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Campus Carry Bill Passes the House of Delegates

By **MATT SCHAFFER**
NEWS EDITOR

Despite protests, attempted amendments and opposition from colleges, students and citizens, Senate Bill 10, or the Campus Self-Defense Act, passed the state House of Delegates on Tuesday with the Republican supermajority voting overwhelmingly in support of the bill.

The Campus Self-Defense Act, which will allow for concealed carry of handguns for valid license holders on

college campuses statewide, passed in a floor vote of 84 to 13 and will now head to Governor Jim Justice's desk to be signed into law.

Delegates representing Huntington were split along party lines. Delegates Sean Honbuckle (D-025) and Ric Griffith (D-027) voting nay, while Republican Delegates Matthew Rohrbach (D-024) and Patrick Lucas (D-026) voting yea.

Marshall University and West Virginia University had representation at the bill's first and only public hearing on Feb. 15,

speaking primarily in opposition to the bill. Thirty-seven of the 39 speakers who signed up to speak at the public hearing spoke against it.

Attempts to amend the bill also failed this week after Del. Sean Hornbuckle, D-Cabell, and Del. Evan Hansen, D-Mongolia, proposed amendments that would have offered two further revisions to the bill.

Hornbuckle's amendment would have provided housing options for students who do not want to reside in residence halls where guns were present,

while Hansen's amendment would have prohibited provisional concealed carry license holders, ages 18-21, from carrying on campuses.

The Campus Self-Defense Act was introduced by the Senate Judiciary Committee on Jan. 11, 2023 and passed the West Virginia State Senate with a majority vote of 29-4 on Jan. 24. The bill was met with objection by Marshall President Brad D. Smith and West Virginia University President E. Gordon Gee, as announced in a joint statement that was released the day following its

Senate passage.

"While we do not support statewide campus carry, we do appreciate the Senate retaining best practices and safeguards from other states in the bill," the statement read. "We hope the House of Delegates will keep these provisions intact as it considers the legislation. The provisions are critical to the safety of our university communities."

While the bill is expected to become law, the provision in the bill that will delay implementation until July 2024 remains intact.



West Virginia Republican Del. Mike Honaker speaks on the House of Delegates floor in support of the Campus Self-Defense Act.

Courtesy of Perry Bennet/
AP Photos

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Title IX Survey Suggests Most Students Feel Safe at MU



Students during a Title IX related protest last November.

Photo by Taylor Isaac

By **MATT SCHAFFER**
NEWS EDITOR

A survey created by the student-led Title IX Task Force shows that—while the majority of students feel safe on Marshall’s campus—issues surrounding the Title IX office, the Office of Student Conduct and the under-reporting of assault cases remain prevalent.

Four-hundred and twenty-seven participants completed the survey, which was voluntary, online and open from Jan. 21 through Feb. 3, including students, faculty and staff. The survey featured 21 questions regarding physical, emotional and sexual safety on campus as well as experiences with both the Title IX office and the Office of Student Conduct.

A total of 60.16% reported that they felt “safe,” 36.9% reported feeling “somewhat safe” and only roughly 3% felt “unsafe” on Marshall’s campus.

However, the survey results revealed that 54% of participants said that they know someone who had been a victim of unwanted sexual contact during their time at Marshall, with 11.73% experiencing it personally.

Of the alleged offenders, 82.35% were reported to members of the student body instead of faculty or staff.

Of those who had answered the survey, 59.32% said that they had reported an incident before. Most of these reports were filed with faculty, staff, the Title IX office or local police, unaffiliated with the university.

The survey also revealed that the respondents felt that faculty and staff were the most helpful when reporting an incident and, if a future report were to be filed, it would be with faculty or campus police.

The remaining 33.9% of surveyors who have not reported an incident cited concern over lack of action being taken, being exposed for reporting or being blamed for the incident as the top reasons for not reporting.

Referencing the Title IX office, the respondents felt that the office had a “lack of concern about the well-being” of the students, faculty and staff of the university, with 67.92% stating that the office is moderately to a great deal more invested in “protecting the

reputation of the school than the people they serve.”

Participants were split when asked if they thought the Office of Student Conduct was “genuinely concerned” about their well-being, with 31.28% responded with “a little” to “not at all,” while 32.09% responded “a lot” or “a great deal” and 36.63% responding with “a moderate amount.” The respondents were also split when questioned about the effectiveness of the office.

The results from the survey indicated that the participants feel that the campus police also hold more of a vested interest in protecting the reputation of the school rather than the interests and well-being of the students, staff and faculty. 42.89% of respondents showed “a moderate” to “a great deal” of concern over the campus police’s effectiveness.

The demographics of the survey show the majority of respondents were 18-25, cisgender, Caucasian, and living off-campus. Of the participants, 66.47% identified as female, 27.63% identified as male and 5.62% identified as non-binary, trans or other.

Mayor Visits Campus to Talk With Students

By **JOSEPH DICRISTOFARO**
STUDENT REPORTER

Saying he wants to improve communication between the city of Huntington and students, Mayor Steve Williams is starting a new series of campus conversations.

“Mochas with the Mayor” will have its first installment from 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 22, in the Memorial Student Center lobby.

These sessions, hosted by Marshall’s Student Government Association, allow people to discuss issues and any concerns they may have with the mayor in an informal setting.

