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## The Parthenon, April 7, 2005

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## Today's Forecast



### THUNDER STORMS

High: 67  
Low: 51

Volume 106 Number 87

www.marshallparthenon.com

Page edited by Cara Bailey

## SGA Senate working to fill vacancies

**"The Senate is only  
as strong as the  
people involved."**

**Ben Sandy**  
Senate president pro-tempore

by **MEGAN D.  
BARBOUR**  
reporter

The Student Government Association Senate is wrapping up the semester by planning for next year.

Ben Sandy, Senate president pro-tempore, is working with members of the Senate to make next year's senators the best they can be.

Sandy is encouraging students to become involved with SGA by applying for seats in the Senate.

There are currently 12 seats available. There is one seat open for the Lewis College of Business, two for the College of Education and Human Services, five for the Community and Technical College, two for the School of Health Professions, one for the University College and one Regent seat.

More seats may be available once the census is taken.

Please see **SENATE, P3**

# Parthenon

Marshall University's student newspaper since 1911

## THURSDAY

April 7,  
2005



ERIKA HART

**"THE MOST  
IMPORTANT THING IS  
I'VE ACCEPTED MYSELF,  
AND AS LONG AS I'M  
TRUE TO MYSELF,  
EVERYTHING FALLS  
IN LINE."**

TAMI WYNOTTE  
DRAG SHOW EMCEE

## FEEL LIKE A

# NATURAL WOMAN

by **DANA C. BATEMAN**  
reporter

The audience cheered and applauded as eight drag queens, dressed in sequins, tassels and leather, took the stage for the third annual Lambda Pride Week Drag Show in Marco's last night.

Tami Wynotte, emcee and Miss West Virginia Pride 2001, opened the show with a dance rendition of Gordon Lightfoot's "If You Could Read My Mind." During the show, the drag queens lip sync and danced to music by artists including Cher and Gwen

Stefani for a crowd of about 100.

Jillian Spurlock, a junior communications disorders major from Huntington, said she thought the show was excellent.

"You can really tell they put a lot into it to really get people to come out and support the Lambda Society," she said.

Shannon Obarski, a junior criminal justice major from Huntington, said she enjoyed the show.

"It's not what I expected," she said. "I just thought they'd just be walking across the stage. I think it's great that everyone can come out and be who they are. They don't have to feel different or act

different because of their sexual preferences."

The Marshall University Lambda Society sponsored the show as part of Pride Week.

"Drag is a very important part of the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender community," Ardith Michaux, vice president of the Lambda Society, said. "The drag queens many times are an outreach into the community."

They educate the community about issues that affect the LGBT community and do community service, she said.

The drag queens have had mixed reactions from family and friends about their lifestyle.

Wynotte said her true friends have accepted her, but she said most importantly she has accepted herself.

"The most important thing is I've accepted myself, and as long as I'm true to myself, everything falls in line," Wynotte said.

Tessa Taylor, who has been a drag queen for seven months, said her family and friends have been very supportive of her.

"I'm very lucky to have the support system I do," she said. "Not everyone is as lucky in that respect."

However, not all of them have

Please see **DRAG, P3**

## LGBT hosts gay rights speaker

by **SAMIR ABDEL-AZIZ**  
reporter

Marshall students and others of the community gathered last night to listen to Elizabeth Birch, former executive director of the Human Rights Campaign.

The Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Outreach Office, which sponsored the event titled "The State of Gay Rights Today" opened up the program.

"This is the biggest thing we've ever done," Doug Evans, one director of the LGBT, said.

The Human Rights Campaign is the largest LGBT advocacy group in the United States. While Birch was executive director, the organization grew from 100,000 members to 500,000 members.

Birch began her speech by talking about the reason why she

**"I believe people are fundamentally good  
at heart, until you put two words together.  
Gay marriage."**

**Elizabeth Birch**  
speaker

came to West Virginia and the story of two male penguins from a New York zoo. The penguins are unusual because they are apparently homosexual and she used this as a loose example for homosexual relationship. Then she spoke about her own background.

"I was this little girl running through the forest," Birch said. "I started realizing I was different and if I didn't leave my small town, it would crush my spirit. I traveled the world and realized that for all its foibles that at least we can survive here. There

are places you can barely survive as a woman, let alone as an out lesbian."

Birch criticized how with all the problems America faces, why gay marriage is something that has to be stopped right now.

In a country where three out of five lesbians are mothers and one out of every five gay men were fathers it was an important issue, Birch said.

"Gay people are not just born in nice, left liberal families," Birch said. "They are born even

Please see **BIRCH, P3**

## MU Autism Training Center helps nation

by **CYNTHIA B. SCHNABLY**  
reporter

West Virginia is leading the way to unlocking the secrets of autism.

The West Virginia Autism Training Center at Marshall University has collaborated with the National Center for Disease Control to start the first West Virginia Autism and Developmental Monitoring Program.

This surveillance program, which is funded by federal grants through the National Center for Disease Control, is trying to determine the number of children with autism in West Virginia and plans to compare the results to determine if the number has increased or decreased when com-

pared to previously published numbers.

The study began in 2000 and the WVATC plans to release the results the first week in May.

Seventeen states including Arizona, Florida, South Carolina and Georgia have joined West

Please see **AUTISM, P3**

on  
the **Web**

More information about  
WVATC is available by  
visiting  
[www.marshall.edu/coe/atc](http://www.marshall.edu/coe/atc)

## 'Under the Dome Top' at Third House

by **NICOLE YOUNG**  
executive editor  
and  
**RASMIYA SPORNY**  
news editor

Making fun of the state legislature is something most journalists do behind closed doors, but when the members of the Capitol Press Corps took the stage last night, no legislator was safe.

