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### The Parthenon, July 23, 1998

Marshall University

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## Outside

**Mostly sunny**  
Highs in the upper 80s  
Lows in the lower 60s

Friday: Sunny  
high: 85; low: 65



## Sports

**Huntington going quacky**

Page 5.



## Life!

**See who is heating up the outside stage**

Page 6.

## Opinion

**It still pays to shop around**

Page 4.

# the Parthenon

Marshall University



page edited by Gary Hale

Thursday, July 23, 1998

## On the march

### Summer heat does not foil ROTC plans

ROTC briefs were compiled by DIANE POTTORFF staff reporter

Put the camera down. Step away from the edge. That sports pass is invalid up here! Well, that is if the ROTC renovates a camera tower.

The ROTC and the Athletic Department are trying to come to an agreement about renovating the camera tower into a rappelling tower.

The tower belongs to the Athletic Department which uses it for filming football games and practices. The tower lacks a wall, ledge and other features necessary for rappelling.

Capt. John Block said the The Army Corps of Engineers is conducting the structure analysis and the renovations to the tower will be installed by American Electric Power.

Block said the ROTC is in the process of making arrangements with the YMCA for the use of a rappelling wall.

The Athletic Department only requires one platform with a roof for filming football games and practices.

Block said the addition of a rappelling tower on the campus is vital for the ROTC program — a recruiting and confi-

\*\*\*

### Office renovations set for September

For the first time in about 25 years, the ROTC offices will begin renovations on Sept. 1, Lt. Col. Steve Redmond said.

The offices will be renovated one at a time and the office staff will be doubling up in other office space.

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Capt. Mike Armstrong said the ROTC will be renting seat cushions for \$2 at the football games. This fundraiser will go toward the Military Ball, which will be held at the American Legion hall in Barboursville. The seat cushions raises about \$500 to \$600 during the football season, Ball said.

\*\*\*

Stephen Johnson was commissioned into the U.S. Army as a second lieutenant.

The commissioning ceremony was on July 11.

Johnson graduated from Marshall on July 10 with a bachelor of arts degree in biology and a minor in chemistry.

Johnson will leave on Sept. 8 for Fort McClellan, Ala. for basic training as a chemical officer until Feb. 8. On Feb. 23, he will report to Fort Wainwright in Fairbanks, Alaska. Johnson will be stationed there for three years.

Johnson is a native of South Charleston. He began at Marshall in the fall of 1993. He joined the ROTC in the spring of 1994.

Johnson said the course was a lot of work and he kept his eyes on his goal.

"Stick with it and just keep your goal on second lieutenant, even though there are times you feel like quitting, but it is well worth it," he said.

## Baking for college credit

### Students to receive training in hospitality field

by ERRIN JEWELL staff reporter

Two future chefs demonstrated their culinary skills when the Community and Technical College introduced its Hospitality/Management program Wednesday in the John Marshall Room of the Memorial Student Center.

Tiffany Kisor and Ashley Lucas, students enrolled in the program at Cabell-Midland

high school, decorated cakes in front of an audience of approximately 40 guests.

Representatives from local restaurants and hotels, Marshall University and other area businesses attended the event.

Dr. Charles Heck, assistant dean of applied science, said the program allows local high school students to earn college credits while attending area vocational schools.

The program features two options: culinary arts or hotel management, Heck said.

"The program was designed as a collaborative seamless program which allows high school students to earn college credits before graduation and then attend Marshall for two years," he said.

Dr. Betty Kyger, provost of the community and technical college, said "We are excited about the launching of our new

Hospitality/Management [associate's] degree program this fall.

"Professionals in the hospitality industry have expressed a great need for more and better trained employees who can progress into management positions," Kyger said. "Our program will provide the opportunities for that career path."

"By working as partners in training with Marriott Industries and vocational centers in

the area, we are committed to providing up-to-date, quality training in the hospitality field," Kyger said.

The new program has received support from several sources including: vocational schools in Cabell, Putnam, Wayne and Mason counties; Marriott industries; the Educational Foundation of the National Restaurant Association and Marshall University, Heck said.

## Good recruiting = student increase



### Marshall could find itself in a deja vu as students scamper to find classes, places to call home

by TONIA HOLBROOK news editor

Fall enrollment is up and accommodations are low on campus. Will there be any room at the inn?

Although no official numbers will be available until after the first week of fall classes, Marshall officials predict fall enrollment to be high, said Dr. Warren G. Lutz, dean of enrollment management.

To accurately estimate the number of students signed up for fall classes, enrollment off-campus and in the community college must be considered. "Once they come together, we'll know the figure but, at this stage, everything is still developing," Lutz said.

So far, Marshall has registered 2,170 students during orientations. That constitutes 94 percent of students who had made reservations to attend the orientations, a high turnout according to Lutz. Applications are still being accepted for the Aug. 20 orientation.

Lutz attributes the increase to diligent recruiting. "It's been a unified effort of all the offices to work very hard in recruiting. The faculty and deans have created an attractive university," he said.

The high enrollment will have few negative affects other than a shortage of classroom space and faculty, Lutz said. "Those are problems we don't mind having," he said.

One of the affects of the increase has been the filling up of classes. There are a number of courses freshmen are required to take. However, many freshmen want classes scheduled between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., Lutz said. "The university simply isn't large enough to do that." So far, the university has been able to accommodate freshmen with necessary classes, he said.

Should this trend of increased enrollment continues, the university may need to consider some changes, Lutz said. "If we reach a point where we are maxing out the facilities, either we will increase facilities or become more selective in admissions." Lutz stressed that while this is not an absolute, such options would have to be considered.

