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### The Parthenon, January 25, 2023

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## Open Carry Bill Passes in Senate, Heads to House

By **MATT SCHAFFER**  
NEWS EDITOR

A bill that would allow concealed carry for handguns on college campuses passed the West Virginia State Senate on Tuesday, Jan. 24, after a similar bill was shot down in 2019.

The bill will now head to the Republican supermajority in the state's House of Delegates.

After brief discussions, the bill named "The Campus Self-Defense Act" was pushed forward toward consideration for passage on Wednesday, Jan. 18, by the Senate Judiciary Committee. The committee for the previous iteration of the bill had failed after facing student-led opposition as well as opposition from then Marshall President Jerome Gilbert.

The current bill in contention is facing objections from both current Marshall President Brad Smith as well as West Virginia University President E. Gordan Gee, as displayed in a joint statement also

released on Wednesday.

"We, at West Virginia University and Marshall University, support local control, and we believe that our boards of governors are best suited to decide whether guns should be permitted on campus," presidents Smith and Gee said. "We, therefore, do not support statewide campus carry."

Both university presidents showed concern for student and faculty safety in the statement, stating mental health challenges, student recruitment and on-campus debates are reasons for apprehension for the bill's passing.

The proposal does, however, contain certain provisions, such as the requirement of a valid concealed carry license for those under the age of 21; allowing the universities to set rules pertaining to the carry in certain spaces around campus and delayed implementation until July 2024.

**Related stories can be found on Pages 2 and 8**



The campus carry bill has been pushed forward in the West Virginia Senate despite opposition.

Photo Courtesy of W.V. Legislature

## SGA Apprenticeship Application Opens

By **EMMA JOHNSON**  
STUDENT REPORTER

The senate apprenticeship program application recently opened this semester for all first-time freshmen interested in the Student Government Association, creating an opportunity for them to become more involved on campus and adjust to the Marshall community.

The apprenticeship is designed to teach all members what the

senators and executive chairs do.

As Olivia Moncada, coordinator for the apprenticeship program, said, "We teach them the functions of all of our committees, and they all serve on different aspects of the senate."

When students first start out as an apprentice, they can't vote, but they can still be involved with group meetings, socials, retreats, events and the weekly agenda.



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# West Virginia Senators Speak on Campus Carry Gun Bill

By LEAH WILLINGHAM  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — “Thank God for West Virginia and freedom,” Republican Sen. Rupie Phillips said Tuesday afternoon, shortly before the state senate passed his “Campus Self-Defense Act” bill 29-4.

At least half of the West Virginia Senate — all Republicans — were listed as sponsors along with Phillips.

The bill, which would allow people with concealed carry permits to bring firearms onto college and university campuses, despite ardent opposition from higher education leaders, now heads to the Republican supermajority in the House of Delegates, would only apply to people holding a license to carry a concealed pistol or revolver.

It strictly prohibits the open carry of a firearm on a college or university campus, and allows institutions of higher learning to implement exceptions. People could be prohibited from bringing guns into areas with a capacity of more than 1,000 spectators — stadiums for football games, for example — or to on-campus daycare centers.

It strictly prohibits the open carry of a firearm on a college or university campus, and allows institutions of higher learning to implement exceptions. People could be prohibited from bringing guns into areas with a capacity of more than 1,000 spectators — stadiums for football games,

for example — or to on-campus daycare centers.

Republican Sen. Charles Trump said similar legislation has already passed in 11 other states: Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Mississippi, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas, Utah and Wisconsin.

West Virginia law currently allows colleges and universities to prohibit guns on their campuses. Supporters of the proposed legislation say citizens have a constitutional right to carry weapons for self-defense. Similar bills have been introduced during past legislative sessions but failed to gain enough traction to advance.

Phillips, who has sponsored similar bills in the past, noted the rate of women who face sexual assault on college campuses — and said allowing for concealed carry on campus would help address that issue.

“I don’t want my daughter to have to face this — I don’t want your daughter, your granddaughters to ever have to face that,” Phillips said to fellow lawmakers. “That’s another reason that we need to get this through.”

A survey by the Association of American Universities found that around 26% of female students are victims of sexual assault or misconduct while they’re undergraduates. According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, women between the ages of 18-24 are most commonly abused

by an intimate partner — and research shows that possessing a firearm is not a protective factor.

The presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation actually increases the risk of homicide by 500%, according to the American Public Health Association.

Democratic Sen. Mike Caputo — one of three Democrats in the 34-member Senate — pointed out that many advocates for victims of domestic violence oppose the legislation. As do advocates for people with mental illnesses, who said it could increase suicide risk.

Caputo, who said he’s a gun owner with a concealed carry permit, said he’s “deeply concerned” about the bill advancing.

“I think it’s a bad idea to basically encourage folks to carry weapons on campus,” he said. “Kids are partying and learning and growing up and things happen — they just do. I dread the thought that handguns will be so easily accessible.”

