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THE PARTHENON

THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2013 | VOL. 116 NO. 135 | MARSHALL UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER | marshallparthenon.com

Public Relations students, professor take top honors in state and region

By THE PARTHENON STAFF

The public relations academic program in the W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications at Marshall University attained multiple top honors in West Virginia, as well as a six-state region, at the Public Relations Society of America West Virginia chapter's annual Crystal Awards Gala last week at the Edgewood Country Club in Charleston.

Public relations alumni from Marshall attended the event to accept awards for their work completed when they were students at the university.

"My students' work on campaigns for a local nonprofit organization was recognized with two first-place state awards and one first-place, six-state regional award," Terry Hapney, associate professor of public relations, said. "Receiving this type of feedback from public relations professionals allows me to see how well our academic program is doing in its preparation of future public relations practitioners."

Alumni from the 2012 public relations campaign management class won two first-place Crystal Awards for news releases written for the "Questions" campaign for River Valley Child Development Services.

The overall campaign won an honorable mention for a community relations campaign, as well as an honorable mention for a brochure produced as a tactic in the campaign.

The 2011 "Trivia 4 Tots" campaign, executed by the 2011 public relations campaign management class, won a first-place Diamond Award for a community relations campaign from the East Central Division of PRSA, composed of 16 PRSA chapters in Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, West Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Hapney said this year's Crystal Awards program had nearly 200 entries, making it one of the largest and most competitive PRSA awards events in the nation. Major public relations and advertising agencies—as well as practitioners in industry, counseling firms, government, associations, hospitals and other organizations—submitted entries for this year's awards program.

"My students' work was judged in the exact manner and by the same standards as that of professionals," Hapney said. "That's what makes these awards so significant."

In addition to the five student awards, Hapney was named state Public Relations Educator of the Year, an award presented



Terry Hapney, associate professor of public relations, poses with students at the annual Crystal Awards Gala June 19 in Charleston. The students accepted awards for the work completed in their public relations campaign management class during their time at Marshall.

to a full-time faculty member at a four-year West Virginia college or university for success in preparing future members of the profession.

Kristen Footo, 2011 graduate of the public relations academic program and current event and building operations manager for the Marshall

University Foundation, said as a student working on the Diamond Award-winning campaign she remembers taking it very seriously and putting a lot

of effort into it.

See PRSA | Page 5

Tobacco Free Policy approved by Board of Governors, effective July 1

By REBECCA STEPHENS
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Marshall University's Board of Governors recently approved the Tobacco Free Policy, which will go into effect July 1.

The policy applies to indoor and outdoor locations, and includes products such as cigarettes, chewing tobacco, snuff, e-cigarettes, dip, pipes, cigars, cigarillos, hookah and waterpipe smoking and snuss.

However, campus events attracting a large number of people may be exempt on a case-to-case basis with designated outdoor smoking areas available to visitors.

"I'm very excited and happy that Marshall is taking this stance and working on promoting the health of our students and faculty," Amy Saunders, director of Student Health Education Programs, said.

Saunders said data regarding tobacco usage on Marshall's campus has been collected over the last six years.

Before the fall semester, a committee consisting of faculty and staff and representatives from the President's Office, Student Affairs, Department of Housing and Residence Life and SHEP drafted a proposal for the policy to present to the Student Government Association.

In October, the SGA approved the policy 11-7 after listening to the concerns of the committee, as well as tobacco users and tobacco free students, faculty and staff, and reviewing the Assessment Day Tobacco Survey information from 2012 that showed 71 percent of students and 74 percent of faculty were in favor of a tobacco-free campus.

The policy then moved forward to, and was approved by, Faculty Senate in February. The final decision to approve the policy was made by the Board of Governors in the June 11 meeting.

Saunders said the Tobacco Free Policy wouldn't have been possible without the students.

"This has been something they have wanted and asked for in the last several years," Saunders said.

Zan Smith, senior accounting major and a smoker, said the new policy doesn't bother him, and it won't cause him to cut back or to quit. However, he said he thinks it will have a greater impact on students who live on campus.

"I mean, when I'm on campus I'm usually inside the building and I leave and go straight home because I'm a commuter," Smith said. "But, probably for people who live on campus most likely, I would say."

Enforcement of the policy is up to the efforts made by SHEP, as well as university officials, but the goal is that eventually self-regulation will occur, as the culture of campus will reflect that tobacco use is not acceptable.

Saunders said there will be violations for offenders, which may include fees or citations.

Saunders also said SHEP is working with the Cabell-Huntington Health Department to develop programs to help students, faculty and staff with cessation efforts.

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Hensley receives Distinguished Service Award for his hard work at Marshall

By SAMUEL SPECIALE
MANAGING EDITOR

After working 40 years at an institution, many people eye retirement and contemplate the legacy they will leave behind. For Steve Hensley, dean of student affairs at Marshall University, the small accomplishments are his swan song and what he will remember when he finally calls it quits.

Hensley, who has been dean of student affairs for 12 years, has worked in various departments at Marshall in the last 40 years. Earlier this month, the

West Virginia Association of Student Personnel Administrators awarded Hensley with the Distinguished Service Award for his long tenure and service at Marshall.