Classes aren't the only scarcities on campus resulting from the increase. Residence halls are reaching their capacities as well. All single rooms have been filled, said Winston Baker, director of resident services. Some students will be moved into lounge areas, which can accommodate four students.

But that will not be enough when applications for housing are still being accepted. "When we take in more students than we can accommodate, then we have to use other means," Lutz said.

Those students who remain to be placed in housing will be moved to the Uptowner Inn, located at 1415 Fourth Avenue. Faced with the same situation last year, the university leased rooms at the inn where some students stayed until November.

However, with enrollment even higher this year, students may be residing there through the entire semester, Baker said.

The number of students graduating from high school is going down, however Marshall's enrollment continues to grow, Baker said. "We're bucking the trend. I've been here five years and each year the number gets bigger."

But Marshall has experienced declines in enrollment in years past, said Baker. "It's a good thing we're filled. We don't want to go back to those days," he said.

Prichard Hall, which was residential at one time, was turned into an office building when such a decline in enrollment took place. Although Baker said he doubts that Prichard will ever be reconverted, more facilities may be a possibility if the trend continues.

Juniors and education majors Kim Dunbar, left, and Amanda Gum, right, look at the wall of closed classes Monday. A student increase may once again cause administrators to talk of change.



# this & that

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Page edited by Butch Barker

## Viagra sales already going limp

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Is the thrill gone already?

Demand for Viagra has tapered off in recent weeks as more insurers say they won't pay for the impotency treatment drug and patients aren't asking for it as much.

Pharmacists filled 184,312 prescriptions for the little blue pill during the week ending July 10, compared to a peak of 303,424 in the week ending May 8, industry researcher IMS Health said Tuesday.

That still makes Viagra one of the nation's hottest selling drugs, on track to reach \$1 billion in sales in its first year.

But industry analysts and doctors alike say the frenzy that followed Viagra's April 10 debut has calmed considerably.

"The euphoria is probably gone," said Steve Lisi, an analyst with Mehta Partners, a New York investment firm.

Viagra's first few months on the market haven't been trouble free. At least 30 deaths among Viagra users have been reported, prompting insurers Prudential HealthCare and Humana Inc. to refuse to pay for the drug.

Pfizer Inc., which makes Viagra, and the Food and Drug Administration point out that users of the drug are often elderly and

have other health problems. Both have maintained that there's no evidence any of the patients would have died if they took the drug as directed.

Kaiser Permanente, the nation's largest health maintenance organization, decided that at about \$10 a pill, Viagra is too costly.

A few insurers have rationed the drug, offering to pick up the cost only for one or two pills a week.

"Many people are having less sex than they had anticipated," said Dr. J. Francois Eid, director of the New York Presbyterian Impotency Center.

## Broadcasters unhappy with TV blocking option

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Some TV set makers' interest in giving viewers the option of blocking news, sports, commercials and other unrated programs from their TV screens is making broadcasters hopping mad.

The dispute between broadcasters and TV manufacturers threatens the smooth introduction, slated for next year, of TV sets containing blocking technology known as the v-chip.

Under current ratings — blessed by federal regulators and hailed by key lawmakers in Congress — shows are flagged for sex, violence and crude or suggestive language. News and sports, however, are not covered.

The v-chip, as envisioned by the Federal Communications Commission in technical standards adopted in March, would let viewers block shows based on their ratings. But the FCC did not specifically bar TV set makers from making the v-chip even more powerful, letting people zap unrated shows.

Now some of those manufacturers, including RCA and Panasonic, want to build v-chips into sets that would enable viewers to not only block news and sports shows but also programming that carries no rating, such as advertisements and some TV programs, say broadcasters and

manufacturers involved in the dispute who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Broadcasters argue that what some manufacturers want to do would undermine the concept of a voluntary ratings system. They also worry that the technology would let people block local commercials, local weather warnings and other information.

"This action could place the TV program rating system in jeopardy," Edward Fritts, president of the National Association of Broadcasters, said in a statement.

Manufacturers that want their TV sets to be able to block both rated and unrated TV shows believe consumers want that power, said a consumer electronics industry official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Discussions between broadcasters and TV set makers to resolve the dispute are ongoing, both sides say. Rep. Edward Markey, D-Mass., who got the ratings and v-chip provisions into a 1996 telecommunications law, is keeping an eye on the situation, but aides doubt Congress would intervene.

**"This action could place the TV program rating system in jeopardy."**

— Edward Fritts,  
president of National Association of Broadcasters

Consumer electronics officials say broadcasters, in meetings with lawmakers and regulators, are threatening to boycott the v-chip by not electronically coding their shows with ratings information. This information carried in the TV signal is not seen by viewers but is necessary for the v-chip to recognize a show's rating.

But broadcasters, while not ruling it out, said they have not yet resorted to taking such action.

One option for broadcasters is to rate news and sports shows "TV-G," suitable for all ages, or a "TV-Y," appropriate for all children. The rationale is that most parents wouldn't program their v-chip equipped TV sets to block shows that carry these ratings.

## Parents becoming more aware of SIDS risk

**CHICAGO (AP)** — More parents are getting the message about the danger of placing their infants on their stomachs to sleep, a practice thought to increase the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, three new studies found.

The studies, published Wednesday in the Journal of the American Medical Association, show more parents are placing babies on their backs or sides to sleep.

The studies did not attempt to pin down a link between sleeping positions and SIDS. Though some of the roughly 3,500 deaths per year attributed to SIDS are thought to be linked to sleeping positions,

others remain a mystery.

In one study, a telephone poll conducted by researchers at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development surveyed just over 1,000 parents or caretakers every year from 1992 to 1996.

The study found the number who said they placed babies on their stomachs decreased from 70 percent to 24 percent over those years.

