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THE PARTHENON

Tuesday, December 6, 2011 | MARSHALL UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER | marshallparthenon.com

Farewell FROM THE PARTHENON

> page 3 | editor columns



Journalism clubs to host party to benefit City Mission

BY ALIANNA TELLES
THE PARTHENON

Three groups from the W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications at Marshall University will be hosting an "ugly sweater" Christmas party.

Huntington's Kitchen across from Pullman Plaza, the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA), Society of Professional Journalist (SPJ) and the Marshall University American Advertising Federation Club (MU-AAF) will be hosting an Ugly Sweater Christmas party to benefit the

Huntington City Mission. "Being that there are only 12 members in the PRSSA, I felt that we needed more man power to help pull off a party for the size I wanted it to be, which is why I knew that I wanted the other groups to be a part of this," said Libby Clark, senior public relations

major and president of the PRSSA at Marshall. There is no entry fee to attend the event, but the clubs are asking for a donation from anyone that attends. Students are \$2.00 and adults/faculty \$3.00. People are also asked to bring blankets, clothes, toys,

shoes, toiletries, canned food, gift cards, batteries, movie passes, Lysol spray cans, lice kits and ChapStick for donations to the Huntington City Mission. "The holidays aren't always about getting the newest iPod or tons of clothes — it's also about

giving back," Clark said. There also will be a small giveaway in which the person will receive a ticket and if their name is chosen, they can choose which prize they want. Alianna Telles can be contacted at telles@marshall.edu.

KEEPING TRADITION

For more than 20 years, Union Pub and Grill attracts young and old in hometown atmosphere

THE PARTHENON
BY JOHN YEINGST

The Union Pub and Grill is a local landmark that has been serving the community with good food and cheap drinks for over 21 years.

The pub is known for its loyal customers, great deals and welcoming atmosphere that draw the attention of diversified crowds from the Huntington and the Tri-State area.

Herb Stanley, owner of the Union Pub and Grill, said the history of the Union started after he came to Marshall University and developed a friendship with a local bar owner.

"I came to school in Huntington in 1981 and eventually pledged a fraternity in the fall," Stanley said. "Everyone in the fraternity hung out at a local bar called The Varsity around the football parking lot, and I was lucky enough to get a job at the bar when I was in my twenties. I ended up taking over The Varsity for seven years and eventually moved to Seventh Avenue, where I renamed it the Union Pub and Grill."

Stanley said one shocking experience he had in his bar-owning career was when he had to raise the entry age to 21 at The Union.

"Up until the year 2000, you

could come into The Union even if you were under 21," he said. "I had my under 21 crew for over 17 years so it was really a difficult transition. Many of those people were my loyal customers and friends. I feel like I get treated with a good deal of respect from city officials because of the way I've maintained and kept the trouble out."

The crowd consists of a wide range of people from lawyers and doctors to Marshall athletes, students and alumni.

Stanley said it's amazing to actually see how many people come back to Union.

"There are just so many stories that come out of it, and I think the regulars just make it a really friendly atmosphere," he said.

Stanley said his favorite part of the bar is the excitement of getting something new everyday.

"The greatest thing about it is you set up everyday the same way but it is never the same," Stanley said. "You never know what you are going to see, you never know what story is going to be told to you, and I don't know what else I would do without the bar."

Rus Livingood, owner of the kitchen at The Union, said the pub really is a little known secret

within the City of Huntington.

"I've been going to the Union since I moved here to go to school," Livingood said. "I was in a fraternity, and at the time, it was known as a Greek bar. It was more so set up for college students, and you didn't have to be 21 to get in. It was just a place to be with all of your friends and ended up developing a good relationship with Herb back around 1997."

The Union is different than other bars in Huntington in that it is not a bar looking for attention but more so looking to keep old friends.

"Herb has maintained the Union as the soul proprietor for over 20 years now," Livingood said. "The Union is not like a lot of bars — meaning it is not set to be an upstart, and it's not set to be a dance club or even a hot new fad. It's just a good place to go. It draws attention as many doctors, lawyers and people in their 50s and 60s earlier in the day than 21-year-olds in the evening."

Livingood said once people come into the bar, they love the atmosphere, end up staying and eventually become loyal customers.

"The Union is a bar that just so happens to serve a decent



JOHN YEINGST | THE PARTHENON

Patrons sit around the bar at the Union Pub and Grill on Saturday. The local landmark, owned by Herb Stanley, draws a diverse crowd.

size menu," Livingood said. "The atmosphere is mainly long term patrons of The Union, almost like a family. It's one of the only places in town where you can see four or five different types of crowds at once. The bar is really eclectic. There is not any one typical crowd that goes there."

Livingood said people come because of the overall feel of the place, no fights, no dance floor, and he likes to think they enjoy the food while they are there.

"The very first thing that

anyone knows about The Union menu is the cheese fries which have been a staple for a long time," Livingood said. "I could come up with a million different menu items, and we would still be known for our cheese fries. We serve typical pub food so it's not really a place you come to have an egg white omelet or a salad."

Along with food, the Union Pub and Grill hosts specials such as quarters on Fridays from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. when patrons can purchase a 7-ounce

beer for the price of 25 cents, and there is also a trivia night on Wednesdays.

"There is not a thing on our menu with the exception of pizza that is over 10 dollars. We are all about good bargains and good food at a good prices — which I think is one of the overall good things about the Union."

The pub is open 4 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. Monday through Friday and 3 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. Saturday and is closed on Sundays.

John Yeingst can be contacted at yeingst@marshall.edu.

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Rain, rain, rain.

