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## The Parthenon, November 6, 2008

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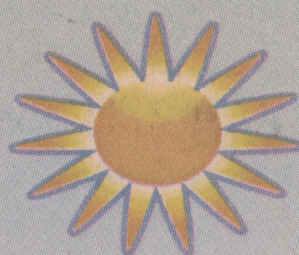
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# THE PARTHENON

WWW.MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

MARSHALL UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2008

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## Write for Life boosts money for children's hospital

BY MEGAN ARCHER  
THE PARTHENON

No child under the age of 3 had ever survived from an atypical teratoid rhabdoid tumor until the doctors at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital met Ben Bowen.

Ben Bowen was 14 months old and living in Huntington with his family when he was diagnosed with ATRT, a rare and aggressive form of childhood brain cancer. On Feb. 25, 2005, two-year-old Bowen passed away. In light of this tragedy, the doctors at St. Jude were able to take what they had learned from Bowen's condition and apply their knowledge to other cases. Since then, they have saved two children's lives, and both children have been in remission for the past three years.

Marshall's Up 'Til Dawn student organization hosted the third annual Write for Life letter writing campaign to raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital on Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Dan Warbel, associate director of the St. Jude West Virginia Office, said if it weren't for fundraising events like these, children like Bowen would have no chance to live.

"Residents of West Virginia have no idea how much the state has contributed to the continuing research development at St. Jude," Warbel said.

Warbel said Gov. Joe Manchin changed laws so that fundraising organizations such as the Write for Life campaign could raise unlimited amounts of money. West Virginia native Dr. Gregory Hale is a leading researcher for bone marrow transplants at St. Jude. Hale is a graduate from the Marshall University School of Medicine.

"It's not just the big names that have helped," Warbel said. "It's families like the Bowens and students here at Marshall who have the empathy and energy to help fight for this cause."

Students from various Greek organizations, athletic teams and the Student Government Association participated in the event that raised \$22,500 in 2007.

Emily Schoen, Greek adviser, said students were given a pre-written letter and asked to address it to their friends and families requesting donations for St. Jude to go toward cutting-edge research development. She said the goal for this year's event is not a specific monetary amount, but she hopes to earn more money than the previous year.

"The first year we did this we earned \$10,000, and the second year we doubled that amount," Schoen said. "So far this year we've topped the total number of letters written during past events, which means we've had students write over 2,500 letters."

Andrea Grier, senior business management major from Hagerstown, Md., was one of the students involved in the letter writing campaign. Grier said she found out about the event from her athletic coach who encouraged her to visit St. Jude during a leadership conference in Memphis during the summer.

"When I went to St. Jude, I had the opportunity to meet the kids and hear their stories," Grier said. "I know those families depend on these donations because it gives their children hope to live."

Grier said she encouraged Marshall athletes to join in the letter writing campaign because it has proven to raise the most money for St. Jude. She said she was also inspired to participate because of a personal experience.

"In high school, my friend Jason was diagnosed with cancer," Grier said. "He was an all-star cross country athlete and was forced to miss his entire junior year. Because of research hospitals like St. Jude, Jason was able to survive and come back for his senior year."

Warbel said St. Jude does not patent any of its research, and cures are shared freely. He said this method is helping doctors save lives all around the world. Warbel said people know that St. Jude treats children at no cost to the family.

"When a child is sick, families shouldn't have to worry about groceries or paying the bills," Warbel said. "All they need to focus on is loving their child."

Megan Archer can be contacted at archer15@marshall.edu.

## Students react to historic presidential election



Students celebrate President-elect Barack Obama's win over Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., at an election watch party in the Memorial Student Center on Tuesday night.

## Obama wins Electoral College by huge margin

BY JESSICA WINTZ  
THE PARTHENON

Marshall students joined the national celebration Tuesday as Illinois Sen. Barack Obama was elected the nation's 44th president.

When Obama is inaugurated Jan. 20, 2009, with Delaware Sen. Joe Biden as his vice president, Democrats will control both the White House and Congress for the first time since 1994.

In terms of turnout, Americans voted in record numbers. Rockthevote.com reports more than 133.3 voted for president. At the time of publication, CNN.com reports Obama has 53 percent, or 63,896,968 popular votes, and Sen. John McCain has 46 percent, or 56,412,952 popular votes based on 98 percent of the country's precincts tallied. The count in the Electoral College is 349 to 163 in Obama's favor. Unofficial results have not been posted for North Carolina and Missouri.

While thousands celebrated in Obama's hometown of Chicago, Marshall students celebrated as they watched election results in the Memorial Student Center on Tuesday night.

SEE REACTION | PAGE 5

## Plans under way for first-ever December graduation ceremony

Marshall's December graduates will be honored with a university-wide graduation ceremony for the first time ever.

A graduation convocation will be held 2 p.m. on Dec. 6 at the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center.

Roberta Ferguson, registrar and one of the organizers of the ceremony, said more than 100 students planning December graduations have confirmed they would be at the convocation. Ferguson said she is anticipating a turnout of 250 graduates for the event.

"The students wanted a December ceremony," Ferguson said, adding there had also been demand from parents to hold such a ceremony. "I am thrilled the interest has been so high, and I hope it starts a new tradition at Marshall University."

"Only 20 percent of December graduates would be in town for May graduation," Ferguson said.

The event will be "very commencement like," Ferguson

SEE GRADUATION | PAGE 5



Alicia Scarberry, senior counseling major, and Michelle Alford, senior secondary education major, buy their caps and gowns.

AUDREY HAMOY | THE PARTHENON

## Spin-A-Thon



KARA BUSSE | THE PARTHENON

Mo Khan, Heather Smith and Kevin Booker participate in the MU Spin-A-Thon. Booker raised the most money — \$120.

## Riders raise \$1,000 for cancer society

BY KARA N. BUSSE  
THE PARTHENON

Students spent their Wednesday night spinning for a cure in the annual Ride For Life MU Spin-A-Thon.