Although the SIDS rate declined approximately 38 percent during that time, researchers said a cause and effect relationship cannot be proven.

"I think it's safe to say that having infants sleep on their

backs will reduce the risk of SIDS, but it will not eliminate the possibility," said Marian Willinger, a SIDS specialist. "Some infants who sleep on their backs still die of SIDS."

The study's period coincided with a national "Back to Sleep" campaign, an effort started in 1994 by the U.S. Public Health Service and other agencies to educate parents about the dangers of allowing infants to sleep in their stomachs.

The American Academy of Pediatrics in 1992 recommended that parents put babies to sleep on their backs or sides.

A study led by Dr. Samuel M. Lesko at the Boston University School of Medicine looked at some 7,800 mothers in

Massachusetts and Ohio.

It found that 18 percent of the mothers had their month-old babies sleep on their stomachs, while 29 percent let the babies sleep on their stomachs at 3 months.

A third study led by Dr. Ruth A. Brenner, also of the NICHHD, found that 40 percent of low-income mothers from the District of Columbia allowed babies to sleep on their stomachs.

Both Lesko's and Brenner's studies showed mothers were influenced by, among other things, child-rearing advice from family and friends. Brenner's study also found that many mothers followed the advice of hospital personnel.

## odds & ends

**NASHUA, N.H. (AP)** — At 110, Eliza Emerson hasn't run out of ways to celebrate birthdays. She fired the opening pitch of a Nashua Pride baseball game — and the ball made it to the catcher.

The Pride rolled out the red carpet for Emerson. A limousine shuttled the Concord woman from her nursing home to the ballpark, where she met all the Pride players before their game Tuesday night against New Jersey's Somerset Patriots.

She walked on a red carpet to the pitcher's mound. She was given a dozen roses and the entire park sang "Happy Birthday."

Then she threw the first pitch, the latest in a string of birthday adventures that include a hot air balloon ride and a helicopter tour.

The Pride won the Atlantic League game 7-5.

Emerson, who worked as a seamstress until she was 97 and didn't move into the home until she was 107, still has big plans: She'd like to visit Alaska.

**GOLDEN VALLEY, Minn. (AP)** — The kitchens that bring you the Betty Crocker brand have whipped up a treat for yogurt-loving skunks.

General Mills, the Minneapolis-based maker of Yoplait yogurt, has redesigned the containers to make them more skunk-proof — for the animals' own good.

The overhaul already was under way when animal-rights activists told the company as many as 14 skunks died last year after getting their heads stuck in the discarded containers.

The animals suffocated or wandered into roads and were hit by cars.

"The number of skunks injured doesn't sound like a lot, but it's 14 too many, and that's why we are taking action and changing our packaging," General Mills spokesman David Dix said Tuesday.

The new containers are supposed to be more difficult for skunks to squeeze their heads inside, but easier to get out of if they do. As added skunk-proofing insurance, the cups bear this message: "Protect Wildlife — Crush Before Disposal."

"It doesn't guarantee someone won't find a skunk with a container on its head," Dix said.

**MURFREESBORO, Tenn. (AP)** — A vandal left a pretty slick calling card at a Tennessee hotel: The entire room was smeared with petroleum jelly.

Police said the man checked into a Howard Johnson's hotel on July 15. Two days later, he slipped out, leaving the room a gooney mess.

"When maids went to clean the room, they discovered the entire room covered with Vaseline," police Officer Don Schubert wrote in his report.

The slick stuff was spread on the carpet, furniture, curtains, walls and linens. Police found about 15 empty containers of petroleum jelly in the room.

The damage was estimated at \$1,375.

**STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP)** — Finders, keepers? That saying didn't cross Cheryl Brown's mind when she found a wallet stuffed with \$6,700 in cash.

Brown turned the billfold right in to Penn State university police. "It was natural," said Brown, who discovered the wallet in a parking garage as she searched for her car after work.

No one had reported the wallet missing, and the only identification found inside it was a name.

Fortunately for owner S.H. Park, a police officer recognized her name because she had been in a minor car accident earlier Sunday. Police retrieved the accident report and returned her wallet.

She and her husband are from South Korea and had been in the United States for a week. The money was Ms. Park's tuition for the fall semester at Penn State, where her husband, W.J. Nam, teaches mechanical engineering.

"It was a very, very lucky day for us," said Nam, adding he appreciated Brown's honesty.

Brown said honesty is something to be expected.

"It is no big deal. Anyone would have done it," she said.



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# off campus

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## Court upholds verdict in Cabell adoption case

**CHARLESTON (AP)** — A Cabell County woman, her parents, brother and lawyer will have to pay \$7.8 million to the father of a child given up for adoption without his consent, the state Supreme Court ruled Wednesday.

The case is the first in the nation in which a biological parent won damages because the other parent gave a child up for adoption without the first parent's consent, attorney Marvin Masters, who represents the father, has said.

Anne Conaty Selvaggi of Huntington and Dr. John Kessel, now of Hickory, N.C., had dated for several years and broke up shortly before she found out she was pregnant. They tried to reconcile and briefly were engaged, but she ended the relationship because he would not stop seeing another woman, whom he since has married,

according to documents filed on her behalf.

Attorneys for Selvaggi say that when Kessel learned of the pregnancy, he told her to get an abortion. Selvaggi refused because of her Roman Catholic upbringing, then went into hiding in Los Angeles because Kessel was harassing her, court documents said.

She gave birth in California in July 1991 and turned her infant son over to Kenneth and Patricia Holmstrom in Canada. The couple lives in Calgary, Alberta, where unmarried fathers have extremely limited rights and it is rare for adoptions to be overturned after six months. Kessel did not appeal the adoption ruling.

