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The Parthenon, March 3, 2016

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THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2016 | VOL. 119 NO. 77 | MARSHALL UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER | marshallparthenon.com | SINGLE COPY FREE

Renowned tubist brings variety to Marshall

By **LEAH COOK**
THE PARTHENON

The Marshall University School of Music and Theatre welcomed guest artist Tony Zilincik to Huntington Wednesday.

Zilincik teaches tuba, compositions and theory at Capital University in Ohio and directs its brass choir and Capital Thunder, the University's tuba euphonium ensemble.

"He's a very activist performer," said Marshall tuba professor George Palton. "He's been a guest here on several occasions during my tenure and is certainly a friend of the studio."

The concert was filled with unaccompanied pieces for tuba.

"For 10 or so years I have liked to put together recitals of all unaccompanied tuba pieces; there are a lot of them out there," Zilincik said.

The music that filled Smith Music Hall

ranged from cartoon and stylistically dance-like to ambient pieces.

"The thing I was trying with this recital is old and new," Zilincik said. "Blends of old and new, old old, new new and brand new new work."

The recital included some of Zilincik's own compositions.

Zilincik is on sabbatical this semester, which has given him time to write and practice his tuba pieces.

Zilincik said he does not recommend sabbaticals to everyone and credits the downfalls of the vacation to his song "Doldrums."

"Every day of going to university, meeting all of my students, seeing people every day, is very energizing, that social energy is fantastic," Zilincik said. "I am a totally social person so waking up every day, having breakfast, getting my kids off to school, then going in my basement for eight hours

I'm starting to tear my hair apart so I got stuck in the doldrums."

Zilincik also said sabbaticals have their up sides.

"It is fantastic that I practice a lot and write a lot of music," Zilincik said.

This vacation from being a professor provoked an intrinsic ambient piece in "Doldrums."

"It is based on that idea of it being winter, being kind of on the low side of things, so it's got that very very relaxed kind of idea," Zilincik said.

The show closed with a standing ovation. Marshall professors said they are hoping to invite Zilincik back to Huntington soon.

The next solo recital is Solen Dikener's faculty recital on March 6 at 4 p.m. in Jomie Jazz Forum 103.

Leah cook can be contacted at cook281@marshall.edu.



RYAN FISCHER | THE PARTHENON

Tony Zilincik takes a bow after performing the tuba solo 'Fanfar(e)' Wednesday in Smith Recital Hall.

MIND YOUR TABLE MANNERS

Semi-annual etiquette dinner teaches dos and don'ts of dining in professional situations

By **AMANDA GIBSON**
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University Career Services held its spring Etiquette Dinner Wednesday in room BE5 of the Memorial Student Center.

Terri Thompson from Terri Thompson Presents was the speaker at the event. Thompson said she conducts the Etiquette Dinner every semester at Marshall University.

The Etiquette Dinner was a four course meal with soup, salad, an entree and dessert.

Assistant director for development and outreach in career services Debby Stoler said the goal of the Etiquette Dinner is to help students develop professionally.

"They're getting all their academics in their classes and their school, but they also need that professional polish to really be marketable," Stoler said.

Thompson instructed students throughout the dinner and gave them tips on everything from how to fold and place a napkin on their lap to what to do with soup crackers.

Thompson said she also teaches students how to order from a menu, how to negotiate conversation at the table and what to do if there is alcohol available.

"It's a real life situation," Thompson said. "They will be put in situations with an interview meal, lunch or dinner. And so tonight, we're just trying to gain confidence on getting through the meal so that they can ace the interview."

Stoler said by having events like the Etiquette Dinner, students become more confident in how to handle themselves when they are in a situation like an interview that includes dinner, which she said can be nerve wracking.

Thompson said it is common to have an interview involving a meal and when it comes down to a second or third interview, she said it will involve food.

Stoler said most of the time comments from students about the Etiquette Dinner are favorable and she said students feel like they learn something they did not know before.

Mechanical engineering major Benjamin Weible said he came to the Etiquette Dinner because it was required for one of his engineering classes.

Weible said he was unsure of how much he may need to know about table etiquette, but said he sees how it may help him in the future.

"Maybe one day I'll learn something here that will make or break an important job promotion or something," Weible said.

Undeclared business major Alena Adkins said she came to the event for the Marshall University College of Business Professionalism Month.

Adkins said she was excited for what she might learn at the event, like how to act when eating dinner with someone important, like a boss.

The Etiquette Dinner occurs each semester. Students may buy tickets for the dinner prior to the event at the Career Services Center.

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RYAN FISCHER | THE PARTHENON

Terri Thompson conducts the etiquette dinner Wednesday in the Memorial Student Center.

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NEWS

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2016 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

Financial workshop boosts students' budgeting plans



REBECCA TURNBULL | THE PARTHENON

Campus minister for Marshall United Methodist Students, Rev. Ben Wells discusses ways to implement budget plans with students Wednesday in the Memorial Student Center during the Financial Freedom Workshop.