47° 37°

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quotable

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— ROBERT FROST

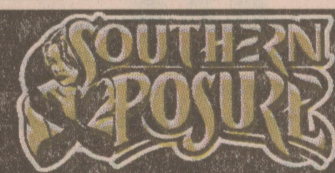
VOL. 115
NO. 65

page designed and edited by KRISTIN STEELE
steele47@marshall.edu

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Bicycle workshop now offered to students

BY RACHEL HUNTER
THE PARTHENON

Marshall students and Huntington residents interested in making their mode of transportation more green now have a hands-on opportunity to learn more about cycling.

The Sustainability Department's Eco Cycle Bike Loan program, along with Huntington Cycle & Sport, A Simple Six blog and Marshall's recreation center, are hosting a "Bike 101" workshop at 6:30 p.m. today in the atrium of the Rec. Center.

"This is a good time to get the students to come out and learn more about how to maintain their own bike," said Margie Phillips, sustainability department manager.

The workshop will be led

by bicycle mechanic, Tom Peck of Huntington Cycle & Sport, and will include a session of basic bike maintenance, a pre-ride safety checklist, assistance with proper bicycle fitting and a discussion of local cycling laws and hand signals.

Phillips said the workshop was a "perfect fit" with the Eco-Cycle bike loan. "There's so many things you can do on your own when it comes to a bicycle rather than going to a bike shop to have it done," Phillips said.

Phillips said she hoped the hands-on training would encourage more students to start cycling, rather than driving, on their commutes to and from campus.

"We look at the environment as a whole and when you bicycle, you not only save

the environment from the emissions that a car would produce, but you also save your body - in that you're outside exercising and taking care of your body, mind and spirit," Phillips said.

Stacy Bisker, with A Simple Six blog, was also involved in organizing the event.

"We aim to give everyone a better understanding about what a bike is made of, how to make it comfortable for you as a rider, how to make your adjustments and repairs or what to do before a small issue becomes a major problem," Bisker said.

Bisker said everyone who attends will have a chance to be involved in the hands-on workshop regardless of experience, age or equipment.

"Bicycling is for everyone," Bisker said. "There is a

bike out there for every body type and ability. Cycling is empowering and a mode to change the world. Learning more about your bicycle and cycling can only strengthen the communities resolve to invest in the future of the citizens of Huntington, and that includes the students of Marshall. "Riding a bicycle is a great way to create a stronger, sustainable future."

Because the workshop is centered around becoming more familiar with bicycles, participants are encouraged to bring their own bicycles. However they are not required. Loaner bikes from the Eco-Cycle bike loan program will also be available during the workshop.

Rachel Hunter can be contacted at hunter79@

POLICE BLOTTER

BY DALE JOHNSON
THE PARTHENON

The following information was provided by the Marshall University Police Department.

LARCENY

Thirty dollars in quarters was stolen from a room in Freshman North sometime between Nov. 19 and Nov. 26. There is no suspect at this time.

A man reported a book bag stolen at 9:45 a.m. Nov. 30 from Corbly Hall. An iPod and keys were inside the bag. The value of the items was estimated to be \$500. There is no suspect at this time.

A woman reported a computer tote bag stolen at 4:25 p.m. Nov. 30 from an unlocked office in Hodges Hall. A textbook and camera were inside the bag. Stadium Bookstore called police in possession of a book with the woman's name in it. A man was caught and arrested on felony charges of receiving and transferring stolen property and four misdemeanors.

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

A 21-year-old man was arrested at 2:55 a.m. on Nov. 3 at Third Avenue and 22nd Street for driving the wrong way on a one-way and a second offense DUI. After police pulled the man over, they reported that he had red, glassy eyes, slurred speech and had the smell of alcohol. A half filled beer was in the middle console of the man's vehicle. The man failed a field sobriety test and blew a .119 in a Breathalyzer test. He was transferred to Western Regional Jail.

UNDERAGE CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL

A 19-year-old male student was issued a citation at 1:57 a.m. Nov. 2 for unlawful drinking. He was escorted to Twin Towers after he was found intoxicated and sleeping on the northeast steps of Old Main.

One man was arrested and 12 other people were issued citations at 12:16 a.m., Nov. 3 after a resident adviser in Wellman Hall complained that people were drinking underage. Police said upon entering the room there were two bottles of alcohol in plain site and they found a large group of people hiding in a restroom. Police moved the group of people into the common area and began handing out citations. A 19-year-old male student became disorderly and was arrested for underage consumption and obstruction. Two 21-year-old males, one 22-year-old male and a 21-year-old female were issued citations for contributing to minors. The remaining eight were issued citations for underage consumption.

Dale Johnson can be contacted at johnson327@marshall.edu.

'Rhinestone cowboy' embarks on farewell tour, will perform at Keith Albee on Sunday

BY RACHEL HUNTER
THE PARTHENON

America's "rhinestone cowboy" will be doing his last performance for Huntington fans during a stop on his farewell tour.

Legendary musician and television personality, Glen Campbell, will be performing at 3 p.m. Sunday at the Keith Albee Performing Arts Center as part of the Marshall Artist Series.

"He's a living legend," said Angela Jones, director of marketing for the Marshall Artist Series. "It's prestigious for the Marshall Artist Series to be one of the

stops for his goodbye tour."

Campbell recently finished his final studio album, "Ghost On The Canvas," and started his goodbye tour throughout the United States after he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

Among Campbell's many achievements throughout his 45-year music career are 70 albums, eight Grammy music awards, Entertainer of the Year award and induction into both the Musicians Hall of Fame and Country Music Hall of Fame.

According to the press release, Campbell will be

performing some of his hit songs, as well as some of his new songs from the "Ghost on the Canvas" album, which includes collaborations with artists such as Jakob Dylan, Paul Westerberg and Bob Pollard.

