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# the Parthenon

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Volume 101 Number 87

Marshall University's student newspaper — Celebrating 101 years!

Page edited by Andrea Copley

## Convocation honors students

Former president J. Wade Gilley says quality, distinction are important merits of excellence

by JON P. ROGERS  
reporter

Although J. Wade Gilley came to the Elizabeth Gibson Drinko Honors Convocation prepared with a rather lengthy lecture, he was advised otherwise.

"I have 31 pages but I'll just go over the highlights," he said. "Sarah Denman (provost and senior vice president of academic affairs) told me that if I talked much past (noon), the students would walk out."

So, Gilley condensed his speech to 15 minutes.

He is president of the University of Tennessee and was Marshall president for eight years, from 1991 to 1999.

The primary purpose of the annual convocation is to recognize outstanding honors students.

Stacey L. Richards, Harrisville senior, received the A. Mervin Tyson award, which is given to the most outstanding honors student of the year.

Gregory W. Wheeler, Barboursville sophomore; Sarah E. Carr, Bristol senior; and Jennifer K. Miller, Warrenton, Va., sophomore, received University Honors Book awards.

The merits of excellence was the topic of Gilley's speech. He said quality and distinction were the key components of excellence.

"The role of Marshall is to provide that for West Virginians and the larger world," he said.

"Marshall has a modern curriculum and most schools do not. The faculty remodeled the curriculum, which is not the case at most institutions.

"The old railroad- and coal-based economy is a thing of the

*"I see a university that knows the merits of excellence. The best is still ahead for Marshall and I'm looking forward to observing that in the future."*

J. Wade Gilley,  
former Marshall president

past. The new economy is knowledge-based and Marshall is a central force in shaping that new economy for Southern West Virginia."

Gilley said a large, beautiful campus is an improvement to the community in which it is located, and that the university experience could not be replaced by branch campuses and electronic courses.

"The ambiance of the university makes the community," he said.

After Gilley's speech, Martha C. Woodward, executive director of the John C. Hall Center for Academic Excellence, announced that Dr. Richard J. Badenhansen would no longer be chairman of the honors council.

She praised him for his dedication to the students and to the position, in which he has served since 1995.

President Dan Angel presented Gilley with the John Marshall medal for civic responsibility and placed it around Gilley's neck.

Gilley is the 17th recipient of the award.

When accepting the award, Gilley said, "I see a university that knows the merits of excellence. The best is still ahead for Marshall and I'm looking forward to observing that in the future."

"The old railroad- and coal-based economy is a thing of the



Nan Gilley, right, watches as her husband, former President J. Wade Gilley, unveils a portrait of the two Thursday in the John Deaver Drinko Library.

## Gilley says he's pleased with new portrait

by JAY M. MORLACETTA  
reporter

Former Marshall President J. Wade Gilley and his wife, Nan, returned to campus Thursday morning to watch the unveiling of a portrait displaying two of the university's well known figures — themselves.

The portrait was revealed at a 9 a.m. service in the lobby of the John Deaver Drinko Library.

Members of the Marshall community spoke at the dedication service.

"The achievements made by Wade Gilley here at Marshall are remarkable," President Dan Angel said.

The portrait unveiling was part

of Marshall's Celebration of Academics.

Marshall contributor John Deaver Drinko and his wife, Elizabeth, funded the portrait, which will be on display in the Drinko Library.

"It's great to be here, and it makes you feel good to see what's been accomplished," Drinko said. He spoke of the long planning process to complete the library.

"We needed a library then, and I remember how Wade enjoyed the project so much," Drinko said.

"It's nice to honor Wade and to

have him back from Tennessee."

Gilley, now the president of the University of Tennessee, said he is pleased with artist John Martin's portrayal of him and his wife.

"The definition of a good portrait is one that flatters the subjects," Gilley said.

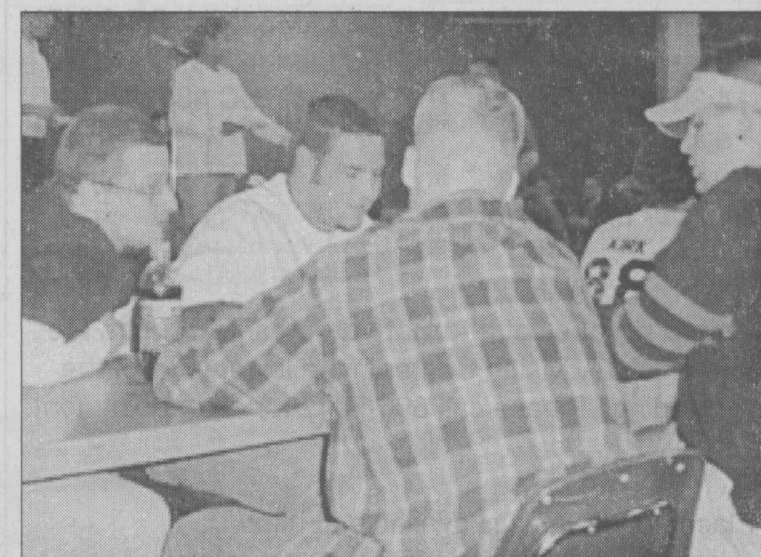
Martin also painted Drinko's portrait.

"He can satisfy me and John Drinko, and that's pretty good," Gilley said. Gilley's wife, Nan, said, "It is wonderful to be back in this beautiful building, and on this great campus."

She said she will always hold Marshall in the highest regard. "We are a part of the Marshall family," Nan Gilley said.



Drinko



Travis Heitzenrater, left, Joab Dellinger, Ryan Goodwin and Chad Prather, members of the Alpha Tau Omega trivia team, discuss the answer to a question Wednesday in Marco's.

## Greeks test trivia knowledge

by ELINE M. LOEFGREN  
SKEIDE  
reporter

Greek Week participants got an opportunity Wednesday to exercise their minds.

Fraternities and sororities met in Marco's in the basement of the Memorial Student Center to test their trivia knowledge.

"I think the trivia part of Greek Week allows the brighter guys to participate in something other than athletics," said Scott Jacobs, Pi Kappa Alpha junior from Manassas, Va.

"Athletics is only one part of what we do."

The contest consisted of four-person teams, which could not receive help from anyone during the event. The questions were worth different amounts of points and topics ranged from sports to ancient history.

After the first half of questions, Alpha Xi Delta led the sororities, while Sigma Phi Epsilon had the most points of the fraternities.

"The competition's pretty tough, I hope we can hang on in to the second half," said Patrick Morrison, Sigma Phi Epsilon freshman from Huntington.

Phi Mu won the sororities trivia contest with Alpha Chi Omega in

second, Delta Zeta in third and Alpha Xi Delta in fourth.

Sigma Alpha Epsilon had the most points among the fraternities with Sigma Phi Epsilon in second, Alpha Sigma Phi in third and Pi Kappa Phi in fourth.

Alpha Chi Omega placed first among the sororities for the Greek Week volleyball tournament Wednesday. The fraternities were unable to finish their tournament Wednesday due to lack of equipment, and played their last games Thursday.

Greek Week ends Sunday with the annual Greek Sing competition at 4 p.m. in the Don Morris Room of the MSC.

