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Baseball heads south

Herd prepares for tough competition at Tennessee Tournament **Sports, Page 3**

THE PARTHENON

Marshall University's Student Newspaper **marshallparthenon.com**

Thursday, March 11, 2010

LASIK surgery offers alternative to glasses, contacts

Editor's Note

Ophthalmologists and optometrists in West Virginia are at odds over a bill before the legislature that would allow optometrists to perform some eye surgeries, including LASIK. For more on this story, see Page 5.

BY ANDREA POLING
THE PARTHENON

LASIK and photorefractive keratectomy eye surgeries have become popular procedures for people who no longer want to wear glasses or contacts.

Dr. Charles Francis, ophthalmologist at University Eye Surgeons, offers educational seminars and student discounts for LASIK and photorefractive keratectomy surgeries at his office in Huntington.

The surgery is typically a \$2000 per eye, but Francis does it for \$1500 per eye for Marshall University students.

"LASIK eye surgery is using a laser to vaporize corneal tissue to change the shape of the cornea," Francis said. "It changes the way light rays are focused by the cornea and alters the way one sees."

Francis said he primarily performs PRK surgery, which is slightly different from LASIK.

"With LASIK, you actually have to cut a flap, so you generate a flap of tissue composed of collagen," Francis said.

Francis said PRK surgery doesn't require a flap to be cut.

"With PRK, you scrape the epithelium, or the skin of the cornea, off and it eventually grows back," Francis said. "We use a brush to remove it then apply the laser."

Francis said the surgery is approved for anyone

over 18 years of age if he or she is nearsighted and does not have astigmatism.

"An eye surgeon will determine whether or not you are an appropriate candidate," Francis said. "Some people become nearsighted in their 20s and they are not done changing."

Francis said a person considering surgery should have stable eyeglasses or a contact lens prescription that does not have to be updated frequently.

Francis said there are advantages and disadvantages with both procedures.

"When you heal from PRK, you never have a flap problem," Francis said. "A person that has had LASIK could potentially have a flap problem for the rest of their life. They could be playing basketball and get poked with a finger and it could dislocate the flap."

Brandon Anderson, senior biology major, had PRK surgery as soon as he became eligible.

"I was given glasses when I was in seventh grade, and within two weeks I realized I hated them and wanted contacts," Anderson said. "I had contacts and had to deal with the hassles of cleaning them. My father and some friends had the surgery and had good results."

Anderson said the procedure was short and completely painless.

"Right after the surgery, Dr. Francis told me to look across the room and read the clock, and it was clear as day," Anderson said.

Francis said the recovery time from LASIK is slightly faster than PRK.

"People will typically be in the range to drive legally within a week after having PRK surgery," Francis said. "After LASIK surgery, they will probably get within that range the same day of the surgery, so it is a little bit faster visual rehabilitation."

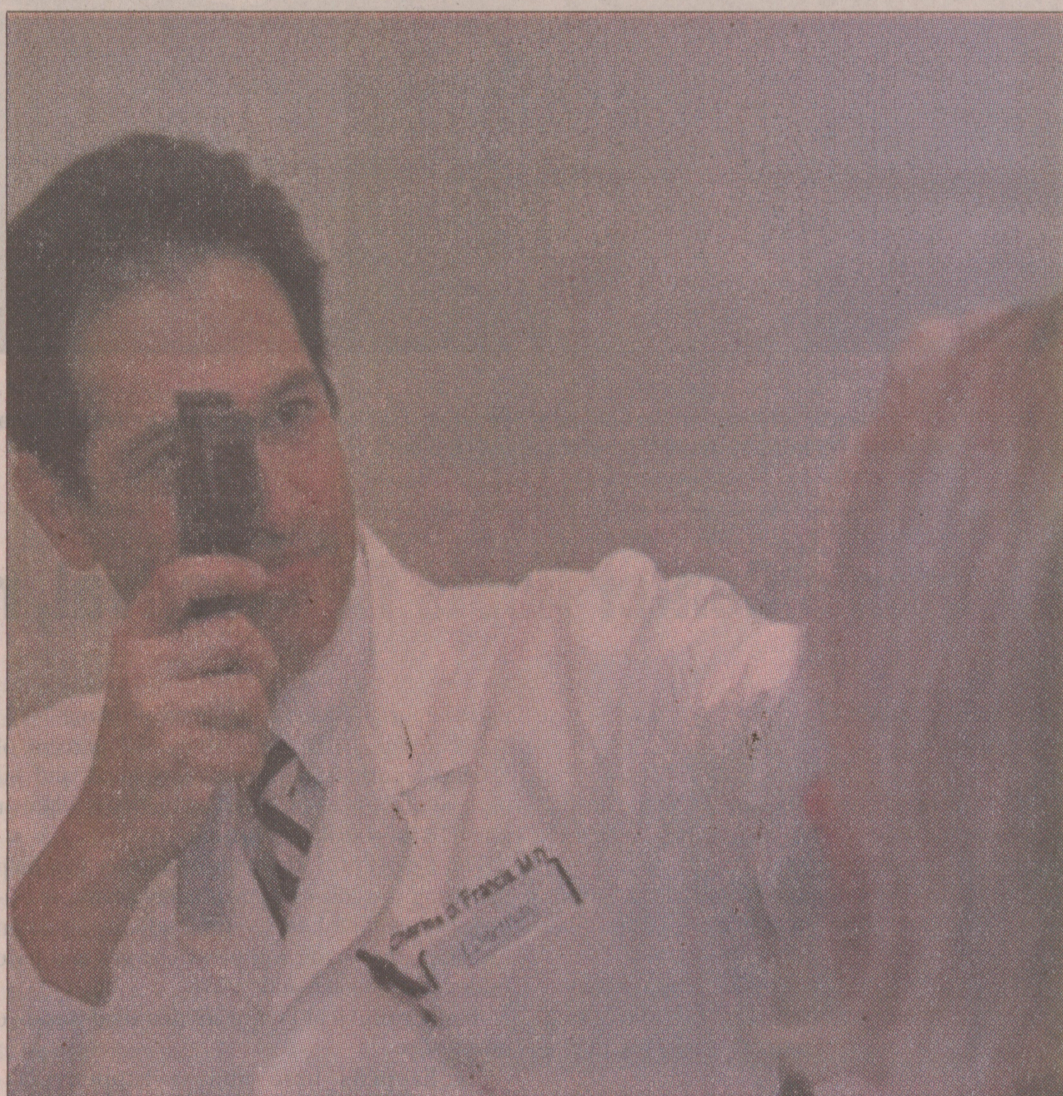


PHOTO COURTESY OF BETTIE CHAPMAN, DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

Dr. Charles Francis, ophthalmologist at University Eye Surgeons, examines a patient. Dr. Francis performs LASIK and PRK surgeries, which can improve eyesight without the aid of glasses or contact lenses.

