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The Parthenon, February 12, 2015

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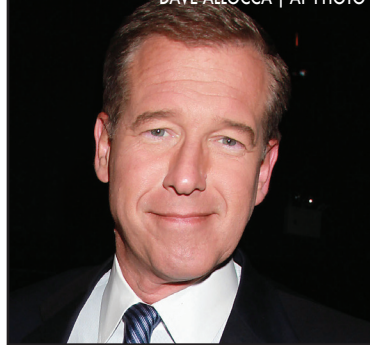
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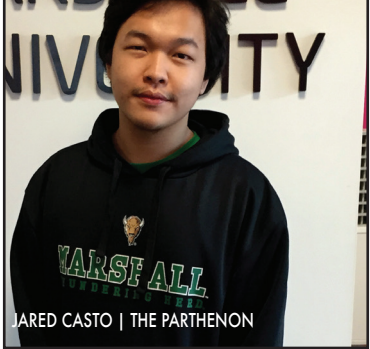
DAVE ALLOCCA | AP PHOTO



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FILE PHOTO



TODAY'S WEATHER:

PROVIDED BY MARSHALL UNIVERSITY METEOROLOGY STUDENTS

Meteorology
www.marshall.edu/met

Morning
Snow Showers
Winds 25 mph
1 inch Possible

Afternoon
Peaks of Sun
Falling Temps / Windy

Night
Arctic Air Settles In
Lingering Flurries

Thursday's Weather

35

29

9

Forecast provided by Student Meteorologist Bradley Wells & Joseph Fitzwater

Twenty-week abortion ban passes in W.Va. House

Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act moves to Senate review

By LEXI BROWNING
THE PARTHENON

The West Virginia House of Delegates passed a bill Wednesday prohibiting abortions past a certain timeframe in pregnancies.

House Bill 2568, summarized as the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, prohibits abortion past the 20-week period in a pregnancy, to prevent the fetus from experiencing pain that occurs with abortions. Two exceptions to the bill exist: medical emergencies and non-medically viable fetuses.

H.B. 2568 defines a non-medically

viable fetus as one that contains sufficient lethal fetal anomalies or is incompatible with life outside the womb.

Delegate Dave Pethtel, D-Wetzel, said opposing H.B. 2568 was the third time he had supported pro-choice legislation, but felt he was making the right decision in supporting West Virginia women's rights.

"Ladies, I'm proud to stand with you today, in speaking and voting against this bill," Pethtel said. "Because I believe that when a woman has to make one of the most difficult decisions in her life on whether or not to have an

abortion... That decision should be between her, her doctor, her family and her God. Not the government."

WV Free, an organization focused on reproductive education and equality, hosted a social media-thon Wednesday encouraging delegates to take a stand against government intervention in women's rights. The online campaign took place just before the bill was discussed in the House.

Hashtags such as #StandWithWV-Women and #TrustWomen were used in addition to #IamTiffany, referencing a video about one West Virginia woman's decision to terminate her

pregnancy after it was deemed life-threatening.

Lead sponsor of H.B. 2568, Kelli Sobonya, R-Cabell, mentioned the House's support of the pain-capable bill last year, which was ultimately vetoed by Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin.

"Today we have another opportunity to join 10 other states that have made it a matter of public policy to stand up for pre-born babies who feel pain during an abortion," Sobonya said.

See ABORTION page 5

PIANIST JAZZES UP GUEST SERIES

Jazz pianist Paul Johnston joined local musicians to perform as part of the Jomie Jazz Artist Series Wednesday in the Jomie Jazz Center.

KAITLYN CLAY | THE PARTHENON

By MIKAELA KEENER
THE PARTHENON

The Jomie Jazz Artist Series performed its first concert of the semester Wednesday in the Jomie Jazz Center with special guest Paul Johnston.

Johnston is associate professor of jazz studies and jazz piano at Eastern Illinois University.

Jeff Wolfe, professor of jazz studies and music technology at Marshall University, said this program sets Marshall aside from other schools.

"We are lucky to have this program," Wolfe said. "A lot of larger jazz studies programs at other universities don't have an on-going series like this where we can bring in major jazz artists or major jazz educators, or sometimes both, if they are the same person, to the campus. We are lucky to have the resources and the people to make these things happen."

Johnston performed original pieces along with songs by other composers with the help of Steve Heffner, bass, Steve Hall, drums, and Wolf, trumpet. They performed "Blues for Megan," "June 2014" and "New Day" composed by Johnston. They also performed "Time After Time" by Jule Styne and Sammy Cahn, "317 East 32nd Street" by Lennie Tristano, "A Child is Born" by Thad Jones and "Groovin' High" by Dizzy Gillespie.

Johnston said his love for jazz music began in sixth grade when he played with his middle school jazz band. The encouragement he received from teachers and years of performance helped him to pursue his career in music.

"This is a great opportunity for students to get to meet some different artists and hear them play and hear them talk

See JAZZ page 5

Mayor previews State of the City, announces budget

By CODI MOHR
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Huntington Mayor Steve Williams previewed his State of the City address and the city's budget Wednesday for Marshall University journalism students in Smith Hall.

