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**PARTLY CLOUDY**  
High: 38  
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## Amendment proposed

Controversial addition written with goal of protecting prayer

by **JOHN A. WITHUM**  
reporter

The latest shots in the battle over prayer at Marshall University Student Government Association (SGA) meetings were fired Tuesday night.

Senators Brad Williams of the College of Liberal Arts (COLA) and Chris Hickock of the Lewis College of Business (LCOB) co-wrote an amendment to the SGA constitution that would protect the prayer practice indefinitely.

If passed, the amendment would be the first of its kind to the SGA constitution.

"The members of any branch of the Marshall University Student Government Association shall be free to include, as part of any of their meetings, records and activities, a voluntary prayer," the amendment read.

"Although members of Student Government shall always be permitted to lead the prayer, it must remain open for any members of the student body of any faith to be scheduled to lead the prayer if they request permission to do so."

SGA Vice-President Seth Murphy said it was something that he and the co-sponsors had been thinking about separately but with the same idea.

"I thought of it and I mentioned it to them, and they were very eager to support it," Murphy said. "I would say they were already thinking about it anyway."



photo by Veronica Nett

Ardith Michaux stands at the lectern in the SGA offices during Tuesday night's meeting to voice her opposition to the Prayer Amendment.

The amendment was read for the first time last night, and clarification questions were taken. Discussion on the matter, as well as a vote, will occur next week. If the issue passes in senate by a two-thirds majority, the amendment will be placed on the spring election ballot.

"I feel that we, as representatives of the student body, will be a much better choice to make this decision rather than to refer to a group of appointed individuals," Williams said. "We represent the students, this is the students' decision, and I believe that it should stay within the senate."

The gallery for the meeting was filled with members of Marshall University Civil Liberties Union (MUCLU) and Marshall Action for Peaceful

Please see **PRAYER, P3**

### Constitutional Amendment #1 'The Prayer Amendment'

The members of any branch of the Marshall University Student Government Association shall be free to include, as part of any of their meetings, records, and activities, a voluntary prayer.

Although the members of Student Government shall always be permitted to lead the prayer, it must remain open for any members of the student body of any faith to be scheduled to lead the prayer if they request permission to do so.

The nature and specifics of the prayer shall be left entirely to the discretion of the individual leading it.

Therefore, there shall be no effort on the part of Student Government or its members to restrict the prayers exclusively to any deity, individual, or other specific entity, or likewise to prohibit the invocation of any deity, individual, or other specific entity.

## Prayer debate reaching beyond local audience to national stage

by **EMILY INGLE**  
reporter

Support and opposition are mounting as the Student Government Association (SGA) prayer debate spreads locally and nationally.

"I'm pleased with the reaction. The campus has come forward with this, and that's what we wanted - for them to voice their concerns," Ardith Michaux, Marshall University Civil Liberties president, said.



Murphy

The SGA-sponsored prayer controversy was featured last week in The Wall Street Journal, WSAZ News Channel 3, The Charleston Gazette, and West Virginia University's student newspaper, the Daily Athenaeum. It was also addressed in Monday's campus-wide talk show, Campus Concern, on 88.1 WMUL.

Student body Vice-President Seth Murphy was the call-in show's special guest and answered questions about students' interests. There was no representative from the opposing point of view on the show.

Public letters of apology, solutions and religious diversity were a few concerns discussed.

"There are two different points of view here, and everyone is entitled to their own opinion," Murphy said. "But there are some that believe that there is no problem with religion in this country and prayer in public, like in our Senate meetings, and there are some that

**"I admit I used some poor wording in a letter to groups. But in terms of the intent, in terms of how we handled it, I absolutely will not apologize because I have done nothing wrong."**

— **Seth Murphy**,  
SGA vice-president

think that prayer should be completely eliminated."

Whether or not the prayer continues, the MUCLU is planning a civil liberties education forum Feb. 19 at 7:30 in the Memorial Student Center Alumni Lounge. Confirmed speakers are Andrew Schneider, executive director of the West Virginia American Civil Liberties Union, Dr. Robert Behrman of the political science department and Susan Allan from the League of Jewish Women.

And whether the issue passes or fails, Murphy will still keep his ground.

"I am not going to apologize for what we're doing here," Murphy said. "I admit I used some poor wording in a letter to groups. But in terms of the intent, in terms of how we handled it, I absolutely will not apologize because I have done nothing wrong."

## 2005 hopeful launch date for new poly. sci. program

by **JENNIFER PIERCE**  
reporter

The Dr. Simon D. Perry Academic Program on Constitutional Democracy may be launched by spring 2005 if the mid-point mark of the \$1 million endowment is reached by July 2004.

Dr. Alan B. Gould, executive director of the John Deaver Drinko Academy, said that with \$500,000, the program can be implemented in stages.

"There are various stages of approval. We need to solicit enough funds to make it somewhat self-supporting," Gould said.

Once the goal of \$500,000 is met, a professor with authority in "American Constitution" will be hired and student scholars will be selected to participate, Gould said.

"I anticipate the breadth of course offerings, and the participation of everyone in the political science department," he said.

Students will earn a major in political science with an area of concentration in constitutional

Please see **POLI-SCI, P3**

## New machine to assist visually impaired students

by **KACIE B. DANIELS**  
reporter

Marshall University has purchased a machine that will help visually impaired students study more effectively.

The university now has a Perkins Brailier, a device similar to a typewriter that produces Braille writing.

The machine was ordered and delivered in January after Tara Annis, a junior biology major from Indiana, told Disabled

**"If they let us know and we can afford it, we are happy to do it."**

— **Carla Lapelle**, associate dean of students

Student Services about its benefits.