As the bill advanced through the Senate Judiciary Committee last week, several prominent West Virginia university leaders also urged lawmakers to reconsider.

The presidents of West Virginia University and Marshall University — the state’s largest institutions of higher education — wrote a letter to lawmakers opposing the bill and stating that decisions about whether guns should be allowed on campus should be up to the institutions’ board of governors.

**Continued on page 11**



Republican Senator Charles Trump discussing proposal in 2005.

Photos courtesy of AP/Jeff Gentner

## Visual Arts Center Opens ‘Simulacrum’ Conceptual Art Exhibit

By JOSEPH DICRISTOFARO  
STUDENT REPORTER

The School of Art and Design opened a new conceptual art exhibition on Jan. 23 titled “Simulacrum: How to Make Money (While Destroying Photographs).”

Ariel C. Wilson, a former School of Art and Design faculty member, made the art. The exhibit is open to the public from Jan. 23 until Feb. 17 free of charge in the Birke Art Gallery located in the Visual Arts Center at 927 3rd Ave.

“‘Simulacrum: How to Make Money (While Destroying Photographs)’ is a mixed media collection that began as a response to a color-correcting and printing student exercise,” Courtney Chapman, gallery director for the School of Art and Design, said. “This exhibition showcases the playful replication and extensive destruction of those prints and digital files.”

In “Simulacrum” Wilson asks, “Which processes of replication

destroy as they reproduce?” and interprets the acts of deletion and erasure required by law. Every print or digital file is destroyed through the process.

Wilson created consecutive Xerox copies of one print until the bill became unrecognizable, and digitally cut the images and prints. Ultimately, she shredded the images. The resulting works in the series are equal parts legal proof, physical photographic inquiry, interrogation of the state and a nod to the power of the simulacrum.

Wilson will be at the exhibit on Thursday, Jan. 26, hosting an artist’s talk from 5 to 6 p.m. which will be followed by a reception. Both events are open to all.

**Photos on page 12**



## Sustainability Dept. Introduces Compost Facility

By JOSEPH DICRISTOFARO  
STUDENT REPORTER

After years of development, the new composting facility started by the Marshall University Sustainability Department will begin full operation on Feb. 1.

The composting facility took four years to become operational after delays from the pandemic along with other setbacks.

The opening of the facility provides many opportunities for students and faculty alike a new, alternative way of disposing of waste on campus, Sustainability Manager Amy Parsons-White said.

“There are compost bins located at the Memorial Student Center, in front of Drinko Library, one by the science building, in between the freshman dorms and one in Commons,” Parsons-White said.

However, students and staff on campus are not the only people who will be contributing to the new composting efforts. The kitchens on campus will also compost both pre and post-consumer waste, Parsons-White said.

Additionally, other aspects of

the Huntington community outside of Marshall University will benefit from the new facility.

“The compost will be used on campus, along with other places in the community like elementary schools and community gardens,” Parsons-White said.

“Being that Marshall has such a beautiful campus and knowing that we are growing the resources to keep it that way is exciting,” Eli Ferguson, a Marshall sophomore, said. “And it seems to have paved the way for continued sustainability efforts.”

The composting efforts will also provide a new revenue stream to the university as well as open up new educational opportunities for students with an interest in the field.

Those interested can purchase compost from the Marshall facility at The Wild Ramp in Huntington in the weeks following the opening of the facility.

## Hazing Suit at Bowling Green University Ends With Nearly \$3M Settlement

By JOHN SEEWER  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The family of a student who died from alcohol poisoning while pledging a fraternity will receive nearly \$3 million from Bowling Green State University to settle its hazing-related lawsuit, according to an agreement announced Monday.

As part of the settlement, the family of Stone Foltz and the university both said they will work to address and eliminate hazing on college campuses. Foltz's parents have started a foundation focused on hazing education and have spoken to students at other universities about its dangers.

“We can continue our fight saving lives,” said Shari Foltz, whose son died of alcohol poisoning in March 2021.

A university investigation found that the 20-year-old had attended a fraternity initiation event where there was a tradition of new members finishing or attempting to finish a bottle of alcohol, according to a university investigation.

Foltz, from Delaware, Ohio, was found unconscious after members of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity dropped him off at his apartment. He died three days after he was put on life support.

Both sides said in a joint statement issued Monday that they

will be forever impacted by his death.

“This resolution keeps the Foltz family and BGSU community from reliving the tragedy for years to come in the courtroom and allows us to focus on furthering our shared mission of eradicating hazing in Ohio and across the nation. Leading these efforts in our communities is the real work that honors Stone,” the statement said.

The settlement with the university is on top of more than \$7 million in payouts made to the family by the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity and those who had a role in the hazing, according to court documents.

Eight former fraternity members either pleaded guilty or were found guilty on various charges, including reckless homicide, hazing and giving alcohol to a minor.

Two of the eight, though, were acquitted last year of more serious charges including involuntary manslaughter and reckless homicide. Their defense attorneys had argued Foltz was not forced or required to finish the entire bottle and made that decision on his own.

