

4-7-2015

## The Parthenon, April 7, 2015

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# THE PARTHENON

TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2015 | VOL. 118 NO. 112 | MARSHALL UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER | marshallparthenon.com

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"@meganisthejunk: I need feminism because women's haircuts are \$30 & men's are \$15 IN THE SAME SALON"

MIND BLOWN.

Denis, the manager of Copenhagen's Z hair salon, said the reason his shop charges women more than men is for a very simple reason and has nothing to do with discrimination.

"We have different prices for men and women.

### LIFE, 6

> LOCAL RAPPERS



## CAREER EXPO BRINGS OPPORTUNITIES TO CAMPUS

By **MATTHEW EPLION**  
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University Career Services is presenting its annual Spring Career Expo Wednesday in the Don Morris Room of the Memorial Student Center.

The event is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and is open to

Marshall students, faculty and staff.

More than 95 employers are expected to be present at the event searching for potential employees. Recruiters will share information on internships, part-time and full-time positions.

Employers in attendance include representatives from Target, State Farm Insurance, Papa John's

Pizza, Qdoba Mexican Grill and many others.

Students are encouraged to bring several copies of their resumes.

MU Career Services assists students with their resumes and helping them find jobs.

**Matthew Eplion can be contacted at eplion11@marshall.edu.**

FILE PHOTO

## Popcorn on the Plaza helps students understand online courses



By **SOFIE WACHTMEISTER**  
THE PARTHENON

MUOnline sponsored its second annual Popcorn on the Plaza event Monday on the Memorial Student Center Plaza.

Staff members were available to answer questions about taking online courses and to inform students about the course schedule for summer sessions and the fall 2015 semester.

Crystal Stewart, program manager for MUOnline and Information Technology, said there are a lot of positives when taking online courses.

"It gives students flexibility in their scheduling," Stewart said. "[The classes are] convenient, and students can take them anytime and anywhere."

Alyssa Simon, a Marshall University student who works as a student assistant in the Information Technology office, said it's vital for students to understand the course options.

"I think it's important for students to realize what's available to them," Simon said. "Online classes give them the opportunity to work and free up their schedules during the day, while still being an active student. If you're not from around Huntington you still have the opportunity to go home while participating in class, and you're still given the opportunity to be actively involved with your professors and classmates even though you don't have live meetings. Online classes are what you make them, but in every sense they're very convenient."

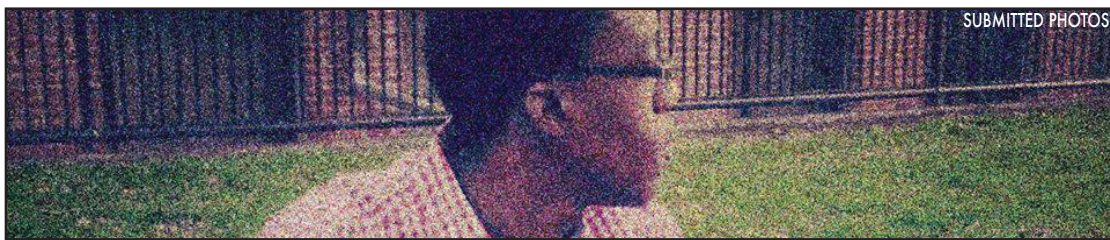
The three-hour event featured music, giveaways, popcorn and online class information.

**Sofie Wachtmeister can be contacted at wachtmeister@marshall.edu.**



Alex Burgazzoli, left, graduate student in sociology, Crystal Stewart, program manager of Information Technology, and Alyssa Simon, student assistant, offer popcorn for students interested in finding out more about summer online classes offered through Marshall University.

ANDREA STEELE | THE PARTHENON



## RAPPALACHIA HUNTINGTON'S HIP-HOP



By **WILLIAM IZZO**  
THE PARTHENON

Fans of hip-hop generally consider the genre's birthplace to be in the Bronx, one of New York City's five boroughs.

The sights and sounds of the Bronx are presumably 10 times as different as someone may find in Huntington. Though the people and experiences are different, elements of culture remain the same: more specifically, rap music.

Although on a Billboard Top 40 type of level, there has not been a whole lot of success (if any) in the West Virginia rap scene. Most local rappers are more likely to turn to YouTube and Twitter to gain coverage, and, in some cases, it works.

Appalachian rappers have drawn more than 100,000 views on music videos and several thousands of Twitter followers.

While these numbers do not quite stack up to names like Kanye West or Drake, local rappers remain enthusiastic about making a name for themselves.

**more on life! >>> page six**

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# FEST tickets now on sale

By SKYLER HUNT  
THE PARTHENON

Tickets for Marshall University's FEST event went on sale 10 a.m. Monday at the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse.

FEST is an all-day music festival hosted by the Office of Student Activities and Campus Activities Board.

The event is a reinvention and modernization of Spring Fest, which Marshall hosted during the late '80s and early '90s.

