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Tuesday
March 19, 1991

MARSHALL UNIVERSITY

THE PARTHENON

Volume 91
Number 85

Group begins to interview search finalists

By Kevin D. Melrose
Managing Editor

Presidential candidate interviews, which began this weekend at the Radisson Hotel, will continue Saturday, according to the search committee spokesman.

C.T. Mitchell, director of university relations, said five of the remaining eight candidates met informally with Presidential Search Committee members during individual interviews.

Among the finalists for the position left vacant Aug. 10 by Dr. Dale F. Nitzschke are two current university presidents and the vice president for institutional advancement at Marshall.

The remaining candidates are:

•Dr. Edward G. Boehm, Jr., Marshall's vice president for institutional advancement. Boehm, a native of Washington, D.C., came to Marshall last year from Texas Christian University. Boehm was out of town and could not be reached for comment.

•Dr. Bruce H. Carpenter, president of Eastern Montana College in Billings, Mont. Carpenter, who received his Ph.D. in botany from the University of Southern California at Los Angeles, was provost of Western Illinois University before going to EMC in 1982. Carpenter could not be reached for comment.

•Dr. Houston G. Elam, senior fellow and consultant with the American Association of State Colleges and Universities and former president of The State Colleges in Colorado. Elam could not be reached for comment.

•Dr. H. George Frederickson, president emeritus of Eastern Washington University, and currently the Edwin O. Stene professor of public administration at the University of Kansas, Lawrence.

Frederickson said Monday he enjoyed his weekend visit to Huntington and, if

See SEARCH, Page 6

Breathing easier



Photo by Jim LeFev

Fraternalities play volleyball Sunday afternoon on the intramural field as part of Alpha Xi Delta sorority's Breathe-E-Xi-Week. The volleyball tournament continues today at 2:30 p.m. Other events will include an obstacle course wheelbarrow race and a "jail break."

Student's preliminary hearing Friday

Dunfee remains in jail on wounding charges

By Steven J. Keith
Editor

The preliminary hearing is scheduled for a 20-year-old student arrested and charged last Friday with the malicious wounding of his parents.

J. Scott Dunfee, Huntington junior, remained in the Cabell County Jail Monday, a jail official said.

According to police reports, Dunfee allegedly attacked his parents with a hunting knife and sledgehammer while

they were sleeping early Friday morning in their Norwood Road home.

He pleaded innocent Friday afternoon in Cabell County Magistrate Court to two counts of malicious wounding and was arraigned and placed in jail on \$50,000 bond.

Police officials said they still have no motives in the incident.

"We're looking into a lot of different things right now, but nothing definite has come up," said Chief Deputy C.A. Adams of the Cabell County Sheriff's Department. "Everything's still pending."

Cabell County Sheriff Ottie Adkins said, "We've questioned a lot of people

and everyone is still as surprised as when it happened."

Dunfee's parents, Ella Dunfee, 51, and Darrell VanHoose, 49, were upgraded Monday afternoon to stable but satisfactory condition in St. Mary's Hospital, a public relations spokeswoman said.

Both were taken to St. Mary's Friday and previously had been listed in fair and serious conditions respectively.

Adams said VanHoose, an electrician at Owens-Illinois, suffered severe wounds to his stomach and other cuts before being struck at least twice with

See STUDENT, Page 5

Employee's writings First Amendment issue, official says

By Alan P. Pittman
Reporter

University administrators would be on shaky legal ground if they tried to fire library assistant D. G. Glavasic for his "hate speech" writings, according to Robert O'Brien, president of the West Virginia chapter of The American Civil Liberties Union.

"The publication of thoughts is no

basis for terminating employment," O'Brien said.

He said well-established cases have made employers liable if they violate their employees' rights to free speech.

O'Brien cited attempts to regulate hate speech at Michigan and Connecticut universities that have been found unconstitutional.

He said educational institutions need to have a tolerant environment.

"One must recognize tolerance is not synonymous with indifference," he said.

Interim President Alan B. Gould blasted Glavasic's writings last week in a press release distributed throughout campus and asked the Human Rights Commission to assist the university in dealing with the situation.

A Human Rights Commission spokesman said Monday it was premature to comment on the situation because the

agency was still looking into the case.

Dr. William Denman, director of Yeager Scholars program, and past president of the state ACLU, said he discussed the Glavasic situation at great length at the board meeting of the West Virginia Civil Liberties Union this weekend.

Denman said the board is concerned not only with the Glavasic situation

See WRITINGS, Page 5

BRIEFS

IRAQ

Iraqi warplane request shot down by the U.S.