## S.O.A.R. members play Easter bunny

by TAMARA ENDICOTT  
reporter

The Easter bunny will visit the Huntington City Mission children this year, thanks to seven members of the Student Organization for Alumni Relations who put together 12 baskets during Wednesday's meeting.

"It's Impact Week, and as part of that, this is our contribution," said Hillary Justice, president of S.O.A.R. "We enjoy doing things for the kids, like the stockings at Christmas. For Easter, we decided to make baskets for them."

Other business discussed during the meeting included nomination notification for the Karen C. Thomas Leadership Award that will be given April 14, S.O.A.R. activities during Alumni Week-



John Braxton, center, fills Easter baskets for kids Wednesday at the S.O.A.R. meeting.

end and the S.O.A.R. dinner scheduled for April 30.

The next meeting is scheduled for 9:15 p.m. April 26 in the Welcome Center.

## Catholic retreat to celebrate Eucharist

by COURTNEY L. BAILES  
reporter

Marshall Catholics will come together this weekend for the annual Community Retreat in the Newman Center.

The theme for this year is "Eucharist in a Jubilee Year," said Bill Petro, chaplain of the Newman Center.

"It will help them experience their global connection with people throughout the world because the Eucharist is the central most thing we do as Catholics," Petro said.

Eucharist is also called holy communion or mass, he said.

The retreat, which begins at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, is designed for students, staff and faculty who are involved with the center to fellowship with other Catholics, Petro said.

The retreat will include

*"(The annual Community Retreat) was started as a way of fostering continuing education and spiritual growth."*

Bill Petro,  
chaplain of the Newman Center

prayer, presentations, small group discussions and mass, all of which take place at the Newman Center.

"The Two of Hots" is scheduled to perform its cabaret act Saturday night at the retreat, Petro said.

Audrey Kaiser, assistant professor of music, and her partner, Carol Lyon, have been performing for 15 years, Kaiser said. They perform show tunes

and other songs, play the electric keyboards and mix in the piano.

The Newman Center will have Mass at 10:15 a.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Petro said.

The guest speaker for the retreat is Alonso DeBlas, chaplain of Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale, Ariz., Petro said.

"Some people had met him and liked the way he preached and taught," he said.

Petro said he is expecting 30 to 50 people to come to the retreat.

The first community retreat

was 15 years ago, Petro said.

"It was started as a way of fostering continuing education and spiritual growth," Petro said.



Petro

## Faculty Senate meeting set for April 13

In Thursday's issue, The Parthenon incorrectly reported the date for the spring general faculty meeting. The meeting is at 4 p.m. April 13 in the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse of the Fine and Performing Arts Center.

Agenda items include:  
n the nomination for one faculty member to serve as the Huntington campus representative to the Advisory Council of Faculty.

n President Dan Angel is scheduled to speak.

n remembering School of Nursing Associate Dean Giovanna Morton, who recently passed away.

We apologize for any inconvenience.

The Parthenon will correct errors that appear in its news columns. To report an error, call 696-6696.



Outgoing Student Government Association President Brandi Jacobs packs up items in her office Thursday. Today is Jacobs' last day in office.

## Jacobs reflects on year

by RHANDA M. FARMER  
reporter

Student Government Association President Brandi Jacobs sets a half-filled box in the only empty chair in her office, the others chairs are filled with papers, file folders and other remnants of her administration.

Jacobs is moving out. "I'm very proud of what the SGA has accomplished," she said. "I wanted to focus on bringing SGA back to where it was when I began and I think we've done a good job doing that."

Jacobs said she had fun when she became involved with student government four years ago. "Over the past four years, SGA became not so fun. We had people here that were only concerned with building résumés instead of the student welfare."

"I really tried to change the focus and make SGA fun again. We've been able to do this and the fact that we have a full senate reflects that," Jacobs said.

SGA Vice President Tony Ponton agrees.

"We tried to make it fun up here. Being vice president basically means you stand up here on Tuesdays and run the meetings and I wanted to make that as fun as possible for people."

"We've really tried to let people know that you can have a good time as long as you get things done. This can be enjoyable just

Please see **SGA, P3**

**MORE INSIDE**  
Our View p4



Photo exhibit tackles images of women

by JANE MATTE
Northeastern News
Northeastern University

(U-WIRE) BOSTON — There are two things in women's magazines you can always count on: articles dealing with sex and images of scantily-clad, very young, tall, thin women. Unfortunately, those images don't lend themselves to valid representations of most women today.
Mary Pat Warming, a research associate in the women's studies visiting scholar program at Northeastern University, is working to re-image women for the fashion industry and creating an art form from it.
For the past three years, Warming has been working on an art book containing photos and text that she hopes will change the way the public and fashion industry view the female sex. "Re-imaging: Fashion a Feminine Art" will exhibit 15 photos from her work in the Curry Student Center gallery this month.
"I have always been into fashion," Warming said. "This project came about when I was working on a fashion show at Seattle Central Community College, and I began to see that women seemed to easily communicate and relate to each other through fashion, much like guys do with sports. I wanted to try and bring fashion and feminism together."
Her thesis is that women of all body types need to be included in

the fashion industry and media for the well-being of women today.
"I feel that censorship of women's imaging within the fashion industry has produced a culture of negative body image for women," Warming said. For example, 14- or 15-year-old girls are being used to represent grown women, leading to the theory that images coming out of the fashion world have contributed to the growing problem of anorexia nervosa and bulimia in women and girls.
"The models I choose are of various ages, sizes and ethnicities, and one woman's beauty will not be differentiated from another," Warming explained. "No blame is placed on the fashion industry models for their work or their physique. They are popular icons of feminine culture."
Warming feels because it's a woman's industry, it also needs to be controlled by women. "Fashion photography has developed from a history of male imaging, but it still remains a feminine visual language. Women must take control of our industry, our femininity and our cultural self-definition."
So while the fashion industry image may be acceptable to some, Warming has a different outlook. As the director of the shoots, she selected the models, was the stylist, editor and sometimes took the photographs herself.

Cusack's real life similar to role

by PETER DEBRUGE
Daily Texan
University of Texas-Austin

(U-WIRE) AUSTIN, Texas —Ask John Cusack to rank his top five albums, and he's quick to admit, "I'm not a list maker. I don't have a top five." That's hardly the case for Rob Gordon, the obsessive list-making vinyl aficionado he plays in "High Fidelity." But having been through his share of messy breakups, Cusack can certainly relate to a character dealing with a merciless split. Talking with him on the phone, you feel that same balance of sensitive and sensible that makes Rob Gordon such a likable, easygoing guy in the movie: That balance explains a lot about why "High Fidelity" feels so natural.
"I think if you talk to most guys, they'll tell you that Rob is pretty much dead on as far as the emotions and contradictions we feel about being intimate or committing to a woman, or the circus

in our head," Cusack said with a laugh. "I'm sure the circus would be equally insane if it was inside a woman's head. But being a film about the male perspective, I think it's pretty accurate."
"High Fidelity" makes itself so endearing by earning our trust, seducing us through honesty. Rob Gordon may not be the world's perfect man, but at least he's willing to admit his faults to the camera. And he does so freely, completely breaking down the "fourth wall" and treating his story like casual one-on-one with the audience.
"The thing about the character in the book is that he plays the fool beautifully," Cusack said. "He's sort of lazy and inert; he's kind of in denial, and it's really hard for him to be honest. He sort of drags his feet and all that. But I think there's another contradictory, redemptive side of the character that has a great capacity for honesty. Most people shy away from looking at painful truth, but some of those painful truths are



Jill Peterson, John Cusack and Joan Cusack star in "High Fidelity," which is playing at Cinema Theaters in Huntington.

also the funniest."
And that endearing humor and sincerity shows in the movie, which springs from a bestselling novel by Nick Hornby. Cusack adapted the book with screenwriting partners D.V. DeVincen-tis and Steve Pink, who grew up with Cusack in Chicago. After Cusack found success in Hollywood, he encouraged them to join him. "Look, these people out here have nothing on you," he told them. "Come on out, and let's make some movies!"
The trio of longtime friends first collaborated on the film "Grosse Pointe Blank."