“The idea is to let the Marshall University community know that

I am their mayor, and that I am always approachable,” Williams said. “City Hall isn’t just a building at the corner of 5th Avenue and 8th Street; I want there to be a consistent presence of city government on campus.”

Letting students know they’re valued citizens in the community, showing them that staying in Huntington after graduation is a viable option and, if they leave upon graduation, helping them develop a strong love for Huntington so that they can’t wait to return are the three main objectives of the sessions, Williams said.

Another “Mochas with the Mayor” session will be planned for 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. on Wednesday, Mar. 22.



Steve Williams speaking in 2019.

Courtesy of Tom Jenkins

Meet the Dean Candidates For College of Arts and Media

By **BEX LAW AND SARAH DAVIS**
STUDENT AND STAFF REPORTERS

A variety of plans for the College of Arts and Media were presented by the three finalists for the college's deanship last week, but all three emphasized students in their presentations.

The finalists included: Dr. Chris McCollough, the department head of communication for Jacksonville State University; Dr. Scott Irelan, the associate dean in the College of Fine Arts at Western Michigan University and Dr. Maria Gindhart, the associate dean of the College of Arts at Georgia State University.

In his presentation, McCollough focused on the current trends of students in the arts.

"Regardless of media, regardless of whether it's a stage, whether they're in a performance hall, whether they're working with me in a PR campaign or they're in a broadcast studio, they're creative storytellers," McCollough said.

Part of McCollough's vision for the College of Arts and Media is to offer design classes to journalism and mass communication majors, add business literacy as an aspect of curriculum and also revisit the framework of Marshall's video production program.

Additionally, he discussed the addition of an "arts and entertainment" concentration for journalism and mass communication majors, as well as creating programs for arts marketing and management.

Another aspect of the presentation focused on the profile and reputation

of the college, specifically beyond the Tri-State area. McCollough proposed a hypothetical event that could incorporate all of the schools to showcase the talents of students.

His main goal is to bring the differing programs together.

In conclusion, McCollough emphasized working together to accomplish these goals, comparing this process to "fingers in a glove."

"We work together, we build a plan that makes sense," McCollough said.

Meanwhile, Irelan identified three main challenges for the college: enrollment, cultural pressures and crisis narratives, and strategic differentiation. For each challenge, he provided an opportunity and an example of a solution he might pitch, if selected for the position.

Irelan stated that the age range of 18-23 year olds enrolling in higher education is down nationally and that this is a problem that "is never going away." However, he said that flexibility is the opportunity, with enrollment in the 24-64 years old age range being higher nationally. One recommendation he offered was to stack credentials, which would allow people to enroll for shorter time periods to earn post-bachelor certifications. Irelan called this "gamifying college."

Irelan frequently addressed the need for cross-disciplinary programs, meaning the College of Arts and Media not only needs to work together within the different departments but reach out to other colleges in the university.

This suggestion was incorporated into much of his work at Western Michigan University and many of the solutions proposed for his identified problems at Marshall.

Addressing the challenge of differentiating Marshall from other universities with arts and media programs, he cited "thinking big" as the solution. Pulling from his established cross-disciplinary suggestions, Irelan proposed new post-bachelor's certificates, such as music therapy and movement therapy, which would add psychology courses to music and dance majors.

He also suggested adding courses on graphic design for the medical field, saying that graphic design majors should be learning how to design intuitive and aesthetic apps, specifically for medical technology.

Taking a similar approach to Irelan, Gindhart identified some generalized challenges within arts and media colleges overall. These included mental health, learning loss from the COVID-19 pandemic and hitting what she called a "demographic cliff," impacting enrollment.

The "demographic cliff," Gindhart said, has already been hit in West Virginia, meaning universities in West Virginia "want to grow enrollment, but there is no one here to enroll."

Gindhart also presented challenges such as K-12 art programs being cut or reduced, expensive facility creation and upkeep, artificial intelligence and



Dr. Scott R. Irelan
Western Michigan University



Dr. Christopher J. McCollough
Jacksonville State University



Dr. Maria P. Gindhart
Courtesy of Ucomm
Georgia State University

non-transferable skills as the main reasons why enrollment is down. Her solution: changes in practice across the board.

Much like the other dean candidates, Gindhart cited different delivery as a primary action towards combating challenges: online and hybrid courses along with more - and better - certification options. She foresees a focus on the entrepreneurial skills of arts and media as a cross-disciplinary answer to the ever looming enrollment issue.

"Everyone has to be treated well to be thriving," Gindhart said while explaining her plans on how to best focus on each university demographic.

For students, she recommended focusing on retention over recruitment, and the college to career pipeline.

For faculty she propose focusing

on life cycle mentorship rather than just the tenure track and including focus on a better work and life balance.

For the full story, visit marshallparthenon.com

SGA Proposes Permanent Muslim Prayer Room



Current Interfaith Prayer and Meditation Room in East Hall

Photo by Rafael Alfonso

By **EMMA JOHNSON**
STUDENT REPORTER

A permanent Muslim prayer room could be established at Marshall University because of a recent proposal by the Student Government Association.

“During the fall 2022 semester, the Interfaith Prayer and Meditation Room—which is located in East Hall—was consistently locked, which impeded prayer,” Senator Ala Baryun said. “So, this resolution would allow the room to be unlocked at all times.”

Baryun, along with fellow Senator Tayma Al-Astal, wrote a resolution to support the idea of a

permanent prayer and meditation room for Muslim students.