According to Williams, the city is "strong, vibrant, at the beginning of a renaissance."

Williams praised developmental programs, but he said the city projects about a 5 percent decrease in revenue. Though he would not specifically state where cuts will come from, he emphasized there will be reductions in operation but no layoffs.

"We were faced with a test of our philosophical values," Williams said. "When you see revenues are decreasing do you live within your means, or do you raise revenues to be able to

keep operating at the levels you've been operating at? I made the decision that absolutely we would not raise any fees."

He cited recently completed construction projects on campus as one reason for the drop in revenue. As projects like the Chris Cline Athletic Complex and the Arthur Weisburg Engineering Complex finalize construction, Williams said nearly \$2 million of revenue will not exist in 2015.

Decreased revenue, however, has not slowed progression of Williams' renaissance.

"I'm forced to make sure that we have other operations," Williams said.

Such alternatives include assessing and collecting fees and fines from those who owe the city and encouraging department heads to

communicate with union leaders and administrators to find more efficient ways to provide certain services.

The budget for 2015 will be \$43.3 million. Last year's budget was \$45.1 million.

Williams explained the change is not a decline in revenue, but a necessary alteration considering circumstances.

"We're not cutting the budget," Williams said. "The revenues are declining, and I'm making an adjustment. We're living within our means... And I'm making blessed sure that we shore up some other revenues."

Williams also described some of his major developmental programs contributing to what he called, the renaissance.

The demolished Northcott Court

public housing complex along Hal Greer Boulevard will be converted into a commercial area. Huntington Police Department officials will continue to increase investigations in the West End as part of the River to Rail initiative, which aims to reduce drug, property and violent crime in the city. The 74-acre brownfield space of industrial properties in the middle of the city, referred to as the ACF property, will also be developed into a more attractive area. And citywide broadband Internet infrastructure will serve as what Williams calls a virtual ribbon, tying all four programs together.

Williams will deliver the State of the City address 3 p.m. Tuesday in City Council chambers at City Hall.

Codi Mohr can be contacted at mohr13@marshall.edu.

"When you see revenues are decreasing do you live within your means, or do you raise revenues to be able to keep operating at the levels you've been operating at?"

- Mayor Steve Williams

Rec Center offers Kids' Night Out

By MERCEDEZ SPEIGHT
THE PARTHENON

The Rec Center is giving parents an opportunity to drop off their kids for the night Friday at Kids' Night Out from 5-9 p.m.

Kids ages 4-12 can enjoy activities such as swimming, rock wall climbing, basketball and a pizza party.

Kids' Night Out is usually done on the first Friday of every month, but in honor of Valentine's Day, the Rec Center has decided to have the event a week later than usual.

Michele Muth, director of marketing and memberships, said the event is beneficial to kids and their parents.

"It's a nice little break for parents, but it's also a good way to keep the kids active and interested," Muth said.

The cost for members is \$15 and \$10 for every additional child.

For parents who have babysitters, Muth said this might seem like a bargain.

"The price is really good," Muth said. "I would pay a babysitter a lot more to come to my home than to just drop them off here."

Muth said the staff that puts on Kids' Night Out does it for free.

The Rec Center does not have the event during the summer or in January.

Muth said it does not have the event

during those times because it is too close to New Year's ,and participation is low. She said most of the kids who come are in camp during the summer and do similar activities. She said the kids in the past seemed to like swimming the best out of the other activities.

"We turn on the vortex and the kids float around in circles," Muth said. "They love it and we have some blow up boats that we put in there."

The Rec Center is open during normal hours during Kids' Night Out.

Mercedes Speight can be contacted at speight@live.marshall.edu.

MU website advises students on campus emergency procedures

Anay Reddy and Mrinalini Ramanan light candles following a vigil for three people who were killed at a condominium near UNC-Chapel Hill, Wednesday in Chapel Hill, N.C. The Marshall University emergency procedures are the results of lessons learned from incidents like Chapel Hill and the shooting at Virginia Tech University.

AP PHOTO | THE NEWS & OBSERVER | AL DRAGO



By TYLER FERRIS
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University students have access to in-depth instructions on Marshall's website when it comes to emergency situations.

James Terry, director of public safety at Marshall, said students and faculty stay informed on campus procedures.

The online document gives instructions for immediate actions to be taken. These actions include what to do to secure the area, how to reduce vulnerability, what to do in unsecure areas, what to report to a 911 dispatcher, how to treat an injured person and when to unsecure an area.

MU Alert, Marshall's emergency notification system, would serve as the messenger in case shots were fired or otherwise reported.

Jon Cutler, chief information security officer at Marshall, and his team support the infrastructure of this communication.

"The real challenge there is, what is the situation, what is the message and what do we need to have folks do," Cutler said. "This is something where there were lessons learned from Virginia Tech and other schools that have had this happen. They weren't criticized as much for lack of an emergency notification system, as how much lag time was it between when you knew there was an issue and the guidance that was given."

Cutler said once the information is submitted, text messages generally make it to MU Alert subscribers in two minutes or less, followed by emails and phone calls respectively.

There are different emergency procedures listed on Marshall's website.

Tyler Ferris can be contacted at ferris26@marshall.edu.

