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2 school days until
Spring Break

Happy St. Patrick's Day!



INSIDE SPORTS
page 5

Tennis and softball spring
into action

Today's Forecast



the Parthenon

THURSDAY
March 17,
2005

Marshall University's student newspaper since 1898.

Volume 106 Number 79

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Page edited by Rasmiliya Sporny

Valuables under lock and key

by JUSTINE M.
SEVERINO
reporter

With Spring Break quickly approaching, residents of the Marshall residence hall community turn to the Marshall University Police Department and the Department of Residence Services for some safety tips on how to keep their valuables safe while away on break.

Lt. James Parker, of MUPD, said the best advice he can give to residents is "if it's important to you, take it home with you."

Parker said the department usually receives two or three complaints of stolen property after facility members and students return from break.

"The academic buildings usually have more computer, laptops and televisions taken over break than property from the residence halls," he said.

"If it's important to you, take it home with you."

Lt. James Parker
MUPD

Parker said this is because students have the residence advisers and directors following behind them to make sure they properly lock up before leaving campus.

"RA's will check out each resident before the buildings are shut down to insure that each room is secure," Phillips Bryant, a senior psychology and Spanish major and second year residence adviser in Willis Hall, said.

"I take all my valuables home with me," Natalie Cooke, a freshman chemistry major from Parkersburg said.

Cooke said on a scale of one to five, five being the best and one being the worst, she gives a five to residence services when it comes to trusting her property will be safe while away from the dorms.

Parker said if a resident or facility member finds some of their property has been taken he or she should report it to the department immediately.

Parker also said when a person is caught stealing property on campus the department follows the correct criminal and judicial process.

"The school will take a negative out look on whoever takes the property," Parker said.

More information on keeping valuables safe is available at the Department of Residence Services, or the MUPD webpage. Students can contact the MUPD at 696-4357.

Logged on to learning



Marshall Interim President Mike Farrell and West Virginia's First Lady Gayle Manchin unveil the banner for Marshall University ONLINE at Higher Education Day in Charleston. The program offers more options in bachelors and masters degrees.

photo by Rick Hays

"We are the technical leader in the state."

Keith Spears

MU vice president for communications and development

Obtaining a higher education at Marshall is now more accessible with an updated program for online degrees

by HOLLY MARTIN
reporter

Interim President Mike Farrell unveiled Marshall University's newest campus, Marshall University ONLINE, at Higher Education Day at the state capitol yesterday.

The day's events also included Senator Robert Plymale's announcement of a bill designed to specifically benefit Marshall.

"We started with a welcome by Governor Manchin where he continued to proclaim the need for higher education in the state and the need for it to succeed,"

Farrell said.

In the rotunda, all 16 private and public colleges and universities from West Virginia set up booths with information for legislators.

The university participated in a special ceremony after 1 p.m. with First Lady Manchin to reveal Marshall's renovated online learning system.

"By expanding access and resources to our most rural populations, Marshall University is meeting educational needs in a cost effective, scalable

Please see **ONLINE, P7**

Love in every drop

All for a good cause

by THOMAS S. FOUCH
reporter

March is Red Cross Month and the organization is asking members of the community to offer their time to volunteer to earn free training and internship possibilities.

The Huntington chapter of the American Red Cross provides aid to the victims of disasters, as well as assistance in other areas.

Seth Staker, emergency services coordinator of the Red Cross, said volunteers might find themselves performing a variety of duties while working for the organization.

"We participate in everything from feeding the hungry to assisting fire victims," he said. "There is very little in the way of disaster services that we don't do here."

Staker said the Huntington chapter is recruiting volunteers from all five of the counties covered by the organization.

The chapter's jurisdiction covers Wayne, Lincoln, Cabell and Mason counties in West Virginia and Lawrence

Please see **CROSS, P7**

March Is Red Cross Month

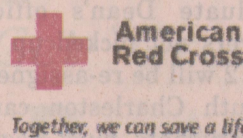


photo by Rick Hays

Alissa Sikula, a senior marketing major from Charleston donates blood while volunteer Arysta McGill, a political science major from Point Pleasant offers a hand of support.

Drive continues today

by LORI A. KERSEY
reporter

The American Red Cross will be on campus again today to help with a blood drive at Marco's in the Memorial Student Center.

Gamma Beta Phi and Inter-Hall Government Council are sponsoring the drive from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sandy Hinshaw, blood collection supervisor for the American Red Cross, said there is a need for blood donors in the spring and summer.

"Everybody is so busy with their lives and they don't take the time to donate blood," she said. "We're in desperate need of blood. Everybody that's in the hospital might need blood during surgery or in a car accident. There's always a need to have it on the shelf in case somebody needs it."

Anna L. Fauber, a senior psychology major from Charleston, volunteered at the blood drive yesterday.

"Well, I think it's a really good cause," Fauber said. "I can't give blood, so I can help out."

Please see **BLOOD, P7**

Researchers exhibit work in midst of March Madness

by SHANE S. IRWIN
reporter

Basketball enthusiasts are not the only ones who can get excited for March.

Marshall researchers Justin Swick and Derek Gregg left yesterday morning to exhibit their work at March Madness for the Mind in San Diego.

Swick, a junior computer and information technolo-

gy major from Chesapeake, Ohio, and Gregg, a junior computer and information technology major from Philippi, are co-founders of Vandalia Research.

"Vandalia has placed strong emphasis on research and development directed to specific market needs, with the objective of commercializing novel biotechnology instrumentation and advanced

biotechnology manufacturing techniques," Gregg said.

March Madness for the Mind is Saturday, March 19, and is hosted by San Diego's Reuben H. Fleet Science Center and the National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance. The exhibition is presented in conjunction with the NCI's ninth annual meeting.

The event showcases work done by 15 of the nation's top teams of student scientists, engineers and entrepreneurs.

Swick discussed Vandalia Research's modest beginnings.

"The company began as a class project to create a method for producing large amounts of DNA," he said. "In the spring of 2003, Derek and I were enrolled

in IST 350: Technology and Innovation. Dr. Elizabeth Murry [of the Integrated Science and Technologies department] asked Derek and me how to manufacture large amounts of specific DNA sequences."

Swick said the problem with Murry's request was the technology to do this on a small scale was

Please see **INVENT, P7**

Making a big impact on Bible study

by SAMIR ABDEL-AZIZ reporter

Baptist Campus Ministries provide Christian students with accountability and growth in faith with I-teams, Bible studies.

I-teams, or "impact teams," are small groups of students who participate in studying the Bible or other religious literature. It has been part of BCM for the last two semesters and is growing.

"I-teams has been a great success for us," Jerry Losh, director of

BCM, said. "Every year it gets better. It is a great opportunity for students to be held accountable in their spiritual walk by other students. It is a program that is comprised of five to six students who come together at their own time and study the Bible or other books in their own way. We have 50 to 60 students who participate in it."

