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Bonjour la France

Study abroad allows students to experience France the way it was meant to be **Life, Page 6**

THE PARTHENON

Marshall University's Student Newspaper | marshallparthenon.com | Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Student Resource Center offers workshops to help students sharpen academic skills

BY LEANNA CAREY
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University's new Student Resource Center is offering workshops to help students with study skills and other keys to academic success.

The workshops vary in length and will be offered several times throughout each day to work with students' class schedules.

"I think the workshops are incredibly helpful for students, especially for freshmen who, from high school, may not have been as prepared for college," said Jennifer Kennedy, senior student success.

Next week, the center will have a time management workshop for students who have not gotten the hang of balancing their classes, social lives, and possibly work or other responsibilities.

Beginning the week of Sept. 27, the center will offer brief workshop sessions to help students learn to use MU Online's new E-Portfolio system as well. Student success specialist Jessica Jordan said the submission system is something many students have had questions about already.

"Students have had a lot of problems understanding what E-Portfolio is and how to submit to it," Jordan said. Since it's brand new, a lot of faculty members don't even know how to help students."

A series of workshops on test-taking strategies and study skills will begin the week of Oct. 4. But the work is not all up to the resource center. Student success specialists emphasize that students need to understand their responsibilities once the workshops are over.

"The students have to hold up their end of the bargain too. They have to follow through," Jordan said. We can tell them to study more, but if they don't follow through they're not going to do as well as they should."

These workshops will help fill in some of the demonstrations first year students got in UNI 101 in previous years. Kennedy said the planned sessions are not students' only opportunity to learn from the Student Resource Center.

"We're always here for students, so any type of question we can answer or help we can provide, we're always happy



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARSHALL UNIVERSITY

The workshops will be designed to fit around students' schedules. Some examples of the types of workshops available are time management, E-portfolio system, test taking strategies, organizing and note taking.

See WORKSHOP 15



TIFFANY BAJUS | THE PARTHENON

Kalyn Mace-Guilloux quizzes the students who attended the rape awareness meeting about the statistics involving rape.

"Welcome to the Party" event promotes rape awareness

BY TIFFANY BAJUS
THE PARTHENON

CONTACT Rape Crisis Center hosted Welcome to the Party at Twin Towers West Monday night to inform students to be aware of their surroundings and prevent negative situations from occurring.

After a brief introduction from Christine Suarez-Ross an education prevention advocate, a video made by West Virginia University students was shown to place rape in a real life party atmosphere.

"Drug facilitated rapes happen more and more," Suarez-Ross said. "There is an expectation of how women should act in these situations and it just isn't always possible."

"Seeing rape in a believable situation like this video changes people's viewpoints," said Kalyn Mace-Guilloux, education prevention specialist. "Most people don't know alcohol is the number one date-rape drug."

Mace-Guilloux said, "According to a study, one in every four women have been a victim of rape." The study also says most of these occurrences happen

to college freshmen during their first six weeks of classes.

"In 80-90 percent of these cases, the victim actually knew the perpetrator," Suarez-Ross said. She stressed the importance of safety to young women when going out. Using the buddy system and not putting drinks down were the safety concerns she emphasized most.

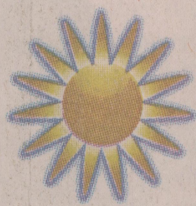
Officer Nida from the Marshall University Police Department assured students the MUPD is here to help.

"We are here for you," Nida said. "We have bicycle patrol and Gators as well as cars to get us wherever we need to be."

"This event is important for guys because it affects everyone," said Josh Wassun, resident adviser and senior computer science major from Fredericksburg, Va. "Knowledge could prevent these kinds of event from happening. I attend these things a lot and I always learn something new."

Ryan Hughes, resident adviser and junior nursing major from Delbarton, W.Va., said most people think rape is only a worry for females when it is in fact an important issue for everyone.

See AWARENESS 15



82°
58°

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Inside

- News..... 2
- Sports..... 3
- Opinion..... 4
- Sudoku..... 5
- Life..... 6

Online
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Volume 114 | No. 10

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TODAY ON TV



Wipeout
8 p.m.
ABC



Minute to Win it
8 p.m.
NBC



Parenthood
10 p.m.
NBC



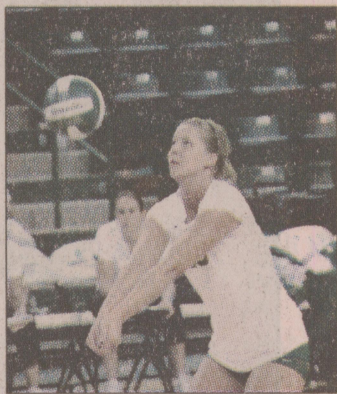
Covert Affairs
9 p.m.
USA



Swords
10 p.m.
Discovery

TODAY'S CALENDAR

Volleyball faces the Mountaineers



Sports

Volleyball v. West Virginia
7 p.m. | Morgantown, W.Va.

Men's Golf
All Day | Huntington

Men's soccer v. Wright State
Sept. 15 | Sam Hood Field

Entertainment

Sugarland
Sept. 16 | Big Sandy Superstore Arena

Seether
Sept. 18 | Harris Riverfront Park

Community

Design in the 4th Dimension
Sept. 20 | Birke Art Gallery

On campus

Study Abroad International Week
10 a.m. | Memorial Student Center

Humans v. Zombies sign up
9 a.m. | Memorial Student Center

Quoits registration
9 a.m. | Buskirk Field



Monday - Wet T-Shirt Night
Thursday - Amateur Night

\$200 Weekly Winner
\$500 Weekly Winner

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Committee focuses on internationalization

BY KATIE QUINONEZ
THE PARTHENON

The Campus Internationalization Committee met on, Sept. 8, to discuss issues regarding the international programs on campus.