TV Review: 'Wonderland' is a compelling addition to ABC

(U-WIRE) SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Premiering last Thursday at 10 p.m., ABC's gritty "Wonderland" is a welcome addition to an otherwise lackluster season of television. The one-hour drama takes place in Rivervue Hospital, a psychiatric and emergency ward in New York City.
"Wonderland," which has been highly touted by its network, has been advertised as the best alternative to "ER," which it faces on a weekly basis.
It's got an interesting pedigree, with show creator Peter Berg serving as both writer and director of the first episode. It also comes with a fair amount of controversy attached. A number

of organizations have protested the show's depiction of mental illness, saying it emphasizes the violent and reinforces negative stereotypes. But Berg (last seen on "Chicago Hope") and his writers claim they spent months researching real-life psychiatrists and their patients.
Shot in documentary style and using that shaky-camera feel from "NYPD Blue," "Wonderland" is indeed a cross between "NYPD Blue" and its head-to-head competitor "ER." Shot on location in New York City, the series delves into the lives of both the staff and the patients they help.
The cast is outstanding. The

first episode alone contained some of the best acting in recent memory. Ted Levine ("Heat," "Silence of the Lambs"), as the head forensic psychiatrist, convincingly conveys a man both deeply involved with his patients as well as struggling to maintain custody over his two young sons. Martin Donovan ("The Opposite of Sex") is convincing as Dr. Neil Harrison, a psychiatrist who deals with patients who have committed crimes.
The series also stars Billy Burke, a young, good-looking psychiatrist who is, of course, the show's commitment-phobic brooding guy — a role better played by George Clooney dur-

ing his early years on "ER." Series regulars Michael Jai White ("Tyson," "Spawn"), a young trauma specialist, and Joelle Carter, the intern, did not make an appearance in the first episode — a fact indicating just what kinds of risks the series is willing to take.
Compared to cliché-ridden TV dramas like "The Practice," "Third Watch" and "Once and Again," "Wonderland" is daring and inventive. This is potent material to play with, and if the show can take an honest look at the fragile hold society has on that which they say is "normal," then it has got a great life ahead of it.

MATH & ENGLISH CHALLENGE PLACEMENT EXAMS
SCHEDULE FOR SPRING 2000
You may choose one of the following three options:
A. DATE TIME LOCATION
April 11 and 12, 2000 2:00 PM and 4:30 PM each day EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN IN CC 135
Students may take only one exam per time period.
B. In addition to these dates, a limited number of alternative dates and times are available by appointment only in the MCTC Advising Center in the lower level of the Community and Technical College Building. Please call 696-7047 for an appointment.
C. Information about the online Placement Exams is available at http://web.marshall.edu/ctc/
Students must have the following items to be admitted to the on campus placement exam session:
1. \$10.00 Registration Fee for each exam attempted. (Make checks payable to Marshall University or have correct amount in cash.)
2. Photo ID. (MU ID or valid driver's license.)
3. Pencils. (Calculators ARE permitted.)
Students must meet the following guidelines to qualify for these placement exams:
1. A student must be fully admitted to Marshall University or Marshall Community and Technical College OR currently enrolled in a secondary school with at least junior status.
2. A student who has received a "NC," "F," "WP," or "WF" in developmental course is ineligible to attempt the placement exam for that dropped or failed course.
For more information, contact Nedra Lowe at 696-3017 or Monica Shafer at 696-5229. Pre-registration is not required.

"MV ATTITUDE"
SPRINGFEST 2000
MONDAY,
APRIL 10
TUNE IN GAME SHOW
8:00 P.M.
DON MORRIS ROOM,
MSC
STUDENT ACTIVITIES
SAB
PROGRAMMING BOARD



# Should résumés reveal disabilities?

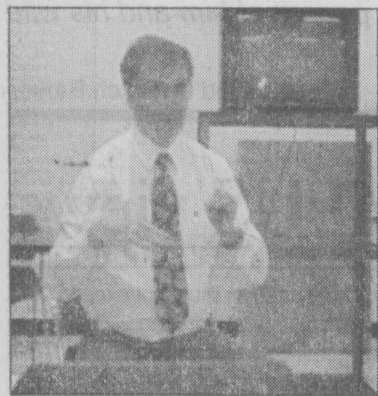


photo by Rhanda M. Farmer  
Jerry Coleman spoke at the résumé forum Thursday.

by RHANDA M. FARMER  
reporter

Writing a résumé, filling out an application or being interviewed can be nerve-racking parts of the employment process for everybody, but what if you're a prospective employee with a disability?

Do you tell your potential employer about your disability in your résumé or do you wait until the interview?

Joe Marshman, residence life specialist, and Jerry Coleman,

from Rehabilitation Services, delivered a résumé preparation forum Thursday as part of Disability Awareness Week to answer those and other questions.

Marshman began the forum by showing a video, "Résumés and Applications for People with Disabilities." The video said the purpose of a résumé was to highlight a person's skills and abilities. It also said a functional format would allow people to focus on their abilities and past jobs without having to explain

gaps in employment that may be present in a chronologically formatted résumé for people with disabilities.

"A résumé needs to be eye candy," Marshman said. "The best ones are the ones that pay close attention to detail."

"The key to a good résumé is to keep your achievements the focus," Coleman said. "Picture it as your ad in the yellow pages. Your key points and relevant skills have to jump off the page."

Coleman said a résumé is a useful tool, but is not the only

thing needed when looking for a job.

"A résumé is not enough. You have to show people you really want the job," he said.

Coleman explained that phone scripts would be a good way to give employers information.

"A big mistake most people make is to ask if an employer is hiring," Coleman said. "Instead, you should start by saying you've just graduated with this degree and you have these certain skills and ask if they're

looking for anyone like you.

"This way the employer becomes a captive audience and you can really get their attention in a positive way," he said.

Coleman said people with disabilities should remember employers are basically looking for qualifications, enthusiasm and genuine desire.

"Employers are always looking for good workers," Coleman said.

"If you're a good worker, employers will be willing to make accommodations for you."

## Students prepare lectures on math

by KIMBERLY BAGBY  
reporter

Marshall mathematics students will celebrate Mathematics Awareness Month this weekend.

Students in the Department of Mathematics will give presentations at the spring meeting of the Ohio section of the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) Friday and Saturday in the Memorial Student Center (MSC).

"We must do all we can to attract mathematics students in the short period that we have influence over them," Doug Faures, Ohio Section governor, wrote in Ohio Focus, the Ohio section newsletter for MAA. "The Ohio section has been a leader in this regard with our strong program of student participation at the spring section meetings."

