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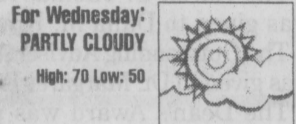
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the Parthenon

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Volume 101 Number 92

Marshall University's student newspaper — Celebrating 101 years!

Page edited by Rebecca Cantley

Herd sends 7 to NFL

by JACOB MESSER
Lifer editor

Before the weekend, Marshall had seven players on National Football League rosters.

By the end of the weekend, the Thundering Herd had doubled that total.

Four former Thundering Herd standouts were taken in the seven-round, two-day NFL Draft this weekend in which 31 teams selected 253 players.

Three others signed free agent

contracts with NFL teams.

It is the most Thundering Herd players to enter the NFL since 1996, when five players signed free agent contracts following Marshall's 15-0 record and Division I-AA national title.

The New York Jets took quarterback Chad Pennington in the first round with the 18th pick.

The San Diego Chargers selected safety Rogers Beckett with the 43rd overall pick and 12th pick of the second round.

The Minnesota Vikings reunited

Randy Moss with former Marshall teammate Doug Chapman when they chose the Thundering Herd running back in the third round with the 88th pick overall.

The Seattle Seahawks, looking to replace Joey Galloway, drafted speedy wide receiver James Williams with the 175th selection overall.

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers signed linebacker John Grace, the Kansas City Chiefs signed linebacker Andre O'Neal and the Carolina Panthers signed

defensive tackle Girardie Mercer.

Those former standouts join wide receiver Troy Brown of New England, center John Wade of Jacksonville, quarterback Eric Kresser of Cincinnati, defensive end B.J. Cohen of Oakland, punter Chris Hanson of Miami, defensive tackle Billy Lyon of Green Bay and guard Jamie Wilson of Indianapolis to give Marshall 14 players in the NFL.



Pennington



Beckett



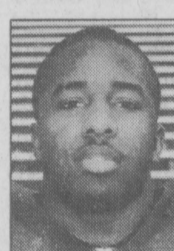
Chapman



Williams



Grace

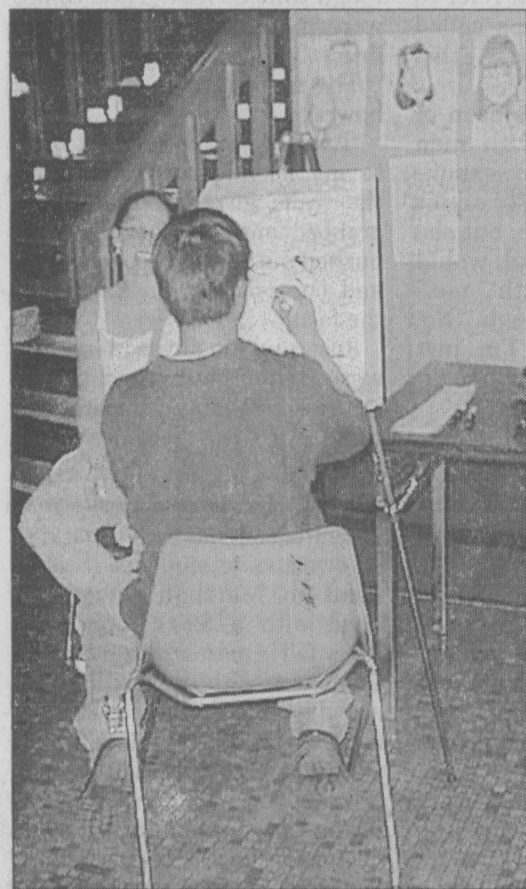


Mercer



O'Neal

Please see Page 5 for more coverage of the NFL Draft.



From Spring to Jazz

SpringFest 2000 wrapped over the weekend.

"The goal of SpringFest is to provide fun," said P. Andy Hermansdorfer, director of student activities and Greek affairs.

"Everyone who participated in the events did have a good time."

Hermansdorfer said SAPB has a focus group after events to learn from mistakes.

LEFT: Many students go their picture drawn by a caricature artist. **BELOW:** Marshall students perform with the Jazz Preservation Hall Band on Friday night.



Candidates talk about the Earth

by KIMBERLY BAGBY
reporter

Candidates for governor of West Virginia are scheduled to be the highlight of the Marshall University Earth Day 2000 Celebration on Wednesday at the Memorial Student Center (MSC).

The candidates are to present their views on environmental issues, such as mountaintop removal and air pollution, said Dr. Jeff May, associate professor of biological sciences.

"The gubernatorial candidates will be giving a 5-minute presentation and responding to audience questions," said Dr. Cheryl Brown, professor of

political science. "This way the students will be able to evaluate for themselves the candidates' environmental positions."

Earth Day should be interesting to students "because they live on planet Earth," May said.

"They ought to be concerned that there are significant signs that the resources and ecological processes that sustain us are degrading," he said.

Two of the candidates who will be speaking are Jim Lees, Democrat, and Bob Myers, Libertarian. Other candidates were invited, but have not confirmed their participation.

Dr. Frank S. Gilliam, professor of biological sciences, said, "I think this will be not just

interesting to students, but it will be important for them to attend. Virtually all of them are voting adults. They should vote, and vote in the most informed way possible."

The candidate forum will be from 7-9 p.m. in the Alumni Lounge of the MSC.

Information tables will be set up on the plaza of the MSC from noon to 3 p.m. The tables will be presented by organizations, such as the Tri-State Transit Authority, the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition and the League of Women Voters, and they will display views on environmental issues, Gilliam said.

The celebration is free and open to the public.

Comparisons never end

Editor's note: This is the first of a three-part series examining the competition between Marshall and West Virginia University. The first part focuses on the competition for students; the second, for money; and the third, competition on the athletic field.

by ANDREA COPLEY
managing editor

Marshall University faithful may boast of being the firstborn, but West Virginia University serves the state as a research and land-grant institution.

And thus the comparisons begin — and never seem to end.

"It seems like we're always comparing ourselves with WVU," said Baruch Whitehead, Marshall's director of athletic bands. "I am very tired of the comparisons. WVU is WVU, obviously. It is the big university in the state. But, I think Marshall has some wonderful programs."

One of the biggest areas of competition is recruiting students. S.C.O.R.E.S. (Student Committee on Recognizing Excellent Students) brings in high school students for a weekend of academic competition.

"S.C.O.R.E.S. is a big recruit-

ment program," said Dr. James W. Harless, director of admissions. "It's very important for the students to see the campus. They're looking for safety, for a clean campus and if they will fit in with other students."

Tricia Petty, WVU assistant to the assistant vice president for student affairs and enrollment services, said many students are applying to WVU through its Web site.