A Cabell County civil jury granted Kessel the damages, ordering adoption lawyer David Keene Leavitt, of Beverly Hills, Calif., to pay \$5.85 million in punitive damages. He, Selvaggi, her parents and brother are jointly liable for \$1.97 million in compensatory damages.

Leavitt had argued that West Virginia courts have no authority over him and wrongly denied him an opportunity to appeal his case because he refused to post a \$7 million bond.

The U.S. Supreme Court in October rejected his appeal on that issue without comment. In June, a California appeals court said West Virginia does have jurisdiction over

Leavitt and called Leavitt's behavior "immoral, reprehensible and dishonest."

The West Virginia Supreme Court's 244-page opinion said, "We do not intend to haphazardly intrude upon a biological mother's right to conduct her pregnancy in the manner in which she, herself, chooses. Nevertheless, we recognize with equal importance the right of a biological father who has 'grasped the opportunity' to establish a relationship with his child, and the corresponding, albeit limited, right of a child to associate with his/her biological father."

A separate opinion by Justice Margaret Workman said, "With the exception of the California lawyer, ... there are no real villains here."

"I am troubled that, whatever conclusions are made on a legal or moral basis as to the conduct of these two individuals, John and Anne, and all the other Johns and Annes there are still to come, that the family members of such individuals put themselves at risk of permanent financial ruin because of the human support they may give."

Workman concurred with part of the opinion and dissented from part. She said the case should have been sent back for another trial because of numerous errors in the lengthy instructions Cabell County Judge O.C. Spaulding gave the jury.

Selvaggi said of the opinion, "I wouldn't do anything differently if I had to do it over."

"I did the right thing for my baby. ... This has not made any difference."

Neither Selvaggi nor Kessel have seen the baby.

"I think that's best. If he ever wants to meet me, that's different. He's part of that family now," Selvaggi said.

There was no home or office listing for Kessel in Hickory.

## Regular gasoline prices drop in West Virginia

**CHARLESTON (AP)** — The price for the most popular grade of gasoline in West Virginia has dropped 2 cents in the past month, the American Automobile Association said.

Self-serve regular unleaded gasoline sells for about \$1.11 per gallon in West Virginia. That compares with \$1.13 in June and \$1.25 in July 1997, the association said Tuesday.

Other self-serve prices in West Virginia are \$1.19 for midgrade unleaded and \$1.25 for premium unleaded.

## Government briefs

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Clinton is going after nursing homes that are lax about quality and states that do a poor job of regulating them.

The president said Tuesday he's asking Congress to tighten oversight of nursing homes and is using his executive authority to require that states inspect nursing homes on a frequent and random basis, "so there is no time to hide neglect and abuse."

"The duty we owe to our parents is one of the most sacred duties we as Americans owe to each other," Clinton said. "When people living in nursing homes have as much fear from dehydration and poor nutrition as they do from the diseases of old age ... then we are failing our parents and we must do more."

There are already 1.6 million people living in 16,700 nursing homes, figures destined to rise in the decades ahead as the population ages.

**CHARLESTON. (AP)** — Former Gov. Gaston Caperton is giving his successor high marks, praising Gov. Cecil Underwood for continuing work in education, foreign investment and technology.

"Governor Underwood has kept it going," Caperton told Putnam County political and business leaders Tuesday at a meeting sponsored by the county Rotary Club. "It takes a lot of guts for a guy to come in as governor and not change everything."

Caperton reminisced about his years as governor from 1989 to 1997. But he declined to elaborate about his political future, namely rumors that he will make a bid for U.S. Senate.

"I asked (Democratic) Senator (Robert C.) Byrd, and he said he's going to run again," Caperton said to an audience member who asked about a possible seat in Congress.

Caperton's speech focused mainly on education and economic development, areas in which the former governor said West Virginia is doing well, but could do better.

He pointed to specific projects such as the planned Toyota plant in Putnam County and proposed regional airports.

"I'm all for (a new regional airport), but we've got to be smart about it," Caperton said. "We can't just copy other places."

Another important issue is the number of teachers retiring in the state, he said.

## CLINIC NEWS

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### Miscellaneous

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work. See how many

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leave. See how

much paper

is being wasted. How much

electricity is being used to

run computers that are left

on. Look at how much

water is being wasted in the

restrooms. And how much

solid waste is being thrown

out in the trash cans.

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you're at the copier,

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copies you

need. Use both sides of the

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leave. Use a lower watt bulb

in your lamps. Drink your

coffee or tea

out of

mugs

instead of

throwaway

cups. Set up a

recycling bin for

aluminum cans

and one for bottles.

And when you're in

the bathroom

brushing your teeth or

washing your face, don't let the

faucet run. Remember, if we

use fewer resources today, we'll

save more for

tomorrow.

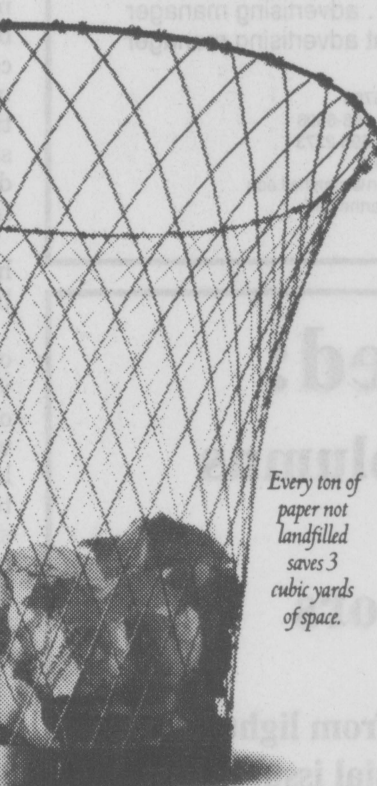
Which would

truly be a job

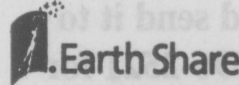
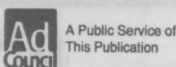
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## briefly

**CHARLESTON. (AP)** — A federal judge's ruling that the government improperly found secondhand smoke to cause cancer is not expected to roll back restrictions on indoor smoking in West Virginia, state health officials say.