In this year's Spin-A-Thon, more than 20 students spinned for at least one hour, and 40 to 50 people gave monetary donations, Heather Smith, program manager at the Fitness Center, said.

"We hope to match the \$1,000 raised last year," Smith said. "Or even better, raise more."

This year, Kevin Booker, freshman physical therapy major from Fayetteville, W.Va., raised \$120 for the cause.

"I've always been interested in fitness so when I heard about this event I knew I would participate, and the extra credit from my teacher didn't hurt," Booker said. "It was for a good cause and was only one hour of my time."

Booker raised the money by asking his friends and co-workers at the YMCA for donations.

"I was surprised how much money 50 cents and \$1 here and there added up to," Booker said.

Mo Khan, junior exercise science major from Fairfax, Va., volunteered his time to go to local businesses to ask for donations.

"We received donations from the Funny Bone, Pita Pit, St. Mary's Medical Center, Gino's Pizza and HPT Physical Therapy Specialists," Khan said.

"I volunteered because I work in the Fitness Center, and I knew this would be a great opportunity to make a difference," Khan said. "Working this event is a great experience for supporting a good cause."

The money raised benefits the Huntington branch of the American Cancer Society. "It feels good to know that money we raise will benefit Huntington families," Smith said.

Fifteen to 20 percent of the money raised goes to the Sue Niestory-Wilson Memorial Scholarship.

"Sue was an exercise science faculty member who died about five years ago from cancer," Smith said. "She was an inspiration to all of us and was an awesome leader, even when she was sick."

One exercise student will receive the scholarship in the spring. "The scholarship is for an excellent student who volunteers and makes good grades," Smith said.

Students and faculty interested in making a donation to the American Cancer Society can donate in the Fitness Center, room 117, in Gullickson Hall through Monday. It is a tax-deductible donation and checks can be made out to MU Fitness Club, Smith said.

Next year's Spin-A-Thon will be in the fall.

"We hope to have an even better turnout next year and raise even more money in the new student recreation center," Smith said.

Kara N. Busse can be contacted at busse@marshall.edu.

## Inside The Parthenon

News | Students must meet requirements before moving out of dorms for break or face fines. Page 3

Life | The virtual world celebrates Obama's win. Page 6



## THE PARTHENON

ESTABLISHED 1898

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

### EDITORIAL

## Marshall can help save planet

### Vote for green fee initiative is small step forward

One of the issues that has been receiving a lot of attention this semester is whether or not Marshall University will join many other colleges across the nation in doing what is right for the environment by going green.

When people first hear about the green initiative in the media, the obvious thought would be to think about recycling. But in reality, it is so much more than that.

According to [gogreeninitiative.org](http://gogreeninitiative.org), a nonprofit organization designed to make lasting change in future generations' lives by protecting the environment, by 2050 there should be 9 billion people on the planet. This means we have to do more than just recycle and do a better job of conserving our depleted natural resources for the future.

Because of this, we believe it is the right thing to support a resolution on the upcoming Homecoming ballot that asks students whether they want a proposed green fee to make campus more environmentally friendly.

Originally, it was concern that a \$5 per student per semester fee might not be worth it if questions were not answered about what exactly students were voting for. When these questions were answered, fears could be contained. The money will go to things such as recycling containers, energy efficient light bulbs and a part-time employee on campus to be in charge of the whole program.

If students do vote "yes" on the Homecoming ballot for the green fee starting Monday, all that is left is proper implementation. From there, hopefully this campus can join other universities in helping the planet in a big way.

## Parthenon

online  
poll

What news channel did you watch on election night?

Answer 1 ..... CNN  
Answer 2 ..... MSNBC  
Answer 3 ..... Fox News  
Answer 4 ..... Comedy Central

Last week's poll:  
What did you think of Marshall's green helmets?

I liked them ..... 75%  
I hated them ..... 3%  
I don't care ..... 8%  
For special occasions only ..... 15%

vote at [marshallparthenon.com](http://marshallparthenon.com)

### Guidelines for letters to the editor

Please keep letters to the editor at 300 words or fewer. They must be saved in Microsoft Word or sent as an attachment. Longer letters may be used as guest columns at the editor's discretion. Guest column status will not be given at the author's request. 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. Compelling letters posted on The Parthenon web site, [www.marshallparthenon.com](http://www.marshallparthenon.com), can be printed at the discretion of the editors.

The opinions expressed in the columns and letters do not necessarily represent the views of The Parthenon staff.

Please send news releases to the editors at [parthenon@marshall.edu](mailto:parthenon@marshall.edu). Please keep in mind that stories are run based on timeliness, newsworthiness or space.

### EDITORIAL CARTOON | KRIS PLONA | THE YELLOW PAGES



### MATT SOWARDS | The Sowards Report

## Sense of hope after Tuesday's election

A little after 11 p.m. Tuesday evening, the 2008 election cycle came to a close. At that time it was announced that Illinois Senator Barack Obama will be the 44th President of the United States, effective Jan. 20, 2009.

The people of this country went to the polls, and out of that came a clear resounding choice. We chose hope over fear, change over the status quo, and the promise of a better tomorrow over simply continuing to just get by. With that, history was made and we are all a part of it. In some way, be it large or small, everyone can now say they were part of the most historic election in American history.

It is past the time to turn the page on the politics of preserving the status quo, and now we are finally ready to move into the future. With President-elect Obama we can now find an end to the war in Iraq, fix health care and restore America's standing around the world.



**Matt Sowards**  
COLUMNIST

I've never seen so much excitement throughout the electorate of this country. After I wrapped up my broadcast Tuesday evening (after four long hours of nothing but talk radio I was glad to be off air), I was walking out to my car and heard the loud sound of cheering students across campus. They were cheering about the outcome of this election. Not just here on campus, but all over the country. Every news station projected the images of parties across the nation, with a sea of people at every one; all coming together to celebrate the same common goal, the same victory, the same feeling. For the first time in so long I now see a country united.