Hensley said he did not expect the award or ask for any recognition, but was pleased to receive the honor.

"At the end of your career, if you have been diligent, worked hard and have been friendly, people will admire that and respect it," Hensley said.

In his nomination, the WVASPA cited specific examples of Hensley's work that helped or improved student life.

Over the years, Hensley has led fundraising efforts for victims of local and national disasters and has started programs that give students flu vaccines and access to transportation to Marshall Student Health.

In addition to providing services to students, Hensley has been a vocal advocate for students with disabilities. He said he came up with the idea to install a bridge between Old Main and Smith Hall when he was working in student counseling and services for disabled students.

Before the bridge's construction, disabled students had to

go out of the way to use the entrance on Third Avenue if they wanted to get to a class in Smith Hall. Today, the bridge is used by many students and provides direct access to Smith Hall.

Hensley said most people do not have the opportunity to do big things that get attention, but little things can add up to make big differences.

During the course of his tenure as dean of student affairs, Hensley has started several programs to help students make better decisions in their lives. He also created the office of disability services in 1984, and started the LGBTQ office in 1985.

"We [Marshall University] embrace all of our students," Hensley said. "These are the things I had a hand in doing, and they will be around long after I am gone."

Hensley said he did not expect his career to follow the path it has because he came out of school with different majors and did not know what he wanted to do.

It was that uncertainty that led Hensley to Marshall University.

Hensley said he had to deal with crises and tragedies as dean of student affairs, but he strives to be there for students and enhance their lives while at Marshall.

"If I look at that on a good day, I can feel good about what I have done," Hensley said.

Samuel Speciale can be contacted at speciale@marshall.edu.



Steve Hensley, dean of student affairs, talks to parents at orientation June 21. Hensley received the Distinguished Service Award for his work at Marshall over the last 40 years.

Starting July 1, text messaging and handheld cell phone use by a driver becomes a primary offense in the state of West Virginia. Violators will be fined \$100 for the first offense, \$200 for the second offense and \$300 for the third offense. On third and subsequent offenses, three points will be weighed against the drivers' licenses.

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NEWS

THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2013 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

Terry Hapney selected as Public Relations Educator of the Year

BY DWIGHT JORGE
NEWS EDITOR

Terry Hapney, associate professor of public relations, was selected as the 2013 Public Relations Educator of the Year by the West Virginia chapter of the Public Relations Society of America for his success in preparing students for the profession, as well as his excellence as a professor and as a public relations practitioner.

"I was very humbled by this award," Hapney said. "I didn't expect it. I knew my students were winning awards. We had two first place awards, two honorable mentions and then we won a diamond award."

Hapney has spent his career exploring all facets of journalism, including radio disc jockey, sports play-by-play and color commentary, print journalism, broadcast journalism and advertising.

"I did a little bit of all of it, which was really good to get that breadth to be able to deal with students who want to do a little bit of both or a combination, and certainly in public relations we deal with all of them," Hapney said. "We are not

solely focused on one thing. We have to deal with radio, TV, print and all the media relations."

Hapney said the award reinforces the love and passion that he has for helping students grow in and outside of the classroom.

"It reinforces the fact that what I am striving to do is to make sure that I do what I need to do to prepare the future generations of public relations practitioners," Hapney said. "It sort of gives me a stamp of approval that I'm doing that I am doing a good job."

Katie Wise, a 2013 graduate of the public relations academic program, said Hapney was the perfect candidate for this award because of all the knowledge he has on public relations.

"Professor Hapney is extremely patient and kind, but at the same time doesn't sugarcoat anything," Wise said. "I think that it is an important quality to have for a professor because it truly prepares students for their quickly approaching careers."

In the classroom Hapney puts students first and said the most enjoyable aspect of

being an educator is when he sees a student take on a professional role and experience success.

"Seeing them take what they learn here in class, as far as theory, and then having them apply that theory so that they have a lot of portfolio pieces for when they graduate to get jobs is very gratifying," Hapney said.

Hapney is very appreciative of the award, but said one of the most fulfilling aspects of his job is seeing his students win awards.

"I am most proud of the student awards," Hapney said. "We have won a lot of state and regional awards. We have also won two diamond awards for student campaigns and the student campaigns are up against professional campaigns."

Hapney said he loves being a teacher and nothing will change that.

"I can tell you this, and I am very sincere when I say this, if I hit the lottery tonight for millions of dollars, I will be back tomorrow."