Jones described Campbell as a "prolific musician" and said that she expects students will be very entertained by music that they will be more familiar with than they expect.

"He wanted to say goodbye to his fans, and it seemed like such a natural fit for us," Jones said. "This is our 75 year anniversary and we are trying to pick a

lot of diverse performances this year and it seemed like a great fit."

The opening act of the show will be West Virginia native Toney Ramey. Ramey has won the WTCR True Value Country Showdown, and his song credits appear on songs recorded by artists including Bucky Covington, Clay Walker and George Strait, according to the press release.

Tickets will be free for full-time Marshall students and half price for part-time students.

Rachel Hunter can be contacted at hunter79@marshall.edu.

Obama prods Congress on payroll tax as Democrats unveil new plan

BY LISA MASCARO
TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU
(MCT)

WASHINGTON - Senate Democrats offered a new proposal to extend the payroll tax holiday, a strategy designed to attract Republicans who have been cool to continuing a tax break for working Americans that expires Dec. 31.

President Barack Obama pressed the case Monday after Senate Republicans revolted against earlier plans last week and House Republicans panned the tax-cut proposals.

House Speaker John A. Boehner, R-Ohio, also is crafting a new GOP alternative designed to attract votes from reluctant lawmakers. Congress has just a few weeks left to strike a compromise. The break is worth about \$1,000 annually to the average family.

"As soon as this year ends, so does that tax cut. There aren't many folks, either in the middle class or those trying to get into the middle class, who can afford to give up \$1,000, not right now,"

Obama said in remarks from the White House. "That's why Congress must act."

The new proposal from Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., seeks to address GOP concerns. It would pay for the cost of the tax break with a combination of GOP-backed proposals to increase the fees that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac charge mortgage lenders, as well as a surtax on those earning beyond \$1 million a year.

Those revenue streams would generate almost \$185 billion, and also replenish the Social Security trust fund. The tax holiday reduces the 6.2 percent tax workers pay toward Social Security to 4.2 percent. But the new revenue offsets that loss, and is designed to ease concerns from Republicans, and some Democrats, about the impact of the tax holiday on the retirement fund.

In keeping with Obama's original proposal, the Democratic bill would increase the payroll tax break, reducing the tax to

3.1 percent to boost the tax savings for 2012 to an average of \$1,500, a proposal that will certainly limit GOP support.

In a gesture to the GOP, Democrats dropped a provision sought by Obama that would have reduced the payroll tax for companies that hire unemployed workers. Democrats also tacked on a GOP proposal to prevent millionaires from receiving food stamps or unemployment benefits.

"Republicans need to be prepared to meet us part way," Reid said Monday.

Republicans are unlikely to embrace this latest proposal they have consistently opposed Democrats' calls for a tax increase on millionaires, and immediately portrayed this week's Senate vote as more designed to score political points than resolve the standoff. The proposal is likely to fail.

Boehner hopes to build support for extending the tax break by proposing a larger legislative package that includes an extension of long-term unemployment benefits and other routine

tax measures that also expire at year's end.

In a move to attract business-friendly lawmakers, Boehner wants to tack on a provision that would advance development of the Keystone XL pipeline, a controversial oil project that Republicans say will create jobs but critics argue poses environmental problems along the pipeline's proposed route. Obama has shelved a decision on the pipeline until after the 2012 election.

Boehner is expected to unveil his plan this week.

A coalition of environmental groups, including the Sierra Club and Natural Resources Defense Council, wrote to congressional leaders Monday urging them to avoid linking the issues.

"The environmental issues that might be folded into this package are significant in their own right, and should not be slipped into an unrelated bill, limiting scrutiny and debate, in an effort to extort votes to roll back environmental and health protections," the groups wrote.

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A FAREWELL FROM THE PARTHENON'S FALL 2011 STAFF

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The faces behind The Parthenon



SANDY YORK | THE PARTHENON

LEFT TO RIGHT: Fall 2011 Parthenon staff Katie Quinonez, Arian Jalali, Crystal Myers, Brandon Anicich, Jake Snyder, Kristin Steele, Marcus Constantino and Erin Miller smile as the semester comes to an end.

65 EDITIONS LATER, THE STAFF LOOKS BACK AT A SEMSTER FULL OF MEMORIES

BY KRISTIN STEELE
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Deja vu is a funny thing. By definition, deja vu is a feeling that wells up in happenstance, an unexpected and overwhelming revelation

that one has already experienced any given situation. I have a different idea, though. I think deja vu often can be self-imposed — by nature, not by definition, we are creatures of habit, looking for a home.

I am no different. More than once in my life, I have thrown myself into deja vu, without consciously knowing until that revelation of repetition. But what does this have to do with today? Why does this matter now,

at the rush of an ending semester, in my final issue as editor of The Parthenon? Because, simply put, I've been here before. After I graduated in 2009, I definitely never thought I'd be part of all this again.