Yes, there is still division among the ranks of our elec-

"This outcome did not bring recounts and discounts, but a winner and (it is my sincere hope) a united country."

torate. Those who voted for John McCain are sad that he is not our next president. But even Sen. McCain graciously acknowledged the outcome of the race, and encouraged his supporters to rally behind the new president-elect. This outcome did not bring recounts and discounts, but a winner and (it is my sincere hope) a united country.

I feel as though we are finally able to reclaim the vision of Camelot and President Kennedy. During his inaugural address President Kennedy challenged the American people; he told us to "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." Sadly, somewhere

between then and now, we as a nation have lost sight of that vision, we have lost our way.

Now, for the first time in my life, I believe we have a real chance to reclaim that vision and that dream. Not simply reclaiming that vision in the sense of restoring America to what it once was, but in the sense of all of us being a part of America becoming what it has always been destined to become.

Today, the beacon shines ever so bright over the United States; hope triumphs over fear and the American dream is alive and well.

Matt Sowards can be contacted at [sowards52@marshall.edu](mailto:sowards52@marshall.edu).

### YOUR THOUGHTS | Letters to the Editor

#### Chance to change campus with proposed green fee

There was an editorial last week concerning the Sierra Student Coalition's and SGAs attempt to give students the chance to vote for a proposed green fee. As a member of SSC, I hope to clarify some misconceptions about the green fee. It is not just for recycling, but for creating a green campus in general. Our vision of going green encompasses locally-grown food provided in the residence halls, energy efficiency, waste management, environmental protection and hiring a sustainability officer specifically designated to accomplish these green initiatives.

Recycling is a major issue that must be addressed on campus, and we are currently awaiting approval of a \$65,000 grant from the state of West Virginia exclusively for initiating a recycling program. The green fee would supplement the program with additional bins or supplies. Homecoming elections would provide an ideal representative sample of the students and their voice. Having

said that, it is essential that we all know what a mere \$5 per semester can accomplish. With a simple vote, we have the ability to, in one of the most positive of ways, change the manner in which an entire institution operates. It is an empowering feeling knowing that our voice can be heard and can determine a major decision that affects Marshall University and our planet! Remember to vote "yes" on Nov. 10 through 11 on myMU electronic ballot.

**Will Holland**  
member of Sierra Student Coalition

#### Students can impact Marshall for the better

Let's face it, students are the reason this institution exists and without us there would be no Marshall University. We as the student body need to be active in changing our university for the better. This is precisely why the Sierra Student Coalition and the Student Government Association call you to make the difference on Nov. 10 through 11. The SSC and SGA continue to

lobby through the Marshall Greening Committee to enact new policies that would provide recycling and hold the university responsible for its environmental impact. To all our questions like why no energy audit? Why no recycling? The answer is no money.

The green fee would allow us as a university and a community to ensure a healthy future.

This sizable fund would not be in sole control of the administration. SGAs Finance Committee, which has oversight for all student fees, would closely monitor and regulate the use of this fee each year. The student body will be well represented by its elected officials and the sustainability officer will be kept in check by the administration and finance committee. Our effect on global climate change as group of 14,000 plus students and faculty is significant, and we should be taking advantage of every opportunity to be a positive example of forward thinking to our Huntington community and other universities.

**Lauren Kemp**  
president of Sierra Student Coalition

#### Disappointed in decision of naming wellness center

As a graduate of MU's journalism program (BA 91) and sociology program (MA 97), I cannot tell you how disappointed I am in Dr. Kopp's decision to "disapprove" a recommendation to name the new recreation center after Dr. Paul Ambrose, a fellow MU grad who died in the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001.

Sadly, Dr. Kopp's statement says facilities can only be named by the Board of Governors.

I have a strange feeling that if Dr. Paul Ambrose (or his family) had donated \$50 million to the university — rather than having died in a terrorist attack on our country — Dr. Kopp would be encouraging our esteemed Board of Governors to name the facility after Paul.

I guess the ultimate price is not enough to get a name on a building at MU.

**Tina M. Alford Williams**

## THE PARTHENON | Reader information

### About us

The Parthenon, Marshall University's student newspaper, is published by students Mondays through Fridays during the regular semesters, and weekly Thursdays during the summer. The editorial staff is responsible for news and editorial content.

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## Fees charged for move out violations

BY KELSIE EBERLY  
THE PARTHENON

With fall break right around the corner, students must be aware of the procedures that go along with break housing in the residence halls.

The residence halls close at noon on Nov. 22, 2008.

"If students are going home for break and are not out by noon, they will receive an improper checkout fee of 50 dollars, which will be deducted from their student account," said LaKesha Glover, residence hall supervisor.

The only exception to this rule is if a student is approved for break housing, which is free over fall break.

Amanda Means, interim residence life specialist, said some students have to stay on campus.

"A lot of times students have jobs that inhibit them from

going home for break," Means said. "There are also international students who can not travel home for that small amount of time."

Break housing is only available in Twin Towers East and Twin Towers West.

"If you do not live there, we will find an open room," Means said. "Or, if you have a friend that lives there, you can get their permission to live in their room."

Towers cafeteria will be open during the break, but residents will have to pay to eat in it.

For those whom decide to apply for break housing, applications are available at the front desk of any residence hall and at the Department of Residence Services in Holderby Hall.

The deadline for all applications is Nov. 14, 2008.

Students going home for break need to remember to do several things to their rooms before

they leave. Emptying trash, unplugging everything except for refrigerators, locking up and turning off heat and air conditioning units and lights are all examples of the tasks residents must complete before leaving.

Residence hall staff will be checking rooms to make sure all steps were taken in order for maintenance and housekeeping duties to be completed.