See SURGERY 15

Student government vice presidential candidates debate, discuss issues



SHOLTEN SINGER | THE PARTHENON

Josh Sime, left, Samantha Turley and Raymond Cousins discuss their platforms at Wednesday's SGA vice presidential debate. A third debate Monday will feature both presidential and vice presidential candidates. SGA elections will be March 16 and 17.

BY ALYSSA SALYERS
THE PARTHENON

The candidates for student body vice president debated issues Wednesday evening at First Year Residence Hall South.

Election Commissioner Jonathan Murray served as moderator and asked the candidates questions for the first half of the debate, while students in attendance quizzed the candidates at the end. Each candidate had two minutes to respond to each question.

All three candidates for student body vice president explained why they were running for office and what qualities or experiences made them the best choice for the job.

Raymond Cousins, Joe Stefanov's running mate, said he was running because he wanted to be more involved in student government. Cousins said serving as a resident adviser has

given him valuable problem solving experience.

"I am a resident adviser in the freshman dorms, so I am used to listening to hundreds of problems daily," Cousins said. "I believe this experience has made me more approachable. People know they can come to me and that's an important quality for an SGA officer."

Josh Sime, Randy Tomblin's running mate, said he has gained leadership experience serving as the president of his fraternity.

"I am used to dealing with any issues that arise," Sime said. "I am a very level-headed and responsible individual and I want to see change on our campus."

Patrick Murphy's running mate, Samantha Turley, said her involvement in student organizations has taught her a lot but believes her biggest asset is her desire to serve.

"More than anything I love this university and I have a lot of pride in it," Turley said. "I have a strong desire to give back."

Students in attendance were looking for information to help them make a decision about casting their ballots on election day.

"I think attending the debates is definitely an important part of being an informed voter," said Marlita Berry-Cadogan, junior biomedical science major. "You can't really know the platforms unless you get involved and listen to the candidates. I know some of the candidates from various organizations I am involved in, so I think it is especially important for me to be informed so I don't have a biased vote."

The SGA elections will take place March 16 and March 17.

Alyssa Salyers can be contacted at salyersa@marshall.edu.



68°
50°

What
issues are
important
to you?

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Online

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TODAY'S CALENDAR

Men take on Tulsa at conference tournament

Sports

Men's basketball vs. Tulsa
Conference-USA Tournament
7:30 p.m. | BOK Center, Tulsa, Okla.

Entertainment

Rain: A tribute to the Beatles
8 p.m. | Paramount Arts Center

Don Giovanni
8 p.m. March 15 | Keith-Albee
Performing Arts Center

Community

WSAZ Home and Garden
Show
Friday-Sunday | Big Sandy Superstore
Arena

Mavens Nine art exhibit
6 p.m. Friday | Gallery 842

On campus

Art Show
8 p.m. Friday | Campus Christian
Center

Marlayna Maynard recital
8 p.m. Friday | Jomie Jazz Forum

Body Shots
7 p.m. March 15 | Frances Booth
Experimental Theater

New movies

Friday, March 12
Green Zone
She's Out Of My League

TODAY
ON TV



Community
8 p.m.
NBC



Survivor: Heroes
vs. Villains
8 p.m.
CBS



Vampire
Diaries
8 p.m.
CW



Grey's
Anatomy
9 p.m.
ABC



Burn Notice
10 p.m.
USA

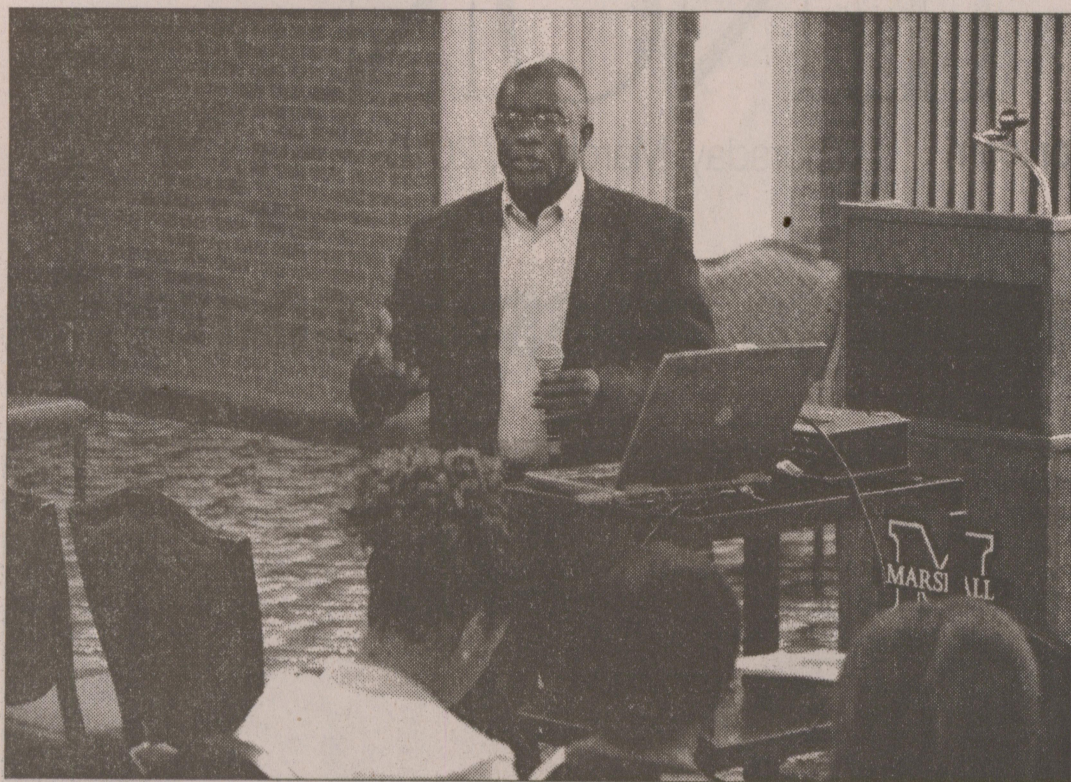


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African professor presents history of his home



George Arnold, associate professor in the College of Education and Human Services and native of Ghana, gave a presentation Wednesday about the history of the continent.

BY ELLEN KIST
THE PARTHENON

A Marshall University professor and African native gave students the opportunity to learn about the history of his home continent.

George Arnold, associate professor in the College of Education and Human Services and an African scholar, shared his knowledge of African history Wednesday. Arnold, originally from Ghana, also brought artifacts to help students learn about the country.

"In 1993, I had an exhibit about African history in the Morrow Library," Arnold said. "After that, I took my presentation to area schools, churches and some conferences."

Arnold, who has traveled to other countries in Africa besides Ghana, presented students with basic history about Africa and the pre-colonial African empires.

The presentation was sponsored by the Marshall University Society of Black Scholars.