"Our online applications have easily quadrupled in past years," she said. "More and more high school students have access. It's much more convenient."

Petty, who has worked at the University of Virginia, the University of Georgia and Bluefield State College, said WVU really takes students into consideration.

"Every decision made takes students in mind first," she said. "A lot of people say that, but they don't really do it. It's a campuswide collaboration to make that first and foremost."



Some students slip through

Both universities spend much time and money recruiting students.

Kanawha County, with its 8,742 high school students, is a feeding ground for the universities. Ian T. Lovejoy, a senior at Sissonville High School, is one of 2,167 Kanawha County seniors. He has been recruited by Marshall, WVU and other colleges. Lovejoy said he receives about two letters a week from

See **COMPETITION, P2**

Angel's inauguration Wednesday

by STEFANIE FRALEY
reporter

Wednesday it will be official. President Dan Angel's inauguration is scheduled for 4 p.m. Wednesday in the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse at the Fine and Performing Arts Center.

Angel will be sworn in by Gov. Cecil H. Underwood and will give his inaugural address,



ANGEL

Board of Trustees. The ceremony is open to the

public. Since taking office Jan. 1, Angel has dealt with a \$2 million budget cut and has worked with the passing of the higher education bill.

Before coming to Marshall, Angel was president of Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, Texas.

He is a former Michigan legislator who served on the College and University Committee.

Other speakers include Sarah N. Denman, provost, and Cathy M. Armstrong, chairman of the University System of West Virginia

public. Since taking office Jan. 1, Angel has dealt with a \$2 million budget cut and has worked with the passing of the higher education bill.

Before coming to Marshall, Angel was president of Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, Texas.

Students struggle because of sexuality

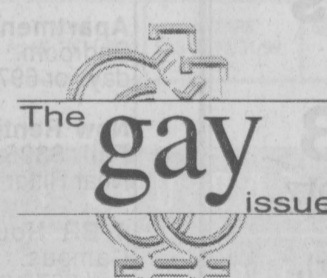
Editor's note: The following is the first in a three-part series on homosexuality. This story examines the struggles of Marshall's gay liberation and the adversity the gay community faces today. Part two will concern the successes seen by the gay community and part three will look at opposing views of homosexuality.

by BUTCH BARKER
editor

Julia Hagen can tell her daughter's horror stories without crying these days.

It's been some 16 years since her daughter Laura was beaten on Marshall's campus two separate times.

"She was in charge of hanging signs for Lambda [Marshall's first gay organization] the night before their meetings," Hagen said. "It was always late, there were no emergency phones and the campus wasn't well lighted." Hagen said on the first occa-



MORE INSIDE
see page 4

sion, Laura was punched in the face by a man. The second incident included at least three men.

"They were wearing fraternity shirts," Hagen said with a sense of underlying anger. "They beat her up badly — men beating up a woman." Hagen said her daughter recovered from the beating and left West Virginia for good.

"She didn't run away right away though," Hagen said. "I am proud of my daughter."

The beatings helped Laura and herself grow stronger, she said. Laura now leads an AIDS clinic at the University of New Mexico and Hagen has become an activist for gay rights.

She said it wasn't long after her daughter's attacks that she joined Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG). Her work has brought her to Marshall's campus time and

Please see **STUDENTS, P2**

FROM THE WEEKEND ...



Sophomore Danielle Esenwein drives a pitch Friday against Mid-American Conference rival Ball State at Dot Hicks Field.

The Thundering Herd, (17-20) lost Friday's opener 2-0 but defeated the Cardinals 2-0 in the second game of the doubleheader. Marshall shutout conference foe Toledo 1-0 in Saturday's opener and defeated the Rockets 3-1 in the nightcap to secure first place in the MAC Eastern Division.

photo by Mike Andrick

State & Nation

Huntington ■ West Virginia ■ United States

Page edited by Carrie Smith

the Parthenon

Tuesday, April 18, 2000 **3**

Protesters tie up government and confront police

by **LARRY MARGASAK**
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Police clubbed defiant demonstrators and dispersed them with pepper spray outside world finance meetings Monday, but then — in a grace note near the end — the three days of confrontations wound down with negotiated arrests. "Give yourselves a hand," a police official told protesters.

The demonstrators, their ranks thinned in a driving rain, disrupted the government's workday and private business but failed to shut down the two days of meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

A day that began with swinging clubs turned more amicable as police orchestrated a good-natured arrest of several hundred who wanted to be taken into custody.

Police negotiated for an hour with protest organizer Mary Bull before proceeding with the arrests. "Give yourselves a hand," Terry Gainer, executive assistant police chief, told the crowd.

He gave Bull some flowers and then placed her under arrest.

The protesters were charged with unlawful assembly and crossing police barricades. About 500 were arrested Monday, not all so peacefully, making a total of more than 1,000 for the three days of protests.

"We view this as a total success," said Robert Weissman, co-director of Essential Action, one of

"We view this as a total success. We have shined the light on these institutions as never before in this country."

Robert Weissman,
protester

hundreds of groups in the protest coalition. "We have shined the light on these institutions as never before in this country."

Earlier, drum-beating marchers vented their fury about the treatment of the poor.

They accused the bank and IMF of imposing crushing debts on poor nations, destroying the environment and perpetrating a host of other ills. "World Bank destroys tropical rain forest," said a two story-banner hung on a building under construction.

Unlike demonstrations Sunday when police let protesters take over empty streets, confrontations developed Monday over the din of traffic as Washingtonians went to work.

Traffic was disrupted and some government buildings and shops never opened. When several hundred demonstrators came within a block of the IMF and menaced a police car, black clad officers with helmets, billy clubs and visors responded with pepper spray and smoke canisters.

Stock market makes comeback at closing

Wall Street recovers after falls brings stocks to record-breaking low

NEW YORK (AP) — Big-name stocks rallied back Monday, surging into the close amid hopes Wall Street hit bottom in last week's punishing selloff. Most other stocks fell again, however, as bargain hunters remained leery of smaller companies.

According to preliminary calculations, the battered Nasdaq composite index jumped a record 217.68 points to 3,538.97, nearly

all of it coming over the final hour of trading.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 276.74 to 10,582.51, recovering nearly half of Friday's record one-day point drop of 617.78.

Leading technology stocks such as Intel and Cisco Systems dominated the 6.5 percent gain by the Nasdaq index, which last week lost one quarter of its value in a scary selling frenzy.

But while investors showed renewed interest in many of the big and popular companies that tumbled last week, the bias remained negative on the

broad market, where declining issues outnumbered advancers by nearly a 3-to-2 margin.

