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The Parthenon, February 17, 2021

Brittany Hively
Parthenon@marshall.edu

Grant Goodrich

Emma Berry

Xena Bunton

Isabella Robinson

See next page for additional authors

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Authors

Brittany Hively, Grant Goodrich, Emma Berry, Xena Bunton, Isabella Robinson, Tyler Spence, Denise Jackson, and Zachary Hiser

THE PARTHENON

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PAGE EDITED AND DESIGNED BY BRITTANY HIVELEY | HAYES100@MARSHALL.EDU

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Art students struggle to acclimate with virtual classes

By **MIRANDA VALLES**
REPORTER

Marshall University's forced switch to virtual classes has left the majority of students uncertain about the sudden changes that the pandemic brought on. Students belonging to the art department have had to deal with a significant amount of change.

For art students, classes often thrive on in-person interactions, whether it be from teacher-feedback, in-person guidance, class critiques and untraditional peer feedback. Regardless of what form it comes in, it is apparent that many art students rely on hands-on learning styles.

Emily Fuller, a junior painting student at Marshall, said that switching to online classes has been particularly challenging because being in isolation makes it harder to take initiative and feel inspired.

"It gets a little draining, I think," Fuller said. "It's hard to be able to actually get myself to do the work. When I'm in a classroom, I'm sort of forced into that environment—it's my time and place to be there, my place to do the work, and right now, I don't really feel like an art student."

Fuller said that the virtuality of their art classes stunts not only creativity but also communication.

She said that it has become increasingly difficult to get other students to communicate with one another, at least in comparison to pre-pandemic.

Even class critiques, which normally emphasized peer feedback, no longer offers the same opportunity.

"We sort of just run through everything really quickly," Fuller said. "The teacher just says a few words about each piece that's been uploaded in the slideshow. What was successful and other things like that, but the rest of us usually just sit in silence."

Fuller also expressed the fact that mental health can also affect the students beyond the

virtual courses.

"We're working from our beds, and it's hard to get anything done when you associate that space with sleep," Fuller said. "Not to mention, if you have depression, getting out of bed is already hard enough to do."

Despite the great adjustments that the majority of art students have to go through, it hasn't all been bad.

Jeffery Sheppard, who is also an art major with an emphasis in painting, surprisingly had a different opinion about the switch to virtual courses.

see ART STUDENTS on pg. 10

Survey examines mental health and diversity

By **MADISON PERDUE**
REPORTER

As the pandemic continues to impact the lives of students, specialists at the Marshall University Counseling Center are asking students to help them improve mental health service accessibility and diversity on campus.

All students are invited to participate in a research project called "Examination of Campus Mental Health Treatment Disparity," a survey designed to study the need for improved health services for students with diverse backgrounds.

Conducting this research is Dr. Penny Koontz, an associate psychology professor and psychology Clinic Director. Koontz said she had the idea for the project last year during the Black Lives Matter movement, which jumpstarted conversations about disparities based on racial and ethnic backgrounds.

Koontz said that as Clinic Director, she is concerned about the accessibility of mental health services, whether students are aware of the services available to them and whether the needs of all students are being met.

"Marshall has really wonderful

mental health services available to students," Koontz said. "I believe there is always room to improve."

The goal of the project is to identify the needs of students from diverse backgrounds, decide what changes the Counseling Center can make, reduce barriers students face while trying to seek help and create a safe campus environment where students are knowledgeable about mental health services.

Some specific improvements she hopes to see, once the study identifies these specific needs, are enhanced visibility for the Counseling

Center, the development of programming and services specifically for students of diverse backgrounds, the provision of online resources or written materials and perhaps specialized support groups for students with different needs.