This recent revitalization will feature artists from across the country including The Ying Yang

Twins and American Idol's Blake Lewis.

Community ticket prices are \$35 for general admission and \$50 for VIP.

CAB is selling tickets until the day of the event, unless all 1,000 tickets sell before the day of the event.

"Attendees are allowed to come and go as they please, as long as they are still wearing their wrist band," said CAB adviser Sarah Dyke. "There will also be several different types of food vendors as well as beverages and alcohol distributors."

People will have the opportunity to buy VIP tickets including premiere seating within 15 feet

of the stage, a chair and a foam LED glow stick. There are 100 VIP tickets available.

General admission is standing room only.

"We are very excited for our music offerings, both locally and nationally," said Lee Tabor, the coordinator of student activities. "We have genres represented from rock to pop and country to rap."

Doors open at 10 a.m. and FEST will kick off at 10:30 a.m. Entertainment will show until midnight.

**Skyler Hunt can be contacted at hunt133@marshall.edu.**

# Clinton to focus on contact with voters at start of 2016 bid

By JULIE PACE  
AP WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT

After months of anticipation, Hillary Rodham Clinton is expected to launch her presidential campaign sometime in the next two weeks with an initial focus on intimate events putting her in close contact with voters.

Clinton wants to avoid soaring speeches delivered to big rallies, and the risk they'll convey the same cloak of inevitability that contributed to her loss in the 2008 Democratic primaries to Barack Obama.

The goal, according to people close to the Clinton organization, is to make her second run for the White House more about voters and less about herself, regardless of her place atop a field of candidates that currently looks far weaker this time around.

"For Secretary Clinton, it's about being at the level with the people," said Robert Gibbs, a longtime political adviser to President Obama. "You're demonstrating to people that you're on the ground ready to work each and every day for that vote."

Clinton's initial events are expected to be held in Iowa and New Hampshire, the first states to vote in the presidential primary

contest. Robby Mook, who is slated to serve as Clinton's campaign manager, and Marlon Marshall, a top incoming campaign aide, traveled to both states last week to meet party activists and longtime Clinton allies.

"There was a significant lack of ego and a great deal of humility," said Jerry Crawford, a Des Moines attorney who served as Clinton's Midwest chairman in 2008 and attended the Iowa meeting.

Clinton aides have long said her second White House run will look different from the first, and a focus on smaller, more unscripted events will be how she tries to make good on that pledge. In 2008, Clinton tried to compete with Obama's large rallies, but she couldn't match his rhetorical skills at the podium or the massive crowds that gathered to see him speak.

Some Clinton aides say they regretted trying to match Obama rather than play to her strengths. Friends and advisers have long said she is more at ease in small group settings and one-on-one conversations where she can display both policy expertise and a personal warmth that she sometimes struggles to convey in front of larger crowds.

When Clinton ran successfully for the Senate in 2000, she kicked off her campaign with a listening tour across New York state.

But in her 2016 presidential campaign, Clinton's expected approach also comes with risks. More loosely scripted appearances increase the chance she could be drawn off message or make a misstep. The former secretary of state has been off the campaign trail for years, and she seemed rusty in fielding questions during interviews on a book tour last year.

The exact date of Clinton's launch is a closely guarded secret, but the announcement is expected by mid-April. Her aides have been checking in with longtime supporters on their whereabouts this month and Democratic operatives in Iowa and New Hampshire have essentially been put on standby.

Clinton's decision to sign a lease last week for two floors of office space in Brooklyn likely set off a 15-day period in which presidential candidates are required to make their intentions known.

The secrecy surrounding the date has set off a guessing game among both Democrats and potential Republican candidates trying to carve out space for their own announcements.

Political operatives are speculating about everything from whether Clinton would avoid launching on tax day — April 15 — or whether she might want to peg her launch to Equal Pay Day on April 14.

Clinton may make the official announcement with an online video or social media post, though those plans are still being finalized, according to those familiar with the campaign plans. They insisted on anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the details on the record.

Clinton's early campaign stops will take her to the sites of both great victories and crushing defeats. New Hampshire was a winning state for her in 2008, as well as for husband Bill Clinton in his two presidential runs. Iowa has been less kind to the family's White House ambitions.

It's unclear whether Bill Clinton will hold solo events in the campaign's early stages. While the former president and daughter Chelsea are expected to have a hand in campaign strategy, people close to the organization say there have been discussions about the need for Clinton to build out her own biography separate from that of her famous husband.



In this March 23 file photo, former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton speaks in Washington. Clinton is expected to launch her campaign for president sometime in the next two weeks and will initially focus on intimate events, rather than soaring speeches to big rallies, as her team looks to put her in direct contact with early state voters.

AP PHOTO | PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS | FILE

# Ritter Park Ampitheater reopens

By SOFIE WACHTMEISTER  
THE PARTHENON

The Ritter Park Amphitheater, which was originally opened in September 1913, reopened after receiving a new look.