BCM has always had a bible study program but recently changed the name to I-teams, Losh said. Students can join I-teams at the beginning of each semester. Students

It has given me an outlet to share my faith with people who feel the same and has allowed me to grow stronger because of it.

- Sarah Bryant, sophomore business major from Huntington

interested in joining I-teams can ask about the program at BCM's meetings. They can then meet and arrange a time that would be best suit the student's schedule during the week.

"I joined the first semester," Sarah Bryant, sophomore business major from Huntington, said. "It gave me the

chance to meet new people, and BCM seemed to be something I wanted to be involved with. It has given me an outlet to share my faith with people who feel the same and has allowed me to grow stronger in my faith because of it."

Leading every group is an I-team leader. Losh and the president of BCM,

Olivia Hill, select leaders based on an individual's character and spirituality.

"I was approached by Losh and Hill to become an I-team leader," Lauren Lincoln, freshman elementary education major, said. "They were very prayerful about it and acted with trusted conviction. It feels amazing to be fellowshiping with other girls and it is a great encouragement to God."

Lincoln's group is currently studying the book, "Naked Fruit." The groups pick a new book each semester and study it during the week. They

also have "planned interruptions," skipping a meeting to do a fun activity to get to know each other.

"I joined Lauren's group because I wanted to be able to be around a strong group of Christian friends," Kellie Puckett, freshman undecided major said. "It also helps you grow in your faith."

For more information about joining I-teams next semester contact Losh at 696-3053.

BCM meets Wednesdays at 9 p.m. in the Campus Christian Center.

News Briefs

Classes moved

Classes in the James E. Morrow library will be relocated to other buildings beginning today through portions of the upcoming spring break due to unforeseen changes in an engineering inspection.

"We were anticipating an engineering survey of the building which began this week," Keith Spears, vice president for communication and development said. "We weren't anticipating having to move classrooms to alternate locations."

In order for engineers to accomplish a full inspection, they are recommending several special collections and other materials be moved out of the building, he said.

Engineering inspectors are testing the integrity of the building's structural support.

Information will be posted on the Marshall University Web site. Additional information is available from Dr. Karen Kirtley, assistant vice president for administration, at 696-2487.

Health Fair March 30

Marshall University is conducting its second annual health and wellness fair Wednesday, March 30 at the Memorial Student Center.

Activities begin at 6 a.m. with health screenings for faculty and staff insured with Public Employees Insurance

Agency.

Faculty screenings will be offered until noon in the Alumni Lounge of the MSC.

Free health tests and activities will be available to students from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Activities will include chair massage, chiropractic adjustments, spinning, yoga and physio-ball demonstrations with motivational seminars each hour from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Attending representatives include the American Heart and Lung Association, STAND, Vitamin World, Red Cross, YMCA, Marshall's Women's Center and the counseling department.

More information is available by calling 696-2943 or 696-4652.

MCTC names new academic coordinator of clinical education

by KATIE KEMP reporter

Marshall Community and Technical College's Physical Therapist Assistant program has named Kelly Terry the program's new Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education.

Terry has been an adjunct faculty member for the past four years in the PTA program. She has taught orthopedic rehabilitation, patient care skills and physical therapy procedures. Terry has also been an active member of the program's advisory and admissions committees, according to a news release.

Terry said her teaching will not stop due to the promotion.

"I will be teaching certain course hours then organizing clinicals and making rounds to our different clinical sites," she said.

Travis H. Carlton, assistant professor and PTA program coordinator, said he is excited about the experience Terry is bringing to the program.

"As a highly respected clinician within the physical therapy profession, Kelly is a wonderful addition to our program," he said. "Kelly's primary role will be to provide instruction and to coordinate and supervise the student's clinical affiliations."

Terry said she has many things she wants to accomplish, but her main goal is to strengthen the

curriculum.

"My main goal is to reorganize the current curriculum for the program," she said.

Terry is a 1996 Marshall graduate with a degree in athletic training. She also received her master of science in health and physical education in 1998 from Marshall. In 2001, Terry completed her doctorate of physical therapy from Slippery Rock University in Pittsburgh.

She has been employed with Tri-State Rehab Services and Genesis Rehab Services where she treated a variety of orthopedic and geriatric diagnosis. Terry has also provided athletic training services for Lawrence County High School in Kentucky.

Marshall Community and Technical College's therapist assistant program is accredited by the Commission of Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education of the American Physical Therapy Association.

For more information about the Physical Therapist Assistant Program contact Carlton at 696-3353.

on the Web

More information about the Physical Therapist Assistant Program visit the MCTC Web site at www.marshall.edu/cta/pta.schtml



Summer tuition waivers available for grad students

by E. KIRSTEN KING reporter

Marshall's Graduate College is now accepting applications for summer school tuition waivers.

A total of 65 waivers are available. The Huntington campus will receive 23 waivers and the South Charleston campus 42 waivers, benefiting approximately 260 students. The application deadline is April 8.

"Each waiver is worth 12 hours," Leonard Deutsch, dean of the Graduate College said. "So we break them into segments of three hours each."

Students who receive waivers will receive up to three hours credit. The waivers cannot be applied to e-courses or undergraduate courses.

"We give priority con-

sideration to West Virginia student but we also give them to out-of-state students," Deutsch said.



Deutsch

He said academic merit based on gpa and graduate admissions examinations will be the main factors in determining which students will receive waivers. Deutsch said the waivers serve as an award for academic excellence.

He said the waivers differ from graduate assistants because they are given based on academic achievement.

Students who receive waivers only have to register to receive them.

Recipients must re-apply.

Waivers do not cover any student center or activity fees. They will also not cover department specific fees applied to courses.

Students who receive waivers will be notified by e-mail. Students approved can pick up their waivers beginning April 22 in the Graduate Dean's office. Waivers not picked up by May 2 will be re-assigned.

South Charleston campus students must register by April 8.

Students interested in receiving waivers based upon financial need should contact the Graduate Dean's office or the Graduate Admissions office.

Academic Expo 2005 Trivia Contest

On April 5, University College will sponsor the annual Academic Expo on the MCS Plaza. To help spread the word, we are giving students a chance to win a new cell phone. We will publish a total of five different questions. Each question will give students the opportunity to enter the contest one time. That could give students up to five chances to win. To qualify, you must bring a copy of this ad to the Expo.

*** Win a Free Cell Phone ***

To enter, bring this ad and your answer to the Academic Expo. Look for more questions each day in The Parthenon.

Today's question: Name one undergraduate major at Marshall University that is ABET accredited.

Names will be drawn at random. Only one phone will be given away for this contest. No purchase necessary. The winner will be awarded a Virgin Mobile prepaid cell phone. Only one entry per student per question.

