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High: 31
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the

Marshall University's student newspaper since 1898.

Alumni Association accepting nominations

Board of directors to elect 10 new members

by **MALLORY N. HAYE**
reporter

The Marshall University Alumni Association is accepting nominations for its board of directors.

To qualify for a board member, a person must be an active member of the alumni association, be concerned with the growth of the university, be available for two on-campus meetings a year and be willing to promote the university in his or her home area.

Lance West, vice president for alumni development, said that now is a great time to be a participant in the alumni association.

"I think it gives the alumni the opportunity to be aware of the names of their directors," West said. "And if they want to nominate someone, it gives male and female, West Virginians and non-West Virginians and all ages the chance to participate."

Nominations will be accepted through Monday, Jan. 26 by contacting the alumni office at 696-2901 or by e-mailing to hudson2@marshall.edu.

"We need help in finding candidates who are interested in serving the university in this important capacity," said Tom Harris, president of the alumni association. "We're looking for people who have a passion for Marshall and a desire to see the university grow and prosper."

Ballots will be sent to active alumni members in early February. The term for those elected will begin July 1 and they will serve three years. Ten new members will be elected, including five from the local community and five at-large.

Some of the primary goals of the alumni association include: raising \$3 million for construction of a new Erickson Alumni Center and marketing the online community.

HALLOWED BE THY NAME

Student Government Association experiences uproar over prayer

Misunderstanding of letter at root of problem

by **JOHN A. WITHUM**
reporter

A letter sent by Marshall University Student Government Association (SGA) Vice-President Seth Murphy to campus religious groups has stirred up controversy for SGA early in the semester.

The letter, dated Oct. 15, 2003, invited religious groups to begin SGA meetings with prayer, a practice that has been in place since the second meeting of the fall 2003 semester.

"I sent a letter to every single recognized religious group on campus," Murphy said. "Every single one of them were Christian groups."



Murphy

The controversy began when members of the United Methodist Students (UMS) organization became offended by some of the letter's wording. In particular was a section that read, "Don't come to me with some watered-down, non-committal prayer that is nearly devoid of religious reference as You don't pray to some elusive, ambiguous 'higher power' privately or in your group—you pray to God our Father, in the name of His son Jesus Christ, and I wouldn't expect you to do any less in public."

Murphy said his

Please see **PRAYER, P3**

ACLU: religion should be kept out of Senate

by **EMILY INGLE**
reporter

Students and campus organizations are speaking out against the Student Government Association's (SGA) decision to conduct open prayer at meetings, citing it as a violation of the First Amendment establishment clause.

"It is not the business of government officials to use their positions to politicize and promote religion,"

Ardith Michaux, president of Marshall University Civil Liberties Union, said.

In a letter to campus religious organizations on Oct. 15, 2003, SGA Vice President Seth Murphy invited religious groups to pray at Senate meetings as long as it was not "some watered-down, non-committal prayer that is nearly devoid of religious reference" and was "to God, our Father, in the name of His son, Jesus Christ."

"I found the letter offensive because he was making assumptions of what I believe religiously and politically because I'm in a religious organization," Marlayna Maynard, People Reaching Out With Love (PROWL) president, said.

This is the first year SGA has conducted prayer.

Although Murphy said "he used poor word choice in his letter, SGA voted to

Please see **ACLU, P3**

Economic panel to examine job needs of Tri-State

by **CARLIE N. HILLMAN**
reporter

Marshall University will be the host of the economic discussion panel "Our Jobs, Our Children, Our Future" Saturday.

The eight-member panel will examine what has been and needs to be accomplished in the area of economic development in the Tri-State. The key speaker will be Robert Leak, a leader of economic development efforts in North and South Carolina.

The Herald-Dispatch reported that the "Our Jobs" program, "began in the summer of 1992, when then executive editor Randy Hammer invited a panel of local business leaders to the Radisson Hotel Huntington to discuss the condition of the local economy."

Marybeth Anderson, news director for WSAZ, said the purpose of the panel is to "find out what it really takes to create jobs and higher income" for the people in the Tri-State area.

Dr. Mark

Burton,

director of

the Center

for Business

and Eco-

nomics

Research in

the Eliza-

beth

McDowell

Lewis College of Business,

is one of the participants on

the panel.

"A realistic assessment is

absolutely necessary for

effective policy," Burton

said. "If you just simply

look at the good and ignore

the problems then you can

very easily come up with

the wrong answer."

"Marshall plays a unique

roll in economic policy with

the community," Burton

said. "We are far more than

a venue for entertainment

and sports."

Burton said the panel

will have major effects on

Marshall students. "When I

talk to my classes and say

how many of you are going

to stay here three out of

four think they're going to

leave. When I ask them

why they say because they

don't have adequate eco-

nomics opportunities."

Bethany D. Ratliff, a mar-

keting senior from

Charleston, said she plans

on staying in state when

she graduates, but given

different circumstances she

would move out of West

Virginia.

"If I didn't have a family

here I would move out of

state. There are more

opportunities and higher

paying jobs," Ratliff also

said she does not see any

radical change occurring in

West Virginia's economy in

the near future.

Burton said if this panel

is effective in changing the

economic opportunities of

this area "it means the

Marshall students will

have a chance to have fruit-

ful, productive careers"

with the advantage of stay-

ing in state.

Sponsoring the panel will

be the Herald-Dispatch,

WSAZ News Channel 3 and

the Huntington Area

Development Council.

The panel discussion will

be free and open to the pub-

lic. It will take place at 9:30

a.m. in the Don Morris

room of the Memorial

Student Center.

Police using grant money to fight youth drinking

The Basics on BASICS

The Brief Alcohol Screening and Intervention for College Students (BASICS) is a service available for students who may want to explore their alcohol and drug use. It is designed to assist the student in examining his or her own behavior in a judgment-free environment.

BASICS gave money to MUPD, HPD and the Cabell County Sheriff's Department last fall to help fight underage drinking from 24th Street to 6th Street and 2nd Avenue to 7th Avenue.

by **KACIE B. DANIELS**
reporter

Marshall students are being educated — and sometimes punished — with the recent implementation of the Brief Alcohol Screening and Intervention for College Students program (BASICS).

One part of the program seeks to inform students about drinking and its consequences. According to Carla Lapelle, associate dean of students, about 62 University 101 classes were educated on alcohol awareness last semester.

The second part of the

program seeks to punish underage drinkers who are caught purchasing, possessing or consuming alcoholic beverages.

According to Jim Terry, Marshall's director of public safety, roughly \$40,000 has been designated for overtime hours for local police forces.

Officers target an area from 24th Street to Sixth Street and 7th Avenue to the river on random days of the week. Terry said the efforts are not limited to the weekends.