Career Services offers on-campus interviews from local businesses

By MATTHEW EPLION
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University Career Services is giving students in need of a job the opportunity to have on-campus interviews for different companies.

Debby Stoler, assistant director of development and outreach at MU Career Services, said IBM, CVS Pharmacy and Target interviews are scheduled this semester.

Stoler said the next scheduled interview session is Feb. 18 with CVS Pharmacy for its leadership management program at the MU Career Services office.

Stoler said openings for CVS interviews are still available, and students who are interested are required to sign up online through their JobTrax accounts.

Stoler said they are no longer accepting applicants for interviews with IBM, but students are free to attend an IBM information session. The session will take place at 5 p.m. Feb. 20 in the Memorial Student Center Room 2W22. No prior registration is required, and the event is available to all interested students.

Stoler said even though interviews are closed, the IBM location in Rocket Center, West Virginia, is expanding and has need for many positions.

Other scheduled events include an Educator Expo March 10 in room BE5 of the MSC. Recruiters from West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina and Arizona will be in attendance at the expo for students to meet with and learn about potential teaching careers.

The interview session with Target is April 22 for executive team leader positions and executive internships.

Target will also have an information session April 15 at the Career Services office.

Matthew Eplion can be contacted at epalion11@marshall.edu.

MU S.P.A.C.E. to build payloads for NASA

By WILLIAM IZZO
THE PARTHENON

Formerly the MU Rocketry Club, the Marshall University Student Partnership for the Advancement of Cosmic Exploration is working on designing and building payloads to be included on rockets or weather balloons.

The club used to focus more on building and launching model rockets that varied in size and shape but have since entered a partnership with NASA to build satellites. These satellites, or payloads, read various types of atmospheric data.

The data is then sent back to the West Virginia Space Grant Consortium, which helps fund the group.

Club President Tyler Bonnett said everyone is welcome to join.

"It mostly attracts science majors, because that's the kind of person that's interested, but anyone with an interest can join," Bonnett said. "You don't need any actual rocket, or payload building experience."

Bonnett said he thinks because of NASA's involvement, things have happened rather fast.

"I think now we're all involved in more technical stuff, but stuff that is still learnable for those who want to join the group," Bonnett said.

Interested students can attend weekly meetings.

"One group is building a payload for a rocket being launched in Virginia over the summer and one group is designing another payload that will be launched in a weather balloon at the end of this semester," Bonnett said.

Meetings typically open with progress reports and then break off into separate groups, where students work on different projects through the duration of the meeting.

MU S.P.A.C.E. is launching a tethered weather balloon with NASA Feb. 28 at Fairmont State University. They are also launching an untethered balloon set to reach around 80,000 ft. above the surface of the Earth in April and a payload launch on a NASA rocket in Virginia during the summer.

The club will continue to design new projects every year with NASA funding and ultimately plans to launch a CubeSat, a miniature cubic satellite, meant for space research.

S.P.A.C.E. meetings take place at 5:30 p.m. every Thursday room 281 of the Science Building.

William Izzo can be contacted at izzo@marshall.edu.

The United Launch Alliance Delta II rocket with the Soil Moisture Active Passive satellite onboard prepares for lunch Jan. 29, at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. MU S.P.A.C.E. is currently working on similar payloads for NASA.

AP PHOTO | NASA | BILL INGALLS



SPORTS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2015 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

Herd baseball prepares for season opener

By JILL SHEMANSKI
THE PARTHENON

The Marshall University baseball team will head down south to Tallahassee, Florida for their season opener tournament Friday against Florida A&M University.

The Herd welcomes 13 new faces to its program this season, including seven junior college transfers and six freshmen.

The team came out of Conference USA last season with the third fewest stolen bases against them. Redshirt sophomore catcher Matt Reed led the team to fourth in the league, for times caught stealing with a number of 23.

Redshirt senior pitcher Joshua King is one of the upperclassmen leaders for the Herd and this year will be no different. King considers the experienced group of players on the roster this year a huge strength for the team.

"This year we have a pretty big senior and junior class that has been here and knows what to expect each and every weekend," King said. "With that being said, they have been able to help the younger guys prepare for this long journey ahead of us."

King said he is focusing on being successful as a team.

"I just want to be successful as a team,"

King said. "As long as we are winning I am sure all of my personal goals will take care of themselves."

Marshall has two conference matchups televised by American Sports. The first conference is at 2 p.m. March 22, against University of Alabama Birmingham. The second is at 4 p.m. April 4 at Florida Atlantic University.

Junior pitcher Chase Boster said he feels part of the upperclassman role includes setting an example for the newcomers on how the team plays baseball at Marshall.

"Our expectations for this season are high just like any other team in our conference," Boster said. "Each team wants to win the conference tournament so we are focused on getting there by team oriented baseball,"

Boster said he enjoys being on the team for more than baseball.

"My favorite part about being on the team is the friendships I have formed with my teammates off the field as well as on the field," Boster said.