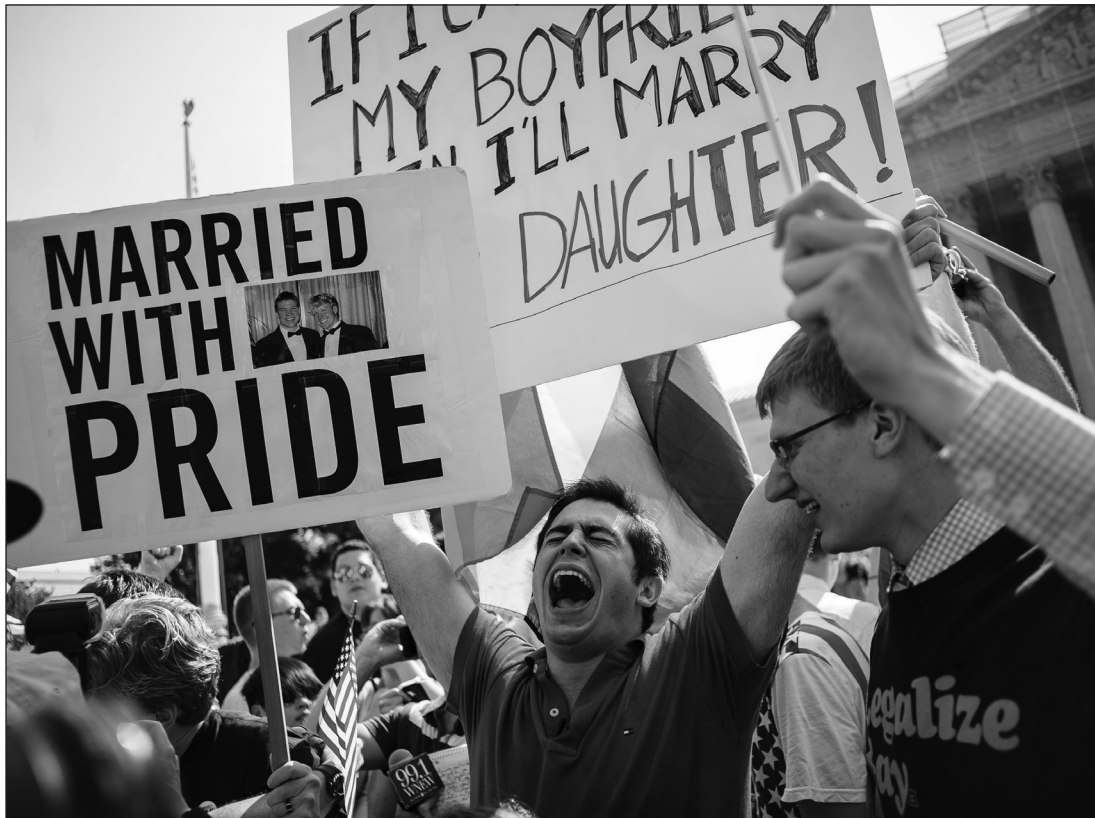
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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Terry Hapney, associate professor of public relations, was chosen as the 2013 public relations Educator of the Year by the West Virginia chapter of PRSA.

Uncertainty remains for same-sex couples in many states



David Baker, 24, center, of Phoenix, Arizona, celebrates outside the Supreme Court after hearing that the Court struck down the Defense of Marriage Act.

PETE MAROVICH/MCT

By Curtis Tate
MCCLATCHY WASHINGTON
BUREAU (MCT)

The U.S. Supreme Court's decision Wednesday to strike down a key part of the Defense of Marriage Act means that the federal government can grant a

vast array of benefits to same-sex couples who are legally married in at least a dozen states.

The ruling still leaves decisions on who's married and who isn't to the states. That creates uncertainty for same-sex

couples who married in one state but live in any of at least three dozen states that don't recognize their marriages.

At stake are more than 1,100 federal benefits, including who's eligible for Social Security survivor's benefits,

immigration benefits, military benefits and even whether married same-sex couples may file joint tax returns. In most cases, the answer may depend on where they live.

"It's a huge sleeper issue that's now going to come front and center," said Steve Sanders, an associate professor of law at Indiana University who's followed the cases that led to Wednesday's ruling, *Windsor v. United States*.

Sanders and other legal experts say President Barack Obama and Congress could clarify the law. But some predict that the issue ultimately will find its way back to the Supreme Court. "There's going to be a lot of work for lawyers," Sanders said.

For Edith Windsor, Wednesday's ruling is a victory. Windsor, 84, paid a \$363,000 inheritance tax when her wife, Thea Spyer, died in 2009. They were married in Canada, and the state where they resided, New York, recognized their marriage. Under federal law, legally married couples are exempt from the tax Windsor paid.

With Wednesday's ruling, the federal government owes Windsor a refund.

But it's unclear how the law will apply outside the 13 states, plus the District of Columbia, that allow same-sex marriage. Some federal agencies might make the determination that married same-sex couples are married regardless of where they live. Others might consider as married only those who live in states where their marriages are legal.

"I've got to hope the people who work at these agencies have thought about this," said Will Baude, a fellow at the Constitutional Law Center at Stanford University. "This is not a problem they have had to confront before."

For tax purposes, for instance, the Internal Revenue Service looks at the state of residence when it determines who may file a joint return. If a same-sex couple were married in Connecticut but live in Kentucky, they might still have to file separately. The same couple also might not qualify for Social Security survivor's benefits, which they'd receive in a state where same-sex marriage is allowed.

Chad Griffin, the president of the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay rights group, called on Obama and Congress to make sure that married same-sex couples don't fall through a legal crack.

"Federal recognition for lesbian and gay couples is a massive turning point for equality, but it is not enough until every family is guaranteed complete access to the protections they need regardless of state borders," Griffin said in a statement.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., planned to reintroduce a bill to ensure that all married same-sex couples are recognized for federal purposes. Feinstein expected to have at least 41 co-sponsors for the bill, called the Respect for Marriage Act. Fifty-three senators, including three Republicans, have publicly expressed support for same-sex marriage.