The U.S. Sunday rejected Iraq's request to fly warplanes to put down a rebellion and issued a veiled warning to stay away from allied air operations in Iraqi skies. Also, President Bush said he and Britain want a requirement for supervised destruction of Iraq's chemical and biological weapons included in a U.N. cease-fire resolution to be considered later this week.

WASHINGTON

Better police training may stop rights abuse

Better police training may be needed to stop civil-rights abuses, U.S. Attorney General Dick Thornburgh said. The Justice Department's investigation of brutality complaints will determine any patterns of violations, he said.

Four officers have been arraigned in the taped beating of an L.A. motorist. Charges: assault with a deadly weapon and unnecessarily beating a suspect.

BOSTON

Castro's home videos may grace JFK library

The Boston Herald newspaper said Cuban leader Fidel Castro may provide his videotaped recollections of the 1962 Cuban missile crisis for the John F. Kennedy presidential library.

Michael Kennedy, nephew of the assassinated president, reportedly suggested the idea to Castro during a January meeting in Havana.

209th medical unit still active in Gulf

By Shawn Hubbell
College Information Network

KUWAIT CITY — Everybody's going home except the troops in the 209th.

At least that's the way it seems to the 209th Medical Company of the Iowa National Guard, which is still here more than two weeks after President Bush ordered the allies to stop their land, sea and air attacks.

The company's commanding officer called its stay-behind mission "a plum," a reward for a job well done in the 42-day war with Iraq.

The mission is providing medical service to some 3,000 U.S. troops in the Kuwait City area who are part of Task Force Freedom — the military code name for establishing minimum living standards for the Kuwaiti people.

"I would not consider this mission a demotion," Maj. William Cleaver told the 209th. "It may not seem like that now, but I would think of it as a plum."

The order for the mission came from Army Central Command and places the 209th in the spotlight, Cleaver said.

Operating out of what was formerly

"We're trying to be heroes here, and I don't think we should be trying to be heroes. Let the regular Army do that. We're going out and looking for the war, and there isn't one. That isn't our job."

■ Spc. Kurt Faber
209th Medical Company

the Kuwait ministry of education, the Iowa City unit is the only Army medical company in Kuwait City.

It operates a 40-bed hospital and has sent medical teams to several places in the Kuwait City area.

It also provides medical support to U.S. troops in their effort to clear Kuwait City of Iraqi mines and unexploded munitions.

The next closest hospital that could treat U.S. troops is about 100 miles away, south of Khafji, Saudi Arabia.

Soldiers in the 209th had mixed reviews about being in the limelight.

Most support the humanitarian role of their mission. All of them wonder how much longer they'll stay in the Persian Gulf.

"If we're going to stay in the country, we might as well as be doing something like this, rather than sitting in the desert waiting for our ticket home," Sgt. 1st Class Jerry Westen said. "I'd rather be helping people."

Not everyone in the 209th is buying into the humanitarian concept, however.

Spc. Kurt Faber saw things differently. "What do I think about the mission?" he said. "I honestly don't know how we got here."

Troops in the 209th have been warned about skirmishes between liberal and conservative Kuwaiti factions and of possible terrorism.

"We're trying to be heroes here, and I don't think we should be trying to be heroes," Faber said.

"Let the regular Army do that. We're going out and looking for the war, and there isn't one. That isn't our job."

College students drunk more often, research shows

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — College students get drunk more often than non-students the same age, according to a study by the University of Michigan.

The school surveyed 1,200 college students (ages 18-22), and 41 percent had five or more drinks in a row in a two-week period versus 34 percent of non-students in the same age group.

"College kids do a lot of drinking," said research psychologist Dr. Patrick O'Malley. "But living arrangements mattered a whole bunch."

O'Malley said in general, students tended to live away from home and were unmarried. By contrast, non-students of the same age group often were still living at home or were married.

TV news show perennials

Four of the longest-running network TV programs are news-related.

Show	Debut year	Years
Meet the Press	1947	44 years
CBS Evening News	1948	43 years
Today	1952	39 years
The Guiding Light	1952	39 years
Face the Nation	1954	37 years

Source: USA Today research

Julie Stacey, USA Today

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OUR VIEW

Making it legal still doesn't make it right

"(High school) journalists are being taught First Amendment rights are only for some people some of the time. If they do become professional reporters ... they are not likely to stick their necks out for the First Amendment.