She is working in collaboration with Dr. Candace Layne, the Director of Marshall's Counseling Center, and an advisory board of faculty and students from diverse backgrounds to provide consultation and suggestions.

see SURVEY on pg. 10

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see SURVEY on pg. 10

Preparations for men's mental health week

By **MADISON PERDUE**
REPORTER

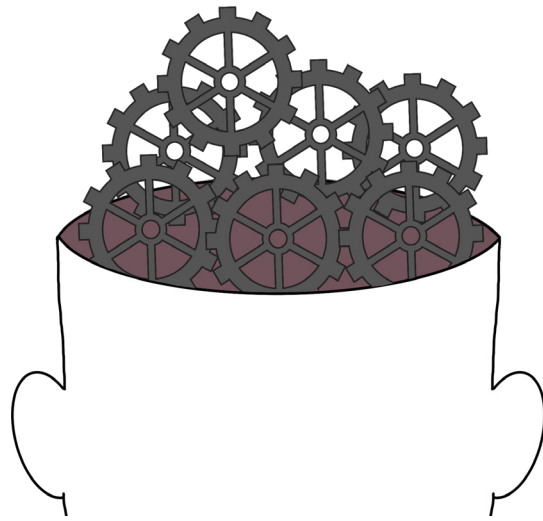
While more attention has been brought to students' mental and emotional health in recent years, there has been some disparity between men and women seeking support. This is largely due to the stigmatization of men who seek counseling and mental health services, or men being considered "weak" if they acknowledge a mental health problem.

The Marshall University Counseling Center is working to eliminate this stigma and promote a safer, healthier campus environment by hosting a Men's Mental Health Week on campus. This is the first time a week-long event dedicated to men's mental health has taken place at the university.

The events of the Mental Health Week will take place on the week of March 8-12 and will include daily activities for men on campus such as giveaways and conferences with mental health specialists.

Legendary Cuts on Fourth Avenue will be participating in the event, offering 10% off on haircuts to male students and giving free pizza to student customers.

Wednesday will feature a Mine-craft competition and a panel



of men from campus discussing men's mental health and the importance of seeking help when needed.

Panels and virtual presentations will be held throughout the week and will feature guest speakers such as Kevin Hines, a suicide attempt survivor and prevention activist.

On Friday of that week, male students can receive up to two hours of archery at Pullman Square's Battlearium.

Dr. Candace Layne, Director of the Campus Counseling Center, had the idea to bring more attention to the Counseling Center and incorporate activities to prevent poor mental health.

see MEN on pg. 11

Ice storm disrupts remote learning

By **TYLER SPENCE**
OPINION EDITOR

In the past weeks, the greater Huntington area has seen a considerably large ice storm that - according to Appalachian Power as of 2 p.m. on Tuesday - has left 33,398 customers without power in Cabell county alone. Thus, the university decided to cancel both in-person and virtual classes; however, some students have felt the burden of the storm more than others.

Leslie Meade is a senior elementary education student from Buffalo, W.Va, who initially lost power last Thursday but has been out of an internet connection since last Wednesday. Additionally, her cell phone service is very weak because of the rural area where she lives. Although she said some professors have been very understanding, others have not been as accommodating.

When asked if professors are less understanding of students in rural areas, she said, "Most definitely. I think many of them believe we are all in Huntington, and that is not the case."

Meade showed The Parthenon an email from a professor asking her to turn in an assignment by tomorrow, even if it meant traveling to campus, which she said she does not feel safe or comfortable doing right now.

Meade wishes more professors would understand the storm's impact and simply extend the deadlines for assignments.

Other students across social media have complained

about similar claims about professors asking them to drive to campus to complete coursework, so this does not seem to be an isolated incident that Meade faces.

Jamie Taylor, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, sent an email to the deans of each college after a Twitter account tweeted to President Gilbert about the many students outside of Huntington and professors still "piling on" lectures and assignments. Taylor asked the deans to be considerate of students who are still struggling with power and spotty internet.

Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Media, Wendell Dobbs, sent an email to faculty in the school which read, "Keeping up with assignments in the face of this weather crisis, coupled with the ongoing crisis of COVID, is undoubtedly pushing many students to the edge of their abilities."

A spokesperson from the University responded to these issues saying: "Instructors have been asked to be understanding and to work with students who may be facing special challenges. Students who are having issues completing class work during this weather should contact the instructor first to see if they can work out accommodations. The Office of Student Advocacy and Support also is available to assist."

Tyler Spence can be contacted at spence83@marshall.edu.



PAGE ART BY ZACHARY HISER | PHOTO EDITOR

The Health Plan of West Virginia Inc. donates \$25,000 to Project Hope of Huntington

WV Press Association

Release from The Health Plan of West Virginia:

WHEELING, W.Va. — During this COVID-19 pandemic, there has unfortunately been an increase in substance abuse throughout our region and across the country. The Health Plan (THP) recognizes the increased need for programs to help those on the road to recovery.

