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## The Parthenon, December 1, 1999

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High: 42  
Low: 17

For Thursday:

MOSTLY SUNNY  
High: 53 Low: 21

Dec. 1, 1999

# the Parthenon

www.marshall.edu/parthenon

Volume 101 Number 43

Marshall University's student newspaper — Celebrating 101 years! Page edited by Bryan Chambers and Joe Thornton



photo illustration by Butch Barker

Book buyback time often means extra money for many students.

## Extra cash is on the horizon

As semester's end approaches, students sell back textbooks

by ROBYN JUSTICE  
reporter

Students soon will be crowding into the bookstore looking for money for their books.

The bookstore is ready for them.

The Marshall Bookstore buys back books year round, but finals week is the busiest time of the semester, Mike Campbell, bookstore manager, said. The designated slot for book buyback is Dec. 1-14.

The last two days of finals week, Dec. 13-14, are the busiest of the buyback period, Campbell said.

One new program adopted to serve students is the guaranteed buyback sticker program, Campbell said. Stickers were placed on certain textbooks before the semester. Students are guaranteed to receive half of the new text price for their textbook, even if the text is not being used at

Marshall in the spring.

Another program used by the bookstore is "bonus bucks," Brown said.

Students are given one bonus buck for every \$10 of books sold back to the bookstore. The bonus bucks are worth \$1 off of every \$5 spent. Bonus bucks can be used toward any purchase in the bookstore.

The amount of cash a student receives depends on several factors, Maren Brown, bookstore text manager, said.

Books are bought back at half of the new price if they are re-adopted by professors at Marshall.

Students are given up to half of the new price whether the book was bought new or used. If the book was not re-adopted for use at Marshall, students are offered the national market value for their book based on supply and demand, she said.

Store hours have been extended and some temporary employees have been hired to try to serve the rush of students, Brown said.

Store hours are Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. - 6:30 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

## Online classifieds makes it to campus

by JAMEY L. JONES  
reporter

Marshall University is now on the Internet with FreeCollegeClassifieds.com, which provides communication services to students.

The Web site allows college students to post classified ads online for their particular campus. The free service was created by college students at more than 1,500 schools to communicate with students on their campus about varied topics.

The site consists of six categories: announcements, for sale, personals, employment, housing and services. Each category has several functions and students can find roommates, swap textbooks, post evaluation of teachers and find love.

The page was founded in the summer of 1999 by College of Charleston junior Bryan Adams and University of South Carolina juniors Will Fogle and Chris Porter.

Fogle said in a press release, "We have designed this Web site to meet the needs of college students. As students ourselves, we know what those needs are."

The idea for the Web site came from an effort to help college students better communicate with others at their

*"It might be helpful to find textbooks and for announcements, but I don't think I would use the personal ads part of it."*

Carrie D. Thaxton,  
Ripley sophomore

campus so they could save time and money, he said.

Carrie D. Thaxton, sophomore communications major from Ripley, said she probably would not use the site.

"It might be helpful to find textbooks and for announcements," she said, "but I don't think I would use the personal ads part of it."

"It's kind of like dating over the Internet even though you're on the same campus. You never know who is going to respond to an ad."

The page features a place for a log in name and password before ads can be placed. Viewing the ads is allowed without using the log in name.

Adams thinks the site will be a major help on college campuses.

The Marshall site is now running, and can be accessed on the Internet at [www.FreeCollegeClassifieds.com](http://www.FreeCollegeClassifieds.com).

## BYU wants Motor City Bowl offer

by CHARLES SHUMAKER  
sports editor

All season, the Brigham Young Cougars have had their eyes on Marshall in the football rankings.

Earlier in the season, BYU won six straight games and was ranked just below the Thundering Herd.

When the opportunity for BYU to face Marshall on the field came up, its eyes lit up.

Director of football media relations for Brigham Young

Jeff Reynolds said if Brigham Young is offered the at-large bid in the Motor City Bowl, the Cougars will take it.

"We haven't officially been offered the bowl yet, but if we are there is a 100 percent chance that we'll take it," Reynolds said. "A BYU-Marshall matchup would be a very attractive game, I mean really attractive."

If the Thundering Herd defeats Western Michigan Friday in the Mid-American Conference Championship

game, Marshall will make its third consecutive trip to Detroit for the postseason.

"When the team was presented with the options for teams they would like to play in a bowl game, it was a unanimous vote for Marshall," Reynolds said. "We would love to have the opportunity to play a team like Marshall. One of our goals is not only to play in a bowl, but to play the highest-ranked team we can in a bowl."

An announcement from the Motor City Bowl is expected to

come as early as today and no later than Friday. Although there has been speculation on who will be matched up in the Dec. 27 game, the only sure team will be the winner of the MAC championship game.

Bobby Popp, licensing and merchandising director for the Motor City Bowl, said the bowl has a list of bowl-eligible teams but an opponent for the MAC champion is not clear yet.

"We had teams on our list

Please see **BYU, P5**

## The gift that keeps on giving

Artists Series offers gift pack for spring season

by KRISTINA WISE  
reporter

For those hoping to escape the bustle of shopping this holiday season, the Marshall Artists Series is offering the annual Holiday Gift Packs.

The gift packs include tickets to one or more of the series' spring events and a box of Godiva chocolates wrapped in holiday packaging.

Angela Jones, director of marketing and external affairs for the series, said the gift packs are popular presents among Marshall community.