"Because of inequities in the administration of more than 1,100 federal laws affected by DOMA, it is still necessary to introduce legislation to repeal DOMA and strike this law once and for all," Feinstein said Wednesday in a statement.

See UNCERTAINTY | Page 5

Abortion bill defeated after Texas Republicans concede vote came too late

By Dave Montgomery and
John Gravois

FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM (MCT)

In a stunning turn of events early Wednesday, Republican leaders in the Texas Senate conceded that hotly contested abortion legislation was not approved as they had earlier claimed.

The bill, expected to be debated all over again in another special legislative session, would ban abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy and require that all procedures take place in a surgical center. The bill that was a top priority for Republican legislative leaders, and experts estimate it could lead to the closing of 37 of the state's 42 abortion clinics.

In a chaotic scene that captivated national attention, a filibuster by Sen. Wendy Davis, D-Fort Worth, designed to derail the abortion bill was itself thwarted a couple hours short of her midnight goal late Tuesday. But she was able to claim victory early Wednesday after Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst's after-hours acknowledgement that the bill was dead. Asked if the filibuster had succeeded, she responded: "Well, I guess the proof is in the pudding and the pudding

tastes awfully good right now."

She told reporters that she was "tired but really happy."

However, Republicans had insisted that they began a vote on the abortion bill just before midnight and it had passed.

Democrats contended the vote was not final before midnight, and therefore should not be allowed to stand. They vowed a legal fight to overturn it.

Finally, around 3 a.m., senators emerged from a closed-door meeting to announce that Republican leaders had agreed the bill was not passed in accordance with Senate rules.

Dewhurst explained briefly in a prepared statement that the bill will not be forwarded to the governor, who was prepared to sign it. "It's been fun, but see you soon," Dewhurst said.

Confusion reigned in the Capitol at midnight with boisterous Davis supporters disrupting proceedings with cheers and catcalls from the public galleries above the Senate floor, which appeared to be mired in gridlock as lawmakers jostled over points of order.

As it became clear that Republicans were making their late push

to ram the abortion bill through just after midnight, Davis supporters shouted "shame, shame, shame" at GOP leaders. State troopers were called in to clear the galleries, and at least one arrest was reported.

Even if the abortion bill had been settled, there is still significant unfinished business in the Legislature and one or more future special sessions are possible, if not likely.

The next move in Texas' ongoing legislative battles is up to Gov. Rick Perry. Under state law, the governor gets to set his own timetable and the agenda for all special sessions.

Davis clearly was disappointed after her filibuster ended, but said it was "absolutely" worth it.

In the final hours of what amounted to a nearly 13-hour filibuster, Davis was buoyed by everything from a nod from President Barack Obama to moral support from thousands of well-wishers at the Capitol as well as online.

The target of Davis and her allies was a comprehensive abortion bill pushed by Republicans that she assailed as a "raw abuse

of power" by Perry and the GOP.

Her filibuster watched by thousands nationwide on the internet became a social media sensation.

It also drew people in person in droves. Long lines snaked from outside the capitol and along the staircases as thousands of spectators waited their turn to get into the third-floor Senate gallery. The filibuster was live-streamed by more than 200 organizations, including the *New York Post*, and captured notice from the White House.

"Something special is happening in Austin tonight," President Obama said in a tweet.

The legislative drama escalated early in the evening after the Senate voted 17-11 to cite Davis for a second violation of the rules governing filibusters. A third violation would likely end the filibuster.

The 11th-hour filibuster endangered not only the abortion bill but two other measures behind it: a major transportation funding measure and a juvenile justice bill creating a new punishment option for 17-year-old capital murder defendants.

Perry called for enactment of all three of the measures during the special session and appeared likely to call a second special session if they failed to survive by the time the first special session ended at midnight.

Lucy Nashed, a spokeswoman in the governor's office, said it was "too early to tell" whether or when Perry would call a special session when asked about the governor's plans.

Republicans turned to the rule book in their efforts to rescue a top GOP priority, hoping to dislodge Davis under a three-strikes-and-you're-out regimen governing filibusters. Filibustering senators, among other things, are forbidden to sit or lean on their desk.

Dewhurst, the Senate's presiding officer, upheld an initial point of order that Davis' comments on the landmark *Roe v. Wade* abortion decision of 1973 were not germane to the actual bill under consideration by the Legislature.

The second came after Dewhurst called for a Senate vote to determine if a violation occurred when Sen. Rodney Davis, D-Houston, assisted Davis in putting on a back brace during a lull in the proceedings.

The ruling was upheld in a party line vote after an emotional debate.

The third and final strike came on a challenge of Davis' discussion of sonograms was germane to the topic. Dewhurst ruled it wasn't.

In the chambers, Davis' supporters were chanting: "Let her speak!"

It was unclear whether there would be any attempt just before midnight by Republicans to take up the abortion bill.