“We are proud of the dedicated individuals providing a safe place for those in need of experienced, specialized support on their journey toward recovery,” said Jeff Knight, President and COO of THP. “We salute Project Hope for Women & Children in Huntington and support their important efforts – as well as the hard work it takes for mothers recovering from substance use disorder and moving toward a brighter future.”

Since opening in December 2018, Project Hope for Women & Children has served more than 50 families. As a comprehensive treatment facility for women and their children, Project Hope provides onsite peer and residential support, life

skills training and mental health services. Located in downtown Huntington, WV, Project Hope can house up to 18 families at a time in individual single-family units. The complex also features group meeting space, on-site laundry, and a courtyard/playground made possible through a generous gift from The Health Plan in 2019. In September 2020, Marshall Health opened Hope House to provide a transitional living space for women and children as they complete their recovery program at Project Hope and work toward permanent jobs and housing.

“The impact of Project Hope for Women & Children extends beyond the four to six months they spend in our intensive residential program,” said Beth L. Hammers, Chief Executive Officer of Marshall Health. “The continued generosity of The Health Plan will support programming that leads to long-term recovery, including healthy parenting skills, safe family relationships and career development.”

About The Health Plan

As one of the largest locally managed care

organizations in West Virginia, The Health Plan has a 40-year history of community and charitable giving. From sponsorship of local youth-focused asthma and diabetes camps to college scholarship programs and sponsorships of dozens of community events throughout the region, The Health Plan strives to make a positive and healthy impact throughout the geographic regions that we serve.

The Health Plan (healthplan.org) is a clinically-driven, technology-enhanced, and customer focused health maintenance organization that manages and improves the health and wellbeing of its members. Established in 1979, the West Virginia-based company, with offices in Wheeling, Charleston and Morgantown, WV and Massillon, OH has offered a complete line of managed care products and services designed to provide health care systems and clients with innovative health care benefits and plans at a reasonable cost across the mid-Atlantic region and nationally.



PHOTO COURTESY WV PRESS ASSOCIATION

Herd Reads

By **BRITTANY HIVELY**
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

A common misconception with the younger generations is one does not read for pleasure.

The American Academy of Arts and Science's latest data does show that reading for pleasure has decreased across the board between 2003 and 2018, except in the two youngest age groups 15-19 year-olds and 20-24 year-olds.

The organization also cites that the decline is getting smaller over time.

"With the average [decline] falling from 39 minutes per day in 2003 to 28 minutes in 2018," the organization's website said.

With this information, we have decided to feature books being read by students and staff from the Marshall community to encourage readers to broaden their horizons.

What we are reading this month:

"How to be an Antiracist" by Ibram X. Kendi is being read for President Gilbert's virtual book discussions starting with the



first meeting on March 10th.

"Ghosting the News" by Margaret Sullivan

"A Memoir of the Craft on Writing" by Stephen King

"Untamed" by Glennon Doyle

"White Fragility" by Robin Diangelo

Tweet us and let us know what you are reading at @muparthenon #HerdReads

Brittany Hively can be contacted at hayes100@marshall.edu.



Parthe-Pet

Chloe is a maltipoo/shih tzu mix. She loves to play with me and my 12-year-old brother. If she is not playing, she is cuddled up in her bed sleeping. She is a sweet girl who loved to cuddle and be held.



If you have a pet you would like featured as the weekly Parthe-pet, please email a photo and brief bio to parthenon@marshall.edu

Weekly Social Media Poll

	Y	N
Have you attended any black history events at MU or plan to?	45%	55%
Have the mix of in-person and online class made school more stressful?	79%	21%
Do online classes make you less motivated for school?	81%	19%
Do you feel schools are making the correct protocols for closings?	92%	8%

This poll was conducted on The Parthenon's Instagram, @MUParthenon, with an average response of 80 individuals.

Herd football's new recruiting philosophy

By **GRANT GOODRICH**
SPORTS EDITOR

Exhibited by the 2022 offer list, head coach Charles Huff is putting no limitations on what Marshall football recruiting can be. So far, under Huff, Marshall has offered several top players in the country, competing with the likes of Alabama and Ohio State.