In their lawsuit, Foltz's parents accused the school of failing to stop hazing in fraternities and sororities despite being aware of it.

Their attorney, Rex Elliott, said on Monday that the university is making an effort to prevent another tragedy from happening and that colleges nationwide must play a role in reforming how fraternities and sororities bring in new members.

“Greek organizations will not survive if hazing doesn't come to an end,” Elliott said. “Hazing and pledge programs are a relic of the past.”

After the hazing death, Bowling Green expelled Pi Kappa Alpha and said it would never again be recognized on campus. The university also developed a plan to address anti-hazing efforts, including hiring a prevention coordinator and making it easier for students to tell the school about hazing.

Stone Foltz's death also spurred changes beyond Bowling Green, including a new state law that created tougher criminal penalties for hazing — a proposal first made after an Ohio University student died in 2018 after ingesting nitrous oxide at a fraternity house.

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## The Wild Ramp Offers Students Fresh Food Alternatives



The Wild Ramp on 555 14th Street West, Huntington

Photo by Sadie Helmick

By **JOSEPH DICRISTOFARO**  
STUDENT REPORTER

Fresh and local food alternatives for students at Marshall University are available only three miles from campus at The Wild Ramp.

The Wild Ramp is a year-round indoor farmers' market located on 14th Street W, Huntington that highlights locally grown food and offers a variety of products made by local artisans from the tri-state area.

This gives students an opportunity to buy fresh produce as they please, which is not possible in many other stores for those looking for fresh, locally grown produce Kenlee Bonecutter, president of the Sustainability Club, said. The Wild Ramp can be found at 555 14th Street West in Huntington.

"Marshall students should

totally take advantage of the Ramp," she said. "It's definitely a whole-in-a-wall place if you're not from the area, so most students probably don't know of it."

Money is often the first thought that goes through a college student's mind when shopping and local goods are generally more expensive, which causes some college-aged shoppers to stray away. The Wild Ramp's prices, in many cases, fit a college student's budget, Bonecutter said.

College can also ruin one's diet, with many students being very busy and unable to think about what they are putting in their bodies. But The Wild Ramp makes this process easier, she said.

"They have college-friendly prices and handmade frozen meals for sale that would be convenient for students," Bonecutter said. "They also do some cooking and educational events that college students should look into."

Opening its doors in 2012, The Wild Ramp's main goal was to provide quality food choices and support the local farmers; ten years later, they continue that mission.

## SGA Turning to Upperclassmen for Leadership Roles

By **EMMA JOHNSON**  
STUDENT REPORTER

Upperclassmen are being sought by the Student Government Association to fill seats and higher up positions.

"In the spring, if you are a sophomore or above, you can run for a seat in the senate," junior Olivia Moncada, the education outreach chair, said.

Students who are in their second semester as freshmen and have completed the Apprenticeship Program or any student who is a sophomore or above can run for a seat in the senate or executive position in student government.

*"I think everyone should be involved with SGA," Alex Roets said.*

These positions are ones that students get voted into at the beginning of each semester.

"However, students who are running for a seat can only run for a college that you are a part of," Moncada said.

Students may only run for their prospective colleges, so if a student is involved with more than one college, they will have more than one platform to run on.

Despite this restriction, Moncada added that most students who run for a position usually get some form of seat in SGA.

Student government can be a good way for students to get involved on and off of campus as a lot of their work is community service based.

Sophomore Alex Roets, secretary of student involvement said, "Having upperclassmen in student government is extremely beneficial, because they experienced things on campus and can tell us how they have impacted during their time as a student."

Getting involved with student government has opened students up to new friendships, opportunities and topics they may not have known about, both Moncada and Roets said.

"I think everyone should be involved with SGA, whether that be a senator or on the executive team. SGA is the place to take action about things that affect your education directly," Roets said.

Students from each college have the opportunity to express their concerns that not only affect them, but also the students they represent, Roets said.

Those interested in running for a position in student government, should visit the SGA Herdlink page at <https://herdlink.marshall.edu/organization/sga> or visit the SGA Instagram page for more information.

# West Virginia Native Author Shares Excerpts From Newly Released Book

By **SARAH DAVIS**  
STAFF REPORTER

A West Virginian author talked about growing up while facing adversity and how, despite our differences, we all can find love.

The Birke Fine Arts Symposium, College of Liberal Arts and English Department sponsored a reading of “Another Appalachia: Growing up Queer and Indian in a Mountain Place.”

Author Neema Avashia grew up in Cross Lanes, West Virginia as the

daughter of Indian immigrants. Avashia currently works as an educator and activist in Boston, Massachusetts.

The book was published in March 2022 and shares the experiences of her childhood and how they collide with her world today.

Avashia read two essays from “Another Appalachia” to the students in attendance. First to be read was “City Mouse/Country Mouse,” the story of Avashia and her partner, Laura. The essay describes two people from differing backgrounds who, despite

their differences, share the interest of love. Avashia read from “City Mouse/Country Mouse” saying:

“Our communication styles may be different; our paces might not always match, but our understanding of what it means to love, it would seem, is the same.”

