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## The Parthenon, February 12, 1981

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# THE PARTHENON

Marshall University

Huntington, WVa. 25701

Thursday, February 12, 1981

Vol. 80 No. 77

## Advisory board concept criticized

By Davana Farris

A bill expected to be introduced in the 1981 session of the West Virginia Legislature could present a potential danger to the integrity of Marshall University, an MU faculty member said.

Dr. Walter C. Felty, chairman of the Department of Educational Media, spoke against the establishment of advisory boards for each of the state supported colleges and universities.

His comments came in an interview after State Delegate Patricia Hartman, D-Cabell, addressed a general faculty meeting Tuesday afternoon in Old Main Auditorium. Among the items discussed by Hartman was the legislation that includes advisory boards.

Felty said people from outside the university who do not fully understand colleges and universities would have a major say in the operation of higher education and institutions in the state. The bill would establish advisory boards with five of the nine members being lay people.

Hartman said the advisory board idea was the result of a study by the Academy of Educational Development. The AED was hired by the legislature as consultants to study higher education in the state.

Hartman said the AED report indicated that some of the state's institutions were not responsive to the needs of

the people. The development of the boards with persons outside of academics is seen as a way of being more responsive.

Felty said while some institutions may not meet these needs, Marshall University does.

"More freedom and more flexibility are needed in universities, not more uniformity," Felty said. "With people outside the academic world, there is a tendency to think we should be an 'academic factory.'"

The bill was introduced last year with only four lay members, but the Board of Regents suggested the number be increased to five placing the power of the board in the hands of non-academic people, Hartman said.

Hartman said the legislature was not sure what to call the boards.

"It should be called a supervisory board because it would give absolute authority to the board," Felty said. "They would be able to look at anything and all we do at MU."

Hartman also expressed her support for summer school funding becoming an integral part of legislation. She said she couldn't say where higher education would rank on the legislative priorities.

"Out of the 36 new members in the legislature, 12 of those will serve on the House Education Committee and I don't know what their priorities are."



Topping it off

Derek McDaniel, Waynesboro, Va. senior, celebrates the grand opening of Top It Off. The Top It Off store is a project of the Marshall Distributive Education Club of America. The store, in the Memorial Student Center, is open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. --Photo by Toad Meek.

## Confidence, sensitivity -- qualities for RAs

By Julie Yantz

Self confidence, enthusiasm, leadership ability, understanding of university policies, sensitivity to others, emotional stability... and the list goes on.

These are just a few of the qualities interviewers will be looking for in selecting residence hall advisers for the fall term.

RAs will be selected by the RA Selection Committee which met this week to

discuss the guidelines which the interviewers will follow.

Gary Kimble, area coordinator for residence life said the following eight qualities in an RA are important: knowledge of residence hall living, knowledge of the university's job expectations, understanding of university policies, attitude toward discipline, leadership ability, sensitivity to divergent lifestyles and cultures, understanding of and commitment to programming, and the applicant's

degree of maturity and emotional stability.

"A sensitivity to others and openness toward divergent lifestyles are the characteristics I consider most important," Kimble said.

Interviews are being conducted in teams and are designed to give the interviewers an idea of the applicant's ability to fill the position. An assessment of the applicant's character is made by the team, and the information is given to the residence hall staff.

Similar questions will be asked of all the candidates. Numerical ratings are given to applicants at the end of their interviews.

To aid them in their assessment of the applicants, members of the RA Selection Committee were shown a film entitled "How to Interview." Each member of the committee was also given printed guidelines of questions which may or may not be asked.

The interviewing process will begin Tuesday night and will be completed Thursday night.

## Senator resigns; 3rd this semester

By Teia K. Hoover

The Student Senate accepted Tuesday the resignation of Mark Ferris, South Charleston freshman. Ferris, whose term ends in April, resigned from his seat in the commuter constituency due to personal conflicts.

The resignation of Ferris brings the total loss of senators to three for the semester. Cristian Gibson, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, sophomore left his seat in the residence hall constituency in early January due to conflicts between his duties as a senator and track practice. A full-time job was the reason for the resignation of Dave Angle, Hunting-

ton sophomore, from his seat in the commuter constituency.

"It's becoming a realization that it's going to take a lot of time to do the work that needs to be done," Marc E. Williams, Huntington junior, said, "and some senators have chosen to get out."