"We need to slow down right this minute and recognize what this issue is doing to this body," said Sen. John Whitmire, D-Houston. "Don't let this be a partisan vote. She did not lean, she did not sit, she's been an outstanding state senator. Do what is the greater good and let's finish this debate honorably."

Sen. Tommy Williams, R-The Woodlands, said he raised the point of order because "a filibuster is an endurance contest and it's to be made unaided and unassisted." But he expressed "enormous respect" for Davis and declared: "The implication that I have anything but the deepest respect for her is frankly out of bounds."

*Life!

THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2013

THE PARTHENON |

MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

Study abroad provides Italian experience



By CODI MOHR
LIFE! EDITOR

While many students spent the early days of the summer working a part-time job, sitting by the pool or traveling to a beachside getaway, several Marshall University students spent their days exploring the streets of Florence, Italy. Through an interdisciplinary study abroad program hosted by the College of Fine Arts, students spent three weeks experiencing the culture and history of the city while taking courses in photography and English.

Instructed by Rachael Peckham, professor of English, and Daniel Kaufmann, professor of photography, the course involves the incorporation of media into the publication of blogs as a way to transform the Florence experience into digitalized works of art, according to Peckham. Students practice photography and creative non-fiction writing in the production of their blogs.

Though Don Van Horn, dean of COFA and director of the Florence study abroad program, emphasized the course's focus on visual arts, he also expressed the importance of international experiences to every student. Along with those of COFA, participants in the program included students from the College of Health Professions, the College of Business, the College of Science and other colleges within the university all exploring Florence and the surrounding cities,

such as Siena.

As Van Horn claims, the transformation of inexperienced artists into photographers and that of art students into well-rounded professionals brought on by the international experience is unparalleled.

"They've been exposed to contemporary work from across the world, so you begin to see some of those contemporary trends show up in their work," Van Horn said.

Kuyler McComas, senior photography major and first-time visitor of the city, explained the experience as indescribable to those who have not had the same encounter with the culture.

"I have learned, both by intuition and observation, what could be my role in the world as a creator," McComas said. "I have learned about how differently other cultures live their lives, and how despite the size of our toilets, showers, pizza slices, large sodas and beds, we are all one swirling mass of humanity who desire the same things".

The program, after just completing its fourth year, has given more than 50 students the opportunity to immerse themselves in Italian culture, to enhance their work as artists and writers and to experience a way of life incomparable to everyday American society.

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



TOP: An overlook of the city depicts the vast beauty of Florence.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF KUYLER MCCOMAS

ABOVE: Duomo di Siena sits in Florence's rival city, Siena.

ABOVE RIGHT: The dome of the Duomo features detailed frescoes or paintings.

EDITORS' PICKS | BEST ITALIAN FOODS

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Nutella | 6. Shepard's Rigatoni |
| 2. Biscotti | 7. Struffoli |
| 3. Fazoli's | 8. Manicotti |
| 4. Gelato | 9. Bruchetta |
| 5. Grandmother's spaghetti sauce | 10. Giardiniera |

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OPINION

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THE PARTHENON

ABOUT US

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.

COLUMN

Same-sex marriage is a state issue

By **HENRY CULVYHOUSE**
THE PARTHENON

Anyone with access to a television set knows that the Supreme Court made history Wednesday.

While the fight for marriage equality is far from over, the ruling that section three of the Defense of Marriage Act is unconstitutional does at least absolve the Federal government from its complacency in discrimination of gays and lesbians.

Stepping forward, marriage equality has now become a state issue. There is no such thing as a Federal marriage license, so they had absolutely no business defining what marriage is. Leave that up to legislators and voters in Charleston, Frankfort, Ky., Richmond, Va., Columbus and elsewhere.

In the case of Proposition 8, the Supreme Court decided it was not their fight. So, the ban on same sex marriage was lifted, after being overturned by U.S. District Court Judge Vaughn Walker based on the due process clause. The state had refused to protect their law, with Gov. Jerry Brown and Attorney General Harris agreeing with Walker.

So the task was up to protect-marriage.com and a few other "pro-prop" groups to defend a law elected by 52 percent of California voters.

According to the BBC, 61 percent of Californians support gay marriage.

They voted for it four years ago. California is a finicky little state.

But that is beside the point. When I was listening to public radio on the way from work, I heard comments from both sides of the issue.

It was truly beautiful to hear the elation of the crowds that celebrated in San Francisco and hear DOMA plaintiff Edith Windsor say, "If I had to survive Thea, what a glorious way to do it." And man, did she owe some taxes — \$363,000 from the estate of her spouse, Thea Spyer.

Now, those taxes are waived, just as in the case of a married

straight couple.

The opposition's comments ranged from anger to disappointment to acceptance, especially in the DOMA decision.

However, in the case of Proposition 8, the battle may still rage on in court, with the main argument going, "If the state won't even protect the law, why can't private citizens? After all, it was a majority vote."

Well, so was Jim Crow.

I think it is very easy to get wrapped up in the state's rights issue aspect in the gay marriage debate because it seems like the best way to resolve the matter instead of taking it to D.C. to watch it get smothered by lobbyists and Congress. But there are some things we as a country have decided upon together: Civil rights are one of them.