“There are many Muslim students who are unable to meet these religious markers because of the restricted access to the current interfaith room,” Baryun said.

In addition to the Interfaith Prayer and Meditation Room in East Hall, another designated meditation room at the Wellness Center is located in the Memorial Student Center.

“Many students have voiced their concerns due to the fact that there is already a designated meditation room at the Wellness Center, so the current interfaith room in East Hall could be

occupied as a mosque,” Baryun said.

If a permanent prayer and meditation room is established for Muslim students, the Muslim Students Association has agreed to upkeep the room, keeping it clean and available for students who wish to use it. Baryun added, “We just want to take action to prioritize any potential issues that may impede a student’s opportunity to pray and meditate efficiently.”

Opposition Voiced in Campus Carry Public Hearing

By **MATT SCHAFFER**
NEWS EDITOR

Despite a showing of staunch opposition at its first public hearing, Senate Bill 10 (or the Campus Self-Defense Act) is heading to a vote on the floor of the House of Delegates after a recommendation from the House Judiciary Committee on Wednesday, Jan. 15.

The bill is expected to pass the House floor vote before heading to the Gov. Jim Justice’s desk to be signed into law.

The hearing was attended by faculty, students, administration and staff of both Marshall University and West Virginia University—as well as numerous citizens of the state—overwhelmingly expressing their concerns about the bill, with 37 of the 39 speakers being opposed.

Those in opposition cited student safety, the economic impact, law enforcement safety and the mental health crisis as deterrents for the bill.

“I’m not going to say that this is going to increase actual violence on campus. It might,” said Chris White, Marshall history professor and former Marine Corps infantryman. “But what I do know is it’s going to increase accidental discharges because the students and other people there are not trained in the same way military and law enforcement are, as well as suicides.”

“I find this bill to be unnecessary in the face of many other issues our state currently has,” Marshall freshman Emma Crouch said. “Colleges have high rates of mental illness and increased use of alcohol and drugs,

making the presence of guns potentially deadly.”

“This is a red flag law for major corporations,” said Robin Godfrey, a retired lawyer and gun owner. “This says to students and companies coming here, ‘Do not come here. It’s not safe.’”

“We believe it fosters an environment of mistrust and uncertainty,” WVU senior Bella Metichell said. “We feel as though asking students to give up their safety for someone’s potential heroism is unfair.”

While most speakers challenged the passage of the bill, some citizens, such as Zachery Campbell of the West Virginia Citizens Defense League, spoke in defense of the bill.

“Senate Bill 10 does not make it legal for a state-licensed conceal carry holder to carry a firearm on a public university campus. Today, it is already 100% legal,” Campbell said. “It removes the administrative penalties for students and staff that choose to arm themselves.”

The State Senate approved the Campus Self-Defense Act on Jan. 24 by a 29–4 vote, despite objections by university presidents Brad D. Smith of Marshall and E. Gordon Gee of West Virginia University.

The bill would allow concealed carry on campuses for those ages 18-21 holding provisional licenses and those 21 and up with standard licenses. It also would apply to residents of other states who may legally carry in West Virginia under reciprocity agreements.

Senate Bill 10 contains 12 exceptions where institutions may continue to ban concealed carry.

Marshall Senior Finds Career Inspiration From Brother's Experience

By **ABIGAIL CUTLIP**
STUDENT REPORTER

Inspired by the change her younger brother's speech language pathologist made for him, one Marshall University spring 2023 graduate says that she "fell in love" with that career path because of his experience.

Jodi Hannah, a communication disorders major from Minford, Ohio, originally started her college career at Shawnee State University in Portsmouth, Ohio, but she transferred to Marshall after the completion of her first year.

"I just got a lot of my general education courses done there while I was still living at home," Hannah said. "But I just knew that I've always had my heart set on Marshall. I just had to wait for that time to come."

She initially wanted to attend Marshall because of their Department of Communication Disorders.

"My little brother growing up had a speech language pathologist that helped him in his school district and one-on-one therapy," Hannah said. "I loved watching how she helped my little brother develop his communication skills, so that just made me want to do the same thing."

Hannah didn't let her late start at Marshall hinder her experience. She says that she was able to quickly make some of her closest friendships following her arrival.