Tom Wicker

Huntington High School Principal Charles Buell did a terrible thing last week. What's worse is that it's legal. Fearing a column in the school's newspaper might spark racial conflict, the principal pulled the column the day before publication.

He said the article, which criticized affirmative action, could further stir up racial controversy that have surfaced on more than one occasion during the past few years.

Censoring criticism is ridiculous.

Open discussion on any subject — even criticism of controversial matters — only encourages a healthier society by making individuals more informed on a variety of viewpoints.

And there's still that thing called the First Amendment which guarantees free speech and a free press to all Americans — not everyone except high school students.

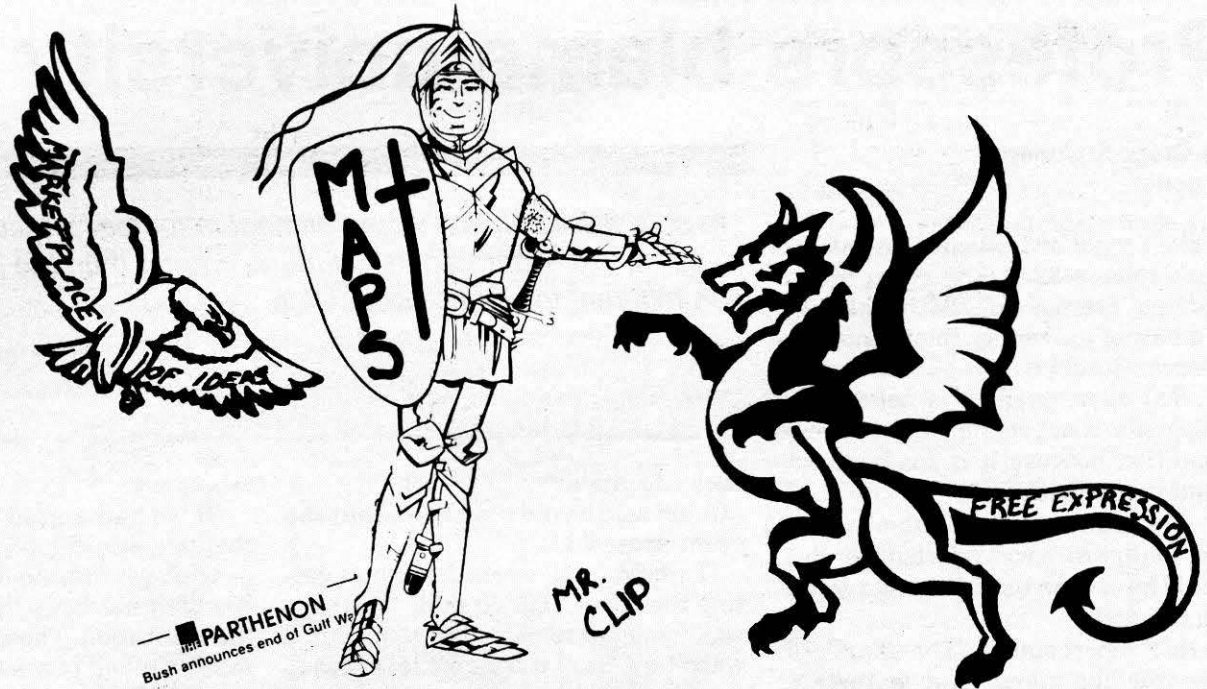
Yet in 1987, the Supreme Court ruled that school officials do have the right to restrict material in high school newspapers they think may be dangerous to the school community (Hazelwood vs. Kuhlmeir).

That's censorship — and it's unnecessary.

High school students are mature enough to hear different views. This only adds to their education and makes them more informed.

We encourage those interested in free expression — as indeed all should be — to support Huntington High editors in this incident.

With support, these students can challenge Hazelwood and get this unfair ruling overturned.



AFTER BEING ALLIED ON THE BATTLEFIELD, OUR HERO DECIDES HIS FRIENDS MUST DIE!

YOUR TURN

Return of Christ missed by papers

To the Editor:

A columnist once said that the biggest scoop of all time would be the news of the return of Christ. He was mistaken. The return of Christ would never make the front page. This is why:

When a man appears calling himself the Messiah, he does not look as people expect him to. There is no light around his head — the light is added by painters long after he died. He eats, walks and talks. He comes from a community where he has been known for years. And when he suddenly announces himself as a prophet, as one with a new message from God, his community laughs at him.

Everyone knows, people say, the Messiah will come seated on a throne or riding on a cloud, and will preach the same religion priests are preaching in temples.

