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## The Parthenon, February 24, 2021

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# THE PARTHENON

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**"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."  
-Barack Obama**



MALCOLM X

KATHERINE JOHNSON

MAYA ANGELOU

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR

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

ZACH HISER | PHOTO EDITOR

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# Queer to Slay creates safe space for LGBTQ+ students

By **MIRANDA VALLES**

Marshall's LGBTQ+ Office is hosting peer-to-peer group meetings for students every Tuesday and Thursday at 6 p.m.

Queer to Slay is an all-inclusive support group that aims to provide a community and safe space for students and to connect them to resources that are not readily available to them.

The Director of Intercultural and International students, Shaunte Polk, said that when she realized there was a lack of systemic support both within Huntington and the state of West Virginia, she knew that she had to create an opportunity for Marshall students.

"We had students on campus who just wanted to connect with other students and for someone to help them through certain situations," Polk said. "Nobody knows what you need the way your community does."

Polk said that while she encourages students to seek professional care if needed, she knew that this, while a helpful option,

is not one many can afford.

Polk also said that the group's non-professional aspect is even more appealing because the atmosphere that a more professional environment that often makes young people feel like they are being examined or analyzed and can cause anxieties as a result.

"When I talked to students about the experience, they seemed to really enjoy it," Polk said. "It actually rivaled another support group on campus where they had actual specialists. A lot of students find that they just feel uncomfortable."

Polk said that this particular support group, similar to other, more focused groups like 'Translate,' has a peer leader' rotational system. This year, Brandon Hensley, a Social Work major and senior at Marshall University, leads the group.

"I began hosting seminars for Queer to Slay support last week partially in compliance with my Social Work 634 class

'Practice with Groups/Organizations,' but I also identify as LGBTQ+," Hensley said. "And with the population, I wanted to create a group and opportunities for all individuals with interest to get together and provide questions, topics of discussion and most importantly a safe space for everyone to feel welcome."

Hensley said that he personally feels like the group is important to him because it allows him to communicate with other LGBTQ+ individuals and connect with others who will appreciate them, wish to know more about them and understand their experiences.

"Providing safe opportunities for students, staff and all individuals to discuss these matters is my goal," Hensley said. "For unanswered questions to be answered, and for people to not feel alone."

Queer to Slay will meet every Tuesday and Thursday at 6

# Campus Carry Bill resurfaces in state legislature, prompting response

By **TYLER SPENCE**  
OPINION EDITOR

Under current statutes in West Virginia, college campuses remain an exception for places one can visit and conceal carry a weapon without a permit. Earlier this month, the West Virginia Senate introduced article HB2519 to change this and create what is commonly referred to as "campus carry."

Texas passed similar legislation in 2015, and many advocates believe gun owners were being barred from their second amendment rights while on a college campus. Advocates also say students may need to defend themselves if a shooting occurs, and current rules would not allow this.

Those opposed to the legislation say the change will make college campuses a more dangerous environment. The safety risks outweigh the positives, and the logistical challenges of students owning guns on campus would be financially costly.

Although it was met with protests at colleges across the state, the bill initially passed the West Virginia House of Delegates in 2019 but failed narrowly in the Senate. Since then, it has been reintroduced, and the timeline on when the vote will occur is still uncertain. The bill has had

general support from most republican members and seemingly unanimous opposition from democrats. However, it should be noted multiple republicans broke with party lines in 2019 to stop the advancement of the bill.

"We are confident that if we follow the example set forth by Mississippi and others that we can implement this safely and effectively. We understand that there will be those that set out to do harm regardless of laws and wish that those who are responsible gun owners have the right to defend themselves without fear of breaking the law," said Jonathan McCormick, the advisor for College Republicans at Marshall University.

The bill has been met with strong opposition on colleges and university campuses throughout the state, including Marshall University President Dr. Jerome Gilbert and Marshall University Police Chief Jim Terry.

"It's just not a good idea. It's a safety concern for us," said Chief Terry in an interview.

