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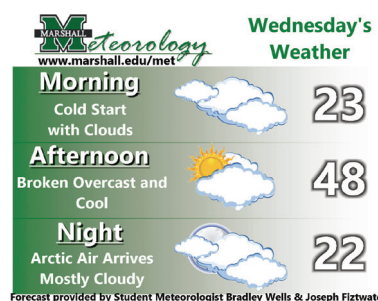
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THE PARTHENON

> JUROR TALK



-Rodney Parks

See LADY VALOR page 5



Statewide campaign strives to end child poverty

By AMY NAPIER
THE PARTHENON

A campaign to end child poverty in West Virginia will conduct an open legislative forum Thursday from 6-8 p.m. in the Marshall University Memorial Student Center, Shawkey Room.

Cabell county delegates and senators have been invited to attend and discuss 10 prominent issues brought forth by the "Our Children Our Future" campaign members.

Carey Jo Grace, central and western West Virginia campaign organizer, said the process consists of a lot of ideas from different people.

"It's a statewide collaboration of organizations and individuals who work in different groups to come up with different issues to focus on," Grace said. "After all of the groups put together the 27 proposals, approximately

1,000 people voted on the top 10 ideas. It's a very democratic process."

Grace said one proposal is to remove pseudophedrine from the over-the-counter shelves in an effort to stop meth labs in West Virginia.

"With meth labs happening, everyone is in danger," Grace said. "The children and the neighbors are all at risk for contamination and explosionsA similar law was passed in Oregon, and almost no children have been removed from homes due to meth labs since."

Another strategy the campaign plans to enforce is the prevention of child sexual assault.

"This issue calls for the governor to call for a task force to talk to kids about what sexual abuse is and what they should do to figure out the best practice," Grace said.

Volunteer Jennifer Hill said their efforts have paid off in previous years.

"We actually proposed to increase minimum wage in the past along with several other issues that have passed," Hill said. "We've had several victories throughout this campaign by keeping up with momentum and understanding the needs and wants."

Hill said all members of the community are encouraged to attend.

"We want to discuss with children our vision for the future," Hill said. "It's our hope that if families come, we can encompass them and ultimately get help to the kids who need it most."

The Our Children, Our Future campaign is a by-product of the West Virginia Kids and Families Coalition.

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TRAVELS IN TANZANIA

Marshall University students receive the opportunity to work with the native people of Tanzania this summer

By CAITLIN FOWLKES
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University students have the opportunity to travel to Tanzania and work with the native people this summer as part of the KIIS program.

Students will be interviewing local people and providing community health training to the native workers.

Monika Sawhney, public health program director, will teach a number of courses closely related to her health courses at Marshall.

Courses available to students during this program include: Physical Anthropology of East Africa, Field Biology: Tanzanian Natural History, Conservation, and Ecotourism, International Health: Comparative Health Systems, and Critical Issues: Maternal and Child Health for three credit hours each.

Global Health Service, Learning Practicum will also be offered for three to six credit hours. The courses are taught in English.

Sawhney said she likes to teach as much out of the classroom as possible.

"Students receive a lot of out of class experience and have very applied assignments," Sawhney said.

Students train Tanzanians on subjects such as the importance of having a medical expert in the presence of the birth of a baby.

"It will give [students] the opportunity to overcome local barriers and see how maternal and child healthcare differ from the U.S. and developing countries," Sawhney said.

This is Sawhney's third year with the KIIS program and her second year in Tanzania.

"Students in the U.S. have phones and computers, taking students to other countries ... lets them relate to other things in the world," Sawhney said. "When students are exposed to other countries, it gives them experience, which is very important in public health."

Ryan Warner, coordinator of study abroad said the Tanzania trip is one of the most reliable trips available to students studying in the health fields.

The trip is from June 8 to July 12.

The cost of the trip is \$4,235 plus airfare and a \$250 application fee.

The program fee includes up to six credit hours, transfers to and from Dar Es Salaam airport, accommodations, two meals per day, city transportation in Dar Es Salaam, group excursions to Zanzibar and Arusha, comprehensive medical insurance and security evacuation protection.

