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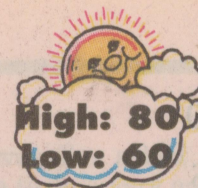
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SOFTBALL CAMP

complete
rundown
p5



High: 80
Low: 60

THURSDAY

July 15, 2003

the Parthenon

Marshall University's campus newspaper since 1898.

Volume 105 Number 100

www.marshallparthenon.com

Page edited by Matt Riley

New IDs: more options, more headaches

by **MISSY OLDAKER**
managing editor

Student identification cards are a necessity when taking advantage of on-campus facilities, but now those same cards can be

used on many other things.

The cards in recent years have served many functions, like getting football tickets, Artists Series tickets, printing on campus and getting numerous discounts at many local businesses.

Now, with the issuance of the new OneCard ID, students have many more options.

Students have the option of using the OneCard as a debit card by opening a One Account. They also have the

option of getting class and financial aid refunds directly deposited into their OneAccount.

Bob Dorado, campus card manager, said so far, over 6,000 students have activated their OneCards and

4,000 of those students have opted to have a OneAccount. He said students are realizing the benefits of the OneCard.

"New students coming in

Please see **ONE CARD, P3**

**OUR
VIEWS
INSIDE**
see page 4

Gov. Wise appoints three to MU Board of Governors

Parthenon Staff Reports

Three people have been appointed by Gov. Bob Wise to serve on Marshall University's Board of Governors, Wise announced last week.

The new members, all of whom will serve four-year terms ending June 30, 2008, are John G. Hess of Barboursville, Verna K. Gibson of Sarasota, Fla., and Letitia Neese Chafin of Williamson, W.Va.

There was a board meeting Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. at the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing in Huntington. Hess, Gibson and Chafin were sworn in at that time.

"We're always delighted to have new enthusiasm and support for Marshall



Angel

University," MU President Dan Angel said. "We're delighted with our three new members and look forward to working with them."

Hess, an independent, replaces Stephen Haid, who resigned earlier this year. Gibson, a Republican, succeeds Carol Hartley, whose term expired June 30. And Chafin, a Democrat, succeeds Tom Wilkerson, whose term also expired June 30.

The board now has 16 members. They include:

- Terms ending June 30, 2005 - Virginia King, A. Michael Perry, Joseph L. Williams, Dr. James Sottile (faculty representative), Brandon Stevens (student representative) and Sherri Noble (classified staff council representative).

- Terms ending June 30, 2006 - Robert Shell, Jr., Menis Ketchum and Gary G. White.

- Terms ending June 30, 2007 - Michael J. Farrell, Gary Adkins and Brent A. Marsteller.

- Terms ending June 30, 2008 - Verna K. Gibson, John G. Hess and Letitia Neese Chafin.

- Ex-officio voting member

Please see **BOG, P3**

CATCHING HEAT



Alison Fisher, a senior from Ripley H.S., catches a flaming baton Wednesday at Lefty Rollins Track.

photo by MATT RILEY

Participants like Alison Fisher and her fellow flag corps teammates from Ripley High School have been on campus all week for a four-day auxiliary/drum major camp conducted by Fred J. Miller Clinics. The clinics help area teams learn routines for the upcoming school year and sharpen their shows. The participants also got a chance for novelty breakout sessions like the flaming batons pictured above. Some feared the fire, while others jumped right in and stepped up to the flames face to face. **MORE PHOTOS INSIDE ON PAGE 3...**

Troubles with myMU easily solved with just a few clicks

by **KACIE B. DANIELS**
copy editor

Some students are clicking in frustration as they unsuccessfully attempt to access myMU.

Although myMU was only down for four days at the end of June, certain students whose computers do not automatically refresh information have still had problems getting myMU to function, said Arnold Miller, assistant vice president for information technology in the computer center.

Miller said a number of students are still being redirected to the page explaining that myMU is temporarily unavailable.

"Some people have their browsers set up to cache certain Web pages," Miller said.

"If [the computer] is not doing a real refresh, you are still seeing the old message in spite of it."

Those desperate to get back to their inboxes need to only follow a few simple procedures to make their computers recognize the update in myMU, said Chuck Elliot, associate director for customer services in the computer center.

Elliot said students should open Internet Explorer, click view, then click refresh and then press the F5 key. If that fails, students should try simply holding the control key and the F5 key simultaneously. A final solution, Elliot said, is to click the tools menu on the Internet Explorer menu bar, then select Internet options and check the boxes that say delete files and delete all offline content and click okay.

Miller said another temporary system backup for myMU is scheduled to take place during a weekend before mid-August.

"We are going to replace the underlying software of myMU to a bigger, better version of things that will provide more functionality," Miller said. "Our hope is that this will not be any kind of extended outage like the [four-day] one."

myMU

Marshall to welcome Booth Scholars to campus Sunday

by **KACIE B. DANIELS**
copy editor

A free laptop, a graphing calculator and etiquette training are just some of the perks of being a Booth Scholar.