Avashia also read from “Our Armor,” which explored the cultural disparities and racism she experienced growing up, and how those disparities changed drastically following the attacks on 9/11. Avashia read from “Our Armor” saying:

“I want, in those moments, to assert my American-ness. My West Virginian-ness. To pull out the birth certificate detailing my birth at Thomas Hospital in Charleston, West Virginia, in the heart of the Kanawha valley. That muddy river valley, those green mountains, those smoking chemical stacks— they are where I come from.”

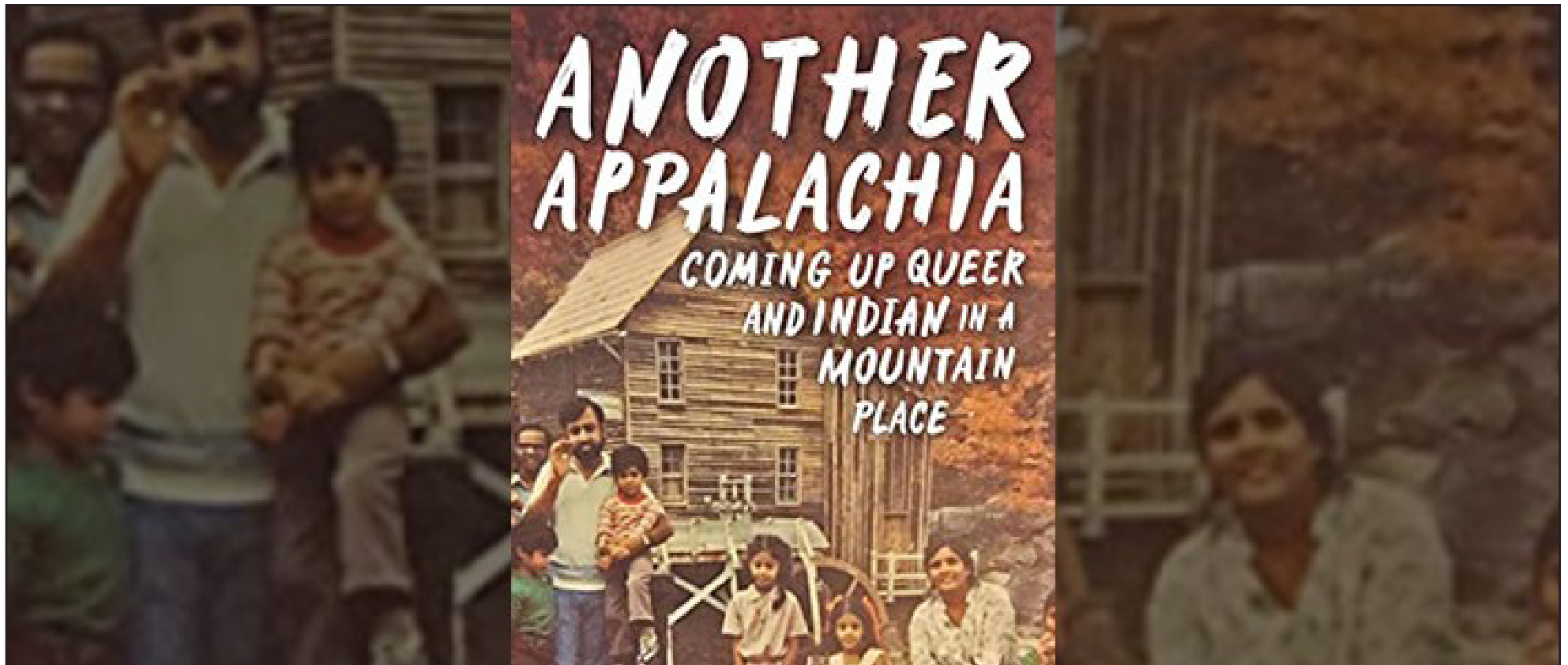
After the live reading, Avashia took questions from the audience. When asked about her writing process, Avashia described herself as a “chronic reviser.” “For me, revision is where I can get into

reflection,” she said.

Avashia was also asked how long it took her to write “Another Appalachia,” and she responded saying, “I think it took me 43 years to write this book,” meaning her lifetime.

“I hope it doesn’t take another 43 to write the next one, but, if it does, it does, and I’ll be okay with that,” she said.

Marshall will welcome Avashia back to campus on Thursday, Apr. 13 for an in-person reading, which will take place in the Shawkey Dining Room.



The cover for Neema Avashia’s book showcases her upbringing in Appalachia.

Photo Courtesy of Neema Avashia



# Men's Basketball Defeats Arkansas State in Overtime Thriller

By **CHAYCE MATHENY**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Men's basketball defeated Arkansas State 87-78 on the road in overtime Saturday evening, Jan. 21.