"He is not an epidemiologist," Mike Harman, a state Tobacco Control Program official, said of U.S. District Judge William Osteen.

Osteen's ruling Monday stemmed from a tobacco industry lawsuit filed five years ago. It said the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency did not ensure that the tobacco industry was properly represented as it studied the effects of breathing secondhand smoke.

Currently, 37 West Virginia counties have enacted clean indoor-air regulations, which either limit or ban smoking in offices and other businesses.

Osteen's ruling "will not have a negative impact on any of those (regulations) or the ones pending or future" ones, said Cathi Elkins, who manages the state's Tobacco Control Program.

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## Buyer beware: First-stop service may really cost you

Gary Hale  
editor

Yeah, I was the guy blocking traffic a couple of weeks ago at the mall. And yes, that was me who had to stop the other lanes so we could push my old Jeep truck out of the road.

I'm a content person. I don't desire a new truck loaded with extra features. I don't even want to look at the new '99 models. I'm not one to get caught up in staying with the family down the street. All I want is to have a vehicle that gets me from place to place.

I have a knob for a window handle. My gear-shift knob comes out in my hand. My steering wheel's tilt feature has broken, leaving me "roaming" control. There's a rip in my seat. Rust has started leaving holes in the body. Someone left a scratch across my door. I have a gash in the side of my truck. And my Jeep sits a little crooked.

All of this does not bother me to a great deal. But when you can't move, it is a different story. You get desperate and a bit panicky. I somehow was able to get my truck to a local mechanic. He looked at it and said it would be about \$700 to fix. I almost said yes.

People seek a second opinion when their lives are at stake. So I thought I might as well do the same for my truck. I drove through town in second gear and got it to another mechanic.

To save me money, he suggested that I go buy the parts needed. He would only charge me the labor to put them on. To shorten the story, I found one of the parts at a retail shop, saving me about \$100 that I would have paid to Jeep. All told, to get the truck fixed costs me half of what the other mechanic told me.

The moral to my Jeep story is simple: if your wallet flinches at the price given, get someone else to look at the vehicle. You may be frustrated and think you are willing to pay the first price just to get it over with and get the vehicle fixed. But in the long-run you may regret it when bills come due.

Indeed, it still pays to shop around and be sure the mechanics are seeking the best for your situation and not theirs.



### Editor's note:

Letters and columns may be edited to fit allotted space, take out profanity, vulgarity or potentially libelous material.

## Children's drawing teacher coming to select state cities

Acclaimed art educator Mark Kistler of public television's "Imagination Station" will teach drawing workshops in three West Virginia cities this summer.

Children will have daily "art attacks" progressing through a series of amazing pencil-power adventures. Each day, Mark will explore a different theme of creative discovery, from medieval castles to undersea adventures, from lunar moon modules to drooling dinosaurs. This

is a class your child will never forget. Kistler has written best-selling children's how-to-draw books, starred in three television children's series and taught millions of children how to draw in over 17 countries!

All supplies are included. Parents and grandparents can attend free and are encouraged to participate.

For registration information, call Karen Akers or Patsy Gallaher at 1-888-594-9797.

## Possible deregulation of electric utilities brings up debatable issues

The 1997-98 West Virginia Legislature asked the state Public Service Commission to form a task force that would investigate whether the deregulation of electric utilities in the state would be in the best interest of West Virginians, and if so, to develop a plan for implementing the concept.

So far, the task force — with members representing a broad base of state business, utility, consumer, education and trade union groups — has met three times, and though the discussion has been lively and productive, the group seems far from consensus on most issues.

What are those issues? And how do they relate to your daily life and your family's budget?

I hope to address these and other questions you may have via this series of articles. Then, once you become acquainted with all aspects of the deregulation discussion, I hope you, too, will become involved and share your thoughts with me and the task force. Perhaps you can add a perspective unique to the group, or maybe you have

an idea or two that we haven't yet considered. Whatever the case, it is obvious that you and I as consumers of electricity have an opportunity right now to influence the future of electric utilities and how they may affect our checkbooks. I encourage you to contact me with your thoughts.

When we speak of deregulation, or restructuring as it's sometimes called, we are addressing primarily that part of the industry having to do with generating electricity. Generation costs are roughly equal to the other costs associated with your electricity bills.

Currently, the utilities have a monopoly at all three levels, and are regulated by the PSC and any number of other state and federal agencies.

Billy Jack Gregg, director of the PSC's Consumer Advocate Division, told the task force that West Virginians currently enjoy some of the lowest prices for electrical power in the country, and that he could see no way for deregulation to improve that situation. Gregg

said a typical cost for electricity in West Virginia is approximately six cent per kilowatt hour.

With West Virginians already enjoying low prices, many fear that electricity prices would increase under deregulation.

However, some task force members believe the cost of electricity will go down, because one favored portion of a deregulation plan would be a rate cap imposed on current prices. With the cap in place, companies other than existing electric companies wishing to sell electricity would need to offer a price lower than the cap to compete.

Another issue facing the task force relates to the costs of facilities already built and functioning under the regulated system, and that to abandon them under deregulation could result in so-called "stranded costs" which power companies could never recover. As a result, the power companies propose that anyone wishing to buy electricity from other suppliers

under a deregulation system would still have to pay a fee to the old companies in order to assure a level playing field for all competitors.