This is the first year Marshall University will

host the Booth Scholars Program (BSP), said Brenda Napier, director of the BSP. The program began at Pikeville College four years ago, and three counties, one from West Virginia, one from Kentucky and one from Virginia, were represented.

When it became evident that all of the Wayne County students planned to attend Marshall, Napier said, the program was started at Marshall in addition to Pikeville College.

Napier said the program seeks to assist academical-

ly promising Wayne County students in preparing for higher education. Students apply during their eighth grade year, and once they are selected, they attend the program every summer until their senior year.

To qualify for the pro-

gram, students have to have at least a 3.0 gpa and a score of 60 or higher on their SAT 9 tests. They also have to complete an application. Income is not a factor in the selection process, Napier said.

Please see **BOOTH, P3**

Bookwalter selected as Conference USA faculty athletic representative chair

by **MATT RILEY**
executive editor

Dr. Robert Bookwalter has been selected as the faculty athletic representative for the new configuration of Conference USA.

Bookwalter, Marshall's faculty athletic representative for the past two seasons, is starting his third year on a four-year contract as Marshall's faculty representative.

In his role with Conference USA, he will be overseeing three meetings this year as six new members, including Marshall, prepare to enter the new league with six remaining members in 2005.

"I think it's a good thing," Bookwalter said. "It'll help me get to know the Conference USA staff quicker because I'll need to use the conference liaison at the new office in Dallas more to get a feel for things."

In the three meetings, Bookwalter said the 12 Athletic Directors, Women's Administrators and Faculty Athletic Representatives from the conference schools all meet separately to discuss related issues to conference concerns, NCAA legislation and other issues.

The three parties then come together and the group chair from each then reports to the joint committee at the meetings.



Bookwalter said a lot of the meetings will be focused on examining the conference constitution and bi-laws to see what will better suit the new C-USA and student athlete welfare.

"We're all looking forward to our affiliation with the conference," Bookwalter said. "I foresee this year of joining the conference to go really well. Conference USA is

very strong academically and we want to create an even stronger academic conference and work on raising the profile on a national scale."

As a new member into the conference, Bookwalter said Marshall and the other new schools have more concerns, but he thinks it will be a smooth transition, and with him as a chair representative it will help the Herd fit in quicker in some aspects.

"We have concerns other schools don't have that we want to get on the agenda," he said. "I think this is good for our visibility and good for establishing our place in the conference."

Bookwalter also said travel and

student athletes being away from class for longer periods of time will also be a concern for Marshall since it is in the Eastern part of the country, whereas most of the C-USA schools are based in the Midwest and deep South.

The other new members entering Conference USA are Rice, Southern Methodist, University of Central Florida, Tulsa and Texas El-Paso. They join East Carolina, Alabama-Birmingham, Memphis, Southern Mississippi, Houston and Tulane.

Bookwalter has been teaching at Marshall for 17 years and is a professor in the Communication Studies department.

Gay marriage amendment voted down, 48-50

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate dealt an election-year defeat Wednesday to a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage, rejecting pleas from President Bush and fellow conservatives that the measure was needed to safeguard an institution that has flourished for thousands of years.

The vote was 48-50, 12 short of the 60 needed to keep the measure alive. Six Republicans joined dozens of Democrats in sealing the amendment's fate.

"I would argue that the future of our country hangs in the balance because the future of marriage hangs in the balance," said Sen. Rick Santorum, a leader in the fight to approve the measure. "Isn't that the ultimate homeland security, standing up and defending marriage?"

Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle said there was no "urgent need" to amend the Constitution. "Marriage is a sacred union between

men and women. That is what the vast majority of Americans believe. It's what virtually all South Dakotans believe. It's what I believe."

"In South Dakota, we've never had a single same sex marriage and we won't have any," he said. "It's prohibited by South Dakota law as it is now in 38 other states. There is no confusion. There is no ambiguity."

Supporters conceded in advance they would fail to win the support needed to advance the measure, and vowed to renew their efforts.

"I don't think it's going away after this vote," Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., said Tuesday on the eve of the test vote. "I think the issue will remain alive," he added.

Whatever its future in Congress, there also were signs that supporters of the amendment intended to use it in the campaign already unfolding.

"The institution of marriage is under fire from extremist groups in Washington, politicians,

even judges who have made it clear that they are willing to run over any state law defining marriage," Republican senatorial candidate John Thune says in a radio commercial airing in South Dakota. "They have done it in Massachusetts and they can do it here," adds Thune, who is challenging Daschle for his seat.

"Thune's ad suggests that some are using this

nor any state constitution "shall be construed to require that marriage or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon any union other than the union of a man and a woman." Some critics argue that the effect of that provision would be to ban civil unions, and its inclusion in the amendment complicated efforts by GOP leaders to gain support from wavering

the amendment, as does his vice presidential running mate, Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina. Both men skipped the vote.