Marshall is included in the Ohio section of the MAA.

Marshall students and faculty will make 15-minute presentations at 3:20 p.m. Friday and at 10:20 a.m. Saturday on topics of general interest in mathematics, according to Ohio Focus.

Each student speaker will receive a free one-year MAA membership.

"Anyone who attends the sessions will see various applications and forms of mathematics that they've never thought of," said Aparna Higgins, president of the Ohio section of the MAA.

Katherine Coleman Johnson, a retired research mathematician and scientist at NASA's Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va., will share stories about her experiences in NASA's Flight Research Division at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Marco's in the MSC.

Colin Adams, professor of mathematics at Williams College in Williamstown, Mass., will speak on "Making Calculus Fun: How to Entertain at Parties" at 12:10 p.m. Saturday in the Don Morris Room of the MSC.

Those interested may preregister online at Marshall's Web page at [www.marshall.edu/math/maaMeeting/index.html](http://www.marshall.edu/math/maaMeeting/index.html).

More information is available by contacting Ari Aluthge, David Cusick or Bruce Ebanks in Marshall's Department of Mathematics at 696-6482.

## SpringFest starts Monday

The Student Activities Programming Board will present SpringFest "MU Attitude 2000" starting Monday.

The week will feature more than 15 events.

Comedians Marty Putz and Vince Morris will be the featured entertainers for the week.

Monday, hotdogs and cake will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Memorial Student Center (MSC) plaza.

Starting at noon, students, faculty and staff will be able to perform karaoke. The day ends at 8 p.m. with the Tune-In Game Show at Marco's in the basement of the MSC.

Tuesday, snow cones will be

served from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the MSC plaza. Karaoke will be offered as well.

Wednesday, cotton candy will be served from 11:30 to 1 p.m. at the plaza. Activities including tie-dyeing are scheduled from noon to 2 p.m. on Buskirk Field.

Thursday at 1 p.m., students can play Marshall's version of "Who Wants to be a Millionaire."

April 14, cotton candy will be available at the MSC plaza from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The annual SpringFest Pet Show will begin at noon. A caricature artist also will be at the plaza.

The week will end April 15 with a picnic from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Ritter Park.

## Helicopters to land on campus Thursday

ROTC preparing for day of displays

by CHRISTOPHER M. HAGY  
reporter

Military vehicles, weapons and patrol maneuvers will be on exhibit Thursday from noon to 3 p.m. at Walter "Lefty" Rollins Track Field as part of Marshall University's ROTC Organizational Day.

The goal of Organizational Day is, "to reach out to the campus and community all at once and increase ROTC visibility," Lt. Jamethon Honaker said. "A lot of people don't know we exist."

Organizational Day is an opportunity to promote the

*"I hope to fly both helicopters Thursday. It's my last flight. I'm retiring in May."*

Lt. Col. Stephen Redmond,  
of ROTC

program, Lt. Col. Stephen Redmond said. He said he hopes to increase ROTC enrollment next year.

The primary display, Honaker said, will be two helicopters — an OH-58 SCOUT and UH-1 (HUEY) — provided by the W.Va. Army National Guard. The helicopters are scheduled to land at 10 a.m. on the track field.

Redmond will be pilot during Organizational Day.

"I hope to fly both helicopters

Thursday," Redmond said. "It's my last flight. I'm retiring in May," he said.

The helicopters will be on display to all students, but passenger flights only are available to participating military science cadets, Redmond said.

Redmond said additional attractions will be a HUMVEE and weapons display provided by representatives of the 219th Special Forces Detachment at Kenova. Weapons displays will

include AK47s, rocket launchers, M249SAWs, .50 caliber machine guns and MAC10s. ROTC will provide lunch for spectators, he said.

"You never know what's going to happen when you're trying to coordinate with several different groups," Honaker said.

"But everyone we've worked with has been real squared away," he said. "You couldn't ask for better people to coordinate with than the local units."

"Because we don't have a lot of ... equipment, when we have demonstrations, the bulk of the equipment is provided by the local units."

"They have helped us out from the beginning with weapons for qualification, helicopters and the like."

## SGA

■ From page 1

like anything else," Ponton said.

Jacobs says she is pleased with the number of events SGA has been involved with during her administration.

"We've had more events than in the past. We've gone out and worked in the community and gotten a lot of good publicity for Marshall and for student government," Jacobs said.

Although she has many great memories from her administration, Jacobs said there also are those that are not positive.

"I can't lie and say I haven't been frustrated for the past four and a half weeks."

"I was disappointed with the candidates' treatment of each other during the election. The way some groups acted was less

than cordial," Jacobs said.

Jacobs said she has learned from her experiences.

"I can truly say that I never experienced racism or sexism until I was elected SGA president," she said. "I'm glad that I had these experiences now instead of out in the workplace because I know how to deal with it."

It's unfortunate that someone who is trying to do the best they can has people trying to stop their success," she said.

Jacobs has won the respect of fellow executives and senators.

"I think it will be really hard to fill Brandi's shoes," Ponton said. "She has a great relationship with the senate and had a great relationship with me as a senator and as vice president."

"She's done a better job than anyone else I've seen up here and it will be hard for future administrations to match," he said.

Sen. Christy Hays, College of Liberal Arts, said, "Brandi has handled everything very graciously. She's taken on a lot more than she has to and cares a great deal about what she's doing."

"She and Tony have gone out of their way to help me figure out what I'm supposed to do as a senator and show me the ropes," Hays said.

Senate President Pro Tempore Derek Scarbro said, "Brandi and her staff have put in an incredible amount of time and done a lot more than what is required or than past presidents have done."

Sen. Archie Locke, Community and Technical College, said, "She has such a great relationship with the senate. I've always felt I could talk to the executives about things outside of senate anytime."

Jacobs said she would like to see two of the events initiated

by her administration continued by future administrations.

"The Campus Week of Dialogue opens so many doors for students in a way almost nothing else can and the joy you see on the kids' faces at Tri-State Youth Field Day lets you know you're doing the right thing," she said.

Jacobs has advice for future SGA presidents.

"Become a good listener," she said. "With this job, you listen to so many people, from student concerns and squabbles between senators to administrators, and you have to be able to take all that in."

"Being SGA president is about so much more than just building a résumé or being a career politician. It's about serving students and speaking out for individuals that are often neglected on campus. Leadership is not about power. Leadership is about service."

## Workshop to teach skills of recording oral history

The Oral History of Appalachia Program (OHAP) will conduct a workshop on collecting and preserving oral history.

According to a media release, Dr. Lynda Ann Ewen, director of OHAP, will conduct the "Doing

Life Histories" workshop from 4-6:20 p.m. Monday in Smith Hall 530.

Topics to be covered include how to set up interviews, conduct interviews and transcribe tapes. More information is available by calling 696-6799.

## UK to educate Appalachians about cancer

by STEVE BAILEY  
The Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — The University of Kentucky has received a five-year, \$6.8 million grant aimed at making Appalachian residents aware of available resources in the fight against cancer.

The award from the National Cancer Institute goes to the university's Markey Cancer Center.

The grant is one of 17 totaling \$60 million awarded Thursday as part of the institute's initiative to address high cancer rates and local health barriers within specific target groups. That includes Appalachia, where cancer rates are higher than in other regions and there are fewer doctors and facilities to accommodate patients.