As you can see, this is a complicated issue. Gregg likened the process to a religious quest, in that everyone in our great country believes in the free enterprise system and thus in competition. However, the devilish details in any deregulation plan have so far managed to thwart serious consideration in West Virginia and most other states. Gregg put it as clearly as possible: "Everyone wants to get to heaven," he said in one of our recent meetings, "but no one wants to die to get there."

Charlotte R. Lane  
West Virginia Public Service  
Commission chairwoman

More information about the deregulation task force may be found on the following website:  
<http://www.state.wv.us/psc>

## the Parthenon

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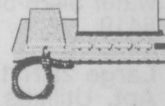
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# Rail Kings pack it in; Blizzard get affiliated

by SCOTT PARSONS  
managing editor

Professional sports in Huntington took a roller coaster ride experiencing low hockey high and yet another baseball low.

The Huntington Rail Kings ceased operations July 16. The Rail Kings were Huntington's third venture into professional baseball with the Cubs and the Rumblers previously occupying St. Clouds commons.

Flooding and poor support from the community were factors in the decision to halt play.

The Heartland League will continue it's 1998 season by revising the remaining schedule of approximately 32 games for each of the four teams.

The Charleston Alley Cats, the single A affiliate of the Cincinnati Reds have agreed to honor Rail Kings season tickets and unused tickets for cancelled games for the remainder of their season.

The opposite end of the spectrum contained the good news that the Huntington Blizzard, Huntington's East Coast Hockey League team, has joined the development program of the Mighty Ducks of Anaheim. Also in the development program is the Cincinnati Mighty Ducks which is the American Hockey League affiliate.

The announcement was made in front of an enthusiastic crowd of fans and season ticket holders who erupted in cheers and applause when the announcement was made.

"This represents a significant step forward for the future of the Blizzard and the future of hockey in Huntington," Glen Norman, head of public relations for the Blizzard said.

The Mighty Ducks, which are owned by the Walt Disney Corp., are possibly the most recognizable name in hockey.

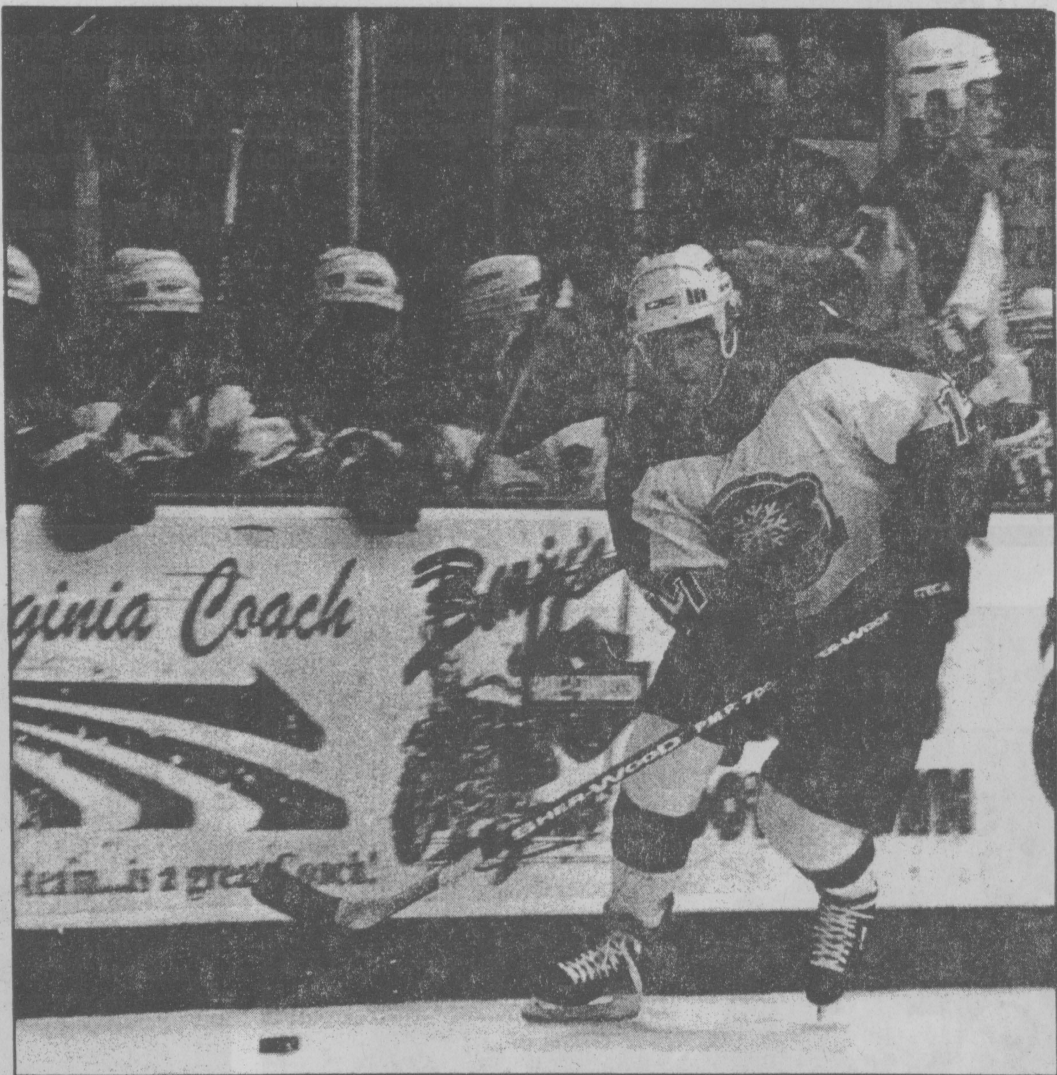
"This move will bring in many Ducks prospects and some of current Blizzard players will get the chance to work-out with the Ducks," Norman said.