By **REBECCA TURNBULL**
THE PARTHENON

Two campus ministers at Marshall tasked

students Wednesday in the Memorial Student Center with combatting American spending culture by creating their

own monthly budget plans during a Financial Freedom Workshop.

Campus minister for

Marshall United Methodist Students Ben Wells said the goal of creating budget plans in the workshop is to give students the knowledge they need to avoid falling into debt by spending more money than they actually have.

"The culture of spending today is that 'normal' for an average American is lots of debt, no savings, constantly stressed about money. That's normal. That's the way most people live," Wells said. "We want to break through that and teach them how not to be normal, how to live on less than you earn and save money."

Interim campus minister for Marshall UKirk Ellen Dawson said she hopes having students create their budget plans now will prepare them for gaining more financial independence and pursuing their careers.

"They [students] are just completely unaware of how much money they are spending on certain things every month. And when they graduate, they

start getting bills and it can be a really hard transition," Dawson said. "I would love to see that stress reduced because they have a plan in place or because they understand more about how to budget or more about how to plan ahead."

Junior biology major Alyssa Ruland said the workshop gave her valuable tools for dealing with financial burdens she will face while studying in medical school once she graduates.

Ruland said more college students need to understand budgeting to prepare for their futures after graduation.

"They need to know what it's like in the real world," Ruland said. "It's not the same once you get out of college. You're not going to have money to just go blow. You're going to have to spend it on different things."

Senior business management major Alecca Hunt said college is the best time for students to learn skills for financial stability.

"It's best we learn now while our mistakes are \$10, \$15, maybe a \$100 instead of thousands of dollars," Hunt said. "We can't always rely on mom and dad. It's ultimately our responsibility."

Wells said it is possible for every college student to make it through life without debilitating debt as long as they make the effort to closely manage their money.

"We believe the game is not rigged," Wells said. "Whether you make a huge salary right out of college or you start out, like most of us, at an entry level, with making wise decisions, you can win."

Wells and Dawson will discuss credit and interest at the next Financial Freedom Workshop at 6:30 p.m. March 9 in room 2W37 of the Memorial Student Center.

The workshop is free and open to the public.

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Jazz Combo I showcases original work

By **LEAH COOK**
THE PARTHENON

Marshall's Jazz Combo I had a personal connection to its set list Wednesday night that they shared with a packed Jomie Jazz Forum.

Their program included various modal and American songbook tunes as well as some Marshall University originals.

"Their set not only contains several canonical jazz compositions, but an original composition by the group's bassist Lars Swanson and one of my original compositions," director Jeff Wolfe said.

Wolfe said his piece was a work in progress but is happy with how it turned out and is glad his jazz combo is performing it now.

"At first it started as this really complicated thing about autumn and then I had to tone it down a little bit," Swanson said. "I worked on it in October or November and then I brought it out again probably a month ago and we played through it once and I took it back and revised it again."

Swanson's composition fit the modal theme of

the show and didn't miss a beat with the crowd.

The ensemble had other emotions when it came to playing a piece written by their professor and director.

"It is nerve racking because it's his piece and we are bringing it to life in front of him and we know he has more to say about it than some of the other pieces we play because he knows it more intimately than any of us do," Swanson said.

It's been a busy month for Jazz Combo I, made up of trumpeter Gabe Muncy, tenor saxophonist Bobby Galloway, pianist Tim Smith, Swanson and drummer Hogan Bentle.

Jazz Combo I performed this set list prior to Wednesday night at the Winter Jazz Festival.

This festival also gave the group an opportunity to perform with world-renowned jazz alto saxophonist Jim Snidero.

The next big event the combo members will participate in is the Region IV Jazz Ratings Festival March 5.

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RYAN FISCHER | THE PARTHENON

The Jazz I Combo during a bass-solo played by Lars Swanson at the Jomie Jazz Center Wednesday.

Arvin Mitchell to perform comedy show Thursday

By **SON NGUYEN**
THE PARTHENON

Comedian Arvin Mitchell will perform Thursday in front of Marshall students and faculty as part of the Campus Activities Board's March events.

Mitchell will perform from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in Marco's Room in the lower level of the Memorial Student Center.

On his personal website, Mitchell describes himself as having a comedy style that "appeals to both urban and mainstream audiences worldwide." Born in St. Louis, Missouri, Mitchell made his comedy debut in 2003 on BET's reality show for amateur stand-up comedians, "Coming to the Stage."

Beside his stand-up performances, Mitchell also hosted and acted. Mitchell hosted two BET shows, "Club Comic View" and "21 Questions." Mitchell also appeared in the 2011 comedy movie, "Dance Fu."

CAB advisor Sarah Dyke said Mitchell's comedy is "a different style."