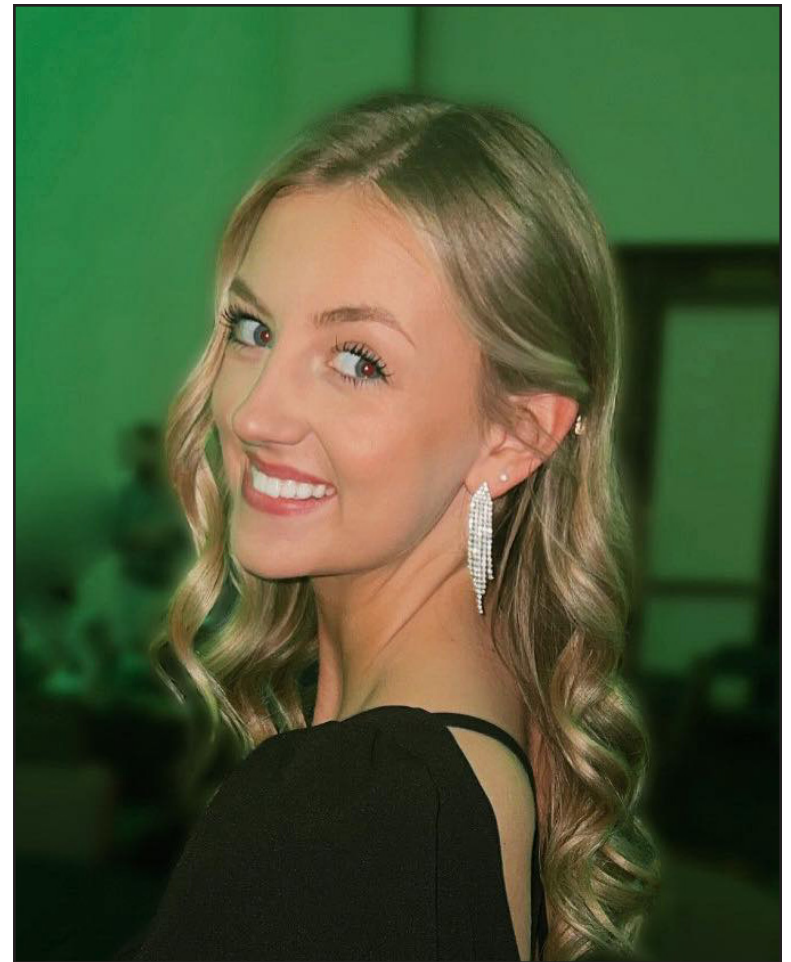
"Meeting all of my new friends when I first came to Marshall is a core memory for me," Hannah said. "I've had these

relationships for three years, and I could see them being my lifelong best friends, and Marshall's allowed me to have those."

Hannah hopes that she will be able to continue her education after graduation at Marshall through their speech

language pathology graduate program.

"Marshall has definitely become my second home," Hannah said. "While I'm applying to grad schools, I've applied back to Marshall, and I'm hoping and praying I get to stay there because it has just been such a wonderful experience."



Jodi Hannah, Marshall senior.

Courtesy of Kaity Howard



Kara Hornbuckle prepares food for the Food for the Soul event.

Courtesy of Marshall University YouTube

Food for the Soul Celebrates Black History Month

By **BEX LAW**
STUDENT REPORTER

COVID-19 ended the annual "Food for the Soul Feast," a tradition since 2003, so Shaunte Polk from the Center for African American Students decided to transition Food for the Soul to an online cooking show.

"We're sharing food and recipes we've known all our lives," Polk said. Polk calls on students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members to film themselves making their favorite family recipe. The cooking show features food from various areas of Africa as well as traditional Black cuisine.

Polk said a benefit to this cooking show is that learning about and sharing food is a great way to learn about other cultures. "Food does tie and bond people together," Polk said. "And getting over the fear of trying something new can make a great experience; it's a quick and easy way to experience a different culture."

Two of Polk's favorite recipes featured on the cooking show were jollof rice and Kara Hornbuckle's honey cornbread. Polk said she had never heard of jollof rice, and now she frequently asks the original chef to make it for her.

Jollof rice is a tomato and pepper based fried rice. Many different regions in West Africa make jollof rice. However, a Nigerian recipe was shared on Food for the Soul last year.

Alumna Hornbuckle shared her recipe for honey cornbread, a sweet cornbread similar to cornbread Hornbuckle said could be found in most Black households. The honey cornbread was Polk's favorite recipe from this year.

Keeping this tradition alive and not letting Covid cancel it completely was important to Polk. "Food and music bring folks together, but people always bond the most and learn the most through food. If we can share things that way, it's the easiest and most fun way," Polk said.

Marshall Baseball Sweeps Saint Louis on Opening Weekend



Right-handed pitcher Drew Harlow



Courtesy of HerdZone

By **CHAYCE MATHENY**
SPORTS EDITOR

Marshall baseball finished with a three-game sweep against Saint Louis on opening weekend in Hoover, Alabama.

On Friday, the Herd won 11-4, with a solid offensive performance racking up 12 hits. Cam Harthan, Kyle Schaefer and Gabriel Cabrera all had one hit.

Luke Edwards, Owen Ayers and Eddie Leon each had two hits. Gio Ferraro racked up three hits on three at-bats.

Starting pitcher Patrick Copen pitched four innings, striking out eight with three hits given up.

The winning pitcher was Bryce Blevins, with two innings pitched, striking out one while giving up two hits.

Brady Baxter and Chad Heiner also pitched; Baxter gave up two hits while striking out two. Heiner gave up zero hits while striking out two.

“We played with purpose and energy,” Marshall Baseball Head Coach Greg Beals said after the first win. “Our men were one supporting each other and the mission.”

On Saturday, the herd won 8-4, with two solid offensive innings in the fourth and eighth, scoring three runs in each.

Marshall started quickly in the first inning after Ferraro scored on a Cabrera ground out to the shortstop. Saint Louis responded in the third inning after a wild pitch from starting pitcher Raymond Pacella, tying the game 1-1.

Later in the fourth inning, Marshall scored three runs on a Cabrera double to left center, scoring Shafer; an Ayers double down the line, scoring Cabrera; and a Kelber Peralta ground out to the second baseman, scoring Ayers, making it 4-1 Marshall.

In the fifth inning, Saint Louis responded with a three-run home run from Tyler Fogarty, tying the game 4-4.