"This initiative is one of the largest of its kind in the federal government," said Dr. Richard D. Klausner, director of the National Cancer Institute.

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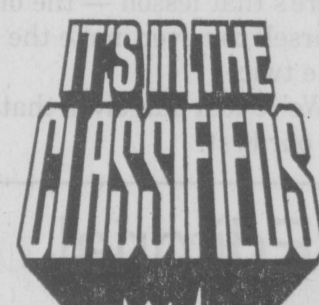
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## OUR views

# Good job, Jacobs

We often find ourselves asking "what is a student government president worth?"

Although we seem to never find an answer, Brandi Jacobs has seemed to be the most valuable in the past few years.

Jacobs and former Student government Association Vice President

*We do not know who to blame for those things that never happen. Is it lack of student interest? Is it that the SGA president doesn't have that power? We don't know.*

The Campus Week of Dialogue focused on issues some people have problems understanding, such as homosexuality. The forum couldn't have come at a better time. It seems Marshall still needs to grow diversely and Jacobs noticed that.

Jacobs definitely went beyond the title. She worked well with campus media, served as a voice for many campus groups and according to the Page One story today, she had a great relationship with the Student Senate.

We give Jacobs a thumbs up and wish her luck.

However, our question is still there. What is a SGA president worth? When we think of presidents, we think of changes — better parking, less student fees, new facilities.

We do not know who to blame for those things that never happen. Is it lack of student interest? Is it that the SGA president doesn't have that power? We don't know.

We would have loved to seen some changes, but as we said, Jacobs did a great job and we're sure she'll be remembered as one of the best SGA presidents.

Good luck again, Brandi.

## Mistakes happen; we give apologies

In Thursday's Parthenon, a story and headline reported that the final faculty meeting, sponsored by the Faculty Senate was Thursday at 4 p.m. This was erroneous and we apologize to everyone inconvenienced by our mistake.

The meeting is actually April 13.

It is our duty as a newspaper to provide you with news, events, etc. We strive to do so accurately. Mistakes do happen though. But with every mistake, people grow and learn.

Beyond the embarrassment and frustration of making a mistake, there's that lesson — the one that tells yourself to never make the same mistake twice.

We've told ourselves that. And we'll try our best.

## 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.

## A solution to college binge drinking

by MIKE WOKASCH  
Badger Herald  
(University of Wisconsin)

(U-WIRE) MADISON, Wis. — "Scuba diving and karate. You know Mike, if we don't do these things this summer, I'll probably drink every night."

That's what my roommate told me when we decided that we were going to do something interesting this summer, and the sad thing is, it's true.

I'm a binge drinker and so are my friends and my parents. That is, if you drink five or more drinks in one night, it is binge drinking. Personally, I'll admit to even drinking twice that much, but I never thought that was the real issue. So as I have been reading the dozen or so articles covering the binge-drinking problem that persists on our campus, I sit back and laugh. I laugh because no one seems to be able to put his or her finger on why people drink so much.

There are two real issues. The first problem is that there is absolutely nothing non-alcohol-related to do in Madison that is really worth doing. That said, let me qualify it by saying, nothing as entertaining and inexpensive as drinking. If you go to house parties, \$4 buys you a cup and at least three hours of fun. You go to the bars, spend \$15 to \$25 and you have four hours of fun. Are we starting to

see a trend here?

With the exception of the occasional sporting event, on the whole, our campus is pretty boring. Seriously, where are the dance clubs? The popular live bands? Where are the non-drinking social settings? Why is it that our school rarely invites extremely popular music groups to come play for students for little or no charge? I have friends who attend much smaller schools that have big name artists come and play for free.

Is it such a hard concept to grasp that if other activities are offered instead of drinking, the consumption of alcohol will drop? So what happens to the \$750,000 our school is awarded to curb binge drinking? I'll admit that I've heard of some events, but nothing would stop me from going to the bars at night. I have yet to hear of anything that sounds remotely rewarding or entertaining.

I would like to say that our school's alcohol-free events are shortsighted. Just because alcohol is not served does not mean people are not going to drink. In fact, how many people have gone to a football game after drinking? They're alcohol-free, right? Instead, we should focus on a way to limit the number of drinks. There is nothing wrong with serving alcohol in moderate quantities.

The second problem is something that can be applied across the country. Responsibility is a learned trait. When people come

to college, alcohol is reasonably accessible especially on Friday and Saturday. So students take every chance they have to drink and bypass most other activities. I am sure that everyone would consider it a pretty dangerous practice.

How does one teach people responsibility? Unfortunately, it is usually the hard way: Give it to them and make them learn the consequences. That would mean lowering the drinking age so that students know how to drink responsibly before they arrive here. I would argue that if you lower the drinking age, people's alcohol consumption would drop considerably by the time they are 21. The reason is simple; there would be nothing special about consuming vast quantities of alcohol. People get sick of being sick, and people do learn that there are not so pleasant effects of alcohol.

Clearly, I'm not saying that this would be an overnight miracle, or that this is a foolproof idea. There are members of this age group that would be negatively affected, but a vast majority of people would consider drinking no longer something they must do.

Many questions later and I have come close to answering our campus' most dangerous problem, but it may be too late. In reality, it may be too late to start implementing correction mechanisms. The statistic that more than 60 percent of students saying they drink to get drunk is pretty startling.



## Bad bill could cost women their lives

Staff Editorial  
The GW Hatchet  
(George Washington University)

(U-WIRE) WASHINGTON — The House overwhelmingly passed a measure Wednesday that would ban all partial-birth abortions. A substitute bill, which would outlaw partial-birth abortions except in cases when the mother's life is in danger, failed to garner support. Since President Clinton promises to veto the Republican-backed measure, and the Senate doesn't have the two-thirds majority necessary to override a presidential veto, the gesture reeks of election-year politics.

Rather than vote on a bill that would take into account the value of a pregnant woman's life, the House instead chose to back legislation that has little chance of becoming law. If Republican leadership truly

cared about ending partial-birth abortions, it could have worked out a compromise. The doomed measure will only mobilize anti-abortion voters during the months leading up to election day.

The procedure involves removing the brain from the fetus, which partially collapses the skull, facilitating passage of the fetus through the cervix and out of the woman's body. Many anti-abortion activists argue that partial-birth abortion, intact dilation and extraction in medical terminology, is inhumane. Proponents of the procedure maintain that partial-birth abortions are almost always practiced only when the fetus has severe abnormalities or when the mother's life is in danger.

Ultimately, in the case of late-term partial-birth abortions, the mainstream opinion on both sides of the debate places respect of human life as the

supreme goal. Anti-abortion activists are fighting to protect unborn fetuses, while pro-choice activists are fighting to protect women whose lives would be in danger if they gave birth. From a purely logical perspective, it seems that protecting the life of the mother should take precedence over protection of the life of an unborn fetus.

Moreover, women will have abortions even if laws exist prohibiting them. Thus, lawmakers are essentially deciding whether they would rather that women undergo procedures in the safety of abortion clinics or illegally by crude practices that are far more inhumane than legal methods.

Partial-birth abortions should be a last resort, performed only when the life of the fetus or the mother is in doubt. A ban on partial-birth abortions — largely an election-year political tactic — could senselessly cost women their lives.

SAY WHAT?

"He can satisfy me and John Drinko, and that's pretty good."