"He is the type that could say few words and make you laugh much harder than the other comedians," Dyke said. "His style is clean comedy, but it's real life things that happened to him and he lets you feel like you are in the scenario with him. And things that don't really happen to other people happened to him and so when he tell the stories, it just add to his comedy."

According to Dyke, Mitchell is the last comedian CAB booked for the 2016 spring semester. CAB will also give out a wireless Bluetooth speaker for a random student in attendance who retweets its tweet about the show.

Mitchell's show is free for all students with valid IDs. Pizza and refreshments will also be served.

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West Virginia Senate kills religious objection bill

By **JONATHAN MATTISE**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

West Virginia senators resoundingly killed a religious objections bill Wednesday, just one day after amending the measure to stamp out fears from business that it would sanction discrimination in the name of faith.

After no debate Wednesday, the Republican-led Senate voted down the bill by a 27-7 margin. Lawmakers cited different reasons for their opposition: some thought the amended bill didn't do enough to protect religious freedom. Others believed Tuesday's amendment only made a bad bill better.

The bill would have let a person challenge a governmental body in court that has

made him or her follow a particular state or local law that goes counter to a deeply held religious belief.

Companies from AT&T to Dow Chemical voiced opposition to the proposal. Many business interests pointed to a similar law passed in Indiana. That law may have cost a potential \$60 million when groups didn't hold conventions in Indianapolis and cited the law as a reason why, according to the tourism group Visit Indy.

After sometimes tearful debate Tuesday, West Virginia senators approved a Democratic amendment that ensured the bill wouldn't trump nondiscrimination ordinances, which exist in eight cities. The state doesn't list

gay or transgender people in housing and employment protections, so several cities passed protections.

It also said the bill would not override child vaccination requirements. West Virginia's vaccination laws are some of the nation's strictest.

In an email to its mailing list Tuesday, the socially conservative group Family Policy Council of West Virginia said the amendment rendered "virtually all the protections for religious freedom gone, but the bill has been turned into the most aggressive pro-gay rights bill being considered in any state legislature in America."

"I think it's telling that when they found out they

couldn't discriminate, they didn't want the bill anymore," said Senate Minority Leader Jeff Kessler, D-Marshall.

The American Civil Liberties Union and gay rights group also applauded the Senate's vote.

The bill's demise is a loss for the more socially conservative House of Delegates. House Speaker Tim Armstead, R-Kanawha, was a key advocate of the bill, which had already passed the House.

"I'm disappointed in today's outcome," Armstead said in a statement. "The defeat of this bill was driven by the negative hyperbole and misinformation that incorrectly characterized the purpose of this legislation.

This bill absolutely did not condone or encourage discrimination in any way."

Senate President Bill Cole, a Mercer County Republican running for governor, helped vote down the bill Wednesday. He said his vote was in support of the original House version. He also voted against the nondiscrimination amendment. The Democrats vying for governor — Kessler, Booth Goodwin and Jim Justice — all opposed the bill.

Cole, a car dealer, added that his businesses don't tolerate discrimination.

"We each have to live our lives as we see fit, and I know what my beliefs and feelings are, and that's how I'll go forward," Cole said.

Judge Buys Butler More Time

By **ELAYNA CONARD**
THE PARTHENON

Former Marshall football player Steward Butler was given 20 extra days on his sentence Monday in the chambers of Judge Paul T. Farrell at the Huntington courthouse. Farrell requested for the prosecution and the defense file briefs to him by March 21 addressing whether Butler violated the civil rights of two men when he witnessed them kissing.

The requested briefs would support or deny the application of the West Virginia Code 61-6-21. The code defines violations of an individual's civil rights. Butler's case hinges on the allegation he violated the civil rights of two men when he beat them moments after he witnessed the couple kissing on Fifth Avenue and Ninth Street in

Huntington April 5, 2015.

The statutory provision states a person can not threaten or oppress any other person while the said persons are in the free exercise or enjoyment of any right or privilege secured to him or her by the Constitution or laws of the State of West Virginia or by the Constitution or laws of the United States because of such person's race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, political affiliation or sex.

Counsel for Butler and the assistant prosecuting attorney of Cabell County submitted a question to the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia for justification of the ambiguous term in the statute, "sex." The question addressed whether sex meant gender or sexual orientation. Because the Supreme Court of Appeals of

West Virginia sent the question back without answer to the lower level of the Circuit Court of Cabell County where the case originated, the ambiguity of the word "sex" is to be interpreted by the judge.

In this case, Farrell will decide from the briefs submitted by both counsels how the statute should be interpreted and whether Butler's physical interperaction against the two males violated their civil rights to be protected from such harm based on their sexual orientation.

Butler will return to court March 21 for Farrell's decision. If Butler is found to violate the statute, he could face up to a \$5,000 fine up to 10 years in prison or both.