They laugh. The man continues to say he is the agent of a spirit he cannot resist. Then the laughter turns to anger. Why is he so obstinate in his claim, this man they have known since he was a child? A few listen to him, and bear the hatred of the rest. The laughter stops, the hatred rises and the prophet is shut away — chained, perhaps killed.

But his voice goes on and people far away listen to it. Then painters draw the circle of light back of his head that is now on earth, and men and women in countries across the world build temples in the name of the man whose own people put him to death.

This drama is played all over again, every once in a while, in human history. It has been played again, almost in our time. But it

did not make the headlines.

It was two hours after sunset, on May 23, 1844, in the ancient land of Elam, known today as Shushan Province in Iran, that a Young Man announced that the long-awaited Promised One had been born in Elam. Christ has returned! And his new name is Baha'u'llah. Jesus said in Revelation 3:12 that He would return with a new name. And the prophet Jeremiah referred to Elam as the land wherein the Throne of God would be established in the "latter days." The "latter days" is NOW — today! The world changed on that day, yet, it will take a while longer still, just as before, for the generality of mankind to realize its significance. The great and rapid changes now occurring throughout the planet, evidence of the birth of a New World Order, are tied to that day.

We humbly ask everyone to investigate and judge for yourselves what occurred on that day in 1844, before making any conclusions. We would like to call the event to the special attention of Marshall scholars, educators and representatives of the Jewish, Christian and Islamic faiths.

You will only believe it once you read about it in detail, in the book, *Thief in the Night: A Case of the Missing Millennium*, by William Sears, or, if brevity is essential for you, the 28-page booklet, *God's Great Plan*. Both are available through the Marshall bookstore.

If you are like many, your outlook will never be the same after reading these books. Or, perhaps you will wait, and read it in the headlines tomorrow.

Brent M. Reed
Spiritual Assembly of the
Baha'is of Huntington

Athletic emphasis costs grant funds

To the Editor:

In October 1990, Marshall neurobiologists wrote a proposal to the National Science Foundation which would have provided undergraduate research experience. Recently, the NSF has decided not to fund this proposal.

The major reason for the decision was that Marshall is not committed to undergraduate science training. To quote from the summary: "The committee ... questioned the experience and commitment to undergraduate training."

Positive aspects noted were that the proposal was specific and concrete and that there was a plan to draw students from a specific geographic area. The program, although not rated outstanding, was rated "very good" by all reviewers.

This is a concrete example of what results when the so-called "leaders" of higher education build athletic facilities rather than facilities for education. The statements of the NSF provide evidence that these perverted priorities have stifled the efforts of faculty, diminished student educational opportunities, and limited our ability to attract federal funding of educational programs.

If Marshall dedicated as much effort to science education as it has to athletics, we might have obtained \$246,000 from the NSF. It's too bad we didn't propose a research experience in football. I'm sure it would have been rated a "excellent" since the institution's commitment to it is much higher.

Mark A. Simmons
assistant professor
of pharmacology

MARSHALL UNIVERSITY

THE PARTHENON

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Professors blame university for grant denial

By Gregory Collard
Reporter

The School of Medicine this month was denied a \$246,000 grant by the National Science Foundation because of a lack of university commitment to science education.

And some professors believe the university is not committed to science education because it is too busy emphasizing athletics.

The grant proposal submitted by Marshall, which was rejected March 1, would have been used for undergraduate research.

A NSF report stated, "The (Marshall) proposal has many good features ... The committee, however, questioned the (university's) experience and commitment to undergraduate training."

In a memo to Interim President Alan B. Gould, Dr. Mark A. Simmons, assistant professor of pharmacology, said, "I'm sure the institution's commitment to football would have been rated as 'excellent' since it is much greater than the institution's commitment to sci-

I'm sure the institution's commitment to football would have been rated as 'excellent' since it is much greater than the institution's commitment to science education.

■ Dr. Mark A. Simmons
assistant professor of pharmacology

ence education."

Gould said he did not know about the grant proposal.

"I would have worked towards getting the grant," Gould said. "Maybe it was brought to my attention, but I wasn't aware of it. I sign a lot of grant proposals. If I had been given the opportunity to participate, I would have."

Gould said the university has shown a dedication to undergraduate science training because the university met the standards to get a \$1 million Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research grant.

Simmons said the slow progress on renovating the science building is an example of where the university's pri-

orities are.

"If we had a good science building, then we would have had a good proposal to get this money," he said. "Our downfall has been the track record of the institution. The science building is moving a hell of a lot slower than the stadium."