Third House, in its 16th year of satire and skits, performed to a near-capacity crowd in Charleston's Cultural Center. Poking fun at everyone involved in West Virginia politics from Governor

Joe Manchin to former House of Delegates Education Chairman Jerry Mezzatesta, Third House is the biggest fundraiser for the W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications, Susan Nicholas, WSAZ news anchor and SOJMC Alumni Association president said.

"The event is a lot of work, but a lot of fun," she said.

Kennie Bass, WCHS sports anchor and other members of the Daily Mail, Charleston Gazette, the Associated Press, WQBE and Public Broadcasting performed songs and skits with placards around their necks, dropping

not-so-subtle hints as to whom they were mocking.

Kicking off the show with a Charleston version of "Under the Board Walk," Bass sang "Under the Dome Top," referring to the capitol dome as the "world's biggest condom."

Manchin even took part in the show, taking the stage and proclaiming he had passed legislature making him the head of Third House and could be held accountable for all comedy.

"With me running Third House, jokes will be funnier,

Please see **SATIRE, P3**



photo by Rick Hays

Capitol Press Corp performs "If we were a rich state", the closing skit for Third House. The event focused on members of the media performing political satire.





Students in Lorraine Anderson's industrial relations class take notes on an arbitration presented in the Drinko Library.

## Industrial relations students observe arbitration cases

by SHANE S. IRWIN  
reporter

Textbooks are limited in the material they provide to students, but those in Professor Lorraine Anderson's Industrial Relations class do not have to worry about relying solely on what their textbooks tell them.

Industrial relations students were presented Monday while two arbitration cases were heard in Drinko Library Room 402.

Anderson, also the associate dean of the Lewis College of Business, said there are many different aspects that go into the class.

"One of the topics is arbitration, which is one of the mechanisms that labor and management use when they reach an impasse either on contract negotiation or in issues of an employee's rights," she said.

One of the cases heard involved the misuse of West

Virginia Turnpike EZ Passes by Norfolk Southern employees. The other case involved an altercation between two Norfolk Southern employees.

Tom McCoy, general chairman of the Affiliated System Federation, was one of the union representatives present.

"This was a real life experience and it is these things that cannot be taught from a textbook," McCoy said. "I also am interested in working with Marshall in this program to bring in other real life experiences for the students if there is any interest."

Anderson said she chose McCoy because she knew the kind of work he did.

"I was aware of the fact that he represents at least 1,000 union members for the railroad," she said. "I always try to balance my guest speakers between

those who are union representatives and those who represent management."

Also representing the union at the arbitration was Donald Bartholomay, Public Law Board Coordinator for the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way, Employees Division of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

Working for labor relations of Norfolk Southern, were Dennis Kerby and Matt Holt. The arbitrator for the cases was Dennis Campagna, a professor at Cornell University in Buffalo, N.Y., and director of labor and management programs for the Great Lakes region.

Anderson said she was extremely happy with the way the arbitration went.

"I was exceedingly proud of my students for showing tremendous insight into the delicate issues that revolved around each case," she said.

## Career Services lists job opportunities

by E. KIRSTEN KING  
reporter

Career Services might be able to help students looking for part-time jobs.

Through the Career Services Center, the Financial Aid Office sponsors the Job Location and Development Program that helps students find part-time jobs.

"Students can apply at anytime," Amber Bentley, student jobs coordinator, said. "If a student is looking for an internship, they really need to do it the semester before they are interested in doing it."

She said for most of the internships, students must apply at least the semester before.

"For instance, most of the internships that will start in June had deadlines to apply in December," Bentley said.

She said the Career Services Center receives at least one or two new job offers a day. Bentley said it might not be the job a student

**It is best if a student can work in their future field... but the important thing is that they are working.**

— Amber Bentley, student jobs coordinator

is looking for, but it will still help them financially.

"Jobs have come in one day and two days later the job has been filled," she said. "It's just how quickly students will reply and how professionally they apply."

Bentley said they try to place students in jobs that correspond with their major, but it is not always possible.

"It's really up to the student," she said. "We try to provide them with a variety of job opportunities. It is best if a student can work in their future field. It especially looks good on their resume, but the important thing is that they are working."

Jack Toney, director of financial aid, said the program is funded through federal grants.

"About 10 percent of the federal grant money is spent on the program," he said. "The program costs roughly \$40,000 a year."

Bentley said it is up to the student to get a job because they can only provide them with a list of available jobs.

"Once students apply, that is not the end," she said. "They need to follow-up once they submit that first application because a lot of employers want to see that initiative with a follow-up call, cover letter, etc."

Bentley said students do not have to be eligible to receive financial aid to participate in the program.

Students can contact the Career Services Center for more information at phone number 696-2370.

## 'If it don't fit, you must acquit'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Johnnie Cochran Jr.'s most celebrated clients, O.J. Simpson and Michael Jackson, joined civil rights figures and Hollywood stars at the lawyer's funeral yesterday, remembering Cochran's cunning legal skills and his commitment to the people he represented.

Cochran, 67, died March 29 of an inoperable brain tumor at his home in Los Angeles. He was diagnosed with the tumor in December 2003.

"He didn't just love justice or admire justice, he did justice, he achieved justice, he fought for justice, he made it happen," said Mayor James Hahn, the former Los Angeles attorney and a Cochran friend.