Applications to fill the vacancy left by Ferris in the commuter constituency will be accepted until 4 p.m. Feb. 17 in the Memorial Student Center Room 2W29.

Meanwhile, members of the senate elected Sen. Charles R. "Rusty" Webb, Madison sophomore, to fill the position of Sergeant-at-Arms left vacant by Angle's resignation.

In other business, the senate passed a resolution requesting that the Physical Facilities and Planning Committee make arrangements to have signs stating that "West Virginia Law Prohibits Smoking on Elevators" placed in elevators in the academic buildings and residence halls on campus. "I'm disgusted with riding elevators with people who smoke," Webb said.

The first issue of the student body newsletter will be distributed on March 2. This newsletter will be a bi-weekly paper which will contain activities of the Student Government as well as other events which are taking place on campus.

## THURSDAY

### Outside...

Today's weather forecast calls for sunny skies with only a 10 percent chance of precipitation throughout the day and tonight, according to the National Weather Service at Tri-State Airport. The high today will be in the upper 20s with the lows tonight near 15 degrees. Sunny skies are also expected for Friday with highs in the upper 30s.

# Theft, destruction mar Hodges Hall

By Glenn Hartway

Vandalism in Hodges Hall Saturday night cost from \$500 to \$750 in damages to building fixtures.

"It seems there was a party going on the third floor that night," said Resident Director of Hodges Hall, Tony Murphy. "Somebody, whether from the party or not, we're not sure, started destroying all kinds of things around the dorm."

"All kinds of things" includes a mar-

ble partition in one of the bathrooms, the glass to five fire alarm pull stations, an exit light, a ventilation grill, a window to someone's room, a stairwell window and an exit door window.

Murphy said an investigation is under way.

Missing from the dorm were four fire bells and three fire extinguishers, according to Director of Student Housing, Ray Welty.

# Specialized programs said enrollment answer

By Lori Consaul

An increase in specialized programs to meet the needs of the region is the answer to the predicted decrease in college enrollment by 1983, according to Registrar Robert H. Eddins.

A forty percent decrease in college enrollment is expected nationally, and a 16 percent decrease is expected for West Virginia according to the "Final Report of the Carnegie Council on Policies and Studies in Higher Education."

These decreases will continue through the 1980s and level off by the early 1990s. Zero population growth is

mainly responsible for this decrease. A predicted "baby boom" during the early 1990s is expected to bring enrollment back up by 2010 according to the report. Even though enrollment has continued to increase at Marshall, Eddins said, it would begin to stabilize because of smaller high school class graduation figures.

Educators should not panic and hastily dismantle programs because of this decrease. Instead, educators should keep in mind the predicted surge of available college students by the year 2010, Dr. Alan B. Gould, dean, College of Liberal Arts said.

# Inclement weather slows work on communications system

By Bart Norris

Trenches, mud, gravel, mud, rickety boards, mud. The installation of Marshall's underground communication system could be reminiscent of World War I.

The system's installation was started last semester, which seemed to be a good time to tie all the buildings together, according to Vice President of Administration, Karl J. Egnatoff. The system was to have been completed by the middle of January, but cold temperatures and freezing grounds halted the progress. The company doing the work, A & R Construction of Parkersburg, counted on the semester break to finish the work.

The cold reduced the construction company's work to just filling up existing holes. If the ground would thaw, the work could be completed in a week

to ten days. The company estimates one week of above freezing temperatures should be enough to permit work to begin again. They are under no penalty for the delay, as it was due to an act of God.

The system will link all of Marshall's buildings. The network of trenches will contain three conduits, which will house cables for the computer system, closed circuit television, and a spare in case of an in-line malfunction of the other two. The computer system will provide for a terminal in each building, and the closed circuit television will provide viewing in more classrooms than are presently available. Provisions for the future are also being made.

Manholes are being strategically located to accommodate any new buildings constructed with a linkage to the system, according to Egnatoff.

# Selective service registration running smoothly in Huntington after initial rush

By Steve Adams

Selective service registration in the Huntington area is running smoothly after an initial rush quit in 1980, according to Huntington's Selective Service representative.

"We have not had any problems since the registration has been started again," Pam S. Hensley, Selective Service coordinator for the Huntington area, said. "Right after the program began, we had a great number of people registered but now things are very slow."