"They are a great gift idea for students," Jones said, "but the real advantage is that it's an opportunity to get advance tickets for the spring shows."

Jones said the spring shows promise to be unique.

"Everything this spring is going to be great," Jones said. "Betty Buckley is phenomenal, and although the opera is sung in English, there will be subtitles. I haven't seen anything like that before."

As the Marshall Artist Series prepares for the spring season, tickets to all events, except the International Film Festival, can be purchased for the gift packs. Performances for the spring season include a variety of music, dance and drama.

Betty Buckley performs at the Keith-Albee Theatre Feb. 14 in a Valentine's Day concert. Starring in Broadway in shows such as "Gypsy" and "Cats," Buckley blends pop, jazz and blues in a concert that the New York Times calls "intoxicating."

The New York City Opera will present "The Barber of Seville," Feb. 22.

A classic tale will come to life on stage as "Camelot" is pre-



ABOVE: Latin band Cubanismo will be a part of the Marshall Artists Series' spring shows.

RIGHT: Broadway star Betty Buckley will perform on Valentine's Day.

sented March 8. The love story of King Arthur, Guinevere, Lancelot and the Knights of the Round Table is retold as a musical for the Artists Series.

The Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble, Ailey II, dances its way into the Artists Series March 14. The Ensemble was founded by Alvin Ailey in 1974, and is celebrating its 25th anniversary.

The series will end April 13 with a performance by the Latin band Cubanismo. In a Mountain Stage Performance, the Havana band will play hits from its latest album, "Reencarnacion," which recently topped the New World Music charts. The spring season will open with the International Film Festival Jan. 28 - Feb. 3.



Festival tickets are not available for purchase as part of the gift pack, but are available individually for all students and the public.

Marshall Artists Series Gift Packs are available through Dec. 17. Prices vary for individual performances, and supplies are limited. More information is available by calling 696-6656.

## Student Senate ends semester

by CARRIE A. SMITH  
reporter

The Student Senate wrapped things up Tuesday at its final meeting of the semester.

On the agenda were nomination of candidates for senate president pro-tempore, burial of the time capsule and discussion of the Marshall University Emergency Medical Services (MUEMS) situation.

Mandy Hicks, current senate president pro-tempore, graduates in December. The senators made a motion to accept open nominations for the position.

Sen. Tony Ponton, College of Liberal Arts and Judicial Committee chairman, and Sen. Nicole Nelson, College of Science and Campus Life Committee

chairwoman, were nominated.

The senate will vote Jan. 11 at the first meeting of the spring semester.

Sen. Adrian Cain, College of Education and Human Services and Community Service chairman, said the Student Government Association time capsule will be buried on campus during Christmas break.

The SGA will have a formal ceremony to commemorate the burial in January.

"We need to bury it before the ground freezes," Cain said, "and we still have some space, so any student group or office can donate their items until the last day of the semester."

The senate also voted to set up a public hearing for the second meeting of the spring semester to

discuss the MUEMS situation.

The MUEMS is in need of a new ambulance or the funds to refurbish the existing ambulance.

David Gesner, MUEMS coordinator, James Terry, director of public safety, Lance West, director of athletics, Dr. Donnalee Cockrille, dean of student affairs, and Brandi Jacobs, SGA president, have been invited to speak.

However, Cockrille said the hearing may not take place at all. "The (SGA) had until Dec. 1 to decide what they wanted to do about the ambulance situation, so I don't know if we will hold it over to next year or not."

More information about the MUEMS can be obtained by visiting its Web page at <http://www.marshall.edu/muems>.

Marshall's women's basketball team plays at home against Duguesne today at 7 p.m.



### Special issue

The Parthenon is planning special coverage of the Mid-American Conference Championship game and the presidential search.

Therefore, the paper will be published Monday.



# Government

2 Wednesday, Dec. 1, 1999

Parthenon

Page edited by Todd McCormick

## Guns used in crimes tracked nationwide

by JEANNIE AVERSA  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal and local law enforcement officials are getting a new high-tech tool to fight crime: a nationwide computer system that aims to trace guns used during crimes.

The system, called Online Lead, is administered by the Treasury Department's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and has been operating on a limited trial basis since February.

"Online Lead takes our fight against gun traffickers into cyberspace," said Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers, who made the announcement today. "It gives

*"Online Lead takes our fight against gun traffickers into cyberspace. It gives federal, state and local law enforcement officials throughout the country a new tool to help identify and arrest gun traffickers."*

Lawrence Summers  
Treasury Secretary

federal, state and local law enforcement officials throughout the country a new tool to help identify and arrest gun traffickers."

Starting today the computer system is operating full time and is widely available. Specifically, the system is in use at all 331

ATF field offices. Although police and other local law enforcement officials can't tap directly into the system on their own, they can access the system through ATF.

ATF has been tracing guns used in crimes for years, but the sophisticated software used in the new

online system should make it much easier for investigators to analyze trends and patterns in illegal firearms trafficking, law enforcement officials said. For police and other local law enforcers, the system may provide new leads and additional information about crimes, they said.

Online Lead is updated frequently and provides information on a traced gun one day after it is completed.

The new system evolved from earlier projects that aim to provide investigators access to data on guns used in crimes. They stored information on traced guns on computer discs that had to be shipped to ATF field offices.