Senior Taevion Kinsey scored 23 points in the game with nine points coming in overtime that helped propel the Herd to victory.

"Watching the team we have keeps

me motivated," Kinsey said. "I loved the way that they played. I loved the way they carried us into halftime. In the second half, it was a hard-fought win."

Junior Andrew Taylor led the team with 27 points, shooting three of five from three-point range, with one of

them being the go-ahead basket in the first few seconds of overtime. He also finished with two rebounds and four assists.

"It's nice to come away from this road trip 2-0. It's hard to do in any conference," Taylor said about taking the road contest.

Junior Kamdyn Curfman shot four for eight from three-point range and finished with 16 points.

Herd men's basketball head coach Dan D'Antoni said that Arkansas State is a tough opponent.

"I told the team before the game, this team (Arkansas State) plays

hard," he said. "They're very similar to Texas State, except they're bigger and stronger. This was probably the most physical team we've played, and they're better than their record shows."

Next, Marshall will host UL Monroe Thursday at 7 p.m.



Junior Andrew Taylor dribbling the ball up the court.

Photo by Shauntelle Thompson



## Women's Basketball Snaps Its Five-Game Losing Streak With Win Over Southern Miss

By **LUKE HAMILTON**  
STUDENT REPORTER

Marshall Women's Basketball snapped its five-game losing streak with a win over the Southern Miss Lady Eagles, making Marshall's record (10-9) overall and (3-5) in conference play.

This matchup marks the 28th time these old Conference USA opponents have played since 2006. Marshall has won 12 of these games now.

Coach Tony Kemper emphasized the importance of defense and rebounding after a loss to Troy last week, and The Herd responded with a tremendous defensive performance. Marshall held the Lady Eagles to 52 points and hustled till the end, winning by one point.

Marshall and Southern Miss lacked in the three-point percentage category on Saturday, but the Herd's defense outplayed The Lady Eagles. Marshall shot 31 three-pointers and only made seven, compared to Southern Miss making four threes while only shooting 11.

Junior guard Abby Beeman got the game-winning steal after Marshall's turnover off the inbounds pass to secure the one-point lead as the buzzer sounded.

Beeman had eight points in the second half after not scoring a single time in the first two quarters. Meanwhile, Roshala Scott ended with 18 points while going one of 10 from three-point territory, mainly scoring from the free-throw line and in the paint.

The Lady Eagles outrebounded the Herd (44-41), which is an improvement after Marshall had 21 fewer boards than Troy in the previous game.

Southern Miss had one player in double digits. Junior guard Domonique Davis had 18 points in the contest. Davis and Roshala Scott for The Herd are in the top 15 for scoring in the Sunbelt conference, with Scott ranked second and Davis at 15th.

The Herd's defense shined on Saturday, Jan. 21, getting eight steals and eight blocks. Marshall also held the sophomore center Melyia Grayson to eight points after her last game, scoring an outstanding 26 points against Appalachian State.

Later this week the Thundering Herd goes on the road looking to improve its win streak, facing ULM at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26, and Arkansas State at 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28.

## Marshall Beats Duquesne in Two Day S&D Meet

By **LYDIA MONTAGUE**  
STUDENT REPORTER

Marshall Swim bounced back after losing to Ohio University last weekend with a deciding victory in a dual meet against Duquesne University Jan. 20 and 21.

The team put up an impressive 300.5 points to the Dukes' 223.5, dominating in 19 events and adding a few record-breaking performances, including Eszter Laban's 1000 Freestyle, and a 400 Medley Relay by Klava Katayama, Mia McBride, Madeline Hart and Paige Banton.

Laban finished with a time of 10:01.56, and the four swimmers in the 400 Medley finished with a 3:44.85.

The team could also honor their seniors as they hosted Duquesne in

their last home meet of the season.

"It was definitely an emotional weekend knowing how special this senior group is, but we really attempted to rally in order to make a memorable time and competition for our seniors' last meet at the Fitch," sophomore Gabby Ivey said.

One senior in particular, Or Tamir, finished her last home meet with a NIC "A" Standard time in her 100 Yard Individual Medley. She clocked in a 57.84, closely competing with her teammate Banton, who finished with a 57.36.

"Our team really rallied around our last home stand with our seniors at The Fitch and put together a fantastic

showing," Ian Walsh, Herd swim head coach, said. "Top to bottom, we had some really well-executed performances."

The Herd hopes to continue this success in their next major competition: the Missouri Valley Championships.

"Going into the conference meet, we begin our 'taper,' which is almost like our rest period, so we go into the meet feeling fresh. Each of us will definitely be practicing little touch-ups that we have seen and reflected on from previous meets' films," Ivey said.

Finishing at home for the season, The Herd will next see action at the MVC's which will be held in Iowa City, Iowa, Feb. 15 - 18.

## Herd Track and Field Win Six Events on Final Day at Liberty

**THE PARTHENON**

Marshall track and field concluded the two-day Brant Tolmsa Invitational hosted by Liberty University Saturday afternoon. The Thundering Herd recorded six individual victories Saturday.