The program started again in 1980 by the United States Congress, requiring young men to register with the post office within 30 days of the 18th birthday. All men born in the years of 1960, and 1961 were required to register dur-

ing 1980 causing an initial rush at the post office.

The reinstatement of the selective service system has drawn some criticism nationally but not with the Huntington officials.

"We really have never had any problems in Huntington," Hensley said.

Once a young man has registered, his information is sent to the Selective Service System national headquarters in Washington, D.C. Although no figures are kept in Huntington, Hensley believes the majority of those required have registered without incident.

"The Selective Service in Washington would handle any problems regarding failure to register," Hensley said. "I don't believe we have had any problems in this area, because we have not had incidents in Huntington."

# MUB WEEKLY SPECIALS



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### Rose Milk Lotion

8 oz. \$1.95  
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### Stresstabs

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### Thermos Blanket Warm and Cozy

Full Reg. \$10.50  
Sale \$6.99  
Twin Reg. \$6.30  
Sale \$3.99

### MU Desk Pad Calendar

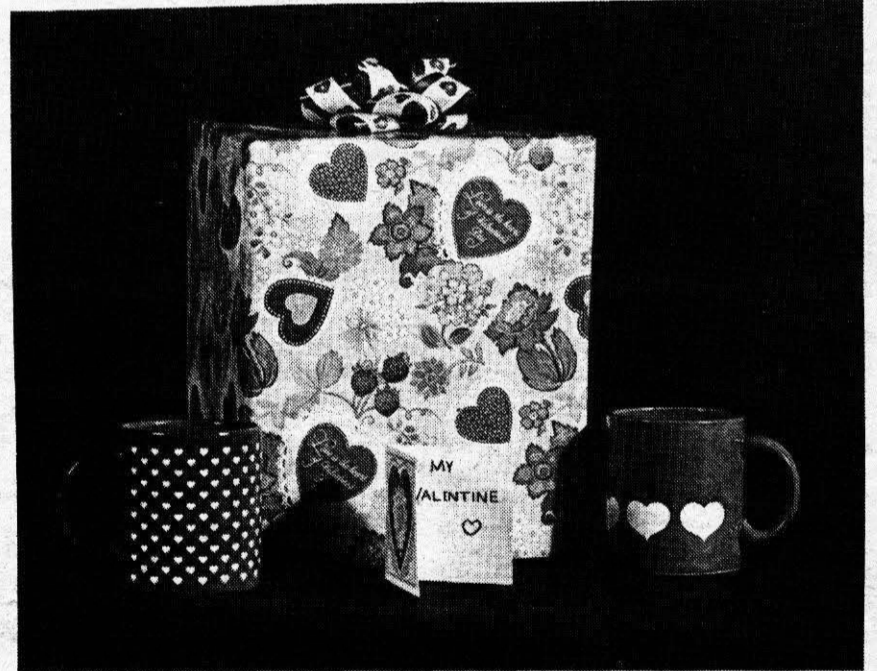
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# Arson suspected, 8 dead in Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS, Nev. AP — In a fiery flashback to the inferno that killed 84 people at the MGM Grand Hotel less than three months ago, four fires — all believed set by arsonists — sent suffocating smoke billowing through the giant Las Vegas Hilton. The toll Wednesday stood at eight dead and 198 injured.

Unlike the killer MGM Grand Hotel fire which claimed 84 lives Nov. 21, "building codes were not a factor in either point of origin or spread of fire," Las Vegas Fire Chief Roy Parrish told reporters.

Parrish said fire hoses on the ninth floor were severed, stuffed with flammable material and set afire.

Hilton Hotels Corp. vice president Henri Lewin offered a \$100,000 reward for information leading to the apprehension of the arsonists.

"This is a homicide investigation. This is a criminal investigation," Gov. Bob List said as hundreds of fire refugees listened outside the Convention Center meeting room where the news conference was held.

Police and hotel security searched all 2,783 rooms in the nation's largest hotel for five hours Wednesday morning, looking under beds and in closets and checking some rooms four times. No additional bodies were found, authorities said.

Seven victims died of smoke inhalation Tuesday night, and the eighth fell or leaped to his death, landing on an outside deck, according to Clark County Coroner Otto Ravenholt.

Among those admitted to hospitals was Natalie Cole, who had sung at the hotel Monday night and was overcome by smoke in her room. Six people were reported in critical condition, including one firefighter.