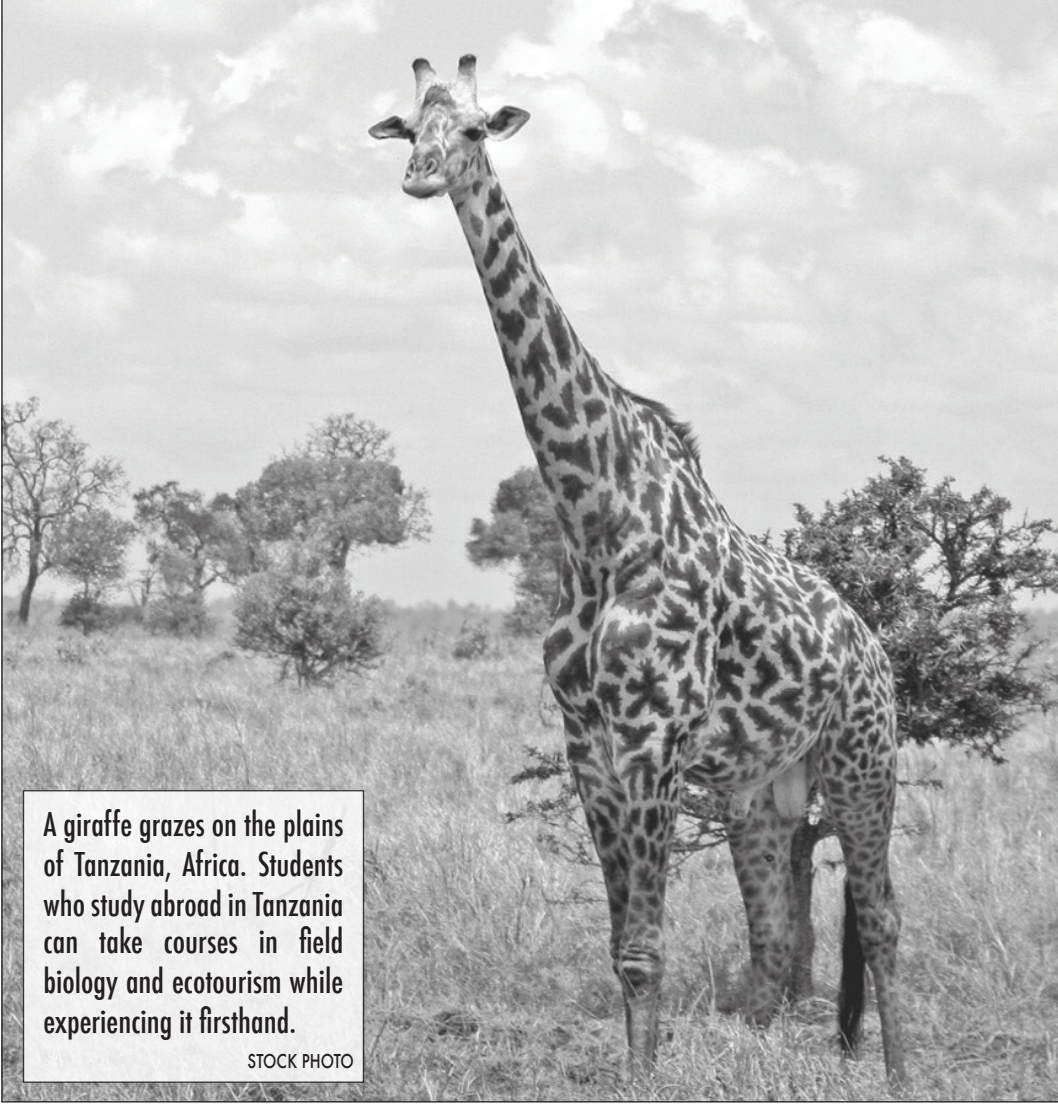
Students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0.

The application fee will be refunded if the student is not accepted into the program.

A complete application consists of an online application, short essay, application fee, faculty recommendation form, unofficial transcript for undergraduates, official transcript for graduates and a copy of a passport photo page or a copy of a new passport application.

Applications are due Feb. 15.

Caitlin Fowlkes can be contacted at fowlkes2@marshall.edu.



Local curator talks art at Visual Arts Center

By MATTHEW PRANDONI
THE PARTHENON

The Marshall University Visual Arts Center Gallery had a guest speaker who explained what it was like to be a curator and juror at art galleries.

Arif Kahn, curator of art at the Clay Center in Charleston, West Virginia, spoke to an audience of more than 25 people who consisted of mostly Marshall students.

In Kahn's presentation, he discussed how he picked pieces for the Fourth Annual Juried Exhibition at the Visual Arts Center Gallery.

"I try to remember that generally art looks better in person than the digital image so I always keep that in mind," Kahn said. "Things like whites, grays and metals are really hard to photograph, so I need to keep those in mind."

Sometimes when looking at a piece of art through a digital image, it can be hard to see the size of the piece. Kahn said it is important to know what will fit in the gallery.

Kahn said he tried to be objective when picking pieces for the art show. He needs to make sure they can fit into the gallery in which they are being placed.

"I did not ask for names or where they were from when I was going through everything, and as I was going through," Kahn said. "I do not often see the artists until after the show."