Kevin Brady, executive director of the Greater Huntington Parks and Recreation District, said the amphitheater has come a long way since it first opened more than a century ago.

"It was a flat spot surrounded by hilly grassy areas," Brady said. "Back in those days there was no seating or proper stage area. In the early '70s a concrete pad was laid to serve as a stage and there were more improvements made in the '80s when the park district took over."

The Ritter Park Amphitheater will begin its second season of the Ritter Live Concert series at the end of May.

The program is meant to showcase local talent from artists and musicians.

"Local musical talent will come out and perform onstage for the exposure," Brady said. "Some of these young artists need to get comfortable in front of people."

According to the GHPRD Facebook page, "they hope to expose the community to a great entertainment venue filled with music and community theater, and to promote the incredible talents of many local people. They hope the amphitheater will become a weekend destination for music and theater that more and more people can enjoy."

Brady said he hopes to see a lot of community members at events this summer.

"The crowd turnout wasn't what we had hoped for last summer because of the rain and that's rightfully so," Brady said. "This summer we hope the crowd multiplies."

These events are free of charge, but donations are encouraged. These donations will go towards musical growth in the Huntington community.

Dates for Ritter Live are 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. May 31, July 5, Aug. 9, Sept. 13 and Oct. 4.

**Sofie Wachtmeister can be contacted at wachtmeister@marshall.edu.**

# POLICE BLOTTER

All information provided by the Marshall University Police Department.

By TYLER FERRIS  
THE PARTHENON

## Larceny

A Genesis bicycle was stolen March 25 between noon and 1 p.m. The victim said the bike was secured to a post.

MUPD located the bike at Tri-State Pawn & Jewelry. MUPD has a warrant on file for the suspect.

## Larceny

Items were taken from an unlocked room in Marshall University's Towers East March 26.

The items included a white and brown wallet, keys, an iPhone and \$25 cash. MUPD has no suspects.

## Stalking

A student reported that his ex-girlfriend was stalking him March 30.

The accused stalker was said to have followed the student around and taunted him as he ate lunch in a dining hall.

The victim said he blocked the female on all social media. He also blocked her phone number. MUPD advised the victim to obtain a court order in the matter.

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

ANDREA STEELE | THE PARTHENON



# SPORTS

TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2015 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM



## Herd softball to take on Wildcats

**By JILL SHEMANSKI  
THE PARTHENON**

Marshall University softball is coming off a two-game sweep against the University of North Texas and looking to continue its success this week in four games in the next five days.

The team is on the road for all four games starting 6 p.m. Wednesday in Lexington, Kentucky, when it faces The University of Kentucky.

“We know this is a big opportunity for us to continue our win streak and knock off a top 25 team,” senior Kristina Braxton said. “Our staff puts in a lot of work to make sure we are prepared for each opponent we face, so we will continue to work hard and be ready to play Wednesday as well as this weekend.”

The Herd will then travel to Murfreesboro, Tennessee, where it will play three games against Middle Tennessee University. The team will have a double header starting at 2 p.m. Saturday followed by a single game at noon Sunday.

“We will continue to stay hot and confident with the momentum we have,” Escareno said.

The team is looking for revenge against non-conference rival Kentucky after losing to them two years ago.

The Wildcats beat the Herd by one run in the 2013 NCAA Regional Tournament.

“We always look forward to playing against competitive teams,” Braxton said. “So we’re very excited to play Kentucky. We know we could see them in post season again this year, and we want to show them the message of what Marshall softball is all about.”

The Herd currently has a record of 25-10 (6-5).