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SPORTS

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2016 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

Second place in conference standings up for grabs in Marshall, Louisiana Tech matchup

By **CHRISTIAN HISMAN**
THE PARTHENON

The Marshall University men's basketball team is set to take on Louisiana Tech University 7 p.m. Thursday at the Cam Henderson Center in a game that has major implications on the Herd's seeding heading into the conference tournament next week.

Marshall has an 11-5 record in conference play, putting it in a tie with Louisiana Tech and Middle Tennessee State University for second place in the conference standings.

If the Herd win Thursday and pick up a victory Saturday in the team's regular season finale against the University of Southern Mississippi, it will earn the number two seed in the conference tournament putting a lot at stake in the final two games of the season.

"It's very important, there is a lot riding on this week for us," junior forward Ryan Taylor said. "We win both we get second, we win one we get a bye."

Members of the team said they are confident they can earn victories in both games and playing both games in the comfort of their home arena is a substantial factor.

"We will be fine," Taylor said. "It will be kind of easy because we are back at home in front of our home crowd and that makes a lot of difference."

The Herd experienced the complications that can come from playing on the road last week, when it dropped a pair of games to conference-leading University of Alabama at Birmingham and Middle Tennessee State.

However, the players said they have erased those games from their memory.

"We got those two losses out of our heads already, so we have already moved well past that," guard C.J. Burks said.

With so much on the line Taylor said the team can ill-afford to focus on anything but its last two regular season contests.

"This team knows what is up for grabs and we are going to perform at the best level we can no matter what happens," Taylor said.



Junior forward Ryan Taylor drives past a defender in a game against UTEP last season. Taylor's 14.4 PPG ranks third on the team this season.

The Herd will lean on its efficient play on the offensive end of the floor in its game Thursday. Marshall is currently leading the conference in scoring during conference play, but Louisiana Tech possesses offensive firepower of its own,

ranking second in the conference in scoring.

"We need to stay together," Taylor said. "We know they are going to make their runs. They shoot a lot of 3s just like us; we need to stay locked in for 40 minutes and play good on the

defensive end."

"If we stick to the game plan, make shots and play hard, we will be fine," Burks said.

Christian Hisman can be contacted at hisman@marshall.edu.

Women's soccer announces 2016 recruiting class

THE PARTHENON

Marshall University women's soccer announced its 2016 recruiting class Wednesday when it added 12 players to the roster.

"It's an exciting and big class," Marshall head coach Kevin Long. "With big shoes to fill from this past year, we will be looking for immediate impact from our returners and incoming class."

Among the departures from the team via graduation is goalkeeper Lizzie Kish, defenders Jenna Dubs, Taylor Fleming and Lia Foster and midfielders Brittany Entz, Kelly Culicerto and Erin Simmons.

Seven of the eight players were starters last season, and Kish, Dubs, Culicerto and Simmons were named to all conference teams during their Marshall tenures.

Helping to fill the void left by Kish, who holds the all-time school record for shutouts (21) and ranks second in saves (204), will be Megan Bonnell who signed with the Herd after being a four-sport athlete at Apollo-Ridge High School in Pennsylvania.

Bonnell played basketball, competed in track and field and served as the football team's placekicker in addition to her soccer career. In her senior year, Bonnell was named the 2016 Armstrong County Sports Hall of Fame Outstanding Senior Female Athlete and earned All-WPIAL first team honors.

The losses of Dubs, Fleming and Foster on the backline will be reimbursed with the additions of Farah Abu-Tayeh, Metz Gonzalez and Ally Kimbler.

As for the graduations of midfielders Culicerto, Entz and Simmons, Long brought on signees Marah Abu-Tayeh, Ashley Dobbins, Gabby Powers, Karen Rogge, Chloe Smith, Rebekah Cook, Jordan Sackaros and Alyssa Totzke.

Long said he is high on this year's class and said the new faces have the skillset and intangibles to further build on the success of the departed graduates.

"We brought in players with speed, assertiveness with and without the ball and a fierce competitiveness," Long said. "We covered all areas of the field, and each player brings something different to our program. Building off the great year we just had (15-4-3 record), we look to this class to help us push even farther on our climb to postseason play."

Playing without a home

Marshall baseball leads off another season deprived of a stadium fans, players and alumni can call home

By **BRITTANIE FOWLER**
THE PARTHENON

Along Route 2, about seven miles outside of Marshall University's campus, lies the YMCA Kennedy Center. This recreational park is home to a swimming pool, soccer fields and the George T. Smailes baseball field, which lies along the bank of the Ohio River.

As the warmer weather begins to move in, the Marshall baseball team moves out to Smailes field to get in some work for its upcoming games.

People may ask why the team doesn't practice on its own field, but the only problem is Marshall doesn't have a baseball field of its own. As a result, to practice, the team usually resorts to using the new Chris Cline indoor

facility, or on a nice day, the university football field.

Although it may be an inconvenience to an outside observer, members of the team players said it's not as bad as people think.

Burriss Warner, a junior transfer from Auburndale, Florida, said he was a little uneasy when he first found out Marshall didn't have a field, but he said not having a field also has its perks.