If a student receives a

Please see **BASICS, P3**

by **SHEANNA SMITH**
reporter

The Marshall University Police Department, Huntington Police Department and Cabell County Sheriff's Department plan to combat underage drinking with full force this semester.

The agencies received funding last fall from (BASICS) educational grant to patrol the Marshall area; 24th Street to 6th Street and 2nd Avenue to 7th Avenue, said Jim Terry, Marshall director of Public Services.

"If you're under 21, there's zero tolerance," Terry said.

According to Terry, underage drinking could result in a written arrest citation, followed by a magistrate court appearance within five days, Terry said. From there, students would pay a fine, complete community service hours or go to trial, he said.

If a student disputes the citation and is found guilty, the student could pay a fine up to \$500 or serve up to 72 hours in the Cabell County Jail, Terry said.

More dorms to ditch landline phones

by **LEE TABOR**
reporter

Students in a number of residence halls will be receiving cell phones next semester in place of the traditional wall-mounted phones.

Residents of Buskirk, Laidley, Hodges and Holderby will say goodbye to the traditional phone system when they are introduced to the growing popularity of the cell phone.

With the start of the fall semester, Residence Services will be outfitting these residence halls with cellular serv-

ice by West Virginia Wireless. They work much like the old phones, but with much more added convenience.

"We're always looking to upgrade," Winston Baker, director of Residence Services, said. "We're always looking to do things for our students."

The residents of Marshall Commons currently have cell phones instead of the traditional landline in their rooms. Every student has their own phone and number, which is an improvement to roommates sharing a phone as in the past.

Joseph Whitt, an information systems technician, is confident students in Commons appreciated the new technology.

"They love them. They love the ability to call their friends and family on a long-distance plan. They like being in constant contact 24 hours a day, and they love it that the university is providing this."

There will be no increase in the housing fee. Students already pay for the phone system they use and the cellular phones will cost nothing extra.

"We are actually adding

Please see **PHONES, P3**



Amanda Adkins, a sophomore education major from Huntington, talks on her cell phone in the Memorial Student Center. Next semester, four more residence halls will switch to cell phones.

photo by Lee Tabor

TTE burglar arrested

Freshman took more than \$1,000 from two students

by ANN K. ALI
reporter

Marshall University Police on Monday arrested a freshman from North Carolina on felony charges that he stole money from Twin Towers East residents' dorm rooms.

Joel L. McClenney, 20, an undecided major from Hertford, N.C., was arrested at a friend's apartment after police had searched McClenney's 14th floor TTE room and found more than \$1,000 cash in McClenney's pillowcase.

McClenney is currently being held in the Northwestern Regional Jail on \$25,000 bond awaiting his prelimi-

nary hearing, set for Jan. 30.

MUPD reports said that a TTE resident called MUPD Monday morning to report hearing several doorknobs on his floor being jiggled and someone walking into his room for the second time in less than two months.

MUPD received another complaint hours later from Hideki Katsumura, a TTE resident from Japan who had only arrived in the U.S. three days earlier. Katsumura reported \$995 missing from his wallet.

MUPD talked to Katsumura's roommate, Dominador Lao II, a freshman science major from Beckley, who then realized he was missing roughly \$80 from his wallet.

The door to Katsumura and Lao's room was accidentally left unlocked

Sunday night while they were sleeping and the wallets were out in plain view.

Lieutenant Jack Wilson of the MUPD reminds all students to lock their doors any time they leave their rooms, even if they are going just down the hall, and especially at night when they go to sleep.

After questioning by MUPD officers about trespassing, McClenney denied being in anyone else's room and agreed to a search of his half of the TTE dorm room.

Officers found \$1,129, which is being held for court proceedings, but if McClenney is found guilty, the monies will be returned to Lao and Katsumura. Lieutenant Wilson said a felony nighttime burglary conviction usually carries a 1-15 year jail sentence.

State School Board sued for allegedly ignoring reports of sexual assault

CHARLESTON (AP) — A Lincoln County girl who allegedly was sexually assaulted by a teacher has filed a lawsuit against the county and state school boards claiming school officials ignored reports of other incidents involving the man.

The lawsuit alleges that Phillip A. Duvall of Huntington, a physical education teacher at Duval High School, sexually abused at least five other girls between 1979 and 2003.

It was filed Wednesday in Kanawha County Circuit Court because the state Department of Education oversees Lincoln County's school system. The lawsuit seeks \$10 million in punitive damages from the county and state boards, along with several current and former administrators who also were named as defendants.

"We want to see these people punished because they let it happen," said the girl's lawyer, Cynthia Edwards.

"We feel that this never would have happened to her if the employees who had knowledge that this was happening in prior years had reported him."

The lawsuit charged that Duvall, 47, forced the

"We want to see these people punished because they let it happen."

— Cynthia Edwards, alleged sexual abuse victim's lawyer

girl, who was 13 at the time, to perform oral sex on him at least 30 times during the 2002-2003 school year.

Three other girls told school administrators during the 1990-91 school year that Duvall had paid them \$200 each for sexual favors, the lawsuit charged.

Duvall was arrested in April by State Police and charged with two counts each of third-degree sexual assault and sexual abuse by a parent, guardian or custodian.

He was suspended without pay after he was charged, a spokeswoman in county schools Superintendent Bill Grizzell's office said Thursday.

NASA rover oddly silent

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — NASA's Spirit rover stopped transmitting data from Mars for more than 24 hours, mission managers said Thursday, calling it an "extremely serious anomaly."

NASA received its last significant data from Spirit early Wednesday, its 19th day on Mars. Since then, it has sent either random, meaningless radio noise or simple beeps acknowledging it has received commands from Earth, said Firouz Naderi, manager of the Mars exploration program at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. The last such beep was received Thursday morning, Naderi said.

Initially, scientists believed weather problems on Earth caused the glitch. They said they now believe the rover is experiencing hardware or software problems.

"This is a serious problem. This is an extremely serious anomaly," project manager Pete Theisinger said.

Spirit is one half of a \$820 million mission. Its twin, Opportunity, is scheduled to land on Mars on Saturday.

NASA last heard from Spirit as it prepared to continue its work examining its first rock, just a few yards from its lander.

Since then, Spirit has transmitted just a few beeps to Earth in response to attempts to communicate with it. It also has skipped several scheduled communications opportunities, either directly with Earth or by way of two NASA satellites in orbit around Mars.

Engineers worked to pinpoint the yet-unknown problem.

"It's not clear there is one cause ... that would explain the observables we're seeing," deputy project manager Richard Cook said.

Preliminary indications from the spacecraft suggest its radio is working and it continues to generate power from the sun with its solar panels, Cook said.