The main blaze, which gutted the eighth and ninth floors of the hotel's east wing, started at 8:07 p.m. Tuesday. The fire shattered a huge window on the eighth floor and allowed flames to funnel up the side of the hotel, hopping floors all the way to the roof and blackening the outside of the building.

Three smaller fires, on the second, third and ninth floors, were discovered in the same wing within 45 minutes.

Authorities said all the fires were of "suspicious origin."

One of the fires sent a blowtorch of flame up an elevator shaft to the roof where dozens of guests had fled to await rescue by helicopter.

"When we got to the roof, we saw flames coming up the shaft through the building," said Joseph Adolf, a conventioneer from Chicago, who was staying on the 29th floor. "We ran over

to the other side of the roof. When we saw flames there, we started to get nervous."

The first-floor casino was untouched by the blaze. While flames crackled in the floors above, hotel security guards had to shoo some gamblers away from their tables with shouts of "this is definitely the last hand, please."

Above them, guests sprinted to the

roof or scrambled down jammed stairways to the ground floor. Others broke out windows with furniture and screamed for help or lowered themselves to the ground on bedsheets tied together.

Others evacuated quietly from hotel restaurants after announcement of the fire was made over the hotel public address system.

## New business taxes cited in State of State address

(AP) — Gov. Jay Rockefeller said Wednesday that West Virginia "must follow its own course" to continue providing adequate services in an era of federal cutbacks.

Rockefeller, in his fifth State of the State address and first since winning re-election, proposed a number of expanded state programs and two tax increases to finance them.

Rockefeller began his speech with a promise to fight for the interests of business in the state.

He proposed a new tax incentive program for small businesses, and recommended that the bonding authority of the West Virginia Economic Development Authority be increased by \$100 million.

"This kind of help is more vital than ever before," he said.

Rockefeller also proposed a business and occupation tax credit on new wholesale and business development,

and an increase in bonding authority from \$40 million to \$100 million for local sewer and water projects.

The governor acknowledged that these and other expanded programs he is seeking this year are at odds with the current philosophy in Washington under a Republican national administration. But he said he cannot base his plans on "national decisions that take federal help away from our communities."

The governor also said that more help is needed for education, and said he will push for a \$600,000 appropriation to continue summer school programs at the state's colleges and universities.

On highways, he said he will advocate use of some general fund revenues to keep the state's depleted highway fund solvent. The governor also is proposing a \$750 million road bond issue to continue construction programs.

## Legislature opens with 'relaxed camaraderie'

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — The West Virginia Legislature began its 1981 working session on Wednesday in an atmosphere of relaxed camaraderie that belied the serious financial questions facing the state this year.

The scene resembled a light-hearted reunion as lawmakers assembled for the start of work on a lengthy agenda that includes the possibility of a major tax increase.

Senate President Warren McGraw, D-Hardy, called their respective chambers to order shortly after noon. Although the Legislature met briefly in January to elect officers, Wednesday's proceedings marked the start of the actual 60-day working session.

After convening, both House and Senate occupied themselves primarily with the introduction of hundreds of bills. The two chambers then recessed

until a 7 p.m. joint session to hear Gov. Jay Rockefeller's State of the State address.

Lawmakers introduced some 15 proposals for amendments to the state Constitution, including resolution to shorten the legislative session, restore the death penalty and establish a state lottery. Other proposed constitutional amendments would give counties the power to outlaw abortions, and give citizens authority to initiate referenda.

Some of the more major bills introduced Wednesday included measures to limit the number of consecutive years a member of the Legislature could hold office; require prisoners to pay the cost of their imprisonment; make insurance mandatory for drivers; and expand the Department of Public Safety — which includes the state police.

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# FOR THE RECORD

## Financial story is sacrifice for competition

A second nationally ranked Marshall University team is having trouble funding trips to competitions.

The Individual Events team of the speech department receives \$3,000 annually from the university. This amount doesn't begin to cover traveling expenses for the 20-member team.

As a result, the I.E. Team Coach, Dr. Maureen B. Milicia, has personally contributed another \$3,000 to the team, and has put 50,000 miles on her car while transporting team members to tournaments.

Because university buses are not available for all tournaments, team members are sometimes forced to drive all night to reach a competition. They compete without sleeping the night before. And they win.

How well could an athletic team compete under the same circumstances?

The answer is not very well.