"We want to go to the prom with the best-looking girl in the school," Huff said metaphorically. "We don't look at as, 'Well, we're a second-rate program or this.' If they fit our recruiting dynamic and they fit our recruiting profile, we are going to recruit them."

Closing out the 2021 class, Huff signed Caleb Coombs, a

high-caliber recruit from Washington, D.C. Huff said that Coombs signifies the quality of player that can fall in love with Marshall.

"Hopefully, some of the kids in the 2022 class and 2023 class and so on down the line will see that Marshall has a product that is top in the country," Huff said, "and that should attract the top recruits in the country."

But before they scour the country for top recruits, the first thing Huff wants his staff to be able to do is to "dominate the ring."

"I consider the ring the five-hour radius around the university," Huff said. "In a five-hour radius, most kids will be able to keep their support systems

intact... and when you dominate the ring, you have more information, more detailed information on those kids"

Because that five-hour ring includes all of the state of West Virginia, there is a conscience effort by Huff and his staff to focus on recruiting in-state.

During Marshall's national signing day press conference, each member of the staff was announced with a defined recruiting area, most with both a "ring" area and a national area. More specifically, almost every coach was assigned a slice of West Virginia to recruit.

see RECRUITING on pg. 11



ZACHARY HISER | THE PARTHENON

Charles Huff gives a dual-thumbs up to the crowd after being introduced during a timeout at Friday's men's basketball game against Middle Tennessee.

Weekend Recap

Men's Basketball (12-5, 6-4)

Friday, Feb. 12 - W, 107-79 vs MTSU

Saturday, Feb. 13 - W, 96-85 vs MTSU

After a slow start in game one Friday, Marshall's offense exploded for 107 points, the most points scored since December 2016. In game two Saturday, the Herd offense picked up where it left off, leading to a second victory.

Men's Soccer (0-0-1)

Saturday, Feb. 13 - T, 1-1 OT vs OVU

After Ohio Valley drew first blood, Marshall's Gabriel Alcid Alves scored his first career goal off a Jan-Erik Leinhos corner kick in the 87th minute. Regulation ended in a 1-1 tie, and after two scoreless overtime periods, the match ended in a draw.

Women's Soccer (1-0-0)

Saturday, Feb. 13 - W, 2-1 OT at ETSU

Freshman Abi Hugh opened up the scoring in the 56th minute, scoring her first career goal. Two minutes later, East Tennessee State knotted it up at one, and the game would head to overtime. In the 99th minute, Hugh scored her second goal of the day to seal the Herd victory.

Women's Tennis (2-2)

Friday, Feb. 12 - L, 7-0 at Virginia

Sunday, Feb. 14 - W, 4-3 vs Furman

Bouncing back from a defeat to UVA, Marshall played its first home contest of the season, defeating Furman. Senior Anna Smith made a comeback in her match to tie the score; graduate student Madison

Riley swept her opponent to give the Herd the team win.

Track and Field

Saturday, Feb. 13 - 1st place (138 pts)

Concluding its regular season, the Marshall track and field team earned its third consecutive first place finish. Junior Macie Majoy broke the school record in the indoor pole vault. Sophomore Mikah Alleyne won the 400m; junior Ashonti Warner won the 300m; and the team of Erica Murphy, Brandy Elysee, Talor Bennett, and Jillian King won the 4x200m Relay.

Volleyball (3-1, 1-1)

Sunday, Feb. 14 - W, 3-2 vs Xavier

Battling back and forth with Xavier in the first four sets, Marshall took the fifth set, 15-10, to win the match. Redshirt senior Ciara Debell recorded her 1,000th career kill, and senior Sydney Lostumo logged her 1,000th career assist.

MBB to travel to Rice

By **NOAH HICKMAN**

THE PARTHENON

The Marshall men's basketball team is scheduled to travel to Texas for a two-game series against the Rice Owls on Feb. 19-20.

Marshall is currently on a three-game winning streak and is coming off a two-game series sweep of Middle Tennessee. The Herd's record is 12-5 overall and 6-4 in Conference USA play.

Senior guard Jarrod West is coming off a career-high 29 points in a 96-85 win over the Middle Tennessee State Blue Raiders on Saturday.

Junior guard Taevion Kinsey said that he always has loved the way that West has played the game.

"To be honest, sometimes I just get stuck watching him play," Kinsey said. "The way he just

manipulates the game, (West is a) true point guard."