In all, 45 Republicans and three Democrats voted to keep the measure alive. Six Republicans joined 43 Democrats and one independent in opposition.

The odds have never favored passage in the current Congress, in part because many Democrats oppose it, but also because numerous conservatives are hesitant to overrule state prerogatives on the issue.

Republican strategists contend the issue could present a difficult political choice to Democrats, who could be pulled in one direction by polls showing that a majority of voters oppose gay marriage, and pulled in the other by homosexual voters and social liberals who support it. An Associated Press-Ipsos poll taken in March showed about four in 10 support a constitutional amendment to ban

gay marriage, and half oppose it.

Democrats said that Bush and Republicans were using the issue to distract attention from the war in Iraq and the economy.

"The issue is not ripe. It is not needed. It's a waste of our time. We should be dealing with other issues," said Sen. Christopher Dodd of Connecticut.

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist of Tennessee said a decision by the Massachusetts Supreme Court had thrust the matter upon the Senate. The ruling opened the way for same sex marriages in the state, and Frist predicted the impact would eventually be far broader.

"Same-sex marriage will be exported to all 50 states. The question is no longer whether the Constitution will be amended. The only question is who will amend it and how will it be amended," he added.

He said the choice was "activist judges" on the one hand and lawmakers on the other.

I would argue that the future of our country hangs in the balance because the future of marriage hangs in the balance.

— Senator Rick Santorum

amendment more to protect the Republican majority than to protect marriage," said Dan Pfeiffer, a spokesman for Daschle's campaign.

At issue was an amendment providing that marriage within the United States "shall consist only of a man and a woman."

A second sentence said that neither the federal

Republicans.

Bush urged the Republican-controlled Congress last February to approve a constitutional amendment, saying it was needed to stop judges from changing the definition of the "most enduring human institution."

Bush's fall rival, Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts, opposes

Campaign trails lead to West Virginia

CHARLESTON (AP) — John Kerry and President Bush are increasingly crisscrossing each other's paths as they rally voters in this battleground state.

The Massachusetts Democrat will rally supporters in Charleston on Thursday, his second visit to West Virginia in less than a week. Bush, meanwhile, is planning to make his second trip to the state this month with a stop in Beckley on Friday.

The repeated trips show both candidates remain serious about capturing West Virginia's five electoral votes. Bush carried West Virginia in his down-to-the-wire race against Al Gore in 2000, but Democrats maintain a 2-to-1 edge over Republicans in the state.

Never before has the state been thrust into such a prominent role on the electoral stage, though it has played high-profile parts before, historian Greg Carroll said.

"Everyone in the entire world is starting to watch this next election in the United States," said Carroll, with the state Division of Culture and History. "This does give us some really intense scrutiny, I think."

Thursday's visit will be Kerry's fourth to the state, while Friday's event will mark Bush's 10th. But Bush visited West Virginia only once last year, and then only for a congressional retreat at The Greenbrier resort.

Kerry made his first Mountain State campaign stop on March 17, more than a year after Bush's last visit. Kerry's trip

Everyone in the entire world is starting to watch this next election in the United States.

— Greg Carroll, Division of Culture and History

included Huntington and Charleston. Seventeen days later, Bush appeared in Huntington.

Kerry next visited the state on April 26, this time in the Northern Panhandle. Bush came to Parkersburg on May 13 — again, 17 days after Kerry.

Bush upped the ante with his official, Fourth of July stopover in Charleston. By then, Kerry had already announced plans for Thursday's visit. Kerry increased the tit-for-tat by fitting in last week's rally with John Edwards and their spouses.

But even before Kerry began his multistate tour with his new running mate that week, word of Bush's return had begun to swirl.

Carroll would rank President John F. Kennedy's legendary campaign to win the state's 1960 Democratic primary and the 2000 upset of Gore up near the current battle.

"West Virginia has supplied two very interesting problems to presidential elections in the last 40 years," he said.

But even the attention Kennedy lavished on the state in 1960 does not compare to Bush v. Kerry, Carroll believes.

"It's not like a young man like Kennedy coming in here and shaking hands," he said. "It's a huge, Hollywood-esque effort."

Like Kennedy, Kerry's Catholic faith has become a campaign issue.

Kerry supports abortion rights. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops adopted a statement last month warning lawmakers at odds with church teaching that they were "cooperating in evil." But the statement left it up to each bishop to decide whether to deny Communion.

Citing that statement, Bishop Bernard W. Schmitt told West Virginia's 100,648 Catholics in a Tuesday letter that it was up to the individual "to discern his or her own state of conscience before receiving Communion."

"Many of the faithful called for a statement excluding from Holy Communion those Catholic politicians whose voting records or public statements are opposed to the Gospel of Life," wrote Schmitt, bishop of the statewide Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. "To do so puts the burden in the wrong place and obscures the truth that such individuals by their acts, and voting is a moral act, have made themselves unworthy of receiving the body and blood of Jesus Christ."