Of course, athletes may argue that competing in a speech tournament is not as physically taxing as having your brains beaten out in athletic competition.

Maybe so, but trying to remember lines, keeping the voice steady and looking like you enjoy speaking in front of 100 people is not the easiest thing in the world to do, even after a full night of sleep.

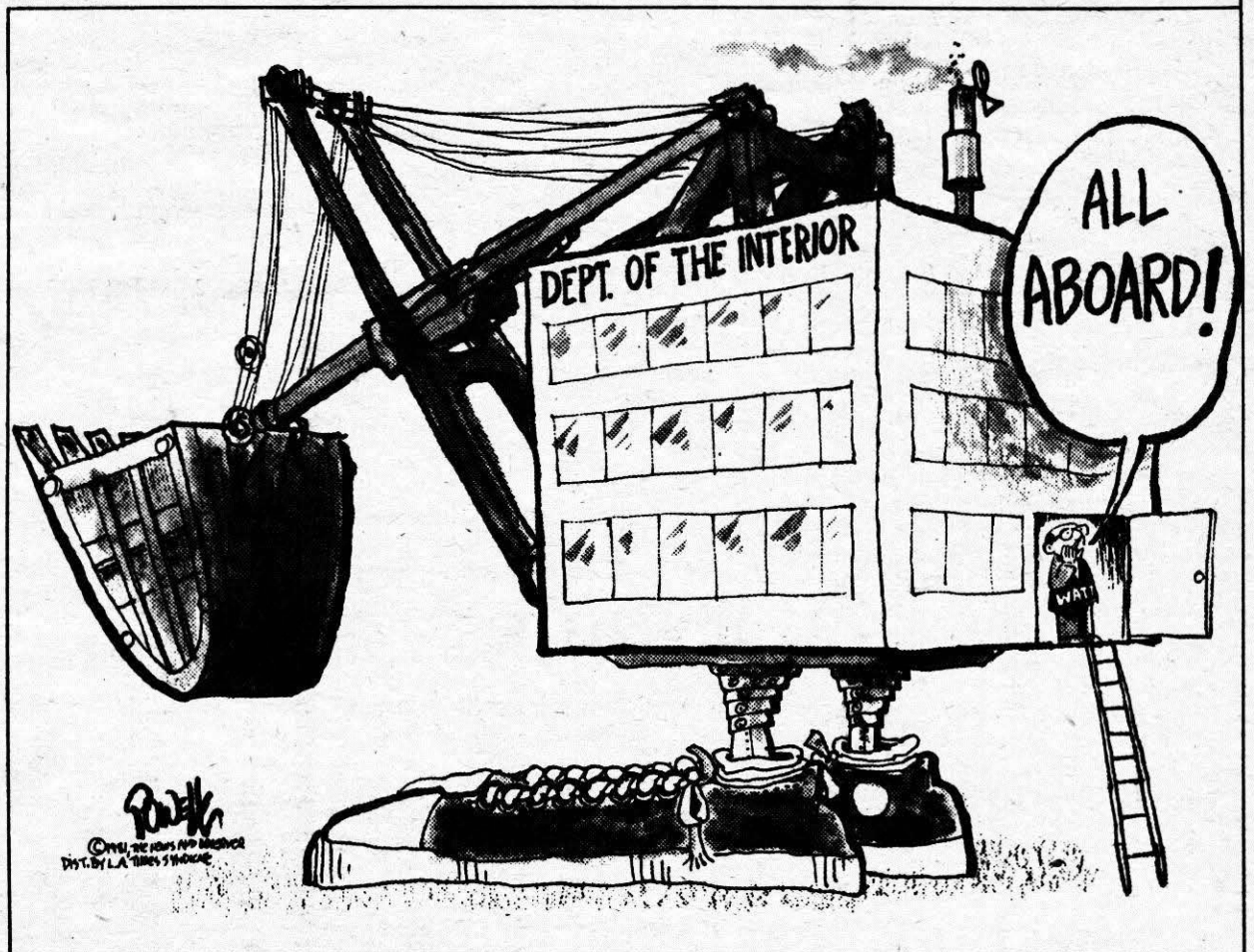
This is just one more example of the unfair allocation of funds that discriminates against university teams which are academically oriented rather than athletically oriented.

How many coaches of athletic teams at this university would sacrifice personal goods to the extent Milicia has, just so the team could compete?