The Rev. Al Sharpton drew applause from the packed West Angeles Cathedral — a throng that ranged from the Rev. Jesse Jackson to Michael Jackson — by describing the emotional aftermath of the Simpson trial.

"We didn't clap when the acquittal of Simpson came for O.J.," Sharpton said. "We were clapping for Johnnie."

"We were clapping because for decades our brothers, our cousins, our uncles had to stand in the well with no one to stand up for them. And finally a black man came and said, 'If it don't fit, you must acquit,'" he said, referring to Cochran's famous quote from Simpson's sensational trial about a glove found at the murder scene.

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## 'Idol' replacement voted off

**NEW YORK (AP)** - Nikko Smith, dubbed the "come-back kid" by Paula Abdul, was voted off "American Idol" last night.

Smith was previously eliminated from the Fox show, but was allowed to return when Mario Vazquez withdrew from the contest March 13. The son of baseball great Ozzie Smith, Nikko's rendition of "One Hand, One Heart" from "West Side Story" failed to impress judge Simon Cowell.

"Even though you ended

well, the first part of the song was out of tune," Cowell said after Smith's performance Tuesday night.

When the votes were tabulated yesterday [host Ryan Seacrest said 32.8 million were cast], Smith, Vonzell Solomon and Scott Savol had the fewest. After Smith was announced as the lowest vote-getter, he remained unbowed.

"Y'all gonna see me again," Smith said.

Vazquez left "Idol" just after the final dozen contestants were decided. The

Bronx-born singer said he quit to focus on his personal life. Smith had been voted off the week before and was selected to replace him.

Though they received enough votes to last another week, two contestants were especially relieved after weak performances on the Tuesday showtune-themed show.

Cowell deemed Bo Bice's rendition of "Corner of the Sky" "a mess," and called Anthony Federov's version of "Climb Every Mountain" "hideous."

## AUTISM

From page 1

Virginia and the CDC in the struggle to determine how many children have autism.

The data for the project was collected by abstractors, which receive intensive training and must follow strict guidelines set by the CDC, Julie O'Malley, surveillance project coordinator, said.

"We look for reports containing the characteristics of autism," she said. "The reports have no personal identifiers. It is all numbers and no names."

When an abstractor finds a report that could be autism, the file is then sent to another researcher for further review.

"Seventeen states are now doing the surveillance," Barbara Becker-Cottrill, director of the WVATC, said. "Only five are doing the 2000 study. The other states are doing a 2002 study, which we

are also going to compare our data to itself."

The interest in determining the number of children with autism began in 2003 when the California Department of Developmental Services added 3,125 new cases of autism in one year, Becker-Cottrill said.

This increase brought autism from 3 percent of all developmental disorders to 41 percent, making it the fastest growing developmental disorder in California.

As a result, the CDC decided to conduct a national test to determine the number of autism cases in the United States.

"We [WVATC] have worked with the CDC previously and they approached us about this project," Becker-Cottrill said. "The Autism Training Center has a national reputation that has helped bring funding and studies directly to Marshall."

West Virginia was the

first state to join and begin the national survey.

"The study is a Marshall University Autism Training Center study that is done in collaboration with the Center for Disease Control," O'Malley said. "A majority of the abstractors started as Marshall graduate assistants. I actually began as a graduate assistant in this program."

The results of the 2000 study are being analyzed and will be released along with the other four states' results at a conference in Boston.

"We do not have the actual result," Becker-Cottrill said. "We can say that the rate will be higher than the previously published rate of four or five in every 10,000. And, the rate will probably be significantly higher in our state [West Virginia]."

More information about the surveillance program or the WVATC can be found by visiting [www.marshall.edu/coe/atc](http://www.marshall.edu/coe/atc).

## SENATE

From page 1

Every semester student government uses the results of the census, which shows how many students are enrolled in each college, to determine how many seats should be available in the Senate.

Each senator represents 500 students for the college he or she is representing.

It is important that the Senate be made to include as many students as possible, Sandy said.

"The Senate is only as strong as the people involved," he said. "I feel that the more people we have in the Senate the more things we can accomplish."

Selena Roberts, a sophomore from Elizabeth, W.Va., and a senator for the College of Education and Human Services said she became interested in student government because she wanted to help represent the students.

"I think it's important that the students have a voice in the university and SGA is a great way to make sure that voice is heard and respected," she

said.

C. W. Dolin, a junior from Danville, and a senator for the College of Liberal Arts said he joined the Senate because he had always been interested in student government, but never had the opportunity until this past fall.

"I think it's good because you help represent the students," he said. "The things you've always wanted you can finally help decide on."

Both Roberts and Dolin filled vacant seats when they first joined the Senate.

Representing the students is the number one priority of the Senate and to ensure the Senate runs smoothly, Sandy said. The bylaws and election rules are also being amended.

Jennings Starcher, the election commissioner for the spring 2005 elections, presented the Senate with a list of personal recommendations for changes to the election rules.

There were some problems in the interpretations of the bylaws and removal processes when Jack Olshan, former senator, was removed from his seat, Sandy said.

"We're defining many gray areas that are in the

bylaws and this will prevent future situations like those that occurred earlier this year," he said.

Sandy is also working with Jeannette Kripas, community service chair, to increase the number of community service hours each senator is required to complete per semester from five to 10.

The funding packets available to student organizations are also going to be put on the SGA Web site, Sandy said.

"The packets are going to be updated and placed on the Web site, which is still under construction," he said.

"The main problems with the packet are that one, no one knows where the student government office is, and two, once they get up there they can't find them. Putting the packets online will increase availability for every organization."