Simmons has been vocal in his opposition to Marshall's stadium and in July organized a protest against the

stadium during its groundbreaking ceremony.

Dr. Susan Demesquita, associate professor of physiology, said, "I believe if we had had strong support in the sciences, there would have been more Marshall undergraduates involved in collaborative research projects between the medical school and the College of Science.

"Most people are not exposed to research and have no idea of the fantastic opportunities that are passing by," she said.

Simmons said the denial also will hurt the school's efforts to recruit women and minorities, which was one of the institution's proposed goals.

Gould said, "I think it (the grant denial) will hurt everyone — faculty, minorities — everyone."



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STUDENT

From Page 1

the sledgehammer.

Ella Dunfee sustained a cut to her right arm and was struck in the shoulder by the hammer, Adams said.

J. Scott Dunfee, a liberal arts student described as "quiet and genuinely religious," allegedly attacked his parents at approximately 1:30 a.m. when he entered their room dressed only in his underwear, the reports said.

Adams said that after the attack Dunfee's parents fled the small house but VanHoose passed out on a hill outside the home. Ella Dunfee reportedly sought refuge in bushes nearby before running to a neighbor's house to get help.

J. Scott Dunfee, a part-time employee at National Record Mart in the Huntington Mall, then ran to his grandmother's house next door where he was arrested by authorities, Adams said. He also was taken to St. Mary's and treated for a finger cut.

Assistant Cabell County Prosecutor Margaret Phipps Brown petitioned the court for urine and blood samples for possible use during prosecution. Cabell County Sheriff Oattie Adkins said it is too early to determine if drugs or alcohol were involved, but he expects test results to be ready early this week.

Some who know Dunfee said they were shocked by the news and said they don't think drugs were a factor.

WRITINGS

From Page 1

but also the broader context of attempts to regulate freedom of speech on campuses across the nation.

"Free speech is deteriorating over time because of attempts to regulate speech of students on campus for so called hate speech," he said. "The board decided to have a public forum at a later date to discuss the Glavasic case,

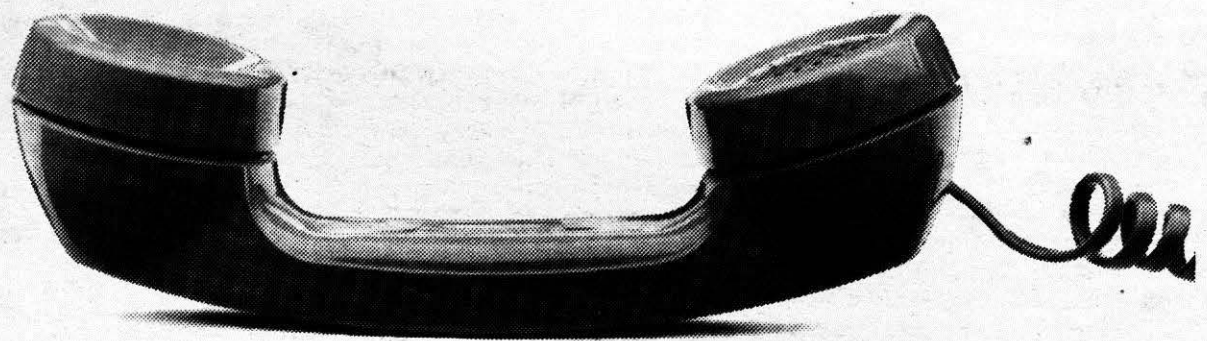
and what is free speech on campus.

"A person can't be fired because his writings are offensive."

O'Brien said the ACLU is only concerned with violations of First Amendment rights in the Glavasic situation.

"From what we discussed at the board meeting it is a clear freedom of speech issue," he said.