The focus of the meeting was the consulting relationship between the committee and the American Council on Education. The council consults with universities that are invited to join the Internationalization Laboratory to help them to further internationalization programs. The committee has been receiving guidance from ACE for the past 18 months.

ACE asked the committee to research all aspects of internationalization on campus and then make recommendations to the university on how to make the campus more international. This would include more study abroad programs, exchange programs, international events on campus and an

emphasis on international matters on campus.

Members of the committee attended ACE meetings in Washington, D.C. in August 2009 and February 2010, where they conducted a faculty internationalization survey and established sub-committees to focus on specific areas of internationalization on campus.

The committee plans to present its recommendations to President Stephen J. Kopp and Provost Gayle Ormiston by December 2010. It consists of approximately 20 faculty members who represent different departments on campus.

Joseph Wyatt, chairman of the committee and head of the Atlantis Program, an exchange program for students majoring in psychology, said the committee is nearing the completion of the research. He said one of the biggest concerns of the meeting was the decline in funding for graduate assistantships and study abroad programs.

"One of the issues which has received a lot of our attention is the reduction in funding of graduate assistantships and how that has an impact on everybody," Wyatt said. "International students with interesting skills have, in the past, essentially been recruited to Marshall, but when they learned they would not have as much graduate assistantship compensation, they went elsewhere."

Clark Egnor, director of the Center for International Programs, said that in addition to the reduction of funding, international requirements for students are decreasing. Egnor said the committee is considering whether or not the requirements could be satisfied by study abroad programs.

"A lot of the faculty on this committee want to see international education become more central to what the university does," Egnor said. "They want the programs and classes that the students are in to have an international requirement."

Egnor said the committee plans to consider the financial aspects of the implementation of the recommendations after meeting with Marshall's president and provost.

In 2009, the college of fine arts and the college of liberal arts received grants that combined totaled \$888,000 dollars. The grants were funded through the U.S. Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education as well as other international educational commissions and ministries.

"We want to make sure as many Marshall students as possible graduate with these international competencies," Egnor said. "It is just a matter of how to go about doing that with so many competing interests."

The committee plans to conduct their next meeting on Nov. 17, at the Memorial Student Center in room 2E10.

Katie Quinonez can be contacted at quinonez@marshall.edu.

Constitution Week begins on campus

BY RUSSELL ADKINS
THE PARTHENON

Constitution Week kicks off in full swing today at Marshall University.

For the past six years, Marshall University has celebrated the ratification of the nation's Constitution with festivities related to its formation and indoctrination as well as educational events celebrating the birth, life and time of the university's namesake, fourth Chief Justice of the United States, John Marshall.

"We're all busy trying to make sure that we can inform people as much as possible about our university's namesake as well as educate them on the Constitution," said Matt Turner, chief of staff of Marshall University.

This year, proceedings at the university will be held on campus today through Sept. 23. Perhaps the most visible of these events is the annual quitois tournaments that begin today at 10 a.m. on Buskirk field with finals the next day.

"Most people don't really know it but Marshall was an avid quitois player, having founded the local quitois club in Richmond, which is why we always hold this event," said Alan Gould executive director of the John Deaver Drinko Academy.

The President's Invitational Media Challenge is a quitois tournament between teams representing the news media, as well as the president's team.

Wednesday at 8 p.m., Marshall University will

present "A Tribute to John Marshall" at the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center, a narrative detailing the life of the university's founder, John Laidley.

University President Stephen Kopp will portray Laidley. The John Marshall Fife and Drum Corps will perform period music. Following "A Tribute to John Marshall," the university music department will present John Marshall's Own Harmonie Musicale, a collection of music from the era performed on period instruments.

Thursday at 11 a.m., Kopp will cut the John Marshall birthday cake in the Memorial Plaza behind the student center. The cake will be handed out to anyone present. On Friday, the winner of the Judge Dan O'Hanlon Essay competition will be announced in the Memorial Student Center's John Marshall Room.

A Sept. 21 panel discussion titled "Political Parties and politics in the 21st Century" will feature Al May, a professor from George Washington University; Bruce Hardy, a senior analyst at the University of Pennsylvania; and Robert Rupp, a professor of political science at West Virginia Wesleyan.

On Thursday Sept. 23, Simon Perry, emeritus professor of political science, will speak on the topic "The Constitutional Convention of 1787" at 12:30 p.m. at the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center.

Russell Adkins can be contacted at adkins689@marshall.edu.

Police blotter

THE PARTHENON

All information provided by the Marshall University Police Department.

Sept. 9, 12:12 p.m.

The Marshall University Police Department was contacted by a father who had received a call from his daughter, a 33-year-old from Prichard, W.Va., and wanted an officer to check on her because she sounded disoriented. An officer went to check on the man's daughter and found her sitting in her vehicle. When the officer spoke to her, she told the officer she was severely depressed. She then gave verbal consent to the officer to search her vehicle and personal belongings. The officer found one hydrocodone pill, five Adderall pills and eight tizanidine pills in unmarked prescription bottles in the woman's purse. She was arrested for possession of controlled substances and transported to the Cabell County Magistrate's Office for arraignment. The woman was released by the magistrate to her mother. In lieu of the \$15,000 bond, her mother was to immediately take her to the Prester Center for treatment.

Editor's note: Out of concern for the woman's mental health, The Parthenon is withholding her name.