Since Sandy took office, the senators have passed 32 bills, which provided up to \$500 for each organization.

Students interested in finding out more about the seats open in the Senate should inquire in the SGA office Room 2W29 of the Memorial Student Center.

## SATIRE

From page 1

songs better and yes, insurance rates will go down," he said.

Keith Spears, Marshall University vice president for communications and marketing, said Man-chin's poke at himself was the highlight of the night.

"It showed his character," he said. "It really shows the spirit this kind of show entails for the state."

Spears also said events like Third House encourage professional journalists to look back at their Alma Mater and helps to Marshall's add to profile.

"This is an opportunity for the School of

Journalism to shine before state leaders," he said.

In previous years, the event has raised as much as \$14,000, Nicholas said. It is too soon to know how much was raised this year, but she said the SOJMC Alumni Association would be pleased with any amount.

## Pregame Warm-Up.

The Marshall Hall of Fame Cafe has just the thing to warm up your pallet before the big game. Outstanding cuisine surrounded in great memories of yesterday and today.

## BIRCH

From page 1

in Evangelical Christian households."

Turning her attention toward the past November election, Birch commented on how Gay rights were more in jeopardy than ever.

**"I hope we are moving forward with gay rights."**

— Christina Wass, elem. education senior

"We are screwed," Birch said. "We are in a dangerous time, and we have two giant waves coming together to form the perfect storm. We have spent 300 years trying to expunge our worse carnal sins from

the Constitution such as racism and slavery. I believe people are fundamentally good at heart, until you put two words together: gay marriage."

Many students agreed with her assessment of where gay rights are in the United States.

"I hope we are moving forward with gay rights," Christina Wass, senior elementary education major, said. "However, I feel in my gut that we are moving backwards. There are many influential people who are against homosexuality and many people will just continue to believe what they believe."

To end her speech, Birch then commented on how in order for equality, gays and their opponents need to reach middle ground which will promote understanding.

## DRAG

From page 1

been embraced with the same acceptance.

Coco Couture has been dressing in drag for a year, but she said her family has not accepted her lifestyle.

"My family is religious and they don't accept it," she said. "We don't really talk about it, but they know what I do."

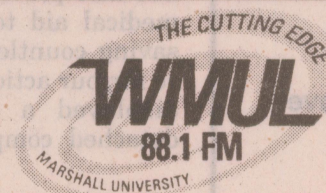
Pride Week will continue with a candlelight vigil on the Memorial Student Center plaza at 8:00 p.m. today for victims of hate crimes and AIDS.

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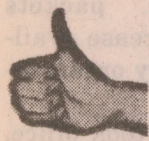
## Thumbs up and Thumbs down



Spring semester winding down



Fall class availability



Major League Baseball's opening week



MLB's steroid problem



Warm spring weather forecast



High pollen forecast



Biotech Center



Closure of lanes on Third Avenue



It is Thursday, the college student's Friday



It is still not Friday

## What would Jesus smoke?

by Brandon Niemeyer

Daily Mississippian  
(U. Mississippi)

(U-WIRE) OXFORD, Miss. — An Alaskan high school student landed a five-day suspension from school.

He wasn't involved in a fight and he didn't disrupt a classroom. No, in a 2002 parade in Juneau, Joseph Fredrick held up a sign stating "Bong Hits for Jesus." One must note the sign was not held up on school grounds. Instead, school officials at the parade saw Fredrick's sign and suspended him under the school's zero-tolerance drug policy.

The American Civil Liberties Union lost the case in a federal district court, but the case was recently picked up by the (at least in this area) infamous 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. Yes, the same appeals court that ruled the Pledge of Allegiance's statement of "Under God" to violate the constitutional boundaries of church and state will now decide if Jesus is, in fact, in favor of

bong hits.

The school's decision to suspend Fredrick runs counter to any logic contained in their reasoning. Yes, the sign referred to "bong hits," which as we all have heard from some other guy who did drugs once, is how one smokes marijuana. As those people who have done independent research also know, purchasing a bong comes with the strict warning of the bong being for "tobacco use only." No one would dare violate such a law or store policy. Tommy Chong aside, the rule is rarely enforced.

But the question isn't whether Jesus is "a friend of them long haired, hippy-type, pinko fags," in the words of Charlie Daniels, but rather if a student has free speech rights guaranteed under the First Amendment.

Fredrick had done other acts of civil disobedience before. According to a story in the Student Press Law Center, "He once refused to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance in school, hoping his defiance would illuminate the hypocrisy of a free country mandating loyalty

from students."

Fredrick does not mold to a traditional pattern of perception of the student protester. Having graduated from high school, he went to college for two years before deciding to join the Marine Corps. Not too many people I know who are active in the realms of protesting would contemplate such a maneuver, much less sign up. For some reason the Marine Corps doesn't like long-haired vegetarians who enjoy reading Jonathan Safran Foer and drinking beer on sunny afternoons.

Yet, an obviously absurd protest sign at a school should not warrant a school suspension. Much like any other religiously based sarcasm — i.e. "Nuke a gay whale for Christ" or "Who would Jesus bomb?" — "Bong Hits for Jesus" is not endorsing that Christians should smoke pot in honor of their savior. It's sarcastic and non-sensical. Or so it was intended to be interpreted.

The Supreme Court's decision of *Tinker v. Des Moines*, the High Court ruled in favor of a group of

high school students who wore black armbands in protest of the Vietnam war.

"It can hardly be argued that either students or teachers shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate," Justice Fortas wrote in the decision.