Beyond the safety concerns of students owning guns on campus, Terry mentioned the added cost and the complications it would cause for the university and referenced the University of Texas at Austin forced to designate entire floors of residence halls as "armed floors."

President Gilbert has been vocal about his opposition to the bill and recently wrote an op-ed in the Charleston Gazette-Mail.

"People on college campuses do not need to be carrying firearms. They are not necessary on our campuses and pose a threat to the health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff. Contrary to what some people believe, on balance, the risk to our safety certainly outweighs any perceived added protection from carrying a gun," Gilbert said in the piece.

"If they are going to pass this, are they going to pass the same thing in the capitol? My only concern is to let us decide, let the student body decide, let the faculty decide, the student government associations decide. It should be an individual campus choice."

The Parthenon attempted to contact five members of the House of Delegates, four Republicans and one Democrat, representing the Huntington area to know whether these delegates would be supporting the legislation. None have answered requests for a statement or an interview...

**see CAMPUS CARRY on pg. 10**



# Pharmacy fraternity hosts drive-thru food collection

**By Isabella Robinson**  
NEWS EDITOR

The Marshall School of Pharmacy's Phi Delta Chi Professional Pharmacy Fraternity will host a drive-thru food collection to benefit the Facing Hunger Foodbank this Friday, Feb. 26 from noon to 5 p.m.

"The day of the drive, we will collect the donations and have them organized at the school," said Paige Moore, Worthy Chief Counselor of Phi Delta Chi. "We are doing this in the safest way possible so that donors are comfortable if they want to leave their cars or if they don't want to leave their cars."

The organization will accept non-perishable food items and cash.

Moore said to drop items off. The method is up to the discretion of each individual donor.

"We will be more than happy if they just open the back of their trunk, and we can remove the items that way," said Moore. "Or, if they are not comfortable with us being within

their car, they are welcome to drop it off in our designated area where they can place their donations."

She said the main difference between the food drive during the pandemic versus prior is the contactless donation process.

"It's just going to be people coming up and dropping their items off, and there will probably be a little less of the comradery seen at past events," said Moore. "In that aspect, COVID has changed it."

Donors may enter the Charleston Avenue side of Stephen J. Kopp Hall and exit via 11th Street.

"We ask them, of course, to have a mask on," said Moore. To ensure all participants' safety, staff and students will work the event. Staff will maintain social distancing and masking requirements.

"I think it is important to the community,

certainly with the recent weather and the pandemic, foodbanks could use some help," said Eric Blough, associate dean of academic and curricular affairs at the School of Pharmacy. "I think this is a way we can give back a little bit to the community and also teach our students how to give back and be good stewards of the community."

Some of the most requested items are non-perishable items, said Moore.

"Things such as canned fruit, beans and peanut butter are always needed due to their long shelf life," she said. "Pasta also has a decent shelf life, so really anything that is not likely to expire just so it can be kept for however long necessary to transport the food to areas that might need it the most."

Blough said the pharmacy school collected over 1,300 pounds of food and \$660 during the school's last two food drives.

"I'm proud of our students' commitment to meeting the needs of our community," said Blough.

In the past, Moore says pharmacy students would bring items to their in-person courses and leave them in a designated spot as a competition between the different pharmacy classes.

"COVID has certainly changed the way we do this," said Moore. "As a school and as a student organization, we have had to get really creative in how we can participate in our community."

Moore says she is happy with any donations they collect on Friday, and Facing Hunger Foodbank is appreciative of everything they can do to help.

**see FOOD BANK on pg. 11**

# Theatre department transitions to virtual learning

**By Miranda Valles**  
REPORTER



COURTESY OF THE THEATRE DEPARTMENT

With the decision to remain for the most part, virtual in regards to activities and classes, Marshall's theatre students are left to adapt their art to unconventional means.

Unlike other departments, the theatre department made the decision to remain mostly in-person, given the crippling effect it would have on the students whose learning-styles rely on the in-person experience.

Gage Snodgrass, a junior in the theatre department said that the switch to online has only really made productions themselves difficult.