Sorority recruitment kicks off with Open House

BY KELSEY DUTTINE
THE PARTHENON

Sorority fall recruitment began Sunday with Open House, an event that gave potential members an idea of what each sorority had to offer.

"Open House is basically the door into recruitment," said Emilee Miles, junior business major from Fairfax, Va. "It gives everybody a glance at each sorority so they can figure out where they can fit in."

Miles said throughout recruitment week sororities will have individual parties at their house for potential recruits to attend.

"We have to show them what we have to offer before these girls will even consider something like this, because a lot of girls have no clue what a sorority is really like," Miles said. "They get a basic idea of what separates each sorority from each other and find which one interests them the most."

Miles said each sorority is allowed a maximum of 65 members, which is based on a ratio of the school size.

"You have to come into recruitment with a completely open mind," said Miles. "You have to give everybody a chance. If they go to all five sororities and make sure they're interested in all of them, they're going to receive a bid from more than one sorority."

Ashleigh Humphries, a freshman theater major from Yorktown, Va., said she is looking forward to being in a sorority for social reasons.

"It's really boring on the weekends when there is nothing going on," Humphries said. "I think joining a sorority is a great way to do things on the weekend and meet a bunch of new people."

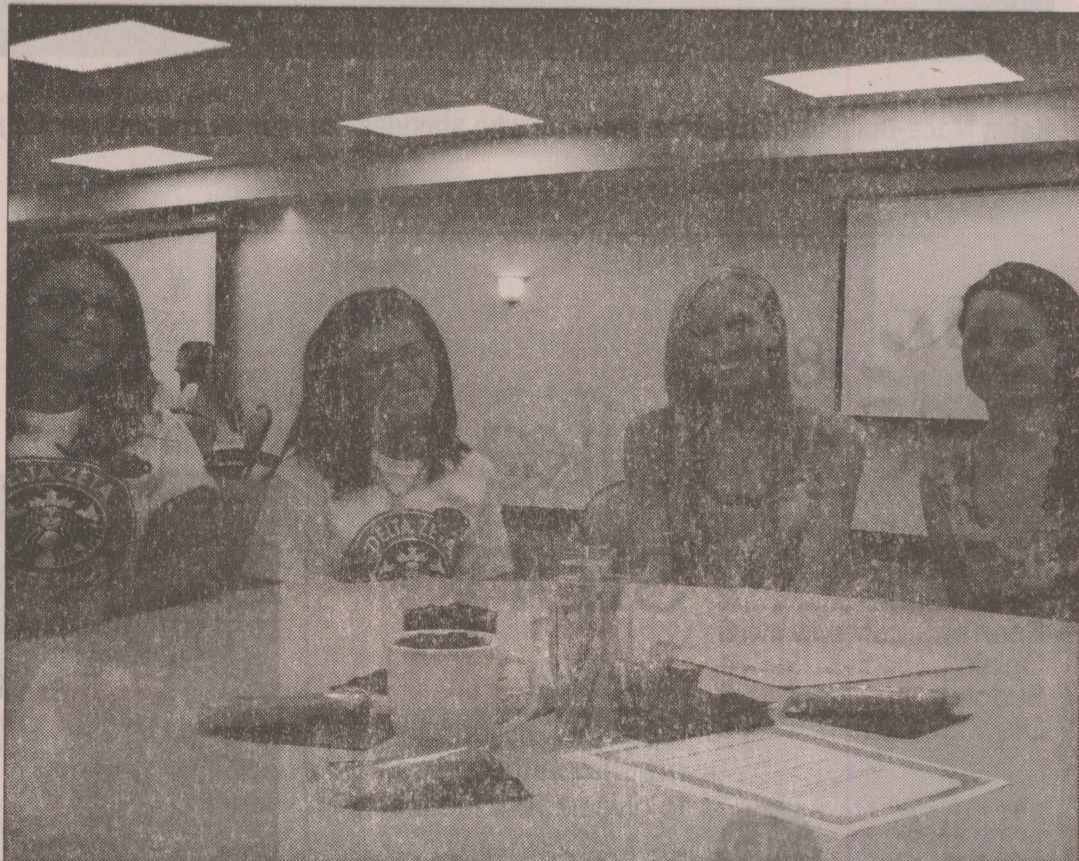
When the week of recruitment is over, potential members will find out if the sorority they wanted to join extends them a bid on Bid Day, Miles said.

"The sorority has to extend a bid, which is a formal contract saying that you are invited to be in a sorority. Do you accept, or not accept?" Miles said. "Everybody has a place somewhere at Marshall. If you want to be in a sorority and show you are interested, it's not as intimidating as you would think it would be."

Miles said it's not too late for someone to get involved in sorority recruitment if they're interested in joining.

"You don't have to pay anything to go through recruitment," Miles said. "Some girls after today are going to say, 'It's not right for me,' but why miss out on an opportunity if you don't know what it's about?"

Kelsey Duttine can be contacted at duttine3@marshall.edu.



KELSEY DUTTINE | THE PARTHENON

Delta Zeta members Courtney Coberly, junior broadcast journalism major from Elkins, W.Va., and Caitlin Darnulc, sophomore sports marketing major from Huntington, W.Va., talk to Ivana Rosiek, freshman biological science major from Oak Hill, W.Va., and Alexis Keane, freshman communications disorders major from Charlotte, N.C., during Open House Sunday.