—J. Wade Gilley  
former Marshall president speaking about John Martin, who painted a portrait of him and his wife

## CAMPUS views

Letters sent to Campus View must not exceed 250 words. Opinion pieces longer than 250 words may be used as guest columns and published elsewhere on this page.

### Marshall needs to get with the program

It's no wonder why West Virginia's top students leave the state to further their education. West Virginia's universities simply won't accommodate them.

A group of students from Hurricane who attend college outside of West Virginia recently petitioned the Marshall University Teays Valley Regional Center to offer a summer session English class. This class would have allowed students from Putnam County to take the summer class during May and June, and then work summer jobs in their remaining months off from school.

The class would have further given Marshall University the opportunity to showcase its academic reputation to students who have left our state to go to school. Marshall University's answer was NO. Their response was for students to commute daily to Huntington during the months of July and August.

I wonder why Teays Valley needs a Marshall University Regional Campus if the campus won't accommodate the needs of the region? Marshall University needs to get with the program, and perhaps more of West Virginia's top students will stay in West Virginia.

— S. Troy Andes,  
Hurricane

### Class uncovers some student fees facts

This letter is the result of a survey conducted in a class at Marshall University. Its purpose is to promote awareness to students, staff and the community of how student fees are used and how students feel about their use. Our group created the survey, and then distributed it among 100 members of the student body. We found that 64 percent of students were unaware of how their fees were being used. When presented with a list of what their fees pay for, we found that 75 percent of students disagreed with the way student fees are used. An overwhelming 84 percent wanted to see change in the way the university uses student fees. The most prevalent suggestion made as an alternative use for fees was to improve student parking (preferably by either building a garage or creating new lots).

We realize that the chance of changing the university's methods of spending money is slim to none. Due to this, we have decided to tell students about some of the things they can utilize and where they can go to get a complete list. To start, we would like to mention that total activity and student center fees for a semester are \$223. This includes \$80 a semester to athletics, which enables them to go to any game they wish. Students also pay \$28 to health services enabling them to see a doctor while they are attending college.

Although the above mentioned programs can be used by any student, there are many programs which receive money that most students cannot use or are not involved. Students can go to the office of the bursar for a complete list. As high as semester fees are, most students feel that it is not fair that they have to pay money for programs from which they do not benefit. Reform of the ways fees are used will not happen in the near future, so until then students should be aware of how their fees are used and utilize whatever they can.

— Mindy Sweeney,  
Elkview sophomore

## Parthenon

Volume 101 • Number 87

The Parthenon, Marshall University's student newspaper, is published by students Tuesdays through Fridays during the regular semesters. The editor solely is responsible for news and editorial content.

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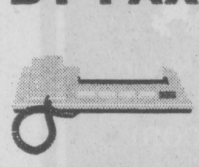
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## MU soccer teams prepare for the fall

Herd men's and women's soccer coaches satisfied after 3-1 weekend

by JAY M. MORLACHETTA reporter

When opening its spring season last weekend, Thundering Herd men's and women's soccer coaches were hoping for a glimpse at the fall season.



And what they saw was positive. "There were a lot of positives," Marshall's men's soccer coach Bob Gray said. "The defense played well, and we had solid performances from some kids we're experimenting with." Combined, the men's and women's teams were 3-1 at the end of the day, successfully kicking off their spring outdoor seasons. "The entire team played organized and with an attacking mentality," women's soccer coach Teresa Patterson said. Patterson also said she was excited about the team's performance as a whole. The women's team shut out

both its opponents, defeating Radford University 3-0 and Morehead State University 4-0. Patterson said the decisive wins are signs that the women's team is maturing. "It's really pleasing when your team scores a combined seven goals, and no goals are scored against them," she said. "We are really growing up and coming together, but the key is to do it consistently."

Patterson said the wins are impressive, but the main goal of spring season is the development of the team for next fall. Kelly Clark, sophomore team member from Greensboro, N.C., agreed with Patterson, saying spring season presents many options. "We basically develop our teamwork so we're ready for next fall," she said.

Clark said the team played well and gained valuable experience from the games. "We played well as a team, and we only had two substitutes," Clark said. "We totally outplayed the competition." The women's team will travel to play Ohio University this weekend in Athens against youth club team NCAA Blast. Although the men's team did not begin its spring season undefeated, it was by no

means unsuccessful. The Thundering Herd defeated Tiffin University 1-0, but lost to Rio Grande University by the score of 1-0. "Both teams were very talented," Gray said. "It was a good test for us." He said spring season allows him to situate individual players into their respective positions and allows the team to build a stronger sense of camaraderie. "The morale of the guys is good," Gray said, "and so is the attitude. They're getting excited for the fall season."

Taly Goode, a senior from Woodbridge, Va., who is the starting goalkeeper for the men's team, said this spring season is an opportune time for the players to earn their spots. "A lot of players returned," Goode said. "And it's time for players to step up and make the team for next fall. "It was a slow start because we hadn't played in a while," he said. "But it was a pretty good showing granted we only had 16 players eligible." He agreed with Gray, saying the team's defense was the strongest aspect of its performance. The men's squad travels to Morgantown this weekend to play West Virginia University and the Pittsburgh Riverhounds, a minor-league professional team.

## Ricceri leads Herd victory

by MICHELLE JAMES reporter

If Marshall baseball coach Dave Piepenbrink had known that a talk was all that was needed to get shortstop Jason Ricceri out of his slump, the Omaha, Neb., junior's offensive struggles might have ended long ago. But since that didn't happen, Marshall's 5-3 road win over UNC-Asheville Wednesday was not a bad time for Ricceri's bat to come to life.

The alarm clock didn't sound until the second game, though, as the Thundering Herd (12-14 overall and 1-3 in the Mid-American Conference) fell to the Bulldogs 6-4 in the first contest. In the second game of the doubleheader, Marshall trailed 3-2 until the top of the seventh inning, when outfielder Marty Rini led off with a double to left centerfield.

First baseman Jason Brooks and pinch-hitter Matt White followed Rini on base, as both were hit by pitches. With the bases loaded, third baseman Homer Renshaw hit a sacrifice fly to rightfield to tie the game at 3-all. Ricceri's wakeup call came after pinch-hitter Ryan Kobbe popped out for the second out of the inning. Then, with a 1-2 count, Ricceri nailed a change-up, hammering it over the head of the leftfielder for two RBI's. "The coach came up to me after the first game and was basically telling me what I had to do offensively," Ricceri said of his game-winning hit. "That was in my mind up at the plate and I just hit it into the gap in left centerfield."



Marshall's Matt Eldridge races to third base earlier this season.

Piepenbrink said the pep talk was geared toward Ricceri's offensive showing. "He'd been struggling some," Piepenbrink said. "He wasn't struggling with defense but with hitting and I told him he needed to start playing better offensively. He just came up with a big hit at a big time." The win ended Marshall's four-game losing streak. Ricceri said he thinks the win will give the team a boost as it heads into conference action this weekend against Northern Illinois and Ball State.

"It was a huge win for us," he said. "Our confidence is built up going into the conference games. It was a big boost and hopefully we can get some good wins." Ricceri said good pitching and defensive efforts will factor in. "Pitching and defense will be the keys for us," he said. "We've been doing well offensively, so we need good pitching and defense. If we've got those two things, we'll win." Marshall will be in action at 4 p.m. Saturday, when it travels to play conference foe Northern Illinois.