**Jill Shemanski can be contacted at shemanski@marshall.edu.**

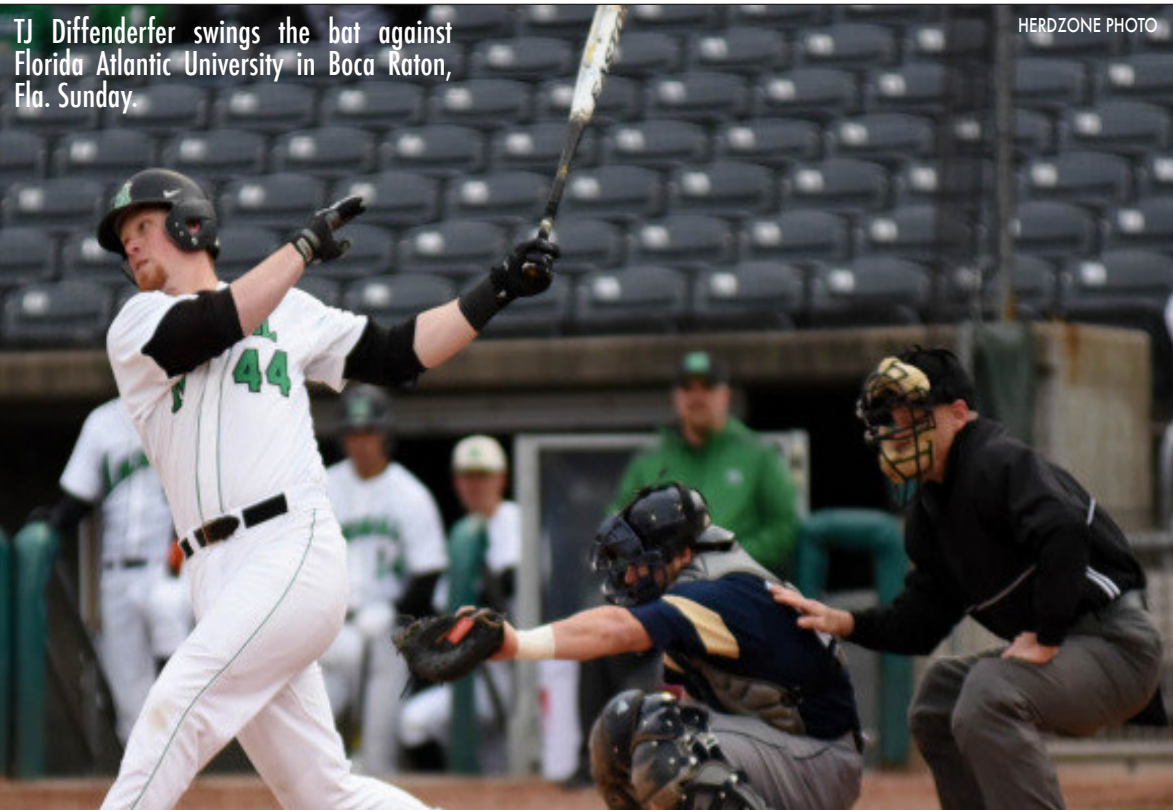
## Herd baseball begins five game home stand

**HERDZONE**

Marshall University baseball will begin its longest home stretch of the season, with five consecutive home games on tap for the week.

The Herd will play host to former Mid-American conference rivals University of Miami (Ohio) Tuesday and Ohio University Wednesday, at the Kennedy Center YMCA Field 2 in Huntington.

Marshall has faced both opponents earlier this season, falling in a close 11-8 contest to Ohio in March, but pounding out 23 hits in a 16-3 win against Miami April 1.



## Player of the week

### Anna Pomyatinskaya

Position: No.2/No.3    Class: Sophomore    Hometown: Sochi, Russia

**By BRADLEY HELTZEL  
THE PARTHENON**

The Marshall University tennis team picked up two impressive victories this weekend, defeating number 38 ranked DePaul University Friday and number 52 ranked College of William & Mary.

Pomyatinskaya played a substantial role in those two victories, posting a combined 3-1 record in singles and doubles play. Against DePaul, Pomyatinskaya surged to a straight-sets singles victory (6-3, 7-5), competing in the three position.

She then seized a tie-breaking victory with partner Derya Turhan in doubles play after the Herd split the first two doubles matches with the Blue Demons.

Pomyatinskaya followed up her Friday performance with another solid outing to close out the weekend.

With the Herd trailing 2-1 in singles play, Pomyatinskaya reeled off two 6-4 sets to collect the victory and tie the match before the Herd took a 3-2 lead and eventually won the match.

Pomyatinskaya has arguably been the Herd’s most reliable and productive player throughout the dual season. She has accumulated a 14-5 overall in singles play, where her 14 victories also lead the team.

Pomnyatinskaya has competed in the number three position for the Herd this season, collecting 10 of her 14 victories. However, she has showcased her flexibility in terms of competing in multiple positions, including playing up in completion when necessary.

In fact, Pomyatinskaya has competed in spots 1-5 during singles play. She has also earned nine victories in doubles play.

**Bradley Heltzel can be contacted at heltzel@marshall.edu.**





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.

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

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EDITORIAL

W.Va. no longer 'Open for Business'  
Tomblin signs legislation preventing Tesla motors from selling its vehicles in the state

West Virginia cannot seem to understand what its own best interests are. At least not the legislators. Governor Earl Ray Tomblin recently signed legislation that would prevent Tesla motors from selling its vehicles in the state. Weird move coming from the state whose entire livelihood exists around producing electricity. The legislation specifically bans automobile manufacturers from selling directly to customers, acting in place of a dealership. Supporters of the bill say it's to protect dealerships and enforce the existing model of the automobile

industry. However, this wasn't really much of an issue until Tesla came up. Sure, Ford tried direct-to-customer sales in the '90s but was promptly shut down with threats of fines, but no legislative move was made until recently, specifically after Tesla tried to break the existing model. Tesla has a lot to lose in giving control of sales to dealerships. Being the primary manufacturer of electric automobiles, brand protection is very important to the company. If a customer has a bad experience with a dealership when purchasing a Tesla, the flack falls back on the brand. In choosing to