Yet, the Court did interpret that there were special circumstances involving schools and student's access to free speech rights, but still maintained students were constitutionally defined "persons" inside and outside of the school's boundaries.

Justice Fortas continued, "In our system, state-operated schools may not be enclaves of totalitarianism. School officials do not possess absolute authority over their students."

These school officials obviously had no authority over the student's free speech rights. I would hope our schools, designed to promote the free-exchange of ideas and opinions and build knowledge, would not follow the saying of Samuel Clemens, "In America — as elsewhere — free speech is confined to the dead."

## America needs to act in Darfur

by Brandon Guichard

The Collegiate Times  
(Virginia Tech)

(U-WIRE) BLACKSBURG, Va. — It is not often a decisive moment for all of humanity presents itself the way it has with the current crisis in Darfur.

Right now, 10,000 people are dying every month from the cruelty and neglect of the government of Sudan and the Janjaweed militia. The non-Arab, African population is being systematically destroyed by the curtailment of humanitarian aid.

Malnutrition and disease, which have killed 180,000 in the last year and a half, are the Sudanese government's methods of choice to ethnically cleanse Darfur, but mass murder has also been employed. By using the Janjaweed militia for its dirty work, the Sudanese government has been able to kill off hundreds of thousands of Africans as the rest of the world watches from afar.

The Bush administration deserves some credit for acknowledging the atrocities in Darfur as the foremost humanitarian problem in the world today and for forcing the issue onto center stage in global discourse. Our government has also provided food and medical aid to the region, saving countless lives. But so far, our actions have only displayed a distant and detached compassion. Am-

erica is doing nothing to actually stop the murder, rape and destruction. We are only managing the situation.

Our president's reservations and lack of decisiveness are due in large part to his oversensitivity concerning world opinion, bizarre as that may seem. Bush is excessively cautious about taking the initiative and going against the grain of the European Union, whose policy toward Darfur has thus far consisted of denial and apathy. The EU has failed to react to the situation in Darfur because it claims to be unconvinced of the need for outside involvement. Apparently, the EU is uncertain that the displacement of 2 million people and the murders of countless others qualify as genocide. They chalk up the killing to civil war, but even war is hardly ever this gruesome.

Brian Steidle, former Marine Captain and one of three American military advisers to the African Union, was witness to some of the horrific scenes that occur daily in Darfur. Steidle's job included investigating and documenting the brutality of the Janjaweed militia's campaign to rid Darfur of non-Arab Africans. Steidle has since returned from his tour of Sudan's troubled region, but in a recent interview he expressed the frustration he felt as an observer, unable to help the genocide victims. Steidle said, "Every single day you

go out and see another burned village and more dead bodies ... and the children — you see 6 month old babies that have been shot, and 3-year-old kids with their faces smashed in with rifle butts. And you just have to stand there and write your reports."

Firsthand accounts like Steidle's show the necessity for outside intervention, but there is other, more damning and disgustingly graphic, evidence of genocide. The African Union has compiled an entire archive of this visual and written evidence. The archive contains pictures of mutilated and dismembered bodies. There are also pictures of charred holes in the ground where entire villages used to stand.

The written reports being kept in the archive serve as further documentation of the crimes occurring in Darfur. One document, a proverbial "smoking gun," was seized from a Janjaweed official within the last few months. The report, reported by New York Times writer Nicholas Kristof, was dated last August and outlines the plan to ethnically cleanse Darfur, calling for the "execution of all directives from the president of the republic." These directives call for a "change [in] the demography of Darfur and [making] it void of African tribes." The directives are to be carried out through "killing, burning villages and farms, terrorizing people ... and forcing [members of African tribes] from Darfur."

The evidence is clear. In the face of this growing problem, there is no time for multilateralism. Four hundred five villages have already been destroyed with 123 more substantially damaged, and we have yet to respond. The EU's hesitation to recognize the problem in Darfur is frustrating, but it is our government's inaction that is most disheartening. The world's current political climate has made our government hesitant to act, but we can force the issue. Public opinion is still a strong influence on our politicians and they would be forced to respond if we were to follow the events in Darfur with as much interest as the Terri Schiavo story. But instead, there is no pressure on our officials to respond because we, as a nation, remain largely unaware and uneducated about the problem.

It has been reported that when Bush was reviewing Bill Clinton's ambivalence concerning the Rwandan genocide, Bush wrote in the margin, "not on my watch." But it is happening on his watch, America's watch, and it will continue to happen as long as we all remain passive and apathetic. There is genocide in Darfur and it will not stop on its own. The African Union is powerless to help and the EU is balking, but America has the power to end the massacres. The question is, are we willing to accept that responsibility and do what is right?

## the Parthenon

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## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I'd rather be a failure at something I enjoy than be a success at something I hate."

— George Burns, comedian

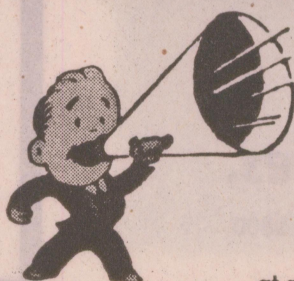
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Please keep letters to the editor no longer than 250 words. Longer letters may be used as guest columns at the editor's discretion. All letters must be signed and include an address or phone number for confirmation. Letters may be edited for grammar,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

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696-6696.





Herd pitcher Brendon Bump aims to pitch a strike in the Eastern Michigan game. The Thundering Herd will take on the Kent State Golden Flashes tomorrow in Huntington.

## Herd ready for Flashes

by **BRAD BADER**  
sports correspondent

Marshall's baseball team is getting ready for a home weekend series with Mid-American Conference opponent Kent State.