Still, it was encouraging to see signs of stability, especially since foreign markets had tumbled overnight in reaction to Friday's brutal slide on Wall Street, which sliced a record 617 points off the Dow and a record 355 points off the Nasdaq.

Japan's Nikkei stock average fell 6.98 percent. In afternoon trading, Germany's DAX index fell 0.38 percent, Britain's FT-SE 100 fell 2.97 percent, and France's CAC-40 fell 0.09 percent.

Last week, worried that rising

inflation and interest rates will cut into company profits, investors began dumping stocks in just about every sector of the market along with the speculative high-flyers from the Internet boom. The Dow was left 12 percent below its record high, while the Nasdaq fell to 34 percent below the record it reached March 10.

Possibly helping sentiment Monday were some more strong profit reports on the first three months of the year, this time from Citigroup, Merrill Lynch, Eastman Kodak and Ford Motor.

Top-secret photos of Area 51 are being posted on the Web

by **MARTHA WAGGONER**
The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — The truth is out there — on the Web. Photos of Area 51, the super-secret Air Force test site in Nevada that has tantalized UFO and conspiracy buffs, are being posted on the Internet.

"This is the first glimpse into the most secret training and testing facility for the Air Force," said John Hoffman, president of Aerial Images Inc.

The company planned to post five images of the site in collaboration with Microsoft, Kodak, Digital Equipment Corp., Autometric Inc. and the Russian agency Sovinformspnutnik.

The partners launched a Russian satellite from Kazakhstan in 1998 to map Earth's surface and Area 51. An open-sky agreement signed in 1992 by 24 nations, including the United States and Russia, made the effort possible.

The Air Force only recently acknowledged that Groom Dry Lake Air Force Base even exists. The 8,000-square-mile base is 75 miles northwest of Las Vegas, in the arid, rugged Nellis Range.

The base's airspace is restricted; aircrafts are not allowed to fly over it. UFO aficionados believe that unidentified flying objects are hidden

there, where their parts are copied for U.S. prototypes.

Several government agencies are aware of the images and haven't responded, Hoffman said. "I've had no feedback from anybody that indicates anybody gives a hoot," he said.

An Air Force spokeswoman would not comment on any security concerns about the images.

"We acknowledge having an operating site there, and the work is classified," spokeswoman Gloria Cales said. The work involves "operations critical to the U.S. military and the country's security."

Aerial Images, on the Web at www.terraserver.com, planned to offer a link to the Area 51 pages. Viewing the images is free.

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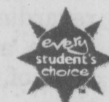


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OUR views

New group is on right track

We've all had the feeling of loneliness. We've felt that we are different — maybe even freakish.

There's a strong truth to that though. Some of us share beliefs, dress alike and come from similar families. Regardless of the similarities, we're all different.

Most of us on the staff are young — 21-24. Each of us believe we need individual support groups from time to time. Some of us have found ours, others still are looking.

That's why we're saying "way to go" to The Marshall University Students For Improving Team Support (MUS-FITS). This new group for non-traditional students, or those who just want support, is the most uplifting news we've heard in a while.

We all need support and non-traditional students sometimes find it hard to become involved in groups that are generally composed of younger members.

Tina R. Martin, a member of MUS-FITS explained the group on today's Life! Page.

"I think our organization will benefit all the non-traditional students by giving them a platform and a voice on campus," Martin said. "All students deserve that support and positive social environment that can be achieved by belonging and participating in a college group or organization."

Good luck and way to go MUSFITS.

Why the three-part series? Let us tell you

The debate on homosexuality at Marshall is an issue that is still current and likely will be for a while.

Although the forum for debate provided by The Parthenon has not featured the subject for a while, it is still obviously an issue. Following reader response from the articles and opinions printed on the defacement of Delta Lambda Phi's Rush fliers, we decided to take a closer look at the topic.

Today and the next two days we will examine the history of Marshall's gay liberation, the adversity faced by homosexuals at Marshall and the varying heterosexual views on homosexuals. The stories can be found on the front page of The Parthenon for the next three days.

I still don't like that stupid bird



MARK BLEVINS
columnist

I have been called many names in my life, some that are unprintable. The other day I was told that I had no soul. A claim such as this is not made lightly by most people, so you may be wondering why someone would accuse me of not having a soul. I was merely talking about how I watched cartoons when I was younger and there was something I could not understand. Why did Wile E. Coyote never catch the Road Runner?

I never liked the Road Runner. I always felt he was a bird that was only trying to show off. I'm not saying that I thought the Coyote was a great character either, but the Road Runner just got under my skin. I wanted the Coyote to catch that annoying Road Runner just once and eat him. The Coyote went through a lot of pain during those cartoons and

I felt that he deserved some compensation for what the Road Runner had inflicted.

I don't know why the Coyote would bother with trying to catch the Road Runner to begin with. The Road Runner was just a skinny little bird who made an annoying beeping sound. Maybe the Coyote didn't want to eat the Road Runner at all. He could have just wanted to shut the Road Runner's beak. I never liked the Road Runner if for no other reason than all he did was make that stupid noise and run off. Wile E. Coyote was a genius! You think a bird is going to be able to get away from someone this smart? I don't think so.

There have been many cartoons where the plot has to do with one animal chasing another to eat it. Tom and Jerry made a career out of it, but Jerry was nowhere near annoying as the Road Runner. Heck, Jerry even misled me to believe that all mice were cute and smart. Most just want to eat the crumbs you were too lazy to clean up. It's not that I have anything against animals, but the Road Runner has it coming.

They don't make cartoons fea-

turing the Coyote and the Road Runner. I wish that just for once that stupid bird would go off the cliff instead of Wile E. Coyote. Wile has had enough bandages to last a lifetime. And while we're at it shouldn't Wile E. have sued the Acme company by now? He should at least get a discount for being such a good customer. This company has spent years taking advantage of a hungry coyote that just wanted to have a decent meal. That's the reason Wile E. was always so darn skinny.

Someone claimed that I have no soul simply because I wanted Wile E. to capture the Road Runner and eat him. I admit that it may not be the most popular thing to say, but I stand by it. I don't think it would hurt the Road Runner just once. Wile E. has fallen off so many cliffs that he should be dead now, but he isn't. If it means that I am a bad person because I desire to see the Road Runner's smirk wiped off, then that's too bad. I still don't like that stupid bird.

Mark Blevins is a columnist for The Parthenon. Comments can be sent to him at 311 Smith Hall.

Forget 'Got Milk?', try 'Milk Sucks'

by CHRISTOPHER HAYNES
guest columnist

Several weeks ago, most Marshall students probably saw the "Got Milk?" booth in the Student Center, or read an editorial in The Parthenon about PETA's bizarre response to the ad campaign. Even James Harris addressed the controversy in his comic strip, "In the Crew." Well, here's another reason that Whoopi Goldberg, Vanessa Williams, Spike Lee, and Kristi Yamaguchi should wipe off their milk moustaches and clean up their acts.