I left journalism school and moved into a different world as an English student working toward a master's degree in creative writing. I thought fond memories of my j-school days were far behind and somewhere I'd never

touch again. More than two years later, unexpectedly, I am thrown back into this again, a decision encouraged by others but chosen by myself. Many

See KRISTIN | Page 5

BY ERIN MILLER
MANAGING EDITOR

As a journalism student at Marshall for the last three years, I have tried my very best to be as uninvolved with my school as possible. I did the same in high school. Involvement required interaction, attention and an overall feeling of commodore, three things that just seem like a lot of effort. However, on a whim I decided to try a little participation. And with that small decision, this introvert learned a very outgoing

lesson... the joy in a little effort. As I began to write this end-of-the-semester article, I wanted to say something that none of my fellow editors would be saying. Then I realized they would be writing about what they learned about the business, the major or even the school. So, I decided to tell you what I learned about them. You've seen their names and articles, their layouts and designs — all semester long. But here is a little about the faceless people

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BY KATIE QUINONEZ
NEWS EDITOR

For my column, I've decided to commemorate my time on The Parthenon staff with a list of very important lessons I've learned. I hope this list will guide the future editors of The Parthenon or anyone who happens upon the Parthenon lab 20 minutes prior to deadline. Do not be alarmed by the caffeine-hyped, irate individuals who sit behind computer screens. Ignore the barrage of infantile jokes and the poltergeist that has possessed the lab's

television. These good people are the future of media. Lesson 1: Never play "Under the Sea" from Disney's "Little Mermaid." Jake Snyder will proceed to sing it to you in the mannerism of Sebastian, that redheaded mermaid's know-it-all lobster friend. Lesson 2: Never sacrifice your own coffee maker from home for the good of the group. That's \$10 in crappy manufacturing I'll never get back. Lesson 3: Bring a blanket and a pillow. You will on

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BY ARIAN JALALI
COPYEDITOR

I can still remember asking my roommate, Michael Spurlock, what a copyeditor does. There was an opening on The Parthenon's staff in the spring semester of 2011, and I was very interested in fulfilling that vacancy. Coming from the realm beyond the "j-school" (as they've so aptly coined it), I was an outsider able to witness firsthand what went on behind the scenes. I, myself, am a biology student from the College of Science with a degree in psychology.

I've always had a decent grasp of spelling, grammar and syntax — necessary elements of which a proficient copyeditor must be familiar — but now I was being subjected to learning something I had never heard of before: AP Style. That's right, non-journalism students. There's a style of writing (or rather, a quintessential "language") that journalists have to abide by when writing for the newspaper. All those papers you and I have had to write using MLA or APA

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BY CRYSTAL MYERS
LIFE EDITOR

Conflict of interest typically severs me from writing about friends of mine, so you'll have to excuse my excitement while I break all the rules. After dealing with the stress of being a reporter for The Parthenon, I thought I'd run out of the newsroom and never look back. A semester full of late nights later, I can say with complete confidence that I'm glad that didn't happen. At the sake of keeping the sappiness to a minimum, I will say this semester I made memories that will last a lifetime and leave it at that — most probably aren't Parthenon appropriate anyway, but then again the rest of my column might not be either. Fair warning. I walked into the newsroom on the first night as a complete mess, literally. But with the help of other wonderful people, the past three months have contained enough "your mom" jokes for a lifetime, a lot of laughter and even a newspaper every now and then. I feel I can best describe the feelings I have for these fellow journalists by what type of Jell-O I would choose to wrestle them in. I know what you're thinking, but

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BY JAKE SNYDER
SPORTS EDITOR

Perhaps it is ironic. As I sit here, just a couple of hours before deadline, deciding what to include in my final column of the semester, I cannot find the words. I am someone who has never been at a loss for words. And yet, sleep deprived and a bit giddy has proven to be my gift of gab's kryptonite. It's difficult to put into words what my first semester as the sports editor of The Parthenon has meant. First, it's been a general pain in the ass. Late nights, heavy burdens and one hysterically ingenious hate email have all put pressure on my senior year that I did not realize would be coming my way. I became the sports editor after spending a semester as a beat writer before going to Orlando in the summer as an intern for the Florida Collegiate Summer League. My internship advisor, Sandy York, took over as the advisor of The Parthenon that same summer. When she asked me to come onto the staff, I contentedly obliged. I had an interest in applying for the sports editor position this semester, but Sandy's request pushed me

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BY MARCUS CONSTANTINO
PHOTO EDITOR

I've been at Marshall University for three semesters, and I've been at The Parthenon for three semesters... Sometimes I wonder, "Am I ever gonna get a break from this place?!" Other times, "this place" literally gives me a break. Former Parthenon crime beat reporter Sam Turley and I had the honor of accepting a Sunshine Award from the Society of Professional Journalists' 2011 Excellence in Journalism conference in New Orleans, La., earlier this semester. It was, indeed, an excellent week of journalism, but it was also a nice break from college and my first time west of the Mississippi River. Unfortunately, as soon as I returned to Huntington soil, assignments were stacked up for me. It was back to reality: Tons of Appalachian Literature homework and various speeches and lectures to photograph for The Parthenon. It was a busy schedule, but it was worth it. I love being able to take to the sidelines and court-side for Thundering Herd athletics after a long week of work. But honestly, I'm looking forward to this semester ending and a nice, long winter break ahead of me.

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BY BRANDON ANICICH
DIGITAL EDITOR

Hey!
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Brandon Anicich can be contacted at anicich@live.marshall.edu.

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THE PARTHENON

ABOUT US

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

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THE FIRST AMENDMENT

The Constitution of the United States of America

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

COLUMN

Drop in unemployment rate is good for nation, but is bad for politics

BY MATTHEW HUGHES
 WASHINGTON SQUARE NEWS,
 NEW YORK U. VIA WIRE

It was a decline that we could finally get excited about. After months of hovering at or near 9 percent, the unemployment rate finally dropped to a much-improved, albeit still unhealthy, 8.6 percent — the lowest since March 2009. With 120,000 jobs added to the economy in November, politicians finally have some positive news to trumpet.

For the most part, though, they didn't. Of course, the drop made international headlines and official press releases. Everyone with even a peripheral interest in news heard about it. But that was not the doing of politicians, who were noticeably and uncharacteristically quiet in their responses to the decline. Absent were the droning buzz and unveiled insults that so often accompany these types of jobs reports. The feistiness and shameless self-promotion of previous unemployment aftermaths were also conspicuously missing this time around.