According to Annis, the Perkins Brailier will save visually impaired students a lot of time on doing homework.

"It's really good for math because once you type out a

math problem you can go back and feel what you have written," Annis said.

Annis also said the machine is beneficial for taking multiple choice or matching tests since proctors do not have to continually repeat answer choices.

She also said it helps students with essay writing.

"Instead of dictating thoughts to a proctor, students can write their thoughts on the Perkins Brailier and read back to the proctor what they wrote," Annis said.

Carla Lapelle, associate dean of students, said she is always thankful when disabled students inform her about specific equipment they may need.

Please see **BRAILLE, P3**

### Perkins Brailier

The Perkins Brailier is commonly known as a braille writer.

The brailier prototype was completed in November 1939. After World War II, production of the brailiers began. That machine has changed little over the years and is the same brailier known today.

## TRIO program serves low-income students

by **SEAN M. STEWART**  
reporter

West Virginia had the lowest number of adults with college degrees among the 50 states last year, according to Jacquelyn Hersman, director of Upward Bound, which is why she stresses the importance of TRIO programs at Marshall University.

"Competition is very high for these grants across the country," Hersman said. "We have to reapply every four years to continue each program, so we're lucky to have five grants at Marshall."

Hersman added that WVU lost its Upward Bound program in the last

renewal cycle.

TRIO provides free training and support for low-income, first generation college students and disabled Americans. It was started by President Lyndon B. Johnson through the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 during the original War on Poverty. The name TRIO was coined to describe the original three programs.

According to the Council for Opportunity in Education, more than 2,600 TRIO programs serve 872,000 low-income Americans.

Through TRIO, students, dropouts and the disabled receive free advice on how to complete college entrance applications, find

scholarship information and receive financial aid.

"We have a seamless program [at Marshall] from middle school through grad school to adults that are not in school," Hersman said.

Hersman said staff from the TRIO offices at Marshall give presentations at local middle and high schools to recruit students, but the best resource comes from the students already in the program.

Student Support Services provides advice on improving study, learning and reading skills.

The Educational Opportunity Center encourages and assists adults interested in attending college.

## Autism Training Center receiving national attention for methods

by **SEAN M. STEWART**  
reporter

New research and teaching strategies have focused a national spotlight on the West Virginia Autism Training Center at Marshall University.

Dr. Barbara Becker-Cottrill, executive director of the West Virginia Autism Training Center, co-authored a study that compares the effectiveness of two strategies used to support families with autistic members.

The findings in the study advance the Family Focus Positive Behavior Support (FFPBS) model, which consists of a team that works with the autis-

tic family member on various tasks.

"Its focus is not just to teach the kids, but to look at how they can have a better life," Becker-Cottrill said. "The teams include family members, teachers, speech therapists, neighbors, and anyone who wants to be a part of that person's support. Everybody takes a little piece of the work, from teaching social skills to grocery shopping."

Once a family is accepted into the program, it has access to parent training classes, a quarterly newsletter, community support groups and the Training Center Library.

"We currently have 860

Please see **AUTISM, P3**



# Program aims to correct hillbilly stereotype

by **CAROL CHRISTMAN**  
reporter

The Faces of Appalachia program is raising money to help educate people about ethnicity and gender stereotypes in Appalachia.

Faces of Appalachia, a program co-directed by Dr. Linda Spatig, professor of educational leadership and Dr. Kathie Williams, assistant professor of history, is currently raising money to support research and continuing education for teachers in the Appalachian region. According to the program description, the Appalachian region includes parts of Alabama, Georgia,

Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and all of West Virginia.

Faces of Appalachia is a cooperative effort between Marshall University and the Appalachian Studies Association (ASA) to make a strong contribution to a unique area of diversity and education.

"The goal of the program is to counter prevailing negative stereotypes of Appalachia and enhance positive public awareness of the region by contributing to a unique area of diversity scholarship and education-the study of gender and ethnicity in Appalachia."

**"The goal of the program is to counter prevailing negative stereotypes of Appalachia..."**

— **Dr. Linda Spatig, professor of educational leadership**

Dr. Spatig said.

In December 2002, Marshall University was awarded a \$500,000 grant from The National Endowment of Humanities (NEH), which has to be matched with another \$1.5 million by 2006. Dr. Spatig said the program directors are having a hard time raising funds this year.

This year, the Faces of Appalachia program has to

raise \$450,000 by July 31. As of right now, they only have about \$3,500.

"I really do believe we will reach our goal. This is a very worthwhile project and I believe people and organizations will continue to come forward to support it," Spatig said.

Dr. Spatig said if the program does not reach \$450,000 this year, the program may lose some or all

of the NEH contribution for that year. She also said this would mean a cut in the four-part program.

According to the program description, the four-part program includes the Distinguished Chair in Ethnicity and Gender in Appalachia, which will be a new position in the College of Liberal Arts, Post Doctoral Fellowships, which will provide opportunities for three students to pursue scholarship on ethnicity and gender in Appalachia.

Funding will also go to The Annual Summer Conference on Diversity in Appalachia for K-12 School

Teachers, with the teachers receiving credit toward their ongoing professional education requirements in diversity, and the ASA Regional Office will receive funding for a half-time coordinator of research and dissemination to administer these activities.

The program directors are accepting donations and welcome any ideas for fundraising. Anyone interested in donating money, or who would like to volunteer at fundraisers can contact Lynne Mayer at 696-2239. Dr. Spatig can be contacted at 696-2875 or an e-mail can be sent to spatig@marshall.edu.