Throughout America's history, citizens have left it up to the states to decide how to treat their people, and every time they drop the ball. Slavery and segregation were state's rights issues and it took Constitutional amendments and acts of Congress to right the wrong.

I understand the folks who believe marriage is a sacred institution. I am not personally of that opinion, but I think we should respect those who are. However, just because they have an opinion does not make it the law.

I am of the opinion the states should not discriminate against anyone in any matter, and the legal institution of marriage is no exception.

What I am leading up to is very simple: While the Supreme Court was justified to avoid inadvertently setting a precedent by allowing a private party to represent a state's laws, it is going to take activism in the "red states" to legalize same-sex marriage nationwide. What is needed is a state that will defend their laws and somebody with the gumption to take them to court.

Henry Culvyhouse can be contacted at culvyhouse@marshall.edu.

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Should the government be allowed to tap phones?

- Yes
- No
- Only during heightened security

ONLINE POLL

How are you paying for your college tuition?

- Scholarships or grants
- Student loans
- Parents

EDITORIAL

Amidst progress, Supreme Court's ruling on voting rights is a step in the wrong direction

It has been a busy week for news. Edward Snowden and the U.S. have been engaged in a global cat and mouse chase, the Trayvon Martin case has gone to court and Paula Deen went on the Today Show to give a teary apology after marring her career for using racial slurs.

Those three stories would make for a good news week anytime of the year, but the Supreme Court of the United States made the headlines Wednesday by ruling that same-sex couples are entitled to federal benefits.

The Supreme Court's decision to strike down the Defense of Marriage Act has garnered so much attention that many people have forgotten that they were part of another controversial ruling Tuesday.

While marriage equality becoming just marriage in the eyes of the U.S. Government is something to celebrate,

Americans would be wise to sober themselves and remember that the Supreme Court invalidated key parts of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 just 24 hours before they ruled in favor of same-sex marriage.

Diversion is a tactic used in war, and the Supreme Court used their decision on marriage to divert America's attention while they changed election laws.

The ruling will have immediate effect on voting. Within hours of the decision, the State of Texas announced a voter identification law would go into effect. This comes as no surprise because Texas has a large Hispanic population and racial minorities tend to vote liberal.

President Barack Obama's election in 2008 and his re-election in 2012 would not have been possible without the votes of Hispanics and African-Americans. Since then, many Republican members

in Congress and the Senate have fought to tighten voting requirements.

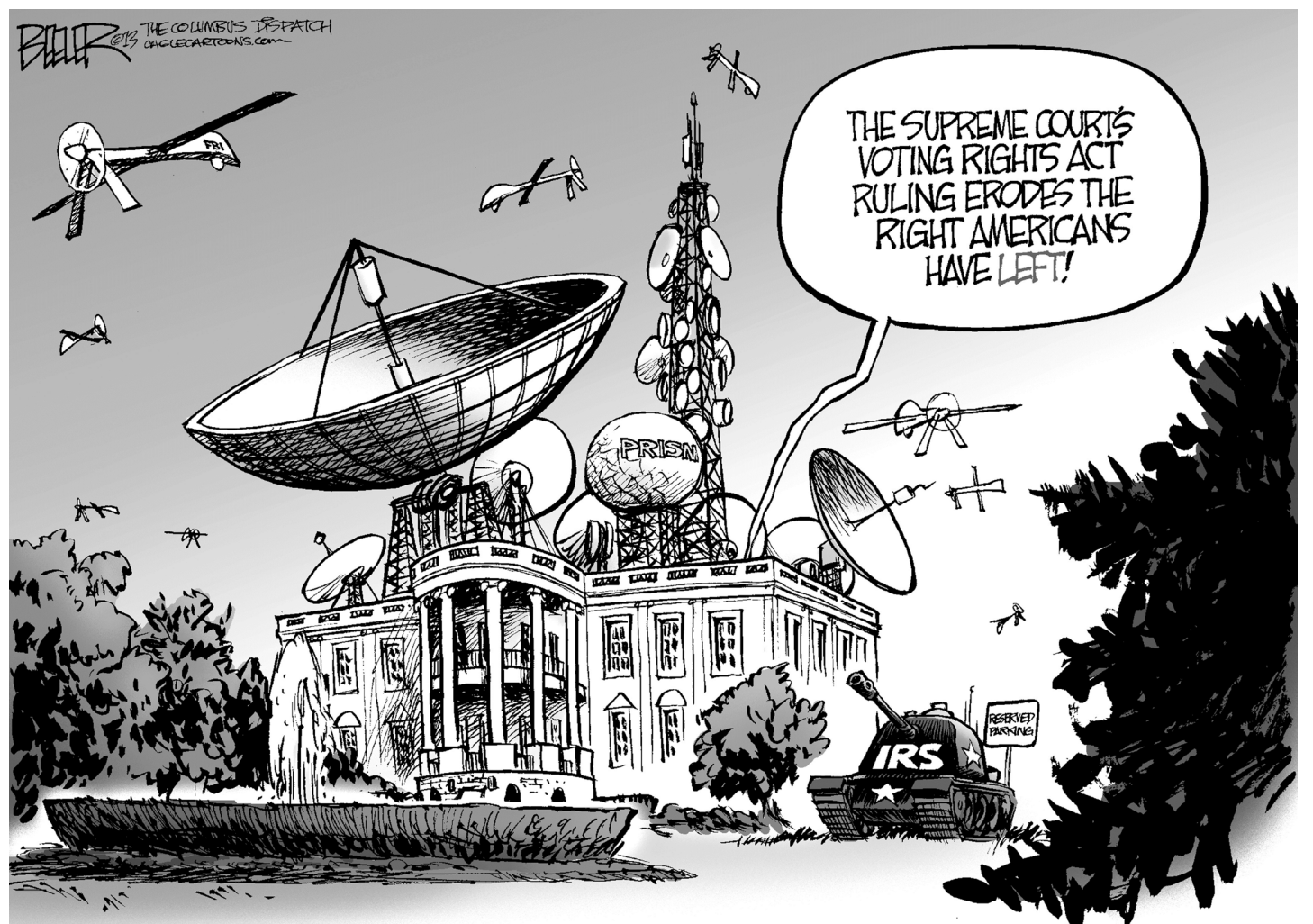
The Supreme Court's decision changed the fight's momentum in favor of Republicans.