The silence says more than any canned stump speech could. For all the campaign talk of wanting to fix the economy first and foremost, it's pretty apparent that this isn't quite the news that many were hoping for. The stagnated jobs bill discussions and frighteningly down-to-the-wire debt-ceiling decision last summer have made this clear. Some simply do not want the unemployment rate to go down. For a sizable amount of our elected officials and aspirants, the economy is important primarily in terms of its effect on

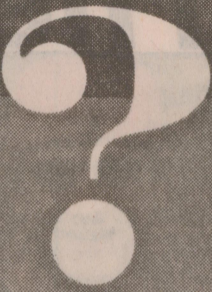
their electoral chances.

And for an out-of-power party, the best thing that can seemingly happen in an election is sometimes the worst that can happen for the country. The lingeringly high unemployment helped John Boehner and the gang take the House last year, just as the financial meltdown of 2008 propelled President Barack Obama to electoral victory.

But there's a difference between benefiting from the side effects of failure and actively seeking to obstruct progress and wreak havoc. In recent years, and especially since Obama took office, politics has shifted toward the mentality that the entire nation's loss is one party or candidate's gain. And more importantly, politicians have become all too aware that they don't have to leave failure up to chance: They can make it happen themselves.

What we need to realize is that we can make things happen, too. Some politicians will always put their own interests ahead of their constituents' — it's just the nature of the game. But that's only because we allow it. We have the power and responsibility to change things for the good of the country. The best way to do that is not on the streets, but at the ballot box, where the fates of so many candidates lie at our fingertips.

These past few years, it has become clear that a politician's top priority is to keep his or her job. We can and should take advantage of that and hold accountable anyone who ignores the 13.3 million jobless in this country. Ultimately, the voters are the bosses.



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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EDITORIAL

Spring semester brings a fresh start

Today is university's last day of classes. Marshall students prepare for an upcoming week of exams and stress, but for now, at least for a moment, students can lean back in their seats and sigh a breath of relief for their completion of the Fall 2011 semester.

Soon, many students will begin to head home for the holidays and Marshall will disband for winter break. The once bustling campus, perhaps coated in white, will slow to a crawl.

But again, in three weeks, life will return to campus as students rush back for the spring semester.

This spring will serve as a fresh beginning for students, a brand new chance to accomplish anything. No matter what happened, good or bad, this fall — the upcoming semester is another opportunity to succeed in anything — another opportunity to study harder, read more, keep study dates and finish homework.

Classes next semester begin Jan. 9, and keeping an open mind and a positive outlook about the upcoming semester will help ensure success in anything.

Have a great break and see you all next semester.

EDITORIAL CARTOON



COLUMN

Study drugs distort students' abilities

BY LARISA MANESCU
 DAILY TEXAN, U. TEXAS VIA
 UWIRE

Finals week is a period during which students are desperate to keep their bodies awake and their minds alert to be the most productive students they can be. Our university is not unique in its experience of a widespread all-night epidemic that rages in December and May.

To fuel consecutive all-nighters, some students depend on substances, ranging from excessive caffeine consumption through coffee and energy drinks to the more extreme prescription drugs such as Adderall and Ritalin. A popular habit among stress-induced students is relying on Adderall, a medication prescribed to people who suffer from ADD and ADHD that increases concentration and information absorption. The health risks involved with this study habit are striking, and the threat the drug holds to the educational experience is equally as devastating.

Any absorption of

knowledge is short-lived, and using Adderall undermines the concept of education as knowledge, redefining the college experience into one of temporarily memorizing enough information to succeed on the final exam. While Adderall may substantially improve student's exam scores, these visible results are not representative of the student's own abilities and cumulative knowledge in the course.

Joshua Foer, freelance journalist who specifically focuses on science in his writing, concluded the following after experimenting with Adderall for one week: "I didn't feel like I was becoming smarter or even like I was thinking more clearly. I just felt more directed, less distracted by rogue thoughts, less day-dreamy."

In the current technological world we live in today, surrounded by our phones, social networking sites and television, in combination with the increased pressure on students to handle an overwhelming

amount of coursework and perform well on exams, Adderall may seem necessary. The drug does not attract one particular demographic of students; both students with good study habits and procrastinators may feel that they cannot perform as well without an extra stimulant.

But while most students are familiar with the often unspoken, or at least ignored, reliance on study drugs during finals, university officials generally feel helpless in combating their usage. In a recent article in The Washington Post Daniel Swinton, president of the Association for Student Conduct Administration and assistant dean at Vanderbilt University, stated that study drugs are "kind of a silent issue; everyone's aware of it, but I think we're all focused on the more prevalent one: alcohol." The official effort that does go into reducing this dependence, such as campaigns for healthy study habits introduced at the beginning of the school year, are often disregarded

by the pressing anxiety students feel in the last remaining weeks of the school year.

Students must be reminded that they possess the natural capability to perform well, if they only recognized the far-reaching benefits that a gradual approach to studying and a healthier lifestyle around the finals week — such as swapping caffeinated beverages for water, frequent exercise or some sort of enjoyable physical activity and taking study breaks to have calming personal time — have. Rather than being bombarded with the potential health risks, students should be asked the question of how study drug use is contributing to their long-term education. Not only does Adderall reinforce the stereotype that our nation is filled with a strained, overworked and prescription medication-dependent population more concerned with productivity than its physical or mental health, its use is essentially corrupting the process of gaining knowledge from university classes.