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Male from Phoenix looking for someone to hold onto tight curves with. Chevy Cobalt



A regional infertility treatment center is seeking women 20-32 years old willing to donate their eggs anonymously to infertile couples. Treatment involves an average of 10 to 20 day course of daily injections, followed by an outpatient egg retrieval procedure done under intravenous sedation. Donors who are accepted and complete a treatment cycle will be paid \$1,400. Interest individuals should call (304) 691-1484 for additional information and application materials.

WANTED - Live-in Nanny to assist professional couple with care for infant and 9 year-old daughters. Must have flexibility, transportation, experience and references. Free room and board. Salary commensurate with qualifications. Putnam County. (304) 545-4219.

Attention Marshall Ladies! JB Gentleman's Club is looking for NEW Dancers. Will work around school schedule. Call 697-3655

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GCSC collecting hats, scarves for cancer patients

by CHRIS KIDD
reporter

The Graduate College Student Council has fought to stay in existence this semester, and the council will help another group with their survival by conducting a cancer drive.

The council will be collecting scarves and hats for the cancer patient foundation T.C., Family, and Friends: Where Love Grows!

A drop off site for donations has been set up on the third floor of Harris Hall, and will be there through April 22.

"We want to show our love for all the cancer patients going through chemotherapy," Kevin Rice, president of the Graduate College Student Council, said. "We want everyone to please bring your donations so we can watch love really grow."

The council was made aware of the foundation by Jessica Arnold, an associate of the organization, who said she made the Graduate College realize what a valuable cause this would be to the club.

"I contacted Kevin to see if he would support and help me with this and he agreed," Arnold said. "I think this is a wonderful idea and wanted to do what I could to help."

She said she hopes the cancer drive will support both the foundation and the Graduate College

Student Council. "I hope to have a collection to donate to the foundation on behalf of the Graduate Student Council," Arnold said. "I hope to create a greater awareness and appreciation for not only ours, but all drives and organizations that work hard to support cancer patients. I love people and like to help out, and what better way than this."

She said the project is still looking for help and attempting to set up more drop off spots for donations.

"We are identifying possible sites for drop off areas and would appreciate any volunteers," Arnold said. "Anyone willing to help would be greatly appreciated."

The foundation has only existed since February and is named for breast cancer survivor and Highlawn Elementary School teacher T.C. Clemons, who overcame her illness and is currently continuing radiation treatment. Clemons was not available for an interview for this story.

"I wanted to be involved with this organization from the very day that I met Mrs. T.C. Clemons at Highlawn Elementary," Arnold said. "I was doing my school counseling internship and met her there. She is an amazing woman and I was very touched and inspired by her strong will. She is just an amazing woman to be around."

by E. KIRSTEN KING
reporter

For students who work part-time or will need to work part-time next year, the Higher Education Adult Part-Time Student Grant Program may be able to help.

HEAPS was created by the West Virginia legislature three years ago Jack Toney, director of Financial Aid, said. He said it provides assistance to part-time West Virginia students.

Last year 206 students received the grant and it is now down to 149.

"The goal of the program is to encourage students who have been out of school

for a while to return," Toney said.

He said the program is only available to West Virginia undergraduate and associate degree students attending with less than 12 hours. Students must have a 2.0 gpa and demonstrate financial need. The grant can only be applied to tuition and fee charges.

"It would benefit students who have already completed hours to finish their degrees," Kaitlyn N. Tinsley, a freshman nursing major from Teays Valley, said. "This helps them to not let the hours that they've already completed go to waste."

She said the grant allows

students to finish their degree while working part-time to pay their other bills.

"It's a reality that a lot of students have to work part-time to pay their bills," she said. "A program like this is just a benefit to help them out."

Toney said the legislature has now opened the program to dependent students.

"They did this to expand the program and help more students," he said.

Toney said students who know they will only be attending part time in the fall can download the application form at www.marshall.edu/sfa.

"It helps to keep students out of debt," he said. "It pro-

vides them another resource to help them get back to school."

Toney said the best benefit of the program is it is a grant so students do not have to pay it back.

on the Web

More information about the HEAPS grant is available by visiting the Web site at www.hepc.wvnet.edu/students/heaps.html

Communications classes serve area

Students incorporate local organizations into coursework

by KALEENA L. BURGESS
reporter

Communications classes are learning in an unusual way.

Students in CMM 315 are applying their skills to work on community service projects.

"The purpose of the projects is to give the students the opportunity to apply what they are learning about goal setting, problem-solving, decision-making, leadership and collaboration to complete a task," Robert Bookwalter, professor of communication studies said.

The students are asked to form groups and set goals that will ultimately make their project a success. They

We are learning and doing a service for our community at the same time.

— Lindsey Singleton, sophomore, Logan

work on their community service project most of the semester.

One group decided to conduct a drive for the Ronald McDonald House of Huntington. The group collected items and took donations to help equip the library and game room recently as part of an expansion at that Ronald McDonald House. DVDs, video games, board games and books were preferred. Monetary donations were also accepted.

Other projects include a campaign to help the YMCA Buddy League Basketball Tournament, planning activities for the Boys and Girls Club of Westmoreland and raising money for a tsunami relief fund.

"We are learning and doing a service for our community at the same time," Lindsey Singleton, sophomore from Logan, said.

The projects are an avenue of teaching that applies group communica-

tion principles. Both students and members of the community are benefited at the same time.

"Marshall University benefits from the goodwill of our students and positive relations are fostered when members of the Marshall community look to fill the city's needs," Bookwalter said.

The classes will be having fund-raisers and campaigns throughout the semester.

In the end, the students will present their results to their class and professor in a formal presentation. They will be evaluated and will also analyze their own performance within their self-directed work teams.

"Hands-on experience is better than bookwork any day," Singleton said.

AEP files paperwork for new W.Va. plant

CHARLESTON (AP) — If American Electric Power Co. decides to build a next-generation, coal-fired power plant, it would likely have about half the generating capacity of earlier estimates, according to a state Public

Service Commission filing.

The notice filed by AEP subsidiary Appalachian Power Co. Tuesday gives at least 30 days notice of the company's decision about where in West Virginia it would locate an Integrated

Gasification Combined Cycle power plant.

"The company has determined that a suitable site for such a facility in West Virginia exists adjacent to the Ohio River, in Mason County, near the company's existing Mountaineer Plant," according to the filing.

The other sites under consideration are in the Great Bend area of Meigs County, Ohio, and the Carrs area near Vanceburg in Lewis County, Ky. They remain in the running, though the company has not yet made similar filings in either state, Pat Hemlepp AEP spokesman said.

Company officials had earlier said that the new plant would have a capacity of 1,000 megawatts or more, but the filing indicated the plant would initially be designed for 600 megawatts of capacity "more or less."