She should be commended for her dedication to the team.

The one irrefutable argument for pouring millions of dollars into athletic programs and granting pittances to teams such as the I.E. team or the College Bowl team is these teams do not bring in any revenue.

True, these teams obviously do not pay for themselves, but wouldn't you think a university would rather be known for nationally ranked academic teams rather than losing athletic teams?



## Atlanta's kids concern me

"It sort of tugs at you, doesn't it," I was asked. "Yes," I replied, "it does." It was the saddest (emotionally speaking) piece of writing I have read in a newspaper in a while. It really makes me wonder what the world is coming to. For those of you who did not have a chance to read yesterday's Herald-Dispatch, I would like to share with you this piece that appeared on the H-D's front page, as submitted by The Associated Press.

**"Dear Mr. Murderer,**

**"I am the age child you are killing. Being a kid isn't so bad but I want the chance to grow up.**

**"Please stop hurting us so we wont be afraid to play out.**

**"I am sorry if somebody hurt you or was mean to you when you were a kid but if you like killing kids and it makes you feel good and happy then you could be sick or something and there are people who could help you.**

**"I wont sign this letter to you and I will get my mom to mail it a long way from where I live so you wont hurt me or my friends.**

**"I hope you read this and stop killing little children please, and turn yourself in."**

This open letter was written by a 10-year-old Atlanta youth pleading for the killer of 15 black children in Atlanta to surrender to authorities.

For 18 months, the killer has roamed Atlanta killing children. For 18 months, he has evaded authorities, who appear too impotent in their investigation. For 18 months, the bodies have been found, and now two more youths are missing.

Murder, no matter who is involved, is gruesome. And this is not the first mass murder to which we have been exposed. But, the mass killing of children has more of an impact on us, which is difficult to explain.

It's strange that we accept murder as part of living in today's society. I find it even more strange that we accept the murder of adults

**DAVID  
KOSAR**



without much feeling. Why is it that the killing of children moves us more emotionally than that of adults?

One of the answers may be because of the innocence of children. They have yet to live their lives to the fullest, and they're amazing people.

The first time I noticed this emotional impact was in the Coffeehouse last semester. ABC's "20-20" was doing a feature about the murders in Atlanta.

At the end of the feature, we decided to visit a few tables and find out why the sudden interest. Most of the comments were the same. There was something about the killing of children that had stirred those watching. We also discovered that those who watched discussed the matter in detail, at least, as in detail as possible with the information the media had reported.

Many thoughts were shared by all, but the most common were...why...and...what is becoming of people today?

And even now, the same questions and the same thoughts are with us. Why the killing of 15 children in Atlanta? What is driving the murderers to do this? What are we coming to? Have we degenerated and decayed so far, that this is now a fact of life?

## CORRECTION

In the Feb. 11 editorial, "New center will raise student fees," the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Department is asking for the \$4 intramural increase not the Athletic Department.

## THE PARTHENON

**Editor Pam Munday**  
**Managing Editor Kathy Curkendall**  
**Adviser Terry Kerns**  
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**BACCHUS stayed**

The BACCHUS (Boost Alcohol Conciousness Concerning the Health of University Students) meeting previously scheduled for 9:15 a.m. Wednesday has been postponed to 9:15 p.m. Monday Memorial Student Center Room 2W22.

**Officials needed**

Anyone who enjoys sports and has a basic knowledge of the rules, may officiate either indoor or outdoor soccer, men's flag football or women's softball. All officials will be paid an undetermined fee.

Soccer will be the first sport to begin play, starting the week after spring break with the other two sports following.

Anyone interested or needing more information may call supervisor of officials Steve Bowles at 522-9544 or the Intramural Office at 696-6477.

**Basketball tickets available**

By Alan D. Williams

Student tickets are available at the ticket office for the two remaining home games, Joe W. Wortham, ticket office manager, said.

The Herd will play at 3:30 p.m. Saturday in the Cabell County Memorial Field House against University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. WSAZ-TV, channel 3, will televise the game. The field house doors will open at 2:30 p.m.

The Green Gals will follow Herd action beginning at about 6 p.m. Saturday against Kent State.

The Herd will play its last regular home game at 7 p.m. Monday against Liberty Baptist, following a 5 p.m. Green Gals game against Virginia Tech.