The reasoning behind the ruling is understandable — Chief Justice John Roberts said the Voting Rights Act is based on 40-year-old facts that have no logical relationship to the present day.

Times do change and laws can become outdated, but the Constitution grants the right to vote to all citizens regardless of race. To undo an act that protects these rights is a giant step in the wrong direction.

Instead of doing away with such provisions, the act should be updated if it does not apply in 2013.

Voting is the most important aspect of democracy and the Supreme Court should protect it instead of deny it.



COLUMN

Excuses for Paula Deen don't cut the mustard

By **CURTIS TATE**
MCT

In the past week, many commenters have rushed to defend fallen Food Network star Paula Deen, but one excuse for her cluelessness about race really takes the cake: that she is "of another time."

The assumption that white Southerners of a certain age are unreformed racists living in a secret antebellum fantasy is getting older than egg custard in the noonday sun.

Older white Southern folk, so the narrative goes, are dim-witted, Confederate flag-waving bigots incapable of walking a mile in the shoes of their long-oppressed fellow citizens and understanding the pain of their history. And Lord help them, they just can't change — a lost cause, of sorts.

Forget about these condescending stereotypes. Let's consider another perspective: my dad's.

My father and Paula Deen are Southerners of the same generation. She was born in 1947 in Georgia. He was born in 1949 in Mississippi. They both grew up late in the Jim Crow era.

Violent racism wasn't all in the past for him — it was still happening during his youth.

My dad was in grade school when 14-year-old Emmett Till was beaten to death in Money, Miss. He was in high school when three young civil rights workers, two white and one black, were abducted and killed in Philadelphia, Miss. He was a student at the University of Mississippi. Ole Miss integrated only a few years before when Martin Luther King was shot in Memphis.

Maybe some white Southerners looked the other way or said the troublemakers had it coming. My dad wasn't one of them.

If theories about white Southerners of my dad's generation were true, he would have inherited the racial attitudes prevalent in earlier generations. And my sister and I might have heard language similar to what Paula Deen's children apparently heard from her.

I can assure you, we didn't.

My dad's parents and grandparents came from generations for whom segregation was embedded into the Southern

social structure. His grandmother, my great-grandmother, was born in north Alabama in 1882, less than two decades after the Civil War. In her 95 years, she lived from the beginning of the Jim Crow era through the civil rights era. If anyone could be described as a product of her time, it would be her.

Yet my great-grandmother, who grew up without electricity, running water or the automobile, profoundly influenced my dad. With only a grade-school education, she instilled in him a love of reading and a passion for history — he would go on to teach for nearly four decades. Without the slightest hesitation, she accepted my mother, who grew up in Vietnam and came to America only a few years earlier.

We might forgive someone born in the 1880s for coming from a different place, but two or three generations later, the world had changed.

My dad came of age at a time when the South could no longer look the other way; the past had finally caught up. He came to terms with it. Let's stop making excuses for Paula Deen or anyone else.



ANDREA STEELE | THE PARTHENON

Work on Marshall's new Indoor Practice Facility is underway. The facility, being built on the former site of Sam Hood Soccer Field, includes an indoor football field, athletic training facility and Hall of fame. "It's huge for the athletic department," said head football coach Doc Holliday. The facility will also be used for soccer, baseball and other teams trying to escape bad weather.

COLUMN

Canadian golfer's story at Greenbrier Classic relatable to West Virginians

By **BRAXTON CRISP**
THE PARTHENON

Last Thursday, West Virginia turned 150 years old. Next week, West Virginia welcomes the PGA Tour to the Mountain State as the fourth Greenbrier Classic tees off at the legendary Greenbrier Resort in White Sulphur Springs. One might say this three week stretch is the most Wild and Wonderful two weeks in recent memory for West Virginia.

When the Greenbrier Classic hits the Old White TPC course, Tiger Woods will not be there due to an elbow injury that will keep him out until the British Open later in July, but some players who will be there include all three previous Classic winners Stuart Appleby (2010), Scott Stallings (2011), and Ted Potter, Jr. (2012). In addition to the previous champions, Phil Mickelson will

make his third trip to the Greenbrier, the ever flamboyantly dressed John Daly will return to the West Virginia hills and Bubba Watson will be there as well.