Republicans pass \$373 billion financing bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress snuffed out Democratic opposition Thursday and approved a belated \$373 billion bill financing most federal agencies and endorsing President Bush's policies on overtime pay, food labeling, media ownership and guns.

Over protests by labor, some farm groups and conservatives angered by the measure's mountain of pork-barrel projects, the Senate approved the 1,182-page bill by a bipartisan 65-28 vote. The House passed it in December.

The vote, on the first major bill that Congress has approved this election-year, completes a measure that was due last Oct. 1, when the government's budget year began.

"You do the best you can and that compromise and negotiation is part of the legislative process."

— Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn.

Passage ended a prolonged fight in which the White House and GOP leaders stood by their business and gun-owner allies and refused to bend to Democrats and some Republicans in several fights.

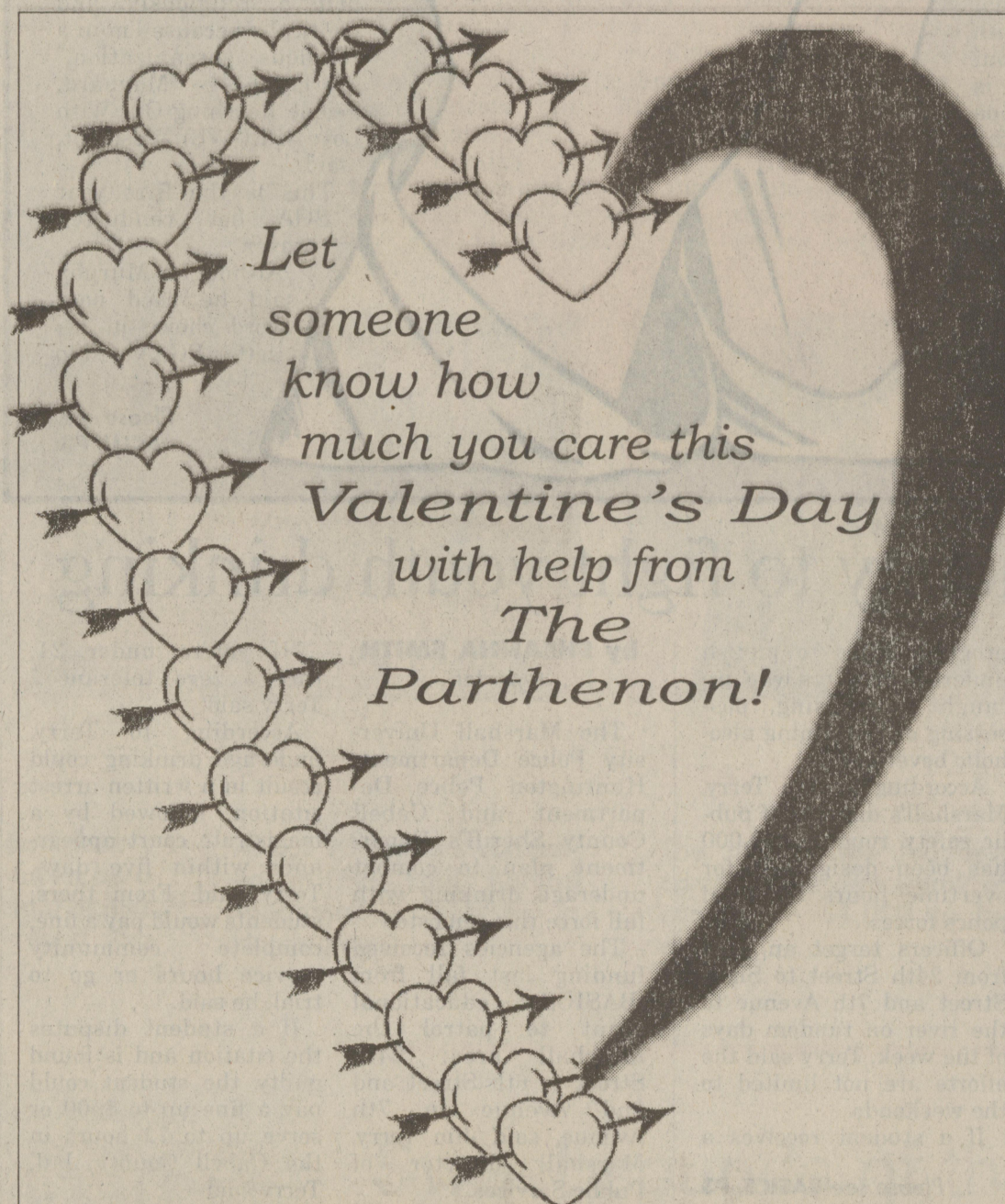
Underscoring the bruising tone of those talks, Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., said the episode taught him, "You do the best you can, and that compromise and negotiation is part of the legislative process."

The bill provides increases for veterans' health care, schools, biomedical

research, highways and a drive to fight AIDS in poor African and Caribbean countries — though less than Democrats wanted.

It lets the administration go ahead with rules allowing companies to pay overtime to fewer white collar workers and letting media companies own more television stations. It would create the first federal school vouchers and shorten the period the government keeps records on gun purchasers from 90 days to 24 hours.

The bill permits companies to wait until September 2006.



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MSC Cafeteria now offers 'fresh concepts' and 'affordable convenience'

by **MELISSA N. DUNN**
reporter

Students, faculty and staff stopping in the Memorial Student Center to eat may notice changes in the choices of food items available this semester.

Jan. 12, Huntington Rotisserie Market opened. It replaced what was known as Chef's Features. Huntington Market, as it is called, offers an array of choices, which include meats, side dishes and pastas.

The idea for Huntington Market came from a team of workers at the university

division of Sodexo.

"I want students, faculty and staff to have as many choices as possible," Kevin Madson, retail manager for Sodexo, said.

Huntington Market offers a different rotisserie-style meat each day along with six side dishes, three of which change daily. There is also a pasta entrée every day with two different toppings.

Ricky L. Smith, a graphics design senior from Hinton, said he is happy with the changes.

"They give a pretty good size portion," Smith said.

I want students, faculty and staff to have as many choices as possible.

— Kevin Madson, retail manager for Sodexo

He also said even though some of the items had been sitting out for a while, the meat was very good.

Madson said in just the first week the number of customers that use Huntington Market has doubled compared to the number that used Chef's Features.

The changing of Chef's Features to Huntington Market mimics menu

changes to other food vendors on the Marshall campus. Café a la Carte, which opened in November 2003, has some changes to its menu as well.

As a limited time promotional deal, Café a la Carte will offer a new wrap every few weeks, such as a turkey-club wrap. It will also offer cheesecake in the coming months.