eliminate the middleman, Tesla has complete control over brand image. Protecting the oil industry probably has something to do with this. While still expensive, Tesla vehicles would be cheaper if sold directly to customers, allowing them to compete better with gas models. State legislators have said West Virginia would be welcoming to Tesla, but only if it complies with the set manufacturer-dealership model. The question is, does this model really promote a free market the conservative sponsors of the bill so adamantly support? Aren't they always pushing for less regulation and government involvement in the

coal industry, and shouldn't that carry over to the auto industry? Apparently, coal miner safety is way less important than making sure Tesla can't sell its vehicles in West Virginia. The only thing that would do is further strengthen our economy, especially because so many other states are establishing similar bans. If West Virginia is one of the only states that allowed Tesla to sell, people would come here just to purchase Tesla vehicles, pumping more money into the state. It's a good thing we changed the state slogan from "Open for Business," because we can't possibly uphold that mindset with these kinds of regulations.



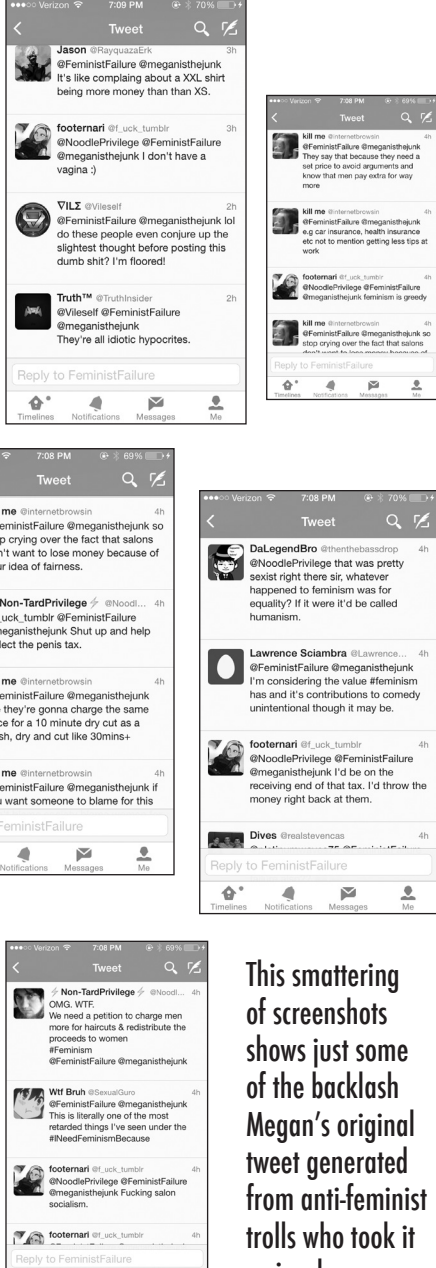
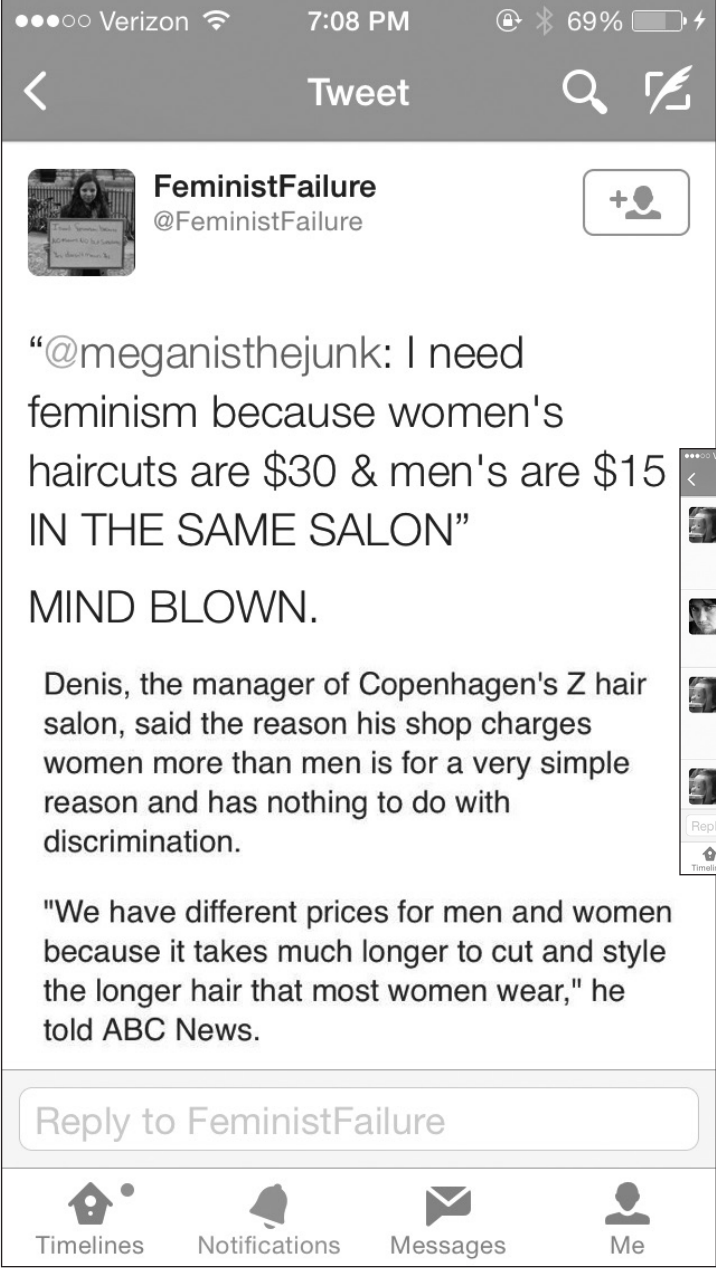
COLUMN