"I think they are a very similar team to what we are," coach Dave Piepenbrink said. "We're looking at [what] they're doing on the mound and in the field, and we've reached the same path as what they have."

The Thundering Herd (8-16, 3-3) is coming off of a tough series against Miami (Ohio) where they lost two out of three games.

Senior right fielder Joe

Glevenyak hit his team high fifth homerun of the year against the Redhawks. Glivenyak also holds the lead in team RBIs with 18.

On his tail is junior left fielder Aaron Levinson, who has 16 RBIs. Levinson went 4-5 with two RBIs in game two against Miami (Ohio).

"He's been slugging it real well," Piepenbrink said. "We hope it carries into this weekend."

Kent State (14-10, 2-2) recently snapped a three game skid against Duquesne Tuesday winning 10-5.

Junior infielder Drew Saylor leads the Golden Flashes in batting averag-

ing .388 and the MAC with 37 hits on the year.

"We've seen he's a very good player," Piepenbrink said. "We're familiar with him; we know how good he can be."

Junior catcher Kurt Eichorn leads the team in RBIs with 32 on the year, including three in the last game.

Kent State's junior pitcher Chad Wagler has the most wins on the season with a record of 4-1 and an ERA of 2.05.

Piepenbrink said Kent is the kind of team that will not give up no matter what the deficit is against them.

"They battle, they're a tough team to put away," he

said. "You get up a couple run and they battle back. They'll make a run every game."

The Herd dropped two of three games to the Flashes last season. Kent owns the overall series record against Marshall, winning 42 of the 59 games played.

Marshall currently sits in third place in the MAC East while Kent State is on its heels at fourth.

"It's an important weekend for them and important for us," Piepenbrink said. "We know it's going to be a close series."

The teams will start the series Friday afternoon followed by a game Saturday and Sunday.

## Tennis set for Virginia Tech



Seniors Danielle Hock (above) and Joell Good are nationally ranked No. 57 in doubles.

by **BEN HUNT**  
sports editor

With a three match winning streak under its belt, the Marshall Thundering Herd tennis team is in the swing of things heading down the final stretch of the regular season.

The Herd (10-7, 3-1 MAC) has won seven of its last 10, and the final three of those being shutouts against Mid-American Conference opponents.

The Herd will be playing its final road match of the season facing Virginia Tech (7-12, 0-8 ACC) today.

"We are a little leery of them," Marshall tennis coach John Mercer said. "They had injuries and two starters will be back for them to play us."

Marshall is ranked 67th in the latest Intercollegiate Tennis Association

poll.

Seniors Danielle Hock and Joelle Good are ranked No. 57 in doubles.

Senior Lille Nzudie said the Hokies have been the testing opponent.

"They have always been a good team to play," she said.

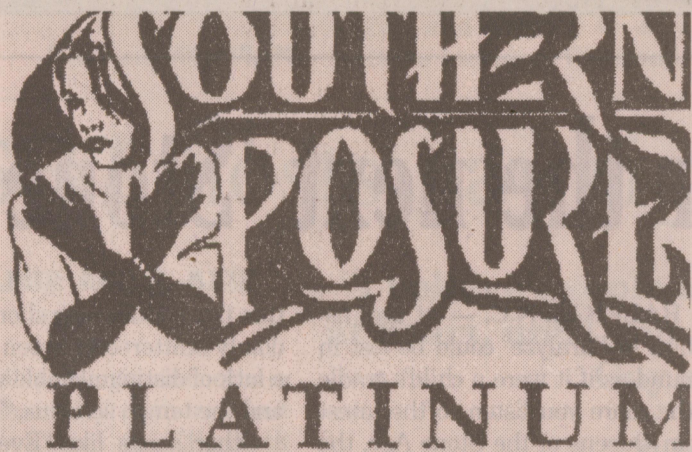
The Hokies are coming into today's match as losers of the last eight of 11 games.

Mercer said Marshall's consistency and depth would be the deciding factor in the match up.

"Some days we played well and not quite good enough on others," he said. "We have a lot of depth. Having Shannon [Brown] and Jeanne [Schwartz] at five and six is a big plus."

The Herd will finish up the regular season with five matches at home, all against conference foes.

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## Softball makes it two against Broncos

courtesy  
herdzone.com

**KALAMAZOO, Mich.** — The Marshall softball team got hot in the late frames of game two, compiling five runs on six hits in the final two innings, as MU was able to slip out of Michigan with its seventh Mid-American Conference win, defeating Western Michigan, 5-0, at Ebert Field yesterday.

Both teams could only muster one hit through five innings and there was very little action on the base path until the sixth frame when Dee Tourville got on via an error on the Bronco second baseman and back-to-back singles by Amanda and Jessica Williams loaded the bases for the meat of the lineup.

Rachel Folden had a



Leigh Wintter hit the game winning home run in game one of yesterday's doubleheader against Western Michigan.

fielder's choice at third which put Tourville out at home. Leigh Wintter then smacked a sacrifice fly to center to give Marshall (22-12, 7-1) its first run, scoring Amanda Williams. Gina Guzzo, the reigning MAC East Player of the Week, then drove a RBI double to center for the 2-0 lead.

Western Michigan (9-16, 4-3) would make the Herd work defensively in the bottom of the same inning when Danielle Daughtry got on off a walk and a fielder's choice, strikeout and error later, starting pitcher Abigail Harter would see herself in a bases loaded one-out jam. The Thundering Herd would come up big the next play, picking up the double play to end the inning and

get out of the brewing trouble.