"It's been a real challenge because

of course we have to adhere to social distancing," Snodgrass said. "Typically we have to take a 10 minute break in between rehearsals to make sure the space gets aired out. And we of course have to wear face masks."

Snodgrass said he expects that the virtual transition will not only affect student and school productions, but theatre productions worldwide.

"I feel like the entire scope of entertainment will have to change to accommodate this," Snodgrass said. "We're already seeing that. Actors I've talked to through our workshops talk about how they've gone

months without auditioning, and things are just barely resurging."

Snodgrass said that while it has certainly been challenging, the switch to virtual hasn't been all that bad.

"Everybody's has become closer throughout these difficult times, so I've been able to make a lot of really good friends," Snodgrass said. "It's a positive thing for me, I'd say, just being able to experience this whole landscape of entertainment through a screen."

**Miranda Valles can be contacted at [valles1@live.marshall.edu](mailto:valles1@live.marshall.edu)**

# Marshall Alumni: Where are we now? Glen Midkiff



PHOTO COURTESY OF GLEN MIDKIFF

By **Brittany Hively**  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

A four-time graduate of Marshall University, Glen Midkiff knew early on that higher education was the career he wanted to pursue.

“Ever since I was an RA [resident assistant] at Marshall, I fell in love with working with students and working in this type of environment,” Midkiff, director of stakeholder engagement, Lewis College of Business (LCOB), Marshall University said. “I didn’t know it was a possibility until I became an RA.”

Midkiff went on to work as a resident director for Michigan State University and an assistant director at the University of Louisville before returning to Marshall to work as an event and public relations coordinator.

While Midkiff also worked at Mountwest and Technical College for a few years, falling in love with Marshall in his early years eventually brought him back to the university.

“I was a graduate assistant and resident director here on campus,” Midkiff said. “And fell in love with Marshall and fell in love with working in higher ed.”

Midkiff says his favorite part has always been

working with the students and seeing them succeed.

“Seeing their growth and development and seeing them be successful and helping them along their journey by giving them resources,” Midkiff says. “It thrills me to get a phone call or an email from a student or a graduate that says, ‘you helped me find that internship, you helped me find that job.’ That’s my applause. I feel very blessed to do that work.”

Along with his work in the LCOB, Midkiff keeps busy with various organizations and events throughout Marshall and the Huntington community.

“The great thing about Huntington and Marshall, they’re interconnected, so a lot of their events will overlap. Even with our student organizations,” Midkiff said. “We try to combine our resources and look at ways we can collaborate with one another. I look at opportunities where I can connect with various student groups, organizations, faculty, alumni and community organizations; that way, we can all be successful and can have a great outcome.”

Being the director of stakeholder engagement for the LCOB at Marshall, Midkiff is often asked what exactly that means and said it took him some time to figure it out himself.

“I wear many different hats: maintaining relationships and keeping that communication going. It could be by one-on-one meetings; it could be through marketing or public relations. It could be through our social media channels, as well,” Midkiff said. “We use a variety of different ways to communicate with those constituencies. We use a variety of different ways to reach out to them and make sure they stay connected to Marshall and the Lewis College of Business.”

Midkiff says his work with all of the various groups and collaborative work is essentially his dream job.

“I get to work pretty much with every different group that you can imagine. I get to collaborate with so many different people and do lots of different things,” said Midkiff.

To be successful with the various areas his job entails, Midkiff says he has to be mindful of

time-management.

“It’s taken me 48 years to figure out, and I still don’t have it figured out,” Midkiff said. “I try to take care of pressing issues and get that down first [first thing in the morning]. I carve out time where I can actually speak to alumni and specific stakeholders.”

While consistency seems to be Midkiff’s go-to, he says taking care of yourself is the most important thing.

“But the most important thing I’d say is to take time for yourself and realizing what you can do to maintain your own personal wellness and your health,” he said. “Whether that’s your lunch break, getting away from the office for a little bit, taking a walk, making sure you have that as well, so you don’t feel overwhelmed.”