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EAST DIVISION	C-USA		Overall		WEST DIVISION	C-USA		Overall	
	W	L	W	L		W	L	W	L
East Carolina	2	0	2	0	Houston	1	0	2	0
Southern Miss	0	0	1	1	SMU	1	0	1	1
UCF	0	0	1	1	Rice	0	0	1	1
Marshall	0	0	0	2	Tulane	0	0	1	1
UAB	0	1	0	2	Tulsa	0	1	1	1
Memphis	0	1	0	2	UTEP	0	1	1	1

MONDAY'S SCORES

MLB

Athletics 3, Royals 1
 Yankees 0, Rays 1 (Final/11)
 Phillies 11, Marlins 4
 Nationals 0, Braves 4
 Blue Jays 3, Orioles 4 (Final/11)
 Diamondbacks 2, Reds 7
 Pirates 0, Mets 1 (Final/10)
 Brewers 2, Astros 4
 Cubs 5, Cardinals 1
 Padres, Rockies — late
 Red Sox, Mariners — late

NFL

Ravens 10, Jets 9
 Chargers, Chiefs — late

Quick Pitch

Marshall sports bring us together

I'm not going to talk about my emotions regarding the outcome of the West Virginia game Friday night. I think be-



Brandon Anicich
COLUMNIST

tween car rides, bar tabs and downtime this weekend, everyone has done enough of that.

It was heartbreaking. I'll just leave it at that. And yeah, I know that for a lot of people out there, it's not something we can try to find a positive perception on. But I'll tell you this much, I am proud to be a part of what is going on here at Marshall.

When you start thinking about college demographics — i.e. the medley of different roots we've all dug up and replanted here at Marshall — it's about as diverse as any single city in the world. Every nationality, culture, tradition and religion attends school here at Marshall. It's such a powerful statistic that universities here to eternity have built whole recruitment campaigns around it.

Don't get me wrong, it's a great thing. But applied to the day-to-day life of a college student, it isn't that miraculous to us. We're a generation of diversity, so the simple existence of it isn't very awe-inspiring.

What is awe-inspiring is experiencing what happened to that diversity. It disappeared.

Standing with friends I've met from Italy, Belgium, Japan, China and of course a ton of Americans, there was no true indication that we all had driver's licenses from different regions. For that fact, different hemispheres.

What I saw was an army of green and white. Green. And. White. That was it. And with more than 40,000 packed into Joan C. Edwards Stadium, it was a sight to behold.

The funny thing about being a part of something that big is that it never really hits you until hindsight takes over. And today, I'm seeing 20-20 on just how amazing you guys are making Marshall, at least for me.

See QUICK PITCH 15

Herd golfers look to build on summer success



Marshall golfers Carson Schambach, left, and Christian Brand, right, are upperclassmen hoping to lead the Herd to success in the conference schedule and postseason.

BY JUSTIN PRINCE
THE PARTHENON

For most of us, summer is a time for relaxation and vacations, but not for two members of the Marshall men's golf team.

Senior Christian Brand and junior Carson Schambach used this summer to compete in various tournaments, including the West Virginia Amateur, to help prepare them for the upcoming Conference USA season.

"It's always an honor to play in the state Am.," Schambach said. "It's great competition."

The Herd golfers represented Marshall with Brand finishing in third place, the highest among his teammates. Such a high finish should generate, right?

"I really wanted to win it," Brand said. "I wanted that spot in the Greenbrier Classic."

Brand and Schambach know

golf is a game that can be grueling to the psyche, and the only way to build mental strength is to play competitively as often as possible.

"Any competitive tournament better prepares you for the season and the situations you're going to face," Schambach said.

"The mental toughness it takes to play 36 holes in a day is tough," Brand said. "The only way to prepare for it is to do it."

Golf is often considered an individual sport. Team goals are often forgotten. Instead, focus is on each person's individual performance, which adds to the stress a golfer endures during a match.

However, neither golfer has forgotten the team. In fact, even over the summer when they competed as individuals, the team was still on their minds.

"Being a junior, I want to set

an example both on and off the course," Schambach said.

Progressing to the postseason is also a goal.

"We want to win the Marshall Invitational and qualify for the NCAA tournament," Brand added.

When one member of the team sets his goals high like Schambach and Brand, it seems to drive the others, pushing them to perform better as well.

"It's always a good match trying to beat them (the other Herd golfers)," Schambach said. "You've got to play good golf day in and day out with the guys we have."

With attitude and swings like what Christian and Carson bring to the table, the 2010 edition of Marshall University men's golf should be an exciting one.

"The greatest moment, I believe, is still to come," Brand said.

Justin Prince can be contacted at Prince26@marshall.edu.

How the Herd fared in summer golf

West Virginia Amateur

Christian Brand — 3rd
 Boston Miller — 6th
 Carson Schambach — 10th (tied)
 Jeremy Rogers — 22nd
 Brian Anania — 31st
 Samuel Booth — 36th

West Virginia Open

Brian Anania — 25th (tied)
 Aaron Boggs — 29th
 Carson Schambach — 30th (tied)
 Marshall Hone — 39th (tied)

West Virginia Jr. Amateur

Brian Anania — 3rd
 Marshall Hone — 6th
 Aaron Barna, Josh Holmes, Lance West, Samuel Booth — 8th (tied)
 Jeremy Rogers — 13th

Ohio Amateur

Nathan Kerns — 20th (tied)

Marshall volleyball takes on West Virginia to defend Golden Ball

HERDZONE.COM

The Marshall University volleyball team travels to Morgantown to play in-state rival West Virginia in the Battle of the Golden Ball at 7 p.m. Tuesday. The Thundering Herd has won four of its last five matches and eight straight against the Mountaineers.