"We had a great weekend!" head track and field coach Jeff Small said. "We won seven events on the women's side that had 15 teams competing, which is

outstanding. The women set two more school records while missing a third by 1/100th of a second. Really proud of how the men competed too."

Abby Herring's win in the 1,000 set a personal and team record in the event, racing 2:54.06. Fellow record-breaker from a week ago, Tyra Thomas, won the 100 meter hurdles with a time of 8.38; her 8.37 was a school record set from the

Marshall Classic.

Other victories included Kylee Mastin in the Mile, Elicia Wood in the High Jump and the 4x400 team composed of Mikah Alleyne, Astoria Beckett, Erica Murphy and Thomas.

As a note, senior Macie Majoy finished as the top collegiate athlete in Pole Vault, jumping a length of 3.95 meters.

# Presidents of Marshall and West Virginia University Respond to Concealed Carry Bill



President Smith

By **BRAD D. SMITH & E. GORDON GEE**  
UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS

Dear Members of the West Virginia Senate Judiciary Committee,

We write to share with the committee our thoughts on Senate Bill 10, a bill that would limit the authority of our Board of Governors to regulate the presence of firearms on our campuses. We understand that individuals, on both sides of this issue, are passionate about their positions and we believe that all

voices are important and should be heard.

We, at West Virginia University and Marshall University, support local control, and we believe that our boards of governors are best suited to decide whether guns should be permitted on campus. We therefore do not support statewide campus carry.

Whether it is mental health challenges facing some students, discussion about grades, recruitment of new students and faculty, or the protection of open and honest debate of ideas, we are concerned about inserting firearms into these types of situations.

We understand that there is significant support for campus carry in the Legislature. If the public policy preference of the Legislature is to permit guns on campus, we hope that the Legislature considers best practices and safeguards from other states with existing campus carry laws, such as Arkansas, Georgia, Tennessee, and Texas. From a public policy perspective, and looking towards the safety of our campus, we believe the following considerations should be included in a bill which follows the best practices and safeguards related to campus carry:

Only concealed carry permit holders would be able to have a gun on campus and in buildings.

Guns would not be permitted at venues or arenas with a capacity of more than 1,000 spectators.

Guns would not be permitted at daycare facilities.

Guns would not be permitted in secure areas of any building used by law enforcement.

Guns would not be permitted in areas where colleges and universities have implemented adequate security measures.

Guns would not be permitted in disciplinary hearings.

Guns would not be permitted in workshops and laboratories where high hazardous and flammable substances are housed and animal laboratories.

Guns would not be permitted in specifically designated areas in which patient-care or mental health counseling is being provided.

Guns would not be permitted in areas used exclusively by K-12 or private entities.

Guns would not be permitted in areas where otherwise prohibited by state and federal law.

Guns would not be permitted in individual offices not open to the public.

Guns would not be permitted in campus residence halls, except for common areas, such as lounges, dining areas, and study areas.

The implementation should

be delayed until July 1, 2024, to give adequate time for institutions to educate and prepare faculty, staff, students, and their families.

We note that these best practices and safeguards are contained in Senate Bill 10, and we thank the bill sponsors for including these provisions and the Legislature for considering them. While we support local control, we will continue to work with our legislators to create environments that are safe for our campus communities.



Photo courtesy of WVU  
President Gee

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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# Florida's Rejection of Black History Course Stirs Debate



Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis

Photo courtesy of AP/ John Locher

By **TERRY SPENCER** and **ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis reiterated Monday the state's rejection of a proposed nationwide advanced African American studies course, saying it pushes a political agenda — something three authors cited in the state's criticism accused him of doing in return.

DeSantis said his administration rejected the College Board's Advanced Placement African American Studies course because "we want education, not indoctrination." It was revealed last week that the Florida Department of Education recently told the College Board it would bar the course unless changes are made.

The state then issued a chart late Friday that says the course promotes the idea that modern American society oppresses Black people, other minorities and women, includes a chapter on "Black Queer Studies" that the administration finds inappropriate, and uses articles by critics

of capitalism.

The governor said the course violates legislation dubbed the Stop WOKE Act he signed last year. It bars instruction that defines people as necessarily oppressed or privileged based on their race. At least some writers the course cites believe modern U.S. society endorses white supremacy while oppressing racial minorities, gays and women.

"This course on Black history, what's one of the lessons about? Queer theory. Now who would say that an important part of Black history is queer theory? That is somebody pushing an agenda," said DeSantis, a possible Republican presidential candidate in 2024.

Florida House Democratic Leader Fentrice Driskell called the administration's rejection of the course "cowardly" and said it "sends a clear message that Black Americans' history does not count in

Florida."

"Imagine how boring and closed minded we'd all be if we only met ideas that we agreed with," she said Monday.

The College Board, after a decade of development, is testing the African American Studies course at 60 high schools nationwide. No school or state would be required to offer it after its scheduled rollout.