## CTC physical therapy course accredited

by **MELISSA D. OFFUTT**  
reporter

Marshall Community and Technical College's physical therapist assistant program has received accreditation for another 10 years.

The Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education of the American Physical Therapy Association grants specialized accreditation to qualified entry-level education programs for physical therapists and physical therapist assistants, according to a news release.

"It is a very rewarding process," Travis Carlton, PTA, M.S. said.

Specialized accreditation recognizes professional education programs for a level of performance, integrity and quality, according to a news release. Accreditation requires the program meets standards of scope, quality and relevance.

The physical therapist assistant program must submit reports and will be continually reviewed until the next formal review period in 2012.

Marshall's physical therapist assistant program prepares students to work in the health care field under physical therapists.

Physical therapist assistants are employed in hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers and educational settings. Physical therapist assistants assist the physical therapist in training patients in exercises and activities.



Arturo Sandoval, four-time grammy award winner, performed Friday at the Keith Albee Theater as part of the Marshall Artists Series. Sandoval preformed many jazz standards.

## Four-time Grammy award winner preforms at jazz festival

by **EVAN S. HUBBARD**  
reporter

Four-time Grammy winner Arturo Sandoval electrified audience members Friday at the Keith Albee Theatre with his trumpet, percussion and vocal skills.

Sandoval, 54, performed with his sextet as part of the Marshall Artist Series to promote his new album, "Trumpet Evolution."

Sandoval performed many popular forms of jazz, including Latin and bebop.

The event was sponsored in collaboration with the Marshall University department of music.

Dr. Marshall Onofrio, chairman of the department of music, introduced

Sandoval at the performance.

Sandoval said he was very pleased at the size of the crowd considering the weather was bad.

If you are here, that means you love music," Sandoval said. "God bless you."

Sandoval and his group also played the jazz standard "My Funny Valentine," for which he sang lead vocals. He also presented his skills on the piano, which he said was his first musical love.

The performer taught a jazz master class Saturday that was open to the public at the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center.

Sandoval discussed his love of music and the story of how he first came to love it as a child growing

up in Cuba.

"Jazz is the most important and beautiful art form created in this country," Sandoval said. He told the audience that only through complete dedication and devotion can one master an instrument.

The performance and class were part of the Marshall University Jazz Festival, in which high schools from the Tri-Sate participated.

"I learned a lot," Nathan Broslawsky, a Bridgeport High School senior said. "I know now what can be accomplished when you learn how to master your instrument and what avenues are available to you." Sandoval also hosted a question and answer session as part of the classroom time.

## CITE program offers high job placement after graduation

by **SARAH HEREFORD**  
reporter

The nationally accredited Safety Technology program in the College of Information Technology and Engineering (CITE) is a program unknown to many Marshall students that holds a high job placement after graduation.

Protecting the safety and health of the public by preventing and controlling hazards is the main focus of safety professionals. Employment in safety technology has continued to grow in the last twenty years. More and more colleges are offering programs to prepare students for careers in safety technology.

Dr. Allan Stern, Safety Technology Program Coordinator, said the program at Marshall is one of the best kept secrets in the university. Most students learn about it through word of mouth. However, Stern said the biggest problem of the program is students not knowing what it is.

The safety program gives students the knowledge on how to control and prevent hazards. Hazard control goes on every day throughout the world, anywhere people may be exposed to personal injury or illness.

Safety technology is one of the oldest professions, involved in every aspect of every day life.

Justin Greene, an Indus-

trial Hygienegraduate student from Fayetteville, said he entered the program after seeing the success his older brother had in the field. He said the job changes and problem solving are what he enjoys most about the work. "Everyday is different," Greene said.

A broad background in chemistry, physics, mathematics, engineering and management are needed to prepare students for careers in industry, government agencies and consulting

firms. The safety program is challenging, but students who like science and mathematics tend to find it interesting. A strong desire to help other and serve the community is also important.

"Safety technology jobs are very rewarding. Not only are they well paying and stable, but knowing you are helping keep people safe is most rewarding," Greene said.

He said positions for safety professionals exist in every part of the United States.

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# CTC hosts third annual job fair

Opportunities to network, meet with employers available

by **MELISSA N. DUNN**  
reporter

Students may want to start writing their resumes because the Community and Technical College Job Fair is coming to the Memorial Student Center (MSC) Thursday, March 4.

Students will be able to meet with employers from across the region from

10:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. in the Don Morris Room of the MSC.

This is the third year for the CTC Job Fair. The fair "gives the opportunity to meet employers who are hiring," Patricia Gallagher, recruiting coordinator for Career Services, said.

Gallagher said the main goal of career fairs is to bring employers and students together.

Besides providing regional employers, the fair gives students other benefits as well.

"It's a great opportunity to network and get your name out there," Joseph

**"It's a great opportunity to get your name out there."**

— Joseph Marshman, senior career counselor

Marshman, senior career counselor for Career Services, said.

Marshman said students and alumni are encouraged to attend. Gallagher recommends that students check the Career Services' Web site before going to the fair. The Web site lists how to write resumes, prepare for interviews and overall job fair tips.

"We try to make it easy

for [the students]," Gallagher said.

Gallagher suggests that students who are not able to attend the fair call the employers. All of the employers participating in the fair are listed on the Career Services' Web site. The employers' web link, if available, and contact information are on the Web site. Career Services and E-recruiting at Marshall

offer another way for students to search for future employers. Students can join a free online database that links students and employers.