In his ninth season as Marshall head volleyball coach, Mitch Jacobs is 8-0 against the Mountaineers. Since Jacobs' arrival, the match between the two schools have taken at least four sets in seven of eight games. West Virginia (7-3) has a 26-15 all-time lead over Marshall (4-4).

The Herd enters the rivalry match after a pair of victories

against North Carolina A&T and Morehead State as part of the Marshall Play Day Tri-Match. After sweeping the Aggies, the Herd trailed the Morehead State Eagles 2-0 before winning three-straight sets to earn a thrilling come-from-behind victory.

In four of the last five games, the Herd has needed a fifth frame to claim a winner. In five-set matches, Marshall owns a 3-1 record with the lone loss coming to Cleveland State on Sept. 4.

Freshman Laura Der has been an offensive force in her first season on the Herd. The Clarksville, Ind., native has recorded three double-doubles, the most recent coming in the five-set win against Morehead

State. She is averaging 2.12 kills and 3.21 digs per set.

Elizabeth Fleming has also tallied three double-doubles as the Marshall setter. A senior from South Bend, Ind., Fleming tops the Herd with 9.24 assists per set and is collecting 1.79 digs per set.

Fellow senior Elizabeth Herman is the team leader with 113 total kills and 3.77 kills per set. She has recorded 10 or more kills in six of the seven matches she has played in, including 21-kill outings against Hofstra and Morehead State.

Six of the seven wins for West Virginia have been three-game sweeps, while all three of its losses have taken just three

sets. West Virginia has yet to play a five-set match in 2010.

After falling to tournament-host Wake Forest on Friday, West Virginia bounced back to defeat East Carolina and Campbell at the Black/Gold Invitational in Winston-Salem, N.C.

Michelle Kopecky is the team leader with 86 kills, 112.5 points and 20 service aces. Lauren Evans and Serinna Russo are averaging nearly three kills a set.

On the defensive side of the ball, Bonnie West and Russo are each averaging more than 4.0 digs a set. West is the team leader at 4.45, while Russo is right behind at 4.32 per set.

GameTracker will be available on HerdZone.com.

Check out marshallparthenon.com for more coverage of Thundering Herd sports.



"This is more than I dreamed"
Rafael Nadal, after completing a career grand slam and winning the U.S. Open final

THE PARTHENON marshallparthenon.com | Tuesday, September 14, 2010

THE PARTHENON **EDITORIAL**

Constitution Week activities begin

Sixth annual Constitution Week includes a variety of events open to students

Monday marked the beginning of Constitution Week, a unique celebration that allows members of the Marshall University community to celebrate our namesake. John Marshall was appointed Chief Justice of the United States by President John Adams and is credited with the establishment

of judicial review in the American courts system through the landmark case Marbury v. Madison.

The annual tribute to Marshall will feature a birthday celebration Thursday with a cake-cutting ceremony.

Another popular event of Constitution Week is the quoits

tournament. Quoits is a sport similar to horseshoes that dates back to the days of the ancient Olympics. The game was supposed to be a favorite of John Marshall's. An open quoits tournament will take place Wednesday and the President's Media Challenge is scheduled for the following day.

The quoits tournament is a fun way for teams of students and student groups to compete against one another in a little known sport.

This year's celebration is the sixth year Marshall University has held this tribute.

Even if you're not a history or political science major, Constitution Week events are worth checking out. They give you a better insight into why this university was named after John Marshall. There are many events, including a special lecture on the Constitutional Convention of 1787 by Simon Perry, emeritus professor

of political science, that will help students to understand the importance of what is in the U.S. Constitution.

If you have a break from class, stop by a panel discussion, lecture, or grab a piece of cake to celebrate John Marshall's birthday. Constitution Week can help us understand our rights as Americans, something we should all do.

STACI STANDIFORD
JUST FOR LAUGHS

For your safety

If you missed the Marshall-West Virginia game, you also missed a good laugh, courtesy of one enthusiastic Herd fan who ran onto the field during a commercial break. The end result was a dog pile of state troopers on top of him.



STACI STANDIFORD
COLUMNIST

It was an intense moment in the game. Emotion was high. Marshall was still ahead, and it looked like we had a good shot at the win. I was standing up, nervously waiting for the next play to begin when I saw a young guy sprinting across the field. It looked like he was heading straight for my section.

Fans for both teams gasped and shouted. Shocked, I remember checking to see which team he was supporting. A green shirt meant a Marshall fan, no doubt excited for the potential win over our in-state rival.

A football team of state troopers began sprinting after him from two directions, making a "V," with the runaway fan as the bottom point. They were dressed in uniform, with dark shirts and pants, creased from a nice ironing job, shiny shoes and mountie hats. After about 70 yards, the man must have sensed the cops were behind him because he made a sharp turn to his left in an effort to evade them.

Slam. The defensive line of troopers tackled the man at the 50 yard line. The fans cheered as if the troopers were their home team. The man was cuffed and taken off the field, dancing to the generic we-don't-know-what-to-do music blaring through the sound system.

As the crowd's cheers died down, the announcer's voice came over the loud speaker.

"For your safety, please do not run onto the field," he said.