Midkiff says his favorite thing about his job is getting to connect students and graduates to employers and vice versa. He says he loves the feeling of helping talent connect and help them discover where they are meant to be.

Earlier this year, he won the Bob Hayes Staff Award, which has been his proudest moment thus far.

“I love Marshall with all my heart and have a great affinity for it and try to do my best to make sure Marshall is promoted and taken care of,” Midkiff said. “I want to make sure people know what a great place Marshall is to work and also to get an education.”

Midkiff encourages anyone interested in higher education to become an RA and get involved in various campus activities and events. He said these things would get students out there and help them gain confidence and courage to work with different people.

He also encourages internships on campus for graduate students to gain experience.

As for his future, Midkiff says his plans include pursuing his doctorate and possibly moving on to an assistant dean or other leadership roles within higher education.

**Brittany Hively can be contacted at [hayes100@marshall.edu](mailto:hayes100@marshall.edu).**



# Students prepare for classes to resume

By ISABELLA ROBINSON  
NEWS EDITOR



Marshall students are preparing to brave the winter weather as classes resume following a week of cancellations and delays due to weather conditions and power outages.

“Out of all the time I have been at Marshall, which has been a little over three years now, we have never been off for so long,” said Darby McCloud, a senior commuter student. “I know we have had a snow day every now and then, but I have never seen something like a week off at Marshall.”

Marshall began to respond to the winter storm by closing campus at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 10.

The university canceled both in-person and virtual classes on Wednesday, Feb. 10 and Thursday, Feb. 11. Then the university ordered a two-hour delay and the early closure of campus on Monday, Feb. 15, which led to the cancelation of classes for the entirety of the week.

McCloud said she believes it was necessary for Marshall to close all week.

“When this all happened, the first thing I thought of was ‘how am I going to get to campus?’ I have one in-person class,” said McCloud.

McCloud said she commutes from a hollow in Chesapeake, Ohio, where it is difficult to drive to campus in icy weather.

“Last Thursday, we lost power for a couple of days, and then it came on, and now since Monday, we have not had anything,” said McCloud.

McCloud said that virtual classes were equally necessary to cancel due to the mass power outages leaving students without internet access.

Sara Al-Astal, a senior commuter student, said she lost power the evening of Friday, Feb. 12.

“I got lucky because we have not had class since the power went out Friday. It was just really hard because my brother and I would have to wake up every morning hoping that classes were canceled because we did not have internet access or electricity, and I could not charge anything.”

Al-Astal said she could not make any arrangements to do her homework for her classes. “There are no hard and fast guidelines,” said Ginny Painter, Senior Vice President for Communications and Marketing, regarding the process of deciding university closures and delays. “Each situation is different, and judgment calls have to be made each time.”

Al-Astal said she and her brother would have benefited if the school was Feb. 15 instead of the two-hour delay that the university issued.

“Generally, an ad-hoc group representing the offices of the president, provost/academic affairs, public safety, operations/physical plant, human resources and university communications meets by phone to discuss the condition of campus grounds and facilities. They review road conditions and the power outage situation,” said Painter.

In-person classes may be delayed or canceled if the weather impacts roads, while virtual classes may continue.

“I know a lot of people like myself; we have hills leading up to our houses that are really dangerous and do not get salted when weathers get bad,” said Al-Astal. “Anything small could have happened driving on them, and it would have been a very dangerous situation.”

The ad-hoc group uses information from agencies such as the Department of Highways, National Weather Service, regional power utilities and other sources to determine what to do during extreme weather, said Painter.

“If there are also widespread power outages and large numbers of students and/or faculty may not have power, then virtual classes may also be delayed/canceled,” said Painter.

Al-Astal said that given the situation as a commuter student, she would appreciate it if all professors understood their students’ varying situations.

“Even other faculty members that they work with are also without power, so the only reasonable and humane thing to do is to postpone everything simply a week back, even though some things would be cut out of the material,” said Al-Astal.