Hemlepp emphasized the West Virginia filing "is not an indication that a decision has been made about a new plant."

"Much remains to be studied and decided about the feasibility of such a project," according to the filing. "However, the company deems it an appropriate time to take the initial step in filing this notice."

Gov. Joe Manchin has made attracting the AEP plant to West Virginia an early goal of his administration.

"They might not know it yet, but they belong here," Manchin said at several recent speeches.

West Virginia is the nation's second largest coal producer and currently hosts six AEP coal-fired power plants.

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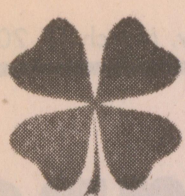
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Elections are over, now action is needed

The 2005 Student Government Association elections have wrapped up and the Misiti/Brown team has been named victorious. The elections this year gave participants a chance to take a new approach to campaigning in an effort to have a higher student turnout. Several of the teams running used creative, original ideas to solicit votes.

The Olshan/Cochran campaign was able to persuade almost a whole floor of residents in Buskirk to place signs in their bedroom windows. The Kueck/Watson team passed out food to potential voters. The Caldwell/DasGupta team had a Web site and bought an advertisement on thefacebook.com, as well as tied a series of signs to trees on Buskirk Field that stated the team's slogan. Bright colors surfaced on signs around campus as the elections wore on in hopes of catching one's eye and making a name memorable.

Campaigning and debating were rampant.

The turnout, while still high compared to recent years, was poor in relation to the number of students enrolled at Marshall, but the effort of the teams should be applauded. The campaigns were professionally-run and included real-life political drama, including impeachments and resignations. There were candidates from all different aspects of the Marshall community, all trying to be a leader and representative for the Marshall student body. As in all elections there were winners and losers, now it is up to the constituents to ensure the winners live up to their pre-election promises.

There has been much speculation about what an SGA president really has power to accomplish. April 19 Michael Misiti will take office as SGA president. Then will be the time for action to be taken and the student body shown what the SGA president can accomplish. The students and Marshall community must be shown they have made the right decision in choosing their representative.

The 2005 election was one that was well-run, full of politics and produced what some believe to be a quality result. Now the result must produce action that is beneficial to the Marshall community. Michael, the Parthenon wishes you the best in your year as president. May you produce positive changes for the university.

Absence policy needs fixed

Like many other students and faculty this semester, I was finally struck with the feared stomach virus. Everyone knows the only thing a doctor can do is tell you to sleep, drink plenty of fluids and wait it out. So why then do I need a doctor's excuse to have my absence deemed acceptable?

Some of us do not have insurance to add a visit to the old deductible, especially when the doctor cannot really do anything for you. If you go to the Student Health Services over at Cabell Huntington, it is not guaranteed you will get an appointment since walk-ins are no longer accepted. By then a 24 hour bug is pointless to have reviewed by a medical professional. Not to mention you take your life into your own hands having them diagnose your problem at Student Health. I only say that from

HUPP'S HARPINGS

BY MICHAEL HUPP
columnist



my own experiences, not saying it is like that for every student. Allegra does not cure pneumonia.

Now I understand without this policy of excused absences students would have every known ailment to mankind so they did not have to attend class. My solution is that the students who want to come and learn will. The classroom is more productive when students who have no desire to attend class don't. Contrary to popular belief, not all students do not go to class due to binge drinking the night before.

What about students with kids? Lord knows the perils these students face. The odds are already stacked against them that they will even have time to attend class. Children bring a whole new element.

Next you have to look at general problems. Cars do break down. It is not acceptable for your car to die 20 times a semester (unless you drive the car Adam Sandler wrote an ode to). No way can you have four grandmas die in a semester or a year for that matter. True college prepares us for the workplace where even an arm hanging on by skin is not an acceptable excuse for not attending class, but you get paid to go to work.

I am not suggesting we should be paid for going to school, but I have gone to work near death compared

to class. We should review sickness versus lame excuses. Administration need to take into consideration not all sicknesses that prohibit you from attending class are worth going to the doctor and students shouldn't be punished for it. Excessive absences should be punished, but students should not be for being ill during their two unexcused allowed by most departments.

I mean this is the same school that has only given students a two-hour delay twice in my six or seven or how many years I have been attending school here despite inches of snow. Do not punish all students for others' lack of appreciation for the great opportunity we have here. Do you really want me in your class as a professor or fellow student spreading my plague and disease for all to share? I think not.

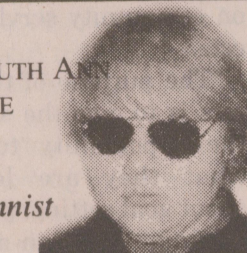
Enjoy the day of drunkenness

Everyone knows what today is. Today is the one day on the entire planet when everyone everywhere pretends to be Irish. It doesn't matter if you're actually Irish or not, because technically, I'm not. I'm just Irish by heritage. I'm fairly sure you can take one look at me and see that. I'm so pale that you can literally see through my arms. The only color that is in my skin is the blue veins that run all over my body like the little blue lines on a map. But on a day like today, I celebrate like I was born in Dublin. St. Patty's is dear to everyone, especially those whose last name reflects it.

But the great thing about St. Patty's day is not that it's the one day of the year where it is respectable to act like a drunken fool or even feel that it's socially acceptable to drink yourself into a mild coma. The great

BY RUTH ANN BURKE

columnist



thing about St. Patty's day is the attitude behind the festivities. Anyone who goes out on St. Patty's Day to celebrate is going out with one thing in mind. They won't, at any point, give one red cent what people think about them. And that's the beauty of the holiday. It's the true Irish spirit.

Trust me, I've seen it. What other day of the year can you go out wearing a bright green curly afro wig? When else is it perfectly acceptable to pinch the living crap out of your friends if they aren't wearing green? When was the last time you saw someone throwing up in the gutter

with a beer in one hand and using the other to keep a leprechaun hat on their head? That's right. You won't see that on any other day than St. Patty's.

So my advice to you, whether you be Irish or what have you, go out and celebrate. Don't worry about your classes on Friday. Don't think about how you have a paper due when you get back from the break. Go out there, find yourself a really skeezy bar. The skeezier the better.

Drink yourself at least one Guinness. It's required. And just so you know, I didn't immediately like Guinness. You have to let it grow on you. When I started drinking it, I thought it tasted like burnt feet (and yes, that's a taste). But on St. Patty's Day, you have to drink at least one because it is the drink of choice of the drunkard. Well, that or whiskey.