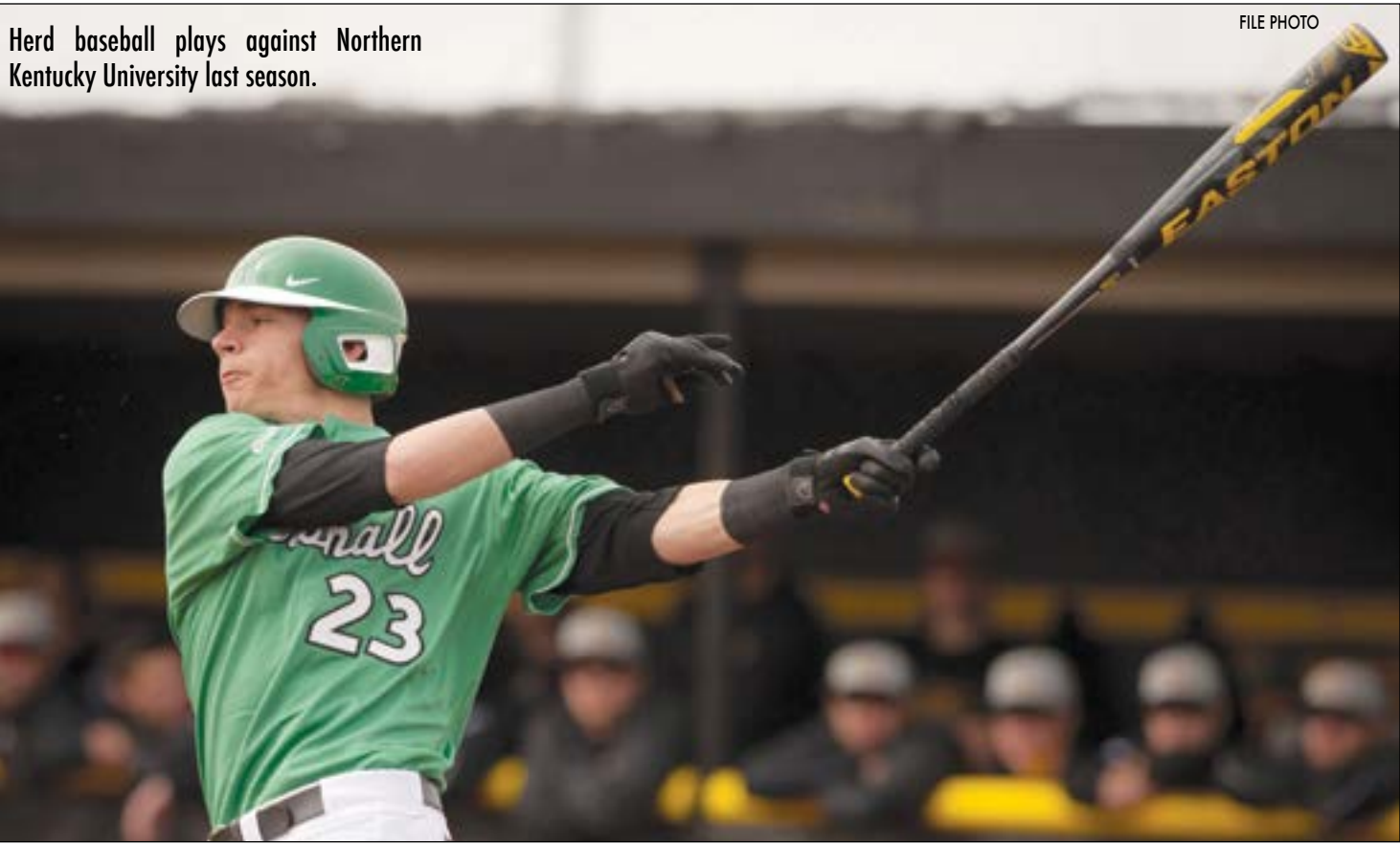
The Herd faces No. 28 Mississippi State University at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 20 in Starkville, Mississippi. The game is on SEC Network.

Jill Shemanski can be contact at shemanski@marshall.edu



Herd baseball plays against Northern Kentucky University last season. FILE PHOTO

Herd baseball plays against Northern Kentucky University last season.



FILE PHOTO



Herd baseball plays against Northern Kentucky University last season. FILE PHOTO

Former Herd tennis coach plays for nationally ranked team

By KASEY MADDEN
THE PARTHENON

Linda Holmes, director of development and alumni affairs of Marshall University's Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, has been a part of the Herd for years.

Even though Holmes did not play tennis for the Herd, she was a graduate student and assistant coach for the women's team in 1975.

"That was a wonderful experience, I have great fondness and appreciation for Dr. Dorothy Hicks who saw something in me and gave me that opportunity," Holmes said.

In Holmes' time with the tennis team, they won the West Virginia Intercollegiate Conference tournament.

"That was really a great accomplishment for the team," Holmes said.

Holmes said her original plan coming to Marshall was to become a health physical education and safety teacher.

Her plan changed in 1976 when she started working in Marshall Athletics as the assistant athletic director for volleyball and softball.

Holmes credits Hicks for setting a foundation for her career and for women's sports at Marshall.

"I think it's important to know that there's always someone that you need to rely on for advice, to open doors, to put you on the right path," Holmes said. "So to her I give great accolades and not only just for me personally, but for every woman that's ever competed at this institution. She is one of those people that made a difference."