Marshall then added a run in the sixth inning after Schaefer’s single to right center, scoring Ferraro, making it 5-4 Marshall.

Later in the eighth inning, Marshall added three more runs on an Edwards fielder’s choice to shortstop, a Cabrera single, and a wild pitch, making it 8-4, which would close out the game after Ryan Capuano’s save, striking out the side.

The winning pitcher was Drew Harlow, pitching three innings with seven strikeouts.

Beals said game two was a learning experience.

“This was a good win and learning experience,” he said. “We need to be able to win close games and learn how we did it. The guys played with great intensity, made plays defensively and executed offensively when we needed it.”

On Sunday, the Herd won 10-5 after a slow start.

Marshall was down four runs by the

second inning after an error causing two runs, a single giving up one and a solo home run.

Saint Louis kept the 4-0 lead until the top of the sixth inning when Marshall took the lead 5-4 after Harthan singled, scoring Daniel Carcini and Leon; an error by the second baseman, scoring Edwards; an Ayers sacrifice, scoring Schaefer and a Ferraro double, scoring Cabrera.

In the bottom of the sixth inning, Saint Louis responded with a fielder’s choice that scored Patrick Clohisy, tying the game 5-5.

In the top of the ninth inning, Marshall scored five runs from a Schaefer double, scoring Edwards and Harthan; a wild pitch, scoring Schaefer; Calin Smith single, scoring Ayers and a Carinci single, scoring Ferraro, closing out the game 10-5.

Starting pitcher Zac Addkinson pitched three innings, giving up three hits and three earned runs while striking out four.

Peyton Scholfield and Cole Agemy came into relief, pitching a combined four innings, giving up one hit and five strikeouts.

The winning pitcher was Ryan Capuano, pitching two innings, giving up one hit while striking out two.

“Great start to the season, today was not a clean game, but we found a way to win,” Beals said after clinching the sweep in his first series with the Herd. “Our men competed very well late in the game. The bullpen, (Peyton) Schofield, and (Cole) Agemy, did a great job keeping us in the game, and then (Ryan) Cap came in again to shut it down. We learned a lot about ourselves and need to keep growing.”

This series win marks the best start since 1990.

Marshall will next play in another three-game series against Charleston Southern starting Friday at 4 p.m. in Charleston, South Carolina.

Women's Basketball Drops Third Straight After Losing to Georgia State



Guard Roshala Scott

Courtesy of HerdZone

By **LUKE HAMILTON**
STUDENT REPORTER

The Herd lost to the Georgia State Panthers 55-54 in a close contest Saturday night.

Marshall lost by two points to Georgia Southern on Thursday as well; the Herd had an opportunity to win in the last play of its previous three games.

"Tonight, I didn't think our intensity was very good for 40 minutes," Coach Tony Kemper said when asked about the closeness of the last two games.

The last time these two teams met at the Cam Henderson Center, Marshall won by five, which added to its historic six-game win streak.

The Herd scored nine points in the first quarter while allowing the Panthers to score 19. Sydne Scott made her first season start,

scoring five points in the first quarter.

Redshirt senior guard Tehya Lyons started the second quarter with two straight jump shots in the paint for the Panthers. Marshall ended the first half up by two after a three from Roshala Scott.

This is the second game where the Herd led at halftime in its last three games. Junior forward Deasia Merrill led the Panthers in the third quarter, making a jumper and a layup.

Marshall went back down by four at the end of the third quarter. In the fourth quarter, Scott and Mahogany Matthews had a pair of layups combined to put the Herd up by two.

The Herd is on a three-game losing streak as they return home Wednesday against Old Dominion at 6 p.m.

Men's Basketball Defeats Troy on Senior Night, Clinches Top-Four Seed in SBC Tournament

By **CHAYCE MATHENY**
SPORTS EDITOR

Marshall defeated Troy 88-78 Saturday on Senior Night.

This was the Herd's last regular-season home game, and the win locked up a double-bye and a top-four seed in the Sun Belt Conference Tournament.

Marshall honored Taevion Kinsey, Gordan Miladinovic, Andrew Taylor and graduate assistant Stephen Galgano for the Senior Night ceremony.

"It feels good to walk into the tournament and be one of those top teams, but it puts a target on your back. You've got to be ready,"

Kinsey said about the win.

Marshall jumped to a 7-0 lead less than two minutes into the game and never allowed Troy to gain control. The largest lead for the Herd was 16, which was around the 17:00 mark of the second half, but Troy managed to fight back and cut the lead to four, making it 81-77 with just 1:55 remaining after a Nelson Phillips jump shot.

After Troy cut the deficit to four, Taylor found Kamdyn Curfman for a three-pointer, putting the herd up seven with 90 seconds remaining.

"That last one put the dagger in them," Taylor said about Curfman's final three-pointer.

After the three from Curfman, the

Herd closed out the game on a 4-1 run.

Taylor finished with a game-high 27 points, four rebounds and six assists.

Kinsey finished with 22 points, eight rebounds and five assists.

Curfman and Obinna Anochili-Killen both finished with 15 points. Curfman shot 50% from the three-point mark, and Anochili-Killen shot 60% from the field.

Marshall outrebounded Troy 40-32.

Now 23-6, Marshall will next go on the road against James Madison on Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Marshall Softball Completes Strong Weekend in Chattanooga

By **LUKE HAMILTON**
STUDENT REPORTER

Marshall University Softball won their last four games of five in the 2023 Chattanooga Challenge last weekend.