A few more choices have also been added to the Drinko Coffee Shop menu. The coffee shop now offers different types of wraps and two hot soups every day.

Madson said he is also working on offering more Starbucks products at campus venues that sell Starbucks coffee.

Since the venues on campus are not "stand alone" Starbucks they are not permitted to sell new Starbucks products without approval from the Starbucks Coffee Company.

All of these changes are

to provide some "fresh concepts" as an "affordable convenience" says Madson.

For \$4.89 plus tax, one is able to buy the Market Plate from Huntington Market. That includes one entrée (the rotisserie meat of the day), two sides, a roll and a drink.

Even though the new menu choices have only been available for slightly more than one week, Madson says the feedback is "extremely positive" and he is searching for more ways of giving better quality food to the students, faculty and staff.

BASICS

From page 1

violation, he or she has the option to plead the ticket, go to trial, spend 72 hours in the county jail or pay a fine, according to Terry.

Next the student must successfully complete a BASICS course, which "assesses alcohol use and consequences, provides some information about consequences of use and gives students the opportunity to generate their own opinions about making changes," according to Lapelle.

One Marshall resident advisor who received an underage consumption ticket and took the required BASICS classes said, "If someone is seriously uneducated about alcohol, the program is great. It makes me think twice about drinking because the citation can stay on my judicial record, and the university won't allow me to register for classes next semester until I complete the course."

As for the program's success, no official numbers have been released. However, officials said they are happy with the program's success.

PRAYER

From page 1

intent was misunderstood.

"I can see where it could've been misinterpreted," Murphy said. "All I was meaning to say was this was to a Christian group. Christian groups pray to Jesus. I would not ask them to do any differently. If it was a letter to a Muslim group, I would have said the same equivalent to them. You pray to Allah, I wouldn't ask you to do any differently. Now if they want to do any differently, by all means, but I would never ask somebody

to change the way that they pray."

Dr. Clay McNearney, chair of the religious studies department, was contacted by UMS. McNearney sent a reply, dated Dec. 4, 2003, not only to Murphy, but also to the Marshall University American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), West Virginia ACLU and Steve Hensley, dean of Student Affairs.

"A member of a campus religious organization was appalled by the insensitivity, ignorance, arrogance and illegality evidenced in the letter and, frankly, so am I," McNearney stated in his letter.

Murphy sent a reply to McNearney Dec. 11, 2003.

The topic remained untouched until SGA reconvened Jan. 13, 2004. Murphy brought the issue to the table, wanting to "give you all [SGA] a heads up." Discussion on the topic occurred Jan. 20, the same day the MU ACLU sent a letter to senators, religious groups, MU Supreme Court, Hensley, McNearney, Dr. Betty Cleckley, dean of Multicultural Affairs and Dr. Joseph Stone, SGA adviser.

"I think this was a very arrogant letter that was sent to us," senator Brad Williams said. "They really did pervert what was said."

After discussion, SGA decided to not address the issue further and continue with the practice.

"Unless the United States of America doesn't allow it, we should not change it," SGA President Pro-Tempore Kristina Fueyo said.

SGA President Brandon Stevens said he just wants the controversy to be over.

"To be honest with you, it's something that's gotten so blown out of proportion, I just want to see the controversy end, and that's it," Stevens said. "I think it's done."

Murphy said he could've used different words, but didn't expect the reaction his letter got.

ACLU

From page 1

continue to pray.

The SGA prayer prefers one religious tradition over another and represents a small percentage of religions in the world, Michaux said.

"It's wrong to have a single religious perspective, and it's wrong to be focusing on Christian prayer in a diverse campus," Martin Amerikaner, MUCLU adviser, said.

Other students agreed and said SGA should make a strong effort to represent all students on campus.

"I think they're within their rights to open with prayer, but in a way that people not in the mainstream will have their voices heard," Maynard said.

Because Marshall is an educational institution, the controversy is an educational issue, Amerikaner said.

"Students need to know what is being done in their name," he said.

Although some people think the two points of view are too opposite to reach a compromise, others think a moment of silence before meetings would be sufficient.

Senators could collect their thoughts or say a quick prayer if they wanted and it wouldn't offend anyone, Andrew Schneider, executive director of the West Virginia Civil Liberties Union, said.

MUCLU is encouraging all campus religious groups to write Murphy and contest SGA's prayer policy.

PHONES

From page 1

technology with no added fees or price that will be passed on to the student," said Whitt.

Tiffany Ferrari, a sophomore business major from Beckley, is a resident of Buskirk Hall. She is in favor of adding the cell phones.

"It's one less thing you have to worry about on a personal level of buying a cell phone if they're going to be providing you with

one here on campus."

The cellular phone choice for the residence halls being added to the service is the Sendo S251 and is provided by West Virginia Wireless. It is more student-friendly and durable according to Whitt.

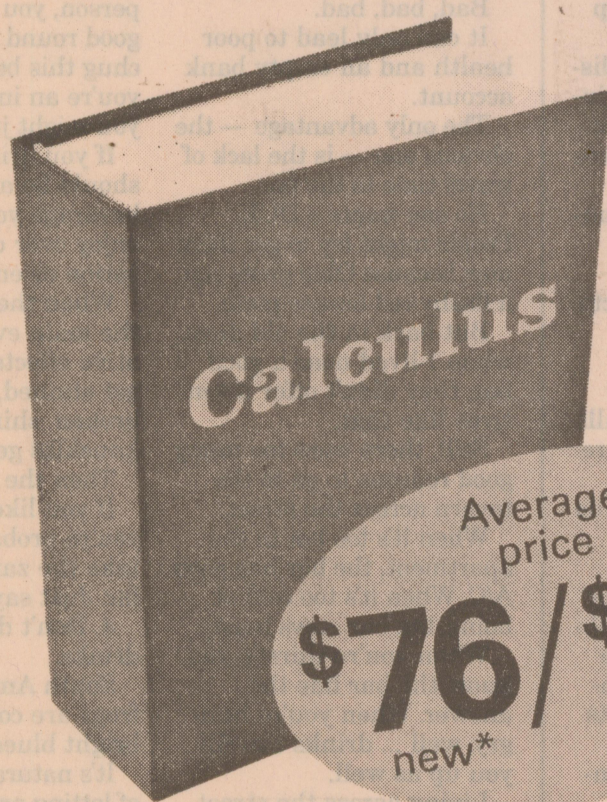
Residence Services intends to also add Twin Towers to the cellular service in 2005.

"It's a real big step for us," Whitt said. "We feel like we are providing our students, especially if they live on campus, for the business world."