THE PARTHENON
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KRISTIN
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I left journalism school and moved into a different world as an English student working toward a master's degree in creative writing. I thought fond memories of my j-school days were far behind and somewhere I'd never touch again.

More than two years later, unexpectedly, I am thrown back into this again, a decision encouraged by others but chosen by myself. Many of those who graduated with me in 2009 have criticized me for returning to these stressful days, late nights and quick

decisions: "You are past that now," some said. But, despite that, I do not regret taking on this responsibility. I do not regret working for a student newspaper again when I'm nearly 25 years old. I do not regret dedicating myself to something, this experience, that adds up to much more than ink on paper.

At first, I chose to come back, in part selfishly, because I needed to feel like I contributed to something again. I wanted to see, on paper, the tangible evidence of hard work and dedication — two things I felt I hadn't put my all into in a long time. So it seems, at first, I chose this again to

prove something to myself. But, in the end and as unrealistic as it sounds, I believe this experience chose me instead.

It's not that all the journalistic effort, all that work on paper, doesn't matter — it does, and that is our number one priority. My fellow editors ceaselessly proved themselves, a collective effort, to me. Maybe they sensed how much I care, or maybe they each care more than enough for us all. But more than the work they produced, it is the effort itself — the heart of work — that matters to me the most.

It is that heart that makes being part of this team so

worthwhile. It is that center I needed to feel to find myself centered again. Sometimes when it seems something is over, it may not be over just yet. And whether that comes to us by happenstance or by our own decision is irrelevant — the thing that matters is if we pay attention to a need, if we let ourselves be responsible for something, if we allow ourselves to make mistakes and get back up again, home is easy to find.

It might seem irrelevant to readers, talking about what it means to be in this journalism school or part of The Parthenon staff, but the ideal of collective effort is universal.

Our reason for working so hard is universal. We want to be a part of something meaningful, something of which we can be proud — despite any mistakes, a little exhaustion and many hours in one room. In that sense, we are a serendipitous family — just like the one we all search for — whether we ever realize it or not. For that family, I am ever thankful.

I don't know where I will be five years from now. Maybe I will be a writer and a professor at a college like I hope, or maybe I'll find myself somewhere else instead. Where I go doesn't matter yet, but it is where I've been that counts right now. And I found myself

here again, behind a desk in the same newsroom where I first learned what it really means to tell a story.

Deja vu is a funny thing. I don't know if it chooses us, or if we choose it, but it always leads back home.

Kristin Steele can be contacted at steele47@marshall.edu.



ask for a better group of people to be surrounded by — this includes you, Sandy York.

Looks like it's time to start making some Jell-O! See you soon.

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CRYSTAL
Continued from Page 3

just hear me out.

Grape-flavored Jell-O for Brandon, who like the fruit can come in many different varieties. It's impossible to know if what you're getting is going to be sour or sweet, but both are very enjoyable.

Erin's fiery hair would make it impossible for her flavor not to be cherry. Much like the boldness of her ginger locks, she isn't afraid to speak her mind or put

it in writing. She proves that gingers do have souls — very genuine ones.

Arian, well, I'd actually rather wrestle him in pudding. I can't exactly put him into the same category as the rest of my lovely editors for many reasons. 1.) No matter how well he fits in, he still isn't a journalism major. 2.) He is a different breed of human who combines all of the best personality traits into one character. And 3.) His words are equally as smooth as the pudding.

My toughest opponent would

be Jake. After all this Watermelon Jell-O fight wouldn't be the first time we've butted heads. Similar to a watermelon, Jake's sense of humor and impeccable singing skills are quite refreshing. And I guess I should mention it is my favorite of the Jell-O-y flavors.

Since these battles wouldn't exactly be vegan-friendly, Katie might frown on these activities, but I wouldn't have it any other way. Seeing her sitting on the sidelines with her head hung in shame or fighting with the broadcasters until they played

Prince during the intermissions would be a highlight of my evening. Leave it to her to always make me laugh.

And last, but certainly not least is Kristin. As someone I respect more than my words can describe, I don't know that I would have the heart to beat her down in such a fiasco. But, for the sake of sticking to my theme, her flavor would be strawberry. Similar to when I bite into a strawberry, I'm nervous because there is a certain stage of ripeness

when a strawberry is truly at its best. Luckily, Kristin must be stuck in this moment of the aging process because she never lets me down. She's a bold, unforgettable flavor that editors and reporters to come are truly going to miss.

I look very forward to another semester full of nights spent in the newsroom, but the next group has some big shoes to fill. Even if they have almost driven me to insanity — I mean, did I really just talk about Jell-O for an entire column — I couldn't

JAKE
Continued from Page 3

to step up and go for it.

My first page design was quite an experience. I was a bit green in the ways of the program and trying to learn things on the fly.

Once I started to get the hang of the pages, I began my columns. Most readers' feedback was great. I was especially happy to hear so many people enjoyed my column about the Battle for the Bell.

But of course, with any column, there are bound to be some differing opinions. I heard from many readers who disagreed with me on several of my views. But you know what, that is what impressed me the most.

Parthenon readers care about the Herd. And when I spoke my opinion, people let me know when they thought I was wrong.

And as much as I hate to admit it, sometimes I was. But that's the beauty of an opinion. I hope, if nothing else, readers found me as someone who stuck to my convictions.

I hope people found my columns entertaining, informative — and perhaps even got a laugh or two.

I must thank you all for your insight. Several of your responses have led me to think about my own opinions and, every once in a while, change my mind.

I have to end with a thank you to all of my fellow editors. I know sometimes you all didn't have

as much fun as I did listening to me sing Disney songs instead of working on my page, but I hope it provided a little bit of insight into me as a person.