Rice is coming off a two-game series, of which the Owls were swept by the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers, dropping to 12-10 overall and 6-8 in C-USA play.

Two sophomore guards lead the Owls: Quincy Olivari, who averages 15.9 points, and 4.8 rebounds, and Travis Eevee, who averages 15 points, 2.2 rebounds and 2.5 assists.

Marshall is led by its three guards: Taevion Kinsey, Jarrod West and redshirt sophomore Andrew Taylor.

Kinsey is tied with UTSA senior guard Jhivvan Jackson for the C-USA lead in points per game at 20.4.

see MBB on pg. 10

Co-athletes of the week: Abi Hugh and Jarrod West

ABOUT ABI HUGH

Class: Freshman
Position: Forward
Hometown: Huntington, W. Va.
Highschool: St. Joseph HS

PERFORMANCE

2 goals against ESTU (W, 2-1 OT)

Scoring two goals in her first college soccer game, freshman Abi Hugh has earned co-athlete of the week honors.

Hugh took three shots – all on target – with two making it to the back of the net. Her two goals were the team's only two goals. Her first came in the



PHOTO COURTESY OF HERDZONE

56th minute on an assist from sophomore Morgan White.

Her second goal, which came in overtime, was the game winner.

ABOUT JARROD WEST

Class: Senior
Position: Guard
Height: 5'11
Weight: 181
Hometown: Clarksburg, W. Va.

PERFORMANCE

15 points, eight assists, four rebounds and one steal vs. MTSU (W, 107-79)

29 points, six assists, three steals and four rebounds vs. MTSU (W, 96-85)

After a career-high scoring performance against Middle Tennessee on Saturday, senior guard Jarrod West has earned co-athlete of the week honors.

West, a captain, led his team to two victories over the weekend, averaging 22 points



ZACHARY HISER | THE PARTHENON

in the two games.

West also averaged seven assists in the two-game series. He leads Conference USA in assists, averaging 6.4 per game.

Not only does he lead C-USA in assists per game, but he also leads the conference in steals, with 2.6 per game.

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The Parthenon, Marshall University's student newspaper, is published by students Wednesdays during the regular semester and every other week during the summer. The editorial staff is responsible for news and editorial content.

CONTACT The Parthenon: 109 Communications Bldg
Marshall University | One John Marshall Drive
Huntington, West Virginia 25755 | parthenon@marshall.edu
@MUParthenon

BRITTANY HIVELY

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
hayes100@marshall.edu

GRANT GOODRICH

SPORTS EDITOR
goodrich24@marshall.edu

EMMA BERRY

COPY EDITOR
BERRY180@marshall.edu

XENA BUNTON

FEATURES EDITOR
BUNTON2@marshall.edu

ISABELLA ROBINSON

NEWS EDITOR
robinson436@marshall.edu

TYLER SPENCE

OPINIONS EDITOR
spence83@marshall.edu

DENISE JACKSON

SOCIAL MEDIA and PODCAST EDITOR
jackson463@marshall.edu

ZACHARY HISER

PHOTO AND GRAPHICS EDITOR
hiser1@marshall.edu

SANDY YORK

FACULTY ADVISER
sandy.york@marshall.edu

EXECUTIVE STAFF

GRACE HEWITT hewitt23@marshall.edu
CATHERINE BLANKENSHIP blankensh403@marshall.edu
ABBY AYES ayes@marshall.edu
CARTER TRUMAN ruman18@marshall.edu

THE PARTHENON'S CORRECTIONS POLICY

"Factual errors appearing in The Parthenon should be reported to the editor immediately following publication. Corrections the editor deems necessary will be printed as soon as possible following the error."

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.

OPINION

Journalism matters.

By **Brittany Hively**
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

I can't help but notice all of the posts about how awful "the media" is, how terrible the news is and for people to stop supporting the news in general.

I'd like to be the devil's advocate, in a way, and tell you to turn off the big corporate news channels and tune in to your local news (and make sure it is an authentic, local news outlet).

Local journalists work hard to bring you relevant and accurate news. And honestly, it is not a high-paying job, so I promise you it has nothing to do with money. Many journalists do it for the love of telling people the stories they need or never knew they needed to hear.

Your local newspapers are who spread the word about the new project someone is doing for the town, publish your kid's letters to Santa, share the news about that new business opening up and so much more.