## No room for jail expansion in Underwood's 2000 budget

CHARLESTON (AP) — The Underwood administration will not include money in next year's budget for a proposed 414-bed expansion of the St. Marys Correctional Center. Wyetta Fredericks, deputy corrections commissioner, told the Regional Jail and Correctional Authority Monday that the expansion of the minimum- to medium-security prison would alleviate overcrowding problems. The prison is designed to hold inmates who are elderly or have chronic health problems. She said Administration Secretary Joe Markus had told the division earlier Monday that the \$9.6 million for the expansion would not be in the governor's 2000-2001 state budget. He suggested selling bonds to finance the state's share of the \$15 million expansion.

## Secretary of State candidates to discuss political intentions

by CARRIE A. SMITH  
reporter

*"It is open to the public and it is a good chance for students to get involved."*

Bill Walker

regional student campaign director

Two of the candidates for running for West Virginia Secretary of State are coming to Marshall to make a major campaign announcement.

Sen. Mike Oliverio and Del. Arley Johnson will speak at 4 p.m. Thursday in the Big Green Room at the Marshall University Football Stadium.

According to a press release, a special announcement concerning their political intentions for the upcoming May Democratic Primary will be made at the conference.

Coach Bobby Pruett and others will be on hand to join in at the event.

Oliverio and Johnson say there is a need to encourage the youth in our state to participate in their legislative process.

There will be a question and answer session as well as the candidates thoughts on the importance of student involvement in politics.

Bill Walker, regional student campaign director, said he encourages students to attend.

"It is open to the public," he said, "and it is a good chance for students to get involved."

Walker added that both Oliverio and Johnson started their political careers in their twenties.

## Flag issue flies over the South

by LEIGH STROPE  
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Gov. Jim Hodges met behind closed doors with black leaders at his home to discuss the Confederate flag that flies atop the Statehouse, and participants are being tight-lipped about the meeting.

"This is part of an ongoing dialogue to find a way to bring folks together on this issue," Hodges said, adding that many people on both sides want the discussions to stay private.

"The least productive thing that I can do is go out and blab about discussions I've had with people," he said.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has called for a tourism boycott of the state to being Jan. 1 and continue until the flag comes down.

State NAACP Executive Director Dwight James refused to answer questions as he left the meeting at Hodges' residence in the Shandon neighborhood of Columbia.

Black leaders have criticized Hodges for not using his office as a bully pulpit to pressure lawmakers to remove the flag.

The Legislature has the sole authority bring it down. Hodges also was attacked recently for proposing that the NAACP lift its boycott in exchange for passage of an official state holiday honoring the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Hodges now wants the Legislature to set a date to vote on a 1994 plan called the Heritage Act that would move the flag to a monument on Statehouse grounds.

In return, he wants the NAACP to postpone the boycott until the vote. But neither side has been receptive to the plan so far.

## Internet shoppers not required to pay state sales taxes in W.Va.

CHARLESTON (AP) — People who buy from Internet retailers operating distribution centers in West Virginia do not have to pay state sales taxes, the Tax Division says in an advisory opinion issued this month.

Because advisories are confidential, Tax Commissioner Joe Palmer on Monday would not identify the company that requested it.

U.S. Supreme Court decisions and federal laws set strict requirements on whether transactions are subject to state sales taxes, Palmer said.

Businesses located in the state are required to collect sales taxes on transactions to West Virginia residents, however. To get around that, the company indicated in its request for an opinion that it routes Internet or telephone orders from state residents to an out-of-state center.

Palmer said the situation is like a business that might open in Parkersburg, but had salesmen who went door-to-door exclusively in Ohio. There would be no grounds for collecting West Virginia sales taxes on the transactions.

The state has always lost sales tax revenue to catalog and phone sales, despite intermittent efforts to collect it. The explosion of Internet commerce

has tax collectors across the country concerned.

"Right now, e-commerce is a small segment — 1 percent to 2 percent of all retail sales — but that is expected to grow very rapidly," Palmer said.

Consumer sales taxes account for about \$842 million of the state's \$2.6 billion in total annual tax collections, second only to income taxes as a revenue source for the state.

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## POLICE BLOTTER

# Action on, off field at Midget League Turf Bowl leads to female altercation

by **HEATHER MOONEY**  
reporter

The following information was taken from Marshall University Police Department reports:

During the Midget League Turf Bowl Nov. 14, a woman walking through a concourse tunnel was approached by an unknown female suspect.

The suspect asked the complainant if she was a particular child's mother. When she said, "yes," the woman started hitting her.

The suspect was later identified and questioned. No warrants have been issued at this time.

**LARCENY:** A resident of Laidley Hall reported the theft of her checkbook and \$650 in cash.

She first noticed \$350 missing in September.

She did not report the theft to police because her room had

been unlocked.

In early November she noticed \$300 missing from a picture frame where it had been hidden.

On Nov. 29, the complainant noticed her checkbook was missing and contacted the police.

The case is still under investigation.

**DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY:** On Nov. 27, a complainant reported someone had vandalized his vehicle. The 1992 red Chevrolet had been parked on the north student commuter lot.

The steering column, transmission selector and the mirror were damaged.

The vehicle was towed.

**DISORDERLY CONDUCT:** On Nov. 11, officers on patrol saw a man standing between two parked cars.

The officers approached and witnessed the man urinating

on one of the cars.

Officers identified the suspect as Timothy Ryan Watkins. Police said Watkins smelled of alcohol. His was issued an arrest citation for disorderly conduct.

**LARCENY:** A complainant reported a \$900 Nikon digital camera was removed from Science Building 176.

The complainant said the room was locked before he left.