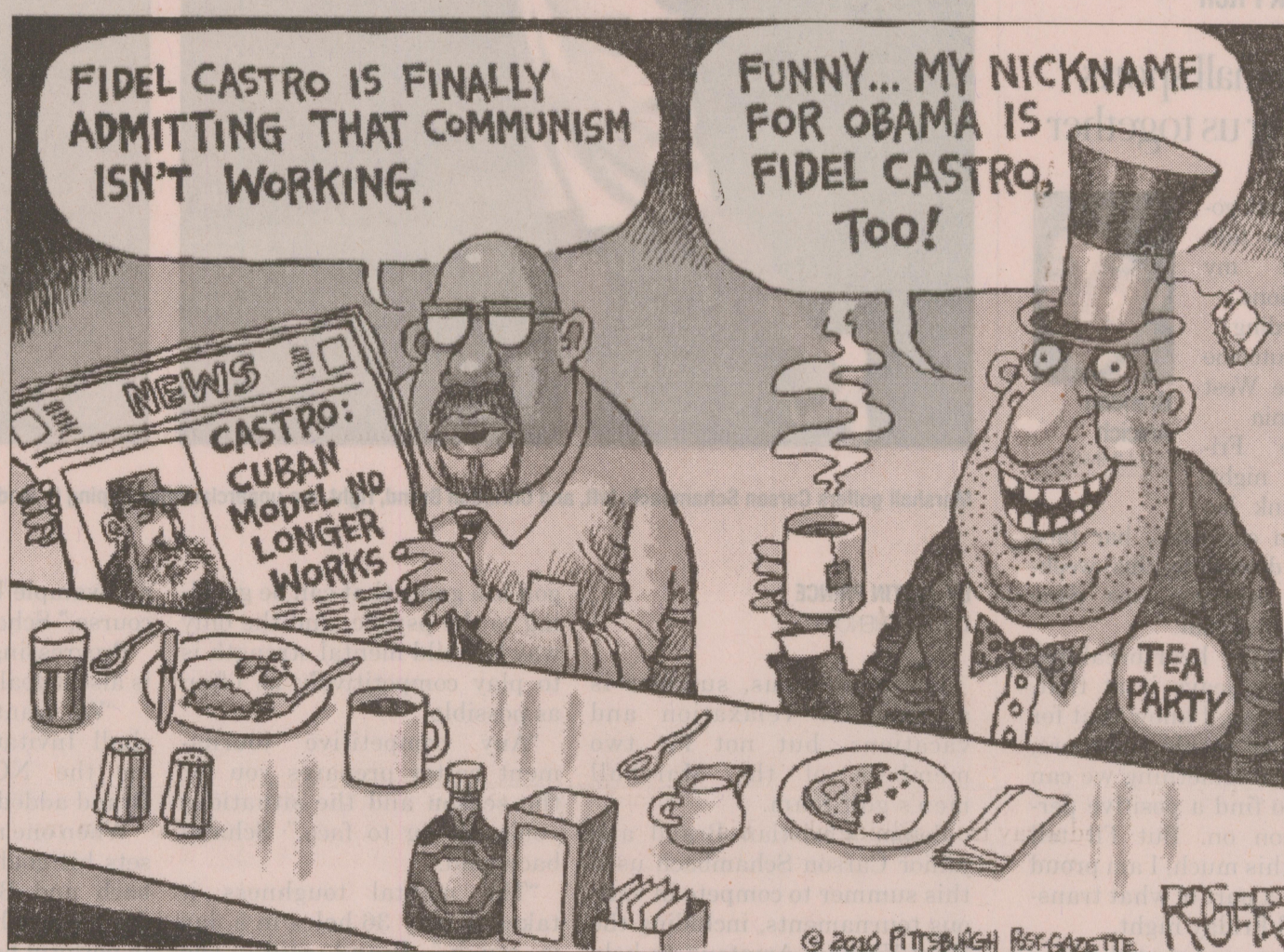
It was close to the end of the game, so the announcer probably meant for the winning team's fans not to run onto the field in celebration after the whistle. However, it seemed like the man being tackled by a pile of state troopers was a demonstration, warning fans that this is the consequence for stepping onto the field.

There's no way to tell what this guy's motive was, or if he was intoxicated and does not even remember it. Maybe it was one of those, "it seemed like it was a good idea at the time" kind of ideas. Twenty troopers may seem like overkill for escorting an out-of-control fan off the field, but in a stadium with 3,000 more people than seats, I guess you have to take every precaution. Whatever the reason, it gave us all a good laugh.

P.S. You can check out the youtube video. It's called "Marshall fan on the run."

Contact columnist **STACI STANDIFORD** at standiford1@marshall.edu.

EDITORIAL CARTOON | ROB ROGERS | PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE



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The First Amendment

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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

How do you feel about the Ground Zero mosque?

- I support the idea
- I'm against the idea
- I don't know

marshallparthenon.com

RESULTS

Who's going to win the game?

- Marshall 43%
- WVU 49%
- Game? I only want to tailgate..... 8%

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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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National crime rate down dramatically from previous years

BY DAVID G. SAVAGE
TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU
(MCT)

WASHINGTON — The nation's crime rate dropped an additional 5 percent last year, continuing a 20-year trend that has cut the incidence of major crimes nearly in half, according to the FBI's crime statistics.

Crime experts have cited several possible explanations for the falling crime rate, including better policing, a swelling of the prison population, the decline of the crack cocaine epidemic and an aging population. But regardless of the reason, crime fell sharply during the 1990s and has declined gradually since then.

Last year, the rate of murders and manslaughter was 5.0 per 100,000 Americans, down from 9.8 in 1991. Overall, the rate of violent crimes fell more than a third during that time, from a rate of 758 per 100,000 in 1991 to 429 last year. This number includes homicides, rapes, robberies and assaults.

Common property crimes also declined sharply over the two decades. For example, the FBI counted 1,661,000 thefts of motor vehicles in 1991. Last year, it counted 794,616. This was a drop of 164,000 vehicle thefts from 2008.