Tweet a joke, the trolls shall come

By MEGAN OSBORNE  
LIFE! EDITOR

I decided to book myself a hair appointment the other day. I noticed on the lovely user-friendly service selection application the salon uses that a "women's cut and style" was \$30 and a "men's cut" was \$15. And I thought "Aw man, all I really want is a trim." For the record, I totally understand why. Traditionally, women's hairstyles are longer and take more time to cut and whatnot. However, I know many men whose hairstyles definitely take some time to cut and style, and even more men whose hair is much longer than mine. Anyway, debating gender norms in hairstyles is a completely different column. What followed my hair appointment booking is what I'm more concerned with. Upon noticing the price difference, I thought of a half-serious joke and tweeted, "I need feminism because women's haircuts are \$30 and men's are \$15 IN THE SAME SALON," and proceeded to go on about my day, knowing that my followers would likely understand the intentions of my tweet. Much to my surprise, a couple hours later an anti-feminist account retweeted me, with an accompanying explanation as to why men's and women's haircuts are priced differently. I thought to myself, "Ha," and went about my day. That is, until my phone started blowing up. Hundreds of notifications popped up one after another for hours, all from people favoriting and retweeting and replying to me being Twitter shamed. I learned a lot about myself. Apparently,

my tweet made me a stupid, sexist, socialist slut and, to quote one person who self-identifies as a troll, I am a "f---ing joke." I also got some great hair advice. Little do they know I've already been down the shaved head route, and I loved every second of it. They argued about how feminism should be humanism and that I was making a petty argument and that men pay so much more for car insurance and pretty much every other statement in the meninist handbook. I could go on and on debunking every argument that was made. I could defend myself. But I'm not going to, because I don't owe them anything. The fact that there are so many accounts in the Twittiverse specifically dedicated to seeking out feminist tweets and shaming them is truly reflective of where we are as a society, especially when one looks at who follows these things. Being surrounded by like-minded feminist people all the time, one sometimes gets the idea that the world is progressing in thought and that the ignorance is few and far between. This was sort of a wake-up call. As I scrolled through the followers of the account that retweeted me, I noticed a trend. Most of them were young, white males who met the Internet troll stereotype. For whatever reason these dudes come to the Internet and bully everyone for fun, because hostility and aggressive Internet behavior is fun, right? That was not surprising. What was very surprising was the amount of young, teenage girls. Most of these girls identified as strongly conservative, Christian, and/or



This smattering of screenshots shows just some of the backlash Megan's original tweet generated from anti-feminist trolls who took it seriously.



# 5th Anniversary of Upper Big Branch mine disaster



ABOVE: In this April 7, 2010, file photo, Chris Adkins COO of Massey Energy Co., second from left, speaks to MSHA officials near the drilling above Massey Energy's Upper Big Branch Coal Mine, in Montcoal, W.Va. Five years after the blast that killed 29 West Virginia coal miners, authorities stepped up enforcement efforts and pledged to seek out dangerous mines. But federal officials continue to find explosion risks at some underground mines, including many in states like Kentucky and West Virginia with long histories tied to coal.

AP PHOTO | JEFF GENTNER | POOL | FILE

RIGHT: In this July 27, 2012, file photo, Jenna Napper, 4, daughter of mining victim Joshua Napper and her mother, Jennifer Napper, of Athens, Ohio, touch the 48-foot-long granite Upper Big Branch Miners monument in Whitesville, W.Va. Five years after the blast that killed 29 West Virginia coal miners, authorities stepped up enforcement efforts and pledged to seek out dangerous mines, but federal officials continue to find explosion risks at some underground mines.

AP PHOTO | THE REGISTER-HERALD | RICK BARBERO | FILE



## Al-Shabab militants kill 147 at university in Kenya

By **TOM ODULA, RODNEY MUHUMUZA and KHALIL SENOSI**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Al-Shabab gunmen rampaged through a university in northeastern Kenya at dawn Thursday, killing 147 people in the group's deadliest attack in the East African country. Four militants were slain by security forces to end the siege just after dusk.