Bush

Home confinement escapee found in Florida

PRINCETON (AP) — A 14-year-old girl on the run after being charged with murdering her father has been arrested in Florida and has waived extradition proceedings, police said.

Kayla Marie LaSala fled an uncle's house on July 3 after apparently removing an electronic monitoring device from her ankle and sticking it to a cat.

A tip came in to detectives that she was in an Orlando, Fla., suburb with a 25-year-old man after her case was featured on the Web site of the television show "America's Most Wanted."

LaSala faces trial Sept. 7 as an adult on a first-degree murder charge for the Feb. 23 death of her father, Stephen LaSala. He had been stabbed 100 times.

A motive for the stabbing has not been released.

Kayla LaSala apparently met Troy Gilmore III of Altamonte Springs, Fla., on the Internet, said Mercer County sheriff's Sgt. A.D. Beasley. Beasley said he did not know how long the two had been conversing.

Officers tracked Gilmore down at his job on Tuesday and he told them LaSala was at his house. LaSala was found at the home playing on a computer and was arrested without incident, according to "America's

Most Wanted."

LaSala was charged with violation of home confinement. She will be extradited to West Virginia, which could occur early next week, Beasley said.

Prosecutors plan to ask that her bond be revoked.

Gilmore was charged in Florida with sexual assault of a minor. Mercer County authorities haven't determined whether charges will be filed against him in West Virginia, Beasley said.

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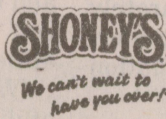
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BOG

From page 1

William Smith.

Hess, a certified public accountant, is a member/partner with Hess, Stewart & Campbell, PLLC, which has offices in Huntington, Beckley and Oak Hill, W.Va. He graduated from Marshall in 1973 with a BBA degree in accounting. Hess is a member of the Huntington Chamber of Commerce, the

It is a wonderful opportunity to be involved in an institution I have a great passion for.

— John Hess, new BOG member

Marshall University Foundation, Inc., and the Big Green Scholarship Foundation.

"I'm really excited about being appointed to the Board of Governors," Hess said. "It is a wonderful opportunity to be involved in an institution I have great passion for. I'm hon-

ored and thrilled and feel very privileged."

Gibson is nationally known for her career and leadership in the retail fashion clothing industry. She joined The Limited Stores as a merchandising trainee in 1971 and worked her way up the corporate ladder to become the presi-

dent and CEO of The Limited Stores. She was the first woman CEO of a Fortune 500 company.

Gibson is a member of the John Marshall Society and a former member of the Society of Yeager Scholars. She and her husband, Jim, are vice chairs of the Campaign for National Prominence. They support MU athletics, the West Virginia Autism Training Center at Marshall and the H.E.L.P. Program. Gibson, too, is excited about joining the board.

"Whatever I'm asked to do, I hope to do a very good job," she said. "I'm very proud to be part of the board and I hope we can keep the university moving in the positive direction it's currently moving in."

Chafin is an attorney with her husband, Senate Majority Leader H. Truman Chafin, with the H. Truman Chafin Law Firm, PLLC, in Williamson, W.Va. She is a former employee of NCR Corporation as both West Virginia and national representative. Chafin gradu-

ated with honors from Marshall in 1986, and is a 1996 graduate of the West Virginia University College of Law. Chafin said she believes higher education is the answer to the economic problems facing West Virginia.

"I'm very honored to be selected and excited about the opportunity to serve," she said of her appointment. "I'm looking forward to it, it's going to be challenging. I'm ready to roll up my sleeves and get to work."

BOOTH

From page 1

The program kicks off Sunday, July 18 with approximately 25 high school freshmen. They will spend the first week of the program learning to use the free laptops they receive as part of the program.

The freshmen will be joined the following Sunday by sophomores, juniors and seniors for another week of intense college preparatory. A total of 88 students will participate in the program, and all will reside in Haymaker Hall, Napier said. The BSP concludes July 31.

Activities for all students include a Hawaiian luau, an etiquette dinner, a dance, a wellness program, a workshop on electronic portfolios and CPR and first aid training. The freshmen, sophomores and seniors will take a class on forensic sciences while the juniors will take an ACT preparatory class. Sophomores will also attend workshops on how to use their new graphing calculators, Napier said.

Mentors for the BSP are all college students. They receive a salary for their services in the two-

week program.

Dzung Pham, a graduate business student from Vietnam, is a mentor for the program. He said he was eager to apply as soon as he saw a flyer advertising the program.

"I am a newcomer here, and this is my best chance to get involved with American friends," Pham said. "I will also have the chance to work with younger students, make good conversations and teach discipline in a building. There are many benefits to the program, another, of course, being the money."