Morris Jeffreys, Blizzard president and CEO was very excited about the move.

"The Ducks are the premier franchise in the NHL," Jeffreys said. "We have worked with them in the past and the organization is great to work with."

According to Don Helbig, director of communications for the Cincinnati Mighty Ducks, the move is mutually beneficial for both the Blizzard and Cincinnati.

"The Ohio, West Virginia and Kentucky



File Photo

Blizzard players, including Tracy Egeland (above) have a better chance of achieving their goal of playing in the NHL now that the Blizzard is a member of the Mighty Ducks of Anaheim's development program.

area is a great market for hockey," Helbig said. "Obviously, geography played a big part in this decision. Huntington is a perfect fit for our organization. If we need a player, one is available only three hours down the road."

Player/coach Ray Edwards echoed the enthusiasm felt by all involved.

"This is good for recruiting and good for the guys who have been here for a while because they know if they play well, they will go on to the next level," Edwards said.

But the positives don't stop with just the players.

"The Ducks offer a great family atmosphere and we hope to do the same," Edwards said. "I'm sure they you'll see a lot of Ducks attire in the arena and that's great."

The Blizzard have been searching for a new coach since Charlie Huddy took an assistant's job with the New York Rangers. Joining the Duck's development program should help in the search for a new coach.

"Obviously we want the parent organization's input on a new coach, Jeffreys said. "They have given us suggestions and we have interviewed based on a lot of those."

One of the candidates for the position is Ray Edwards, current player/assistant coach.

"Ray is certainly on our list," Jeffreys said. "We have interviewed Ray and we know what he is capable of. We will discuss the decision with Anaheim and will make an announcement in the coming weeks."

# Coffee House Series set to begin tomorrow

by TONIA HOLBROOK  
news editor

Ashland's Paramount Arts Center will launch it's Coffee House Series tomorrow night.

Inspired by the national popularity of coffee house entertainment, the series has several purposes. First is to provide the community with entertainment while no events are scheduled on the Paramount stage.

The Coffee House Series will also provide experience for local artists performing in front of live audiences in a informal atmosphere, said Debbie Blevins, Marquee Room manager. "We would like to promote local artists and give them an audience."

Eloquence will open the series tomorrow. The three member group of Charleston Youth Orchestra members will perform classical selections on violins.

The Friday of the series will be an open mic night. Anyone may perform by singing, playing an instrument, reading poetry or any other talent.

On Aug. 7, local artists featured on "Home Grown Hearts", a fund-raising album sponsored by Our Lady of Bellefonte Hospital, will perform selections from the album. Funds collected from sales of the album are donated to the Boyd and Greenup County Cancer Society.

The final night of events will feature Steve Free, a Wheelersburg, Ohio singer/song writer and Michael Eerie, a local vocalist who plays the mandolin and guitar.

Events like these won't end when the four weeks are over, Blevins said. "Our long-range goal is to use the Marquee Room as much as possible. We're hoping this might be something we could do several times throughout the year," she said.

Each night will consist of three half-hour sets beginning at 8 p.m. Doors will be opened at 7:30 p.m. Concessions including coffee, cappuccino and sandwiches will be sold.

# Herd picked to win East; Toledo picked to win all

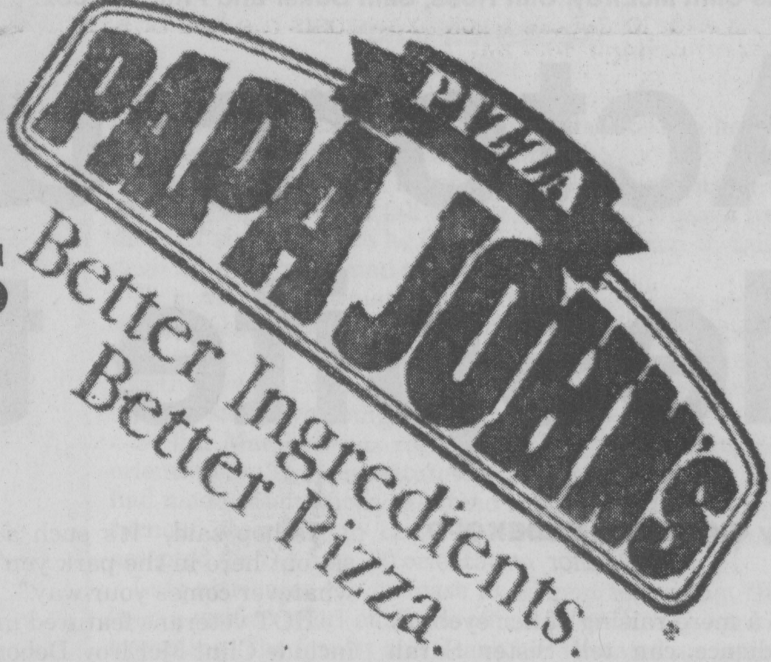
Toledo was picked to win the Mid-American Conference Football Championship by the MAC News Media Association. Marshall was selected to win the East Division. The complete listings of points and votes follows:

EAST DIVISION	VOTES (First-place votes)
Marshall	341 (33)
Miami	321 (22)
Ohio	247 (7)
Kent	139
BGSU	128
Akron	126

WEST DIVISION	VOTES (First-place votes)
Toledo	368 (58)
W. Michigan	294 (3)
Ball State	237 (1)
E. Michigan	158
C. Michigan	147
Northern Illinois	98