**LARCENY:** A resident of Twin Towers East reported someone had entered his room and taken a Canon camera valued at \$300.

The complainant had last seen the camera Nov. 7.

**PUBLIC INTOXICATION:** Officers on patrol Nov. 22 saw a man laying on the sidewalk on the north side of Smith Hall. Police identified the man as Johnny Ray Cyrus.

Police said Cyrus displayed signs of intoxication and had

difficulty standing.

Cyrus was arrested on charges of public intoxication and transported to the Cabell County Jail.

**DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY:** A complainant reported someone had struck his vehicle while it was parked in front of a parking meter on 18th Street.

The front passenger side door, quarter panel and mirror had been damaged.

**ASSAULT AND BATTERY:** On Nov. 19, police received a report of a fight in the game room of Twin Towers East.

After investigation, both suspects have been identified.

No warrants have been issued.

**LARCENY:** A complainant reported three tapes missing from his car after parking it in the University Heights parking lot on the evening of Nov. 21.

When he returned the following morning, his passenger door was open.

## Student-run WMUL receives second Award of Excellence

by **RYAN WHEELER**  
reporter

The student voice of Marshall picked up another award just before Thanksgiving break.

WMUL-FM took the Award of Excellence Nov. 19 in The Communicator Awards 1999 Audio Competition.

The winning entry by 88.1 was in the Student Produced Documentary category. "A Glimpse of the Elephant: The Battle of Barboursville 1861" pushed WMUL to the excellence award.

Nicole Walters, St. Albans junior; Bryan Casto, Nitro junior; and Robert Harper, Hurricane junior, wrote the winning show. Hansford senior Vince Payne; Todd McCormick, Burke, Va., graduate student; Chris Roberts, Eleanor senior; and Huntington seniors Sean Hamilton and Shawn Seagroves produced the show.

The crew of radio/television majors wrote and produced

the documentary for an Advanced Audio Production class and broadcast it on "Aircheck" Feb. 16.

The Communicator's Award of Excellence is presented to those entrants whose ability to communicate qualifies them as the best in their field. According to a news release, about 13 percent of the entries won the award.

Winners included radio stations, production facilities, advertising agencies, government entities, technicians and other professionals associated with the production of audio broadcasts.

"This is an outstanding accomplishment to be recognized as having produced one of the best programs in the country," said Dr. Charles G. Bailey, faculty manager of WMUL-FM. "I am proud of the honor this Award of Excellence bestows on... Marshall University."

This is the second year for the competition included an audio component for judging.

## briefly...

### Four actors needed to star in production of 'Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf'

Auditions for "Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf" are Monday and Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center 224.

Art professor Eugene Anthony is directing the play, which will be performed Feb. 16-19 in the playhouse of the Performing Arts Center.

Anthony said four actors are needed.

The play, by award-winning playwright Edward Albee, shows two couples who share a nightcap, and a lot more, as inhibitions are forgotten. Two characters, George and Martha, rehash old injuries

as they come to terms with the current state of their marriage. The couple must face the sadness and tragedy that is part of their lives.

According to a press release, the play "explores the consequences of marital secrets through bold and gripping dialogue."

Auditions are open to the student body and anyone interested is encouraged to try out for casting.

More information on auditions or scripts for the play is available by calling the Department of Theater at 696-6442.

### New Point Pleasant center to open Jan. 10

The Mid Ohio Valley Center, in Point Pleasant, hosted an open house to celebrate its new building, in which classes begin Jan. 10.

Professors and members of the community were invited to tour the complex and learn how the building will benefit the residents of Point Pleasant.

The planned completion date is Dec. 17.

All classes will have two computer outlets, two phone lines, a 36-inch monitor, a VCR

and an overhead projector.

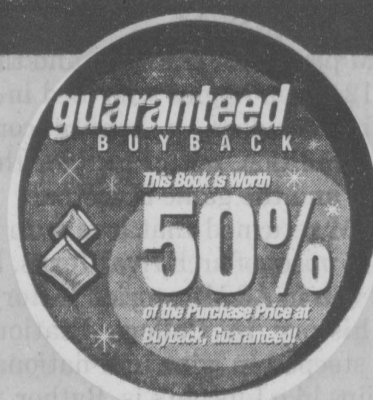
Vicki J. Krebs, part-time student at the MOV, said, "I can't wait for high school students to see what is available to them. I hope they don't let this opportunity pass them by."

The MOV started with 11 students five years ago and now has more than 800.

More information is available by calling Homer K. Preece, director of the MOV, at 675-2627, or sending him e-mail at MOV@zoomnet.net.

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"If Western Michigan couldn't beat us at their place, what makes them think they can win in the 'Thunder Dome.'"

—Nate Poole,  
junior wide receiver

Page edited by Jacob Messer

### OUR VIEW

## Students must keep working with finals near

Dec. 14.

That date cannot come soon enough for many students and professors on campus.

That, of course, is the last day of the fall semester. Then, we get Christmas Break — more than a month of decorating trees, hanging lights, watching movies, singing carols, buying gifts and visiting relatives among other holiday activities.

More importantly, it is a month without debates, presentations, worksheets, tests, essays, and so on and so forth.

For many of us, it is a well-deserved and much-needed break.

Like you, we are heading down the homestretch. So far we have published 43 issues, including two special editions. Now, as the semester draws to a close, we have only three more issues, including Monday's special edition.

Although we find ourselves with a desire to be lazy around this time each semester, we cannot let up. We have to keep pushing onward and keep working hard as we have all semester.