Mona Drake, junior communications disorder major from Charleston, W. Va., attended the event and is a member of the society.

"The presentation was really interesting," Drake said. "I was ignorant of African history before I came. The presentation really helped, and it was short and sweet."

The society is an organization that aspires to

support and nurture African American students in character building, leadership skills, professional maturity and service to others, according to the organization's Web site.

For students to be eligible to join, they must be African American, enrolled as a full time student, have a minimum grade point average of 3.0, attend society events and maintain an academic scholarship while enrolled at the university.

"The society is a really good opportunity," Drake said. "Also everyone is invited to the events we host, not just African-Americans. The events typically feature an African-American speaker who has their Ph. D. This is to show us that we can do and accomplish great things."

Arnold said he agrees that the society is a great opportunity for students to broaden their horizons.

"Education should be broad-based, not limited to your major," Arnold said. "Look at me as an example. I am in the college of education and am doing a presentation of African history. It just shows that broad-based knowledge can lead to many opportunities."

The society's next event, Apollo II Talent Show, will be at 7:30 p.m. March 18 in the Memorial Student Center in Room BE5.

Ellen Kist can be contacted at kist@marshall.edu.

Women's Center hosts film festival, raises awareness about sexual assault

BY KIMBERLY BRADLEY
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University's Women's Center hosted Lunafest, a women's film festival that also raises awareness of sexual violence.

The 10 short films featured women from various nationalities and problems they are dealing with in their societies.

"These films are by women, about women and show how talented women are," said Dominique Elmore, graduate assistant in the Women's Center.

According to a 1997 study from the Department of Justice, an estimated one in four women will be sexually assaulted before they graduate from college, said Sharon Pressman, executive director of the CONTACT Rape Crisis Center in Huntington.

"Rape is a word that's hard to say, hard to hear and even harder to think about when it happens to you or someone you love," Pressman said. "Out of those one in four, nine out of 10 of those would know their perpetrator. It will be a casual acquaintance, their friend, their boyfriend or a family member."

Fifty percent of sexual assault that happens on college campuses is alcohol-related, she said.

"Rape happens, and just because you were drinking doesn't negate the fact that you were raped," Pressman said.

"Most people in this age category don't want to tell what happened or the whole truth because they were drinking underage or they were doing drugs," Pressman said. "But the police here are very understanding and see that sexual assault is

more important than the underage drinking."

According to the same study, 13 percent of women reported that they were stalked, and 10 percent of those women were sexually assaulted or raped by their stalkers, she said.

The CONTACT Rape Crisis Center can help by having the advocates give safety advice or evidence protection kits, so if the stalking situation escalates, the victim can press charges and have evidence, Pressman said.

Another problem Pressman identified was date rape drugs.

"It happens here and it happens frequently," Pressman said. "Everyone needs to be aware of that."

Sexual violence is a complex problem on the college campus and in the community, she said.

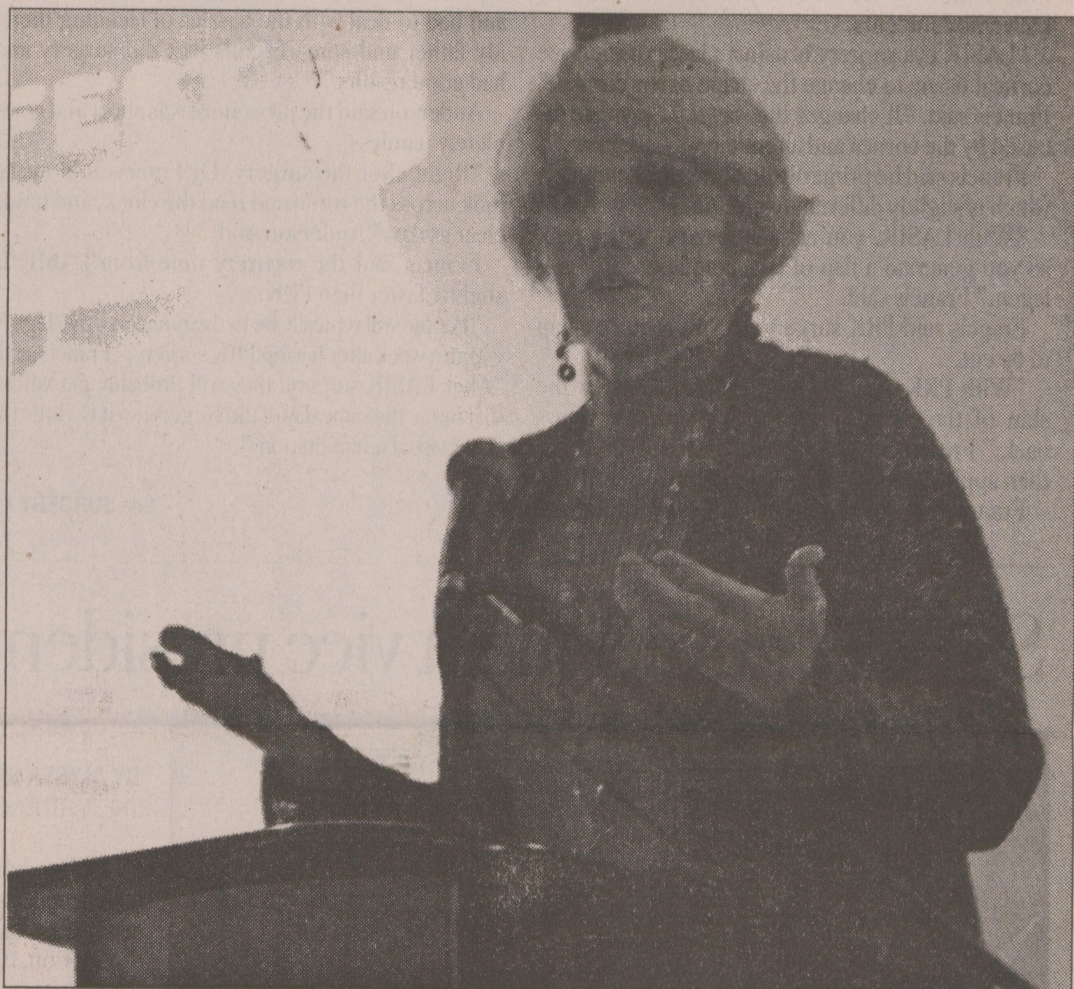
"The only way we are going to get a handle on it is to work together," Pressman said. "We want to work on prevention and awareness, and we want to let victims know that once something happens, they are a survivor."

"I hope we can inspire not only women but the men that are here, as well as raise awareness to the campus and community about the CONTACT Rape Crisis Center and the Women's Center," she said.

Students who attended the event said they appreciated the message they heard.

"I think the most influential part of Lunafest was seeing all the films targeted to women's issues," said Kristen Tibbs, senior international affairs major. "I would have never watched these films otherwise. They all had real, important messages."