Kahn said it is important to pick pieces of different mediums to represent the theme of a gallery.

Khan explained that he thinks it is better when one juror does an exhibition because different jurors have different tastes in what they want.

Sammy Taylor, graphic design major, said she found something interesting about the jurors.

"It was interesting that there's only one juror per exhibition, and they have to do their best to be objective," Taylor said.

Marshall student Jordan Leishear said not all of the students who attended the talk were interested in becoming a juror.

"I don't think it is something I would want to do later in life," Leishear said. "I'm more into being able appreciate it as a spectator as opposed to being in charge of all those major decisions."

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Athletic facilities Vision Campaign nears completion

By MERCEDEZ SPEIGHT
THE PARTHENON

The vision of state of the art athletic facilities and exceptional athletic recruits is becoming more than a vision at Marshall University.

An \$8 million Hoops Family Field Veterans Memorial Soccer Complex and the Chris Cline athletic complex are a part of the Vision Campaign.

The complex includes an Indoor Practice Facility, hall of fame, sports medicine facility and academic center.

Big Green Executive Director John Sutherland provided an update on the Vision Campaign and future plans for the athletic department.

"After four years when we initiated this whole thing, we are 90 percent in terms of closing out the campaign," Sutherland said. "Ninety percent of the funding in, and approximately 50 percent of the construction complete."

President Stephen J. Kopp is remembered and valued in the Big Green organization for his commitment and undeniable support for herd athletics.

"(President Kopp) was instrumental in bringing some of our largest donors to the table that probably would not have been here without his help," Sutherland said.

Sutherland also said the Sports Medicine Center was President Kopp's baby, and the Big Green will make sure he is appropriately recognized when the center is opened.

Just as there are rivalries on the gridiron and on the court, there is competition in athletic construction among college athletic departments.

"College athletics has always been about building more facilities, and whoever had the best facilities is where recruiting got influenced," Sutherland said. "Now you've got this separation going on between the Power Five and everyone else in the country."

Sutherland said facilities can make or break a decision of where a recruit will decide to call home for his or her college career.

"This year we had 17 football three-star recruits, way more than we've ever had before, way more," Sutherland said. "No question, the facilities influence recruiting no question."

Sutherland said the vision to constantly have Marshall compete with the best of the best in game and construction, will always be clear and alive.

"As far as construction goes, we'd really like to have a baseball stadium and work with the city in that regard," Sutherland said. "Finding the land for that is a challenge. We would love to be able to add a basketball practice facility."

The Marshall Vision Campaign has contributed a great deal to the new campus landscape that boasts new facilities all around, and not just in Herd athletics.

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SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2015 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

Forward Cheikh Sane greets fans at Thundering Herd Madness Oct. 23, 2014, in the Cam Henderson Center.
LEXI BROWNING | THE PARTHENON

From Senegal to Huntington



“One day a guy came up to me on the soccer field and started telling me about basketball.”
-Cheikh Sane

By MALCOLM WALTON
THE PARTHENON

Sports for Education and Economic Development in Senegal, better known as SEEDS, offers boarding and after-school programs that use education and basketball to inspire the next generation of African leaders.

Cheikh Sane, senior power forward on Marshall University’s basketball team, attended SEEDS through grades 9 through 12.

“When I was back home in Senegal, I played soccer when I was young,” Sane said. “One day a guy came up to me on the soccer field and started telling me about basketball. I went on to play for my national team and that’s when I got recruited by SEEDS.”

Sane said he is still involved with the SEEDS program. During the summer, he went to Senegal for four months to work with some of the kids who are currently in the program.

“Last summer, I went back home to give them feedback and tips,” Sane said. “I just try to talk to the kids, tell them what to expect, because they all want to come to the States. I showed them my highlights and my film. I told them how you have to make sure you get good grades in the classroom and work hard outside class. I just wish some school will give them a chance, like they did me.”

Sane said the SEEDS program has gotten his life off to a great start. He added the SEEDS program has no financial motive, despite what others may believe.

“It’s just a program to help the kids,” Sane said. “You don’t have to pay anything, everything’s free. Most of the time, people think they bring a kid here and try to sell them or get money from the school. That’s not true. They just want to help the kid find a school and reach their dreams.”

Sane said he is not the only success story to come from the SEEDS program—in fact, there are several.

“We’ve got a couple guys that are playing professional ball,” Sane said. “Gorgui Dieng, that played at Huntington Prep, used to be my roommate, and he’s in the NBA now. We’ve also got players around the world playing professional ball in France and Japan, and of course, there are other college players across the country.”

Sane said getting accustomed to life in the United States was a challenge on and off the basketball court.

“English was my biggest challenge, and I’m still learning,” Sane said. “Also, the game is a lot different here. The people are faster and stronger.”