The masked attackers — strapped with explosives and armed with AK-47s — singled out non-Muslim students at Garissa University College and then gunned them down without mercy, survivors said. Others ran for their lives with bullets whistling through the air.

The men took dozens of hostages in a dormitory for several hours as they battled troops and police before the operation was ended after about 13 hours, witnesses said.

When gunfire from the Kenyan security forces struck the attackers, the militants exploded "like bombs," Interior Minister Joseph Nkaissery said, adding that the shrapnel wounded some of the officers.

At least 79 people were

wounded at the campus 145 kilometers (90 miles) from the Somali border, he said. A dusk-to-dawn curfew was ordered in Garissa and three nearby counties.

One of the survivors of Thursday's attack, Collins Wetangula, told The Associated Press he was preparing to take a shower when he heard gunshots coming from Tana dorm, which hosts both men and women, 150 meters (yards) away. The campus has six dorms and at least 887 students, he said.

When he heard the gunshots, he locked himself and three roommates in their room, said Wetangula, who is vice chairman of the university's student union.

"All I could hear were footsteps and gunshots. Nobody was screaming because they thought this would lead the gunmen to know where they are," he said.

He heard the attackers arrive at his dormitory, open the doors and ask if the people who had hidden inside were Muslims or Christians.

"If you were a Christian, you were shot on the spot," he said. "With each blast of the gun, I thought I was going to die."

The attack began about 5:30 a.m., as morning prayers were underway at the university mosque, where worshippers were not attacked, said Augustine Alanga, a 21-year-old student.

The shooting kept some students indoors but scores of others fled through barbed-wire fencing around the campus, with the gunmen firing at them, he said.

"I am just now recovering from the pain as I injured myself while trying to escape, Alanga said. I was running barefoot," Alanga said.

As terrified students streamed out of buildings, arriving police officers took cover. Kenya's National Police Service said a "fierce shootout" ensued as police guarded the dorms.

Three of the dorms were evacuated, with the gunmen holed up in a fourth, the National Disaster Operations Center said, and Kenya Defense Forces surrounded the campus.

"I am saddened to inform the nation that early today, terrorists attacked Garissa University College, killed and wounded several people, and have taken others hostage,"

President Uhuru Kenyatta said in a speech to the nation while the siege was underway.

The U.S. condemned the attack, with White House spokesman Josh Earnest saying Washington was standing with the people of Kenya, "who will not be intimidated by such cowardly attacks." U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon also condemned it, reiterating his solidarity with the Kenyans "to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism," his office said.

Michael Bwana, a 20-year-old student, said he and other survivors tried to call their friends trapped in a dormitory, but their phones were switched off — either by their owners to keep them from ringing or by the gunmen who seized them.

Some of the more seriously wounded were flown to Nairobi for treatment, authorities said.

Kenyatta has been under pressure to deal with insecurity caused by a string of attacks by al-Shabab.

Police said 312 people have been killed in al-Shabab attacks in Kenya from 2012 to 2014.



Red Cross staff console a woman after she viewed the body of a relative killed in Thursday's attack at Garissa university in northeastern Kenya, at the Chiroimo funeral home, in Nairobi, Kenya, Sunday. Al-Shabab gunmen rampaged through a university in northeastern Kenya at dawn Thursday, killing scores of people in the group's deadliest attack in the East African country. Four militants were slain by security forces to end the siege just after dusk.

AP PHOTO | KHALIL SENOSI

### TROLLS

Continued from page 4

clearly defined their distaste with feminism in their Twitter bios. I found this very sad and almost heartbreaking. Feminism is for everyone, but I feel that these girls are being indoctrinated in such a way that they have no idea that you can be Christian, conservative and a feminist.

Feminism is one of the only progressive movements, other than racism, that has such a definitive and hostile countermovement. I did not personally get any death threats, but women who voice their opinions on the internet are so often told to kill themselves or are threatened that it is concerning that there are enough people who think that way to cause a problem.

And who is mostly behind this? The young, white males of the Internet.

So forget the price of the haircut, I need feminism because of petty hostility.

I need feminism because of the girls who don't think they need it.

I need feminism because a men's haircut is not necessarily short and a women's haircut is not necessarily long.

I need feminism because of the entire anti-feminist movement and people who specifically seek out hashtags as a target for aggression.

But mostly, I need feminism because we are nowhere near where we need to be.

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WILSON



JACOB SMITH



ZACH SANGER



LBF



SHELEM

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

# "I got sick of CLASS, started makin' CLASSICS."

## STUDENT RAPPERS AND THE LOCAL HIP-HOP SCENE

### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Marshall University freshman Garrett Wilson, also known as Wilson, started rapping around his freshman year of high school.

Wilson cites people telling him he cannot rap as a big influence and sees the genre as a way to communicate.