The Herd played the Western Illinois Leathernecks in the first of two games in Chattanooga on Sunday. Western Illinois scored on Marshall in the first inning with a run from their second batter, Gabriela Drager.

Marshall rallied back at the bottom of the first inning with three runs from Autumn Owen, Grace

Chelemen and Sydney Bickel.

After the first inning, Western Illinois did not score for the rest of the game, as Marshall had 14 total runs in five innings.

Junior shortstop Sydney Bickel led the Herd in total runs with three, and freshman pitcher Bri Godfrey won in her first game as a starter, only allowing the Leathernecks one run off four hits in all five innings.

Marshall went on to play Indiana State at 11:30 a.m., right after their first win of the day. Senior pitcher Sydney Nester closed out the Chattanooga Challenge as a starter.

Nester only allowed one hit in all

seven innings played, and Marshall only scored one run from Sydney Bickel to win the contest.

The Herd finished the weekend winning four of their five games. The only loss came from UT Chattanooga on Saturday, giving the Herd two losses and seven wins this season.

Marshall plays a double-header in the Liberty Classic in Lynchburg, Virginia, this Friday, starting at 10 a.m. against Liberty and finishing off at 2 p.m. against Morgan State.

Paid Time Off or Pet-Friendly Offices? Generational Job Perk Preferences Vary



Courtesy of the AP/ Liam Gibson

By **LIAM GIBSON**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gone are the days when a simple pay raise would retain quality talent. ‘Generous paid time off’ and mental health support rank as the highest value employee benefits desired - cited by 40% or more workers across all generations.

Employees’ needs are constantly evolving, and many expect a holistic range of benefits beyond traditional health insurance offerings in the post-pandemic workplace.

Yet what exactly should those extra perks be? There is considerable variation in what workers want. Among the many factors that influence their preferences is age.

For the first time, workplace benefits provider Unum has found employees across four generations - Boomers, Gen X, Millennials and Gen Z - have different preferences regarding their favorite non-insurance benefit.

The most sought-after benefit among older staff - Boomers and Gen X - was generous paid time off, at 49% and 42%, respectively. Yet for younger workers - Millennials and Gen Z - mental health resources/support was the most popular, at 39% and 42% for each generational group.

Unum surveyed 1,000 full-time working Americans in December, giving participants a choice of 15 benefit categories (excluding health insurance). The list included a plethora of potential perks, ranging from ID theft prevention to sabbatical leave and from gym facilities to pet-friendly offices.

While each generation had

differing top choices, ample paid time off was the most popular benefit across generations (39%), followed by flexible/remote work options (32%) and paid family leave (31%).

The results highlight the need for companies to diversify and optimize their benefit offerings to retain talents across age groups.

“A multi-generational workforce is a huge benefit for companies,” explains Liz Ahmed, executive vice president of people and communications at Unum. “With the diversity of background, experiences and thought employees bring, employers need to make sure there’s something in their benefits package for everyone’s different stage of life.”

Employees who identify their preferred benefits and actively pursue them in their contracts naturally tend to be more satisfied with their overall compensation. Workers may also consult with financial planners for assistance in optimizing their benefits package.

“By some calculations, employees leave up to one million dollars in unused benefits on the table... so reviewing non-insurance benefits is a huge way I help clients,” says Kelley Long, CFP and founder of the Find Your Financial Bliss coaching program.

Long, who helped workers get the most out of their benefits in her prior role at Financial Finesse, says financial wellness benefits are particularly valuable.

“These are probably the most misunderstood and therefore underutilized benefits that many

people have available.”

Jon McCardle, president of Summit Financial Group of Indiana, says he consults clients on a number of extra benefits during open enrollment meetings.

“The options that are outside of their HSA plans, which are often inquired about, include how much death benefit to take beyond their current base coverage, should they sign up for the legal coverage, should they take advantage of the Long-Term Care insurance and what type of deductible plan should they select,” he says.

David Barfield, CFP, who mainly consults high-earning tech workers, claims most of his clients typically want to optimize to lower their tax burden.

“Tech professionals are generally better informed than most about the benefits available to them,” says Barfield, founder of Datapoint Financial Planning.

“But I can often add value in areas they may have missed, particularly around tax location and tax diversification strategies and taking advantage of new tax regulations like the massive SECURE Act 2.0 bill recently signed into law.”

Emergency savings are a key part of the new provisions included in the Secure Act 2.0, which became law on Dec. 29. There is a growing impetus to solve Americans’ lack of preparedness for financial calamities and get more workers to use an emergency fund and save for a rainy day. One Bankrate survey from early last year showed less than half of Americans could cover a \$1,000 emergency expense.

The Parthenon, Marshall University’s student newspaper, is published by students Wednesdays during the regular semester and every other week during the summer. The editorial staff is responsible for news and editorial content.

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Factual errors appearing in The Parthenon should be reported to the editor immediately following publication. Corrections the editor deems necessary will be printed as soon as possible following the error.

OPINION/REVIEW: 'Steel Magnolias' Dazzles With Authenticity



A scene from "Steel Magnolias"

Photo by Shauntelle Thompson

By **RAFAEL ALFONSO**
CONTENT EDITOR

"I know these women."