Courtney Kacenga singled and Dee Tourville doubled to put two runners in scoring position for Amanda Williams in the seventh. Amanda Williams then launched a two-RBI double off the leftfield fence for two more Herd runs and a four-score cushion. After an Amanda Williams stolen base, Jessica Williams brought home her twin with a sacrifice fly to deep center for a 5-0 lead.

Harter tossed the complete game one-hitter for the Herd and moves to 8-4 in 2005. Kyla Sullivan took the loss for the Broncos.

Marshall will take its MAC East-leading record to Miami (Ohio) this week-end for a match-up of one v. two in the division.

MARQUEE		
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ON 3 SCREENS		
THE SEA INSIDE	PG13	1:00; 4:00; 7:00; 9:45
BEAUTY SHOP	PG13	11:50; 12:25; 1:00; 2:25; 3:05; 3:35; 5:00; 5:35; 6:15; 7:35; 8:10; 9:35; 10:10
ON 3 SCREENS		
THE RING 2	PG13	12:45; 1:40; 3:45; 4:30; 6:40; 7:30; 9:30; 9:40; 10:10
ON 3 SCREENS		
MISS CONGENIALITY 2	PG13	1:00; 1:45; 2:10; 3:40; 4:20; 4:40; 6:45; 7:20; 7:45; 9:20; 9:50; 10:15
ARMED & FABULOUS	PG13	
ON 3 SCREENS		
HITCH	PG13	11:45; 2:20; 5:00; 7:40; 10:15
CONSTANTINE	R	6:30; 9:30
BECAUSE OF WINN DIXIE	PG	12:15; 3:00
ICE PRINCESS	G	1:30; 4:45; 7:00
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5. Weather, Whether

## FILM REVIEW: Rourke saves sinful 'Sin City'

by Ben Flanagan

*The Crimson White (U. Alabama)*

**(U-WIRE) TUSCALOOSA, Ala.** — When adapting a comic book or graphic novel into a feature film, an essential priority is, of course, to be as faithful as possible to both the look and the feel of the comic's original tone.

Indeed, this ought to be a crucial goal that takes precedence in the filmmaker's mind during the process, but when it is all said and done, it should not have been the primary objective.

From the get-go, those in charge of the creative process must make the sure the project's content be riddled with enough superior-in-quality work that fully represents a highly favored cult comic in a matter of two hours. With his latest disappointing effort, "Sin City," which could have arisen as one of the film events of the decade in its mesmerizing visual style, sheer star power and shocking violence, director Robert Rodriguez might have lived by the words of one of his buddies' (Quentin Tarantino) characters in "Reservoir Dogs" and blundered another relentlessly promising idea.

When contemplating a solution to a rather dire situation, the character Nice Guy Eddie (Chris Penn) so eloquently says, "All right! First things f-king last!" Rodriguez, who I partially blame for the demise of "Kill Bill: Volume Two," (thanks to his horrific score and presence on the set) is a talented kind; there's absolutely no doubt about that.

He is a terrific editor, photographer and special effects man, but his writing and directing

skills are in question, especially when the pressure mounts of appeasing so many eager, though inevitably disappointed, fans who pray for his work to be a gas (which it has been a few times in parts with "Desperado," "Four Rooms" and "From Dusk 'Til Dawn").

Here, while receiving co-directing credit with the comic's creator Frank Miller, Rodriguez has created an artificially enhanced (thanks to green-screen technology) landscape of a violent, crime-ridden city full of rugged gangsters, crooked cops, gun and sword-yielding prostitutes and tortured rough-necks that will help rest assure the idea of "no tourism."

Three of Miller's stories are brought to life (aside from a small one, involving Josh Hartnett as a cold-blooded sweet-talker, that bookends the film), all of which are nasty, harsh tales of blood, sweat and revenge. Unfortunately, only one of them, called "The Hard Goodbye," really hits home. After this story ends, neither of the other two ever lives up to its raw intensity and entertainment value.

In full-on comic book makeup, Mickey Rourke beats his way through the role of Marv, a hoodlum who wakes up next to a dead prostitute who showed him the best time of his ugly life. Knowing he's been framed, Marv heads out to find his beloved hooker's real killer, even if it means killing cops or clergymen; and this guy not only kills whoever he has a notion might be involved, he straight-up murders

their asses, and it ain't pretty.

Rourke saves this movie from possibly finding its way into the \$5.50 bin at Wal-Mart, and he does it with more bloodthirsty gusto than he has with any other of his performances. Rodriguez owes his neck to this guy. If for no other reason, see the film for Rourke's staggering job.

As for the rest of the stories, I was somewhat disappointed. While they all looked amazing in the wonderful black and white digital photography, they lacked the punch and toughness of the first story. I wanted so much to enjoy Clive Owen's Dwight, who is unflinchingly fun to watch, but is overshadowed by the annoying Rosario Dawson and her merry band of sadistic hookers, excluding the ultra-cool Miho, played by Devon Aoki.

Also eclipsed by this irritation is Benicio Del Toro's menacing Jackie-Boy, who is often a hoot to watch, unless he's letting one of the frustrating female characters in on the dialogue.

The same goes for Bruce Willis' cop Hartigan; while he is an interesting, powerful character, his love interest, Jessica Alba, and nemesis, Nick Stahl, aren't playing the same hardball Willis is so apt to do.

Robert Rodriguez needs help, big time. I'll continue to see the guy's movies, but I won't expect them to be anything that is worth a damn anymore.