## Former WVU star cleared of previous charges

The Associated Press

MORGANTOWN — Former West Virginia football star Jerry Porter has been cleared of charges he tried to sell stolen CDs at a discount music store last year. "Finally, someone saw it my way," Porter said Wednesday after learning of a judge had overturned his conviction on a misdemeanor charge of receiving stolen property. Porter, who played safety, quarterback and wide receiver for West Virginia last season, was in Pennsylvania this week, visiting with the Philadelphia Eagles. Porter, 21, was cleared when Monongalia County Circuit Judge Russell Clawges Jr. signed an order Tuesday, agreeing that prosecutors had failed to prove who tried to sell the stolen tapes and CDs on Jan. 30, 1999. The order reversed a guilty verdict and revoked the \$500 fine imposed in August. Porter has said he was at a birthday party at the time a store employee claimed to have seen him.

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AMERICAN BEAUTY (R) 1:30-4:15-7:15-9:35

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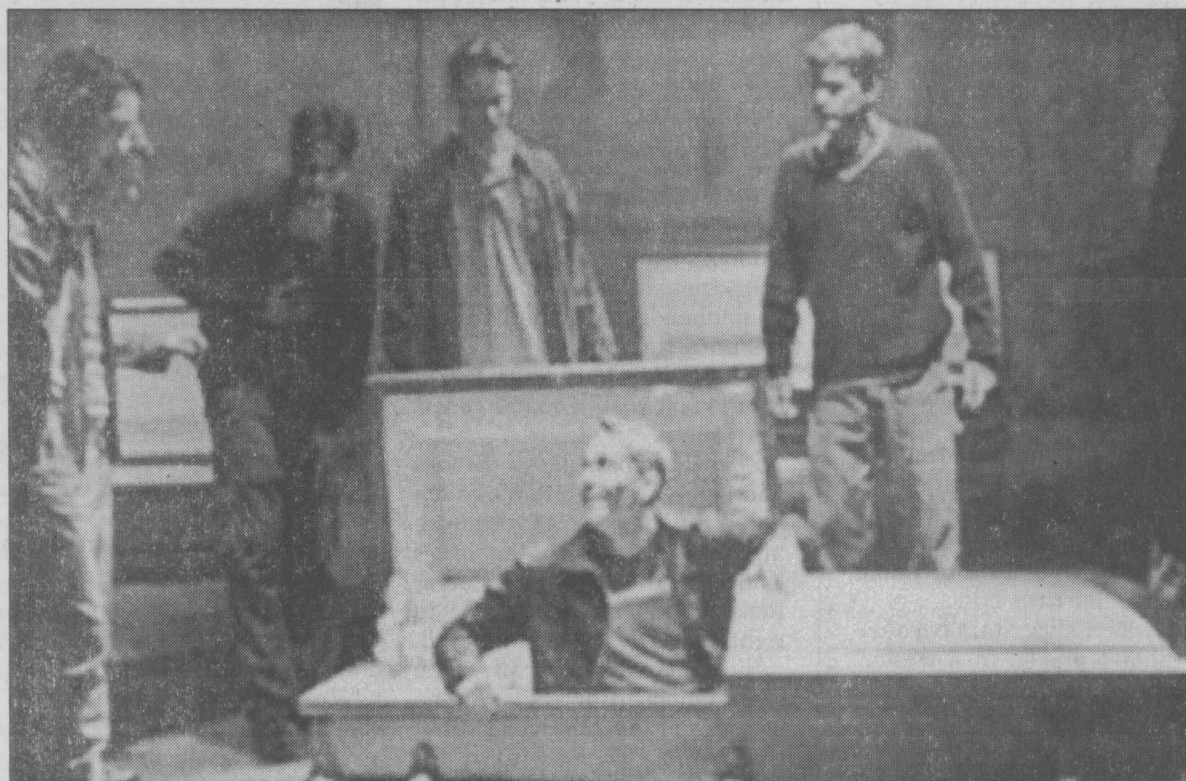


# Going to the movies?

These reviews may help you decide what to watch

## 'The Skulls' fails to deliver quality

by **ROBERT DITTMAN**  
The Pitt News  
University of Pittsburgh



"The Skulls" depicts the world of a secret Ivy League fraternity in Connecticut.

photo courtesy of www.theskulls.com

**(U-WIRE) PITTSBURGH** — Powerful, ominous, secret societies have always held an attraction for film makers, especially low budget independent ones.

"The Skulls" explores the turf of a secret Ivy League fraternity located in New Haven, Conn. The unnamed college is a gleaming campus populated by snooty professors and well-heeled preppy students. One expects to need an appointment or a social connection to get a drink at the water fountain.

We meet Luke McNamara (Joshua Jackson), an up-and-coming law student with enviable grades and a venerable position as captain of the school's rowing team.

He is saddled with a mountain

of student debt and few connections. Getting into a good law school is going to be a struggle.

Early in the film a student remarks darkly on McNamara's turning down invitations to various on-campus fraternities saying, "He's waiting for the Skulls."

Soon, the ultra-secretive Skulls approach Luke and, after being sent through a maze or two, he is a member of the elite brotherhood.

Because of the secrecy unconditionally required by the Skulls, McNamara stops talking about his new involvement. This doesn't sit well with his friends Chloe, (Leslie Bibb) an ambitious journalism major, and Will (Hill Harper).

Will smells a rat from the word go and proceeds to investigate the Skulls, unaware of how just unwise that decision will turn out to be.

Will cautions an increasingly distant McNamara, who is shocked but impressed by a mysterious and robust donation to his anemic bank account and the arrival of a flashy new sports car. Where is there to go but up?

Whether one is a believer in conspiracy theories or shadowy, elite fraternities, "The Skulls" would seem to have potential as a riveting suspense thriller. All the elements are there.

Instead it throws a few good punches and lets go at that.

Performances are uneven, ranging from the wooden McNamara to the overacted Caleb Mandrake (Paul Walker). A reliable supporting cast, notably Craig T. Nelson and Steve Harris from TV's "The Practice," adds a useful bit of spark to the proceedings.

Screenwriter John Pogue's script tells us too little about the lead character to connect him to these upper-crust bad guys.

"The Skulls" is not a terrible movie. Effectively creepy settings crop up and mix with decent action sequences, but only intermittently do we care about these people who are victimized by the underground fraternity.



photo courtesy of www.priceofglory.com

Ernesto Hernandez, a southern California high school junior, makes his acting debut in "Price of Glory."

## 'Price of Glory' not worth cost of ticket

by **AMY SINGERFIELD**  
The State News  
Michigan State University

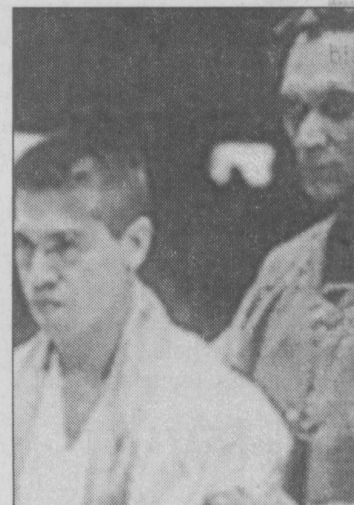


photo courtesy of www.priceofglory.com

Jimmy Smits (right) and Jon Seda star in the new boxing movie, "Price of Glory."