As I sat there in the Francis Booth Experimental Theatre and as I left it, those four words kept repeating in my head.

"I know these women."

I know each of them as if they weren't fictional characters that only lived for those two short hours onstage. I know their actresses as if each of them had personally whispered in my ear during intermission all of their most intimate secrets. When the play ended, I had the chance to speak to the actresses after the show, and I had to hold myself back from bear hugging them and talking to them as if they were all my childhood best friends.

Eliza Aulick (who plays Annelle) and Kendra Williams (who plays Truvy) work well together to highlight one of the major feats of the show: the hair work. Both style the hair of the other actresses live on stage while in character in every sense of the word. Aulick, as the new girl, looks like her life depends on the work she does half the time; meanwhile, Williams, playing the owner of the salon, does the work with a practiced yet casual kind of focus.

At no point does the hair styling distract the audience or the actresses, but instead it

becomes a normal part of the experience as if everyone really was just spending a day in the salon.

Each of the actresses on their own, though, bring their respective character to life in stunning three-dimensionality. They all make excellent use of the set, props and costumes, and they create an atmosphere where I often couldn't tell who was going to speak next or when a sound cue was going to play.

That is not an easy effect to achieve. I've done my time onstage and seen/written my share of shows, so I know this in my bones: director Leah Turley and her cast and crew have achieved a kind of magic on that stage that's all at once hilarious, heart wrenching and definitely worth seeing.

Another round of performances will take place Feb. 22-25 at the Francis Booth Experimental Theatre in the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center. Tickets are free for students with a valid MU ID, \$20 for general admission and \$15 for seniors age 60 and older and for Marshall employees.

For the full version of the review, visit marshallparthenon.com.

Hip-Hop in Appalachia Has Deep Roots, Panel Says



Panelists for the "Hip-Hop in Appalachia" event: Eric Jordan, Dr. Angie Luvara, Shelem, Scantag, Duke Johnson and Deep Jackson

Photo by Sarah Davis

By **SARAH DAVIS**
STAFF REPORTER

A rich hip-hop history in Appalachia can trace its roots back to the beginning of the Black Arts Movement in 1965 and founder Imanu Amiri Baraka, panelists told a Marshall University audience on Thursday, Feb. 16.

Keynote speaker Eric Jordan discussed the influence of the artistic career of his father, particularly The Norman Jordan African American Arts and Heritage Academy. The artistic camp was first held in 1980 in Clifftop, West Virginia, at Camp Washington Carver, the first African-American 4-H camp in the United States.

Jordan continued to talk about the influences of his family, movies and what he calls "hip-hop bootcamp" at Marshall University in 1986, where he found others with a passion for hip-hop.

He went on to describe the moment he found his passion after listening to the 1990 album from A Tribe Called Quest, saying, "I cried because I wanted to be a part of something like that."

Jordan then became a "full-time broke musician" and got involved in FatHead Records.

Jordan shared a song of his, "Something's Gotta Change," about police brutality and left some words of advice to experienced artists.

"We've got to stay active, so we can pass this on. Be mentors to the new talent coming up; be supporters and resources to the new talent coming up," he said.

Marshall welcomed hip-hop artists Deep Jackson, Shelem, Duke Johnson and Scantag to campus for a performance and panel discussion on hip hop, Appalachian identity and Black culture on Thursday, Feb. 16.

Among the artists were Amy Alvarez, poet and English professor at West Virginia University, Dr. Angie Luvara, sociologist at Frostburg State University and Jordan, music artist and coordinator for West Virginia University's Center for Black Culture and Research.

The hip-hop artists performed for the audience, showcasing their talents and discography. All of the artists reside in West Virginia.

The artists were introduced by Corey Cunningham, Marshall's coordinator of fraternity and sorority life.

Following the performances, Alvarez moderated a panel discussion including the artists: Luvara and Jordan. Alvarez asked the panel a series of questions regarding Appalachian culture and the presence of hip-hop in that culture.

When prompted, Luvara described Appalachia as a broad musical area that is hard to define.

"You've got people bringing other regional sounds into our region and then taking those elsewhere and then bringing them back again," she said.

In closing, Alvarez asked the panelists two parting questions. The first, their individual thoughts on the Grammys. Second, their advice for aspiring artists.

The advice included the importance of enjoying the journey, maintaining authenticity and learning the business.

"Stay true to yourself, be humble and be open-minded. Be willing to take advice. Be willing to know your rights from your wrongs; let somebody teach you," Scantag said.

Community Returns to Michigan State



Michigan State University's Campus.

Courtesy of the AP/Jake May

By **JOEY CAPPELLETTI**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

EAST LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Michigan State University students and faculty returned to the East Lansing campus Monday as the university resumed normal operations one week after a gunman shot and killed three students and injured five others.

The 50,000-student university's campus remained relatively quiet on the first day back, with many professors allowing students to attend class virtually and some students opting instead to attend a planned protest at the state Capitol in the afternoon.

In an email sent out to faculty Friday, the university said that all students will be given a credit/no credit option this semester, which allows students to receive credit for all classes without it impacting their overall grade point average. The email, written by interim Provost Thomas Jeitschko, asked all teachers to “extend as much grace and flexibility as you are able with individual students, now and in the

coming weeks.”

Brogan Kelley, a freshman at Michigan State, left East Lansing following last week's shooting to return home to his family in west Michigan but drove back on Sunday so that he could attend class in person. He said that he felt like it was important “to go back about my life.”