Napier said the program allows the Wayne county students to compete with the nation's brightest students.

"The world is so competitive," Napier said. "It's going to take every competitive edge to get in college and get a good degree. These students don't always have the background to compete with students who will attend Ivy League schools. This program will make sure the students have the necessary tools to get in the schools of their choice."

The program is privately funded by Alex Booth Jr., a philanthropist who made his fortune in coal mining.

ONE CARD

From page 1

are given much more flexibility about how they can access and use university resources," Dorado said. "There are options available for everyone."

Dr. Karen Kirtley, assistant vice president for administration, said the activation process is going very smoothly.

"Most students, I guess because they are just computer savvy, run through the activation process themselves," Kirtley said.

Kirtley said students with questions can also be walked through the activation process by phone or in person at the ID office.

Dorado said the possibilities that this card brings for students are plentiful. He said OneAccount ATMs are being installed this week in the entryway of the Drinko Study Center and in the lobby of Twin Towers West. Students with OneAccounts can use these ATMs without being charged a transaction fee.

Even with these extra options, students are still having mixed feelings.

Abdullah Alzakri, an international politics graduate student from Saudi Arabia, said although he had trouble activating his card and it still isn't working properly, he

still looks forward to using his OneCard.

"I heard it was easier to transfer money from back home to here and it isn't going to take as long as the bank system," Alzakri said. "It is also a good way to manage your money, seeing as a lot of international students don't really have a credit history."

Other students have not received their cards at all.

Misty Young, a counseling graduate student from Charleston, said she thinks the OneCard is going to bring to present more problems than benefits.

Young didn't receive her OneCard because of a change of address and now she will have to pay \$20 for a new one.

"I understand that it was my responsibility to get my address updated with the school, but I don't think it is fair that I have to pay \$20 when it is free to everyone else," Young said.

But others are just using the new OneCard in the same ways as they used the old IDs.

Scott Cremeans, a pre-med senior from Salt Rock, said he treats it like his old ID.

"I think the card gives the students more options," Cremeans said. "But I don't know if it will prove to be an improvement or serve to cause more problems than it is worth."

FLAME THROWERS



photo by Matt Riley

Melissa Elliott, an instructor with Fred J. Miller Clinics, shows students how to hold the flaming baton.



photo by Matt Riley

Holly Casto, a sophomore from Ripley H.S., awaits a freshly lit baton Wednesday at the Lefty Rollins Track on campus.

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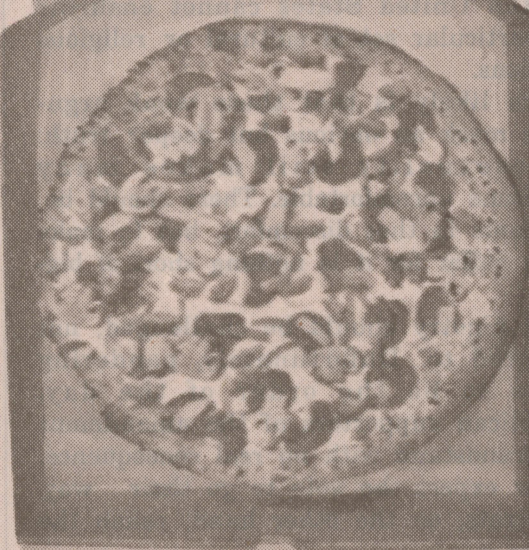
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University ID cards causing campus-wide confusion

With the recent issuance of the new HigherOne ID cards, most students seem quite perplexed. Are they debit cards? ID cards? Both? According to the ID office, the card functions as both, and to use it as a student ID, it has to be activated on the MarshallUOne.com Web site.

Students don't have to activate the checking account, but the Web site is somewhat misleading and extremely persuasive in trying to convince students to activate the checking account. Why should we do such a thing when most of us already have checking accounts anyway? The checking accounts must be geared for incoming freshmen.

Apparently, our financial aid refunds are also automatically deposited in the HigherOne account unless we specify that we do not want the refund deposited in the account. The HigherOne Web site is quick to tell us that it takes much longer to receive refunds if we get them as a paper check rather than deposited directly into the account.

To add to the inconvenience, the card has to be activated to get any form of refund at all. Summer Session D students have been told that in order to obtain financial aid refunds, they must activate their card.

The "mighty convenient" HigherOne card only offers two ATMs, both of which are on campus and not yet working. While it's great to have an ATM on campus, what are we supposed to do if we are not on campus and we need money?

And get this. If you want to receive a paper bank statement each month, it's going to cost you three dollars each month. HigherOne recommends you get the statement online. We recommend you don't activate the account.

Oh, and don't lose your card. Our old ID cards were a mere \$10 to replace. If you lose your Higher One card, you're going to have to cough up \$30!

The cards are sent to the permanent address the ID office has on file. If that address happens to not be the one in which we are residing, the cards are returned to the ID office and destroyed because of their banking capabilities. Then we're forced to buy a new one.