Kimberly Bradley can be contacted at bradley82@marshall.edu.



Sharon Pressman, executive director of the CONTACT Rape Crisis Center in Huntington, spoke at Lunafest, a women's film series sponsored by Marshall University's Women's Center.

Marshall business fraternity revamps recruiting tactics, doubles membership

BY ERIN SHAVER
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University's Xi Upsilon chapter of Delta Sigma Pi business fraternity has doubled its membership this semester by marketing to business majors.

Over the past three years, the fraternity has grown from two members to nine members and 10 pledges, said Mike Mellace, vice president of professional activities for Delta Sigma Pi.

"It started in 2002 with 30 members, but everyone graduated and we were left with two," Mellace said. "It's been a fight to get people actually involved in the College of Business."

The small number of members made planning and carrying out events nearly impossible, said James Kuhn, president of Delta Sigma Pi.

"Due to our relative inability to operate effectively and hold events, we were unable to get students interested because they couldn't see an actual product," Kuhn said.

Kuhn said the members of the fraternity were determined to find ways to recruit other business majors.

"With everyone working together towards the same goals and realizing that we can take larger steps forward, we don't need to limit ourselves to what we can't do but what we want to do," Kuhn said.

Mellace said the fraternity e-mailed business majors and made flyers that the 10 pledges said prompted their interest.

"We were overwhelmed by how many pledges we had," Mellace said. "We have seven girls and three guys joining and will have a lot of females compared to males."

Kuhn said the importance of campus involvement for a resume is a possible reason more students are interested.

"I feel that as signs of a drooping economy become larger and larger, more and more students are starting to realize that differentiation from their peers will help them not only get a job or a career but the career they want," Kuhn said.

Joining Delta Sigma Pi gives business majors an opportunity to network with former members of the fraternity who have been successful in their careers around the nation, Mellace said.

"We traveled to conferences in Lexington, Ky., and Annapolis, Md., this year," Mellace said. "You meet hundreds of people, and you go to these educational sessions and learn from entrepreneurs who used to be in the fraternity."

Mellace said the fraternity participates in four professional events, three community service events and fundraisers for the organization every semester.

Erin Shaver can be contacted at shaver29@marshall.edu.

W.Va. nonprofits may seek disaster assistance

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — Food kitchens, homeless shelters and other private nonprofits in West Virginia may qualify for low-interest rate disaster loans.

The U.S. Small Business Administration announced Tuesday that organizations in 15 West Virginia counties are eligible to apply for up to \$2 million to repair or replace assets damaged by a mid-December winter storm.

They also may be eligible for mitigation funds

to pay for protective measures designed to minimize damage from future storms.

Eligible counties include Boone, Calhoun, Clay, Fayette, Greenbrier, Kanawha, McDowell, Mingo, Nicholas, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Raleigh, Ritchie, Roane and Wyoming.

The filing deadline for physical property damage is May 3. The deadline to return economic injury applications is Dec. 2.

Manchin opposes EPA regulation of greenhouse gases

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — Gov. Joe Manchin wants Congress to stop a plan that would give the Environmental Protection Agency authority to regulate greenhouse gases.

Manchin's office says the governor added his signature to a letter to congressional leaders Wednesday. Manchin joins a bipartisan group that includes Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty, Alaska's Sean Parnell and Steve Beshear from Kentucky.

The governors argue EPA regulation of greenhouse gases linked to climate change could harm

the country's economic competitiveness.

Manchin says EPA should offer input, but complex energy and environmental policies are best developed by elected representatives.

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March 13th

Ramspacher's Rumblings

C-USA's top scorer does it old school

TULSA, Okla. — Tom Penders wasn't being rude, he was just proving a point.

As the Houston coach was answering a question about his all-everything guard Aubrey Goleman, Penders stopped mid-sentence and simply pointed to the floor.

The two reporters huddled around him turned to where his finger was guiding them.

There he was, Coleman, the 6-foot-4, 200-pound walking, talking scoring machine, grinning from ear-to-ear with a basketball in his hand.

"I mean look at him," Penders said. "He's always got a smile on his face when he's playing basketball."

"He's just a great kid."

Penders is about as well-traveled as they come in terms of college basketball coaches.

He played at Connecticut in the late 1960s and has since roamed the sidelines for seven different schools, including a 10-year stint at Texas.

He's had the opportunity to coach hundreds of players, but none of them compare to Coleman.

"He's the best I've ever had — in my 36 years," Penders said.

Not bad regards for a guy that couldn't shoot when he arrived on Houston's campus in the fall of 2008.

"He used to take the ball from here all the time," Penders said as he positioned his hands in a shooting motion along his left hip. "And then kind of twist it around."

"You'll see sometimes on his jumper, he'll go in and actually twist it in the air and square up and shoot."

A few minor adjustments turned Coleman into Conference USA's most feared scorer.

His new form not only allows him to shoot properly, it makes him rarely miss.

The Houston native leads the country in scoring, averaging 26 points per game.

"I would bring it like this and shoot it like that rather than just shoot it straight up," Coleman said, duplicating his coach's impression of his old shooting motion. "So that was the only thing I changed."

"And the reason I changed it was because my shot started to go in consistently."

Unlike most new-age dominant scorers, Coleman doesn't use the 3-point line or the low block to get the bulk of his buckets.

Nope. Coleman is old school.

Coleman makes his basketball living in the mid-range, a la former Marshall great and NBA Hall of Famer Hal Greer.

If he has the ball and is some 12 to 15 feet from the basket, it's almost a guarantee that he'll stop and pop.

"It's easier," Coleman said. "When you get in the mid-range, you can rise up at any time and you can shoot it off the backboard."

"It's just easier for me. It's what I've been doing since I was at (Southwest Mississippi Community College). I really couldn't shoot threes — I worked on it."

"But from JUCO all the way until now, I perfected my mid-range shot. That's why I go to it a lot."

See RUMBLINGS I 5



Andrew Ramspacher
COLUMNIST

Herd headed toward a Hurricane

BY KYLE HOBSTETTER
THE PARTHENON

TULSA OKLA. — As head coach Donnie Jones sat in the BOK center in Tulsa on Wednesday, he saw what he will be dealing with tonight.

A hot Tulsa team with more fans than any other team at the Conference USA Tournament combined.

The No. 4 seed Marshall will take on No. 5 seed Tulsa tonight in the Herd's opening matchup of the C-USA tournament. The Herd had a first-round bye, while the Golden Hurricane beat No. 12 seed Rice 73-62 on Wednesday.

While Tulsa is the host team and will have most of the arena's support, Jones said it's just about keeping the Herd on its own path. "Our focus today will be on ourselves," Jones said. "Keeping ourselves sharp and fundamentally sound here. Keeping our mind on ourselves."