**(U-WIRE) EAST LANSING, Mich.** — It's a common scene: overzealous parents scurrying around the football field or softball diamond, feverishly directing their children about when to slide, where to throw the ball, how to outsmart the "bad guy."

A little coaching isn't an objectionable idea, but some parents, such as Arturo Ortega (Jimmy Smits) in "Price of Glory," grow obsessed with controlling their children's little league lives.

But the price of this film may not be worth it to some sports buffs.

Written by New York Times sports columnist Phil Berger, "Price of Glory" successfully captures the competitive spirit of the sport, but it fails to deliver any hard-hitting originality.

Smits plays Arturo, a passionate championship boxer whose career is suddenly destroyed by a manipulative manager.

While Arturo holds down a unfulfilling assembly line job in an Arizona border town, he attempts to reconcile with his lost career through his three sons Jimmy (Clifton Collins, Jr.), Johnny (Ernesto Hernandez) and Sonny (Jon Seda).

Seda, best known for his two-year stint on the television drama "Homicide: Life on the Streets," demonstrates the best acting talent.

His natural off-camera experience as a boxer shows clearly in Sonny, who would rather focus his attention on his new wife than being a prize fighter.

Hernandez makes an honest but uninteresting acting debut as the youngest son who remains dedicated to his pushy father.

Hernandez, a southern California high school junior, obviously lacks adequate acting experience as many of his scenes appear forced and often awkward.

"Price of Glory" is victorious in its shot at creating a semi-original family drama despite its predictable ending. Arturo, although difficult to empathize with, is an intriguing and realistic character.

There is no need to commiserate because it's Arturo's cold and arrogant demeanor that gives the story chemistry.

He is generally a confused person who pushes his sons to their limits to live out his lost dreams as a championship boxer.

Arturo, who occasionally uses physical force against Jimmy, obviously loves his sons, but he can't find any instincts to be a father to them.

The absence of fatherly love and guidance overplays itself as the film's theme as it becomes obvious that the misguided relationship between the boys and their father is a tougher punch to take than any physical confrontation they face in the boxing ring.

## 'Ready to Rumble' hits hard with fun

by **STEVE BOEHM**  
The Diamondback  
University of Maryland

**(U-WIRE) COLLEGE PARK, Md.** — Simple plot, cheap humor and unnecessary violence.

No, this movie is not intended for everybody. In fact, many people will find this movie to be pretty silly. It is aimed at the same adolescent boys who spend two hours every Monday night watching WCW's Monday Night Nitro.

More "mature" audiences may be turned off by the numerous crotch shots, drunken tirades, and "doozy" humor. As for me, I got a decent amount of chuckles from Ready to Rumble.

Brian Robbins (Varsity Blues) directs this film, reminiscent of Dumb and Dumber. David Arquette stars as Gordie Boggs, who along with Sean Dawkins (Scott Clan), form a not-so-dynamic duo of wrestling fans.

Their lives revolve around World Championship Wrestling and its legendary champ, Jimmy King (Oliver Platt), but he loses his title to Diamond Dallas Page and is kicked out of pro wrestling.

The two travel the country to meet their fallen hero, finally catching up to King. When they find he is at rock bottom — a drunk redneck living in a mobile home — Boggs and Dawkins spend the rest of the movie training King for a rematch with DDP.

Arquette, the goofy 1-800-CALL-ATT character, brings a similar style to the big screen, where it works well with comedic material to back up his antics.

Platt plays the role of the down-on-his-luck former contender pretty well.

Martin Landau also fits as the crusty, old coach who relishes his time hurting younger grapplers.

But the actors that steal the show are the pro wrestlers them-



photo courtesy of www.readytorumble.net

Sean Dawkins (Scott Clan) and Gordie Boggs (David Arquette) are wrestling fans in the motion picture, "Ready to Rumble."

selves, including Randy "Macho Man" Savage, Sting and Sid Vicious. Bill Goldberg and Page do a stand-up job in larger roles. They won't be winning Oscars next year, but they were funny.

If you do not like wrestling or

"stupid" comedies than this movie will appeal to you like an elbow from the top ropes. But if you laugh when someone gets hit in the crotch, fall over after a loud fart and live for wrestling, then give Ready to Rumble a shot.

## 'Final Destination' leaves viewers looking over their shoulders

by **RYAN MILLER**  
Mustang Daily  
California Poly State University

**(U-WIRE) SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif.** — Horror and teen suspense films have had a long, successful run.

"Jaws" made people afraid to go in the water.

The "Nightmare on Elm Street" series gave people a fear of falling asleep.

"Scream" and its two sequels revealed the formula to slasher flicks, creating a fear in today's culture of everything from white Halloween masks to high school parties to pop culture itself.

"Final Destination" does not disappoint its illustrious and

bloody heritage; it may very well make people afraid of just about anything.

This creepy movie, thick with symbols and foreshadowing, is the first I've seen in a long time that actually had me in a sweat. About an hour after watching the eerie tale unfold, I realized my neck was sore because I had been so tense throughout the film.

Devon Sawa plays Alex Browning, a high school senior about to embark on a trip to France with about 40 fellow students. As he prepares for his trip, he notices little signs of impending doom, from the fact that his flight departure time matches the numbers of his

birthday to a song by John Denver (who died in a plane crash) playing in the terminal.

While waiting for take-off, Alex sees a vision of the plane, his classmates and himself exploding as they leave the runway. He promptly freaks out, getting himself and four of his fellow classmates ejected from the plane.

True to Alex's vision the plane explodes, leaving the survivors shaken, confused and under the surveillance of two FBI agents who suspect foul play.

Perhaps the movie's largest flaw is the cookie-cutter teen cast of survivors: the nervous teacher (Kristen Cloke), the funny best friend (Chad E.

Donella), the bitter, self-righteous tough guy (Kerr Smith), the dumb jock (Seann W. Scott) and the artsy and mysterious quasi-love interest (Ali Larter).

If you don't recognize any of the names of these actors, you'll find a few of them scattered throughout teen flicks "American Pie" and "Idle Hands," and television episodes of "The X-Files" and "Space: Above and Beyond."

Tony Todd, probably best known as "Candyman" from other horror films, makes a cameo as an all-knowing mortician. His bass voice and established, horror-genre presence made his parting line to the main character all the more chilling: "I'll see you soon."

But once the shallow characters are established, the movie works methodically and effectively at maintaining its intense quality and original plot.

Each of the characters essentially cheated Death when they left the plane. But, as we soon learn, Death does not take kindly to losing. The lucky survivors quickly find themselves victims of a series of bizarre and deadly accidents.

Some attempts made by Death, more of a presence than a character, come quickly and unexpectedly. Knives, buses, computers, fishing poles and soapy water become tools in the demise, or near-demise, of the characters.

The premise of Death stalk-

ing unintentional survivors through elaborate accidents is what gives "Final Destination" its edge.

In each scene Death sneaks into, there are multiple camera shots that lead the audience to guess which everyday object will kill the current victim.

This cinematic tactic made me a little wary of the objects around me long after the film was over.

If I walk out of a theater and an emotion like fear or apprehension still clings to me, I count the movie as successful.

As I left "Final Destination," I watched over my shoulder for speeding buses all the way to my car.