"I was a little skeptical when I came to Marshall and found out there wasn't a baseball field, but everything works out," Warner said. "We go out to Power Park and play at a nice minor league complex so you can't complain about that."

Leo Valenti, a junior transfer from Olympia, Washington, said he felt

would improve if a field was built.

If students or fans want to attend a Marshall home baseball game, they usually find themselves driving almost an hour to Charleston. Valenti and Warner said they think the team would get a lot more support from the student body if it had a field on campus creating a better overall atmosphere regarding the program.

"More people would want to come out to the games and create a better atmosphere because we would have actual students and fans coming out to the games," Warner said.

"But instead fans have to drive an hour to our own home field."

Mayor Steve Williams said in an article on HerdZone in 2013 he wants to make the city of

Huntington sparkle, and he said one way to do that is with the construction of a baseball diamond.

"We will have a ballpark built before I leave office, by any means we can," Williams said. "There's no doubt in my mind about that."

Marshall's next game will be noon Saturday against Lehigh University in Huntington.

Brittanie Fowler can be contacted at fowler85@marshall.edu.

"More people would want to come out to the games and create a better atmosphere because we would have actual students and fans coming out to the game."

-Marshall baseball player Burriss Warner

similar to Warner and said he's used to not having a field.

"It wasn't really a big deal for me when I found out Marshall didn't have a field," Valenti said. "We didn't have a home field at my junior college either, so it's not really a big deal for me."

Although the players said they are indifferent they're the only team on campus without their own facility, they said they think the program

Women's hoops attempts to halt losing streak

THE PARTHENON

Marshall University women's basketball will take on Louisiana Tech University 7:30 p.m. Thursday in Ruston, La.

The Herd (17-10, 7-9) has struggled as of late, losing four of its last five games. The Herd is currently in a three-way tie for seventh place in the conference standings with two games remaining in the regular season before the conference tournament.

In its most recent contest, a 79-73 home loss to Middle Tennessee State University, senior point guard Norrishia Victrum led the team with 15 points and six rebounds. Fellow senior Leah Scott chipped in 14 points as well.

Louisiana Tech and Marshall match up fairly evenly across the board in major team statistical categories, but Louisiana Tech does have a significant advantage in overall scoring margin. Louisiana Tech ranks fourth in conference play, outscoring opponents by 3.2 points per game, while Marshall is being outscored by 1.2 points per contest.

The two teams score at nearly the same rate, but Louisiana Tech's defense allows over four points per game less than the Herd.

The Herd will play its regular season finale on the road 5 p.m. Saturday against the University of Southern Mississippi.

OPINION

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THE PARTHENON

The Parthenon, Marshall University's student newspaper, is published by students Monday through Friday during the regular semester and Thursday during the summer. The editorial staff is responsible for news and editorial content.

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THE FIRST AMENDMENT | The Constitution of the United States of America

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

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EDITORIAL

Stereotypes give West Virginians the willies



The Daily Show @TheDailyShow · Mar 1
Hillary claims a victory in Virginia. The good Virginia too, not that creepy "West" Virginia. That place gives us the willies.
#SuperTuesday

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SCREENSHOT | TWITTER

During the excitement of Super Tuesday, The Daily Show's Twitter account tweeted "Hillary claims a victory in Virginia. The good Virginia too, not that creepy 'West' Virginia. That place gives us the willies."

Those who claim the mountain state as home took to social media to express their distaste with the tweet, while others from outside of the state didn't understand the disdain, arguing, "it's just a comedy show."

The Daily Show is, in fact, a comedy show, and the tweet was, in fact, a joke. However, the sensitivity lies in the fact that West Virginia is constantly the butt of a plethora of jokes involving incest, poor hygiene, bare feet and lack of education (okay, that one is relatively true).

When a West Virginian travels out of state, it is not uncommon to get remarks like "Do you guys go barefoot?" and "Oh, you have all of your teeth." This shows how jokes like The Daily Show's can shape public opinion and perpetuate a stereotype that people take seriously.

The Daily Show's joke is harmless to an outsider, but West Virginians know the problems we face day-to-day are real, and the comparatively underprivileged condition of the state is no laughing matter. The reality is West Virginia is the second poorest state in the country, suffers from a crippling opioid problem, is exploited by corporations from outside of the state and has one of the worst education systems in the

country, with some of the lowest-paid teachers.

That would give anyone the willies.

A good portion of West Virginia, specifically the coalfields, is rural and poverty-laden, and occasionally, people don't have the money or education for basic dental hygiene or a pair of shoes. This is a reality. However, no one in the state is running around with rotten teeth and fungal feet for funsies.

That being said, it is no wonder many in the state hate it here and the state is losing population.