"I kind of fell in love with the genre," Wilson said. "I started realizing that as a rapper, you're open to a younger generation, and you can say so much more with rap than you can by just saying it."

Wilson has one mixtape and an EP under his belt with a longer EP to come in April. Wilson lived in Ohio but went to school in West Virginia.

"Kids didn't really know what to say at first," Wilson said about the people around him who started seeing him not only as a classmate, but also as a rapper. "I had a rap battle when I was a freshman against some senior kid, and I got demolished. I blanked out. I just didn't know what to say."

Wilson decided to take a break and progress in his skills and said people started taking him slightly more seriously after his brief hiatus.

The idea of a rapper being from the Tri-state area still threw off some of Wilson's listeners.

"My goal now is to prove those people wrong," Wilson said. "I want to show them that it doesn't matter where you're from. As long as you have talent and you know how to use it, you can do what you want."

When asked for his top artists, Wilson mentioned Notorious B.I.G., older Kanye West, Childish Gambino and Chance The Rapper among others.

While Wilson raps on his own, friends Jacob Smith and Zach Sanger have more experience with the creative process and rapping in a group including Smith and Sanger along with their friend T.J. Billings.

The three formed Alumni while living in the Marshall dorms and attending school together.

"Doing music with other people," Smith said, "you're dependent on and kind of feeding off of each other."

Sanger said the group would come together and write and listen to music.

"As Alumni, I lived a floor above Jacob, so we were always in each other's rooms, writing and listening to beats," Sanger said. "We'd set up a beat and rap to it and then get ahold of T.J. to rap on it, 'cause he was a lot busier than us."

Billings moved away from the area, but continued musical pursuits while Smith and Sanger have continued rapping in solo projects.

Smith shares the majority of his singles, and one mixtape, "Quiet In A Crowded Room," on Soundcloud, while Sanger's mixtape, "27" is hosted on a publisher's Bandcamp.

Rapping has influenced Smith and Sanger's lives.

"Hip-hop is a very personal genre," Smith said. "It's a way to get out your thoughts and feelings."

Sanger said rap does more for him than other music genres.

"You sort of brag in a way," Sanger said. "It gave me a sense of confidence I didn't have when I played other music."

Smith cites inspiration in Childish Gambino, Kevin Abstract and Kanye West while Sanger said Bones, Vic Mensa and Mac Miller give him inspiration.

Jazz studies freshman Lars Swanson said he is used to rapping with at least seven other people at a given time.

"At one point we decided anyone who knew about LBF was in it, but we were like 'No. That's too many people to keep track of,'" Swanson said.

He cites his mom as one reason for getting into hip-hop.

"She really liked Fugees and Tribe Called Quest so she got me into them," Swanson said.

Swanson said rappers and collectives like Odd Future gave him a glimpse into the mixtape world, something he thought he could do for himself.

Lars raps in LBF, or Lesbian Bondage Fiasco (less offensively known as Let's Be Friends), a group started by his three friends who went to a private school together.

LBF has several singles on Soundcloud and various full-length projects.

"Everyone brings different things to the table," Swanson said. "It's harder being all apart because people do things like not checking their email for a month."

Although a fan of many different musical genres, Swanson said he thinks hip-hop broadens itself.

"The sampling culture, the digging culture, finding things and making an art of it is great," Swanson said. "That's one of the biggest reasons I chose jazz studies and am still active in hip-hop because I'm fascinated with the idea of taking something that's already been made and changing the artistic value or making something better out of it."

Sophomore engineering major Isaac Fadiga raps as Shelem. Fadiga started playing clarinet in band leading to producing his own beats his freshman year in high school and rapping the very next year.

"I love music," Fadiga said. "When I started, it was just great." Fadiga said he's into tons of different music, and it is "hard to put a genre on" the "C.F. Medley" he released last year.

He said he is building a small fan base around Huntington. His first performance ever was a talent show at Marshall in which he took home first place.

Fadiga produces all of his own music. He writes his raps, produces his own beats, records and mixes by himself. He also makes music videos, a process he's heavily involved in.

"The entire creative process of everything comes as a whole," Fadiga said. "As I'm making a beat, I'm like 'This sounds like a song about blank,' and when I find the word to fit that blank, it goes from there."

Fadiga is into a lot of different music, but he said hip-hop brings a certain voice.

"There are certain songs you can really relate to because of what's being said," Fadiga said. "I didn't grow up in the hood, but there are certain songs where a rapper can say 'this happened,' and I say 'I feel that!' and can ultimately relate."

Fadiga cites his number one favorite hip-hop artist as himself, but Fadiga said his tastes change and cites Ludacris as the inspiration for his like of hip-hop.

Fadiga said J. Cole's "2014 Forest Hills Drive" album is one of his favorite albums right now.

Although Huntington's rap scene is not the liveliest scene around, rappers continue to give it their all. Through continued local support, these artists could potentially lead the scene into something it hasn't seen before, be it commercial success or even just statewide recognition.

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