With the database, "Freshmen and sophomores can start building their credentials," Linda Owens, credential file coordinator for Career Services, said.

By joining the database, students are able to create a career profile profile containing the student's history of school activities, work experiences and education.

It is a self-use system that not only students use, but employers can use as

well. By joining the database, employers can review student resumes, profiles and letters of recommendation and use that information for hiring decisions.

Students can submit their resumes to employers, apply for jobs online and request an on-campus interview with employers through the database.

"We have part-time and full-time jobs as well as internships listed," Owens said. If students have any questions about the career fair or the database, they may visit Career Services' Web site at <http://www.marshall.edu/career-services>.

## Church targets younger crowd

by **LEE R. CLARKSON**  
reporter

Huntington's newest church, The Church Downtown, officially opened its doors Sunday, Feb. 1.

This new church targets a younger crowd. Sponsored by the Christian and Missionary Alliance (C&MA), The Church Downtown is designed to reach that crowd with a café-style atmosphere and its location within walking distance of Marshall University.

"A lot of people have thrown out the baby with

**"A lot of people have thrown out the baby with the bathwater. They haven't got anything against God, but they've got something against the church."**

— Scott Elkins, pastor of The Church Downtown

the bathwater. They haven't got anything against God, but they've got something against church," said Scott Elkins, pastor of The Church Downtown. "I hope that there would be a movement of God in Huntington, especially among the young people in the area."

Elkins said about 80,000 residents live within a five-mile radius of the Arcade, where the Church Downtown meets. He also said about 60-65 percent of people under 40 do not go to church. He said he hopes those people will want to come to The Church Downtown.

For Elkins, the appeal of the church is in the details. The Church Downtown meets in an office building, not in a formal church. The pews are replaced by round tables and chairs, and there is no pipe organ to be found. A guitar and a drum are the only accompaniment for contemporary Christian songs. The service is aided by PowerPoint presentations over two large-screen televisions, and the sermon is more of a talk than a formal speech. Children are encouraged to participate in the service, and coffee, tea and pastries are a part of the meeting.

"This church is trying to have as its core the 20- to 30-year-olds," said Bob Dozier, Huntington resident and participant in The Church Downtown. "Most of the places I think college kids go, they kind of feel like the whole target is some place else. They may get their needs met along the way, but it's not really for them. And it's just the opposite here."

According to Gordon Meier, the Central District Superintendent for the C&MA, the organization has 16,000 churches in 75 countries around the world. The Church Downtown is the 80th church in the area of eastern Ohio and West Virginia, one of 18 in West Virginia and one of eight new churches opening in West Virginia in the next two months.

The Church Downtown meets at 10:12 a.m. every Sunday morning at 945 Fourth Ave. in Huntington. More information about the church can be found at [www.thechurchdowntown.com](http://www.thechurchdowntown.com).

## PRAYER

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Solutions (MAPS), as well as others against the practice.

"I find it unbelievable that they would make it an amendment, let alone the first amendment," Ardith Michaux, MUCLU president, said. "For the protection of religion, government should have no place in religion."

Chris Trembley, graduate student and self-described "multi-denominational polytheistic" spoke against the amendment during the open gallery period.

"To ask one group to come in and come together and be able to function under all those different processes, it's impossible," Trembley said.

Some senators were uneasy about the amendment.

"As far as I'm concerned, as far as this amendment, I think we opened a can of worms we didn't need to open in the first place," Phil Jones, senator from the graduate college, said.

Despite the criticism,

**"Faith of all kinds is under attack here at Marshall University by people have stated publicly that they will settle for nothing less than complete elimination of religion, in this case prayer, in public."**

**Seth Murphy**  
SGA vice president

Murphy still sees the amendment as necessary.

"Faith of all kinds is under attack here at Marshall University by people have stated publicly that they will settle for nothing less than complete elimination of religion, in this case prayer, in public," Murphy said. "If we want to protect religious liberty and all faiths from current and dangerous threats of out-of-touch activists on this campus, and the potential future threat of out-of-touch activists on the student court, we must pass this prayer amendment."

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## POLI-SCI

From page 1

democracy, Gould said.

Dr. Simon D. Perry, chairman of the department of political science and senior member of the university faculty, said the constitutional democracy program will draw from other disciplines and fields of study.

"Hopefully in time, with more resources, constitutional democracy will become a major," Perry said.

Entirely new and original to universities, the program will allow students to study the impact of major American Constitution builders and the role of constitutional democracy in the evolution of American politics and culture, the Gilbert native said.

"The political science department needs to regain focus on institutions and development," Perry said.

Four new courses possibly offered by spring 2005 are "Shapers and Definers," "Constitutions," "Democracies and Dictatorships," and "Politics in History."

The courses will focus on biographies of leaders of the U.S., comparing different constitutions presently and historically, analyzing different democracies and dictatorships throughout the world, and studying great traditional periods of American history, highlighting political factors and issues, Perry, who has taught more than 20,000 students in a span of 40 years, said.

"The plan is to educate those who are interested in researching early American

leaders and events," Perry said.

Eric Anderson, a first-year graduate student in political science, has had Dr. Perry for five classes, including independent study.

"Dr. Perry sets the standard for what all college programs' expectations should be," Anderson said.

Students will be challenged, and Dr. Perry is very ideological, so he is the perfect man to teach the courses, Anderson, who hopes to take at least one of the new courses in Constitutional Democracy, said.

"Challenging students to use their own imagination and knowledge, Dr. Perry does everything in his power to make sure students succeed. Therefore, the entire Dr. Simon D. Perry program will be a success," Anderson said.