Sure, West Virginians make fun of their situation all the time. Ha, hillbillies up a holler. Ha, go marry your cousin. LOL. But when the rest of the country takes the prevailing opinion of our beautiful state as a land run by doped-up hillbillies seriously, it is difficult not to take it to heart. No other state has to deal with the multitude of negative publicity. Every time something bad happens in West Virginia to perpetuate a stereotype, a collective groan is heard statewide.

Most of those who make fun of West Virginia have probably never even visited the state, for if they had, they wouldn't recognize our multiple communities that have been recognized as Coolest Small Town in America, America's Best Communities and friendliest city as "creepy."

It is time for West Virginians to come together to show the rest of the country this state really is the Best Virginia, and stand up against outsiders who perpetuate a negative image.

STATE EDITORIAL

The Herald-Dispatch on sales tax change in West Virginia

For all the talk about creating a more "business friendly" West Virginia, lawmakers in Charleston have cooked up a series of new taxes that are about as "unfriendly" as they can be.

The House of Delegates is considering House Bill 2704, which would place new sales taxes on many professional services that businesses and residents use every day — from legal visits and accounting services to haircuts and beauty salon appointments.

The net effect could be the largest tax increase placed on West Virginians in decades — an estimated additional \$344 million per year. Just as concerning, the proposals were revealed with little warning and even less time for the public to voice its concern.

At first blush, the bill might seem to be a tax reduction, because it would reduce the state sales tax from 6 percent to 5.5 percent. But the action would bring in hundreds of millions in new revenue because it extends the tax to a wide range of professional services that have not been subject to the sales tax in the past.

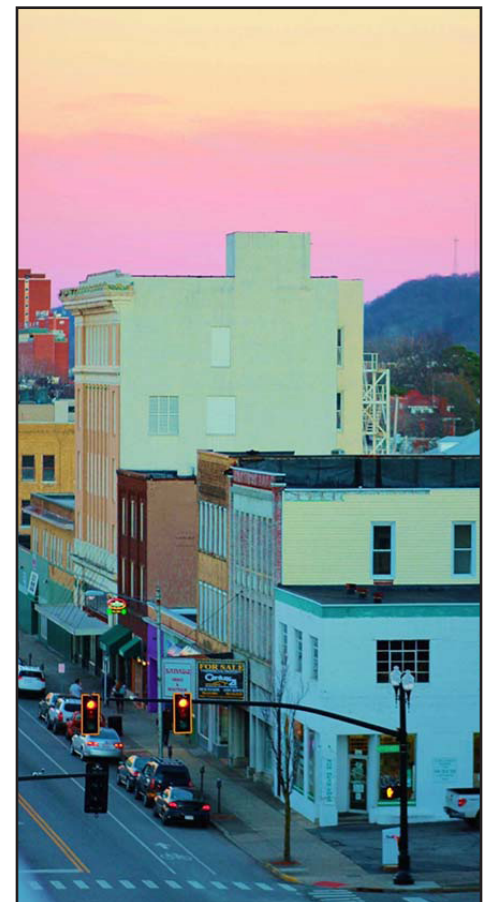
While the change would affect all consumers, it would put a particular squeeze on business because so many of these services are business-to-business services, from janitorial services to advertising.

"Lifting the exemption on professional services amounts to a new tax on small businesses," said Gil White, West Virginia state director of the National Federation of Independent Business. "What it would do is create additional costs for small businesses and put them in a bad situation: Do they raise prices to cover bookkeeping and other new expenses, and risk losing customers, or do they try to absorb the extra costs by not expanding or hiring new employees?"

Although the sales tax has traditionally been a tax on "consumption," adding professional services makes it a tax on "production." Almost certainly, much of the cost of the new expense will be passed along to the consumer, hurting everyone at a time when West Virginians already are facing layoffs and tough times.

Moreover, the change would put West Virginia's business climate at a competitive disadvantage with most other states, which do not tax these business-to-business services. Florida tried something similar in the late 1980s, and after six months of controversy, repealed the new sales tax.

We understand the state is facing a budget crisis, but lawmakers need to find a solution that does not cripple business development in the state.



FILE PHOTO
Small businesses in West Virginia could face negative changes due to possible new sales tax.

