the world can feel empty when you’re mostly alone, without others like you.

The last half of the book is definitely the best. All I’ll say is yes, Louis and Claudia discover other vampires, but again, you have to find out the juicy details for yourself. A lot happens, and Louis eventually returns to his beloved New Orleans, although he is much changed. He no longer searches for answers; that light in him has died. He received some answers, but they did not satisfy him, and the cost was almost more than he could bear. And that is the end of his story. There’s so much more I can tell you, but they would all be major spoilers.

“Interview with the Vampire” made me fall in love with reading again; it made me feel excited to keep reading. Though some parts of the book were boring or too drawn out, it’s a great story. It’s my favorite vampire novel without a doubt. And there are sequels! “Interview” is the first in the series, and I’m told the books following only get better from here.

This novel has it all. Fascinating characters, mystical elements and an intriguing storyline. It combines elements of vampire lore while at the same time creating new myths. It’s heartfelt and raw and emotional. I couldn’t think of a better narrator to tell his story because Louis is the most human-like vampire; he never lost his human nature or heart. This is a classic tale that deserves a place on every serious reader’s bookshelf.

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COUNSELORS cont. from 5

Majher grew up in Huntington and graduated from Marshall with degrees in fine arts and psychology and a master’s in education. He spent a few years substitute teaching and found that he wanted to pursue psychology after speaking with school counselors, he said.

“It was when I was substitute teaching in the school districts over in Ashland, I would see therapists coming in and out, and I would talk to school psychologists in and out,” Majher said. “It’s how I got my love for mental health: going down one route and discovering something else.”

Shaffer and Majher have worked in K-12 schools practicing with all age ranges, but both said they also enjoy working with adults. While counselors are currently working with walk-in students at the Counseling Center, they will begin accepting regular appointments in the fall.

Majher said he is excited both to bring his experience to Marshall and to continue learning more as he goes.

“I hope to bring not only my expertise, but I also want to bring a sense of fun,” Majher said. “I hope to also further expand my knowledge. I love learning [and] becoming a better clinician. There’s always room for improvement.”

Both mental health specialists have experience in family counseling, grief counseling and more. Majher also has trauma experience and has specialized in transgender transitioning.

Both Shaffer and Majher also said they want students to know everyone working in the counseling center is there to help them.

“It can be overwhelming and intimidating to talk about our feelings,” Shaffer said, “but if you just give it a chance, it can be really beneficial.”

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Don’t forget to tune in Thursdays in fall for our podcast!
Yoga EQ teaches new approaches to Marshall counselors

By MICHAELA CRITTENDEN
LIFE EDITOR

Mental health is a complex issue and people have developed many approaches to the issues. Marshall University mental health professionals learned a new approach to addressing and helping students with emotions.

“Yoga EQ (Yoga for Emotional Intelligence) is an embodied Social Emotional Learning program that shows students how to address tough emotional situations, process these experiences, and relate to their peers,” Jeannie Harrison, founder and director of the Karma Yoga Institute and creator of Yoga EQ, said.

Nine mental health professionals participated in the six-hour training which included information on basic grounding techniques.

“We learned about basic grounding, breathing and emotional recognition techniques,” Candace Layne, director of Marshall Counseling Center, said.

A few counselors said they were happy to participate in the training and excited to use the new yoga poses they learned on campus.

“I am a big fan of yoga, but it was nice to learn how to apply it in my own practice as a counselor,” Stephanie Shaffer, a new Marshall counselor said. “I liked how instead of focusing on yoga form and trying to make sure you’re doing it right, this training focused on the mental health aspects and benefits of yoga. This was very interesting and allowed me to broaden my understanding of using yoga for overall mental and physical health.”

“The Yoga EQ training was an incredible recourse to pass along to others,” counselor Nikki Barr said. “Many use Yoga for mindfulness and grounding and the EQ just gives another layer of emotional intelligence and I also loved how this can be implemented with any and all ages.”

Counselor Ryan Majher said he was happy to relearn yoga poses he had forgotten from his youth.

“The training was exciting and fun, and I cannot wait to begin applying it in my work,” Layne said. “We’re going to continue to take different trainings. We took one on eating disorders we took last year, to keep up with the trends and offer more options for a larger variety of students.

“We want to offer various approaches and a variety of techniques helps various different groups of people so we want to make sure we stay up on the new trend on mental health,” Layne said. “We’re going to continue to take different trainings. We took one on eating disorders we took last year, to keep up with the trends and offer more options for a larger variety of students.”

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Seizing the opportunity offered by Marshall University to travel led second-year graduate student Bethany Buckner to Havana, Cuba, to study Latin American history.

“I have always been interested in going to Cuba,” Buckner said. “My interest was heightened after spending a semester in Puerto Rico as an undergraduate student, where I learned much about colonialism and imperialist policies, particularly those of the U.S. I knew the U.S.-Cuban relationship has always been complicated, and I knew that there would be a chance that I couldn’t always travel to Cuba, so I decided to take advantage of the opportunity while I could.”

Buckner has travelled with Marshall before as an undergraduate, though it wasn’t to Cuba.

“I had not been to Cuba before, but I knew I wanted to continue to study abroad even as a graduate student,” Buckner said. “Cuba just happened to be my choice of location at the time.”

While studying Latin American history in Cuba, Buckner visited cities near Havana, such as Trinidad, Cienfuegos, Santa Clara and Viñales.

“Trinidad is a small village located near an old sugar plantation with incredible cobblestone streets,” Buckner said. “Cienfuegos is the youngest city on the island and was very welcoming. Santa Clara is the city where Cuban Revolutionary Che Guevara is entombed, and Viñales is a mountain village with incredible mountain views, only second to West Virginia in my eyes.”

Buckner also said she did a variety of sight-seeing during the 15 days she was there.

“Art museums and artists’ homes were stopping points of ours; we even visited the home of Cuban hip-hop group Obsesión,” Buckner said. This duo’s music has been crucial to promoting African heritage in Cuba. When we weren’t adventuring, we spent a lot of our time at our home-stays reading and writing reflections for the coursework. Toward the end of our trip, a small group of the students in the program (there were thirteen in total) found an outdoor cafe that we visited three nights in a row. We used it as our homework stop and there we prepared for our final presentations.”

At night, the students stayed in private bed and breakfasts, located in the homes of local residents of each city they visited.

“The process for registering and becoming a bed and breakfast location can be tedious, and I believe that currently the Cuban government is no longer accepting applications for that process,” Buckner said.

Buckner said her favorite part involved something that hit closer to home.

“Visiting a farm-restaurant in the mountain region that was self-sustaining and finding out that they had Appalachian plants in their garden was the best part,” Buckner said.

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