The Herd and Tulsa met twice during the regular season. Tulsa won at Tulsa, 73-69. But back in Huntington, Marshall pulled off the 64-58 win.

One of the main reasons Marshall was successful against the Golden Hurricane was the Herd's ability to stop Second Team All-Conference USA center Jerome Jordan.

The Herd (23-8, 11-5 C-USA) held the 7-foot senior to 13 points in Huntington. The fact that the Herd held the senior to a low point output is accredited to Marshall's stifling team defense.

When Jordan caught the ball in the post, senior guard Chris Lutz came with a double team, something Lutz said the team will have to do again.

"We really did help out as a team making rotations," Lutz said. "I had to help out one of the bigs, and one of the other guards had to help out with me helping off. It was a real

team defensive type look, and we're going to have to play great team defense again."

With tonight's game, Jones expects Tulsa (22-10, 11-6 C-USA) to change its game plan from the last time the teams played. He also said while the other team's game plan may be different, Marshall will not be the same either.

"I'm sure they will have a different game plan with they way we guarded them the second time," Jones said. "You always have to have other things up your sleeve, and we will."

Jones might want to look at Rice for some tricks. The Owls were up 15 at halftime but gave up the lead in the end.

Tulsa was led back into the game by its big three in guards, Justin Hurr, Ben Uzoh and center Jerome Jordan, but still only shot 39.2 percent for the game.

Tulsa head coach Doug Wojcik said Wednesday's lack of scoring showed him what his team needs to work on before facing the Herd.

"I changed the lineup tonight," Wojcik said before the game. "Maybe change the chemistry. Maybe get some good karma. We have to address that tonight, because we're playing a good Marshall team tomorrow."

Many at the BOK Center will look at this game being about a battle of C-USA's best big men. Tulsa has Jordan and Co-Sixth Man of the Year winner, 6-foot-10 forward Steven Idlet. With Marshall it's leading scorer Tyler Wilkerson and C-USA's Defensive Player and Freshman of the Year Hassan Whiteside.

Both teams rely on the big men to supplement the offense, but Jones knows it will be a team game, especially on the defensive side of the ball.

"I think playing Tulsa is very tough."

See HURRICANE I 5



KYLE HOBSTETTER | THE PARTHENON
Tulsa senior center Jerome Jordan takes a hook shot in the Golden Hurricane's win over Rice on Wednesday.

Herd to face tough competition at Tennessee Tournament



FILE PHOTO
Junior infielder Kenny Socorro takes a cut at the ball in a game last year against West Virginia State.

BY TROY HEMINGWAY
THE PARTHENON

The Marshall University baseball team will play some tough competition this weekend at the Tennessee Tournament in Knoxville, Tenn.

Marshall (5-5) is scheduled to face No. 17 Ohio State (8-2) on Friday, Connecticut (5-2) on Saturday and Tennessee (7-6) on Sunday.

The Herd comes into the tournament following an 8-0 victory over Georgia Southern on Sunday, with sophomore pitcher Mike Mason earning his second victory of the season. He has a 3.38 ERA and 18 strikeouts in the two wins.

Mason was also the winning pitcher for the Herd when they defeated Ohio State last season.

Mason said this is an important weekend for the team as it prepares for the conference schedule.

"This is the biggest weekend for us besides conference games," Mason said. "If we can compete with these teams then it will mature our younger guys and help prepare them for the tough conference games we play every weekend."

Marshall has played a grueling schedule so far this

season, and according to junior shortstop Kyle Socorro, head coach Jeff Waggoner schedules difficult games on purpose.

"Our coach puts up a tough schedule for us," Socorro said. "We like to think of those games as conference games and give the same effort and intensity for every opponent."

Marshall's 14-3 victory over Ohio State last season was its first in 16 attempts and also happened when the Buckeyes were ranked No. 18.

Senior third baseman Josh Valle said he remembers the game well and thinks Ohio State also remembers the game pretty well.

"We played Ohio State last year and beat them pretty good," Valle said. "I'm sure they remember what happened last year and are going to come out ready to play."

Marshall has struggled in some of its games to start the season, and Valle said some of that could be attributed to this being a young team still learning to play together and also to the difference in competition from high school to college.

See BASEBALL I 5

Marshall gaining high praise from conference foes

BY ANDREW RAMSPACHER
THE PARTHENON

TULSA, Okla. — Don't be surprised if Tyler Wilkerson flies a little more quickly to the hole today.

The senior has dropped his mini-fro look for a more traditional clean shave in preparation for the Conference USA Tournament.

"I was talking on the phone with my parents, and I just felt like it was the best thing to do going into the tournament," Wilkerson said. "It's the end of the season, and I felt like it was time for a new look."

His change in hairstyle is symbolic to Marshall's change in respect among other C-USA teams.

Like Wilkerson's cut, talk of the Thundering Herd is fresh.

Houston coach Tom Penders voted Marshall's Donnie Jones as C-USA Coach of the Year.

"I think he's gotten more out of his talent (than any other coach)," Penders said. "I vote that way all the time. I never vote for the guy who has all the talent in the world and wins."

"I mean you can put a mannequin on the bench sometimes and win. And I think (UTEP coach and C-USA Coach of the Year) Tony Barbee did a good job, but I picked (UTEP) to win (the league) based on talent."

"But with Donnie's team, there was not that predictability at the beginning of the season, and they've gone out and beaten some good teams."

On Tuesday, the Herd earned its first piece of C-USA hardwood since joining the league in 2005.

Hassan Whiteside was named Freshman and Defensive Player of the Year and Dago Pena nabbed Co-Sixth Man of the Year.

Combine that with its highest C-USA Tournament

seed in school history and Marshall has finally been mentioned in the same breathe as perennial league title contenders Memphis and UAB.

"I think it's a credit to our players and our staff," said Jones, who's compiled a 54-39 record in three years with the Herd. "We've been able to bring in some guys who work hard and listen."

"And we've been fortunate to have things go our way here as we've gotten better."

Things can head in a positive direction when you recruit NBA talent.

When Jones landed Whiteside last year, he took a player who drew interest from Big East and SEC schools and placed him in C-USA.

The rest has been history — literally.

In just 31 games, Whiteside is first in the Marshall record books for blocked shots in a career. With 13 swats against UCF in the triple-overtime marathon Feb. 27, he set the C-USA record for number of blocks in a game.

His three triple-doubles are the most by any C-USA player in a season.

"He'll be an NBA player," said SMU coach Matt Doherty of Whiteside. "Now, it depends on his motor as to whether he'll be a good NBA player, a great NBA player or just a guy that goes around the league."

"I think that all depends on his inner-drive and, from what I've seen, he probably has that."

But Whiteside's not the only Marshall player drawing rave reviews.