Despite the initial language barrier, the team has embraced Sane and his work ethic.

Sophomore Ryan Taylor said Sane brings a lot to games and practices.

“It’s fun playing with him,” Taylor said. “The energy and effort he brings to every game and throughout practice is contagious. He plays hard. And even though he doesn’t do everything right, he makes up for it with his work ethic.”

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Forward Cheikh Sane keeps his composure against Cleveland State University Nov. 28, 2014, in the Cam Henderson Center.
LEXI BROWNING | THE PARTHENON

Herd hockey prepares for tournament

By KASEY MADDEN
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University’s ice hockey team is 0-2 this season, but its record is not stopping it from having high expectations for the rest of the season.

Steven Macuch, sophomore team captain, said its recent losses to Wittenberg University were due to penalties, and the defense was not as solid as it could have been.

“We pulled a good game, it just wasn’t our weekend,” Macuch said.

Last semester the team finished with a 4-4 record, and now the team is ready to win the rest of its games this semester, Macuch said.

“This semester we have a big tournament coming up Valentine’s Day weekend, and we’re looking to win that, hopefully bring home a trophy,” Macuch said.

J.D. Rappold, graduate student and alternate team captain, said the team is currently a Division II club sport, and with a strong record and enough players, it can reach its goal of becoming a Division I team.

The hockey team plays its home games in the South Charleston Memorial Ice Arena, about an hour from Marshall’s Huntington campus. It practices one to two times per week at the arena.

Herd Hockey players are able to practice off the ice at the HIT Center in Huntington, Macuch said.

When it played West Virginia University at home in September, about 800 tickets were sold to the game, and this year there was a lot more green in the crowd than blue and gold, Macuch said.

Rappold said the ice rink helps the team with attendance, and most of the team’s support is from the Charleston area.

“We have a huge fan base, but most of the fan base isn’t from Marshall,” Rappold said. “A lot of it is, but most of them are the kids that play hockey and the families, so if we could get more of a college fan base that would be great.”

It has six more games scheduled for this semester. The team is working on scheduling two home games in March.

Once finalized, dates and times will be posted on the team’s Facebook and Twitter pages.

“We’d just like some more support, more college kids to come out to our games,” Macuch said.

For its next game, the team faces WVU in the Wooster Invitational Ice Hockey Tournament 3:10 p.m. Saturday in Wooster, Ohio.

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THE PARTHENON

The Parthenon, Marshall University's student newspaper, is published by students Monday through Friday during the regular semester and Thursday 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.

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Please keep letters to the editor at 300 words or fewer. They must be saved in Microsoft Word and sent as an attachment. Longer letters may be used as guest columns at the editor's discretion. Guest column status will not be given at the author's request. All letters must be signed and include an address or phone number for confirmation. Letters may be edited for grammar, libelous statements, available space or factual errors. Compelling

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Please send news releases to the editors at parthenon@marshall.edu. Please keep in mind, letters are printed based on timeliness, newsworthiness and space.

COLUMN

Kudos to the potty mouth princesses

By BRI SHELTON
COLUMNIST

It is hard to believe a select group of 8-10 year old girls can create as much controversy as Miley Cyrus. However, these little girls, who have earned the nickname "potty mouth princesses," have done so in their videos on YouTube. The girls have taken a stance against gender inequality by dropping the f-bomb and other various profanities to raise awareness.

They each wore cute princess dresses to challenge the stereotype that little girls are fragile and dream of becoming princesses themselves one day. With their hair and makeup, most were surprised to hear the slew of cuss words that came out of their mouths.

It's definitely attention grabbing to hear young girls swearing and discussing topics like rape, domestic abuse and the income gap between men and women. They made it clear this was an unfair double standard and even shared statistics to back up their arguments.

These kids really hit on every problem between the two genders in their few-minute-long video. This will hopefully shed more light on these overlooked issues and promote equality.

As with any controversial video, people immediately took to Facebook and other social media to blast the company for letting the girls use that kind of language. Be that as it may, I congratulate them for challenging this issue with gender stratification. If it takes letting the younger generation talk like sailors, so be it. We are too far advanced in our open-mindedness to let these problems continue.

They have started selling T-shirts that say: 'Girls just wanna have FUN-da-mental rights', which is a pun based off the famous Cyndi Lauper song. Since the T-shirt sales began, more and more advocates have joined the bandwagon, and that sounds like pure success to me.

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EDITORIAL

Live tweeting is beautifully obnoxious

Anyone with a Twitter account has more than likely experienced the overflow of commentary and general trolling that inevitably accompany widely broadcasted events. The 21st century phenomenon known by many as live tweeting typically happens during major sporting events, award shows or other events that claim massive worldwide audiences—for example, the Super Bowl, the Grammys, the Academy Awards, the Victoria's Secret Fashion Show, etc.