"If they do not comply, they are sent a letter from their Resident Director with a warning for winter break closing," Glover said.

The halls will reopen Saturday, Nov. 29, a day earlier than last year, because of the home football game against Tulsa.

If students have any questions concerning fall break closing, contact Residence Services.

Kelsie Eberly can be contacted at eberly@marshall.edu.

### Moving out

Residence halls close at noon Nov. 22

#### Remember to:

- Empty all trash cans
- Unplug everything (excluding refrigerator)
- Turn off heat and air conditioning units
- Turn off all lights
- Make sure all windows are closed and locked

An improper checkout fee of \$50 will be charged to students who do not complete these requirements or remain in the residence halls after checkout

Residence halls reopen Nov. 29

## West Virginia voter turnout falls short of estimates

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLESTON — When West Virginia voters chose not to help Democrat Barack Obama redraw the political map with his Electoral College landslide, they also bucked a national trend that saw record turnout across the country.

An estimated 133.3 million Americans voted for president, eclipsing the previous high of 122.3 million in 2004.

But West Virginia's unofficial count of 707,700 voters is nearly 62,000 less than the number of ballots cast in 2004.

State election officials had estimated turnout might reach 70 percent this year. They cited the all-time high voter registration of 1.2 million West Virginians, and record early voting.

But unofficial figures show

that turnout was roughly 58 percent of people registered to vote. Turnout in 2004 reached nearly 66 percent.

A national expert on voter turnout said the signs of an overwhelming Obama win nationally, and a lack of enthusiasm for his alternative, tell the story.

"The question became, 'Why bother?'" said Curtis Gans, director of the nonpartisan Committee for the Study of the American Electorate at American University. "Most people (in West Virginia) didn't want to vote for Barack Obama, but they also saw a national landslide."

Gans said West Virginia voters likely, and unfavorably, contrasted John McCain with President Bush and felt that McCain fell short. The president carried the state by increasing margins in 2000 and 2004, after it had gone

with the Democrat in all but three of the previous 17 presidential elections.

McCain won the state Tuesday with an unofficial 55.7 percent of the vote. Tuesday's exit polling, meanwhile, measured Bush's approval rating among state voters at 35 percent — low, but much better than the most recent national figure of 26 percent.

Gans said this scenario replayed itself in other red states, including Wyoming and South Dakota, which saw lower turnout in an election that saw big increases in other states.

"The decline in turnout nationally was largely among Republicans, cultural conservatives who didn't see McCain as one of their own, and moderates who I think we're appalled by the selection of (Sarah) Palin," he said.

Neither presidential candidate

held a major public event in West Virginia after the May primary. Jim White, a political science professor at Concord University, considers that a factor as well.

The Obama campaign fielded a larger staff in the state, and they likely helped increase the voter rolls and early turnout. But White noted that Obama's core supporters — particularly young people, college students and minorities — aren't major segments of West Virginia's population.

McCain's campaign, meanwhile, seemed to rely on television ads, mailings and robo-calls that mostly disparaged Obama's credentials, he said.

"Negative advertising works, but the way it works is by getting your opponent's marginal supporters to stay home," White said.

Gans said the better measure

for turnout is based on the state's voting age population, rather than registration.

Tuesday's result fell below 50 percent of residents age 18 and older, compared to 54 percent in 2004.

And while the voter rolls increased in 39 of 55 counties between the 2004 and 2008 general elections, the number of votes cast actually dropped in all but seven: Berkeley, Hampshire, Hardy, Harrison, Jefferson, Morgan and Nicholas.

West Virginia saw the most voters cast ballots for president in 1952, when 882,527 voted and the state gave its electoral votes to Democrat Adlai Stevenson. A record 82 percent of voting-age West Virginians turned out in 1940, when the state helped Franklin Roosevelt win his third term.



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# THE PARTHENON

is welcoming applications for spring 2009 editors.

## Available positions:

- Executive Editor
- Managing Editor
- News Editor
- Life! Editor
- Sports Editor
- Assistant Sports Editor
- Photo Editor
- Copy Editors

Application Deadline is 4 p.m. Friday, November 21

For an application, see Nerissa Young in The Parthenon newsroom, Communications Building 109.

For more information call 696-2736 or email young263@marshall.edu.

Interviews for all positions to be announced.

The Parthenon is an Affirmative Action Equal Opportunity Employer and welcomes diversity.



## WEDNESDAY'S SCORES

### NBA

Suns ##, Pacers ##  
Pistons 100, Raptors 93  
76ers 83, Heat 106  
Bobcats 98, Knicks 101  
Hawks 87, Hornets 79  
Bulls 93, Cavs 107  
Wizards 104, Bucks 112 (OT)  
Spurs 129, T'Wolves 125 (2OT)  
Celtics 96, Thunder 83  
Blazers at Jazz (late)  
Grizzlies at Kings (late)  
Nuggets at Warriors (late)  
Clippers at Lakers (late)

### NHL

Lightning 3, Devils 4 (SO)  
Oilers 4, Blue Jackets 5  
Blues at Ducks (late)

### NCAA Football

No. Illinois 14, Ball State 45

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### Thundering Herd softball to host tournament, announces schedule

After just a handful of home games in 2008 head coach Shonda Stanton and the Marshall University softball program announced today the 2009 schedule which features 24 home games including an early season tournament.

This upcoming season's schedule will feature 12 opponents who qualified for NCAA regionals and three of those advanced to Super Regionals or further.

Before hosting its own tournament, Marshall will compete in four other tournaments starting off with the Sportco Kickoff Classic hosted by UNLV. The first game of the season against Seton Hall will mark Stanton's 500th game at the helm of Marshall softball. The team will also clash with host UNLV and UIC.

HERDZONE.COM

### ■ Volleyball

# Herd looks to bounce back

BY ARIANNA PRICE  
THE PARTHENON

After road losses to Memphis and UAB, the Herd volleyball team is back in action at the Cam Henderson Center this weekend against two conference opponents.