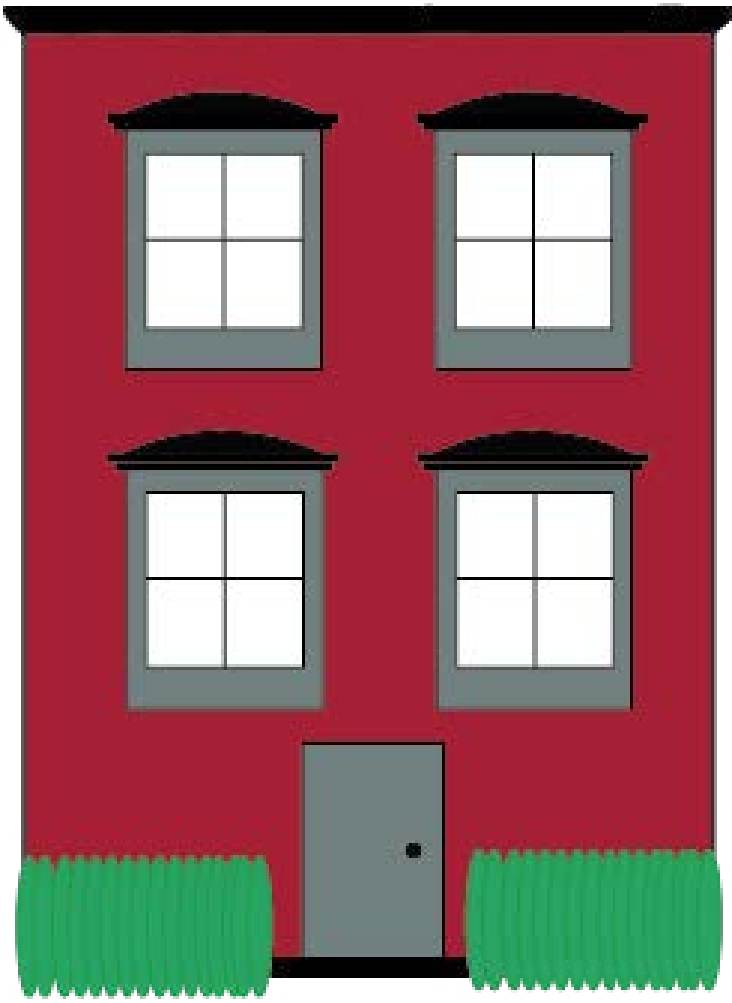
Get your voice Herd

Want the chance to give your fellow students valuable advice? Is there any topic you love to talk about, but you know your friends' eyes glaze over when you talk about it? Whether it's music, politics or Marshall University, The Parthenon is looking for regular columnists for its opinions page.

Columns should be between 300-500 words, well-written and researched. Columns will be edited for grammar, libelous statements, available space or factual errors.

This is your chance to let your voice be heard.

For more information, contact managing editor Kaitlyn Clay at clay122@marshall.edu.



Making Huntington home: renting your first apartment in Jewel City

By **LUKAS HAGLEY**
THE PARTHENON

Many students would agree the second semester of every academic year is the hardest. Seniors face capstone juries, summer internships are confirmed and finals are forever looming. This is also the time of year when many students begin to worry about what their living situation will be the following year. Luckily, plenty of seasoned Marshall students are willing to share advice on Huntington real estate, having faced past trials and tribulations, so others don't have to.

"I would definitely tell people to make sure they can afford it," said senior political science major Neicey

Chapman. "If you are financially supporting yourself with no help from your parents, then you will soon realize that everything costs money. If there's any doubt in your mind that you won't be able to handle rent, plus paying for things like food and household necessities, the best thing you can do is live on campus."

While Huntington's living expenses are typical for a college town of its size, it usually costs students more to rent from buildings directly around the perimeters of the campus. The Village, one of the closest and most popular apartment buildings around Marshall, attracts mostly upperclassmen and is seen by many as a definitive college living experience.

"If you're a straight-A student and really want to do well in school, I would recommend living away from campus, maybe near the Ritter Park area," said senior health science major Brandon Walls. "Living near campus can be a bit of a distraction. I've noticed that personally. If you want the real college experience, I would recommend the Village. It's nice and convenient since it's right near campus. I probably preferred the Village out of all three apartments. All of the utilities are included with the rent, it's got a pool, a computer lab, a gym; the good outweighs the bad."

Putting time and research into finding the perfect campus-adjacent apartment can

be a struggle, so it is typical to share the expenses and stress with a friend. One of the most crucial decisions regarding apartment-renting is deciding who to live with.

"There aren't any rules to choosing a good roommate," Chapman said. "People tell you not to live with your best friend and some tell you that it is better to room with friends. Honestly, you just never know with people. My current roommate was a complete stranger when we moved in together in the Village; now we're best friends, making plans to travel the world together. You just never know."

Lukas Hagley can be contacted at hagley19@marshall.edu.

US official: Debris from same type of plane as MH370



BULLIT MARQUEZ | ASSOCIATED PRESS

A school utility worker mops a mural depicting the missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 at the Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino High School campus at Makati city east of Manila, Philippines on April 8, 2014.

By **JOAN LOWY**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Debris that washed up in Mozambique has been tentatively identified as a part from the same type of aircraft as the missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, a U.S. official said Wednesday.

Photos of the debris discovered over the weekend appear

to show the fixed leading edge of the right-hand tail section of a Boeing 777, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak publicly. MH-370, which disappeared two years ago with 239 people aboard, is the only known missing 777.

People who have handled

the part, called a horizontal stabilizer, say it appears to be made of fiberglass composite on the outside, with aluminum honeycombing on the inside, the official said. The part is being transported to Malaysia.