Also with the card came the wonderful new student ID number. The nine-digit number is now how we are identified on campus, rather than by our Social Security Number. It's also the reason for the recent myMU outage, because the system had to be backed up with every student's new number.

The Parthenon thinks it's best to just activate the card and decline the checking account, if you can manage to do so through the misleading messages.

Saudi Prince discredits recent column

Richard Tipton wrote that my late brother, Prince Ahmed bin Salman, "knew in advance about the 9/11 attacks" and was a "intermediary" for Al-Qaeda. Mr. Tipton writes, with such brazen certainty, that these allegations are true. And although he credits book author Craig Unger (House of Bush, House of Saud) as his source, that hardly excuses him from regurgitating baseless conspiracy theories.

For the record, the story accepted at face value by the likes of Tipton, and so

many other unsuspecting journalists, is originally from a book published last Fall, in which the author claimed that two "unnamed sources" gave him information about Ahmed. Unger later included this account in his book, calling it "quite controversial." That it's controversial is an understatement.

Even Vince Cannistraro, a former director of the CIA's counterterrorism unit, has discredited the conspiracy and said that the sources behind it may have simply conspired to drive a wedge

in US-Saudi relations.

As far as the speculation that Ahmed received special consideration by the Bush Administration to depart the U.S. following the 9/11 attacks, the 9/11 Commission recently cleared the flights. The FBI did have access to anyone on the flights, including Ahmed, who, it is important to note, freely returned to the U.S. many times after the 9/11 attacks.

Mr. Tipton's column makes for entertaining reading. But as far as reliable reporting is con-

cerned, beyond the fact that my brother did indeed win the 2002 Kentucky Derby, there's nothing in it based in reality.

Sincerely,
Sultan bin Salman bin Abdul al Aziz

Note: Prince Sultan is a member of the Saudi Royal Family and a former astronaut who flew on the space shuttle Discovery in 1985.

His Royal Highness Prince Sultan bin Salman bin Abdul al Aziz-Ahmad has authorized Keating & Co. to submit this letter to the editor on his behalf.

Gay rights reflect American values

By Mike O'Connor
Daily Texan (U. Texas-Austin)

(U-WIRE) AUSTIN, Texas — "Politicians are always saying that they wish the government could be as good as the people it serves. But have you seen that midget dating show?" — Bill Maher

Assume you are a patriotic American who strongly believes in liberty and equality. You agree with Thomas Jefferson, who said that government has no business restricting that which "neither picks my pocket nor breaks my leg," and with Martin Luther King Jr., who characterized an unjust law as "a code that a majority inflicts on a minority that is not binding on itself."

You properly revere the Constitution, including the amendments that guarantee the equal application of the laws and the separation of church and state.

Then you should be in favor of allowing gays and lesbians to marry. But most likely, you are not. According to the Pew Research Center, 65 percent of registered voters oppose gay marriage, while only 28 percent favor it.

The same survey, taken in February of this year, also found more people taking the issue seriously. "[F]our-in-10 voters say they would not vote for a candidate who disagrees with them on gay marriage, even if they agree with the candidate on most other issues." This figure is higher than the corresponding numbers for abortion and gun control.

In response to this public concern, President Bush has proposed a Constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriages. In a vote that could come as soon as today, he has urged the Senate to pass the amendment. The Government Accountability Office (until recently the General Accounting Office) has named 1,138 federal laws that grant advantages to married couples. The proposed amendment would guarantee that those in same-sex relationships, no matter how committed, could never receive these benefits. Why not?

The oft-heard but poorly articulated claim that gays and lesbians "threaten" marriage merely by participating in it is too facile to play a prominent role in serious public debate. Arguments such as the president's, that same-sex weddings would "cut marriage off from its cultural, religious and natural roots," ignore the fact that a secular and multicultural society like the United States cannot enshrine one particular set of cultural or religious traditions.

More likely is that these weak arguments mask an obvious but deeper truth: Homosexuality still makes many Americans uncomfortable. There should be no shame in that discomfort, but to make others suffer for it is nothing short of bigotry.

And bigotry should be challenged, not pandered to. Unfortunately, pandering seems to be the order of the day. Republican supporters of the amendment can grandstand with no real consequence, as few expect the vote to go their way. Democrats, on the other hand, relish the

opportunity to be seen combating Republican extremism, if not actually supporting gay rights. Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., the presumptive Democratic nominee for president, made this point quite clear in a recent Washington Post interview:

"Let's be very firm about it. Both [Sen.] John [Edwards, D-N.C., Kerry's vice-presidential choice] and I believe firmly and absolutely that marriage is between a man and a woman. But we also believe that you don't play with the Constitution of the United States for political purposes."

During the Civil Rights era, the federal government played an important role in the integration of African-Americans into the larger society, often over tremendous objections from whites. In the immediate aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks, President Bush set an important tone by repeatedly calling for an end to ignorant and racist hostility against Muslim and Arab-Americans.