In the first match, Marshall will take on UFC at 7 p.m. Friday. The Herd has a record of 10-13 overall and 3-10 in Conference USA and is matched up against the 14-13 Knights. UCF has a record of 6-7 in the conference.

Earlier this season, the Herd lost to the Knights three sets to two in Orlando on Oct. 3. Junior outside hitter and middle blocker Emily Sullivan tallied 20 kills, while Senior middle and outside hitter Jalia Ross had 17 kills.

Despite these standout performances, Marshall was unable to win the match as it



JACOBS

went into a fifth set.

"They are playing very solid volleyball this season," head coach Mitch Jacobs said. "They have their own style and are playing with confidence."

The Knights' style revolves around a tempo change that has given other teams problems in the past, Jacobs said.

While the Herd has to stay focused on UCF and the Knights' tempo changes, Marshall also has to look forward to Sunday when the team takes on Southern Miss at 12 p.m.

The Golden Eagles have a record of 14-12 overall and 4-9 in C-USA.

Southern Miss defeated the Herd on Oct. 5 in Hattiesburg, Miss., three sets to two. Sophomore outside hitter Elizabeth Herman led Marshall with 14 kills.

"They are putting together some good matches," Jacobs said. "They have some good young middles with experience on the outside."

Jacobs said both UCF and Southern Miss are evenly matched to the Herd.

"We had two great matches

with these teams when we went to their places," Jacobs said. "We are three evenly matched teams, and we just have to go battle."

Jacobs said the team would stick to its routine this weekend.

"We played quite well on Sunday," Jacobs said. "We were playing a team that was very hot and we couldn't close out. We just have to stay committed to our young players getting better."

Arianna Price can be contacted at price150@marshall.edu.

# Bold predictions for NFL's second half

The 2008 NFL season has reached its halfway point and it's been a wild ride thus far. Tom Brady, the face of the league, is finished for the year, the Atlanta Falcons and Miami Dolphins are right in the thick of the playoff race and a comedy of errors is playing in Dallas right now — needless to say, it's been fun. I've taken the last couple of weeks to digest the current state of the NFL and I think its time to make a couple of bold predictions about the rest of the season.

**Bold prediction No. 1:** The New York Giants and the Tennessee Titans will not advance past their first playoff game.

The Giants have been the darling of the league this year but they have yet to deal with any adversity other than Plexiglass skipping practice and causing headaches for coach Tom Coughlin. The NFL is all about dealing with adversity — recent history proves that.

Teams that ride high all year with little problems typically don't win the big one.

The Patriots, Bears and Seahawks are all examples of teams that had little problems during the regular season but ultimately failed against a team that had to battle through a myriad of problems to win the Super Bowl.

Three years ago, the Steelers had to win on the road three consecutive weeks in order to advance to the big game. The following year the Colts were

without Bob Sanders and two defensive linemen for the majority of the season, and finally last season the Giants lost their star tight end, two cornerbacks, and also had to win three road games to get to the Super Bowl. All three teams found their team chemistry at the right time. Teams that peak too early are usually easy outs.

Which leads us to the Titans. No team is playing better football right now. But the Titans also lead the NFL in turnover margin which can sometimes lead to a misleading record.

In the 1990's, the Kansas City Chiefs were the No. 1 seed in the playoffs twice with the exact same formula that the Titans are using right now. They had the highest plus-minus ratio in the



SETH CRABTREE

Drinkin' the Kool-Aid

league, a strong rushing attack and savvy veteran quarterback play, couple that with a physical defense and a head coach with mucho experience and the Chiefs rolled through the regular season.

What exactly did that get them?

Nothing. They were exposed in the playoffs as a very vanilla team, and when teams thrive on turnovers to win games eventually they aren't there anymore.

**Bold prediction No. 2:** I am going to catch a lot of flak for this but here it goes. The Miami Dolphins will play for the AFC Championship.

Miami came into the season with little to no hope of making anything happen this year after last season's 1-15 debacle, but then a funny thing happened — Brett Favre decided to come out of retirement and Chad Pennington was released by the Jets.

The Dolphins quickly picked him Pennington off the waiver wire, giving them stability at the quarterback position for the first

time since Dan Marino retired. Pennington is on his way to winning Comeback Player of the Year for the second time in his career. His quarterback rating is fifth in the league and no player has instilled more confidence in his team the way Pennington is doing right now.

Miami has already defeated both of last season's AFC championship game contestants so it's not like they are winning games against nobodies. They are two close losses, to the Jets and Texans, from being 6-2. How are they doing this?

The defense has been superb, led by Joey Porter, who is having a career year, and the running game is solid as a rock. Both Ronnie Brown and Ricky Williams are having solid seasons.

Recent history has shown in order to win in the playoffs, having two quality running backs is a must.

Yet this still doesn't explain my prediction.

No team in the NFL has an easier road from this point on.

The Dolphins play home games against Seattle, Oakland, New England and San Francisco. They have to travel to St. Louis, Buffalo, Kansas City and the New York Jets. Five of these teams are down right awful, and the Dolphins have already defeated the Patriots in Foxboro and Buffalo in Miami.

Karma is a funny thing. Last season all the talk was about the possibility of the Patriots going undefeated and the Dolphins going winless, but the Patriots choked in the Super Bowl and the Dolphins pulled out a miracle victory over the Ravens at the end of the season.

In a year where the league has been thrown on its head and worst to first has been the trend in two separate professional sports it wouldn't surprise me at all to see the Dolphins shock the world and advance to their first Super Bowl since 1984.

Stranger things have happened.

Seth Crabtree can be contacted at crabtr10@marshall.edu.