You should do the same.

Study hard. Go to class. Do your best on all your assignments and tests.

Just think, once you take that final exam or write that last essay you will be on vacation for more than a month.

And then you get to come back to school in January and do it all over again.

### THEIR VIEW

## Bonfire tradition should not stop

STAFF EDITORIAL

Daily Nebraskan  
University of Nebraska

(U-WIRE) LINCOLN, Neb. — Friday morning, one college football team played for a whole lot more than a spot in the Bowl Championship Series.

Texas A&M played for tradition and the memory of 12 fallen Aggies who died in a tragic bonfire accident, a bonfire constructed, by tradition, out of love for the A&M players and the game of football.

Friday, A&M returned that love with a rousing 20-16 upset of arch rival Texas. It was a great win in A&M's storied history.

Football history in College Station, Texas, isn't steeped in wins and national championships like Lincoln's is. Rather, it is steeped in memorable games, respected rivals and devoted students.

In a sense, that difference is at the core of A&M's tradition and at the core of those who died because of it. The 11 students, and one alumnus, were crushed under the weight of massive logs, part of a ritual bonfire constructed every two years before a home game with UT. The students signed waivers before helping with the bonfire structure, so they knew the dangers.

But now, there is talk of litigation and malpractice. There's also talk of stopping the bonfire, which would be wrong. More safety is needed, yes, but the tradition should not stop. A rich tradition is part of the Aggie identity and should remain so.

### Editorial policy

Please keep letters to the editor no longer than 250 words. Longer letters may be used as guest columns at the editor's discretion. All letters must be signed and include an address or phone number for confirmation. Letters may be edited for libelous statements, available space or factual errors.



### OFF CAMPUS VIEWS

## Skip mandatory attendance policies

by MATT THOMAS

Oklahoma Daily  
University of Oklahoma

(U-WIRE) NORMAN, Okla.

— As the close of the semester rapidly approaches, many of us will find ourselves with calculator in hand attempting to guess what our grade will be in a class.

For many classes it is straightforward, but for others it is a crap shoot because a portion of your grade depends on attendance.

We find ourselves calling up Louie the Bull to get the Las Vegas spread on our grade in Underwater Basketweaving 101 because, though our grades on coursework are high, our lack of attendance could be very detrimental to our overall grade.

One of my favorite professors made the point that a majority of our tuition is paid by the taxpayers and that we, as students, have an obligation to attend class because of the taxpayer investment.

I disagree.

The monies that are paid by

taxpayers to support students' education also go to support the professors in the form of salary.

If you can miss class and make a good grade, there is one of two things happening. The material in the class is well below your level of learning and you should move on to a more challenging course, or the professor is lacking and not teaching at a level that both challenges and interests his or her students.

For example, I took a lab some time ago that consisted of a laboratory and a discussion session.

I went for the few sessions of the discussion only to find that the material the professor covered in no way aided or complemented what was to be covered in the lab later that week. The session consisted purely of him talking for 50 minutes. Although the professor threatened to report those that had bad attendance to the dean, I chose to no longer attend.

Long story short, I finished in the top ten of the entire class. A significant number of the top stu-

dents in the class did the same.

There is a secondary component to the aforementioned lab every spring. I was expecting to have a similar experience as the previous fall. I was pleasantly surprised to find the instructor engaging, and the material he covered complemented the experiments to be performed.

If you missed his discussion, you would find it difficult to complete the lab. I found myself, along with the majority of my classmates, attended nearly every morning to learn, despite its 8 a.m. meeting time.

It has been my experience that classes with strict attendance policies generally are taught by professors whose ability to teach or relate to his or her students is sub-par. The attendance policies are not there necessarily for your best interest as a student; rather, they know only a handful will attend a class on any given day.

A student who can make a good grade without attending class should not be punished.

## Unimaginative gameshow belittles viewers

by CHRIS HUFFINES

The Battalion  
Texas A&M University

(U-WIRE) COLLEGE STA-

TION, Texas — After King Kong, one would think New York would learn to keep the loud, obnoxious apes locked away.

However, Regis Philbin is once again bludgeoning America's senses and sensibilities with his "unique" brand of game-show fun. Unfortunately, his new game show, "Who Wants to be a Millionaire," has rocketed to the No. 3 spot in the Nielsen ratings not by being novel, professional or interesting but rather by pandering to the lowest common denominators of society.

While it would be illegal and maybe unethical to kill him, Philbin and his "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" game show must be stopped, for the following reasons.

First, the name of the show is pandering and pedantic. Everyone who isn't as rich as Bill Gates or his counterparts wants to be a millionaire.

But as P. T. Barnum said, there's a sucker born every minute. And "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" plays to suckers.

The title casts the show as a television lottery. But while one has a better chance of being struck by lightning than winning the lottery, "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" evens the odds a bit. With "Lifeline" phone calls and audience votes, one now has the same chance of winning money as being on the john during a major earthquake.

And while some may say "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" is "Jeopardy" without the pretentious, smart people and that weird answer-question thing, "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" is more like "Hollywood Squares" without the funny celebrities.

Even more demeaning are the questions geared toward people with IQs below household pets.

It may be challenging for the contestants — after all, stress does make it hard to think — but a challenge would be nice.

Asking contestants to name the capital of Iraq or how many teaspoons are in a tablespoon may be worth \$200, but even as a stepping stone to \$1 million, they are fairly silly.