"This is good news. It should get more attention,"

said John Conklin, a Tufts University sociologist who has written widely on crime and its causes.

He said the recent declines in crime contradict predictions that a bad economy and high unemployment would lead to an increase in thefts, robberies and other crimes. Conklin studied the steep decline in crime rates in the 1990s and concluded the most important cause was the increase in the prison population.

"If you look up a lot more people, you will probably see reduced crime," he said. "That's doesn't necessarily mean I recommend a 'lock-them-up' policy. We have the world's highest rate of incarceration."

The FBI released its final crime statistics for 2009 on Monday. In March, the bureau had issued its estimates for the year. Its final report highlighted the across-the-board drop in crime between 2008 and 2009. Robberies declined by 8 percent, murders by 7.3 percent, aggravated assaults by 4.2 percent and forcible rapes by 2.6 percent. The number of property crimes fell by 4.6 percent, including the 17 percent drop in motor vehicle thefts.

The FBI also breaks down its data by four regions of the nation and reported that property and violent crimes are highest in the South and lowest in the Northeast.

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Muslim lawmaker speaks out in support of mosque

BY JEREMY HERB
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)
(MCT)

NEW YORK — Standing three blocks from the World Trade Center site on the eve of Sept. 11, Rep. Keith Ellison looked out over more than 1,500 people wearing white and holding candles in support of a proposed Islamic center and mosque near Ground Zero.

"The whole world is watching you," the Minnesota Democrat told the mosque supporters. "You emphatically say we are together, and we can't be torn apart based on religion."

Ellison has never shied away from talking about his Muslim faith, but until now has not attempted to be a spokesman for it. Now, as he tries for a third term, he has jumped head-first into the frontline of a controversy that has sparked the biggest anti-Muslim backlash since the terrorist attacks of nine years ago.

In the past month, Ellison has appeared more than a dozen times on national television, calling the mosque's detractors "proponents of religious bigotry" and lumping them with those who claim that President Barack Obama is not a U.S. citizen.

The fervor surrounding the debate, he says, has prompted him to ramp up his efforts on religious tolerance in the United States.

"This series of events has given me a new shot and a renewed commitment to make sure America's doors stay open, and we won't ever say we have somebody we want to throw under the bus," Ellison told the Star Tribune. "Not the Japanese, not the Catholics, not the Jews, and now not the Muslims. We're not going to do that. We're going to stay a country that prizes its diversity."

The controversy reached fever pitch last week, thanks to dueling protests in lower Manhattan and a threat by a Florida pastor to burn copies of the Quran.

Ellison said his own political advisers have warned him off the issue. But, he said, "Somebody's gotta say it's not OK. If we start setting up these are 'the OKs' and these are 'the no goods' in America like this along religious lines ... I'm going to be found speaking against it."

Ellison's religion has put him under the microscope before.

During his 2006 campaign, opponents attempted to link him to the Nation of Islam and Louis Farrakhan. His election garnered international attention, particularly in the Muslim world. Even his swearing-in was controversial. Ellison created an outcry when he used

the Quran owned by Thomas Jefferson instead of the more traditional Bible.

Later, under President George W. Bush, the State Department promoted Ellison's election in the Midwest as proof that the United States was not at war with Islam.

Ellison was one of five members of Congress arrested for protesting at the Sudanese embassy in Washington after nongovernmental groups were kicked out of Darfur.

But Ellison said his religion is not the reason he has become one of the most ardent defenders of the planned mosque near ground zero.

"My advocacy on this question is not rooted in my own religious beliefs," he said. "If this were happening to some Jews, or some Christians, or some Baha'i people, I would be saying they can build their temple where they please, where they have a legal right to do so."

Haris Tarin, Washington director of the Muslim Public Affairs Council, said the Muslim community lauded Ellison's election, but it doesn't necessarily look to him to be an authority on Muslim issues.

"They say, 'We don't want to see him as a Muslim guy, we just want to see him as Keith Ellison, a congressman who happens to be Muslim,'" Tarin said.

Ellison's biggest impact on U.S. Muslims has been advancing civic engagement, said Omar Siblani, publisher of the Arab American News. "He encourages other people who say, I could be Muslim and I could be in Congress," Siblani said.

Invited as the keynote speaker for the candlelight vigil, Ellison found that he could look out from his hotel room in lower Manhattan and see where the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center once stood.

"There is enough room in this neighborhood for an Islamic center," Ellison told the assembled crowd that night. "We don't say there's not room or they're unfit or they're not worthy to be around. They're our fellow Americans, and we make room for fellow Americans."

The next day, Sept. 11 victims' families commemorated loved ones lost before protests again returned to the area surrounding ground zero.

Ellison said he's not surprised by the backlash the mosque has started.

"Scapegoating, fear and prejudice are all very human," he said. "But reaching out to people different from you in moments like this is divine."

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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WORKSHOP

Continued from Page 1

to do so," Kennedy said.

More workshops are being planned for the rest of the semester, which will emphasize improving skills such as organization and note taking.

Workshop times have not yet been announced, but those interested may call the Student Resource Center for more information.

Leannnda Carey can be contacted at carey33@marshall.edu.

Quick Pitch

Continued from Page 3

That Herd game was my first —and I will look forward to sharing with my family and friends back home how loud we got inside of that noise-box, and how all of us were centered around one theme throughout it all. I'll brag about how I was there, standing with all of you, and being a part of something bigger than myself, bigger than any one of us.