## BRaille

From page 1

"I really appreciate the fact that Tara asked about the Perkins Brailier," Lapelle said. "We often don't know what is going to be of benefit to students who are blind or have impaired vision. If they let us know and we can afford it, we are happy to do it."

The Perkins Brailier cost approximately \$700, accord-

ing to Lapelle.

Annis said she feels Marshall is quite accommodating to visually impaired students.

"The main thing is to keep up with technology so the blind students can be independent," Annis said. "That's what the Perkins Brailier allows — for students to be more independent."

Annis said many blind people do not know Braille, and learning it is very important for blind students to

succeed in the job force.

Annis also said the machine wasn't specifically for her.

"I know blind students who are considering Marshall," Annis said. "When they get here they will have that technology available and people will be able to use it through the years."

Sandra Clements, coordinator of the Disabled Student Services Center, said the Perkins Brailier is available in Prichard Hall 117 to any student who may need it.

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## AUTISM

From page 1

families that have applied and been accepted for our services," Becker-Cottrill said. "They can call the library to request books and videos, and we include a postage paid envelope so they don't have to drive anywhere to return them. I think that's one of the best parts of our program."

In addition to partial funding for the FFPBS study, the West Virginia Autism Training Center received a

grant from the Centers for Disease Control to train other states to use the model. Becker-Cottrill said they are almost finished with Alabama while working closely with Kentucky and Nebraska.

The West Virginia Autism Training Center also participates in an 18-state effort to determine the prevalence of autism and if the numbers of cases are increasing. Becker-Cottrill said parents took the issue to Congress; a step that has resulted in increased funding for autism research. West Virginia is

the first state to legislatively mandate the creation of a register for new cases of autism.

In January, John Hamilton of National Public Radio interviewed Becker-Cottrill about the suspected increase of autism among children.

"Without understanding how many people this affects, we really can't begin to tackle the problem itself," Becker-Cottrill said in the interview.

She added that names are not listed in the register and no one included can be identified.



## Proposed amendment unnecessary, possibly unfair

As an entity that seeks to model itself after the national government, the Student Government Association (SGA) is working very hard at contradicting the First Amendment of the United States Constitution by amending the SGA constitution to say that "the members of any branch of the Marshall University Student Government shall be free to include, as part of any of their meetings, records and activities, a voluntary prayer."

According to the First Amendment, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

Now, taking into mind that Congress can make no law that neither endorses nor prohibits any religion, student government, which models itself off of the national government and is part of a state-funded institution, cannot either.

The U.S. Constitution's First Amendment was set up to protect all religions from government and to protect the government from religions.

The prayer amendment comes, no doubt, as a result of all the attention drawn to the idea of prayer in the student senate by SGA Vice President, Seth Murphy's letter to Christian groups on campus, a situation that is now receiving national attention. The amendment was co-written by Senators Brad Williams and Chris Hickock to protect prayer.

This amendment is only facially neutral and, in effect, highly discriminative because if there are multiple requests to lead a prayer the senate will ultimately decide because it makes no sense to take up who knows how much time to have multiple prayers.

The Parthenon wonders when prayer in public on this campus needed protection. National protection of religious freedom is ensured by the above-mentioned constitutional amendment.

"Faith of all kinds is under attack here at Marshall University by people have stated publicly that they will settle for nothing less than complete elimination of religion, in this case prayer, in public," Murphy said. "If we want to protect religious liberty and all faiths from current and dangerous threats of out-of-touch activists on this campus, and the potential future threat of out-of-touch activists on the student court, we must pass this prayer amendment."

Christian groups dominate the religious organizations on campus. The groups are free to pray on campus and individuals are free to pray in public. Nero's not here to throw the Christians to the lions, so where is this great threat?

Mr. Murphy points to the "out-of-touch activists" on campus and the student court. How are these activists "out-of-touch"? Has anyone requested that people not be allowed to pray at religious meetings on campus?

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is there to protect all religions from control of the government. If one right is allowed to be torn away at, others will surely follow.



## Super Bowl stunt unimpressive

Enough already! How much do people want to hear about Janet Jackson and her 'wardrobe malfunction' during the Super Bowl half-time show?

I really don't see what the big deal is. So there were over 140 million people who saw her right breast. I wasn't among those millions watching the event because I don't see how watching television for three-hours straight while stuffing my face with nachos and cheese dip while cursing the 'enemy' football team is supposed to improve my life. Besides, I knew I'd be able to see the highlights of the game on the news.

Unfortunately, there wasn't a great deal of information about The Patriot's big win as the focus was more or less on Ms. Jackson's Moulin Rouge stunt.

I agree the Jackson-Timberlake event was a 'shocking' moment, but I wouldn't make that big a fuss over it. I actually



LIFE'S  
CIRCUS  
RASMILIYA  
SPORNY

thought it was highly amusing. And what's all this nonsense about the Federal Communications Commission attempting to 'investigate' the incident?

I can tell you that it was no 'accident'. Apparently her top was supposed to be ripped off to reveal a red brassiere. Yeah, right. Seems like she was wearing a maternity bra - the ones nursing mothers wear to make breast-feeding easier.

Gee. The Jackson family seems to be doing a truly excellent job of keeping out of the limelight.

What's done is done and no one can change what happened. Move on, people!

If anything was vulgar, it was the action that lead up

to the grand finale. All that suggestive and seductive gyrating the two pop-stars were doing wasn't exactly Disney material. Believe it or not, they were doing exactly what many music idols do in their music videos. I stopped watching MTV because I don't enjoy seeing people like Britney Spears writhing around and having a spastic fit while wearing clothing that gives as much coverage as two peas and a bottle cap.