"The guy that really impressed me was Tyler Wilkerson," Doherty said of the

All-C-USA Second Team member who toyed with his Mustangs for 22 points and 10 rebounds last Saturday in Dallas. "He's the guy, to me, that's the key to that team."

The high praise supplements the fact that Marshall's no longer one of C-USA's punching bags.

Its 23-8 record makes that 13-19 mark in 2006-07, a year before Jones arrived, seem like decades ago.

"It takes a couple of years in a league to figure out how to recruit to that league and play in that league and how coaches coach in that league," Jones said. "It's our third year and usually it takes four or five to really get a true feel for your recruits, so we're definitely moving in the right direction."

Andrew Ramspacher can be contacted at ramspacher@marshall.edu.






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OPINION

THE PARTHENON  marshallparthenon.com | Thursday, March 11, 2010



"Dog meat is good for your health
and metabolism. In the summer, it helps you sweat."
Li, hostess at the Han River Dog Meat Restaurant in central
Guangzhou, China, about the Chinese government considering
banning eating cats and dogs.

4

THE PARTHENON EDITORIAL

Set yourself apart, get involved in student activities

Marshall has many different organizations to join and too few actually take the opportunity

When you graduate from Marshall University, about 2,300 others will be holding degrees right next to you, according to the 2008 data on Marshall's Web site. So, what will distinguish you from everybody else?

One thing that will automatically set you apart to an employer is that you participated in a club or fraternity while you were in college. Being involved

in these types of things let employers know that you can balance your time outside of class and can work with others. Employers can also get a feel for your personality and interests depending on the particular organizations you choose to get involved in.

Marshall has over 192 student clubs, according to 2008 numbers, so students shouldn't have a problem finding at least

one thing that they would like to do.

Last week, the Student Activities Programming Board conducted a focus group of freshman to find out if they were involved in any school activities. The result of the group confirmed the thoughts of the board members that students were not participating.

A really sad part about this is, students automatically have to pay an activity fee each semester with tuition. That is wasted money if you aren't doing anything to take advantage of what you have already paid for.

Plus, with not enough students being

involved means the amount and extent of events and activities carried out by each group may be limited. Marshall's chapter XI Upsilon of the Delta Sigma Pi business fraternity had this problem. With only two members in the past few years, it was basically impossible for the fraternity to plan and do events, said James Kuhn, president of Delta Sigma Pi.

However, the fraternity stepped up its recruiting efforts and members have quadrupled. As a result, the group is not so limited anymore in the activities it can do.

This can be the same for other groups

on campus, if students would take a minute to look up an organization on Marshall's Web site and go out and get involved. What can it hurt to do something you may not have the chance to do when you get out of college anyway? In the Outdoor Adventure Club you could learn how to fly-fish or go backpacking in Utah, as members have done in the past. Or, make the world a little better by raising awareness about the conflict in Darfur, Sudan in the group Darfur, Breaking the Silence. It doesn't matter what you decide to do, it's just important that you do it.

SHEA ANDERSON
BRITAIN BANTER

Knowledge of religion could bring about peace

I was sitting at the launderette the other day, and a child was running around the machines asking a million questions to his annoyed mother. I

tried to keep reading and ignore them, but kids can be obnoxiously loud. When the mother finally got the boy to sit down and do homework, he still couldn't stop talking and asking questions.

"What are the five pillars? I'm going to draw them!"

"The five pillars?" his

mother asked, unsure.

"Of Islam!" the boy shrieked.

I was shocked. I'm sure I laughed out loud, which must have been rude. But I kept staring at my book, now focused more on their conversation. The boy could not have been more than eight years old, and his homework was religious studies.

His mother sat down to help him, asking if the pillars were real or metaphorical. He pretended to know what metaphorical meant for about 20 minutes, insisting they were "real pillars! REAL!"

The answer he was really seeking was metaphorical. The pillars include professing your faith, performing ritual prayers, paying a tax to help the needy, fasting for Ramadan and a pilgrimage to Mecca. That is the foundation for the Muslim faith. Piety and helping others.

And yet, in today's world, we have people willing to blow themselves up in the name of Islam, killing as many non-Muslims as they can in the name of their god.

But the Qur'an has a term, "People of the Book," which refers to the religious followers of the Torah, the common text shared between Jewish, Christian and Islamic followers. It states outright that we all worship the same god, and though the Muslim way is "correct," Christians and Jews are still followers of Allah, aka God.

How would those bombers answer to that part of the Qur'an? They are killing their own people according to their religious texts.

Religion is a powerful thing and has the potential to start conflict worldwide. But knowledge is just as powerful. The knowledge and understanding of other religions reveal a lot of similarities.

Gandhi once said while he still considered himself Hindu, he believed all religions had error and all had truth. He said he realized he should "hold (other religions) as dear as Hinduism."

Whether or not you agree with this idea, it is impossible to deny the common ground in most religions: we are to follow God and love others. Simple, basic. And yet we fight.

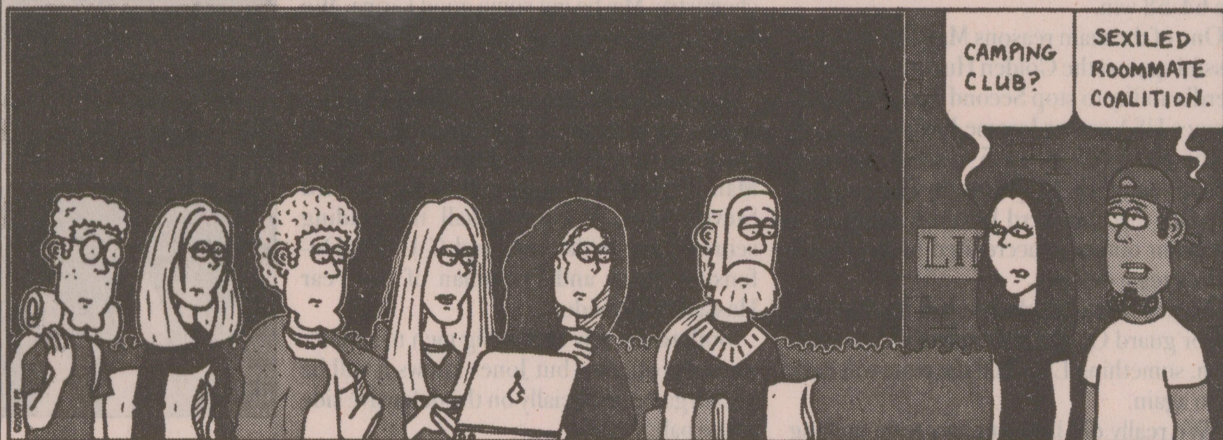
Maybe if we understood more about each other, we wouldn't have to deal with holy war and the suffering it brings. British students take religion classes when they are young, something I didn't have the opportunity to do until college. I would have liked to know sooner. I would like for all of us to know sooner—before we let things get out of hand and start hating one another instead of loving and accepting everyone.