Holmes started working for the medical school in 1998 and continues to today.

Since her graduate assistant days in 1975, Holmes has never worked anywhere other than Marshall.

"I feel blessed that I've had this opportunity," Holmes said. "Marshall has been very good to me and I hope in



Linda Holmes (second row far right) poses with her team at a national tournament last year in Indian Wells, Calif.

turn I have been good to them."

Although her time working in athletics has passed, Holmes said she still plays tennis a minimum of three times a week and she frequently goes to the Rec Center before work at 6:15 a.m.

"Athletics has been a big part of my life," Holmes said.

"I fondly refer to myself as a 'gym rat,'"

Holmes plays on a nationally ranked tennis team

based out of Charleston.

In 2014, Holmes' tennis team placed third in the United States Tennis Association tournament in the 18 and over 4.5 level division in Indian Wells, California.

Through her time at Marshall and on the tennis court, Holmes said she learned many lessons about teamwork, priorities and hard work.

"Whether it's you're going to go in the kitchen and make an apple pie or you're going to start a company or you're going to work for someone, you've got to work hard, you've got to take your talents and make them as good as they can be," Holmes said.

Holmes said working out is important for people to take care of themselves physically and mentally.

"If I would want to leave everybody with something, it is how important it is to take care of yourself because you can't be the best at what you are able to do without taking care of yourself," Holmes said.

This fall will mark the 40th consecutive year Holmes has worked at Marshall. Holmes said she did not think

when she started at Marshall, she would still call Huntington home four decades later.

"If I could take back all this knowledge and put it in my head back then, I am sure different decisions might have been made but it's been a good ride," Holmes said.

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PARTHENON, TRIVIA AD
1 x 4.0

THE PARTHENON

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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.

BE HERD: GUIDELINES FOR SENDING LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

letters that are posted on The Parthenon website, www.marshallparthenon.com, can be printed at the discretion of the editors.

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

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

EDITORIAL

Brian Williams' suspension reminds journalists to speak more carefully

Among the most prominent stories bannered across news websites recently involves Brian Williams recent suspension from NBC Nightly News. The suspension stems from an incident that occurred to Williams in 2003 while reporting on the war in Iraq, a story that was later revealed as false. Although it is a story Williams has recounted for years, it was its retelling while honoring a retired U.S. Army General during a newscast Jan. 30 that the lie was exposed.

"The story actually started with a terrible moment a dozen years back during the invasion of Iraq, when the helicopter we were traveling in was forced down after being hit by an RPG," Williams said on the Jan. 30 newscast. "Our traveling NBC News team was rescued, surrounded and kept alive by an armor-mechanized platoon from the US Army 3rd Infantry."

Flight engineer Lance Reynolds, who was on the Chinook helicopter that was struck, exposed the lie. In response to a video post of the story on the NBC Nightly News Facebook page, Reynolds responded, "Sorry, dude, I don't remember you being on my aircraft. I do remember you walking up about an hour after we had landed to ask me what had happened."

On the Feb. 4 broadcast of NBC Nightly News, Williams made a public apology, admitting his misrepresentation of events.

"I want to apologize," Williams said on the broadcast. "I said I was traveling in an aircraft that was hit by RPG fire. I was instead in a following aircraft.... This was a bungled

attempt by me to thank one special veteran, and by extension, our brave military men and women, veterans everywhere—those who served while I did not."

Shortly after Williams's on-air admission, NBC announced his suspension. The response to his embellishment, and the network's response to it, has sparked a firestorm of debate both defending and criticizing Williams.

Chris Rock responded to the incident via Twitter on Feb. 7.

"Brian Williams embellishes one story = worldwide controversy," Rock tweeted. "Fox News lies unapologetically for 20 straight years = #1 cable news network."

In contrast, Former army ranger Kris Paronto slammed Williams for the incident.

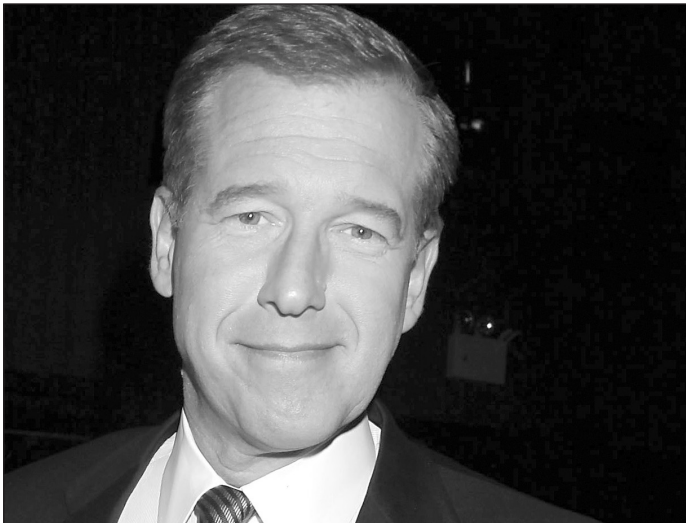
"This is one of, if not the most, despicable acts of lying to those who have served," Paronto said. "He is stealing valor from those that have actually seen combat and been shot at with RPG's and small arms fire. I can tell you from firsthand experience that you do not misremember being shot at. This lie and continual lying to cover up the first lie says a lot about Mr. Williams' character, or lack thereof."