I plan on rolling around to every bar I can manage to drag myself into. I've accepted the fact that at some point, I am going to throw up (hopefully on someone) and then probably try to drink more. Sadly, I'm not entirely sure these activities can be differentiated from what I normally do on the weekend, but instead, this time, I'm drinking with friends who I care about. We're all going to sing "Whiskey in the Jar" at the top of our lungs. We're going to make the sober kid among us drive us around while we yell at other drunkards walking down Fourth Avenue.

If you see me out and I've fallen off my bar stool, pick me back up. I'll do the same for you because we are all fighting the same thing: sobriety, and we're celebrating the same thing: (imagined) Irish heritage.

the Parthenon

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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.

Minds rule when it comes to girls

by Daniel Masny
The Pitt News (U. Pittsburgh)

(U-WIRE) PITTSBURGH — I was walking down the street in Baltimore, near 18 or so bars near an open square. Every girl there from 16 to 25 years of age was dressed completely trashy. It was about 40 degrees outside and they were all wearing halter tops, miniskirts and hooker boots and wearing entirely too much makeup and jewelry, most of them stumbling around completely drunk.

It was at this point 12 girls in nothing but bras and panties came running by screaming, exposing their tattooed, nasty bodies and leaving their hair flapping in the wind. One of the girls in the halter tops turned to the other one and said rather loudly, "Skanks!"

I had to laugh to myself at

the irony of the situation. I couldn't understand her hypocritical disgust. These girls, and many elsewhere, think that exposing flesh or looking like trash is the way to get a guy's attention. It completely bewilders me that some girls think this kind of attention is desirable.

Granted, there are some women out there who are just looking to get laid. First off, there's a huge possibility of getting a disease. Second, the sex isn't going to be nearly as good as it would be if it were passionate and meaningful. Third, the sex isn't going to be as good physically. Anyone who is only interested in one night of sex probably isn't going to be too concerned with giving the other person pleasure.

Dressing like a hooker, pretending to be empty-minded, getting drunk and lowering your standards will

not garner any respect from others or from yourself.

There are guys out there who are only interested in sex too, and that will lead to problems in many of the same ways. I think it's just as empty and meaningless for men, but they don't pretend to be anything they are not in order to do it — they don't objectify themselves or try to be any less intelligent.

I despair for the future of humanity every time I walk into South Oakland on a Saturday night and I see the parade of women selling their dignity for a \$5 cover charge and three or four Pabst Blue Ribbons. That's a pretty cheap price to be selling yourselves for. Don't stoop that low, girls. Don't make yourself an object — something to be lusted after, as opposed to being someone to be intimate with.

I'd like to think there are more guys out there like me. Initially, we are attracted to the girl's looks, but if there's nothing upstairs, it's a huge turn-off. It's the mind that keeps us coming back for more.

To me, there is nothing more sexual than a woman's mind. When I find a woman who can really make me think in new ways, that sees a whole other dimension to things, that is sexy. When I find a woman who can take a side on an issue, get the facts and argue her opinion with conviction, I'm turned on.

If I find a woman who figures something out about me that I didn't even know, and who makes my mind or my soul grow a little bit, I am more attracted than any little miniskirt could make me. Speak to me in Latin or French, and I'm putty in your hands.

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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 grammar, libelous statements, available space or factual errors.

The opinions expressed in the columns do not necessarily represent or reflect the views of the Parthenon staff.

Herd eyes Buckeye Invitational



Freshman Rachel Folden has contributed offensive power to the Thundering Herd lineup. The Herd lead the Mid-American Conference in runs, hits, doubles, RBIs and home runs.

courtesy
herdzone.com

After a 12 day hiatus, the Marshall softball team returns to action this weekend at the Buckeye Invitational on the campus of The Ohio State University.

Marshall (11-8) saw its home tournament washed out last weekend after picking up a second place finish in the East Carolina Pirate Clash the weekend prior.

Not only did MU garner five wins in North Carolina, several players picked up accolades as well. After notching her 400th career strikeout and 47th victory, senior Randi Nielson was named Mid-American Conference East Division Pitcher of the Week. The senior now sits at third all-time in wins, needing only two to move ahead of MU-great Sara Gulla in the number two position. Nielson (6-4) leads the Thundering Herd on the mound with a 3.75 ERA while holding opponents to a .208 batting average.

Amanda Williams notched a MAC Player of the Week nod to compliment Nielson as the junior batted .400 with ten hits at ECU. Leigh Wintter slid into second behind Williams in career RBI with an RBI double in an MU win over East Carolina in the semifinals of the tournament. Freshman Rachel

Folden has set the pace for the MU offense with a .413 batting average and 17 RBI.

Conference-wise, the Herd rests in second place, behind Akron in the East, while Toledo is tops in the West with an 11-6 mark. A. Williams leads the MAC in runs (13), doubles (6) and walks (7) while Folden paces the pack in hits (25), total bases (35) and RBI (17).

Returning seven starters from last year's 11-42 squad, Oakland (3-13) won two of three last weekend at the Winthrop Ringor Invitational in Rock Hill, S.C. Marshall is a perfect 4-0 against the Golden Grizzlies all-time.

Ball State (4-12) has been taken down by the Mercy Rule on seven occasions this season, including three affairs with No. 21 Missouri. The game with the Cardinals will not count as a conference tilt as the Herd will travel to Muncie, Ind. for the league match-up on April 24.

Kathryn Pilger boasts the biggest BSU batting average with .333 mark. On the mound, none of the squad's five pitchers has an ERA below 5.00 as the Cardinals are led by Nicki Hellem (1-3) with a 5.16 ERA and 16 strikeouts. BSU leads the all-time series, 4-3.

Notre Dame, last year's winner of the Big East, bring an 11-7 slate to Columbus. The Fighting Irish have been tested with games versus five Top-25 squads and picked up a win against No. 5 Tennessee Feb. 27. Led by Megan Ciolli's .357 batting average and 20 hits, the Irish have

been successful on 29 of 33 stolen base attempts.

Heather Booth is on the mound, with a 1.30 ERA and a 7-3 record. Last year's squad amassed 47 wins en route to an NCAA Regional berth. This will be the first match-up between the Fighting Irish and the Herd.

Ohio State will be coming off a 6-1 record and a runner-up performance at the Buzz Classic at Georgia Tech March 4-6. The Buckeyes have yet to be beaten in its own tournament, winning all 16 of its games in the event's history.

OSU (11-6) is second as a team in the Big Ten in accordance to batting average, boasting a lofty .310. Jamee Juarez leads the Buckeyes at the plate (.378 batting average, 14 hits) and in the circle (1.75 ERA, 58 strikeouts.) The Herd is 0-4 all-time against the Buckeyes.

The Herd will challenge Oakland Friday at 2 p.m., Ball State and Notre Dame Saturday at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m., respectively, before playing the host Buckeyes Sunday at 4 p.m. All action will take place at Buckeye Field.