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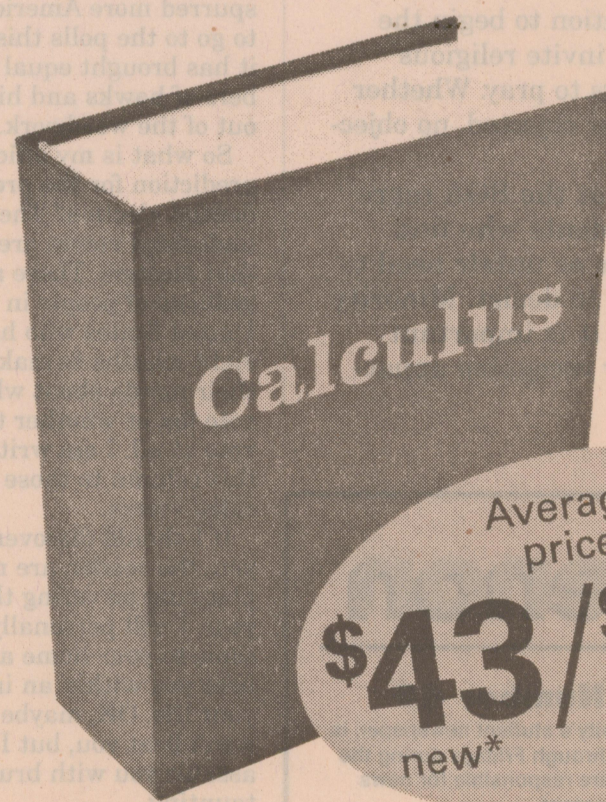
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Will of student body should be key in prayer issue

Once again, the question of prayer in public institutions is coming back into focus, this time on a level that hits close to home.

Representatives from every college on campus are praying during the opening of Student Government Association (SGA) meetings.

SGA Vice President Seth Murphy has come under attack for telling for Christian groups not to "come to me with some watered-down, non-committal prayer that is nearly devoid of religious reference and that speaks of a 'higher power.'"

Murphy admits to poor choice in words in his letter to the organizations, but says that the Student Senate is following the example set forth by national, state and local governing bodies.

The idea of prayer during meetings of governing bodies is not in opposition to the First Amendment. In the Supreme Court case, *Marsh v. Chambers* (1983), prayers by tax-supported legislative chaplains were traced to the First Continental Congress and to the First Congress that framed the Bill of Rights. As a consequence, the chaplaincy practice had become "part of the fabric of our society." In such circumstances, an invocation for Divine guidance is not an establishment of religion. "It is," wrote Justice Burger, "simply a tolerable acknowledgment of beliefs widely held among the people of this country." The issue was not about prayer, but public funds paying for a chaplain to administer the prayer, however the question of prayer during governing meetings is addressed as well.

At the same time, it must be pointed out that Marshall students represent many religions. Secular humanism, Wicca, Judaism, Islam and many other religions are observed among us and it seems that invitation was not extended to these groups simply because there was not an official group on campus linked from the main Web site for student groups.

According to Steve Hensley, dean of student affairs and adviser to the SGA, there was no strong objection to the resolution to begin the meetings with prayer, nor to invite religious groups to attend the meetings to pray. Whether people agreed with the idea or objected, no objection was raised in public.

The important thing is that the SGA represents the student body. Students who find that prayer is inappropriate or unfair need to lobby their school's senator to desist. Minority voices should be heard and it is important that public schools not only recognize apparent majorities.



Voter apathy works against democracy

by JUSTIN VANN
The Daily Cougar
(U. Houston)

(U-WIRE) HOUSTON — I am not a psychic. I'm not even that good at making educated guesses. But I can say with unflinching certainty one thing about the future political climate in America: It's going to be intense.

Polls are showing that Bush is roughly neck and neck with his Democratic opponents in approval ratings, if not leading by a fraction. This means to me that America is in an ideological standoff. While the war in Iraq has spurred more Americans to go to the polls this year, it has brought equal numbers of hawks and hippies out of the woodwork.

So what is my official prediction for the presidential election? The undecided voters are all that matters. There are millions of people in the United States who have eight months to make up their minds about who to vote for, or whether they'll vote at all. I am writing this column to those undecided voters.

If I should discover that you, the reader, are not planning on voting this year, I will personally come to your home and beat you within an inch of your life. OK, maybe I won't beat you, but I will assault you with brutal taunting.

During the last presidential election, roughly 40 percent of Americans voted. That is completely unacceptable. If those numbers don't go up, Uncle Sam will surely die of a heart attack.

You don't deserve to call yourself an American if you don't vote. Cheat on your taxes if you must, but don't you dare skip the voting booth. You must vote. Make sure your friends and family also vote.

Now that you're set on

voting, you have another obligation: be informed. Watch the news. Research candidates and understand their position on key issues like education and healthcare. Don't skim over them either. You should be watching the 2004 election unfold with the same fervor as the Super Bowl. It's pretty exciting to determine the fate of the country. Watch the debates between the candidates, or better yet, start some debates. I can't stress enough how important it is to make an informed decision.

Candidates are going to lie. Facts will be twisted, distorted and covered up to serve both parties. Smear campaigns will dispense endless ad hoc drivel. Liberals will be called unpatriotic. Conservatives will be called greedy.

The candidates will contradict themselves, and then accuse their opponents of being contradictory.

Between now and November, you will be buried up to your eyeballs in rhetorical garbage. Are you prepared for it?

But whatever you do, do not vote for candidates just because they call themselves Democrats or Republicans. Plenty of liberals (Bill Clinton) have been elected only to pander to corporate interests and conservative lobbyists, just as plenty of conservatives (Richard Nixon) have taken office and acted quite liberal at times. Voting "straight ticket" is almost as foolish as not voting at all.

It's a big commitment to vote and to stay informed, but it's a small price to pay when you live in what is arguably the greatest country on Earth.

You aren't fooling anybody with that little American flag sticker on your car.

Be a real patriot and utilize the tools democracy gives you. Vote.

Rules for avoiding drinking mistakes

by BRIAN PHILLIPS
The News Record
(U. Cincinnati)

(U-WIRE) CINCINNATI — Biggie had the "Ten Crack Commandments" and Master P told fans how to "make crack like this."

But what about the average college student, whose primary vice comes in a bottle, not vial? Perhaps these suggestions will be helpful.

1. Never live across the street from a bar.

It's loud at 2 a.m., which is annoying if you're a non-drinker. And if you enjoy a stiff adult beverage, contrary to what you might think, it's still a bad idea. Bad, bad, bad.

If can only lead to poor health and an empty bank account.

The only advantage — the obvious one — is the lack of travel time to the bar.

No one wants a DUI. People might try to get them now, because Ohio gives you a flashy red license plate.

But back in the old days, when I lived near a good bar, they didn't offer incentives like that.