What happened during the half time show was, by today's sad standards, 'normal.'

I doubt any teenagers were 'offended' and I also haven't heard any young males complaining about the event. And what kind of parent keeps their young children up past their bed time on a Sunday night? Thanks to the media, the children who didn't see the footage have probably seen it now because the event is played and re-played on television. Now, don't get me

wrong. I think the show, or what I saw of it, was pretty crass, but isn't that what wows this generation? If anyone is to blame, blame the hippie era and their free-spirited 'spreading-the-love' jamborees.

Even though I don't commend the act, I think the entire deal is being blown out of proportion.

What I find sad is that there's massive media frenzy about this lame publicity stunt, but when it comes to the real shocking issues such as child prostitution in Cambodia (and the U.S.) or bride-burning in India, people tend to ignore it. If anyone is going to be outraged, at least do so over something controversial and important.

Well, at least the show has given our society something to talk about.

Welcome to life's circus.

**Rasmiliya Sporny is a columnist for the Parthenon, she can be reached at parthenon@marshall.edu.**

## Letters to the editor

### First-level spots should be open for residents

Being a student that lives on campus, naturally I am inclined to agree with Mr. Baker that reserving the first two levels of the parking garage is not fair to students who do live on campus. I would also like to comment on the statement that Dr. Mewaldt mentioned in the original article: "It doesn't make sense safety-wise, environmentally-wise, or time-wise to have the cars sitting still in lower levels."

There have always been safety concerns for parking garages, and rightfully so. Student safety should be a top priority of this, or any school.

To that end, I propose that Marshall Police or security have permanent people patrol the parking garage instead of spending all of their time as meter maids. If safety is a top concern, as it is said to be, then having someone in the garage at all times would make the most sense to me.

I am not sure what "environmentally-wise" means. If referring to the garage itself, it's not fair to punish students who live on campus; blame the people who planned and built the thing.

If the committee who built the

garage did not plan for cars to be parked there, then something is seriously wrong. Students who are troubled by cars going in and out all the time should either have someone else drive them, find somewhere else to park, or move onto campus.

"It doesn't make sense ... to have the cars sitting still in lower levels." Yeah, cars sitting still in parking garage really dumbfound me. I thought the purpose of a parking garage was to provide room for cars to drive themselves around.

Perhaps Dr. Mewaldt is looking at this from a psychological perspective. Perhaps commuting students driving to school, plus walking down two or three flights of stairs is causing unbearable psychological strain. But I do not think that because commuter students are late, they should blame ones who live on campus. If you are late, leave earlier, or sign up for a permit earlier in order to get one for the surface.

**Justin Knabb**  
Political Science  
Belle, W.Va.

### Plan sets MU apart from vocational schools

Those opposed to the Marshall

Plan are forgetting that there are many schools available that permit students to focus only on classes required to learn the skills of the workforce. Those schools are called Vocational Schools.

Students not wanting a well rounded education that requires some critical thinking (and possibly some expose to something new) should probably check out the adult education programs offered by area Vocational Schools.

This University does, as it should, require a curriculum with some degree of variety.

This University does NOT release the requirements of the Marshall Plan only after you've been here two years; this university makes you aware of the Marshall Plan when you enroll.

If you didn't like to requirements — you should have chosen a different school. If you don't like the requirement — you should choose a different school.

For information on many of the adult education programs offered contact:

The Collins Career Center  
11627 State Route 243  
Chesapeake, OH 45619  
**Jason Adkins**  
English Major  
Proctorville, Ohio

## the Parthenon

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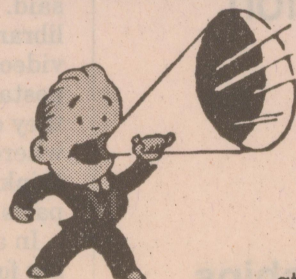
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## Editorial policy

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 baseball adds new recruits in attempt to better its 2003 record

by MARY BALLER  
reporter

The Thundering Herd's baseball team takes the field in less than two weeks and has added some new names to its roster to help improve on last year's record of 22-31.

Pitching coach Tom Carty also serves as recruiting coordinator for the Herd and, said that this year the recruiting methods were a little different from last year. The Herd has added eight freshmen to the roster, and two transfer students.

"We had less guys to recruit this year so we could be more focused," Carty said.

"Chris [Monaco] and Marshall [Murray] filled immediate positions, and the freshmen can play without being in the fire."

The new recruits include two junior transfer students Marshall Murray and Chris Monaco, and a freshman class of eight; Brian Chrisman, Matt Helm, Tyler and Troy Wilson, Adam Dobies, Nick Wolle, Derek Hagen, and Tyler Christian.

Coach Carty said that there are many factors that go into recruiting, and that Marshall has a variety of opportunities to offer the recruits.

Marshall baseball has 11.7 scholarships for their players. The team does not have any players on full scholarships, but offer anywhere from 10 to 60 percent.

Because most of the

Herd's players are from the Pittsburgh area, weather and distance play a big part in the recruiting process. Factors such as the warmer climate, and the fact that player's parents can come to see them play without having to travel too far help Marshall's recruiting process.

"A lot of things go back and forth like being in Conference USA, the weather, having playing time," Carty said, "and then hopefully we win the recruiting war."

**"I want a team with a winning record this year; I've never been on a team without one."**

Nick Wolle,  
freshman baseball player

Pittsburgh, said that there was a lot of back and forth in his recruitment, but he liked Marshall's coaching staff better than anywhere else.