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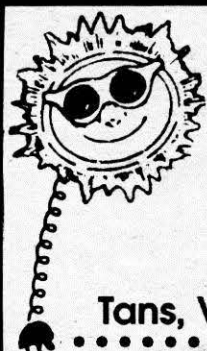
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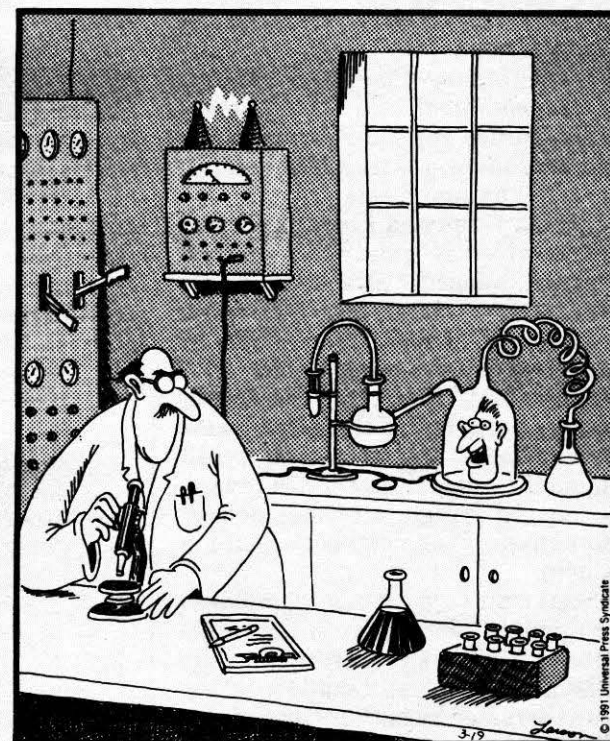
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Calvin and Hobbes

by Bill Watterson

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



"Oh, professor . . . Did I tell you I had another out-of-head experience last night?"



SEARCH

From Page 1

selected president of Marshall, would like to improve library conditions.

"I'm keenly interested in the library. It's rather small. It's an awful small collection. The same is true for the medical school collection. You can be assured I would work on that in a New York minute."

He said he also would like to meet with state legislators to discuss higher education funds allocated to Marshall.

•Dr. J. Wade Gilley, senior vice president of George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., and former Virginia secretary of education.

Gilley said in a telephone interview Monday that he spent a lot of his life in Virginia and West Virginia.

"I feel very comfortable with the people in West Virginia and I think Marshall is an outstanding institution. It's about the size and location I'd be interested in."

Cesar Soriano, managing editor of The Broadside, the George Mason student newspaper, said Gilley is "a very outspoken and visible administrator on campus."

•Dr. Thomas D. Moore, a professor and administrator at Kent State University in Kent, Ohio and recently the

university's provost and vice president for academic affairs. According to a reporter for the Daily Kent Stater, the university newspaper, Moore resigned last fall as provost. Moore, who is currently on leave from the university, could not be reached for comment.

•Dr. Craig D. Willis, president of Lock Haven University in Lock Haven, Pa., since 1982. Willis was out of town Monday but left a statement with the university's public relations department. "I am flattered to be considered for the presidency of such a prestigious school as Marshall University."

Willis previously had served as vice president and academic dean of Concord College from 1977-1982.

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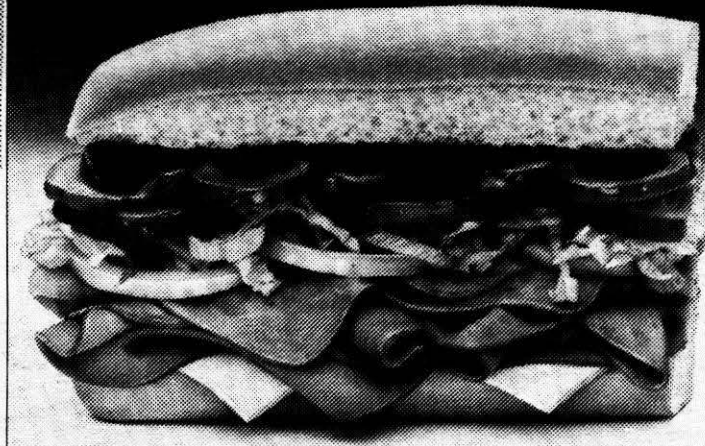
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POINTS

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

- **NCAA Men's Tournament**
- East Regional — Friday**
- Temple vs. Oklahoma State
- North Carolina vs. Eastern Michigan
- Southeast Regional — Thursday**
- Indiana vs. Kansas
- Arkansas vs. Alabama
- Midwest Regional — Friday**
- Duke vs. Connecticut
- Ohio State vs. St. John's
- West Regional — Thursday**
- Arizona vs. Seton Hall
- Nevada-Las Vegas vs. Utah

Tennis team gets win

Dominating the entire match, the women's tennis team cruised to a 9-0 victory Friday against Southern Conference foe Appalachian State.

Angie Holland's three-hour, three-set match victory highlighted the action. Holland defeated Pat Edwards 1-6, 7-5, 6-1.

The win gave Marshall a 1-2 record overall and a 1-0 SC mark. The Herd returns to action Friday with another SC match against Western Carolina in Cullowhee, N.C.