Information for Southern Conference Tournament tickets has not been released by the tournament directors, Wortham said. The Herd will have to finish in the top four to host one of the elimination games, Wortham said.

Students need to present student IDs and activity cards to obtain tickets. The ticket office is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**Prof to discuss mind changes**

Hayne W. Reese, professor of psychology at West Virginia University, will speak about life span changes in human memory and intelligence at noon Friday Room 134 Harris Hall.

Reese, an expert in the field of child development, will discuss changes in memory and intelligence from early

childhood to old age, according to Dr. William Schneiderman, professor of psychology.

Reese is the author of numerous articles and books concerning child development and is one of the editors of the series "Journal of Experimental Child Psychology."

**ALMANAC**

**ALMANAC: GREEKS**

Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority will sponsor a "Valentines Ball" from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Saturday in the Uptowner Inn Ballroom. Tickets are \$3 per person or \$5 for couples. Information is available by calling 525-8584 after 5 p.m.

Delta Zeta sorority will have a "Garden of Roses" preference party today at 7 p.m.

Phi Mu sorority will have a "Gala Celebration" party at 9 p.m. today.

**MEETINGS**

The Campus Crusade for Christ will have a meeting at 7 p.m. today in Corbly Hall Room 117. The topic will be "How to Choose a Mate."

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—Joel Siegel, WABC-TV



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# SPORTS '81

## Charleston bids to host SC tourney

By Steve Adams

The Southern Conference basketball tournament location could be moving north to Charleston as early as next season.

The conference tournament has been held at the Roanoke Civic Center in Roanoke, Va., for the past five seasons with Virginia Military Institute serving as the host. Attendance at the semifinals and championship rounds has declined over the past three seasons, as the Keydets have failed to advance to the final two rounds of the tournaments.

Last season, the tournament drew 5,242 for the semi-final round as Marshall defeated Appalachian State and Furman downed East Tennessee State. In the championship game, Furman beat Marshall before a crowd of 4,798 in the 11,000-seat civic center.

With the opening of the 12,000-seat Charleston Civic Center Coliseum and the wide fan support of Marshall compared to the other conference members, a matter of economics may dictate the move to Charleston.

"To my understanding the Junior League of Women's Clubs in Huntington and Charleston have come up with a proposal to host the tournament in Charleston," Dr. Lynn J. Snyder, director of athletics, said. "This will be presented to the conference at the spring meeting at Appalachian State in April."

At this meeting, league officials will likely decide between returning the tournament to Roanoke or making the move to Charleston.

"If the people of Charleston and Huntington would turn out and support the tournament then it would probably be a good move," Western Carolina coach Steve Cottrell said. "In Roanoke we have always taken a back seat to the Atlantic Coast Conference Tournament and we need to get more exposure and support for our tournament."

Most coaches in the league tend to prefer a central location for the tournament, with Asheville and Charlotte, N.C., being mentioned most often. Yet, so far, it appears only Charleston and Roanoke are likely to bid for next season's tournament.

"Charlotte would be an ideal location," Furman coach Eddie Holbrook said. "But the tournament has to go somewhere it will be supported strongly. We sure have not had that in Roanoke and we need to find it somewhere," Holbrook said.

Marshall has led the Southern Conference in attendance each of the four seasons the Thundering Herd has been in the league. A move to Charleston would allow the tournament to draw on Marshall's strong following and yet not give the Herd a complete home-court advantage.

## Gals face Morehead

The women's basketball team will journey to Morehead, Ky., today to face the Lady Eagles at 5 p.m. for the second time in the 1980-81 schedule.

The Gals will then challenge the Lady Hokies from Virginia Tech in Memorial Field House at 5 p.m. Saturday.

## Reds could sputter, if ...

By Brice Wallace

Trouble with an important cog could cause the Big Red Machine to sputter this season, Marty Brenneman and Joe Nuxhall, radio announcers for the Cincinnati Reds, said.

Brenneman said Johnny Bench's request to catch only two days a week and play in the field the rest of the time has already had adverse effects on other players.

The announcers responded to questions from an audience Tuesday in the Memorial Student Center Multi-Purpose Room after showing a baseball film. The event was sponsored by Budweiser and the travel and recreation committee.

"George Foster has spoken out, saying Bench is being selfish,"

Brenneman said. "Ken Griffey has gotten bent out of shape. But I can't see Bench beating out Ray Knight at third base, Foster in left field, Dan Driessen at first base or Griffey in right field. He may not get enough occasions to start as much as he wants."