I would also like to say, stop believing everything you read on social media.

Yes, news stations have turned to social media to build a presence and expand their brand, but believe it or not, anyone can make a Facebook page, Twitter account, YouTube channel and so forth. Also, anyone can add news to the title.

There is currently a "local news" Facebook page that is actually a guy that just wanted to share relevant news to constituents in his county. He is not a journalist. He does not work for a news station. My guess is he only knows what he sees and doesn't reach out to verify the information. This gentleman shares extremely biased information and posts, not all of them are

factual. This causes a lot of chaos. It also causes people to doubt legitimate news sources because they think sites such as these share accurate and objective news. They are not; they are merely confident citizens.

How do you get around this? Fact-check what you read. Research the "news" station you are getting your information. Do not believe everything from one angle. Do not be afraid to research a news story or situation from different angles and sources to get all of the facts and information.

So, while yes, there may be some apparent biases in those large news stations- this has been happening since the beginning of news outlets. While you fact-check, turn to the local journalists, your neighbors and support them. Without local news sources, a lot of wonderful things, people, programs, etc. would go unnoticed.

Journalism matters.

Brittany Hively can be contacted at hayes100@marshall.edu.



Politics prevail over justice - again.

EDITORIAL

For months before the 2020 election on Nov. 3, former President Trump set himself up in case of defeat. Mr. Trump spread misinformation all over Twitter and his other platforms, claiming the Democrats were attempting to steal the election, with debunked claims that mail-in ballots are prone to fraud.

It was clear that Mr. Trump believed it would be impossible to defeat him. What ensued after his defeat was incredibly predictable and in line with his behavior throughout his term. Republicans were silent throughout this period and left the social media companies to fact-check the President for them.

Once Fox News had called Arizona for Joe Biden (notably earlier than other networks like CNN and MSNBC), Mr. Trump began lashing out on the network. Once the red wave had vanished in Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Georgia, Mr. Trump refused to concede and unleashed a wide swath of conspiracy theories about a stolen election.

Some of his strongest allies were quick to rally around this idea. Unsurprisingly, a severe lack of evidence quickly inspired most courts to dismiss the numerous lawsuits filed, including the Supreme Court, which rejected to hear a Texas lawsuit attempting to disenfranchise 10 million voters in swing states.

Fast forward to January, influential Republicans like Senator Mitch McConnell finally began to denounce Mr. Trump's spread of conspiracies and misinformation. However, most

still did not condemn the spread as potentially dangerous to any serious degree.

Jan. 6 was the dramatic statement many of Mr. Trump's allies and silent dissenters needed to break away publicly. Notably, secretaries in Mr. Trump's cabinet like former Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos and former Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney.

The articles of impeachment were quickly filed in response to Trump's fiery speech before the attack and his rhetoric in the weeks prior. The House of Representatives quickly passed the articles with 10 supporting Republican votes. Still, it was stalled as Mitch McConnell refused to begin the trial until after Joe Biden was inaugurated as President, where Mr. Trump was ultimately acquitted.

The 10 Republican votes in the house and seven in the senate are not enough. The conviction was not only warranted but absolutely needed to show that the behavior of Mr. Trump and his supporters demonstrated during the last months of his term is unacceptable in the United States.

The show of loyalty to the former President and his supporters shows the disarray the GOP is likely to face in the upcoming years and their indifference to the constitutional processes that keep our democracy intact. With more rising stars like Nicki Haley distancing herself from Mr. Trump after the attack at the capital, the GOP has a choice to make.

It has already chosen not to be impartial jurors in the impeachment trial, now it must decide

to appease an extremely loyal base of Trump's supporters or rebrand the republican party into something viable in future elections.

The GOP could have done themselves a favor by barring Mr. Trump from holding office again, but they have left the door open for his reappearance in a 2024 presidential bid. If the GOP truly loves this country, they will let Mr. Trump's term fade into a distant memory and find others to run in 2024.

The Parthenon is committed to publishing a wide variety of opinions and perspectives. If you wish to submit a guest column or a letter to the editor, email parthenon@marshall.edu or email the opinion editor, Tyler Spence at spence83@marshall.edu.



ART STUDENTS cont. from 2

“For me personally, things haven’t been all that different,” Sheppard said. “I’m a computer person, and I’ve taken online classes before, so it wasn’t really that big an adjustment for me.”