“For me, not going to class felt like I would have been letting the shooter win. I didn't want this one tragedy to define the place I call home and the university that's giving me my education,” said Kelley.

Kelley, who was at an off-campus house when the shooting took place, said that the majority of his professors had given students the option to attend class in person or online, with many students choosing the latter.

The shootings at Michigan State happened last Monday during evening classes at Berkey Hall and nearby at the MSU Union, a social hub where students can study, eat and relax. Students across the vast campus were ordered to shelter in place for four hours — “run, hide, fight” if necessary — while police

hunted for Anthony McRae, 43, who eventually killed himself when confronted by police not far from his home in Lansing.

Two wounded students remain in critical condition at Sparrow Hospital, university police said Monday. Two other students were in stable condition with another student in “fair condition.”

The university has been criticized by some in the community for returning too quickly. The editorial board of The State News, the student newspaper, wrote Thursday that they wouldn't attend class next week, either in person or online. More time was needed to heal, the students wrote.

A student-led protest was scheduled to take place at the state Capitol in downtown Lansing on Monday afternoon calling for gun reform legislation. March for Our Lives founder David Hogg, a survivor of the Parkland School shooting, joined Michigan State students and state lawmakers at a press conference outside of the state Capitol prior to the protest to call for gun reform.



Thousands of flowers make up a memorial for those lost in the shooting.



SGA Proposes Mental Health Organization for the College of Science

By EMMA JOHNSON
STUDENT REPORTER

A mental health organization could be developed for the College of Science students and faculty through a proposal made in the Student Government Association.

“Mental health has not always been at the forefront of the College of Science,” senator Makena Raunch said. “However, we, along with the faculty, are looking to change that and help

students succeed in their science classes.”

Some students taking difficult science classes can feel stress and anxiety, according to Rauch. The new organization aims to provide emotional help to those students.

If created, this organization would have multiple faculty advisors trained in mental health and first aid, Rauch said. Some students also might have the opportunity to go through this training.

Neurodivergency Alliance Wants “More Sensory Friendly” Campus

By BEX LAW
STUDENT REPORTER

To create a more inclusive and informed campus, the neurodivergency alliance is forming with a kickoff event on Feb. 27 for neurodivergent people and their allies.

“When campus is more sensory friendly and ‘neuro-inclusive,’ it’s a better campus for everybody,” said Dr. Jill Underhill, interim assistant director at the Center for Teaching & Learning. Though Underhill and several other faculty members are

leading the charge, she hopes it will become a student-led coalition.

Underhill said the main goal is to empower students, faculty and staff to advocate for themselves and reduce stigma around neurodivergence.

“I want students to be able to tell faculty, ‘This is what I need,’ not only in reference to formal accommodations, but saying, ‘This is how I learn,’” Underhill said. “I want faculty and staff to advocate for themselves as well to create a better workspace.”

Underhill said there are

multiple research studies saying autistic students will be the largest group of students to enter higher education in this decade.

“Campus has to address serving and supporting autistic students,” Underhill said.

The kickoff event will feature stations to learn about different kinds of neurodivergence such as autism, ADHD, bi-polar disorder and more. Campus partners such as the counseling center will be present along with student ambassadors.

**For full story visit
marshallparthenon.com**

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Confessions

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Saturday 3:30 pm-4:25 pm
or by appointment

HD-486690

HD-486692



HD-486558

Local Coffee Shop Launches New Roast

By **SARAH DAVIS**
STAFF REPORTER

A local coffee shop is taking a cup of coffee to the next degree.

Coal River Coffee Company, in collaboration with West Virginia Collegiate Recovery Network, launched Recovery Roast, their newest coffee blend, on Sunday, Feb. 12.

According to the company's website, Recovery Roast is a medium-dark roast from Colombia and Guatemala with

walnut, chocolate and apricot notes.

For shop owner Michael Ervin, the launch means more than a business move.

"My wife Rachel and I have both had family and close friends die as a direct result of addiction. When we started Coal River Coffee, we wanted to help revitalize our community with a business that builds community. This includes helping those who experience substance abuse and addiction," Ervin said.

"In late spring of 2022, I reached out to

a friend who has gone through recovery and helps those in need. He planted the seed of what would become Recovery Roast."

With the help of West Virginia Collegiate Recovery Network and a tasting at BridgeValley Community and Technical College, Recovery Roast became a dream come true for the Ervins.

Recovery Roast supplies customers with both a cup of coffee and the opportunity to give back towards a prominent cause

in their community. When Recovery Roast is purchased, the customer is supporting the West Virginia Collegiate Recovery Network's scholarship fund. This scholarship is awarded to college students who are in recovery.

"Our customers can buy coffee that they know is changing lives. That they aren't just drinking an incredible cup of locally roasted coffee that supports the local economy, but they are helping those in need," Ervin said.

According to Ervin, the launch has

impacted all those involved, including the baristas and other staff at the shop.

"So far, it's more of an opportunity for us to be who we are: community brewers. It strengthens our resolve as coffee experts but also culture change seekers," he said.

The next step for Recovery Roast and the Coal River Coffee team is to get the product on West Virginia college campuses, including Marshall University.



The Coal River Coffee Company is partnering with the Collegiate Recovery Network to develop Recovery Roast.

Photo by Sarah Davis

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