Lactose — or "milk sugar" — is a natural sugar commonly found in milk.

While whites can digest the sugar without a problem, many non-whites cannot. Unable to break the substance down due to the absence of the enzyme lactase, lactose ferments in their intestines causing abdominal cramps, bloating, diarrhea, and gas. According to a published review by the Physicians Committee of Responsible Medicine, lactose intolerance affects some 70 percent of African-Americans, 90 percent of Asian-Americans, 74 percent of Native-American, and 53 percent of Mexican-Americans.

Yet the "Got Milk?" campaign pumps milk into school breakfast and lunch programs around the United States, and cereal companies are partners in the controversial practice. "Cereal? That means they will have to have milk," said Massachusetts Senator Diane Wilkerson. "It's crazy we should be giving urban children milk for breakfast when such a high proportion of them are children of color." The Congressional Black Caucus has also spoken out against the "Got Milk?" campaign and its indifference to lactose-intolerance among minorities.

Even the late Dr. Benjamin Spock, America's leading authority on child care, spoke out against feeding cow's milk to children, saying it can cause anemia, allergies, and insulin-dependent diabetes and in the long term, will set kids up for obesity and heart disease. America's number one cause of death. Dr. Frank Oski, former Director of Pediatrics at Johns Hopkins University, added that "there's no reason to drink cow's milk at any time in your life. It was designed for calves, not humans, and we should all stop drinking it today."

In addition, dairy products may not prevent osteoporosis, since their high-protein content leaches calcium from the body. Population studies backed up by a Harvard study of more than 75,000 nurses, suggest that drinking milk can actually cause osteoporosis instead.

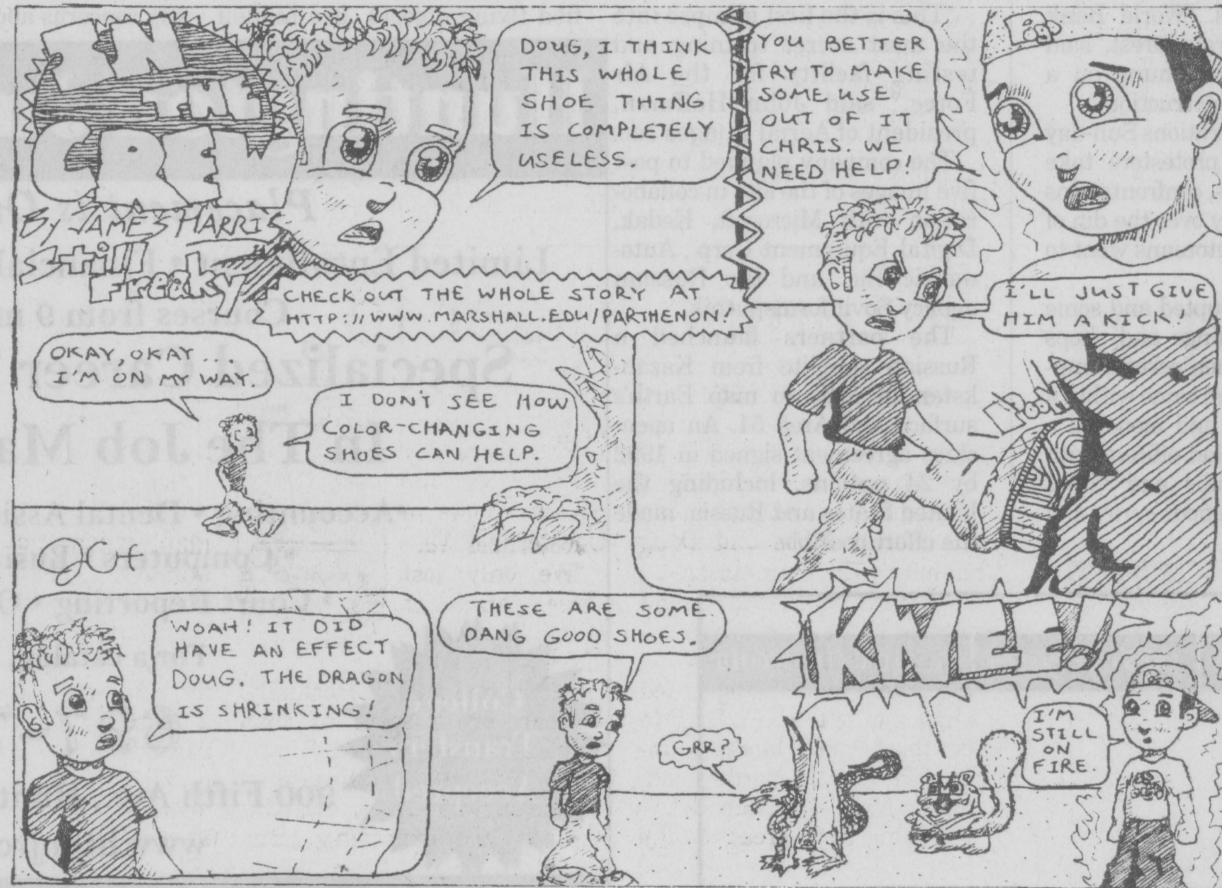
Cow's milk is an inefficient food source, as well. Cows, like humans, expend the majority of their food intake simply leading their lives. It takes a great deal of grain and other foodstuffs cycled through cows to produce a small amount of milk. And not only is milk a waste of energy and water, the production of milk is also a disastrous source of water pollution. A dairy cow produces 120 pounds of waste every day — equal to that of two dozen people, but with no toilets, sewers, or treatment plants.

Consider the effect on the environment. In Lancaster County, Pa., manure from dairy cows is destroying the Chesapeake Bay, and in California, which produces one-fifth of the country's total supply of milk, the manure from dairy farms has poisoned vast expanses of underground water, rivers, and streams. In the Central Valley of California, the cows produce as much excrement as a city of 21 million people, and even a small farm of 200 cows will produce as much nitrogen as in the sewage from a community of 5,000 to 10,000 people, according to a U.S. Senate report on animal waste.

Finally, anyone who claims to care about animals should know that corporate-owned factories, where cows are warehoused in huge sheds and treated like milk machines, have replaced most small family farms. With genetic manipulation and intensive production technologies, it is common for modern dairy cows to produce 100 pounds of milk a day — 10 times more than they would produce in nature. To keep milk production as high as possible, farmers artificially inseminate cows every year. Growth hormones and unnatural milking schedules cause dairy cows' udders to become painful and so heavy that they sometimes drag on the ground, resulting in frequent infections and overuse of antibiotics.