The live tweet sensation has gained such a level of notoriety that it is often sited in news stories—left shark or Kanye West for example. During the weeks following the Super Bowl and the

Grammys, these subjects have become newsworthy topics media outlets continue to explore from every possible angle.

In almost every situation, the progression of such an influx of social media activity can be nearly insufferable. Tweet after tweet pours into one's timeline at an impossible rate, making the whole affair increasingly more annoying.

Every viewer becomes an expert. Everyone knows everything about what is happening, and everyone has something to say about it. People form opinions based on no more background knowledge than another person's tweet from two minutes ago. Without such

knowledge, content becomes increasingly more infuriating to the informed audience, and its intellectual qualities decrease at a similar rate.

But there is beauty in the massive deluge of comments, memes and random thoughts. Hundreds, sometimes thousands, sometimes millions of people are living in exactly the same moment, seeing exactly the same images and interpreting them.

Two people living across the world from one another can have a conversation about an event happening in front of both of them by the simple use of a hashtag. Obnoxious as a flooded timeline may be, the concept of consuming the same form of entertainment as so many

other people at the same time is overwhelmingly unifying.

Why else, beyond personal gratification, would so many people broadcast their thoughts than to share that experience with the world?

Whether a participant or a bystander, Twitter users should not be annoyed by live tweeters, there is a mute button for a reason. Instead of complaining about the massive flood of commentary on one's timeline—adding to the mess rather than making it stop—he or she should recognize the unifying abilities of such a phenomenon.

It's a wonderful experience to be able to process the same pieces of information as such an exceptionally large audience.



Challen Cates @ChallenCates · Feb 9
President Obama interrupted the #Grammys2015 with a statement hotter than any dress (via @Upworthy) upworthy.com/president-obam...



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View summary



Emma Bell @EmmaBell17 · Feb 9
favorite #Grammys2015 performance goes to: @Hozier and the incomparable @AnnieLennox god they are good.



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Kyle David Smith @Kyle_Dav_S · Feb 9
Dear @kanyewest, @Beyonce has 12 writers for her music.....@beck has one. #bestalbum #Grammys2015



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Nick Kuhn @NickKuhnRadio · 6h
I think @carrieunderwood skipped the #Grammys2015 bc if she DID go into labor #KanyeWest would probably interrupt the delivery #sitdownkanye



5



8



Scott Raynovich @rayno · Feb 9
After what happened at the #Grammys2015 last night, I think its clear that @beck is a classier person than @kanyewest #KanyeWest



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This Nov. 4, 2013 file photo shows the sign outside of Twitter headquarters in San Francisco.

AP PHOTO | JEFF CHIU | FILE

Comedy Central says Jon Stewart leaving 'The Daily Show'



This Nov. 30, 2011 file photo shows television host Jon Stewart during a taping of "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" in New York. Comedy Central announced Tuesday that Stewart will leave "The Daily Show" later this year.

AP PHOTO | BRAD BARKET | FILE

By LYNN ELBER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

Jon Stewart, who turned his biting and free-wheeling humor into an unlikely source of news and analysis for viewers of "The Daily Show," will leave as host this year, Comedy Central said Tuesday.

His departure was announced by Comedy Central President Michele Ganeless after Stewart, host of the show since 1999, broke the news to the audience at Tuesday's taping in New York.

"Through his unique voice and vision, 'The Daily Show' has become a cultural touchstone for millions of fans and an unparalleled platform for political comedy that will endure for years to come," Ganeless said in a statement.

She called Stewart, 52, a "comic genius." He will remain as host until later this year, she said, but did not specify his exit date or what lead to his decision.

Reaction was swift from his admirers and, in some cases, likely past targets.

"Just had the honor of being the great Jon Stewart's guest (on 'The Daily Show'), where he announced he's leaving. Emotional night," David Axelrod, former adviser to President Barack Obama, posted on Twitter.

Stewart's departure represents a second big blow for Comedy Central: Another star, Stephen Colbert, left "The Colbert Report" last year to take over from CBS late-night host David Letterman when he retires in May.

Larry Wilmore and the new "The Nightly Show" replaced "The Colbert Report."

The Stewart and Colbert shows created templates for a comedic form that offered laughs along with trenchant political and social satire. Authors and politicians were as common as Hollywood celebrities on the self-described "fake news" programs.

Stewart took a several months-long hiatus in 2013 to direct "Rosewater," a well-reviewed film about an Iranian-born journalist who was imprisoned for 118 days in Tehran and accused of being a spy. The Comedy Central statement did not indicate what his plans were after leaving.