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# Out & About

## Thursday, Nov. 6

- Bongo Love: Precussion from Zimbabwe**  
Smith Music Hall 8 p.m.
- Woodwind ensemble**  
Jomie Jazz Center 8 p.m.
- Big Green Endowment Dinner**  
with Dr. Mark Sheridan  
Don Morris Room 7 p.m.
- Song and Dance of West Africa**  
Performing Arts Center  
\$27.50, \$25, \$20, \$10 7 p.m.
- The Hook**  
with DJs Charlie Brown  
Superstar and Jason Dean  
Club Echo 9 p.m.
- International Tastes Day**  
Towers cafeteria 11 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.

## Friday, Nov. 7

- Kool & The Gang**  
with Culture Shock, Jim Quick,  
Coastline  
Sig Sandy Superstore Arena  
\$58 7:30 p.m.
- Rocky Horror Picture Show**  
The Cinema Theatre 9:45 p.m.
- Music Alive Series**  
with Graffe String Quartet,  
pianist Michiko Okta  
First Presbyterian Church noon
- Line Work**  
Club Echo 9 p.m.
- Poli-Technical High and Sweat Band**  
The V Club \$5 8 p.m.
- \*25th Annual West Virginia International Film Festival**  
Capitol Center Theater, through Nov. 16  
\$7, \$6 before 6 p.m.  
\$30 for 6, \$70 for 17  
Throughout the festival, 18 films will be featured. A special 25th anniversary screening of Danny Boy's "Chillers" will be shown. Award winning B.J. Gudmanson will present "Rise Up WV," a documentary on mountain top removal.

## Saturday, Nov. 8

- John Berry**  
Paramount Arts Center 8 p.m.  
\$30, \$25, \$20
- Johnny Staats, Robert Shafer**  
The V Club \$5 8 p.m.
- Boogie Nights**  
Clay Center 7:30 p.m.
- The Greens**  
Shamrock's Pub \$5 9 p.m.
- Game watching party**  
Creekside Cafe in Hurricane, W.V.a.  
Proceeds from this event will go to the Dugout Club. Head coach Jeff Waggoner will be in attendance.

- Bud Carroll and The Southern Souls with Lonely H**  
The V Club \$7 8 p.m.

## Sunday, Nov. 9

- Scott Reynolds Neilson**  
Cabell Public Library 2 p.m.  
Neilson is the author of "Steel Drivin' Man: John Henry, the Untold Story of an American Legend."
- Faculty Recital**  
L'histoire du Soldat (The Soldier's Tale)  
Smith Music Hall 8 p.m.
- The Meaning of Tea**  
Paramount Arts Center \$8 3 p.m.
- Don McClean**  
Clay Center \$15, \$25, \$35 8 p.m.

## Monday, Nov. 10

- 80's night**  
The V Club 8 p.m.

## Tuesday, Nov. 11

- Senior recital**  
Jindalay Hughes, composition  
Jomie Jazz Center 8 p.m.
- Looking Glass: Marshall University Rock Ensemble**  
Smith Music Hall 8 p.m.

## Wednesday, Nov. 12

- Oliver**  
Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center  
\$46, \$56 7:30 p.m.

\*Event continues, multiple days

# REACTION

FROM PAGE 1

For Daniel Hager, chapter coordinator for Marshall University Students for Barack Obama, the Illinois senator's presidential victory comes after Hager spent the past year campaigning and working with other students to spread Obama's message for change.

"I'm having a hard time finding the words to describe it," Hager said about Obama's victory. "It absolutely blows me away to just know how far we've come and how much work has been put into it. I couldn't even believe we had a projected winner by 11 p.m."

Hager said he and other supporters were nervous as the election results began to come in, as members of Marshall University Students for Barack Obama watched with other students

gathered in the student center. After Obama was declared the projected winner, he said all of the hard work the group put in was worth the time and effort.

"I was always cautiously optimistic," Hager said. "I never wanted to get cocky; I never wanted to assume this was in the bag and that this was definitely going to happen because we are very blessed to live in a democracy where everyone gets to make their own choice. But I am so thankful that a majority of our country has made a decision and we get to experience at least four years with Sen. Obama as our president."

Hannah Taylor, freshman psychology major from Wheeling, W.Va., said while she did not get actively involved in campaigning for Obama, she is pleased with the results.

"There was such an excitement in watching history happen," Tay-

lor said. "Even if you didn't vote for Obama, you cannot help but recognize that this generation witnessed one of the most historical milestones in the last few years."

David Miller, junior history major from Charleston said that he and his roommate danced and screamed for joy in their apartment when they heard Obama's announcement. Both Miller and his roommate volunteered their time to talk to their family and friends about Obama and made phone calls on behalf of his campaign.

"I kept thinking to myself, 'This is really happening,'" Miller said. "Our country needs to be taking steps forward, and we did that by electing Obama as our next president. We went from eight steps back to 10 steps forward in a single night."

Jessica Wintz can be contacted at wintz@marshall.edu.

# GRADUATION

FROM PAGE 1

said. Graduates will be asked to don a full cap and gown, and the large curtains and backdrop of Old Main often used for May commencement will also be used for the December convocation.

Convocation events include a processional, a brief speech, graduates walking the stage, a recessional and a reception for friends and family.

Unlike May commencement, no limit has been placed on the number of friends or family members graduates can invite to the December convocation reception, Ferguson said.

Ferguson said "an honored faculty member" will make the brief speech, and her of-

fice is in the process of finding a speaker.

Participating graduates will receive a rolled-up parchment scroll instead of a diploma when they walk the stage because the ceremony will take place before grades are finalized, Ferguson said.

The scroll will include a message from the Marshall University Alumni Association and diplomas will be mailed to graduates by mid-January, Ferguson said.

December graduates who still need to confirm attendance at the convocation may do so at the registrar's office by Dec. 5.

"We are being flexible with deadlines to accommodate as many graduates as we can," Ferguson said.