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The First Amendment

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Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people to peaceably assemble; and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Online poll

What is your favorite spring sport?

- Baseball/Softball
- Tennis
- Golf



RESULTS

What is the first thing you want to do when the weather gets warm?

- Wear shorts 78%
- Play some frisbee 11%
- Walk to Pullman Square instead of drive 11%

CICELY TUTSON
REAL TALK

Hypocrisy is perfectly prevalent in politics

If you look up the word "hypocrisy" in the dictionary, it says "a pretense of having a virtuous character, moral or religious beliefs or principles, etc., that one does not really possess." If you take a look at some of our political leaders, this definition fits perfectly.

California State Senator Roy Ashburn was forced to admit that he is gay after getting a DUI leaving a gay bar. Senator Ashburn was a well-known anti-gay activist and consistently voted against gay rights legislation. Ashburn is hardly the first outed anti-gay politician. He joins the club with former New Jersey Gov. James McGreevey and Idaho Senator Larry Craig. There is nothing shameful about being gay, but there is something shameful about hiding your sexuality and using your political position to take away the rights of gay Americans.

Before you think I am biased, Democrats have certainly had their fair share of sex scandals. Former President Bill Clinton practically invented the political sex scandal. Eric Massa just resigned under sexual misconduct allegations, and of course we can't forget the scandal that won't go away, John Edwards.

Sarah Palin has managed to convince millions of Americans, who are her supporters, to be against universal health care. Many of these people don't even have health care. Yet Palin recently admitted her family would go across the border to Canada to take advantage of its health care system. It's OK for her family to have access to health care but not the millions of Americans who actually need it. Rush Limbaugh, though not a politician but certainly the voice of the Republican party, said he would leave the U.S. and move to Costa Rica (which, by the way, has universal health care) if Obama's health care legislation passes.

This is all the more reason for the Senate to reach across the aisle, come together and get this legislation passed. Limbaugh retracted his statement about leaving the country earlier today. There will always be hypocrisy in politics, but I look forward to the day when we have leaders who can be leaders and be honest about who they are.

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Letters can be e-mailed to The Parthenon with word length of 350 to 450 words. Writers must give contact information and editors will contact them to verify information and identity before anything is published.

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Eye care experts face off in West Virginia Legislature

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — Ophthalmologists and optometrists are again facing off at the state Capitol, this time in a public hearing in the House of Delegates.

The two groups of eye care specialists are at odds over a bill that would allow optometrists to perform some types of laser surgery and give injections around the eye.

Ophthalmologists say those procedures should be limited to medical doctors. Although optometrists have doctorate-level degrees, they aren't

MDs. One state, Oklahoma, allows optometrists to perform similar procedures.

The bill passed the Senate after a bitter fight. Speakers in the House chamber on Monday traded accusations of misleading claims and scare tactics.

The bill is pending in the House Health and Human Resources Committee. It is on a special calendar for second reading today.

To become law, the bill must be passed by the House before the end of the legislative session Saturday night.

SURGERY

Continued from Page 1

Francis said people can learn more about the procedures by attending free seminars at University Eye Surgeons.

"We talk about the surgery,

risks and what we want you to tell us when you come in for your examination, so we know your complete medical history," Francis said. "People don't realize some medical illnesses or medications can impact the way their

eye heals."

Francis said patients can schedule for a consultation if they feel comfortable after the seminars.

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BASEBALL

Continued from Page 3

"It is tough to prepare the younger guys," Valle said. "They are coming in from high school ball and don't realize how tough our competition and conference actually is."

A constant concern for the players is the fact that Marshall still doesn't have an on-campus baseball facility. It makes it difficult for fans to travel to the games, affects recruiting and also takes home-field momentum away from the team.

"We are a good team, and we have no facilities to recruit with," Socorro said. "Home-field advantage is a big deal in baseball, because it makes it easier to play and helps the team gain momentum."

The team returns to Huntington for a scheduled series against LeMoyne University next weekend. Valle said he is hoping for some fans to come out and cheer on the Herd.

"Come out and support us," Valle said. "It is a lot easier for us to play with the fan support and a lot harder for our opponents to play. College baseball is all about momentum."

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RUMBLINGS

Continued from Page 3

Being a master of one of the game's lost arts should reserve a comfy spot for Coleman, a senior, at the next level, but scouts suggest otherwise.

NBADraft.net, the same Web site that projects Marshall's Hassan Whiteside to be the fifth pick of this year's draft, forecasts Coleman to be selected 52nd.

"He tends to play with the ball, over-dribbling and then trying to make a play with a short shot clock," writes the site.

Penders disagrees.

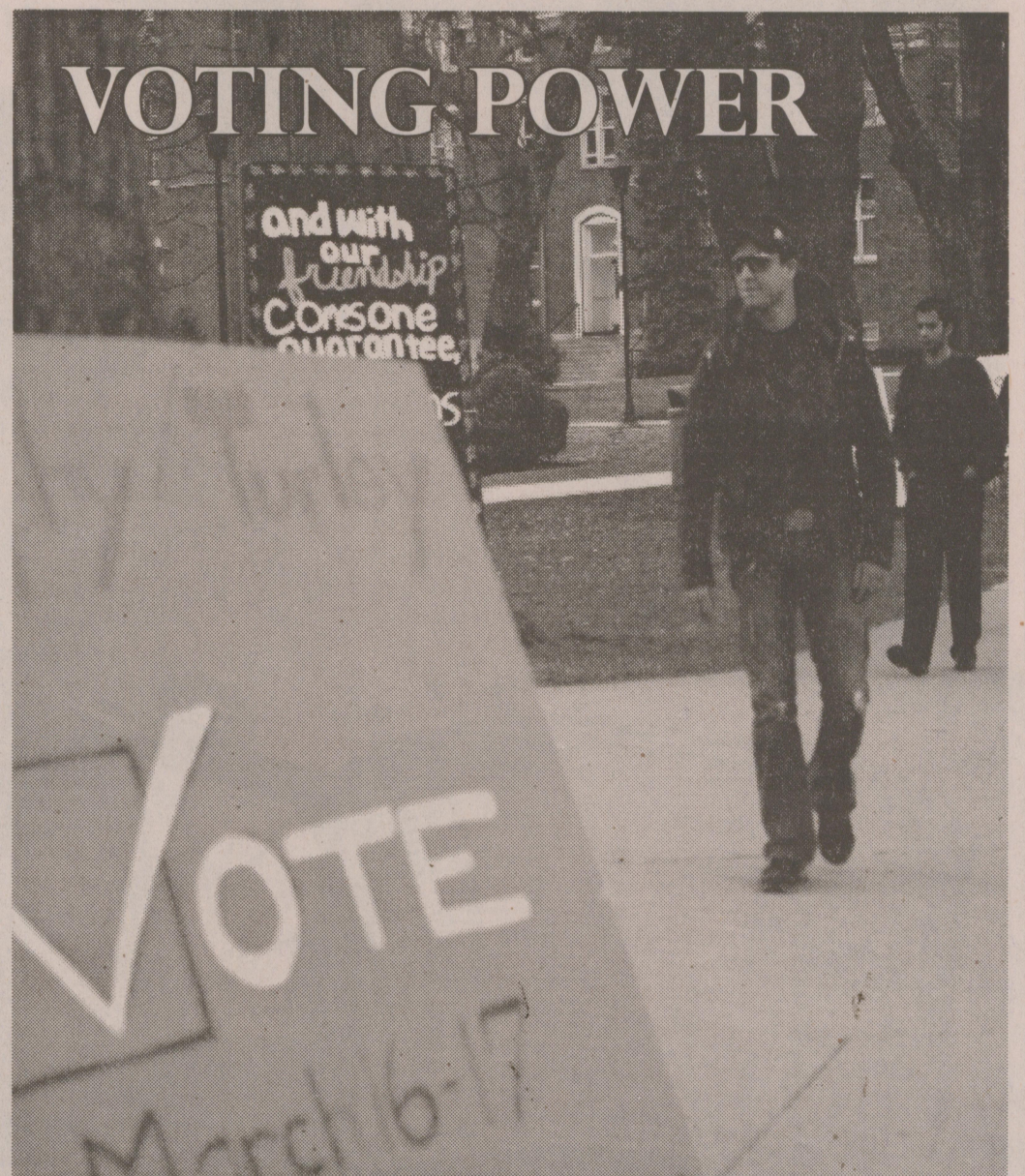
"I know he's getting sought after by a lot of the top agents," Penders said. "Because I've been around and know them all. So I know he has a chance."