"Catching has taken a toll on him physically, especially the way he plays," Nuxhall said. "He plants his feet to block the plate against runners crashing into him. I understand his feelings, but he's paid to catch. And his handling of young pitchers, like Joe Price and Bruce Berenyi, has brought them along very quickly."

Brenneman added that the Reds tried to trade for catcher Terry Kennedy from the St. Louis Cardi-

nals, but the deal fell through. Jim Sundberg, catcher for the Texas Rangers, was never really available as trade material, but the Reds would like to get him, Brenneman said.

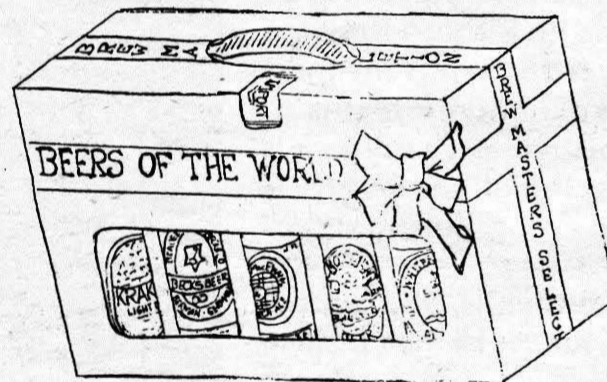
Brenneman said he thinks the Reds are a better team now than they were at this time last year. He said the bench, a liability to past Reds teams, is very strong, since the Reds now have outfielder Mike Vail (via a trade with Chicago), outfielder-first baseman Larry Biittner (via free agency) and perhaps Bench available as pinch-hitters.

"Teams will give us more respect during the late innings of the games now with a good bench," Brenneman said.

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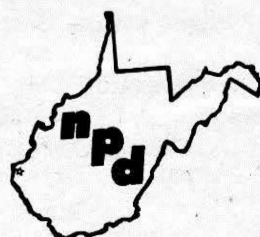
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# 'No place like home'

By Steve Adams

There is no place like home. Especially for Southern Conference basketball teams.

The home team won 42 of the league's 55 conference games, through Tuesday, for a percentage of .763. Even more alarming to Southern Conference coaches is the top seven teams, all still in contention for the regular-season championship and battling for a finish in the top four to be able to host a first-round conference tournament game, are 39-5 while playing at home this

season.

"Obviously everyone plays with more confidence at home," Marshall assistant basketball coach C.J. Woollum said. "But for the ratio of home versus away to be as high as 88 percent is just incredible. You have to worry if the officials are not being intimidated by the crowds."

Of the seven teams in contention for the title, not one has lost more than one conference game at home, while none has won more than two games on the road.

"Most of the gyms in our league are small," Woollum said. "In that type of situation it is tough enough for the visiting team to come in and play without

being intimidated by the crowd. It is the job of the officials to make sure the home teams do not get any additional advantages, to add onto the ones they have already.

While some fans may believe the home versus away difference is due to balance, Woollum does not agree.

"There are several major conferences which have balance from top to bottom," Woollum said. "But those leagues are not predictable like ours is, when teams are equal they could have an equal chance of winning at home or away. In our league, you can almost bet if a team is at home they are going to win."

The Thundering Herd dropped two

road conference games this past weekend, losing at East Tennessee 76-75 and 80-78 to Western Carolina, dropping its Southern Conference road mark to 1-5. Marshall posted a 4-1 mark in non-conference road games.

"The losses were certainly heart-breakers," Woollum said. "But it was also distressing at East Tennessee to lose David Wade, Ken Labanowski, and Larry Watson on fouls when their two big men (George Underwood and Charles Thaxton) had but one foul between them."

Another interesting twist to the Southern Conference race, is the more victories a team has, the less home games they have remaining.

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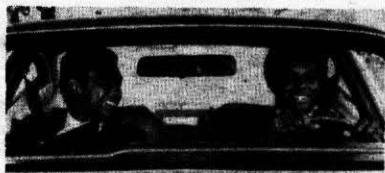
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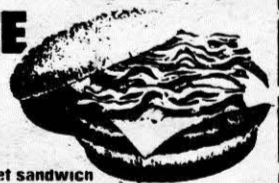


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