On the phone with my brother back home in California, he had recorded the game, and posted clips online with the ESPN crews picking up in incredibly clear audible, the "We Are... Marshall" chants permeating the ranks of those present.

You don't get that kind of experience every day. The win eluded us, but when I get the usual ribbing from my family back home, I'll take it with a grain of salt. They had to suffer that defeat. And with digital television, I was there. We were there. And with any luck, we'll be just as loud.

Every single game.

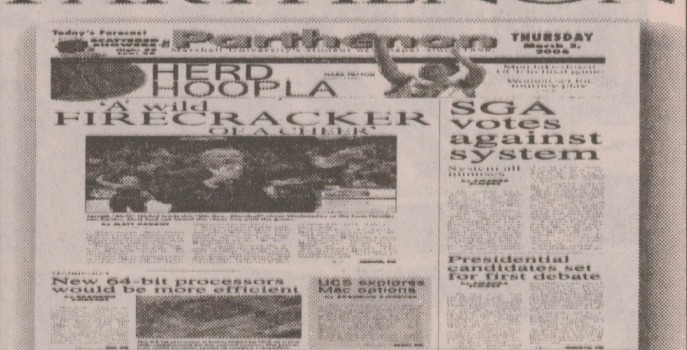
Brandon Anicich can be contacted at anicich.brandon@gmail.com.

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AWARENESS

Continued from Page 1

"Overall knowledge from a male's perspective is important because we can learn what we can do to prevent rape from happening," Hughes said.

CONTACT Rape Crisis Center is a confidential free service for victims of Rape. CONTACT will be hosting another event for students who didn't get to attend last night's workshop. The second Welcome to the Party event will be held at 9 p.m. on Sept. 21 in Buskirk Hall.

Tiffany Bajus can be contacted at bajus@marshall.edu.

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Lyon trip opens new world for Marshall students

BY LUKE WILLIAMS
THE PARTHENON

Four students took their education overseas this summer when they attended the Université Catholique de Lyon in Lyon, France.

"The value is immeasurable," said Eric Migernier, director of the French undergraduate program. "In the classroom, it's abstract. You're perceiving through some words, phrases or facts. There, you have the vivid reality — sounds, sights and smells. It calls on you. You can't make that in a classroom."

The program, started in 1996, places students with host families who open their homes to students. The families give students a place to stay, breakfast, dinner, laundry, transportation and constant exposure to the French language and culture.

"Dinnertime conversation with the family was my favorite," said Bradley Massie, a senior from Huntington double majoring in French and psychology. "It brought me where I am now in French, as of speaking."

The trip also leaves room for travel to other areas of Europe. The students can easily reach Paris, French Riviera, Rome,

London and Germany.

Migernier said Lyon is the No. 2 city in France behind Paris, but it is still "cosmopolitan, sophisticated and cultured."

"The reaction to our students is very positive from the young people in France," Migernier said. "People don't think of it quite this way, but eyes have been turned towards the U.S. for the past 30 years. France modeled itself after the U.S. and adopted the U.S. way of life."

The young people of France are very well-informed, they speak English, they travel and they have been interested in American things Migernier said.

"A lot of people were really eager to speak English with me," Massie said. "I wasn't in the mood to speak English, so I'd speak back to them in French and usually hint that I was trying to learn."

Migernier said he is blown away by the dedication of the students.

"The families were also pleased with our students, because they get other people interested in hosting students," Migernier said.

The tuition, room and board cost \$2,500, which does not include airfare or incidentals, meaning students and their families need to plan ahead to

save up, take out loans and apply for scholarships to meet the cost.

"Anyone interested should go," Massie said. "You learn a lot, seeing culture and things differently from here."

"When I first got there, I had to call my host mother, and I couldn't remember any French. By the end, almost anything anyone told me, I could understand it."

Students come back into the classroom with different attitudes, Migernier said.

"People sometimes face pressure from their parents, who are worried. 'What are you going to do with this?', they said. They're worried about survival, which is a little short-sighted. I can understand. I'm a parent myself."

"But the practical will take care of itself. I try to explain to parents that people who make it through college are resourceful people, and you can't replace this kind of experience."

Students interested in the July 2011 trip to Lyon can contact Migernier at migernier@marshall.edu and look for fliers that will be distributed in October.

Luke Williams can be contacted at williams414@marshall.edu.

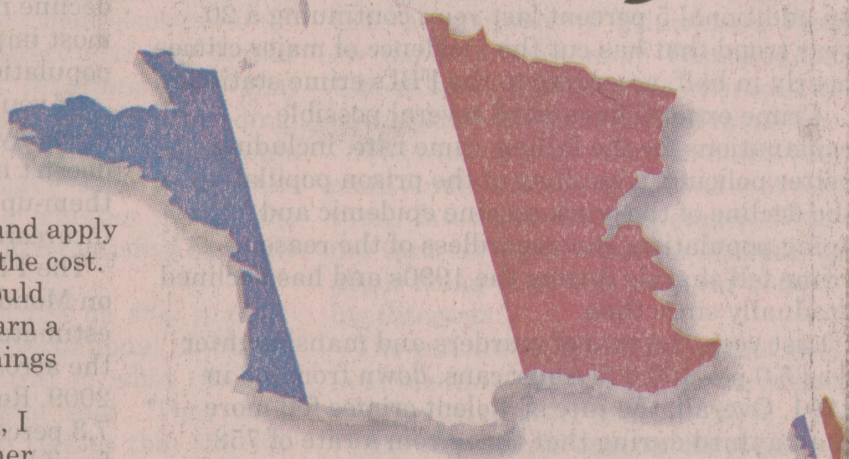


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