Just because Williams misremembered a story from 12 years ago, does not automatically make him a liar who cannot be trusted, but at the same time, a journalist who tells a falsehood will inevitably come under fire since he or she is in a business where everything you say is scrutinized and checked for accuracy.

Which is exactly what is happening now. Critics have accused him of exaggerating



SCREENSHOT | TWITTER



AP PHOTO | STARPIX | DAVE ALLOCCA | FILE

NBC says it is suspending Brian Williams as "Nightly News" anchor and managing editor for six months without pay for misleading the public about his experiences covering the Iraq War. NBC chief executive Steve Burke said Tuesday that Williams' actions were inexcusable and jeopardized the trust he has built up with viewers during his decade as the network's lead anchor.

incidents that occurred while he covered Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and the war between Hezbollah and Israel in 2006.

Whether or not the Iraq story is an isolated incident or one of many, a journalist must understand that everything he or she says is under scrutiny and as such, words must be chosen carefully. In

journalism, truth is our motto and credibility our life force. If either fall under question, everything falls under question. To wit, even the smallest crack will cause the floodgates to burst. While NBC officials said Williams' suspension is only temporary, America's lack of trust in Williams may be permanent.

COLUMN

Featuring gorgeous women is great, labeling their body types is not okay

Sports Illustrated announced it will run ad featuring "plus-sized" model Ashley Graham

By TAYLOR STUCK
FOR THE PARTHENON

While the rest of the country was cheering Feb. 5, I sat grumbling at my computer screen.

Sports Illustrated had announced it would be running an ad featuring plus-sized model Ashley Graham in its annual swimsuit edition.

Graham, a beautiful dark-haired woman with an all-around gorgeous body, will be modeling a line of swimsuits for an online retailer with the tagline "You've Got It. Flaunt It." It's a Swim Sexy line for women sizes 10-34.

The next day, I sat at my computer, still grumbling. "Here's the REAL first 'Sports Illustrated' plus-sized model," the USA Today headline read. The story was about Robin Lawley, a model who will be in the magazine, not just in an ad.

I've been grumbling ever since. Not because I think "plus-sized" women shouldn't be in the swimsuit edition.

I'm grumbling because I'm supposed to stand up and cheer that the magazine is featuring

average women, which we label as "plus-sized."

Graham is a size 16. Lawley is a size 12. The average American woman is a size 14.

Is it nice to open a magazine and find a beautiful woman whose body-type is similar to mine? Why, of course. Both Graham and Lawley are great examples of body types for me to strive for in my journey for a healthier me. They have full breasts, hips that don't lie and stomachs.

My issue is their label. I've always found fault in plus-sized, mainly because I myself would be labeled as such, if I were a model.

As a young girl watching "America's Next Top Model," I knew I would never reach the beauty standards to be a model. I am nowhere near tall enough, even to be on the short girl season of AMTM. I also realized I was never going to be the right size. I accepted that and crossed "model" off my list of future careers.

The label of plus-sized, however, still haunted me. I'm

confident in my appearance today, but it still sticks in the back of your mind.

"You are not normal," a part of my mind whispers.

While the labels classify models, those ideas slip into the lives of everyday women. It's confusing when we celebrate average women breaking onto the scene. Both women are quoted by news sources saying they want all women to be comfortable in their bodies. So, these women become champions for the average women. They are average women who are classified as not normal.

Let that sink in, because it is confusing. The average, or a normal woman, is not normal.

So, that's why I am not celebrating. I'm happy for the two beautiful women, both of whom make great role models for all women. But I will continue to grumble until the day they are considered women without the preceding adjective attached to their names.

Taylor Stuck can be contacted at stuck7@marshall.edu.



Ashley Graham attends Sports Illustrated's Swimsuit Issue 2015 Celebration at Marquee on Tuesday in New York.

EVAN AGNOSTINI | INVISION | AP

Were 3 slain for their religion or their parking space?



Nida Allam, a senior at North Carolina State University, rests her head on Asheen Allam, during a vigil for three people who were killed at a condominium near UNC-Chapel Hill, Wednesday in Chapel Hill, N.C. Craig Stephen Hicks appeared in court Wednesday on charges of first-degree murder in the deaths Tuesday of Deah Shaddy Barakat, his wife Yusor Mohammad and her sister Razan Mohammad Abu-Salha.

AL DRAGO | AP PHOTO | THE NEWS & OBSERVER



This image provided by the Durham County Sheriff's Office shows a booking photo of Craig Stephen Hicks, 46, who was arrested on three counts of murder early Wednesday. He is being held at the Durham County Jail. Police were responding to a report of gunshots around 5:15 p.m. Tuesday when they found three people who were pronounced dead at the scene. The dead were identified as Deah Shaddy Barakat, 23, of Chapel Hill; Yusor Mohammad, 21, of Chapel Hill; and Razan Mohammad Abu-Salha, 19, of Raleigh.