"He's just going to keep getting better."

Penders calls him the best he's ever had. Contrary to the way the league voted, I call Coleman the C-USA Player of the Year.

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SHOLTEN SINGER | THE PARTHENON

Students walk by campaign signs posted around the Memorial Student Center Plaza. SGA elections will be March 16 and 17 in the Memorial Student Center and Marshall Recreation Center.

Veterans tell their stories, experiences as part of Birke Fine Arts Symposium

BY KASHA SHULL
THE PARTHENON

War veterans are giving people something to think about this week, with some learning how to effectively write about their experiences while those already published speak out as part of the Birke Fine Arts Symposium.

"The Birke Fine Arts Symposium happens every four years, and each time it has a different theme. It involves events that are sponsored by the art, theater, music and English Departments," said John Van Kirk, professor and English chairman of the Symposium Committee. "So this year, the theme is 'Giving Voice: Social Justice and The Arts,' and when I heard that theme I started to think about what might we do as people from the English Department and what is it we have to offer."

The event will begin Friday and last through Saturday, with registration and a book-fair to kick off at 3 p.m.

"I started thinking about some of the people I've seen in my classes who have been recently back from the war in Afghanistan and Iraq," Van Kirk said. "Some of them are struggling and some of them are having a fine time in college and I thought what could we do for these people and how do these people fit into this idea. Then I thought about Veterans who tell their stories and I thought maybe we could get a couple of writers who have that experience."

Anyone interested in writing about wars or about a veteran is allowed to register for the workshops, which will take place Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. in Smith Hall.

"I thought maybe we could offer workshops that would allow young or old women and men who have served in some capacity or another, to give them some tools to talk about or write about their experiences," Van Kirk said. "Which, for one thing, can let the rest of us know what they are going through and

for another thing just the writing itself can be therapeutic and helpful for them."

The speakers, James Mathews and Richard Curry, are veterans of different wars and from different branches of the government.

Richard Curry's biography on his Web site said, "My grandfather finished the eighth grade in a one-room school in the rural mountains, but he was a lifelong reader, an admirer of books and by extension, the people who made them. He pushed me to read, and introduced me to books that a boy in the 1950s generally wasn't exposed to — 'Wise Blood,' 'The Sound and the Fury' and 'A Farewell to Arms.'"

Curry was born in Parkersburg, W. Va. and enlisted in the Navy. He served as a medical doctor in the Marine Corps and did duty during Vietnam War.

James Mathews' biography on his Web site said he is a member of the D.C. Air National Guard and since

9/11, has been active and deployed overseas numerous times, including tours in the Middle East and Iraq in 2003 and 2006.

Mathews was raised in El Paso, Texas, and has lived on different Army bases throughout the country.

"During the workshop the writers will talk about their own experiences and probably offer exercises on how to deal with the memory or deal with settings," Van Kirk said. "These will be hands-on writing workshops that get down to the nitty-gritty of actually writing down the story."

All events are free to the public and will be located in Smith Hall, except for the reception on Friday evening at 9 p.m., which will be downtown at 940 4th Ave. at the Frederick Hotel lobby.

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SUDOKU

Difficulty: 3 (of 5)

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HURRICANE

Continued from Page 3

Jones said. "They have two of the better big men in the league. We have to beat them with our team. It's not Hassan (Whiteside) versus Jerome Jordan, or Tyler Wilkerson versus Steven Idlet. I think the one thing our team has done a good job to guard them, the defense is going to be a big part in beating Tulsa."

Along with having two of the better big men in the league and playing the tournament at home, it seems as though Tulsa has one more advantage — experience in a tournament atmosphere.

Tulsa has reached the C-USA championships two years in a row. They also won the College Basketball Invitational in 2008 and did well in last year's NIT winning against Northwestern.

Wojcik said with all the experience his team has, it has to show this week at some point.

"I think you have a lot of experienced guys who have played seven games in the past two conference tournaments," he said. "That (experience) has to come out at some point. It's a nice thing to know in the back of their minds that they have it within themselves."

Jones said with the other team having that all-important tournament experience, the Herd will have to pull out the grind against the veteran tournament team.

"They have well coached

veterans with guys who played for the championship the last two years. They understand what this tournament's about," Jones said. "It is going to be a grind both mentally and physically, and it will come down to possession at the end of the game like it usually does."

But for the Herd, its players know that to win, it has to accept the grind.

"We're going to come out and be ready for the grind," Wilkerson said. "We're excited to be here and ready to play. We're trying to not come in here and play just one game. So, were excited, focused and ready to go."

In Other C-USA Tournament action:

—UTEP swept the main post-season awards as head coach Tony Barbee was named C-USA coach of the year, while his guard Randy Culpepper was named Player of the Year.

—In the opening game of C-USA tournament, No. 7 seed Houston defeated No. 10 seed ECU 93-80. First team All C-USA player Aubrey Coleman scored 29 points in the Cougars opening win against the Pirates.

— In the second game of the tournament No. 6 seed Southern Miss took down No. 11 seed Tulane 57-47 in a game that saw both teams struggle from the offensive side of the court.

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