Sheppard, however, did acknowledge that this was not the same case for other art students. “I know a lot of my friends who haven’t taken a lot of online courses or just aren’t computer savvy had a lot of technical issues,” Sheppard said. “They struggled with submitting things onto Blackboard, or finding

discussion boards, and lots of other stuff.”

Sheppard revealed that, in some ways, the switch to virtual courses has actually helped his creative process.

“Working in the same classroom as my professor sort of stresses me out,” Sheppard said. “Being able to work in my own place and going at my own paced helped me get through issues by myself.”

Miranda Valles can be contacted at valles1@live.marshall.edu.

MEN cont. from pg. 3

“Men are often called the ‘silent sufferers’ in terms of mental health,” Layne said. “They tend to under-utilize mental health services to avoid looking weak.”

She encourages people to consider the importance of mental health in their everyday lives, and to treat people with kindness and empathy regardless of their gender.

“It is important for men to recognize what mental health is to make sure they don’t suffer

alone,” Layne said. “This issue goes deeper than the university; it starts at home and continues in our everyday lives.”

Layne said she expects this event to be a wonderful way to promote mental health for men and encourage students to take advantage of the services offered to them by the Counseling Center.

Madison Perdue can be contacted at perdue118@marshall.edu.

MBB cont. from 6

Andrew Taylor averages 10.7 points, 6.2 rebounds and 4.2 assists per game. The assist total is the third most of any player in C-USA and the total rebounds per game is tied for first in terms of rebounds by a guard (Kinsey also averages 6.2 a game).

Jarrod West leads all of C-USA in assists and steals, averaging 6.4 assists and 2.6 steals a game respectively. He averages 13.6 points and 3.7 rebounds to go along with it.

West said that the Marshall basketball team can compete with anybody and can win in a variety of different ways.

“I really think we got a versatile team as far as how we can play,” West said. “I feel like we can win a grind out game if need be.”

All of Marshall’s wins this season have come by a margin of seven or more points and they have not lost by double digits this season.

The two-game series against Rice will take place at Tudor Fieldhouse in Houston, Texas.

Both games are scheduled to air on ESPN+ at 3 p.m. on Feb. 19-20.

Noah Hickman can be contacted at hickman76@marshall.edu.



ZACHARY HISER | PHOTO EDITOR

SURVEY cont. from pg. 2

Koontz sent the survey to all students through the student email directory and plans to do a follow-up mailing to student organizations and student offices dedicated to improving school diversity.

Koontz said she is very pleased with the feedback the study has received already. In two days, the study received around 600 participants. “I am ecstatic, I could not be more excited about the response, and I’m hoping that even with our more targeted roll-out of the survey, those numbers will increase. Everyone’s feedback is valuable and helps us make more informed decisions about what we want to do moving forward.”

Students who complete the anonymous survey will have the option of

entering a drawing for one of 12 \$25 Amazon gift cards.

The survey will be accessible throughout the month of February for any student who wishes to participate.

Madison Perdue can be contacted at perdue118@marshall.edu.

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RECRUITING cont. from 6

Offensive coordinator Tim Cramsey will have the Parkersburg area. Wide receivers coach Clint Trickett, born in Morgantown, West Virginia, will have north/central West Virginia and the eastern panhandle.

Running back coach Telly Lockette will focus on southeast West Virginia while special teams coordinator Jeremy Springer will apply his efforts to southern West Virginia.

Linebackers coach Shannon Morrison will handle the northern panhandle, and Ralph Street will take care of eastern West Virginia.

The local area will be under

tight ends coach Bill Legg's watch, and cornerbacks coach Dominique Bowman will team up with Trickett for northern/central West Virginia.

Although there is an evident focus of recruiting inside the ring, Huff said that they will obviously have to recruit outside of it. Still, the biggest motto for his recruiting philosophy, he said, is that "we have to out-evaluate other teams."

"We've got to do a really good job of looking at the film," Huff said. "We've got to do a really good job of identifying the criteria that we look for in players that fit our systems."

So far, Huff and his staff have shown that it does not matter if a player is a four-star recruit or an unranked recruit; they will go after them if they fit the criteria.

"We should be recruiting top-50 players in the country," Huff said. "We've got a top-50 product in the country."