I must also add a special thank you to Kristin and Crystal. Your patience with me while trying to design some creative pages did not go unnoticed.

And, of course, thanks are due to Sandy. Perhaps it was a fluke that brought me to you, but thanks for taking a risk. I may have never been here without you.

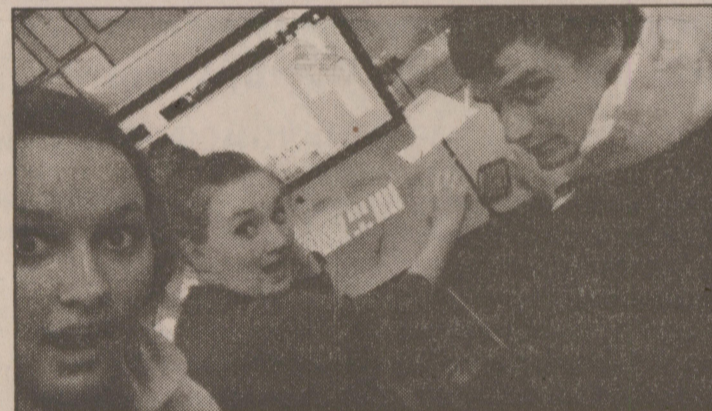
My senior year concludes in May, as I will be graduating with a degree in broadcast journalism. That means I have one more semester on The Parthenon staff. The spring is shaping up to be a wild one in Thundering Herd sports. It could be a great conclusion to my college career.

It will be a great one for The Parthenon sports page, as well.

To all those graduating this month, congratulations.

To those coming back, please keep checking in with The Parthenon. I assure you the best is yet to come.

Jake Snyder can be contacted at snyder100@marshall.edu.



ERIN
Continued from Page 3

whose content has kept you so well-informed this fall semester.

Kristin (Executive Editor) — Kristin was the fearless leader of the paper. Kristin is probably one of the hardest working people I know. She manages to juggle multiple jobs and her own studies and still remains to be someone who is kind and truly open to hearing and respecting other's opinions.

Katie (News Editor) — Katie is a remarkably intelligent and honest person who is not afraid to speak her mind and ideas (which are always good). She is socially and politically aware and is one of the rare people that truly care to try and fix the issues who she sees in the flawed world around her.

Crystal (Life Editor) — Crystal is enviously creative. Don't believe me? Check out her Harry Potter themed page from earlier this semester. It will blow your magical mind. She is funny and ridiculously outgoing in a way I will probably never be. It doesn't matter how dull a day or task is, Crystal will add fun to it.

Jake (Sports Editor) — Though Jake probably wouldn't have you believe it, he is in every way a nice guy. He is funny, open and knows more about sports than anyone I know. And while Jake is great at journalism and

sports casting, I truly believe he is the lost member of The Backstreet Boys and the next Justin Timberlake.

Arian (Copy editor) — I completely believe there is absolutely no rule in the English language that Arian does not know. Arian had no formal training in newspaper styled writing until The Parthenon and yet copyedits circles around people who have been studying it for years. Fun and laid-back, Arian is remarkably smart and the only one on staff who is truly any good at science and math.

Marcus (Photo Editor) — Marcus is probably one of the nicest people you will ever meet. He is always willing to help, no matter what else he has going on, and on more than one occasion pulled through to provide the paper with art at the last minute. Apart from that, he is a truly gifted photographer — a fact I am sure any Parthenon reader has noticed.

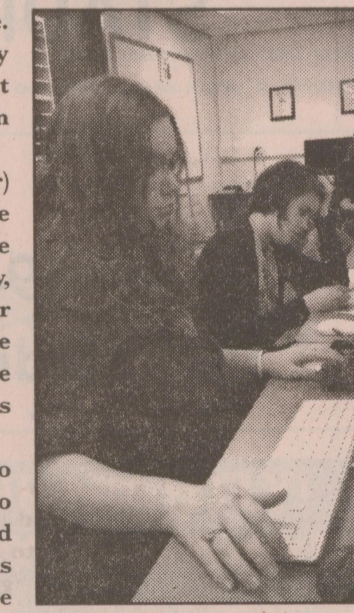
Brandon (Digital Editor) — Brandon is another one of those truly nice guys. He is always giving and happy, with the ability to cheer up any gloomy mood. He singlehandedly made The Parthenon website what it is today.

In closing, I would like to give a couple last shout-outs to some others who have helped to make my semester at this newspaper the great experience

it was. First, to Sandy York, one of Marshall's most exceptional professors and an overall amazing person. Next, to John Yeingst, The Parthenon's other gifted photographer and someone everybody should be lucky enough to know. Thirdly, to Ashley Grohoski, Marshall's other copy editor and yet another student who proves how great the W. Page Pitt School of Journalism actually is. Lastly, to this year's reporters. You guys did great, and overall you survived the dreaded Parthenon class. Good job!

Thank you to all of these people and to you, the reader. Thank you so much for making this semester at The Parthenon so great for me.

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ARIAN
Continued from Page 3

formatting holds no candle to the nonsensical methodology hidden within the lines of the AP Stylebook. But I digress. I simply wanted to illustrate that writing (or proofreading) for the newspaper is not an easy task, and these reporters should be applauded for their endearing efforts to write in accordance with AP style.

In my pre-copyediting days, I'd always wonder how the paper was produced. For anyone outside the j-school (this includes you, too, advertising majors), feel free to read along as I explain.