Worst of all, the show is just slow and not entertaining. It uses expensive "Intellilights," the

kinds found in major Broadway theaters, to execute one repetitive, annoying, futile effect.

The set is minimalist at best, and not in an artistic way. It takes Philbin and the judges seconds that stretch into an eternity to determine if answer "A," "B," "C" or "D" is correct.

And Philbin... well, Philbin just is not game-show host material. In "Who Wants to be a Millionaire," it is all Philbin, all the time. He lacks the poise and polish of Alex Trebek or Pat Sajak or even Jimmy Kimmell. Being less skilled than the host of "The Man Show" and "Win Ben Stein's Money" is just sad.

But Philbin has "star power." Never mind his particular brand of star power is more like a black hole, sucking good taste into another dimension.

But Joe Six-pack, Joe Joint and Mary Jane Homebody all know who he is, and is that not more important than quality?

"Who Wants to be a Millionaire" is trash, and it should not be allowed to continue in its present form. Philbin should be barred from walking into a television studio, much less hosting a television show.

### THEIR VIEW

## Aid changes stick students with the bill

STAFF EDITORIAL

The Lantern  
Ohio State University

(U-WIRE) COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Higher Education Act is considered one of the most important pieces of federal legislation that exists today. The act, which authorizes most of the country's federal student aid programs, contains numerous regulations that have been designed to help students acquire aid at colleges and universities throughout the United States.

However, due to recent changes, the Higher Education Act may serve to harm some students as well.

Beginning next summer, students who receive aid from Title IV programs — which include Federal Direct Student Loans, Federal Perkins Loans, Federal SEOG Grants and Federal Pell Grants — will be required to pay back a portion of their money if they drop out of school.

In other words, if the federal government gives you money to go to school, and you drop out, it wants back whatever money you didn't use, even though it has already been paid to the university.

Advocates of this new law feel that it will encourage students to stay in school. However, this law is actually a greed move by our federal government.

According to Webster, aid is help, support or assistance. Nowhere does it say that, if the help, support or assistance is not beneficial, it should be returned.

Although it may seem reasonable to ask for this money back, the same privilege is not given to the rest of us. Take health insurance, for example. Every quarter, tens of thousands of students at Ohio State pay a set fee for health insurance. In four years, if you haven't gotten sick, or needed to make use of the OSU Medical Center, shouldn't you get your money back?

Or take COTA. Every quarter, we all pay \$9 so students can ride buses for free. In four years, if you haven't even once taken the bus, shouldn't you get your money back?

But you don't, do you? So now the federal government has the nerve to kick students while we are down by telling us that we must pay back money that never belonged to us in the first place as a penalty for dropping out?

No student goes to college with the intent of dropping out, it just happens. The federal government gives student aid not to push a student through school, but to give him or her the opportunity to go to school. If that opportunity is lost, students should not be forced to pay money back. Instead, it should remain in the university to be offered as scholarship or financial funding for students who were not given federal aid.

If anyone should be paying money back, it should be the university from which the student withdrew, for it is that university that was given the money which was not put to use.

If we are forced to pay this money back, fine. But students better be getting a check at graduation for the health insurance and the COTA buses many people don't use.

## Parthenon

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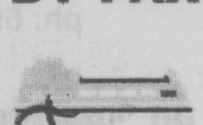
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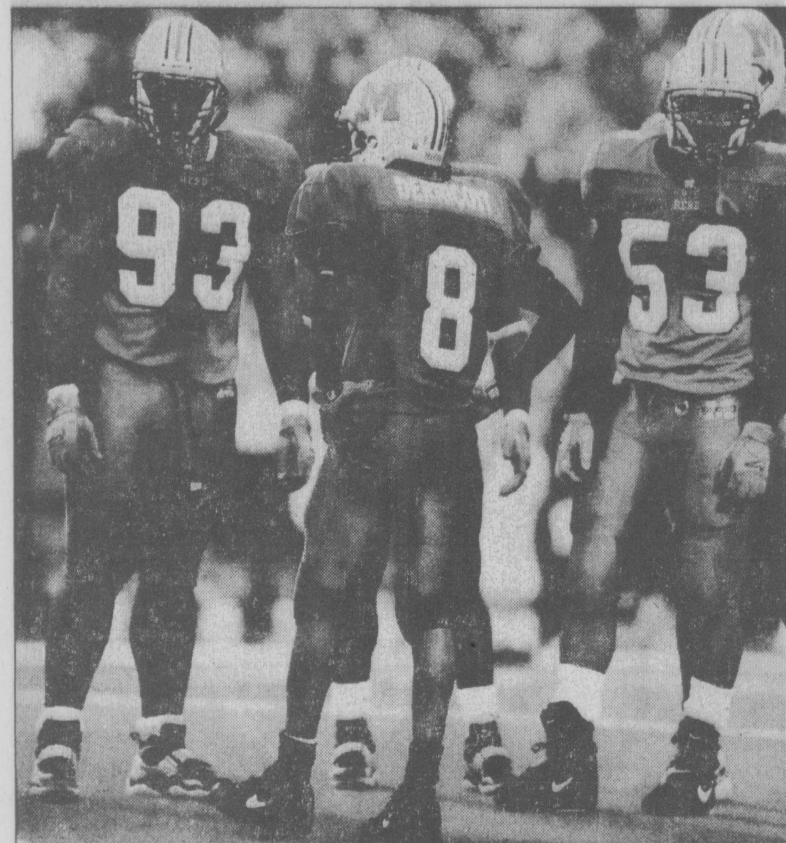
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## Herd knows loss ends bowl hopes



Junior defensive back Daninelle Derricott (8) and the Thundering Herd take a rest during the team's 34-3 win Friday over Ohio. Marshall meets Western Michigan Friday for the Mid-American Championship and its postseason bowl hopes are on the line.

by CHARLES SHUMAKER  
sports editor

Many Marshall fans may be worried about who will be the at-large opponent in the Motor City Bowl.