Mindy Kaling blamed the lure of filmdom.

"I knew when Jon Stewart left to direct that movie he was gonna try something like this," Kaling posted on Twitter.

When he returned from his filmmaking break, Stewart played a tape of President Barack Obama urging military action against Syria because of last month's poison gas attack.

"America taking military action against a Middle East regime," Stewart said. "It's like I never left."

In 2010, Stewart and Colbert drew a crowd to the Washington Mall for their Rally to Restore Sanity and/or Fear. They tackled familiar topics — the partisan gridlock in the nation's capital and the political talk show culture that encouraged it.

Stewart was credited with effectively killing one cable program — CNN's "Crossfire" — when his withering criticism of its partisan squabbling hit a nerve and CNN soon cancelled it.

He poked fun at politicians but spent even more time on the media establishment covering them. The most recent example was Monday night, when he tut-tutted NBC's Brian Williams for being caught misleading the public about the danger faced covering the Iraq War.

On Tuesday, NBC announced that Williams was being suspended as "Nightly News" anchor and managing editor for six months without pay.

Stewart, however, had more withering criticism for the reporters covering Williams, joking that finally the media was criticizing someone for misleading the public during the Iraq War.

Obama to create new agency to examine cyberthreats

By KEN DILANIAN
AP INTELLIGENCE WRITER

The White House is setting up a new agency designed to coordinate cyberthreat intelligence that currently is spread across the federal government.

The agency will be modeled after the National Counter Terrorism Center, which was established after 9/11 to coordinate terrorism intelligence. The lack of such an agency before led to missed opportunities to thwart the 2001 terrorist attacks.

Lisa Monaco, assistant to the president for homeland security and counterterrorism, announced the new "Cyber Threats Intelligence Integration Center" in a speech Tuesday at the Wilson Center in Washington.

U.S. companies have been buffeted by a series of damaging cyber incidents in recent years — some from nation states, others from criminal groups. Government expertise in analyzing the various cyber-threats resides in a number of agencies, including the FBI, the Department of Homeland Security, the National Security Agency and U.S. Cyber Command.

White House cybersecurity coordinator Michael Daniel has concluded that cyberintelligence at the moment is bedeviled by the same shortcomings that afflicted terrorism intelligence before 9/11 — bureaucracy, competing interests, and no

streamlined way to combine analysis from various agencies, the official said.

The hack on Sony's movie subsidiary, for example, resulted in a variety of different analytical papers from various agencies. Each one pointed to North Korea, but with varying degrees of confidence.

Unlike the National Counter Terrorism Center, which gets most of its information from intelligence agencies, the new cyberagency may rely to a much larger extent on private companies, which are regularly seeing and gathering cyberintelligence as they are hit with attempts by hackers to break into their networks.

Gathering threat signatures, and profiling hacker groups, has become a key component of collecting cyberintelligence — a discipline practiced both by government agencies and private firms.

U.S. intelligence officials have been warning about the dangers of cyberattacks for years, and the public is starting to pay close attention.

Fifty-seven percent of Americans in a new Associated Press-GfK poll conducted Jan. 29-Feb 2 think there is an extremely or somewhat high risk of a foreign country or terrorist group making a major cyberattack on computer systems inside of the United States. That is more than the 50 percent who say the risk of a terrorist attack is somewhat or extremely high.

LADY VALOR

Continued from page 1

"There needs to be a change, a fundamental change, of passion in our country," Beck said. "I've seen so much of this pain and bullying. It's not right."

Beck said it was hard growing up in the 60s and 70s before society was flexible in dealing with gender differences.

"She knew she was a woman since she was in second or third grade," Holley said. "She didn't have any kind of outlet back then. In this day and age, it's a lot easier for all gender types to find a way to be themselves."

Beck gave the audience an

opportunity to ask questions during a Q&A session.

She encouraged the audience to see the beauty in everyone. Beck said she believes the world will be a better place when we see this beauty, give each other a break and start loving one another.

Beck said she wants the world to see she is still the same person.

"I want people to understand this is the same face that was under the beard," Beck said. "We don't need surgeries. It all comes down to who you are in spirit."

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Mississippi, West Virginia toughest on school immunizations

By JOHN RABY and EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

With rampant diabetes and obesity, Mississippi and West Virginia have struggled with health crises. Yet when it comes to getting children vaccinated, these states don't mess around.

The states, among the poorest in the country, are the only ones that refuse to exempt school children from mandatory vaccinations based on their parents' personal or religious beliefs. Separate efforts to significantly loosen those rules died in both states' legislatures last week.

Mississippi has the highest immunization rate in the country for children entering kindergarten at 99.7 percent, while West Virginia is at roughly 96 percent, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The figures cover vaccines for measles, mumps and rubella; diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis; and varicella, or chickenpox.