Courageous politicians can and do contest public opinion when it is manifestly unjust — that is why they are called "leaders." Gays and lesbians deserve no less.

CAMPUS TALK

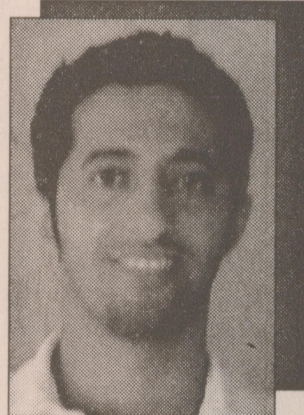
MARSHALL STUDENTS SOUND OFF

Will you use your OneCard as a debit card?



"No, it's too much hassle. I'll just use my regular bank account."

— Melissa Jill Vanover,
Senior Marketing Major



"Yeah, in fact, I think it is really useful. It is easy to receive money in a short time."

— Abdullah Alzakri
Graduate Student



"Yeah, I think they suck. I don't need anymore accounts."

— Jacob Huter,
Graduate Student

— compiled by Brad Myers

the Parthenon

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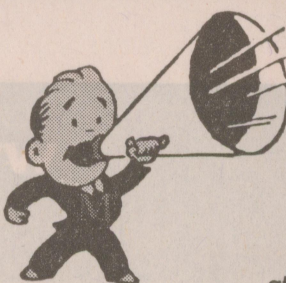
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Please keep letters to the editor no longer than 250 words. Longer letters may be used as guest columns at the editor's discretion. All letters must be signed and include an address or phone number for confirmation. Letters may be edited for libelous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

SOFTBALL CAMP MAKES A SPLASH

Campers have fun while sharpening skills

by **MATT RILEY**
executive editor

They're teaching the fundamentals, but they're also teaching fun.

The Marshall softball coaching staff, along with current and former Thundering Herd standouts on the diamond, are hosting their fourth annual skills and pitching camp for area players of all ages this week at Dot Hicks Field.

Wednesday concluded the all-skills portion of the camp, and the pitching camp starts today.

All aspects of the game, from hitting and fielding to baserunning and proper mechanics, are a part of the camp session. More importantly, players and coaches hope campers learn in a way that makes softball fun while they improve.

"We want them to enjoy themselves, obviously," head coach Shonda Stanton said. "I think they have learned a lot about the game of softball. To have them on campus is great, they get a chance to see Marshall and eat in the dining hall. I think what I like the most about it is they get to have the interaction with our

current and former players. I think it's awesome for these girls to get to work with them."

Stanton said there were 60 players for the all skills camp and 55 for the pitching sessions.

"It's great," she said. "Each year our numbers go up and I think the kids come out to the camp and enjoy themselves and have a good time. I think we need to keep promoting it and keep it growing. It's exciting."



Stanton

Return camper Andrea Williamson, an eighth grader from Harts, said the camp is a good learning experience, and she enjoys getting to be on the field with the Herd players.

"They're real good," Williamson said. "They make sure you know it before they move on. They help us all as individuals and make sure everybody knows something when they leave. I really enjoy the offense and defense and the fun day, like today."

Campers got to take a break from the dust and the heat by

cooling off with a little slip and slide action on the tarps before the end of the skills camp.

Senior Marshall catcher Allison Webb said it's rewarding to see the strides made by the players and to also see them enjoying themselves.

"It's hard to incorporate everything in three days, but we hope they get a grasp on the fundamentals and build on that and take it with them and share it with their teammates," Webb said. "Hopefully they can help make it a better softball region."

As for Webb and the rest of the Thundering Herd squad, while they're busy with camp, they're also eager for next season.

"I'm expecting every single girl to come back with the desire to win," Webb said. "This past year was such a disappointment not making the MAC tournament because we were so close the



year before after we won the regular season. We knew we had the talent, we just couldn't get it together. We just have to produce.

"I'm looking forward to everyone coming back and putting forth 110 percent and pushing everybody else. The talent is here, now it's just a matter of getting it done."



PHOTOS BY MATT RILEY

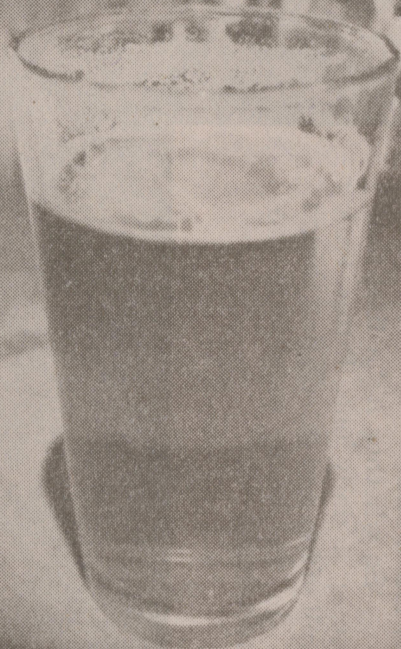
Slippin' and slidin'

Clockwise: Casey Jo Crawford, Spring Valley HS, reaches to make the grab while sliding down the tarp. Sarah "Buffy" Ooten goes for the catch amid a spray of water. Former Herd player Missy Workman awaits the toss while taking a break to cool down from a day of teaching. Sierra Davenport works with campers on the proper way to handle a run-down.