AP PHOTO | DURHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

By **MICHAEL BIESECKER and JONATHAN DREW**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP) — Police are trying to determine whether hate played any role in the killing of three Muslims, a crime they said was sparked by a neighbor's long-simmering anger over parking and noise inside their condominium complex.

Craig Stephen Hicks, 46, describes himself as a "gun toting" atheist. Neighbors say he always seemed angry and confrontational. His ex-wife said he was obsessed with the shooting-rampage movie "Falling Down," and showed "no compassion at all" for other people.

His current wife, Karen Hicks, said he "champions the rights of others" and said the killings "had nothing to do with religion or the victims' faith." Later Wednesday, she issued another statement, saying she's divorcing him.

Hicks appeared in court Wednesday on charges of first-degree murder in the deaths Tuesday of Deah Shaddy Barakat, 23, his wife Yusor Mohammad, 21, and her sister Razan Mohammad Abu-Salha, 19. He pleaded indigence and was appointed a public defender.

Officers were summoned by a neighbor who called 911 reporting five to 10 shots and the sound of people screaming.

The women's father, Mohammad Abu-Salha, said police told him each was shot in the head inside the couple's apartment, and that he, for one, is convinced it was a hate crime.

"The media here bombards the American citizen with Islamic, Islamic, Islamic terrorism and makes people here scared of us and hate us and want us out. So if somebody has any conflict with you, and they already hate you, you get a bullet in the head," said Abu-Salha, who is a psychiatrist.

The killings are fueling outrage among people who blame anti-Muslim rhetoric for hate crimes. A Muslim advocacy organization pressed authorities to investigate possible religious bias. Many posted social media updates with the hashtags #MuslimLivesMatter.

"We understand the concerns about the possibility that this was hate-motivated, and we will exhaust every lead to determine if that is the case," Chapel Hill police Chief Chris Blue said in an email.

Chapel Hill Police asked the FBI for help in their probe, and Ripley Rand, the U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of North Carolina, said his office was monitoring the investigation. But Rand said the crime "appears at this point to have been an isolated incident."

About 2,000 people attended a candlelight vigil for the victims in the heart of UNC's campus Wednesday evening. Several people who knew them spoke about their selflessness as friends and recounted kindnesses that they had extended to others through the years.

Barakat and Mohammad were newlyweds who helped the homeless and raised funds to help Syrian refugees in Turkey this summer. They met while running the Muslim Student Association at N.C. State before he began pursuing an advanced degree in dentistry at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Mohammad planned to join her husband in dentistry school in the fall.

Abu-Salha was visiting them Tuesday from Raleigh, where she was majoring in design at N.C. State.

"This was like the power couple of our community," said Ali Sajjad, 21, the association's current president.

Many of the condominiums in the complex are rented or owned by students and recent graduates at UNC, whose campus is about three miles away.

Hicks had less success: Unemployed and driving a 15-year-old car, his wife said he's been studying to become a paralegal.

Hicks, a Second Amendment rights advocate with a concealed weapons permit, often complained about both Christians and Muslims on his Facebook page. "Some call me a gun toting Liberal, others call me an open-minded Conservative," Hicks wrote.

Imad Ahmad, who lived in the condo where his friends were killed until Barakat and

Mohammed were married in December, said Hicks complained about once a month that the two men were parking in a visitor's space as well as their assigned spot.

"He would come over to the door. Knock on the door and then have a gun on his hip saying 'you guys need to not park here,'" said Ahmad, a graduate student in chemistry at UNC-Chapel Hill. "He did it again after they got married."

Both Hicks and his neighbors complained to the property managers, who apparently didn't intervene. "They told us to call the police if the guy came and harassed us again," Ahmad said.

"This man was frustrated day in and day out about not being able to park where he wanted to," said Karen Hicks' attorney, Robert Maitland.

The killings were "related to long-standing parking disputes my husband had with various neighbors regardless of their race, religion or creed," Karen Hicks said.

Police have not said how Hicks got inside the condominium, but on Wednesday afternoon there were no visible signs of damage to the door, which was affixed with orange stickers warning of biohazardous material inside. A wooden placard bearing Arabic script that translates to "Thanks to God" hung over their doorbell.

A woman who lives near the scene described Hicks as short-tempered. "Anytime that I saw him or saw interaction with him or friends or anyone in the parking lot or myself, he was angry," Samantha Maness said of Hicks. "He was very angry, anytime I saw him."

Hicks' ex-wife, Cynthia Hurley, said that before they divorced about 17 years ago, his favorite movie was "Falling Down," the 1993 Michael Douglas film about a divorced unemployed engineer who goes on a shooting rampage.

"That always freaked me out," Hurley said. "He watched it incessantly. He thought it was hilarious. He had no compassion at all," she said.

A probable cause hearing is scheduled for March 4. Police said Hicks was cooperating.

ABORTION

Continued from page 1

Delegates referenced their faith as supporting elements for the bill, including Sobonya who ended with a scripture.

"Many say you shouldn't mix religion with politics," Sobonya said. "But I've always been of the mindset that you don't surrender your faith at the Capitol steps just because you're elected."