Public health officials say a 90 percent immunization rate is critical to minimizing the potential for a disease outbreak.

"Mississippi is not traditionally viewed as a leader on health issues. But in this area, they should be proud of the fact that they have not changed this law. Mississippi and West Virginia could be role models for other states," said Dr. Mark Schleiss, a pediatrician and vaccine researcher at the University of Minnesota.

A recent measles outbreak that has sickened more than 100 people has brought attention to policies in 48 states that allow parents to opt out of vaccinating their children because of their religious beliefs or personal beliefs, or both.

But in West Virginia and Mississippi the rules are firm: Barring a significant medical reason, kids who haven't been vaccinated

can't attend school — public or private.

Dr. Rahul Gupta, West Virginia's state health officer, said the limit on exemptions is the reason his state has been spared from any measles outbreaks for decades. And the policy has been relatively uncontroversial.

"The overwhelming majority of the public ... support having more of their children protected through vaccinations than less," he said.

Some parents in West Virginia are perplexed that people wouldn't vaccinate their kids.

"I don't think it's a big deal," said Paula Beasley, whose daughter attends fifth grade in Cross Lanes, West Virginia. "Everyone needs to. It's all for the greater good."

Mississippi lawmakers are considering a proposal to let doctors grant medical exemptions that would allow children to skip or delay a vaccination. Currently, only the state Department of Health can grant an exemption. Though all 135 requested exemptions were granted for this school year, a group called Mississippi Parents for Vaccine Rights said the department has ignored its concerns that the state requires too many immunizations too early in life. The activists' demand for a philosophical exemption was stripped from the bill last week.

Tracey Liles of Grenada, Mississippi, who has a 13-year-old daughter and a 3-year-old son, is among those pushing for the change because she thinks the health department has been too stingy in granting medical exemptions. Liles said her daughter is fully vaccinated but ran a high fever and slept for two days after a round of vaccinations about 10 years ago. Her daughter, who is now in eighth grade, had to get a state-mandated booster shot for diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis before entering seventh grade.

"Obviously, I wasn't going to pull her out

of school, being a cheerleader and everything. So, we did it," Liles said. "Basically, I feel like I was forced to do it, but I didn't have a choice."

Dr. Mary Currier, the state health officer in Mississippi, has urged legislators not to weaken the immunization requirements, particularly with measles spreading in other states.

Mississippi enacted a strong vaccination law in the 1970s. In 1979, the Mississippi Supreme Court blocked a father's request not to vaccinate his son because of religious beliefs.

The protection of students "against the horrors of crippling and death resulting from poliomyelitis or smallpox or from one of the other diseases against which means of immunization are known and have long been practiced successfully, demand that children who have not been immunized should be excluded from the school community until immunization has been accomplished," the court wrote.

Republican Dean Kirby, chairman of the Mississippi Senate Public Health Committee, said that when proposals to create a philosophical exemption arose in recent years, he received calls mostly from one side — those wanting the change. With the measles outbreak this year, Kirby said he's hearing from parents who want to keep the law as it is.

"They don't want their children going to school with people who have not had the shots," Kirby said.

West Virginia's school vaccination law has its roots in the 1880s and has been repeatedly changed. But the trend toward expanding exemptions never gained traction.

Last week, a proposed religious exemption was removed from consideration without debate in the legislature.

Piercing shop lives up to prestigious expectations

By **KARIMA NEGHMOUCH**
THE PARTHENON

Prestige Piercing, a piercing and fine body jewelry studio, is located a few blocks from Marshall University’s campus, making it a popular place for students.

Anthony Watts, owner of Prestige Piercing, found his inspiration for piercing in high school.

“When I was in high school, I really wanted stretched earlobes,” Watts said. “I turned 18, stopped in a tattoo shop and had my ears punched at a six gauge, then I had my lip pierced, and then my nostril. I loved it. I loved piercings. I wanted to do them.”

Watts is the only local authorized retailer of actual hand-polished professional implant grade titanium jewelry, which is considered industry standard.

Watts laughed as he described what implant jewelry is like. “It’s like the difference between a titanium hip replacement joint and a spoon,” Watts said. “One is specifically manufactured and certified to be biocompatible and implantable, and the other clearly is not.”

Marshall student Jorden Lucas has multiple piercings by Watts and said she is satisfied with all of them.

“I go to Anthony because he really knows what he’s doing, he takes care of his shop and all of his customers really well,” Lucas said. “I’ve already recommended him multiple times. I’ve never had any trouble with any of my piercings he’s done.”

Watts said he cannot stress the importance of the safety of piercings enough, which is why he is a registered certified professional piercing technician in West Virginia.