New stadium on display

The Athletic Department will have a display of the new football stadium in Memorial Student Center from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday.

The department invites faculty and staff to visit the exhibit, see stadium diagrams and discuss season tickets.

Athletic Director Lee Moon and other department officials will be available to discuss the stadium and the ticket plans. Brochures, schedule cards and other information will be available.

Herd tries to rebound from losses

By Mark Stein
Sports Writer

The baseball team will try to break out of a four-game losing skid today at St. Cloud Commons when it plays host to Fairmont State.

The Herd's seven-game winning streak was snapped this weekend with a pair of home doubleheader losses.

Saturday, West Virginia State swept the Herd 5-4 and 4-0. The downfall continued Sunday when Rio Grande beat the Herd 4-1 and 7-5.

"We're slumping right now," coach Howard McCann said. "The effort definitely is there, but we just aren't hitting the ball. We're just as cold now as we were hot last week."

The Herd had opportunities in both games Saturday but couldn't convert.

"We didn't hit when we had people in scoring position," McCann said. "We

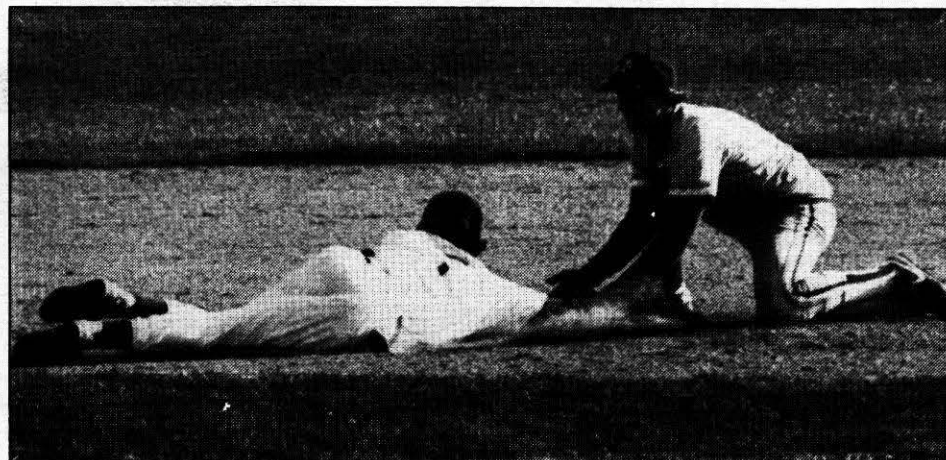


Photo by James LeFev

James Clark dives back into second base Friday against Alderson Broaddus, but is tagged by AB's second baseman. The Herd returns to action today at home against Fairmont State.

had people on base but we just couldn't get them in. Our pitching was good but we couldn't get any runs across.

"Their pitching was good. They walked a bunch but we couldn't capitalize. It seemed every hard-hit ball was at somebody. Like I told our kids, it was one of those days."

Dave McAnallan hit a two-run homer in the ninth to cut the lead to 5-4 but the Herd could get no closer. Loser Chris Bellomy, 1-2, pitched eight innings. The Yellowjackets, 4-6, scored

four runs in the first two innings of game en route to sweeping the Herd.

Rio Grande, 7-6, won the first game 4-1 Sunday as Marshall, 7-6, was held to one hit. The Redmen rallied from a 4-2 deficit in game two to win 7-5.

"Luckily, this was not a conference weekend," McCann said. "So it didn't hurt us from that standpoint. We've got to come back against Fairmont State on Tuesday and Kentucky on Wednesday to get ready for Western Carolina this weekend."

Track teams place third in Early Birds

By Kerry Salmons
Reporter

With both teams placing third in the Early Bird Relays this weekend, the men's and women's track teams had one of their best opening meets in years, according to coach Dennis Brachna.

Miami (Ohio) and Ohio University finished first and second in the men's nine-team field. Ohio and Eastern Kentucky topped the women's division.

In the field events, the teams top two finishers scores were combined to determine team placing. The Herd finished second in three men's categories

— Brent Chumley and Dave Hummel in the hammer, Docky Wells and Dave Hummel in the discus and Steven Manns and Dan Webb in the pole vault.

In the relays, the 4 X 100 team with a time of 42.4, is running faster than last year's team, Brachna said. The shuttle hurdle and 3,200-meter relay teams placed second.

In women's field events, the shot put team of Missy Kouns and Kelly Thomas placed first. Kouns broke the old school record with a throw of 42'3". Kouns and Andi Montgomery placed first in the discus with a combined throw of 133'1".