Al-Astal said it is unfair to put the additional stress of assignments being due while classes are canceled because some students have no way to access them without WiFi at home.

“I know some professors that have still been uploading lectures and saying that this is basically class time and [students] should still be watching these videos,” said Al-Astal.

Al-Astal said she has had many professors adjust their class schedules to accommodate the inclement weather.

“The safety of students should be the most important thing,” said Al-Astal. “No student should be sitting in the dark worrying about whether they are going to fail a class or not because professors have not moved their deadlines back.”

Classes are set to resume this week, and there is no current forecast predicting another major storm.

**Isabella Robinson can be contacted at [robinson436@marshall.edu](mailto:robinson436@marshall.edu).**

# Men's basketball preapres for trip to Texas



ZACHARY HISER | THE PARTHENON

The Marshall men's basketball team gathers at the free-throw line following warmups against Middle Tennessee on Friday, Feb. 12.

**By NOAH HICKMAN**  
THE PARTHENON

Looking to improve its standing in Conference USA, the Marshall men's basketball team will host the west division's leader, the North Texas Mean Green, at the Cam Henderson Center for a two-game series.

"We got to go in with the same intensity and same preparation every week," senior guard Jarrod West said. "We have to be focused; we have to be ready to go."

Marshall sits in third place in the C-USA East division with an overall record of 12-5 and a conference record of 6-4. The Herd has won five out of its last six games, with Old Dominion

being the sole loss in that six-game span.

North Texas is in first place in the C-USA west division with an overall record of 12-6 and a conference record of 8-2, having won seven of its last eight games; its lone loss came against Louisiana Tech.

"They have a good team," West said, "and I think the most important thing is they play hard... If you don't match their intensity, it's hard to beat them."

Leading the way for North Texas is senior guard Javion Hamlet. He averages 13.4 points, 4.2 assists and 2.9 rebounds a game.

Senior guard James Reese and senior forward Zachary Simmons also play a key role in the

Mean Green's success.

Reese averages 10.8 points, 4.2 rebounds, 1.5 assists and 1.4 steals per game while Simmons averages 10.4 points, 6.2 rebounds and 2.2 assists per game.

The Herd are led by its three guards: junior Taevion Kinsey, senior Jarrod West and redshirt sophomore Andrew Taylor.

"You better have good guards, or you're not going to win," head coach Dan D'Antoni said. "And we have three good guards who can take care of the basketball; they can score; they can pass... they're willing defenders, and that's why I think we're a dangerous team to anybody we play."

**see MBB on pg. 10**

## Men's golf ramping up for spring season

**By GRANT GOODRICH**  
SPORTS EDITOR

After a longer than normal offseason, the Marshall men's golf team is set to take the course next weekend for the first time in a year.

But even though the offseason has been abnormal, the uniqueness of golf allowed most of his players to compete on the course away from college, head coach Matt Grobe said.

"The majority of our upperclassmen, who had all their classes virtually or online, were able to travel a little bit and still be able to play some golf," Grobe said.

One of those golfers who was able to compete during the summer was senior Noah Mullens, who has yet to play for the Herd after transferring from Southern Wesleyan last season.

From Milton, West Virginia, Mullens said that he is excited to play in some tournaments with his teammates.

"A lot of us haven't played a college tournament for over a year now," Mullens said, "and I know all of us are just so excited to go out and compete again."

As the schedule stands, Marshall will play in six different tournaments before the

conference tournament begins April 26.

Grobe said that all the tournaments scheduled offer everything that he looks for when putting together a schedule.

"My goal is to find these guys the best completion I can find them and put them on the best golf courses we can be on," Grobe said, "and we're playing several of my favorites."

Brad Plaziak, a senior golfer from Georgia, said that he is especially excited to start the season because the first four courses are close to home.

**see GOLF on pg. 10**

## Dias named C-USA offensive player of the week

**By GRANT GOODRICH**  
SPORTS EDITOR

After a two-goal performance against WVU Tech, junior forward Victor Dias was named Conference USA Offensive Player of the Week, the league announced Tuesday.