THE PARTHENON

# Wall Street plunges despite election

BY SARA LEPRO AND TIM PARADIS  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**NEW YORK**—A case of postelection nerves sent Wall Street plunging Wednesday as investors, looking past Barack Obama's presidential victory, returned to their fears of a deep and protracted recession. Volatility swept over the market again, with the Dow Jones industrials falling nearly 500 points and all the major indexes tumbling more than 5 percent.

The market was widely expected to give back some gains after a runup that lifted the Standard & Poor's 500 index more than 18 percent and that gave the Dow its best weekly advance in 34 years; moreover, many analysts had warned that Wall Street faced more turbulence after two months of devastating losses.

But investors lost their recent confidence about the economy and began dumping stocks again.

"The market has really gotten ahead of itself, and falsely priced in that this recession wasn't going to be as prolonged as thought," said Ryan Larson, head of equity trading at Voyaguer Asset Management, a subsidiary of RBC Dain Rauscher. "Regardless of who won the White House, these problems are not going away."

"We're in a really bad recession, period," he said. "People are locking in profits and realizing we're not out of the woods."

Beyond broad economic concerns, worries about the financial sector intensified after Goldman Sachs Group Inc. began to notify about 3,200 employees globally that they have been lost their jobs as part of a broader plan to slash 10 percent of the investment bank's work force, a person familiar with the situation said. The cuts were first reported last month. Goldman fell 8 percent, while other financial names also fell; Citigroup Inc. dropped 14 percent.

Commodities stocks also fell after steel-maker ArcelorMittal said it would slash production because of weakening demand. Its stock plunged 21.5 percent.

Although traders expected Obama to win the election, as the session wore on investors were clearly worrying about the weakness of the economy and pondered what the Obama administration might do. Analysts said the market is already anxious about who Obama selects as the next Treasury Secretary, as well

as who he picks for other Cabinet positions.

"The celebration is over. Today we saw a bit of reality," said Al Goldman, chief market strategist at Wachovia Securities in St. Louis. "President-elect Obama is coming into a situation with limited experience, having to handle an economy in serious trouble, a couple of wars and terrorism. It's an extremely tough job."

Analysts said investors were also uneasy in advance of the Labor Department's October employment report, to be issued Friday. Economists, on average, expect a 200,000 drop in payrolls, according to Thomson/IFR.

Late-day selling by hedge funds helped deepen the market's losses during the last hour. More selling by the funds is expected to weigh on the market ahead of a Nov. 15 cutoff for shareholders to notify fund managers of their intent to cash out investments before year-end.

The Dow fell 486.01, or 5.05 percent, to 9,139.27. The blue chips had risen more than 300 on Tuesday, and last week rose 11.3 percent, their biggest weekly gain since 1974.

The S&P 500 index fell 52.98, or 5.27 percent, to 952.77. Through the six sessions that ended Tuesday, the index, the one most closely watched by market professionals, rose 18.3 percent.

The Nasdaq composite index fell 98.48, or 5.53 percent, to 1,681.64, while the Russell 2000 index of smaller companies fell 31.33, or 5.74 percent, to 514.64.

Declining issues outnumbered advancers by about 4 to 1 on the New York Stock Exchange, where consolidated volume came to a light 5.29 billion shares compared with 5.45 billion shares traded Tuesday.

"We're seeing people come into the market at the last minute and the low volume exaggerates moves to the downside and the upside. That really scares the heck out people," Goldman said.

Wednesday's trading showed that the market is living up to expectations of continued volatility as it tries to recover from the devastating losses of the last two months.

Bill Stone, chief investment strategist at PNC Wealth Management, said the uncertainty over the direction the government's financial bailout plan will take under the next administration likely weighed on financial stocks Wednesday.

Analysts agree that Obama's most im-

mediate priority will be dealing with the nation's financial crisis and deciding how to further implement the \$700 billion rescue package passed by Congress last month.

Goldman said trading could remain turbulent as investors begin assessing the shape and direction of Obama's forthcoming economic policies.

"The market has to go through a period of figuring out if they are going to gain confidence in Obama and the Congress or lose it," he said.

Obama's victory means that industries such as oil and gas producers, utilities and pharmaceuticals may face greater regulation and even taxes, while labor unions and automakers are expected to benefit.

In addition, banks, insurance companies, hedge funds and the rest of the financial sector will almost certainly face attempts at a regulatory overhaul by the Democratic Congress next year.

Among financials, Goldman Sachs fell \$7.57, or 8 percent, to \$87.43. Citigroup fell \$2.05, or 14 percent, to \$12.63, while Bank of America Corp. dropped \$2.78, or 11.3 percent, to \$21.75.

Other sectors that are being closely watched in light of the election results are pharmaceuticals and alternative energy, analysts said.

Merck & Co. fell \$2.41, or 7.7 percent, to \$28.72. Pfizer Inc., meanwhile, dipped \$1.09, or 6 percent, to \$17. SunTech Power Holdings Co. was among the alternative energy stocks that declined, falling \$6.82, or 21.5 percent, to \$24.88.

In addition to monitoring the direction the next administration will take, investors continue to heed the state of the credit markets. The paralysis in the credit markets that began after the bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. in mid-September has been alleviated somewhat by a series of government interventions, but they still show some signs of strain.

Banks continued to ratchet down the rates they charge one another for borrowing on Wednesday, but the key interbank lending rate — the London Interbank Offered Rate, or Libor — remains well above the Federal Reserve's target interest rate of 1 percent. Libor for three-month dollar loans fell to 2.51 percent from 2.71 percent Tuesday.

And the bid for Treasury bills remains

# Calif. ends same sex marriages

BY DAVID CRARY AND LISA LEFF  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

**LOS ANGELES**—In a heartbreaking defeat for the gay-rights movement, California voters put a stop to gay marriage, creating uncertainty about the legal status of 18,000 same-sex couples who tied the knot during a four-month window of opportunity opened by the state's highest court.