But the Thundering Herd is not worried about who they could play Dec. 27; it is worried about who it plays Dec. 3.

As Marshall prepares for its third consecutive trip to the Mid-American Conference Championship game, the No. 11 Thundering Herd knows the possibility of losing to Western Michigan and sitting at home over the Christmas holidays with an 11-1 record.

With an automatic bowl berth on the line Friday, Marshall has a lot to lose if it falls to the West Division champs. With a loss, Marshall would lose its bowl berth, its perfect season and a potential finish in the Top 10 at the end of the season.

But losing Friday is the last thing on Marshall's mind.

"We play to win here. We aren't going to think about losing," junior wide receiver David

Foye said. "Winning talks. Football is a simple game. Whoever plays and hits the hardest wins. That's it."

The first meeting between the Broncos and the Thundering Herd was billed as a showdown between the league's top two passers, but it turned out to be a one-man show as Marshall quarterback Chad Pennington overshadowed WMU quarterback Tim Lester in the 31-17 win.

"This game is as big as the next game. We aren't worried about the bowl now," junior defensive back Daninelle Derricott said. "We have to play our game against Western (Michigan). We know how hard it can be to beat a team twice."

"It's hard to beat a team two times," Marshall senior running back Doug Chapman said. "We're just going to go out there and run the ball, throw the ball and play tough defense."

"We've got some film to watch now because we've played them before," he said. "We'll know their tendencies and they'll know our tendencies. It's going to be a tough ball game once

again and we just need to get out of it with a win."

Derricott said the team knows who would be to blame if Marshall loses to Western Michigan, but there is no reason to think it cannot win.

"We know we can beat them. We will just have to be disciplined and do all the right things at the right time," Derricott said. "If we lose it's no one's fault, but our own. We just have to keep our focus."

Marshall head coach Bob Pruett said the team has to be ready regardless of the record and past games against the Broncos.

"The margin of error is so small now in college football that anybody can beat anybody on any given day," Pruett said. "This is the championship game and we play for championships. If we want to go to the bowl game, we have to win. There are no guarantees on anything else."

As the only undefeated team not in the Top 10 and not in the Bowl Championship Rankings Top 8, focus could be a hard thing to keep for the 11-0

Thundering Herd.

"We don't look at the BCS too much. Stats show what we can do," junior defensive back Maurice Hines said. "We have to play hard for the season and the rings."

Junior wide receiver Nate Poole has a different and more confident outlook for the game Friday.

"We don't think that way (about losing) we just have to play our hardest," Poole said. "If Western Michigan couldn't beat us at their place, what makes them think they will be able to win in the 'Thunder Dome.' As far as the bowl is concerned, we don't want Louisville. We already showed what we can do against them. Bring on BYU."

Poole's confidence may not be mirrored by every player on the team but a lone voice from the team's locker room following practice Tuesday could be heard saying "We're going to play BYU!"

Maybe not the focus the rest of the team may want but obviously something on the minds of the Thundering Herd.

### BYU wants bowl bid

From page 1

that we would have loved to have but they had commitments through their conference," Popp said.

Popp said the teams the bowl has looked at include BYU, Louisiana Tech, Louisville and Wyoming. Utah was a team Popp mentioned but the Utes accepted a bid for the Las Vegas Bowl.

Marshall is a 21-point favorite for the MAC championship game and if the Thundering Herd could defeat Western Michigan for the second time in three weeks and BYU is selected for the at-large bid in the bowl, a Marshall-Louisville rematch would be avoided.

Several news sources have reported that Louisville, who Marshall beat 48-29 in last year's Motor City Bowl, has attempted to schedule a rematch with the Thundering Herd by promising to sell as many as 17,000 tickets for the bowl game.

### Parthenon Sports

Watch for Mid-American Conference Championship game coverage in The Parthenon special issue Dec. 6

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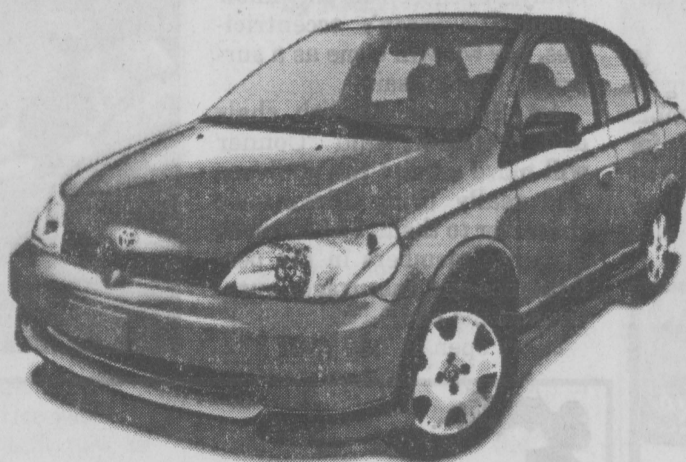
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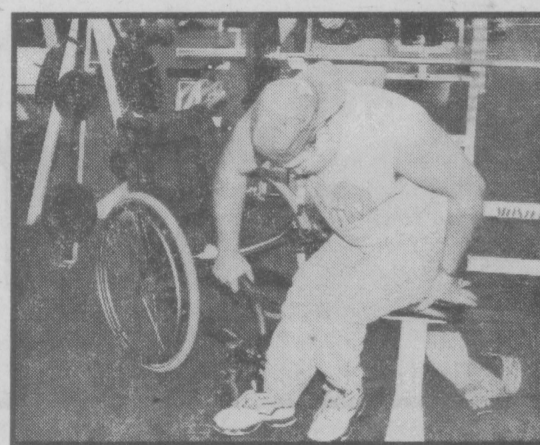


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## Without limits

From softball to weight lifting Chad Beam does not take life sitting down. Follow Beam through a day in his life on campus.