On top of his career-high two goals, Dias compiled two assists.

The Brazil native played only in the second half, as did most of the Herd's experienced players.

He was apart of the eight goal barrage in the second half.

Dias' back-to-back goals came in the 67th and 71th minute, respectively.



ZACHARY HISER | THE PARTHENON

Junior forward Victor Dias controls the ball against Ohio Valley on Saturday, Feb. 13.



# Weekend Recap

## Women's Basketball (6-8, 5-7)

Saturday, Feb. 20 - L, 64-48 vs Rice

Sunday, Feb. 21 - W, 68-56 vs Rice

In game one, Rice got off to a fast start, of which Marshall could not recover. In game two, the Herd was the team who got off to a hot start. Although Rice fought back to take the lead, the Herd pulled away in the fourth quarter to win on senior day, defeating the top team in C-USA.

## Women's Golf

Feb. 21 - Feb. 22 - 12th place finish

Finishing best for Marshall, senior Kerri Parks tied for 17th individually. In the final round, she shot a plus-1, 73, improving nine strokes from round two.

## Men's Soccer (1-0-1)

Sunday, Feb. 21 - W, 10-1 vs WVU Tech

Scoring 10 goals for the first time since 1985, Marshall's offense erupted with seven different players scoring a goal. Eight of the 10 goals were scored in the second half when the more experienced players came into the game. Victor Dias, Jan-Erik Leinhos and Milo Yosef scored two goals apiece.

## Women's Tennis (3-2)

Friday, Feb. 19 - W, 7-0 vs Bellarmine

In its first sweep of the season, Marshall tennis extended its win streak to two games in dominating fashion.

## Track and Field

Feb. 20 - Feb. 21 - 6th place finish (50 points)

Although it was a sixth place finish out of 12 teams, Marshall track and field earned its best finish in program history at the Conference USA Indoor Championships. The Herd also garnered its most ever individual All-Conference USA honors with accolades in six different events.

## Volleyball (5-1, 3-1)

Sunday, Feb. 21 - W, 3-0 vs FIU

Monday, Feb. 22 - W, 3-0 vs FIU

Sweeping FIU in back-to-back matches, Marshall improved to 5-1 on the season. Senior Ciara Debell had a combined 22 kills in the two matches - 11 in each. Junior Macy McElhaney combined for 17 kills, and both redshirt freshman Olivia Fogo and senior Destiny Leon tallied 13 kills total in the two matches.

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# THE PARTHENON

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"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

# Respect the dead, even the ones you don't like

By **Carter Truman**  
EXECUTIVE STAFF

Proving they are indeed the party of love and compassion, the progressive left took to Twitter last Wednesday to kick dirt at a dead man from the comforts of their cell phones. Rush Limbaugh, a prominent conservative radio host, died Wednesday, Feb. 17, from lung cancer. Following the announcement of Limbaugh's death, a herd of leftists stormed onto Twitter to rejoice. A man they found mean died of lung cancer, and if you are wondering, yes, the irony of the situation was lost on them. Here are just a few highlights from Twitter that day: "What do you call the time it takes between burying Rush Limbaugh and the first person to piss on his grave? A Rush hour," tweeted by user @StopTheCriminal.

"Here's some good news I've been wanting to share: Rush Limbaugh is still dead." tweeted by @FrankConnif.

"NOTE TO ANYONE DANCING ON RUSH LIMBAUGH'S GRAVE: Avoid wearing open-toe shoes, as the urine is already several inches deep." tweeted by @BettyBowers.