"I liked the coaches most out of Pitt, WVU, and N.C. State, and then I got to meet the guys and liked them, so I came here," Chrisman said.

The players said they are excited and eager to get the season underway, and are expecting good things to happen this season.

Nick Wolle, a freshman catcher from Coatesville, Pa., is fighting for the starting position and said that he wants to win this year.

"I want a winning record this year; I've never been on a team without one," Wolle said.

Marshall will begin its season Feb. 14 in Nashville for the first of back-to-back games against Belmont.

## ONE TOUGH BREAK

Herd softball starts season without starting second baseman

by MATT RILEY  
senior sports writer

Thundering Herd softball player Courtney Kacenga found herself injured on the floor of Gullickson Hall a few weeks ago.

No, it wasn't from a bad hop to the nose or a fall during a base running drill, in fact, the fluke injury wasn't softball related at all.

Before a softball team workout, Kacenga and short-stop Jessica Williams were shooting basketball and a couple guys asked to play a quick two-on-two game.

The Herd's second baseman went up for a layup and the landing wasn't pleasant.

What was first thought to be a bad sprained ankle, turned out to be a broken fifth metatarsal in her right foot.

So the sophomore from Sierra Vista, Ariz., is on the sidelines for the time being, and it's killing her.

"It's really, really hard for me to sit out and watch people practice because I've been a part of the program since I've been here," Kacenga said.

The softball team is coming off a MAC regular season title and 41-win season in 2003 that Kacenga was an integral part of in the middle infield.

Last season as a freshman she hit .288 and only committed six errors in 82 attempts at second base. She also started all 58 games and was successful on 12 of 14 stolen base attempts.

"She's a difference-maker, an impact player and that hurts us," head coach Shonda Stanton said. "It's a tough loss. Last year Courtney made a huge difference defensively along with Jessica (Williams) up the middle and plus you take away her speed and a lot of stolen bases."

Now, the Herd is focusing on starting its season this weekend in St. Augustine, Fla., without Kacenga and Stanton said it's going to be difficult.

"It hurts anytime you lose



photos by Matt Riley

**Courtney Kacenga and her broken foot are waiting to get back on the field as soon as possible.**

"There's not a lot I can do right now," she said. "We're trying to be patient with it and not overdue it. I'm just taking it day by day and seeing how it feels and not trying to do too much."

Senior Sierra Davenport said the team is looking forward to her return.

"We really need to get her back," Davenport said. "Not only was she our starting second baseman, but she was our only second baseman. So it hurts a lot."

However, the Herd does have a solution.

Marshall soccer player turned softball player, Lauren Scott joined the team this spring and with playing experience from high school, Scott is filling in at second until Kacenga is healthy.

"Lauren's doing a great job of stepping in," Stanton said. "Everyone on the team has been supportive and is stepping up to try and help her and take up some of the slack."

Davenport said that the Herd hasn't missed a beat even with the loss of Kacenga and that means a lot.

"We've found a way to adjust and that really says something about what we can do," she said. "Lauren's doing really well and has stepped it up for our team."

So even with the tough break in the loss of Kacenga, all is not lost for the Herd as they head south to kick off the 2004 season against Southern Illinois Friday at 9 a.m. in St. Augustine, Fla.

**"She's just a catalyst and we can't wait to get her back and healthy..."**

— Shonda Stanton, head softball coach

a starter, but especially in the infield where we're not that deep," she said. "She's just a catalyst for us and we can't wait to get her back and healthy because she's going to be a huge part of our success this season."

Kacenga also can't wait to get back onto the field.

"I've been a starter so it's going to be hard to sit out in the games," she said. "Plus, I'm really competitive so it's going to be hard, but I'm keeping a good attitude and trying to stay positive and be there for the team and do what I can to keep up the spirit until I get back."

As far as a time frame for her return, she has a doctor's appointment in two weeks and she hopes to be released for full participation for the team's tournament in Chattanooga, Tenn., February 27.

Kacenga said the pain isn't too bad, but her muscles are weak and she's working to get the flexibility back. Despite the setback, the sophomore is walking and doing rehab and other drills to stay sharp and keep her skills honed and she expects a be back stronger and ready to go soon.

But until she's ready to go, Kacenga's frustration and the watching continue.

## Herd women look to get back on track tonight at Akron

by CARA BAILEY  
reporter

Marshall's women's basketball team is starting February ready to prove they can step it up and play for the Mid-American Conference championship.

"We need to turn in on in February," head coach Royce Chadwick said. "We need to approach the month with the urgency that there are only nine games left. We need to be ready because it is the stretch run."

Sophomore guard Sikeetha

Shepard-Hall agreed with Chadwick, stating that its now or never for the Herd.

"It's either play or go home," Shepard-Hall said. "We want to keep it rolling all the way to Cleveland."

The team continues the season tonight against the Akron University Zips (5-13, 0-7 MAC).

The Zips may not have won a game yet in the MAC, but Marshall (11-7, 3-4 MAC) is not underestimating Akron's potential talent.

Shepard-Hall said that on any

given night anybody can do their best.

"You do what you need to do," Shepard-Hall said. "You don't overestimate."

Chadwick reiterated his team's goal of not taking the Zips lightly.

"This is a MAC game and they all count the same regardless of the record," Chadwick said. "We need to win."

To beat Akron, Marshall is going to have to stop the Zip's three-point shooting, as well as guard against their screen. Chadwick said that Akron runs a high-risk,

high-game offense and the Herd has to be there for the rebounds and they need to communicate.