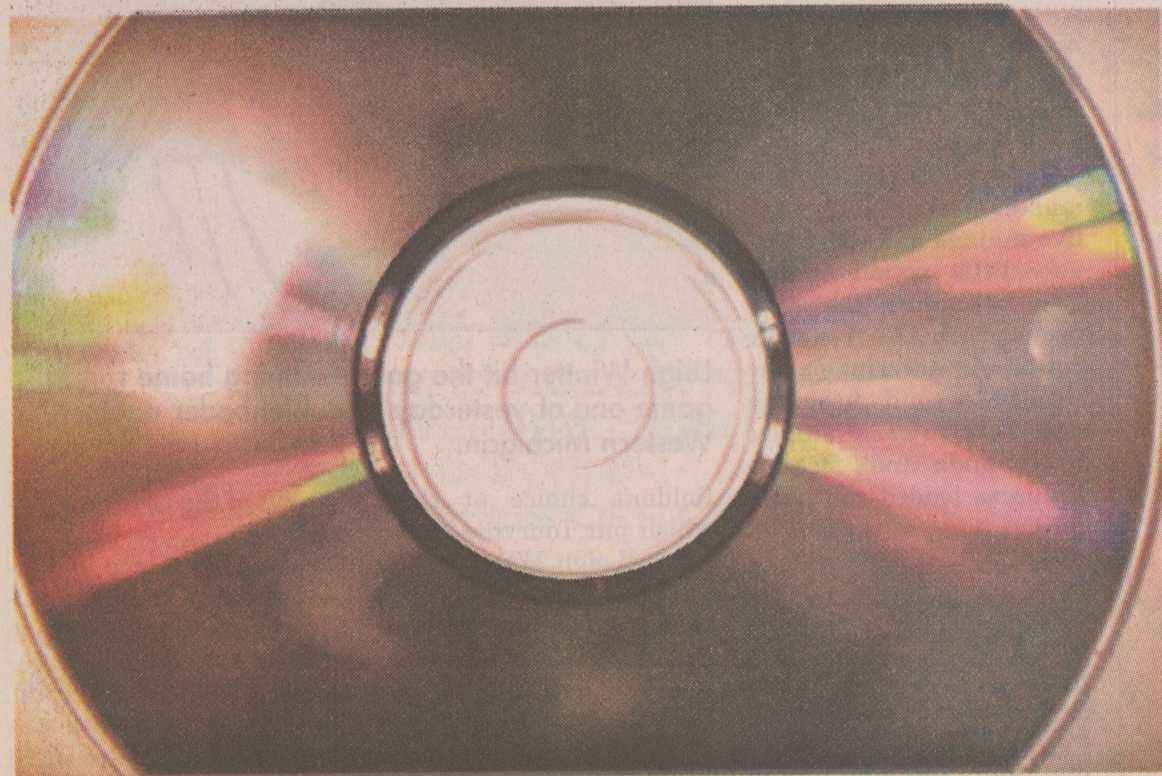
It's up to him to prove me wrong from now on. It is a sin that it had to come to this.



## CD REVIEW: Elevator music for the next 'Stone Age'

by Patrick Clarke

*Technician (North Carolina State U.)*



**(U-WIRE) RALEIGH, N.C.** — At first listen, "Lullabies to Paralyze" could be lost in the background as if it were a child's cradle song. But the more you listen to the latest release from Queens of the Stone Age, the more you are "paralyzed."

This album keeps with the theme that made the band's last release, "Songs for the Deaf," a huge success, an original, fresh and unique sound.

Lead guitarist and singer Josh Homme begins "This Lullaby" with the opening track by the same name that sounds like a song written for a movie from the Desperado series. Simple, finger-picking guitar play accents Homme's deep harmonic vocals, a combination that creates a sound similar to a music box.

Once again, this album has two made-for-radio tracks: "Little Sister" and "Medication." Released earlier in 2005, "Little Sister" was the first big Rock hit of the year despite being a bit bland and repetitive. This is one of many songs that includes a drawn-out guitar solo that creates a loss of interest. The album can get lost in the background at any point after the first track.

"Medication" follows the same formula,

this time with more short guitar solos randomly scattered between choruses. There is a lack of distinguishable verses, but the beat and the tempo screams, "This rocks."

Other songs like "Everyone Knows You Are Insane," "This Blood is Thin" and "Long Slow Goodbye" take too much time.

For fans, this album can only be viewed as a success all things considered. It was a given that Foo Fighters frontman Dave Grohl would not be making an appearance on this album. Grohl made a return to his drummer role on "Songs for the Deaf," the first time he has exclusively played drums since his Nirvana days.

Add to that the loss of founding bassist Nick Oliveri, who was fired from the band back in February by Homme. Oliveri and Homme were the only band members to contribute on every album up until this point.

There is no question the direction of the album since it has the sounds and feel of earlier works. Homme may have had too much control in the direction "Lullaby" takes, but until their next release there is no way to tell. If you are a fan of "Songs for the Deaf" you can take some pleasure in knowing that it was not the last Queens of the Stone Age album.

### Top 5 Box Office Movies

1. "Sin City," \$28.1 million
2. "Beauty Shop," \$13.5 million
3. "Guess Who," \$13 million
4. "Robots," \$10 million
5. "Miss Congeniality 2," \$8.39 million

Courtesy of [www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com)

Box Office taken from April 1 to 3

Nielsons Ratings from March 21 to March 27

### Top 5 Nielsons TV Shows

1. "American Idol" (Tuesday), Fox
2. "Desperate Housewives," ABC
3. "American Idol" (Wednesday), Fox
4. "American Idol" (Thursday), Fox
5. "Survivor: Palau," CBS