Still, there were too many good reasons to go to the tavern across the street.

When it's too hot in the apartment, the bar has good A/C. When it's too cold at home, the bar stays toasty.

When you're thirsty, you know the bar has the answer. When you're hungry, well ... drinks can fill you up as well.

Living across the street from a bar is bad juju. No doubt.

2. "Drink water or die."

This is a saying at Marine Corps boot camp, and can be literally true in that context, because of the heat and extreme training.

Heavy drinking is almost as serious. Alcohol is a diuretic; it makes you pee.

So while you may think you're hydrated after downing six beers, your body has expelled all that liquid almost as fast as you put it in. The beer comes out of you, taking

other fluids with it.

Symptoms of dehydration include headache, fatigue, nausea and irritability.

Sound like a hangover?

It is. When you're sitting on the curb the next morning, feeding pigeons for karma points and squinting because the sunglasses aren't dark enough, think about the water you should have consumed.

Whether you drink a glass of water between drinks, or just have a big glass before bed, it will probably help.

3. Drinking games: asking for trouble.

If you're a competitive person, you might enjoy a good round of "Who can chug this beer faster?" If you're an intelligent person, you might just take it easy.

If you drink, drinking should be a side note; the beverage you casually enjoy over quality conversation or entertainment.

When the booze becomes the main event, many negative effects occur: couches get stained, windows get broken, shirts get lost and knuckles get bloody.

Then the police show up.

If you like winning, you're probably going to take the zany games too far. Just say no.

4. Don't drink stupid drinks.

South American dart frogs are colored with bright blues and yellows.

It's natural selection's way of letting predators know the frogs are poisonous.

Think of eccentric drinks the same way: Hands off!

Blueberry schnapps might look delicious on the shelf at Staggerlees, but leave it there.

Your friends will be too intrigued by the color of your vomit to ask if you're OK.

Wild colors aren't the only sign that normal humans should interpret as 'do not drink.'

Everyone knows umbrella drinks are ridiculous, and the same goes for shots that are actually on fire.

the Parthenon

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SARA ARMSTRONG

editor

BRANDON LEE DINGESS

managing editor

Missy Oldaker
news editor

Brad Myers
sports editor

Beth Davis
life! editor

Robert Shields
wire editor

Ashley Perks
online editor

Veronica Nett
photographer

Matt Riley

senior sports writer

Sandy Savage
advertising manager

Marilyn McClure
adviser

311 Smith Hall
Huntington, WV 25755
PHONE (newsroom): (304) 696-6696
PHONE (advertising): (304) 696-2273
FAX: (304) 696-2519
E-MAIL: parthenon@marshall.edu
WEB PAGE ADDRESS:
http://www.marshallparthenon.com

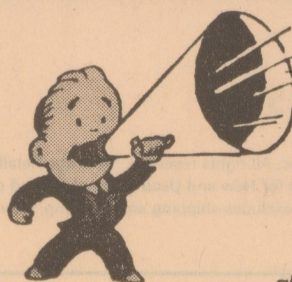
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E-mail The Parthenon
at parthenon@marshall.edu

Editorial policy

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

Marshall women try to halt losing streak at CMU

by **MATT RILEY**
senior sports writer

The Marshall women's basketball team knew what they needed to do Wednesday night against the West Virginia University Mountaineers, but they just didn't do it.

"They have great players and you have to know their tendencies and you have to play them toward their tendencies and we had a lot of times when we just basically forgot what their tendencies were," Marshall head coach Royce Chadwick said.

The Herd was exploited defensively by the play of four WVU players in particular: Yolanda Paige, Sherell Sowho, Kate Bulger and her sister Meg, combined for 66 of the Mountaineers 79 points with 19, 18, 13 and 16 respectively.

Chadwick said there was a key moment in the first half when it started to fall apart for the Herd in the 79-53 loss.

"We lost Bulger a couple of times, and then we lost Sowho twice," he said. "Sowho hit back-to-back threes on us and Bulger hit another one, then it's a 10-point game." That stretch helped fuel a 25-4 run by WVU spanning 11 minutes in the first half.

Now, Chadwick and the Herd head back into Mid-American Conference play Saturday when they battle Central Michigan at 2 p.m. in Mount Pleasant, Mich.

The Chippewas are 4-12 overall and 0-5 in the MAC. Marshall comes in 10-6 overall and 2-3 in the conference.

Senior Catie Knable said the Herd can't perform like it did against WVU or in its two previous losses if it wants to get back on track in conference play.

"We just have to go out there and motivate everyone to keep playing as hard as we can and when we do that it will be a whole different ball game," Knable said. "We have to take what we get from the scouting report and take it with us on the floor. We have to play perfect defense."

Chadwick hopes that his young team will learn from experience as the MAC season gets into full swing.

"Our kids have got to start growing up and go into the next game with the game plan in mind and not give up that field goal while we're trying to get our feet on the ground," he said.

On a mission: Herd tennis out to prove ranking at No. 15 UK

by **MATT RILEY**
senior sports writer

The Marshall women's tennis team gets its first chance to try and prove they belong with the nation's elite programs this weekend.

Coming into its first match of the season, the Herd has its highest pre-season ranking in school history, 69th and senior Jessica Johnson is ranked 62nd in the country.

Now is when it really starts to count for the Herd and the players will be tested out of the gates when they face the University of Kentucky Wildcats Saturday at 10 a.m. in Lexington, Ky.

Head coach John Mercer said he thinks his squad will be ready to battle the No. 15 ranked Wildcats.

"They're a very good team, but so are we," he said. "We should be right in there. We stack up really well with them."

The Herd's lineup features an experienced mix of players including Johnson, Kroh, Alice Sukner, Joelle Good, Lille Nzudie, Holly Asel, Meghan Skalsky and Danielle Hock.

"Everyone's healthy and hitting well," Mercer said. "I think they're

really excited to be playing again. We'll see how they play in the first match. They've all been through this before so there shouldn't be any first match jitters, but we'll see."

Kentucky's roster consists of five freshmen and three juniors, so Johnson and the Herd hope to take advantage of being the more seasoned team.