Male calves, the "byproducts" of the dairy industry, endure 14 to 17 weeks of torment in veal crates so small that they can't even turn around. Female calves often replace their old, worn-out mothers, or are slaughtered soon after birth for the rennet in their stomachs (an ingredient of most commercial cheeses). They are often kept in tiny crates or tethered in stalls for the first few months of their lives, only to grow up to become "milk machines" like their mothers.

I agree with the editors of The Parthenon: "Got Beer?" was a ridiculous slogan. PETA would have been better off with its original campaign, which comes straight to the point: "Milk Sucks."



CAMPUS views

Article may lead to misunderstanding, director says

I thank The Parthenon for the front page article about Marshall's ongoing review and revision of the Student Code of Conduct. Unfortunately, I fear that the wording of the article may lead to a misunderstanding among students who wish to participate in the revision process.

The policy on notifying parents when students commit alcohol and drug violations is not a proposed policy, but an existing policy. It was adopted in May 1999, following a series of open meetings, discussion in the pages of this newspaper, and deliberation by all the proper committees. Many students were involved in the drafting of the parent notice policy, which is not, by the way, a part of the Code of Conduct. What the reporter referred to in the article was simply our plan to add this already established policy to the language in the Student Handbook.

Students who attend the April 18 forum hoping to discuss the Parent Notice policy may be disappointed. It will not be on the agenda. However, forum attendees are invited to discuss Marshall's rules and sanctions regarding alcohol and drug usage, as well as any other sections of the Code that interest them.

— Linda P. Rowe, E.d.D.,
director of Judicial Programs

Professor takes on columnist's views on musicians

This is in comment on Mr. Blevins' column on the call for retirement of old rock musicians. I do not understand if his problem is with their age or with the price of tickets. Your argument fails to take into consideration the reason people buyout those concerts in the first place. It is not the performer's ability to do the same he/she did 30 years ago, is not their ability to hit those notes. It is about remembering the days when those songs were on the radio.

Without getting into the arguments that those groups you dismiss as "needing to retire" made rock what it is today, many people would take any of them today over those Harley rockers on a Moped band called the Backstreet Boys, or they rather pay to see those "old timers" than silicone-filled Britney. Sorry, those geriatric bands have made Retro-shows and Oldies the No. 1 and No. 2 radio formats in the United States.

I believe they had your opinion in mind when they made members of MENDUO retire at age 14. Don't worry about those musicians making so much money, this is America, land of opportunity and free enterprise. Anyhow, The Rolling Stones are the No. 1 money making act in U.S. history. Ask anyone that has gone to one of their concerts if they think Mick needs to retire. I bet that in return they will ask you about the policy for retirement as a Parthenon columnist that never really got it.

— Harold Blanco,
instructor of modern languages

Phi Mu members say Greek Week was a success

Greek Week 2000 seemed to go off without a hitch and ended with a bang and the sisters of Phi Mu would like to thank all those involved.

Greek Week is supposed to pull chapters together and unite the Greeks in a friendly yet competitive way and this year that's exactly what it did.

Our sisterhood definitely got stronger as we pulled together and came out closer than ever not to mention the new friends that we made from other chapters on campus. We would like to congratulate the sisters of Delta Zeta and the brothers of Alpha Tau Omega for their first place victories.

We would also like to congratulate the sisters of Alpha Chi Omega and the brothers of Pi Kappa Alpha on receiving the Chapter of Excellence Award. Not to forget Matt Ladd (Sigma Phi Epsilon) for being honored as Greek Man of the Year along with our own Devon Kelly who was named Greek Woman of the Year. And last but certainly not least we would like to recognize Christine Boggs, Chris Nourse, Jason Southall, and Sobera Sohain who made this entire week possible. Again, we would like to thank and congratulate all the Greeks for making Greek Week 2000 great!

— The sisters of Beta Phi Phi Mu

Parthenon

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Marshall men's basketball Coach Greg White announced Sunday that Latece Williams, a 6-foot-8 power forward from Okaloosa Walton Community College in Niceville, Fla., has signed a National Letter of Intent for the next season. Okaloosa Walton was ranked in the top 20 during the 1999-2000 season and ended the year ranked No. 19 nationally in NJCAA Region VII.



National Football League Draft Coverage

A win-win situation

Chad Pennington says playing for Jets will be a learning opportunity

by JACOB MESSER
Life! editor

A student of the game whose study habits and intelligence helped him earn All-American honors on the football field and in the classroom, former Marshall quarterback Chad Pennington thinks the New York Jets franchise is the perfect opportunity for him to do two of his favorite things — play football and learn.

"This is a win-win situation," Pennington said after the Jets selected him with the 18th pick of the NFL Draft, the highest any Marshall player has been taken.

"I'm playing under a great mentor in Quarterbacks Coach Dan Henning and I'm playing behind a great quarterback in Vinny Testaverde.

"Plus, I'll have great skill people around me in (wide receiver) Wayne Chrebet and (running back) Curtis Martin. There's no

pressure on me to perform. I can go in there and learn, knowing that I'm not going to get beat up.

"This is just a great fit for me."

Jets Coach Al Groh thinks it is a great fit for the team, too.

That's why he used the third of his four first-round draft picks on the 6-foot-4, 220-pound signalcaller after passing him up with the 12th and 13th selections.

"We were a little surprised to find him at that position," Groh said. "He was too good to pass up. Pro football is a game of quarterbacks and we have to have a solid triggerman back there.

"All successful teams have great quarterbacks. This pick ensures the Jets will have that for a long time. This is a very fortuitous drop for us."



Pennington

Pennington, whose accuracy and intelligence allow him to pick apart defenses, will compete against reserves Jim Kubiak, Tom Tupa and Ray Lucas for the No. 2 spot.

Groh and Henning will groom Pennington to replace Testaverde, who turns 37 in November and is coming back from a torn Achilles' tendon, when the veteran quarterback retires.

Pennington, a four-year starter who threw for more than 10,000 yards and 100 touchdowns in compiling a 45-6 record, was praised by commentators and draft analysts, who could not explain his descent into the lower half of the first round.

"Chad Pennington is the 5th or 6th best player in this draft," draft expert Mel Kiper Jr. said moments before the Jets (8-8 last season) finally selected Pennington, who finished fifth in the Heisman Trophy balloting this season. "He's going to be a super steal wherever he goes. He's a potential franchise signalcaller."

ESPN commentator and former NFL quarterback Ron Jaworski compared Pennington to former San Francisco 49ers great Joe Montana and current Indianapolis Colts star Peyton Manning.