The organization offers AP courses across the academic spectrum, including math, science, social studies, foreign languages and fine arts. Taught at a college level, students who score high enough on the course's final exam usually earn course credit at their university.

The College Board hasn't responded to emails and calls since Friday. It issued a statement last week saying it encourages feedback and will consider changes.

The state, in its Friday chart, criticized five

living authors. The Associated Press emailed them and three responded.

— The section on "Black Queer Studies" includes readings by Roderick Ferguson, a Yale University professor of women's, gender and sexuality studies. The state says he "exclaims, 'We have to encourage and develop practices whereby queerness isn't a surrender to the status quo of race, class, gender and sexuality.'"

Ferguson said that quote comes from an interview he did about his book, "One-Dimensional Queer." The book, he said, is a discussion of "employment discrimination, laws against LGBTQ+ people, the suppression of progressive movements in the U.S., police violence against minority communities, restrictions on immigration (and) anti-black racism."

"These are real histories. The arguments about them are based on scholarly investigation and research — as are the arguments from the other scholars on this list," Ferguson said.

"Unfortunately, we are in a moment in which right-wing forces are mobilizing to suppress the free discussion of those realities. If we need an example of that mobilization, we could probably just turn to the forces that came together to reject this course."

— The state calls out the course for including "Black Study, Black Struggle," a 2016 piece by UCLA history professor Robin D.G. Kelley, saying he "argues that activism, rather than the university system, is the catalyst for social transformation." Kelley called that description oversimplified.

His piece challenges student activists to move their efforts beyond campus and decries racism, inequality, capitalism, militarism and police brutality. But he also said activists must love everyone, "even those who may once have been our oppressors," and read and understand Western literature if they are to criticize it.

He said one point is "that we should not pay so much emphasis on trauma and victimization, but instead understand how we have fought for justice not just for Black people but for the whole nation (yes including struggling white people), despite the violence and oppression we have experienced."

The state also points out Kelley wrote the 1990 book "Hammer and Hoe," a history of communism in Alabama during the Great Depression of the 1930s.

"It won several awards and accolades, including from a few conservative anti-Communist historians, because it is based on thorough research — something DeSantis's people are not familiar with," Kelley said.

— The state criticized the inclusion of a section about "Movement for Black Lives," a coalition of more than 50 groups including Black Lives Matter and the National Conference of Black Lawyers. It says the group wants to abolish prisons and that it alleges there is a "war" against gay and transsexual Black people.

The state criticizes the section's inclusion of a reading by Leslie Kay Jones, an assistant sociology professor at Rutgers University. It cites her quote, "Black people produce an unquantifiable amount of content for the same social media corporations that reproduce the white supremacist superstructure that suppresses us."

Jones said she found no indication that the Movement for Black Lives has ever advocated for prison abolition. She is surprised DeSantis' staff attacked her for criticizing social media companies, as he does the same.

She said this is why students should have the ability "to come to their own conclusions through an evaluation of primary and secondary texts."

"Is Ron DeSantis claiming that Florida students are unable to formulate their own opinions?" she said.



# Police: Two Students Dead, Teacher Hurt in Des Moines Shooting



Police at the scene of shooting in Des Moines on Monday, Jan. 23. Photos courtesy of AP/ Charlie Neibergall

By **SCOTT McFETRIDGE**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Two students were killed Monday and a teacher was injured in what police said was a targeted shooting at a Des Moines school that is dedicated to helping at-risk youth, and three suspects were arrested afterward.

The shooting was at an educational program called Starts Right Here that is affiliated with the Des Moines school district.

Police say emergency crews were called to the school, which is in a business park, just before 1 p.m. Officers arrived to find two students critically injured, and they started CPR immediately. The two students died at a hospital. The teacher who was injured is in serious condition and headed into surgery Monday

afternoon.

About 20 minutes after the shooting, police said officers stopped a car that matched witnesses' descriptions about two miles away and took three suspects into custody. Police said one of the suspects ran from the car, but officers using a K-9 were able to track that person down.

"The incident was definitely targeted. It was not random. There was nothing random about this," Sgt. Paul Parizek said.

The Starts Right Here program, which helps at-risk youth in grades 9-12, was founded by Will Holmes, a rapper whose stage name is Will Keeps. He didn't immediately respond to a message seeking

comment Monday.

"The school is designed to pick up the slack and help the kids who need help the most," Parizek said.

The Greater Des Moines Partnership, the economic and community development organization for the region, says on its website that Keeps came to Des Moines about 20 years ago from Chicago, where he "lived in a world of gangs and violence" before finding healing through music.

The partnership said the Starts Right Here movement "seeks to encourage and educate young people living in disadvantaged and oppressive circumstances using the arts, entertainment, music, hip hop and other programs. It also

teaches financial literacy and helps students prepare for job interviews and improve their communication skills. The ultimate goal is to break down barriers of fear, intimidation and other damaging factors leading to a sense of being disenfranchised, forgotten and rejected." The school's website says 70% of the students it serves are minorities.