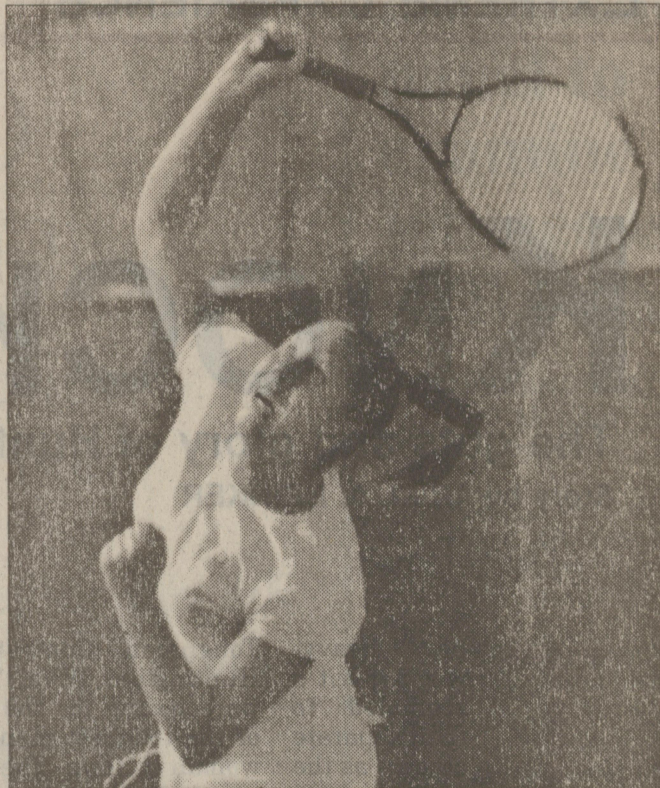
"I think we definitely have experience on our side," Johnson said. "Hopefully it's close enough that we can use that to our advantage."

Johnson said the team is also looking forward to getting back on the court together.

"We're all doing well right now and everyone's healthy and excited to start with matches. It's going to be a nice change from the Fall because we'll all be together as a team. I think we're ready to see what we can make of this year."

The back-to-back defending MAC champions continue against tough opponents next week at No. 31 Virginia.

"Hopefully we can do well in these matches and move up in the world and continue building on what we started last year."



file photo
Meghan Skalsky is one of three seniors poised to lead the Herd as it swings into action this weekend at UK.

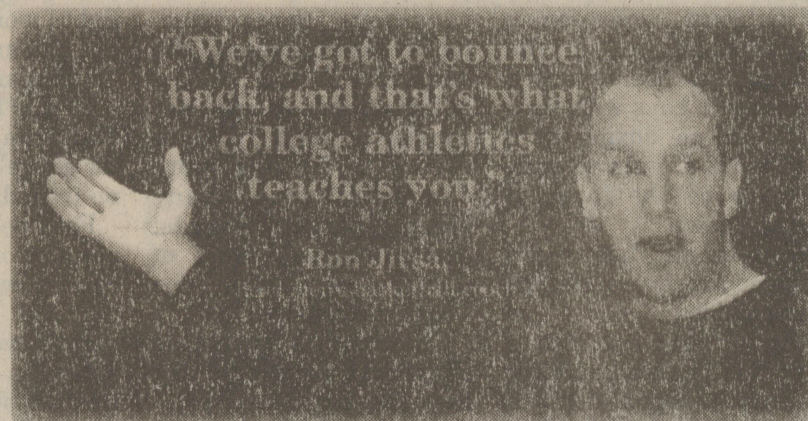
Herd set to take on MAC rival Ohio

by **BRAD MYERS**
sports editor

The Marshall men's basketball team is looking to rebound from its tough loss to West Virginia, and continue their goal of winning the Mid-American Conference title.

The Herd (6-8, 3-3 MAC) will start MAC play tomorrow night against border state rival Ohio University (5-11, 2-4 MAC). The Bobcats have won two of their last three games, but dropped their most recent contest Tuesday night at MAC foe Akron.

Marshall has already split its first six MAC games this season, winning its first two con-



ference games, but losing three of its last four.

Marshall head coach Ron Jirsa said he expects his team to recover from its emotional loss and come out strong in conference play.

"We've got to bounce back, and that's what college athletics teaches you," Jirsa said.

Jirsa also commented that his team has improved since the beginning of the season, and would not just give up all hope for the season after losing to

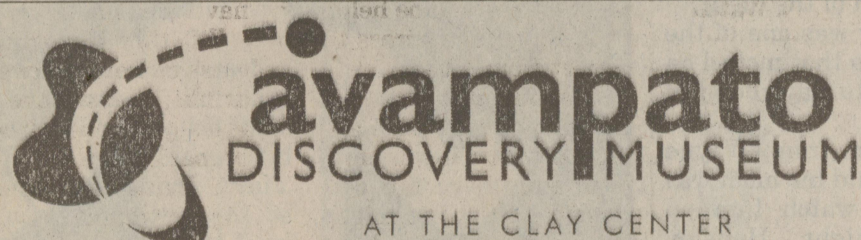
the Mountaineers.

"It's an important game Saturday," Jirsa said. "We've come a long way since September, and to turn our back on that because of one loss would be the wrong way to approach this game."

The Herd players agree that their focus has now turned to preparing for Ohio and beginning MAC play.

"We've got Ohio U. coming in on Saturday and we start conference play, so we have a lot to build on," sophomore Mark Patton said.

Saturday's game will be the 87th meeting between Marshall and Ohio. The Bobcats lead the all-time series 46-40. Saturday's game time is set for 7 p.m. in the Cam Henderson Center.



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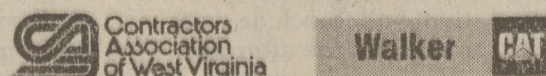
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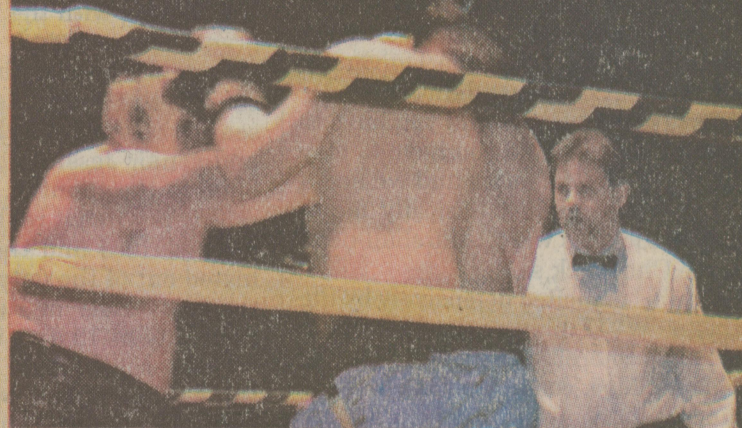
EXTREME EXPERIENCE

KNOCK OUT!

The guts and glory of Huntington's Toughman Contest

Story by ARIEL A. BRINKER

Two prizefighters duke it out for the title.
photo by Ariel A. Brinker



The heavyweights stumbled to their separate corners as the bell signaled the end of the second round of the semi-final fight. The lights were so dim it was hard to make out the crowd of about 5,500 people watching the Saturday night matches. One fighter's cheekbones were already starting to turn black and blue. Blood had been running from his nose since the first round.