"He understands the passing game, he's accurate and he can throw wherever he wants," Jaworski said. "He has a high release to go along with his height. He has good balance, good stride and good arm strength. His throws are right on the body. He has it all."

Dropping down didn't bother Pennington — that much.

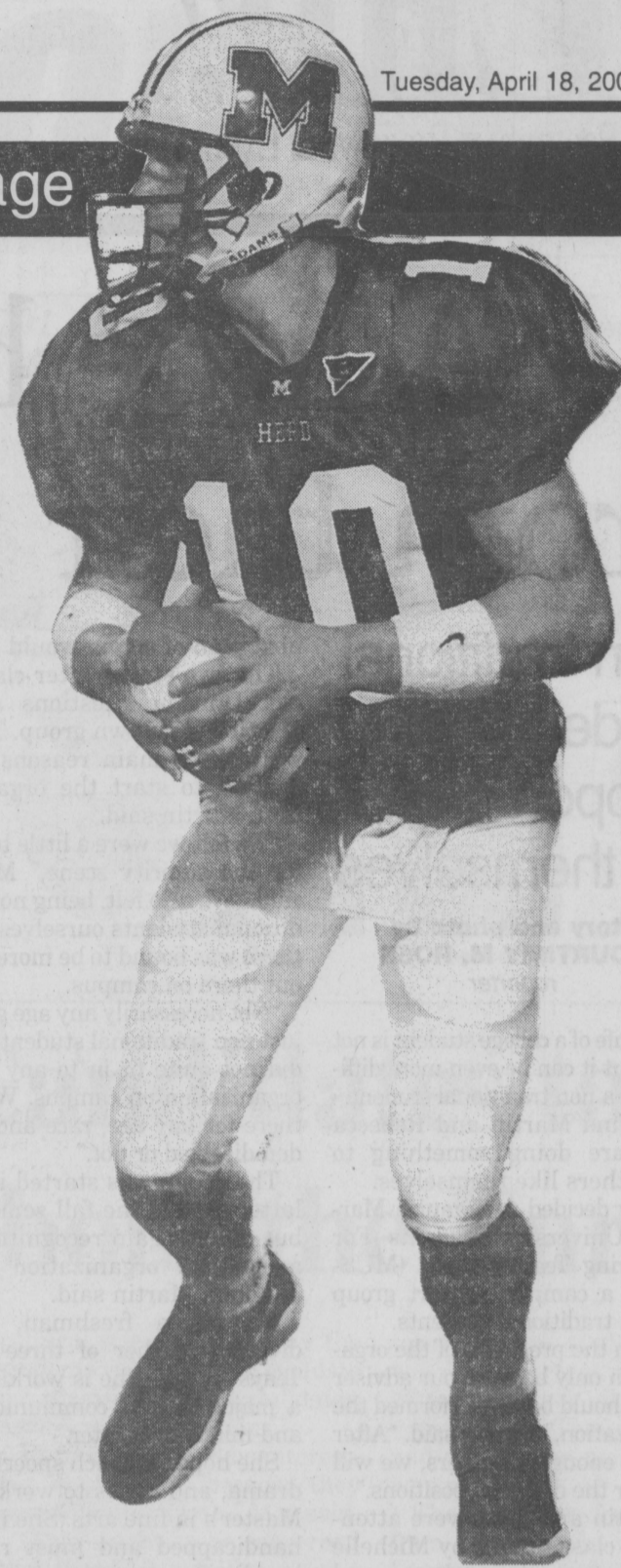
"Of course, your competitive spirit kicks in and you want to be taken as high as possible, but 18th in the first round isn't too bad," said Pennington, who admitted he was surprised Pittsburgh, Denver and San Francisco passed him up.

"Teams have needs they have to fill. That's why you may drop lower than you expect. The draft works in mysterious ways.

"I'm just happy to be a New York Jet. It's a great organization and a big-time football town. The Jets are an established winning team on the verge of making it back to the AFC Championship Game and getting to the Super Bowl."

Their color scheme doesn't hurt either, huh Chad?

"That's another great thing about it," Pennington said, "I'm still going to be wearing green and white. It's kind of neat."



A good reason to miss class

Chargers take Marshall safety in 2nd round

by JACOB MESSER
Life! editor

Normally, Rogers Beckett would have been in Smith Hall listening to Political Science Professor Simon Perry on Monday afternoon.

But this week the former Marshall safety was at Qualcomm Stadium talking with San Diego Coach Mike Riley.

With their first pick of the NFL Draft, the Chargers took Beckett with the 43rd pick overall and the 12th selection in the second round.

"It feels pretty good," Beckett said shortly after NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue announced San Diego's selection to the studio and television audience Saturday. "Reality hasn't hit because my lifestyle hasn't changed yet."

It soon will. Beckett flew to San Diego Sunday, attended a press conference Monday and returned to Huntington later that night.

Beckett will return to San Diego when the Chargers (8-8 last season) start their mini-camp next week.

"Strengths and weaknesses don't matter because I need to go out there and improve in every area," Beckett said. "It's a job now and that's how I have to treat it."

"The one thing I can guarantee is I'm going to go out there and play hard on every down. That's how I've always played and that's how I'm going to continue to play."

A big adjustment, Beckett said, will be mental.

"I have to get used to playing with and against those guys," Beckett said of his NFL teammates and opponents. "Those are household names. I'm just happy to be getting this chance."

The Chargers and Riley are



The San Diego Chargers took Rogers Beckett in the second round of the NFL Draft.

happy to be getting a prototypical safety in the mold of Steve Atwater or Tim McDonald.

"We think he can play strong safety, free safety, in our nickel package and be a part of our special teams," Riley said of Beckett, a native of Apopka, Fla. "We really like him."

San Diego General Manager Bobby Berthel also likes Beckett. "He has excellent range," Berthel said. "He's very productive. He can tackle and he sees the field very well. He makes plays."

Beckett was the sixth defensive back drafted overall and the second safety selected, five picks behind Nebraska's Mike Brown, who went to the Chicago Bears.

Beckett, a three-year starter and two-time all-conference selection, had 84 tackles and six interceptions this past season despite missing two games after suffering a concussion.

Draft analysts said they were impressed with the 6-foot-3, 205-pound Beckett's size and range.

"His ball skills are very good and he is a better than average tackler," former Pittsburgh Steelers Director of Football Operations Tom Donahoe said.

"His addition will bring athletic ability and range to their secondary."

Chapman eager to join Moss in Minnesota

by JACOB MESSER
Life! editor

The Thundering Herd rarely lost a game during the two years Randy Moss and Doug Chapman were teammates.

Chapman hopes that trend continues when he joins his old teammate with his new team.