Soon in Life!



Wednesday, Dec. 1, 1999  
Page edited by Errin Jewell and Amanda Terry

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## Parthenon



# Rediscovering Emily Dickinson

Story by  
Ryan Wheeler



by Emily Dickinson

We never know how high we are  
Till we are called to rise;  
And then, if we are true to plan,  
Our stature touch the skies.

The heroism we recite  
Would be a daily thing,  
Did not ourselves the cubits warp  
For fear to be a king.

The Alumni Lounge will play home to legendary 19th century poet Emily Dickinson at 8 p.m. Wednesday night.

Performer and writer Debra Conner offers the Marshall and Huntington community a chance to see Dickinson in a unique light.

The Parkersburg native entertains groups with an in-character program titled, "Called Back: A Visit with Emily Dickinson."

Conner's visit is the second leg of the Visiting Writer's Series sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts. Noted poet Sharon Bryan read to a standing-room-only crowd earlier this semester.

Conner's interest in Dickinson began during a summer study at Columbia University in New York for Conner. According to a news release, she received a fellowship for her in-character idea

in 1996 from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Her performance developed into an audience-interactive program. She became part of the West Virginia Humanities Council's History Alive program, which provides in-depth looks at famous historical people through performances.

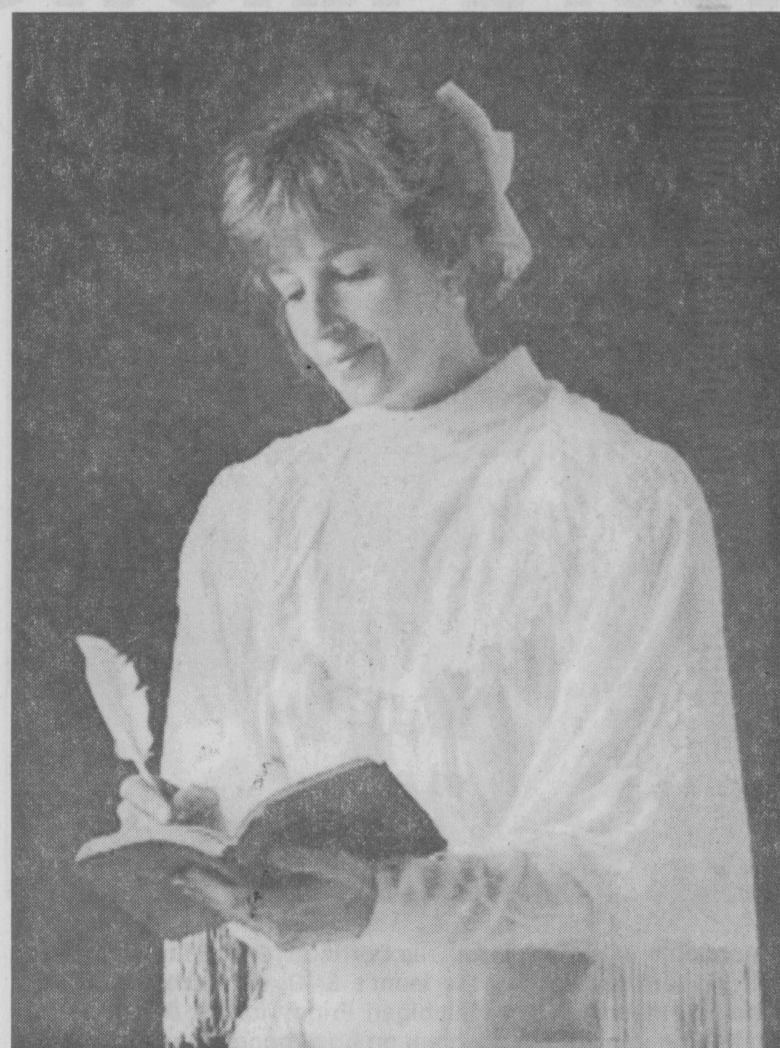
As Conner researched, she uncovered aspects of Dickinson's life that are largely unknown to the public.

At the height of her writing, Dickinson wrote at least one poem every day, but fewer than a dozen of those poems were published in her lifetime.

"Dickinson was actually very funny. For those who only know about Dickinson's eccentricities, her wit will come as a surprise," Conner said.

Art Stringer, English chair and professor, said "Conner will move around the audience and really bring Dickinson's character to them. She involves audience members in the performance and encourages questions at the end."

Doors open at 7:30 p.m.



**ABOVE:** With the help of costumes and props, performer Debra Conner transforms herself into poet Emily Dickinson.



**LEFT:** Debra Conner brings Emily Dickinson to life in the program "Called Back: A Visit with Emily Dickinson."

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