Malaysian transport minister Liow Tiong Lai also confirmed in tweets about the discovery that it appears

the debris may come from the missing plane.

"Based on early reports, high possibility debris found in Mozambique belongs to a B777," Liow said in a series of tweets.

"It is yet to be confirmed & verified. @dca_malaysia working w Australian counterparts to retrieve the debris." He also urged "everyone to avoid undue speculation as we are not able to conclude that the debris belongs to #mh370 at this time."

MH-370 disappeared on March 8, 2014 while flying from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing with 12 crew members and 227 passengers on board.

Radar data show the plane turned sharply around as it approached Vietnamese airspace, and then flew back across the Malay Peninsula until contact was lost off the coast of Thailand.

Authorities who scrutinized data exchanged between the plane's engine and a satellite determined that the jetliner continued on a straight path across the Indian Ocean, leading them to believe that the plane flew on autopilot for hours before running out of fuel and crashing into the water.

Despite an exhaustive search of the ocean west of Australia,

where the plane is believed to have crashed, the only confirmed trace of the aircraft has been a wing part known as flaperon that washed ashore last July on the French island of Reunion off the east coast of Africa — about 2,300 miles from the current search area.

The flaperon bore a stenciled internal marking "657 BB," which is consistent with a flaperon from a Boeing 777.

Nothing of the passengers, their luggage or even things designed to float, such as life jackets, has been discovered despite the largest and most expensive search in aviation history.

Australia has led the multinational search effort, which also includes the Malaysian and Chinese governments.

Authorities have long predicted that any debris from the plane that isn't on the ocean floor would eventually be carried by currents to the east coast of Africa.

With authorities unable to find the plane and its "black box" flight data and cockpit voice recorders, investigators are no closer than they were two years ago to discovering the cause MH370's disappearance. There are many theories, including that a rogue pilot deliberately caused the \$250

million jet to vanish, but little hard evidence.

With the search tentatively scheduled to wrap up later this year, MH370 may become one of aviation's great unsolved mysteries.

In the aftermath of the plane's disappearance, the airline industry and aviation authorities around the world pledged to find ways to better track airliners, especially over expanses of ocean where there's no radar coverage.

The International Civil Aviation Organization, a U.N. aviation-standards agency, has adopted a requirement that all airliners report their positions about every 15 minutes over open ocean. The standard goes into effect in November 2018.

Currently, pilots flying planes over open ocean report their positions about every 30 minutes. In the most remote areas, even that is not possible.

Complicating the search for MH-370, the plane's "black box" data recorder was equipped with an underwater locator beacon whose battery is designed to last only 30 days. ICAO had adopted a new standard before the accident requiring the beacons to last at least 90 days, but the standard doesn't go into effect until 2018.

Hawaii bill would start to restore Waikiki Beach

By **MARINA STARLEAF RIKER**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Despite being one of Hawaii's most iconic beaches, many visitors don't know Waikiki Beach is actually an engineered beach that has been filled with imported sand for decades.

Waikiki has been facing erosion problems for years, so Hawaii lawmakers are pushing a bill to restore it.

The bill originally asked for \$1.5 million to make a plan to fill a portion of the beach where erosion has left it almost entirely gone. It would also give money to design a path along the shoreline for pedestrians and bicyclists. It's unclear how much legislators might plan to spend now; the latest version of the bill did not include a dollar amount.

The latest effort comes four years after the state spent over \$2.4 million to pump sand from offshore to replenish the beach. People have been bringing in sand to make the beach wider for about 75 years.

"I never understood the value of our beach as someone growing up here until I started hearing the stories from my grandfather of the 1940s," said Rep. Chris Lee, who grew up on Oahu and introduced the bill. "It's a totally different beach than it was back then, and I think we have a chance to restore some of that magic."

Photographs from the 1930s and 1940s show a continuous stretch of white sand from one end of the beach to the other. Now, it's separated by seawalls and sections where there's barely any beach left.

Lee said an uninterrupted stretch of beach is important to maintaining the allure of the state's most popular tourist destination. State data shows Waikiki accounts for nearly 42 percent of visitor spending statewide. Over 8 million visitors went to Waikiki Beach in 2014.

State agencies and business organizations supported the proposal, saying Waikiki Beach is critical to the state's economy.

"Beaches are the alluring factor to our islands and a staple reason why visitors travel here," said Mufi Hannemann, CEO of the Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association. "It is crucial that we not only maintain our beaches but improve them."

A 2013 state report said it would take about \$14 million to maintain and improve Waikiki Beach over the next 10 years.

The earliest beach replenishment projects date back to the 1920s, but the first major recorded project was in 1939. The state estimates that approximately 300,000 cubic yards of sand have been imported to Waikiki beaches over the past 75 years, often mined from other beaches in the state.



MARINA RIKER | ASSOCIATED PRESS

A man sits in a chair at a beach in Honolulu, Hawaii, Wednesday.