The Minnesota Vikings used the 88th pick of the NFL Draft to select the former Marshall running back in the third round, reuniting Moss and Chapman. "It's going to be great to play

with Randy again," Chapman said Saturday night from his parents' home in Chesterfield, Va.

"We only lost three games at Marshall when we played together (in 1996 and 1997). Hopefully, we can bring some of that Marshall success up here."

That's what Minnesota Coach Dennis Green and the Vikings are expecting from



Chapman

Williams is ready for his revenge

by JACOB MESSER
Life! editor

The Indianapolis Colts. The Carolina Panthers. And the Atlanta Falcons. James Williams cannot wait to play those teams this season. The former Marshall wide receiver owes them a touchdown catch or two.

"They all called four or five times over the weekend, telling me this and that, but they never followed through on me," said Williams, who was taken in the sixth round of the NFL Draft by the Seattle Seahawks with the 175th pick overall.

"I'll prove what I can do when we play them."

Williams, who runs a 4.38 40-yard dash, hopes to replace Joey Galloway, who Seattle traded to Dallas for two first-round picks.

"Going in, I'm already the fastest guy on the team," he said. "That means I give them a deep receiving threat and can return some kicks."

Mini-camp begins April 27. Williams (6-foot, 185-pounds) promises to be ready.

"All they have to do is sit back, relax and watch the show," he said.

The Seahawks (9-7 last season) also selected former Florida wide receiver Darrell Jackson in the third round.



Williams

Mercer gets two wishes out of one

by JACOB MESSER
Life! editor

Girardie Mercer got his wish Sunday. So did his mother, Bobbie Cureton.

The former Marshall defensive tackle agreed to a free agent contract with the Carolina Panthers, who play in Charlotte — his mother's hometown.

Now, Mercer has a chance to play professional football and he gets to do it in front of his mother.

She moved from Washington, D.C., to Charlotte in 1997 to care for her ailing father, who passed away in October.

"This is a double blessing," said Mercer, who was courted by the Philadelphia Eagles, New York Giants, Seattle Seahawks and Washington Redskins. "The Lord worked this situation out perfectly. He deserves all the credit."

Mercer, who reports to mini-camp April 27, must compete with starters Sean Gilbert and Tim Morabito, five reserves and two draft picks to earn a roster spot for the Panthers (8-8 last season).

"I'm a great athlete for my size," said the 6-foot-3, 285-pound Mercer, who runs a 4.81 40-yard dash and has a 4.81-inch vertical jump. "I can turn some heads and see some playing time if I get the chance."



Mercer

Chiefs like O'Neal's hard hits

by JACOB MESSER
Life! editor

To Andre O'Neal, the bone-crushing hit he delivered to Mike Bath to force the Miami of Ohio quarterback out of the game this past season was ordinary.

To the Kansas City Chiefs, it was extraordinary.

In fact, that play is one of the reasons the Chiefs signed the former Marshall linebacker to a free agent contract Sunday.

"All the coaches kept talking about that hit," O'Neal said with a laugh. "They were impressed by it. They were more impressed by the fact that I just got up after I did it and acted like it was nothing."

He also liked his ability to play all three linebacker spots. O'Neal, who turned down lucrative offers from St. Louis and San Francisco, reports to mini-camp April 27.

The Chiefs (9-7 last season) were left with only six linebackers after the death of starting inside linebacker Derrick Thomas in an automobile accident earlier this year.

"They need serious help in the linebacking corps," said the 6-foot-2, 235-pound O'Neal, the only linebacker the Chiefs drafted or signed, "and I'm going to do everything I can to help them."



O'Neal

Tampa Bay, Grace are a good match

by JACOB MESSER
Life! editor

For some NFL teams, John Grace fits into their programs like a round peg in a square hole.

But to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, the former Marshall linebacker is a perfect fit.

Grace and the Buccaneers agreed to a free agent contract Sunday.

"They really don't look at your size," said the 5-foot-11, 218-pound Grace, whose stature may have caused other teams to pass on him.

"They look at your ability to make plays."

Grace, who reports to mini-camp Wednesday, can do that. He had more than 400 tackles in his career.

"I fit their style of play," said Grace, a native of Okeechobee, Fla. "They're aggressive. They come at you. Your ability is what matters to them."

Grace likes his chances at Tampa Bay (11-5 last season) given the depletion of its linebacking corps, which dropped from 12 linebackers in March to eight linebackers in April. That number includes Grace and third-round draft pick Nate Webster of Miami (Fla.).

"I have a great chance to come in and make this team," Grace said. "I'm happy just to get a chance."



Grace

A little help from their friends

Non traditional students form support group for themselves

Story and photo by
COURTNEY M. ROSS
reporter

The life of a college student is not easy, but it can be even more difficult for a non traditional student.

So Tina Martin and Rebecca Rose are doing something to help others like themselves.

They decided to organize Marshall University Students For Improving Team Support (MUS-FITS), a campus support group for non traditional students.

"I am the president of the organization only because our adviser said I should be since I formed the organization," Martin said. "After we get enough members, we will vote for the different positions."

Martin and Rose were attending a class taught by Michelle Duncan, now their adviser, and she was speaking on the different organizations and clubs Marshall had to offer.

"While we sat and listened, we noticed there was really nothing out there for us," she said. "Michelle started talking about how it was possible for someone to start their own organization. Rebecca and I both looked at each other at the same time and knew what our

next plan of action would be."

The two stayed after class to ask Duncan questions about starting their own group. There were three main reasons they wanted to start the organization, Martin said.

"We felt we were a little too old for the sorority scene," Martin said. "We also felt, being non traditional students ourselves, that there was bound to be more of us out there on campus."

"Not necessarily any age group, just non traditional students who did not quite fit in to any other organization on campus. We are there for any age, race and gender, disabled or not."

The group was started in the latter part of the fall semester, but did not gain recognition as an official organization until January, Martin said.

Martin, a freshman, is a divorced mother of three from Teays Valley. She is working on a major in oral communication and minor in theater.

She hopes to teach speech and drama, and hopes to work on a Master's in fine arts. She is also handicapped and must ride a handicap cart on campus.

Rose, legal studies major from Hurricane, is in the same position.

"I missed early registration last semester because the only ramp in to Old Main was blocked," Martin said.

The parking problem is a little different in their situation.

"The handicap cart isn't the same as a wheelchair," Rose said. "I don't have anywhere to park it, so my husband comes

with me to help."

They also have problems sitting in the desks in the classroom, Rose said.

Aside from these worries, they also have families at home to take care of.

"I am a full-time mom and a full-time student," Martin said. "My kids are my first priority."

Martin is close to her children and wishes there were a way to be with them more on campus.