Passage of a constitutional amendment against gay marriage — in a state so often at the forefront of liberal social change — elated religious conservatives who had little else to cheer about in Tuesday's elections. Gay activists were disappointed and began looking for battlegrounds elsewhere in the back-and-forth fight to allow gays to wed.

"There's something deeply wrong with putting the rights of a minority up to a majority vote," said Evan Wolfson, a gay-rights lawyer who heads a group called Freedom to Marry. "If this were being done to almost any other minority, people would see how un-American this is."

Legal skirmishing began immediately, with gay-rights groups challenging the newly passed ban in court Wednesday and vowing to resist any effort to invalidate the same-sex marriages that took place following the state Supreme Court decision in May.

The amendment, which passed with 52 percent of the vote, overrides that court ruling by defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman. Thirty states now have adopted such measures, but the California vote marks the first time a state took away gay marriage after it had been legalized.

## SUDOKU

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### PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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HOW TO PLAY:  
Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

## Annual festival logo to be chosen in design contest

The Center for International Programs is hosting a design contest for the 46th annual international festival. Participants will be designing the logo for the 2009 festival. Designs can include headlines and pictures.

The contest winner will receive a \$250 gift card for the Marshall bookstore, and the winning design will be used to promote next year's festival. It also will be displayed at the Nov. 16 international festival.


No sign-up is required to enter the contest, but all work must be handed into the CIP by Nov. 12.

"I encourage people to participate," said Nancy Persons, director for the Center for International Programs. "We know there is a lot of talent on campus, and we would like to see it."

For details, visit the CIP at 320 Old Main or contact Bintou Dia at diao@marshall.edu.

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# VIRTUAL WORLD celebrates Obama's win

BY DERRIK J. LANG  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**LOS ANGELES**—From YouTube to Flickr, from Facebook to Twitter, images and sentiments from celebrations across the nation flooded into the Internet's media-sharing sites, just moments after Barack Obama clinched the presidential election.

Some were simple photos of TV screens claiming the Democrat's win. Others were unfiltered images of jubilant celebrations captured immediately after polls closed Tuesday on the West Coast, when Obama was declared the president-elect.

And while crowds gathered at public rallies and millions of others simply glued themselves to television news coverage, many spent election night online — and they had plenty of company. Students at Navarro College posted a video of themselves reacting — screaming, jumping up and down, more screaming — to Obama's win. Another YouTube uploader his toast to Obama: He gulped a 2-liter bottle of soda.

Others used the moment to joke. One wig-clad man posted a YouTube video reminiscent of Chris Crocker's infamous Britney Spears rant, instead shouting "Leave McCain alone!" in front of a sheet. Some shared impromptu songs about the election's outcome. One man at a piano sang: "You all wanted change/And that's what you're gonna get/But the change that you will see/You will most likely regret."

Elsewhere, dozens of Obama supporters clapped, danced and cheered inside the behemoth virtual world Second Life immediately after the Democratic nominee seized the electoral votes. Many avatars were left out of the virtual celebration in Obama's unofficial Second Life headquarters because the digital enclave had reached maximum capacity Tuesday.

"The long nightmare is OVER!" an avatar

named Jordanna Beaumont exclaimed.

The Straight Talk Cafe, a Second Life space supporting John McCain, was nearly a ghost town after McCain conceded the race. Volunteers for both campaigns had unofficially stumped for months inside the virtual world for the presidential and vice presidential candidates — collecting donations, registering voters, building monuments and handing out virtual hats and T-shirts.

Throughout the election, the nonpartisan site TwitterVoteReport.com aggregated micro-blog Twitter.com posts — called tweets — to monitor polling places and estimate voting wait times across the country. Into the evening, many people tweeted 140-character-or-less dispatches from rallies, election parties and their living rooms using their cell phones and the Web.

"There were news people from all over the world at the Biltmore tonight," posted luv2shoppe in Phoenix, where McCain's camp was watching the returns. "It was quite an experience, even if the results were disappointing."

"Four blocks from

Grant Park in Chicago," posted jordanlevy. "It's crazy down here."

Even Obama himself, whose campaign embraced the power of online networking going back to his primary race against Hillary Clinton, nodded to his tech-savvy supporters in the very moments before he took the stage in Chicago for his acceptance speech: Supporters who had signed up on his campaign Web site received an e-mail thanking them.

Those who were logged on at that moment got this message: "I'm about to head to Grant Park to talk to everyone gathered there, but I wanted to write to you first. We just made history. And I don't want you to forget how we did it. You made history every single day during this campaign — every day you knocked on doors, made a donation, or talked to your family, friends and neighbors about why you believe it's time for change."

Bloggers who had been posting about the election results in real time kept their comments brief after Obama's win.

Liberal blogger Sara K. Smith at Wonkette.com, who kept a snarky eye on the proceedings, instructed readers to "raise a glass to your Republican friends because it was not so long ago that you (liberals) were precisely in their position, and remember how much it sucked."

Conservative bloggers also kept their reactions concise and polite. Carol Platt Liebau at Townhall.com posted: "We are Americans first, and therefore I wish the Obamas health and happiness. It's even possible to wish them success — so long as it is in keeping with the best traditions of American liberty, virtue and prosperity."

And while Sarah Palin may not have won the vice presidential spot, she was popular as a doll. Out of the four one-of-kind Cabbage Patch Dolls crafted to look like the presidential and vice presidential candidates, her doll nabbed a \$19,000 bid when the auction closed Tuesday. The lil' Obama, McCain and Biden impersonators only earned offers of \$8,400, \$6,000 and \$3,500, respectively.



## Youth vote rivals largest in American history

More than four million youth voters than in 2004 cast their ballots this week

### Voter turnout, 2008

- ◆ Total voter turnout, all ages: **133.3 million**
- ◆ Youth share of electorate: **18 percent**
- ◆ Turnout rate: **55 percent**
- ◆ Voter total, 18-29-year-olds: **24 million**

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