Big Ballin' 2005 batting leaders

Amanda Williams

.533
slugging
percentage

.471
on base
percentage

.383 avg.



A. Williams

Gina Guzzo

.468
slugging
percentage

22
total bases

3 home runs



Guzzo

Jessica Williams

.415
on base
percentage

11
runs
scored

.333 avg.



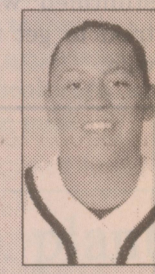
J. Williams

Rachel Folden

.583
slugging
percentage

17 RBIs

.417 avg.



Folden

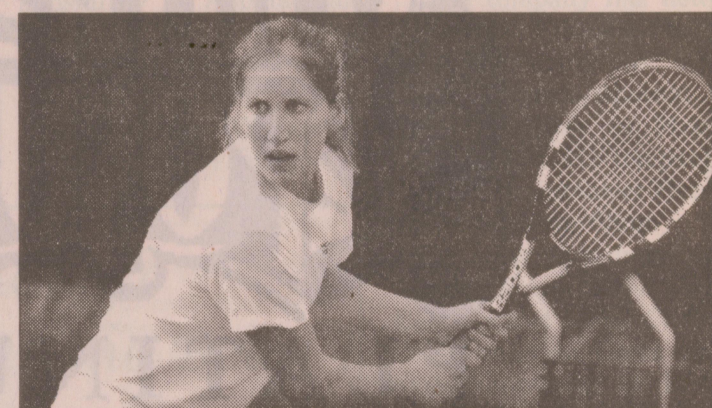
Tennis takes 70th ranking on West Coast swing

courtesy
herdzone.com

After a two-week layoff, the Thundering Herd tennis team heads to the West Coast for its first outdoor matches of the season.

Marshall (6-5) has not played since a 5-2 win at the University of Richmond March 4.

The Herd heads to San Diego ranked No. 70 in the nation and will face the No. 73 ranked Washington State Cougars Friday and the No. 54 ranked University of San Diego Toreros



file photo

Senior Ashley Kroh leads the Thundering Herd to face ranked competition this weekend in San Diego.

Sunday.

With the addition of Washington State and San Diego, Marshall will have faced nine ranked opponents in its first 13 matches. San Diego enters the matches with a 5-5 record and Washington State is 2-8 after playing a tough schedule to date.

This will be the first time the Herd has played Washington State and San Diego.

Marshall last journeyed

to California in 2004 when it played Long Beach State and UC Irvine. The Herd went 1-1 on the trip with a 4-3 loss to LBSU and a 6-1 win versus Irvine.

The Herd has yet to play a match outside this season due to unfavorable weather conditions and will look to get a feel for outdoor conditions on the trip before returning home and beginning Conference play at rival Western Michigan next weekend.

Who is your athlete?

Every Friday we will name a Parthenon Sports "Athlete of the week." Please make your favorite known.

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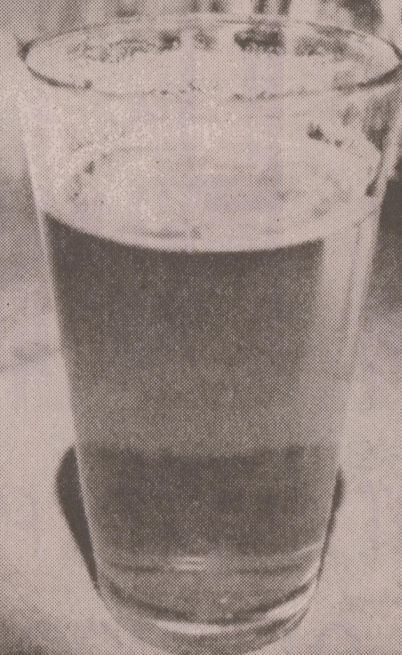
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Scott Peterson sentenced to death

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. (AP) — A judge formally sentenced Scott Peterson to death yesterday after family members got into a shouting match and Laci Peterson's mother sobbed as she called her son-in-law "an evil murderer."

Judge Alfred A. Delucchi allowed only Laci Peterson's family members to speak at the hearing after indicating he believed the death penalty was warranted.

Scott Peterson's father yelled from the audience as Laci's brother, Brent Rocha, spoke to the court, saying "Laci and Conner are the true victims here."

"What a liar!" Lee Peterson said before the judge admonished him and he walked out of the courtroom.

Jackie Peterson, Scott Peterson's mother, also interrupted Rocha but her voice was inaudible.

Scott Peterson, 32, was invited to make a statement. After several minutes of discussion with his attorneys, he declined.

Delucchi denied a defense request for a new trial before upholding the jury's recommendation that Peterson be sentenced to death.

"The court is satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt

The court is satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt...

— Alfred A. Delucchi, judge presiding over Peterson trial

that the defendant, Scott Lee Peterson, is guilty of first-degree murder" and second degree, Delucchi said, adding that he found the killings "were cruel, uncaring, heartless and callous."

Scott Peterson, shackled at the waist and wearing a dark suit, showed no emotion throughout the hearing.

Scott Peterson will probably be sent to death row at

San Quentin State Prison within 48 hours, said San Mateo County Sheriff's Lt. Lisa Williams said. The infamous lockup overlooks the same bay where Laci Peterson's body was discarded.

Laci Peterson's mother, Sharon Rocha, sobbed and trembled from a podium as she lashed out at her former son-in-law. Scott Peterson stared back at her without emotion.

"You decided to throw Laci and Conner away, dispose of them like they were just a piece of garbage," she said. "You were wrong; dead wrong."

Dabbing at her eyes with tissues, she called him "an evil murderer."

"The fact that you no longer wanted Laci did not give you the right to murder her," Sharon Rocha said. "She was my daughter ... I trusted you, and you betrayed me ... You betrayed everybody."

Scott Peterson was convicted in November of first-degree murder in the killing of Laci and second-degree

murder for the slaying of her fetus. A jury recommended the death penalty a month later.

"I would hope that you regret the choices that you made. Maybe you don't," Rocha said. "Did you really hate Laci and Conner that much or did you just dislike yourself?"

The judge said the hearing was an opportunity for Laci's relatives to speak only. He ordered Scott Peterson to pay \$10,000 restitution for funeral expenses and an additional \$5,000, though the reason for that amount was unexplained.

Blake acquitted of murder

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A jury acquitted tough-guy actor Robert Blake of murder yesterday in the shooting death of his wife four years ago, bringing a dramatic end to a case that played out like pulp fiction.

The jury also acquitted Blake of one charge of trying to get someone to kill Bonny Lee Bakley, but deadlocked on a second solicitation charge. The jury voted 11-1 in favor of acquittal and the judge dismissed the count.