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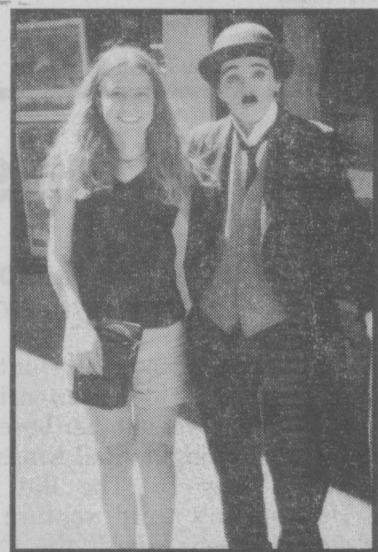
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Christina Redekopp, Life! editor, reminisces about her stay in California for a week in mid-July. She crammed as much as she could into one week with her boyfriend and three friends. They visited the San Diego Zoo, Hollywood Boulevard, Six Flags, Universal Studios and many more exciting places.

Next Thursday in Life!



Thursday, July 23, 1998

Page edited by Christina Redekopp

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photo by Makiko Sasanuma

"Guys and Dolls" features more guys than dolls according to Helen Freeman, director of the show. Some of the guys include HOT veterans Clint McElroy, Cliff Ross, Sam Butler and Philip Wilcox.

# Actors upbeat despite the heat

by CHRISTINA REDEKOPP  
life! editor

With a mere raising of her eyebrow the audience can tell Sister Sarah Brown is not someone to be messed with. Especially by gambler Sky Masterson who wants to take her to Havana as part of a bet in a crap game.

Both Sarah Brown and Sky Masterson can be seen in this summer's performance of "Guys and Dolls" by the Huntington Outdoor Theatre (HOT).

"We have been blessed with tremendous talent over the years but this year I am extremely impressed with the number of high quality male performers who are in this show. This is a demanding show which requires over half the cast to be men who sing, dance and act," Helen Freeman, president of the Huntington Outdoor Theatre, said in a press release.

Michele Goodson-Burnett plays Sarah Brown, a mission worker. Audience members who are used to Goodson-Burnett's comedic role in last summer's production of Oklahoma! can see another side of her as she plays a romantic role.

She said what she likes most about her character is "the change that occurs in her. She realizes she doesn't have to be perfect."

Some of the obstacles members of HOT had to overcome was dealing with the weather. Rain and heat took its toll on the actors, stage crew and the sets.

"You have to drink even more water than you usually do," Goodson-Burnett said.

According to Sara Tschop, Assistant director, auditions began in April. She said about 50 performers are in the show.

Tschop said they ran into some problems because of the wet weather. Even though some of their props and furniture got wet Tschop said, "The show must go on no matter what."

Tschop said, "It's such a beautiful set out here in the park you deal with whatever comes your way."

HOT veterans featured in the show include Clint McElroy, Deborah Wolfe, Cliff Ross, Sam Butler and Philip Wilcox.

Among newcomers to the HOT family are Dave Benton of WSAZ NewsChannel 3, Ryan Hardiman and Jeremy Richter.

Richter plays Sky Masterson. "He's the highest roller of them all," Richter said. He said Sky ends up hooking up with Sarah Brown. "It's a match you wouldn't think would happen," he said.

"He turns on the charm and cons her into going on this trip," Richter said. "In the end he changes his ways."

Richter, a senior majoring in the-

ater has played in such Marshall University Theatre productions as Pippin. Generally playing in a comic role Richter said, "This guy's real smooth and suave and I had to put the goofy part away."

"It's a part I always wanted to play but I haven't had the opportunity until now."

He said some of the differences about outside theater than inside is, "You have to deal with the heat and the bugs."

He also said, "Things you can get away with inside you can't get away with out here."

Cliff Ross, who graduated in May with a master's degree in journalism arts said, "I'm Lt. Brannigan. He's the one guy no one in the play likes."

"He's Irish and he's fun," Ross said.

He said his role in the play is to shut down Nathan Detroit's crap game.

"The heat's worth it, it's fun," he said. "When the audience is there you forget the fact you're sweating profusely under your make up."

"I don't know what it is about this group but it's always fun. Helen gives it that atmosphere."

Ross said, "Next year is 'My Fair Lady' so we're already getting ready to see who plays each part."

Choreography for the musical is part of Kerri Easter's final project before she graduates from Marshall. "It's really different because we don't have a lot of guy dancers. I tried to make it more athletic. So it's not Men in Tights."

Easter said, "The girls have to be really showy and prissy."

Actors backstage await their cue at dress rehearsal July 9.

photo by Makiko Sasanuma



photo by Makiko Sasanuma

Jeremy Richter plays Sky Masterson who aims to persuade Sarah Brown, a mission worker played by Michele Goodson-Burnett, to go on a trip with him so he can win a bet.

The smash Broadway hit "Guys and Dolls" features Jeremy Richter, Michele Goodson-Burnett, Clint McElroy, Deborah Wolfe, Philip Wilcox and many other famous names about Huntington.

The musical will be presented July 23, 24, 25 and 26.

The show will be at Ritter Park Amphitheatre at 8:30 p.m. Pre-show entertainment begins at 7 p.m.

A special pre-show performance by the children of HOT directed by Patty Shaver, HOT vice president, will be presented nightly at 7:30.

Tickets may be purchased in advance at The Huntington Civic Arena Box Office or prior to the shows at the gate. Tickets for adults are \$9. Tickets for seniors citizens over 65 and children under 12 are \$6. Children 5 and under are free.

The Amphitheatre Box Office opens at 6 p.m. Gates open at 6:30 p.m. for picnicking. More information is available by calling 523-8080.