The Herd is coming off a 3-5 month in January, after they started the season 10-2.

Chadwick says that because game film of the Herd is readily available, the opposition is able to find the dimensions of Marshall's style of play.

"We have a lot of inexperienced players with great dimension," Chadwick said. "We are working on a new dimension. They stopped the right-hand penetration so

now we go to a left-hand penetration."

Redshirt freshman Modupe Ishola said that the team has made mistakes, but they learn from them and go on.

Marshall and Akron will clash in tonight's MAC battle at 7 p.m. in the Rhodes Arena in Akron, OH. Marshall will next return to Huntington on Feb. 7 to take on the Eastern Michigan Eagles in another important MAC game. Tip-off for that game will be 1 p.m. in the Cam Henderson Center.



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*The Parthenon Valentine's Day edition is Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>*

**Stop by Smith Hall RM 309 or Call 696-3346 for more information. Deadline is 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11.**



# Celebrating BLACK HISTORY MONTH

by LEE R. CLARKSON

Marshall University will celebrate Black History Month by honoring the achievements of outstanding black Americans this February.

The observances will involve a variety of cultural and educational events, including a game show, performances and a feast, open to students, faculty and the community.

The university's Center for African American Students' Programs, the Office of Multicultural Affairs and International Programs are sponsoring 10 events throughout the month.

The first event will be BRAIN STORM! The African American history game show on Wednesday, Feb. 4 at 7 p.m. in the Don Morris Room of the Memorial Student Center (MSC).

"I think as a society, most of us are poorly educated or have not been exposed to educational opportunities and learning about the importance of African Americans in our history," Maurice Cooley, director of the CAASP, said. "It [Black History Month] is an opportunity where we have an increased focus on those contributions ... I wish it would last 11 additional months ... Those of us who do not have an acquaintance with that (the world outside) have a narrow appreciation of America."

The idea for Black History Month originated in 1926 when Carter G. Woodson established the second week of February as Negro History Week. That week marks the birthdays of Frederick Douglass, a former slave and abolitionist, as well as Abraham Lincoln. Woodson wanted to bring attention to the accomplishments of blacks in American history, and what started as a week of recognition eventually became a month.

"For years, our black people have been invisible," Betty Jane Cleckley, vice president of Multicultural Affairs and International Programs, said. "We have been left out of history books and the media. I think that black people are an integral part of American history."

Tuesday, Feb. 10 at 6 p.m., Dolores Johnson, professor of English and editor of "Red, white, black and blue: A dual memoir of race and class in Appalachia," will host a book signing in the Alumni Lounge, MSC.

"General Moses: Stories from the life of Harriet Tubman," a one-woman show, will take place on Monday, Feb. 16 at 7 p.m. in the Don Morris Room, MSC.

The Marshall Artists Series will host "Naturally Seven," a gospel and R&B vocal group, at the Keith Albee Theatre on Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 8 p.m.

Sonya Y. S. Clark, associate professor of environment, textiles and design at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, will speak at the Commission on Multiculturalism meeting Wednesday, Feb. 18 at 3:30 p.m. in the John Spotts Room, MSC. She will also present an art exhibition on Thursday, Feb. 19 at 7 p.m. in the Birke Art Gallery in Smith Hall.

At the Campus Christian Center on Sunday, Feb. 22 at 3 p.m., the Fourth Annual Soul Food Feast will provide students and the community a chance to sample traditionally-prepared black foods.

The unveiling of the 2004 Black Heritage stamp will take place in the Don Morris Room, MSC, Monday, Feb. 23 at 6 p.m. According to Cleckley, this is the fifth or sixth year Marshall has been involved in the unveiling. She said it is important for the university to work collaboratively with

the post office.

"It is important to celebrate the diversity of our nation, state and city," Dan Angel, president of Marshall University, said. "We are grateful to those who sponsor these special events to help us celebrate Black History Month on our campus."

The Dance Theatre of Harlem, sponsored by the Marshall Artist Series and the Office of Multicultural Affairs, will perform on Tuesday, Feb. 24 at 8 p.m. at the Keith Albee Theatre.

"The Dance Theatre of Harlem is a world-renowned dance company," Penny Watkins, director of the Marshall Artists Series, said. "Education is their primary role, as well as being a dance company. They were created after Martin Luther King Jr.'s death."

She said they have toured all over the world but have only been to West Virginia once, to Morgantown.

"We want to bring an art form to the community that educates people about diversity," Watkins said.

"The language of dance and music is universal," Cleckley said. "Embrace diversity through the arts."

Black History Month comes to a close with the Fourth Annual Diversity Breakfast Friday, Feb. 27 at 7:30 a.m. in the Don Morris Room, MSC. Herbert Henderson, Huntington attorney and civil rights activist, will be the keynote speaker. The theme of the breakfast is "Letting our differences bring us together."

"If all our students would take advantage of this month, they would find it's a real growth opportunity," Cleckley said. "It's important for people who consider themselves educated to be aware of all cultures."

## events

FEB. 4  
BRAIN STORM

FEB. 10  
"Red, white, black and blue: A dual memoir of race and class in Appalachia"

FEB. 16  
"General Moses: Stories from the life of Harriet Tubman"

FEB. 17  
"Naturally Seven"

FEB. 18  
Commission on Multiculturalism

FEB. 19  
Exhibition in Birke Art Gallery

FEB. 22  
Fourth Annual Soul Food Fest

FEB. 23  
Unveiling of Black Heritage stamp

FEB. 24  
Dance Theatre of Harlem

FEB. 27  
Fourth Annual Diversity Breakfast