First, ad space is purchased and allocated in various locations throughout the paper. At this point, stories written by the wonderful JMC301 class here at Marshall University will be "budgeted" by the editors and distributed upon our precious six pages in accordance with their relative timeliness and newsworthiness. This is when my role (and occasionally the role of my

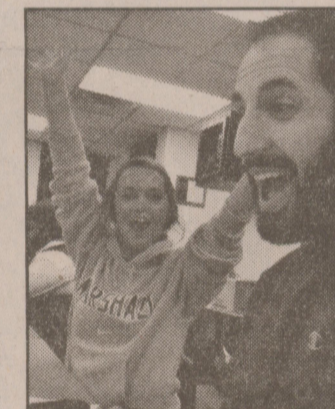
lovely, hit-or-miss co-copyeditor) comes into play. After the paper is — theoretically — greatly diminished in its overall number of errors, the edited stories are then passed on to the page-designing editors. In my opinion, they are where the heart of the paper lies. These five individuals affix the budgeted content in an aesthetically pleasing manner to their respective pages. Needless to say, our photo editor captures some gorgeous shots, and we incorporate his imagery within the pages as well. After a mock version of the paper is slapped together, we do some finalized peer editing and then submit a digital version of the paper to the Herald-Dispatch — where thousands of copies are printed off the presses overnight. Finally, the digital editor comes in and broadcasts the paper electronically across the Internet.

It's all too easy to shrug off the paper as being unnecessary, but it truly is. You would not believe how many — whom I can only assume to be — concerned individuals fastidiously contact us to ensure The Parthenon

is staying on track. Sure, you could just say I'm biased after working under the j-school roof for the last year, but I genuinely believe what these individuals do is important. Without the essence of mass communication on campus, how would all the separate concentrations remain connected?

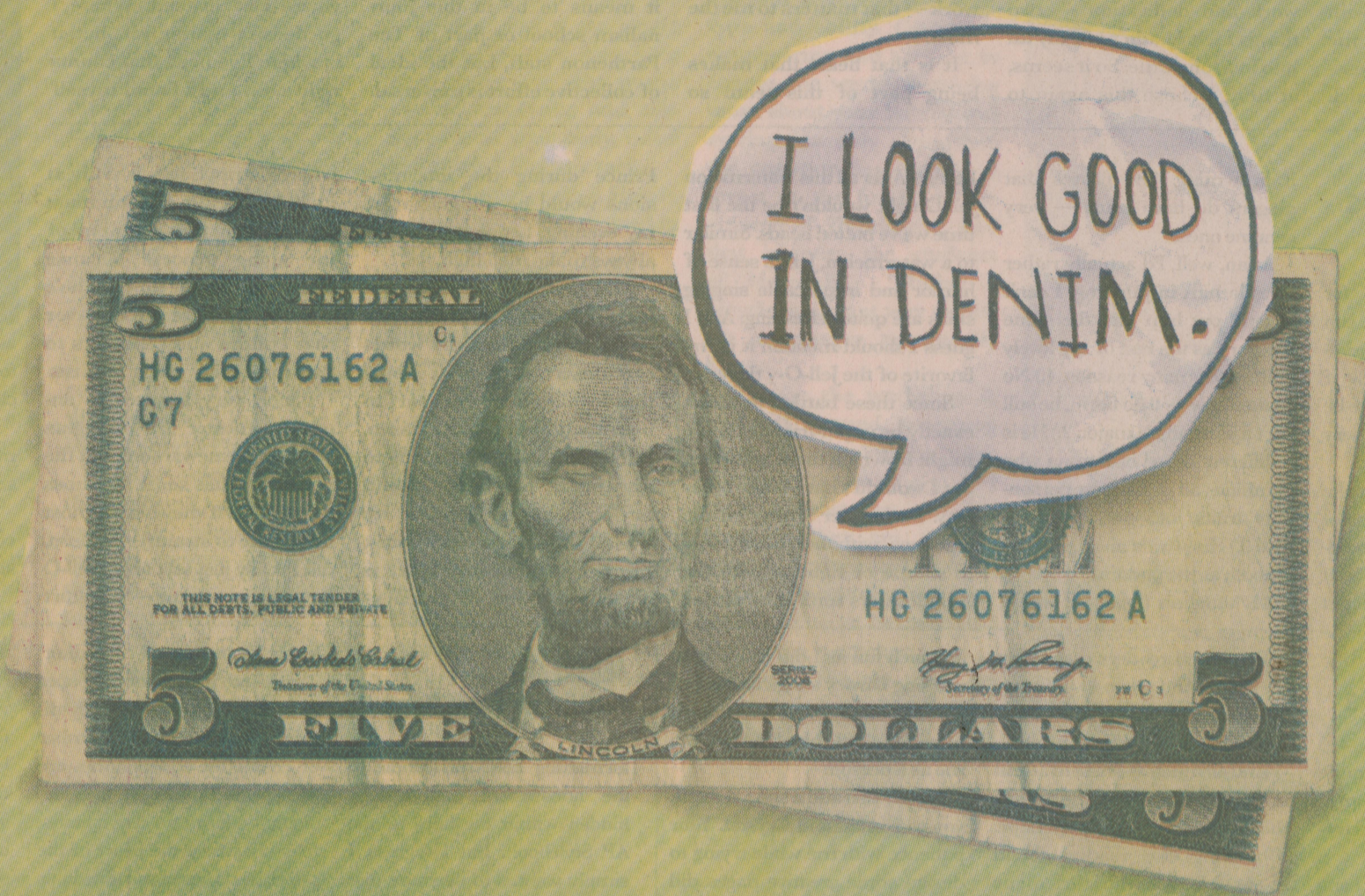
And while some of you still might not be heeding my words, realize there's a reason why you're even reading this right now. It's been a pleasure copyediting for you this semester, Marshall. See you next semester.

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