And to think these kinds of people likely support universal healthcare, what could go wrong with that? If you want to find more of this depressing glimpse into the moral decay of society, just look up the hashtags RotInHell or RestInPiss, as they were trending the day Limbaugh died. Now I'll be the first to admit I didn't listen to Rush Limbaugh. Truthfully, until he died, I had only seen him once on Family Guy. So no doubt some readers will say, "Well Carter, if you didn't listen to him you can't know all the mean horrible things he said," and that's a fair point. An equally fair point is that if you hated him so much, I'd bet you didn't listen to him either. Instead, you Googled a highlight reel of all the terrible things he said over his 30 some year career, so not exactly giving the devil his due either. My point isn't

that we should defend everything Limbaugh said. My point is that if you celebrate his death, you are as bad a person as you believe him to have been. Your political beliefs or the moral superiority you feel because of them shouldn't get you out of that. I think it is hilarious that people don't understand this. It is said far too little today that the road to Hell is paved with good intentions. You are not the defender of the weak that you think you are. If you mocked Limbaugh after his death, then you are an evil person. It does not matter how much you stand up for noble causes or defend the oppressed. No amount of goodwill make it ok for you to be a monster sometimes.

I hear a lot today from politicians and news that we need unity, that the only way forward is to come together. I think this is an excellent idea. But how are you supposed to come together when people think just because someone was mean and hurtful, that gives them full authority to do the same back. So, what is the solution? How do we move forward from this? Well, I am glad you asked. First, you could recognize all the bad things we are all capable of doing, don't be blinded by this notion that you are a good person that can do no wrong, you're not. Then I would suggest taking a verse from the Bible; "Turn the other cheek" as it were. We aren't going to be able to unite if everyone keeps attacking each other over all the little grievances we have; at some point, you have to be the bigger person. Finally, although it may be hard for some, please do try not to take too much pleasure in the deaths of your political enemies; it's a little off-putting.

**Carter Truman can be contacted at truman18@marshall.edu**



# Desensitized to death

## OPINION

**Tyler Spence**  
OPINION EDITOR



The nation has now surpassed a haunting 500,000 deaths due to the coronavirus, a number that would have seemed unfathomable less than a year ago. Too many Americans have lost grandparents, brothers, aunts, and friends. As the pandemic wears on, with the first real glimmers of light beginning to emerge from the tunnel into normal life, we have lost a sense of respect for life in the process.

This unfortunate phenomenon is true, not only in actual death seen all around us which many of us have now experienced, but the death of our minds and the very fabrics of our social society. Last summer, most states began to make a trade, reopen and allow for more death for the farce of an open economy and our social lives back. This was a bad deal from the start. The promise of reopening and of “normalcy” was hollow and instead filled with masks, isolation, virtual reality, and pointless educational zoom calls, all for the

chance to eat indoors and go to the bar. It seems likely that a true shut down as seen in countries like New Zealand, would have given us the lives we asked for much faster. Life filled with full capacity concerts and sports arenas, something that has seemed impossible to achieve in the United States

Instead of reopening school for our children, we reopened bars and clubs. Instead of daycares, we chose NFL stadiums and political rallies. There is nothing wrong with wanting to reopen bars, stadiums and events in a safe way, but the order of operations in which these took place was not backed up by science or importance but by influence and the almighty dollar. Kindergartners went to school on computers while the former president held a rally - largely free of physical distancing and masks - of over 15,000 supporters.

We chose to get the worst of both options. Instead of locking down in a serious way that would truly have mitigated the spread of the disease, we reopened prematurely and received very little of the benefit. Instead, our mental health continued to fall apart when restrictions were re-added or never lifted as cases spiked out of control. Now, 500,000 of us have paid the price for it.

Each one of those 500,000 is a funeral, with a mourning family - someone with dreams, aspirations, and memories. The number doesn't convey the pain felt in every single one of these deaths.

If these 500,000 deaths were at the hands of our enemies in the form of a major terrorist

attack, our nation would be mourning for months and war would undoubtedly have been declared almost immediately. Tens of thousands of men and women would likely volunteer themselves for military service, promising to never allow something like that to ever happen again. During the pandemic, we have created billboards thanking nurses and essential workers and then did exactly what they pleaded with us not to do. When the death is from our own hands, we refuse to take any action in response and refuse to feel any sort of guilt. It will always be easier for others to sacrifice on your behalf and avoid the personal inconvenience of staying home. A German Public Service Announcement asked Germans to be heroic like their previous generations, who lived through the Great Depression and other tremendous hardships including war - while the challenge today was to stay home and watch TV. Clearly, this was too much to ask for in the United States.