The jury of seven men and five women delivered the verdicts during its ninth day of deliberations, following a trial with a cast of characters including two Hollywood stuntmen who said Blake tried to get them to off his wife.

Blake had faced life in prison; prosecutors did not seek the death penalty.

Blake was charged with shooting Bakley, 44, in their car outside the actor's favorite Italian restaurant May 4, 2001, less than six months after their marriage.

The defense called it a weak case built largely on the testimony of the two stuntmen, both of whom were once heavy drug users.

No witnesses, blood or DNA evidence linked Blake to the crime. The murder weapon, found in a trash bin, could not be traced to Blake, and witnesses said the minuscule amounts of gunshot residue found on Blake's hands could have

come from a different gun he said he carried for protection.

Prosecutors said Blake believed his wife trapped him into a loveless marriage by getting pregnant. They said Blake soon became smitten with the baby, Rosie, and desperately wanted to keep the child away from Bakley because he considered her an unfit mother. Rosie, 4, is being raised by Blake's adult daughter.

Blake told authorities he walked his wife to the car after dinner, then discovered he had left his gun back in the booth at Vitello's Restaurant. He went back to get it, returned to the car and found his wife shot, he said.

Senate approves Alaska drilling

WASHINGTON (AP) — A closely divided Senate voted yesterday to approve oil drilling in an Alaska wildlife refuge, a major victory for President Bush and a stinging defeat for environmentalists who have fought the idea for decades.

By a 51-49 vote, the Senate put a refuge drilling provision in next year's budget, depriving opponents of the chance to use a filibuster to try to block it. Filibusters, which require 60 votes to overcome, have been used to defeat drilling proposals in the past.

"This project will keep our economy growing by creating jobs and ensuring that businesses can expand," Bush said in a statement. "And, it will make America less dependent on foreign sources of energy, eventually by up to a million barrels of oil a day."

Sen. Ted Stevens, (R-Alaska), who has fought 24 years to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil companies,

acknowledged it still could be "a long process" before a final drilling measure clears Congress.

The House did not include an Arctic refuge measure in its budget, a difference that will have to be worked out in future negotiations.

The Senate made clear by yesterday's vote that a majority now supports tapping what is believed to be 10.4 billions or more of barrels of oil within the refuge's 1.5 million-acre coastal plain, Sen. Lisa Murkowski, (R-Alaska), said.

Two years ago, a similar attempt to use the budget process to open the refuge failed by three votes.

The oil industry has sought for more than two decades to get access to the oil. In 1980, Congress said the oil could be developed, but only if lawmakers specifically authorized the Interior Department to sell oil leases. Congress has failed to do so repeatedly.

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Fourth CFO ties Scrushy to fraud

BIRMINGHAM (AP) — A fourth former HealthSouth Corp. finance chief linked Richard Scrushy to a huge fraud, testifying Wednesday the former CEO answered concerns about overstatements by saying "all public companies fudge their numbers."

Tadd McVay testified yesterday he met with Scrushy in 2002 to express his concerns about the "disparity" between the cash shown on HealthSouth's balance sheet and the amount of money available on a daily basis.

McVay said Scrushy, who was board chairman at the time after briefly relinquishing the title of chief executive, assured him that he and then-CEO Bill Owens "were committed to correcting the inflation of cash."

"He made a comment that 'All public companies fudge their numbers,'" he said.

McVay also corroborated earlier testimony from

Owens about some of the palace intrigue that was going on at the rehabilitation chain: Fears of bugged offices and a secret meeting where Scrushy's removal was discussed.

On cross-examination, McVay denied suggestions by defense lawyer Jim Parkman that someone other than Scrushy first used the term "fudge."

Parkman returned to what has become a familiar defense theme by pointing out Scrushy did not explicitly discuss committing a crime.

"Do you ever recall Mr. Scrushy using the word 'fraud?'" Parkman asked.

"I do not recall one way or the other," said McVay.

Some of Parkman's questioning appeared to backfire, however.

McVay said, for the first time under defense questioning, HealthSouth's cash flow got so bad the company was

holding checks for a lack of money. He said Scrushy personally told him to release two checks, one for a donation to the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame, another for clothes for a "girl band" Scrushy was promoting. The all-female pop act, 3rd Faze, has since disbanded.

Parkman's questioning of McVay also brought out that major shareholders, including Fidelity Investments, wanted Scrushy ousted before the scandal became public, with one fund manager predicting HealthSouth share prices would double if Scrushy were fired.

Scrushy could be sentenced to life imprisonment if convicted of directing what prosecutors have described as a \$2.7 billion earnings overstatement that ended in 2002 after seven years. Scrushy wanted share prices high so he could make millions from salary, bonuses and stock sales, prosecutors

claim.

The defense contends Scrushy aides committed the fraud on their own and lied to him to cover it up.

McVay and Owens are among 15 former HealthSouth executives who have pleaded guilty in the scheme.

McVay portrayed Scrushy as being obsessed with the company's stock prices.

He said Scrushy "very frequently" asked about the price of HealthSouth shares. Jurors saw e-mails from McVay to Scrushy detailing even small price moves.

McVay said he learned of the fraud in September 2002, the month after he became CFO, during a meeting with assistant controller Emery Harris, who told him revenues had been overstated for years and cash was inflated on the balance sheet.

Harris also has pleaded guilty.

ONLINE

From page 1

and quality centric model," Farrell said, in a news release. "The ONLINE program features real interaction with outstanding faculty members in a collaborative, high-touch environment."

The ONLINE program will include options to achieve a board of regent's degree, bachelor's degrees in safety and elementary education and a master's degree in secondary education.

"Marshall University ONLINE is in line with Governor Manchin and First Lady Gayle Manchin's initiatives to create greater access for students and potential students to higher education," Keith Spears, vice president for communication and development, said. "We are the technical leader in the state. 'Chancellor Mullen recognized Marshall as the leader in higher education technology in this state.'"

Marshall will also play host to online learning resources for Glenville State College and Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College, Spears said.

The online courses are set to open in the 2005-06 academic year.

"Marshall University ONLINE expands lifelong learning educational opportunities for all students, from high school to senior citizens," Farrell said.

During the afternoon, Farrell also taped part of an upcoming "Headliners" show with Gayle Manchin discussing her role in higher education.

As part of the action-packed day, Sen. Robert Plymale, chair of the senate education committee, announced the Higher Education Flexibility Bill to be filed with legislature today.

"The bill [if passed] will add power to Marshall and West Virginia University specifically that is different from other colleges and universities around the state," Farrell said. "As soon as we get it tomorrow we will read it and study what it will do for Marshall."

The bill would alleviate the two universities of some bureaucratic obligations and help administrative processes run faster, he said.

Upcoming interaction includes Marshall Day at the state capitol April 6.