The pain-capable gestational age is outlined in the bill as a pregnancy that has reached 22-weeks following fertilization. This requires doctors to calculate a probable gestational age of a fetus before an abortion may be performed.

If the bill passes in the West Virginia Senate, physicians

who perform or induce abortions in violation of the bill will be subjected to discipline that may result in loss of license to practice.

Delegate Nancy Guthrie, D-Kanawha, said the bill is another instance in where anti-choice forces continue to pick away at the protected legal rights designated in the U.S. Supreme Court case Roe v. Wade.

"...Women of choice like me wonder if men would be so hasty to enact laws limiting their rights if they had rights to protect as women do," Guthrie said. "I believe if men were equal partners in the birth control process... the entitlement mentality would be substantially altered."

Guthrie said the insertion of religious beliefs in delegates' debates might have interfered

with the legislation.

"I'm not offended," Guthrie said. "But I believe those demonstrations highlight how emotion and opinion can dangerously override rational fact-based thought and discourse."

Guthrie said the ruling in the House could be detrimental on a broader scale.

"I believe [that] each year we chip away at the fundamental rights of women to determine their own reproductive decisions in private is not only a bad day for women in West Virginia but also American women," Guthrie said.

H.B. 2568 has been communicated to Senate for further legislative review.

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JAZZ

Continued from page 1

about what they do," Johnston said.

Jazz artists are brought to Marshall every year through the jazz studies program for the jazz series, Wolfe said. The guests teach and observe master classes for two days. To end their visit, the artists perform a concert.

The jazz series will have its second concert at 7:30 p.m. March 11 and its third concert March 25, both at the Jomie Jazz Center.

Mikaela Keener can be contacted at keener31@live.marshall.edu.

Send your best photos of your furry (or not) friend to parthenon@marshall.edu and they could be featured as a ParthePet, published every other Thursday.



Meet an INTO Marshall Student

By JARED CASTO
THE PARTHENON

Arkar Htut is a freshman INTO MU student from Burma working towards his undergraduate degree in the College of Business. Although he admits adapting to American culture was a struggle at first, he believes that he is gradually finding his way. Htut has enjoyed the technology offered in America and is particularly fond of Amazon, a company that does not have a presence in Burma. Currently he is trying to relearn the guitar after having quit during high school. After graduating, Htut plans to return to Burma, where he will find a job through his networking skills or start his own business.

Jared Casto can be contacted at casto178@marshall.edu.

Q: How long have you lived in America?

A: I have been here since August, so about five and a half months.

Q: How do you think that you have adapted to America?

A: For the first month, it was quite a big struggle because everything is very different from where I am from. But as my first semester progressed, I adapted way better: making friends, and trying to learn how it is in America. So even simple things like food or how I have to wake up very early in the morning...but afterwards, I got adjusted very well. Since I'm the only Burmese student in this school, I couldn't find other people who I have things in common with. I mean, I didn't necessarily need to find things in common. The first friends that I made were American people. So it was very good for my social life.

Q: What is the biggest difference between America and Burma?

A: It's a big difference, because in America everything is about being independent as a student and as a human being. At my home, it's more of an interdependent society, which means that everyone is watching over each other. But here, you have to do your own thing, get up on time, and study. It's a big freedom for me, but at the same time you have to be very careful with how you use that freedom.

Q: How and why did you choose to come to Marshall?

A: I came here through an agency back in my home country. They showed me a lot of other schools, but I had a feeling about this school. I thought that [West Virginia] would be a very different environment for me. ... At Marshall, there has only been one Burmese student who was here back in the 1970s. So it's kind of like a challenge for me to make my way through being here without any support.

Q: What are your plans for after you graduate?

A: I have to go back to my country. People ask me "Do you plan to live in America?" but the priority is that I have to go back because that's what I'm expected to do. Since I'm a business student, I have to find my own way through the business professional network and possibly find business back in my home country. Or to develop my own business.

Q: Do you have any ideas for a business you would like to create one day?

A: One thing I'm thinking about is to have a car dealership with a mechanic because I've been in close contact with cars and I know how the business is.

Q: How do you keep in touch with your family?

A: I'm fortunate because my uncle is the ambassador of my country for the United States. In my country, an uncle is like a father. I'm able to talk to him almost everyday by calling him. And with my parents back in my country, I usually use Viber or Skype to talk with them.



JARED CASTO | THE PARTHENON

Q: What has been your favorite experience so far in America?

A: There's a lot, but the best thing I've experienced so far is, in West Virginia, the people are very friendly and welcoming. You can make friends easily and everybody has their own unique thing. For example, I want to play guitar and hang out with musicians. I could do that. And if I just want to have fun I could find friends who want to relax at the end of the week. And the technology, of course. In my country, if you want to get a new item, there's no good services such as Amazon. So here if I want something, it's an easy process. And traveling. I've only been to Washington D.C., and some parts around Huntington.

Q: Do you have any interests you would like students at Marshall to know about you?

A: I used to play [guitar] in high school, but then I stopped playing. But right now I'm trying to learn how to play again. And during my first semester, I was in the Kendo club. At first I thought I could handle all that pressure, but then my grades weren't very satisfactory, so I had to let the Kendo club go.

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