Watts said he practices excellent cross-contamination prevention techniques. He has Red Cross blood borne pathogen, adult first aid and CPR and Occupational Safety and Health Administration exposure control training.

“It’s so very important to be pierced by a professional because unfortunately we live in a day and age where we have blood borne pathogens like Hepatitis, MRSA and HIV,” Watts said. “Reputable professionals will always be highly trained to prevent cross-contamination and have appropriate medical grade autoclaves to process and sterilize equipment and jewelry before it ever comes in contact with a client.”

Rikki Meckstroth, former Huntington resident who goes to the University of Tampa, always comes back to Huntington to get her piercings.

“The cleanliness of the shop and the professionalism Watts has is unmatched,” Meckstroth said.

Watts said the most common piercings among students are nostrils, navels and septums, in that order.

“The best part of my job is when my client looks in the mirror after the procedure is finished and sees their new addition,” Watts said. “It’s a good feeling to make a stranger happy.”

Watts said he does not hesitate turning down a client for a procedure if his or her body does not have the correct anatomy for the particular piercing they want.

“That’s the worst part of my job, having to turn down a client for a procedure,” Watts said. “If it’s at a high risk for rejection or in an area that won’t heal properly or look bad, I won’t do it. I put my name on every single piercing I do. A lot of businesses would just take your money, but I care about your health and safety and if a piercing is going to be problematic to you, I’ll decline to do it or show you some other options.”

Prestige Piercing is located on 834 Sixth Ave. and is open 12-6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

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“It’s like the difference between a titanium hip replacement joint and a spoon.”

ANTHONY WATTS

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CODINUNDRUM

A column about random pop culture stuff, mostly Beyoncé

Another Kanye think piece: Stop overthinking Kanye

By **CODI MOHR**
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

I’m not going to talk about Beyoncé. There is nothing more to say than what has already been said. She deserved to take home the award for Album of the Year, but the National Academy of Recording Sciences, which tends to gravitate toward the old-school studio way of production, chose another equally deserving winner. But I’m not going to talk about Beyoncé.

I will, however, talk about Kanye West.

Variety writer Andrew Barker said it best: “Kanye West is one of only a handful of modern working musicians who will likely have an entire chapter dedicated to him when the final volume of pop music history is written.”

As a huge fan of West’s music—and let’s just be honest, I’m obsessed with his total image—Grammys night was a good night for me. West has become increasingly tolerable and almost endearing to the general public, and his performances and light-hearted moments added to that view.

The next morning, however, as interviews and sound bites started to roll in from various entertainment news outlets, it was clear West’s somewhat evolved image had reverted back to square one.

His comments about Beck’s Album of the Year win ignited the Internet with several op-eds and think pieces. But they seem to be taking it all a bit too far and way too personally.

In my head, what really happened is as follows:

West walks the red carpet with his beautiful wife, does some interviews without sounding like a total self-centered jerk (thanks to questions being fielded by Kim), kills his solo performance of “Only One” and completely throws down with Paul McCartney and Rihanna in “FourFiveSeconds.”

He takes his seat post-performance and prepares to congratulate

Queen Bey on her imminent Album of the Year victory.

Prince opens the envelope. “And the Grammy goes to... Beck, ‘Morning Phase.’”

West, shocked, makes the most of the moment. If the world’s eyes aren’t going to be on Beyoncé, they’re going to be on him. He starts to climb the stairs, knowing the reactions behind him will distract viewers and audience members from watching Beck.

Inches from the microphone, West spins around and returns to his seat. The crowd loses its collective mind.

After the show, West and Kardashian-West do the obligatory interviews, and Kanye decides, in the moment, he wants his comical stunt to be symbolic.

So he calls out Beck for not deserving the award, and the world revolts against him once again.

First of all, why would the Academy seat someone with such a reputation so close to the stage? With West, there is always a potential, or maybe more of an inevitability, for controversy or spectacle, so why risk seating him so close to the action?

To label myself as the typical fan standing up for an artist who makes a mistake, Kanye’s just being Kanye. So he interrupts a silly award show. As someone who takes award shows of all kinds quite seriously, even I can admit how irrelevant it all is in the end.

Unfortunately I truly believe he never had any intention, originally, beyond a meta representation. But in his hunger for attention, West devised a way to keep his name in the headlines — as though he needed one.

The show is about recognizing artistry. Although West disagrees, the Academy is made up of industry men and women who, even if they choose more traditional winners, know music. They made their choice, right or wrong, and West is exploiting that choice for his own publicity, simple as that.

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Kim Kardashian and Kanye West attend the 57th Annual Grammy Awards Official After Party Sunday in Los Angeles, Calif.