House strips revenue provision from ethics law

CHARLESTON (AP) — The recently revamped Ethics Commission could lose a source of revenue after the House of Delegates voted Wednesday to reroute the fees it collects from lobbyists.

On a voice vote, the House amended Gov. Joe Manchin's pending ethics bill (SB153) to send the estimated \$100,000 in fees to the Legislature-controlled general revenue fund. Lobbyists fees had been earmarked for a special fund created to benefit the watchdog agency.

"One of the things we want this group to be is objective," House Finance Chairman Harold Michael,

D-Hardy, an amendment co-sponsor, said. "I didn't think that it was proper for them to have an incentive to charge people money."

The pending bill aims to "fix" the ethics law passed during January's special legislative session. It would remove a "gag order" provision targeting people who disclose Ethics Commission complaints. It would also restore penalties for people who provide false information to the commission.

Before Wednesday's amendment, the bill had not addressed fees.

"The governor has been clear that he wanted the bill to be approved as intro-

duced," Manchin spokeswoman Lara Ramsburg said Wednesday. "Our legal counsel is reviewing today's change to gauge its implications."

Manchin has also proposed tripling the commission's budget to \$1 million. Lawmakers have yet to take up the governor's budget bill.

Though signed into law last month, the ethics overhaul legislation does not take effect until July 1. Among its numerous measures, it increases lobbyist registration fees to \$100 and adds a \$100-per-client charge.

The special fund would

only collect fees, not fines leveled against ethics offenders, that also increased by the special session legislation.

Manchin's budget request and the special fund respond to concerns that the commission has lacked the money needed to monitor the ethical conduct of lobbyists and public officials. The special session legislation only adds to those duties.

"This is something the commission had requested," Executive Director Lew Brewer said. "When an agency provides services to people they get the revenue from the fees charged for such services."

ACADEMY

From page 1

County in Ohio.

"The volunteers will most likely stay in their local area," Staker said. "However, the option to travel to other locations is available if they would like to do so."

He said all classes and training offered by the Red Cross are free and cover many aspects of community assistance.

Many volunteer positions

are available and the Red Cross offers cross training to prepare volunteers for the various tasks they might perform.

Staker also said internship opportunities are available to students interested in helping the community and gaining some credit hours in the process.

Scott Fulton, a part-time volunteer of 22 years, said he realizes the difference the Red Cross makes in people's lives.

"It feels good every day," he said. "Being disabled myself,

I know how important it is to have a helping hand when you really need one."

Fulton also stressed that the Red Cross treats all of its clients equally, regardless of income or social status.

"We provide those in need of assistance with quality care," he said. "They get a feeling of something given rather than being given someone else's leftovers."

Students and members of the community interested in volunteering or interning at the Red Cross can contact Staker at 526-2902.

INVENT

From page 1

already in existence, but there were difficulties when it was tried on a larger scale. In If the pair continues to accomplish their goals, fellow Marshall students and graduates could reap the benefits.

"We hope to employ fellow Marshall students and graduates," Gregg said.

about three weeks, a machine based on the small-scale production processes was developed that would create DNA continuously, rather than in small batches.

Chemistry Professor Michael Norton later became interested in the work, and helped educate the students about biotechnology and helped create the machine.

In the summer of 2003, the pair formed Vandalia Research, LLC, and filed for a patent on the machine this spring. They named their machine the Triathlon Thermal Cycler.

Gregg said they hope to build on the success the machine has given them.

"We plan to build a company based around the Triathlon technology and sustain its growth with new

innovations, particularly in instrumentation," he said.

Swick and Gregg are not new to presenting their research.

Gregg said the two have shown their work at Research Day at the capitol, to several groups of potential investors and venture capitalists, and at EPSCoR

day.

In the next few weeks they will be presenting to the Huntington Rotary Club, and the WV Space Grant Consortium.

Swick and Gregg were named second runners-up in the WV Undergraduate Researcher of the Year Competition at the capitol.

Sculptures Salon

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Parthenon friend Illegal Ben
Things not to drink today

1. cyanide
2. toilet water
3. "yellow" beer
4. soda
5. absinthe because it's illegal



SOLID AS A ROCK

The proposed plans for Marshall's new fitness center are based on a very stable foundation.

story by Keely Martin, reporter

After a hectic school day, some Marshall students head to the fitness center only to be frustrated by an overcrowded facility and outdated equipment, leaving many students to imagine how they could be pumping iron in a new recreation center at West Virginia University.

Having approximately 25,000 students and higher tuition and student fee rates, WVU is distinctly different from Marshall. When it comes to a health and wellness center, some Marshall students cannot help but compare the facilities.

"The difference between the wellness centers is WVU has a facility and Marshall has a gym with fitness equipment," Courtney Nelsen, a sophomore communications disorders major from New Martinsville, said. "The two are not comparable because the recreation center at WVU is bigger and better."

Student Government Association President Jenn Gaston and Vice President Chris Hickock proposed the idea of a new wellness center to the Board of Governors last semester.

"In order to remain competitive, Marshall is in dire need of a health and wellness center," Gaston said. "Exceptional, intelligent, active students are discarding Marshall's prominence because other university's can provide a health and wellness facility."

The need for a new facility was an issue in the recent SGA campaigns.

According to the newly elected SGA president and vice president's Web site, Michael Misiti and Nikki Brown jointly address their "pursuit to initiate the start of the health and wellness center" as one of their top ten issues to tackle.

According to the WVU Web site, the recreation center offers two swimming pools, two gyms, a 50-foot rock climbing wall, an indoor track and other amenities. Meanwhile, the facility is spread over 12 acres on the Evansdale campus.

"Our fitness center is often overcrowded and some of the equipment is dated," Heather Butts, a freshmen pre-med major from Grafton, said. "New equip-

**In order to
remain competitive,
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need of a health and
wellness center.**

Jenn Gaston
SGA president

ment and more room is vital to a growing Division 1-A university."

According to a WVU news release, "a student recreation fee approved by students in 1997 will pay for the facility, the fee amounts to \$90 for a regular semester and a maximum of \$45 for a summer semester."

Marshall students pay approximately \$75 in student recreation fees.

According to Marshall interim president Mike Farrell in an article in the Huntington Herald-Dispatch, if plans for a new fitness center are put into effect, Marshall students can expect to pay up to \$100 a semester.

Justin McKinnis, a senior marketing major from Gallipolis, Ohio, just wants a facility that students can be proud of, that is up-to-date, clean and spacious.

"I'm tired of dodging exercises and altering my own, because of traffic and lack of space," he said.

Farrell has six top priorities for his term including, "intensifying the efforts to secure funding for an on-campus student health and wellness center, which Marshall students overwhelmingly support," according to the Marshall website.

Gaston said the ultimate goal of Marshall is to create a facility that will be highly competitive with WVU and other universities in Conference USA.