Huff said that one of the earliest things he learned from Nick Saban is that it is not about signing the most players or anything else; it is about signing the right players.

But Huff said he and his staff are realistic, knowing that not every player they have offered will end up being the right player.

"If they decide that they don't want to go to prom with us," Huff said, keeping up the prom metaphor, "then we'll find another one that we want to go to prom with; that's how it works."

Grant Goodrich can be contacted at goodrich24@marshall.edu.

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Woodson Lyceum hosts panel on minority health

BY MADISON PERDUE
REPORTER

As the pandemic continues and the promise of immunization climbs, many African Americans across the country question the new vaccine's reliability and the fervent encouragement for the public to take it.

To alleviate fears and promote public health, the Marshall University Carter G. Woodson Lyceum hosted a virtual event on Wednesday, Feb. 10, to educate the public on the myths surrounding the vaccine.

This event, titled "Disparities in Health Care During the Pandemic," discussed relevant health-related issues surrounding the African American community and other minority groups during the pandemic.

Guest speakers. Dr. Leonard White of Marshall University's Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine led the conversation and urged African Americans to get the vaccine to protect themselves against the virus.

Dr. White began his presentation by putting to rest myths about the vaccine. White said the vaccine does not give patients the disease and explained how the vaccine works in detail. He addressed African Americans' deeply embedded suspicion of the American healthcare system. He cited the most infamous instances of African American mistreatment by healthcare professionals, such as the Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment. Black men in Alabama were given syphilis without their knowledge and denied treatment for four decades before being exposed by the media.

He also discussed other unethical medical practices, such as the use of African American cells without permission, that have caused minority groups to be wary of the vaccine and the healthcare system itself. Dr. White said that while these concerns are valid, the vaccine was one of the best defenses against the virus and refusing to take it would make the African American community more vulnerable.

White explained that many are suspicious of how quickly companies created the vaccine, but they cut no corners in the development. He said previous knowledge of related viruses, sufficient funding and the amount of manpower all contributed to the vaccine's timeliness. He said there were numerous efforts to slow the pandemic through vaccine distribution.

"We need to consider taking the vaccine," he said. "The vac-

cine is important to all communities and avoiding the vaccine can worsen racial health disparities."

Huntington Mayor Steve Williams made an appearance to introduce Dr. White's conversation with an anecdote about how Dr. White helped him take care of his type two diabetes. Williams received consistent feedback from Dr. White about his health and the changes he needed to make to stay healthy.

"What I am doing as mayor is what I have waited a lifetime to be able to do: help my community," Williams said. "Dr. White helped me understand that everything I was working towards was put at risk, because I wasn't taking care of myself."

Charles Huff, head football coach at Marshall University and former associate coach of the University of Alabama, also spoke to the community about the vaccine. He urged listeners to educate themselves and their families, place trust in the American healthcare system and "dissect the narrative" of recent events, directing attention to more minor, more personal actions that make an impact.

"This is a united fight," Huff said. "We've got to educate ourselves and our families. This vaccine is going to give us a chance to save people around us and get back to our normal lives. We have to make it a personal responsibility to educate ourselves."

Jill Upson, chair of the West Virginia Advisory Commission on African American Disparities and executive director of the Herbert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs, spoke about the impact of COVID-19 on minority groups. Upson said significant disparities began to emerge in early April through the data collected by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Upson began to participate in meetings at the White House and found that the pandemic affected minorities differently nationwide. Upson formed the African American COVID-19 Advisory Commission on Racial Disparities at the governor's request to address these issues. This task force put together testing sites for underserved communities and now focuses on equitable distribution of the vaccine.

Upson said she spoke with representatives from FEMA



ZACHARY HISER | PHOTO EDITOR

about transportation issues and vaccine accessibility for those who cannot leave their homes, especially the elderly or disabled.

"I am happy to report that they are looking into solutions," Upson said. "They are looking into ways to get into homes and put medical teams together to vaccinate people without having to leave their homes."

Other participants in this event included Dr. Lauri Andress of the West Virginia University School of Public Health and Dr. Joseph Shapiro, dean of Marshall's Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine. They discussed the disparities of infant mortalities in West Virginia and health disparities for mothers and infants in minority groups.

Madison Perdue can be contacted at perdue118@marshall.edu.