STUDENT NIGHT

Every Thursday, 9PM - 1AM.



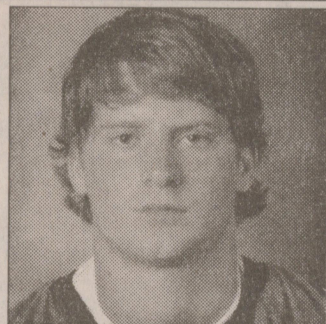
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Herd Sports Briefs



• Hill selected to O'Brien Award watch list

Senior quarterback Stan Hill has been named to the preseason watch list for the 2004 Davey O' Brien Quarterback Award. The award is given annually to the nation's top quarterback.

Hill is Marshall's all-time leader in completion percentage, completing 67 percent of his passes during his career with the Herd. He also finished last season with a quarterback rating of 165.9



• Feaganes to once again coach at Palmer Cup

Marshall Director of Golf Joe Feaganes has once again been selected to serve as an assistant coach and team manager for the Palmer Cup, which is college golf's equivalent to the Ryder Cup.

The Palmer cup runs August 5th-7th at the Ballybunion Golf Club in County Kerry, Ireland. Feaganes held the same title during last season's Palmer Cup, which was in Kiawah, South Carolina.

The Palmer Cup matches the top collegiate golfers from the United States against their counterparts from Europe and is co-hosted by the Golf Coaches Association of America.



• MU-Georgia tickets available to public

Tickets to Marshall's September 18th matchup with Georgia are now available to the public.

A limited number of the \$34 tickets are currently available for the general public to purchase, and Priority orders for season ticket holders and Big Green Scholarship Foundation members have been filled by the MU ticket office.

Tickets can be ordered at the Athletic Ticket Office in the Cam Henderson Center or by phone by calling 1-800-THE HERD/(304) 696-4373.

ONE FINE DAY

Huntington has definitely seen its share of rain this summer. So when an occasional day of sunshine comes along, it seems like one of the popular places to go to is Ritter Park.

Ritter Park is full of fun things to do. Walking or jogging around the park seems to be a favorite, especially for those people who own dogs. A playground keeps the children entertained. Nature trails are scattered throughout the hillside in the forest for hiking. Tennis courts are located at the base of the hill, and they are available to rent by the hour. And of course, the Ritter Park rose garden is a Huntington favorite as well.

Most people visit Ritter Park occasionally, but many West Virginia residents go to Ritter Park on an almost daily basis to jog, hike or just sit and feed the squirrels. William Casey, a lifelong resident of Milton, said he comes to Ritter Park every other day to feed the squirrels. Marshall management information systems sophomores Brian Ball and Berkley Hughes, both from Huntington, come to Ritter Park daily to jog a few miles. "We run about every day," Ball said.

Huntington resident Richard Cunningham was visiting the rose garden with a purpose

today. "I came up here in November and got some cuttings when they were trimming them, and I planted them, so we're coming back to see if what we're growing looks like what they're growing," Cunningham said.

And of course, there are the first time visitors to Ritter Park. Eight-year-old Nick Ickes of Ranger visited Ritter Park for the first time, and tried to take in as much as he could. His favorite part of the park is the swings, he said.

Sam Thornton, 7, of Los Angeles, California went to Ritter Park with his mother, Sue, after his summer art camp at the Huntington Museum of Art. Sue Thornton said they've been coming to Huntington on vacation for about 15 years but this is the first time they've ever visited Ritter Park.

Tom and Doe Myers of Huntington live right across the street from Ritter Park. They brought their "granddog" Ritter along with their grandkids to the park. Ritter was named after Ritter Park because that's where they found him.

So whether it's a first-time visit or a daily one, Ritter Park is full of fun and interesting things to do to keep a sunny day entertaining.

story by Ashley Perks, Life Editor | photos by Adam Cunningham



above: William Casey of Milton goes to Ritter Park every other day with his bag of peanuts to feed the squirrels.



left: Kelly Cunningham of Huntington stops and smells the roses at the Ritter Park rose garden.



above: Nick Ickes of Ranger finds the perfect spot to soak up the sun.



above: Ritter the dog takes a small break from walking around the park. He's named Ritter because his owners found him at Ritter Park.



right: Marshall sophomores Brian Ball and Berkley Hughes run every day around Ritter Park, but sometimes they need a small break.