The team of Kellie Bekelheimer and Lisa Hines tied for first in the high jump and second in the long jump. Hines and Ellyson Goddard placed second in the triple jump.

The distance medley placed third and broke the school record by 20 seconds with a time of 12:49.0. The 1,600-meter, 4 X 100 and 4 X 200 relay teams all finished second.

"We made a very strong showing for ourselves over the weekend," Brachna said.

The next meet for the teams is the Mountain State Invitational at Laidley Field this weekend.

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Complex character, complicated times make movie worth the money

'Guilty' focuses on human wreckage of Red Scare

By D. Andrew McMorro
Impressions Editor

"Guilty By Suspicion," the new movie written and directed by Irwin Winkler and starring Robert DeNiro, brings a complex character to life in times made complicated by the ignorant, press-hungry "powers that were" during the Red Scare of the early 1950s.

During this period Hollywood screenwriters, directors and actors came under fire from the U.S. House Un-American Activities Committee. The Committee was a group of publicity-seeking congressmen who used secret meetings and public hearings to get these Hollywood types to inform on one another about communist activities. Those who wouldn't inform on their associates were "blacklisted" and lost their jobs and subsequently family and friends.

Director David Merrill (Robert DeNiro) returns home from France in the midst of change, but he feels invulnerable to events because he has everything going for him — he's at the top of his profession; he is a favorite of 20th Century Fox studio exec Darryl Zanuck; his wealth keeps him, his ex-wife and son living comfortably and he's got plenty of friends.

Upon meeting with Zanuck he is promised everything he needs to direct his latest film, but Zanuck ambiguously urges him to see a lawyer and "get this thing cleared up." When he meets with the lawyer he learns he has been named as a communist, although he only attended two or three meetings 12 years earlier and he was thrown out of them for arguing too much. All he has to do is name the people who attended these meetings and he can go back to business as usual.



Photo courtesy of Warner Bros., Inc.

Hollywood director David Merrill (Robert DeNiro) attacks the House Un-American Activities Committee for their inhuman treatment of people and their disregard for peoples' rights in Irwin Winkler's "Guilty By Suspicion." The movie is playing at the Huntington Mall Cinemas.

The problem is these people are his friends and one of them, "Bunny" Baxter (George Wendt, "Cheers"), is his best friend.

Merrill refuses to name people in a secret meeting and instead opts to be subpoenaed and attend one of the committee's public hearings.

But while he waits for the subpoena, DeNiro's life falls apart. He can't work in Hollywood or New York, because the FBI is following him. A close family friend commits suicide because of the effects the "blacklist" has had on her and her family. He loses his house and ends up moving in with his ex-wife and son. His friends don't talk to him for fear of being called in to testify.

But perhaps most importantly, Merrill learns that everybody thinks filmmaking had been the most important thing to him. He begins to question his past actions; were films the most important thing in his life? His decision is a simple one: he can inform on his friends and return to directing or he can not inform and face the possibility of never regaining his position again.

He is forced into questioning whether his ideals are more important to him

than filmmaking.

As always DeNiro was excellent. Surely the character of Merrill was not physically challenging to play, but his coming to terms with the life (read illusion) he had been living, who he really was and what he wanted to stand for was exciting to watch. Only somebody with DeNiro's talent could portray the complexities and subtleties of Merrill without overstating the role.

The rest of the cast also was good and very believable. Wendt turned in a good performance as Merrill's best friend and Annette Bening was solid as Merrill's ex-wife and friend.

Some people (i.e. - Gene Siskel from "The Fat Guy & The Other One") thought the story was predictable and it was — after all, most stories based on history have a way of being predictable. But the movie's predictability was balanced by its documentation of the changes in one man's life, family and relationships. I also liked DeNiro's portrayal of Merrill as a voice of reason whose logic falls on the deaf ears of the Committee and those who fear them for economic and not ideological reasons.

The scary thing is Merrill was a decent human being and he didn't do anything wrong. However, at the time most Americans believed in freedom of speech and the market place of ideas only if the speech in question didn't offend them and the ideas being traded weren't contradictory to their own convictions.

Sound familiar?

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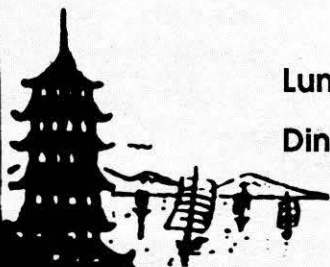
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