There will be a local twist as well, as Huntington insurance agent and former Herd golfer Pat Carter will be playing the Classic as an amateur. Carter, who played for the Herd from 1986 to 1990, has won the West Virginia Amateur 12 times. Speaking of amateurs, don't count out Michael Kim, who was in the top ten at through three rounds at the US Open earlier this month.

In addition to the golf tournament, country music superstar Kenny Chesney, and Rock and Roll Hall of Famers Aerosmith will play concerts over the weekend. Organizers picking those two performances after having the Black Eyed Peas,

Bon Jovi, The Fray, and Rod Stewart play concerts for the tournament over the past few years.

All the big names are a great way to put a positive light on West Virginia, but there's one player who is dealing with something many West Virginians can sympathize with.

Canadian Graham DeLaet is helping his native land recover from widespread flooding, mostly in southern Alberta province, but in other parts of the country as well. At last week's Travelers Championship in Cromwell, Conn., DeLaet pledged \$1,000 for each birdie he made, and \$2,500 for each eagle he made. He finished a career best third place at the Travelers Championship and sunk nine birdies en route to the finish, thus raising \$9,000 for his country.

The flooding was so bad in Calgary, the Saddledome, home of the NHL's Calgary Flames, had

millions of gallons of water in it ruining the playing surface, the locker rooms, the lower seating area and the offices in the lower portion of the arena.

I've never personally dealt with flooding in my home, but many West Virginians have, and the stance DeLaet has taken toward helping his country is one that people in this part of the world can truly appreciate.

As the Greenbrier Classic tees off in exactly seven days, many will be following Watson and Mickelson, but I will be keeping an eye on DeLaet as well, because he reminds all fans of golf that golfers still deal with some of the same real life issues, even ones that a not-so-big place as West Virginia face.

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"I never dreamed we would be as successful as winning a Diamond Award," Footo said. "It's a testament not only to our effort, but the program and professors at Marshall University. I'm glad both were recognized with awards."

Kerissa Bennett, 2011 graduate of the program and assistant general manager of operations in the First Year Residence Halls at Marshall University, said the continuous pattern of recognition by West Virginia's chapter of PRSA speaks volumes to the standard of excellence instilled in public relations students at Marshall University.

"You are treated as a professional practitioner," Bennett said. "I believe that real world experience makes an enormous difference in not only the level of preparation of students upon their exit of the program, but also the success of the program itself."

Leannnda Carey, 2013 graduate with a master's degree in journalism, said she is thrilled that she had the opportunity to be a part of an award-winning campaign.

"We worked our hardest

to make sure our campaign was professional, successful and memorable so that it could be carried on without us in the future," Carey said. "These awards are a wonderful bonus to reaching our goals, pleasing our client and most importantly, helping low-income families afford high-quality child care."

Libby Clark, 2012 graduate, said it was great not only receiving such prestigious awards but to also be in the running against some great companies and universities for the Crystal Awards.

"It really felt like our hard work as a class and team didn't go unnoticed by our peers," Clark said. "It was amazing to see what other people had done, and what I have just started doing, side by side."

Janet Dooley, interim dean in the SOJMC, said it is gratifying to witness the growth of the public relations students, and gaining this kind of recognition from professionals in their field is a good indicator of their progress.

"Their work on service projects garners a good bit of satisfaction in that they contribute to their community, and to have PRSA recognize the effort is icing on the cake," Dooley said.

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"Congress is going to have to grapple with the implications of the DOMA decision," Sanders said. "Or else the courts are going to have to step in."

Federal workers now may apply for health and pension benefits for their same-sex spouses, but maybe not in every state. Married same-sex couples in the military can qualify for base housing, relocation assistance, family support services and veterans benefits at least in the states that allow them to marry. But members of the armed forces frequently move from state to state.

"Couples in the military who work for the federal government are going to have the most unresolved questions," said Baude, who clerked for Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr.

In a statement Wednesday, the Defense Department welcomed the Supreme Court's decision and said it would consult with the White House and federal agencies on how to implement it "as soon as possible."

"The Department of Defense intends to make the same benefits available to all military spouses — regardless of sexual orientation,"

the Pentagon said. "That is now the law and it is the right thing to do."

For all the uncertainties it creates, the court's decision eliminates one: whether same-sex spouses are eligible for immigration benefits. Until the ruling Wednesday, thousands of gays and lesbians born outside the country were living in legal limbo because though they were legally married to U.S. citizens, the federal government wouldn't allow them to apply for green cards.

The issue came up during the recent Senate immigration debate. Some Republicans threatened to withdraw their support from the bill if it included benefits for binational same-sex couples. Democrats set aside the provision, hoping the Supreme Court would resolve it.

Because immigration is a federal issue, state law won't matter when same-sex couples apply for green cards. Lavi Soloway, a New York immigration attorney for many such couples, called the court's ruling "clear as a bell."

"This is a watershed moment," he said. "It will bring gay and lesbian Americans into our immigration system."

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