Gov. Kim Reynolds, who serves on an advisory board for Starts Right Here, said she was "shocked and saddened to hear about the shooting." Des Moines Police Chief Dana Wingert is on the Starts Right Here board.

"I've seen first-hand how hard Will Keeps and his staff works to help at-risk kids through this

alternative education program," Reynolds said in a statement. "My heart breaks for them, these kids and their families. Kevin and I are praying for their safe recovery."

Nicole Krantz said her office near the school was put on lockdown immediately after the shooting, and she saw someone running from the building with police in pursuit on foot and in patrol cars.

"We just saw a lot of cop cars pouring in from everywhere," Krantz said to the Des Moines Register. "It's terrifying. We're all worried. We went on lockdown, obviously. We were all told to stay away from the windows because we weren't sure if they caught the guy."

**Continued from Page 2**

The presidents of West Virginia State University, Concord University and Shepherd University said they “strongly support the second amendment and the right for law abiding citizens to own firearms, but have serious reservations about the significant public safety challenges and financial burdens” that the bill would introduce.

They said that because of the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, all institutions of higher education are seeing more students grapple with mental health challenges and need additional support services.

“Introducing firearms into this already challenging environment could have unintended consequences,” they said, noting that access to firearms increases suicide

risks.

The bill allows institutions to prohibit the carrying of concealed firearms at organized events taking place at a stadium or arena with a capacity of more than 1,000 spectators, like sports games. It also provides exceptions for daycare facilities located on university property, or in rooms where a student or employee disciplinary proceeding is being held. It also says guns can be restricted in specifically designated areas where patient care or mental health counseling is being provided.

Schools would be permitted to regulate firearms in residence halls, except for in common areas such as lounges, dining areas and study areas. It requires colleges and universities to provide either a secure location for storage of a pistol or revolver in at

least one on-campus residence hall — or to make safes available in residence rooms, which they are permitted to charge a fee for.

Concealed carry could also be prohibited in any building used by a law enforcement agency on campus or one that has security measures in place to ensure pistols and revolvers are not carried in by the public. Those security measures could be a metal detector or a guard with a wand, according to

Republican Sen. Charles Trump, who explained the bill on the Senate floor Tuesday.

“In other words, if any university, any college or university, wants to say: ‘We want this building to be gun free,’ they can do it,” Trump said. “But they have to make sure that nobody’s going to be able to get a gun in there.”

# School of Music to Present Piano-Trombone Recital

By **ABBY AYES**  
STUDENT REPORTER

The Marshall University School of Music will be hosting a free French program highlighting many well-known composers this Sunday, January 29th in the Smith Recital Hall.

This recital will feature faculty trombonist Dr. Michael Stroecher and faculty pianist Dr. Johan Botes, with music and compositions from Henri Tomasi, Darius Milhaud, and Camille Saint-Saens.

This program is one of many free events hosted by the School of Music; and is open to all Marshall Students, faculty members and the general public.

“This music should appeal to almost everybody,” Stroecher said.

“Tomasi and Milhaud were very much influenced by American jazz- Tomasi, especially, by Tommy Dorsey- and the Saint-Saens is a light piece of Romantic ear-candy.”

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or anytime by appointment  
Office Hours Mon-Fri. 9am-2pm

**Rev. Fr. Thomas**

**St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church**

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Pastor: Msgr. Dean Borgmeyer

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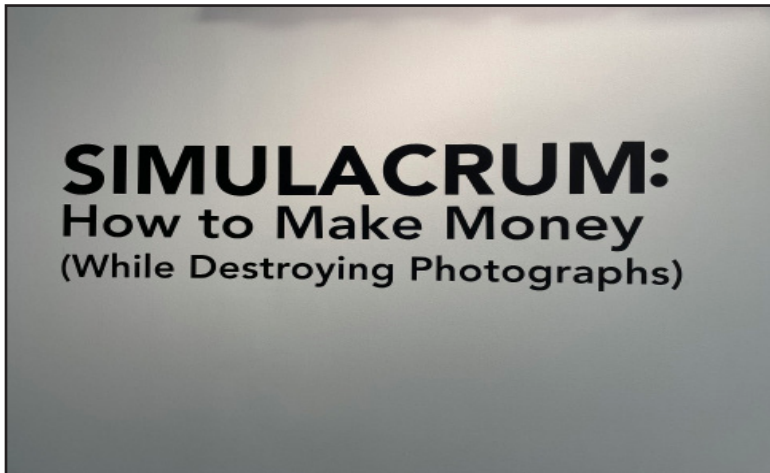
Saturday Vigil: 4:30 pm  
Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:00 am,  
12:00 Noon, 5:30 pm

### Confessions

Saturday 8:25 am  
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# Visual Arts Center Opens 'Simulacrum' Conceptual Art Exhibit



The new Visual Arts Center exhibit features printed money as artwork.

Photos by Joseph DiCristofaro

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