The fighter approached his opponent one last time when the whistle sounded. It was hard to hear the sound of the blows above the loud music, but the fighter took every unheard fist to his face, gave out his share and then shook his opponent's hand after the bell sounded the fight's end. The judge's decisions were in and the referee raised the hand of the bloody fighter. He moved on to the finals and the other fighter exited the ring to the soundman's sense of humor, which, this time, happened to be the sound of a screaming baby.

These fighters were here for the 16th annual

Toughman Contest in Huntington, W.Va. They were boxing for the title of the toughest man and woman in town. The conquest of this title had a price attached to it. A win, had a pricetag of up to \$1,000. A loss, could result in a hospital bill or possibly death.

Toughman is described by founder, Art Dore as a clean, back to basics kind of fighting. Professionals are not allowed in the competition. Dore wanted hometown boys with very little or no boxing skill and a lot of guts to compete to be the toughest man in town.

Toughman has been blamed for several deaths nationwide.

On June 14, 2003, a woman named Stacy Young fought at a Toughman event in Sarasota, Fla. Young died two days later, according to a civil suit filed on request of Young's husband, Robert.

Young was a 30-year-old mother of two girls. She died as a result of brain damage she suffered in the Toughman Contest, the suit said.

The suit blamed Toughman's founder, Art Dore, and other individuals involved with

Toughman, for Young's death. It said that the fighters did not have proper equipment, that Toughman failed to give adequate medical care at the event and that the referee did not protect Young during the event.

"Mrs. Young's death resulted directly from the Defendants' callous disregard for the safety of the participants in a barbaric, vicious, unregulated, bloody boxing match," the suit said.

Toughman does not consider their boxing events to be any more dangerous than many other sporting events, Joelle English, head of public relations for Toughman, said.

The contests are not as dangerous as people say they are, English said.

Although English did not comment on any deaths linked to Toughman, she said that many of the rumors are not true. One story said that a man died after a Toughman Contest in Russia and we do not even have Toughman Contests in Russia, English said.

English said that Toughman welcomes the state's athletic commissions to the fights.

"They are ringside," English said.

Jerry Thomas, the Toughman promoter for West Virginia, keeps a close eye on his events. He announces ringside, while his brother, Tommy Thomas, referees the events.

Thomas has been promoting Toughman in West Virginia for 25 years, has promoted fights worldwide and has not had anyone die from a Toughman event.

Huntington's Toughman Contest had its share of injuries, but no tragedies.

Four people were transported from the Big Sandy Superstore Arena to the hospital after Friday night's event, January 16. Fourteen others were treated on location, said an employee of Jan Care Ambulance Services.

The scariest moment in Saturday night's rounds came when 18-year-old, high schooler, Randy Hensley fought his second match of the night.

Hensley was one of the 34 fighters that moved on to the Saturday round of fights.

Hensley, from Wayne County, said his mom was there to watch him on Friday night. Hensley

had won his lightweight fight by a technical knock out (TKO) in the second round. Hensley said his mom had wanted him to lose so that he would not have to fight again at Saturday's fights.

"She's afraid I'll get hurt," Hensley said.

Saturday night, Hensley won his first fight, moved on to his second and was carried out on a stretcher after he was knocked out by a left hook thrown by Adam Collins.

"He went down hard," Collins said.

The referee immediately stepped in and motioned Collins to his

corner. Medical attention was only steps away for Hensley. The ringside medics mobilized Hensley, placed him on a stretcher and carried him out for a routine check.

The crowd applauded Hensley as the medics took him out and according to Jerry Thomas, Hensley was OK the day after the fight.

The fights went on and fighters were eliminated. The crowd cheered for their favorites and at the end of the night the champions were chosen, the crowds headed out and no one died.



photo by Ariel A. Brinker

HARD KNOCKS

It's a tough lesson to learn, but not everyone can be a winner. Lightweight fighter Randy Hensley found that out the hard way.



PEC SPECS

About 90 fighters competed in the 16th Annual Toughman Contest in Huntington.



RING KING

The title of the toughest came with a nice chunk of change — \$1,000 to be exact.

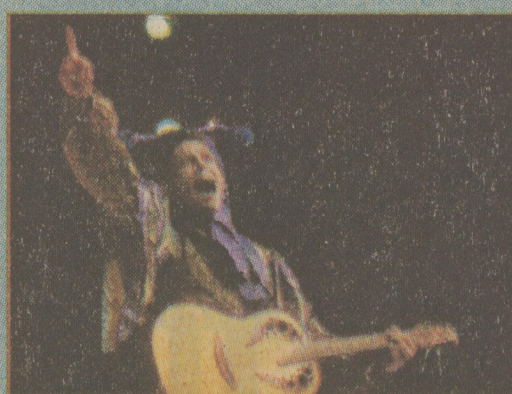


photo by Ariel A. Brinker

AND THE WINNER IS...

Tough man Daniel Adams emerged victorious, beating out the competition to be crowned winner of the heavyweight division fight.

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Sweet sounds of the semester

by EVAN S. HUBBARD
reporter

The Marshall University Music Department has many events planned for this semester, including the 35th Annual Jazz Festival next week.

Dr. Marshall Onofrio, chairman of the Department of Music, said it is hard to isolate one event as being the most important but said the 35th Annual Jazz Festival will probably attract the most people.

"We are again partnering with the Marshall Artist Series to bring in Arturo

Sandoval, a great Cuban trumpet player," Onofrio said. "Thirty-five years is a long time to have a jazz festival. He's such a great trumpeter. I think it's going to attract a lot of people."

The Jazz Festival will begin Jan. 29 with a performance by the group Bluetrane along with featured high school ensembles at the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse. It will continue on Jan. 30 with Sandoval's performance at the Keith Albee Theater at 8:00 p.m.

The festival will conclude on Jan. 31 with a concert by Marshall University's jazz

ensembles.

One new event the music department has planned is the Ohio Valley Cello Festival April 9. Dr. Solen Dikener, professor of cello, is hoping to bring together cellists from the tri-state region, including both student and faculty members. It will be a one-day event that will conclude with a concert in the afternoon.

Upcoming events also include performances from the Wind Symphony, the Marshall University Orchestra and the Symphonic Band.

There are many other smaller ensembles that

will also perform this semester. Different wind instrument ensembles such as Trumpet Ensemble, Trombone Ensemble and Tubonium, a group made exclusively of tuba and euphonium players, will perform at the Brass Ensembles Concert on April 15.

Onofrio said the Department of Music always works a semester ahead in planning the events for each semester.

"I think it is going to be a very good semester for performances," Onofrio said. "We have many good events coming up."

BEST BETS