"I was one of the first people on the list when the daycare center opened on campus," Martin said. "It ended up being too expensive so my mom watches them everyday."

"I overcompensate a lot. By the time I get home they are asleep. I don't get to tuck them in and say their prayers with them."

Rose's situation is a little different. She has four children and two grandchildren. She had her own ceramic shop but put it on hold for an education.

"I am often here late and miss seeing the kids because they are in bed," Rose said. "I wish Marshall would have more things to involve us as students with our kids."

The group is not a part of any national chapter or organization. But members do hope to contact other independent organizations on other campuses to link into some of their platforms and ideas.

The organization was started in hopes of reaching those people on campus who did not quite fit in to what organizations and groups offered, Martin said.

"Rebecca and I came up with



MUSFITS President Tina Martin (left) and MUSFITS Vice President Rebecca Rose look over plans for the campus group.

the name of our organization... because we were tired of not fitting in, being misfits if you will," she said. "So we became the MUS-FITS. We want to participate and have the full college experience, and we do not feel that being older, returning students should keep us from achieving that."

Martin added, "There are people who want an equal and productive voice on campus. There are also people who need a support system where they can come for any type of information or help they might need."

"We also needed to establish lines of communication between MUSFITS and the faculty and/or staff to help with the needs and concerns that relate to the non-traditional student."

The group is in its beginning stages. It has about six members and has had one official meeting

since forming, Martin said.

"It is slow getting started because of sickness," Martin said. "We are hoping that this article, along with our fliers on campus and our official Web site, will help us establish ourselves and bring in new members."

Information about the group can be found on the Marshall Web site with other organizations and groups.

"I think our organization will benefit all the non traditional students by giving them a platform and a voice on campus," Martin said. "All students deserve that support and positive social environment that can be achieved by belonging and participating in a college group or organization."

More information may be obtained by e-mailing Martin or Rose at tinainoz@earth1.net.

Happenings...

*your entertainment guide for activities and events at and outside of Marshall.

On Campus

TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2000

Rationalists United for Secular Humanism, meeting, Memorial Student Center 2E10, 4-5:15 p.m. Contact: 562-6738.

Student Activities Programming Board, meeting, MSC 2W37, 3:15 p.m. Contact: 696-2290.

Student Government Association, meeting, MSC 2W29B, 4 p.m. Contact: 696-6435.

American Society of Safety Engineers, meeting, Safety Office, 3 p.m. Contact: 696-4664.

Office of Judicial Affairs, comment on and propose changes to the Student Code of Conduct, MSC 2W22, noon. Contact: 696-2495.

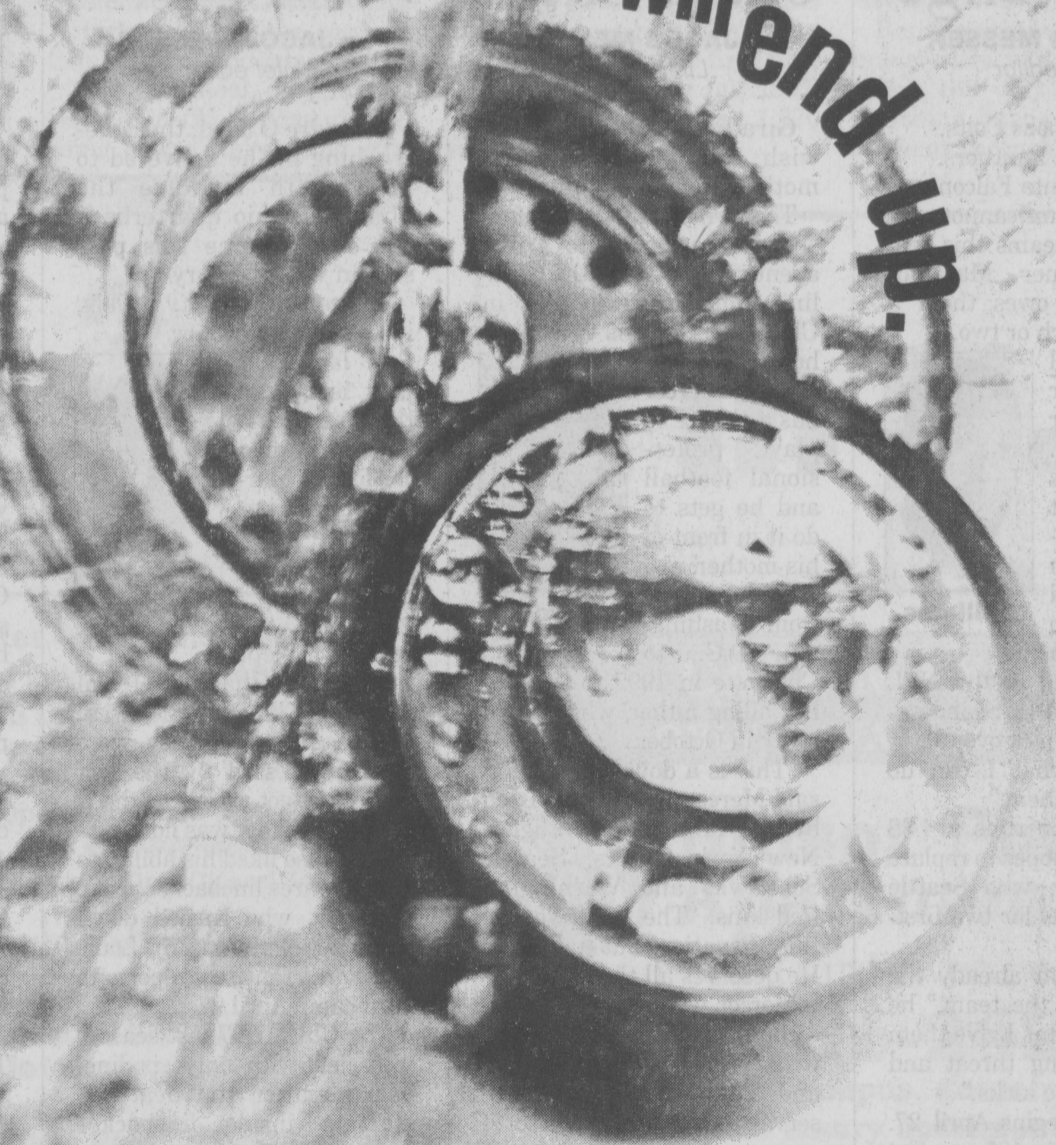
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2000

Lambda Society, meeting, MSC Alumni Lounge, 9:15 p.m. Contact: Raymie White 696-6623.

Baptist Campus Ministry, meeting, Campus Christian Center, 9:15 p.m. Contact: Jerry Losh 696-3053.

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