This behavior is indicative of a larger cultural trend, we refuse to take pain or harm from others and are quick to establish someone else as the guilty party, but when we harm ourselves it is viewed as inevitable and uncontrollable.

While we look forward to a day where life looks familiar again, I hope we will promise to never make this trade again.

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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](mailto:parthenon@marshall.edu) or email the opinion editor, Tyler Spence at [spence83@marshall.edu](mailto:spence83@marshall.edu).

# Parthe-Pet

Margaret is a three-year-old, beagle-mastiff mix. When she's not playing fetch with sticks, you can find her lounging on the couch. She loves to adventure and go on hikes. She even has her own backpack.



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](mailto:parthenon@marshall.edu)

## CAMPUS CARRY cont. from 2

Chief Terry and President Gilbert have both mentioned their support for the second amendment and their ownership of guns themselves, despite their opposition to this bill. Terry commented about his life-long love of hunting and how he had bought his son a handgun for his 21st birthday.

"But there are some places you just shouldn't have guns," Terry said.

Other universities, including West Virginia University and their

president E. Gordon Gee, have additionally been vocal in their opposition to the bill.

It is still yet to be determined if the bill has gathered enough support in both West Virginia legislature houses. Still, it is clear that both opponents and advocates in the state will continue to debate the bill's advancement until a final resolution is determined.

**Tyler Spence can be contacted at [spence83@marshall.edu](mailto:spence83@marshall.edu).**

## MBB cont. from 6

Kinsey and senior guard Jhivan Jackson lead C-USA in points per game at 20.4. Kinsey also puts up 6.2 rebounds and 3.6 assists while shooting 56.9% from the field.

West puts up 13.6 points, 3.7 rebounds and a C-USA best 6.4 assists per game while Taylor posts 10.7 points, 6.2 rebounds and 4.2 assists per game.

Overall, both teams have shot the ball efficiently from the field this season. They are ranked one and two in C-USA in field goal percentage, with the Thundering Herd shooting 48.2% and the Mean Green shooting 49%

Despite North Texas having the highest field goal percentage in C-USA, they rank seventh in scoring, putting up 72.3 points per game. On the flip side, Marshall is C-USA's highest scoring team, scoring 82.5 points per game.

Marshall also has the edge when it comes to active hands, averaging more blocks and steals than North Texas.

The Herd have managed to post a C-USA high 5.35 blocks per game while the Mean Green only average 2.61 blocks per game (fifth worst in C-USA).

Assists are another category in which the Herd have an advantage over the Mean Green. Marshall averages 17 assists per game while North Texas averages 13.8 assists per game as a team. The Herd also has a better assist/turnover ratio at 1.41 to the Mean Green's 1.02.

One major category that North Texas has over Marshall is opponents points per game, with the Mean Green giving up 61.6 and the Herd allowing 73.1 points per game.

The two games are scheduled to take place at the Cam Henderson Center on Friday, Feb. 26 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 27 at 2 p.m.

Friday's game will air on ESPN while Saturday's will be on Stadium TV.

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### FOOD BANK cont. from pg. 3

"I'm hoping, especially with the weather improving this week, that we will see a decent turnout of people coming through," said Moore.

She said she expects as much or more donations as the last food collection hosted by the pharmacy school this fall.

"I think our location is very convenient for people to drop items off," said Moore. "We still want to provide to our community, but we are doing it separately but together."

Moore said that the relocation of the pharmacy school to a more central part of Huntington has allowed

students to enjoy the opportunity to be more involved in the community.

"A lot of us have a lot of exposure to people in the community, and we have a special insight into what the community really needs," said Moore.

Moore says the inspiration behind the event is the pharmacy school's personal need and the want of pharmacy students to give back.

**Isabella Robinson can be contacted at [robinson436@marshall.edu](mailto:robinson436@marshall.edu).**



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# Worship Directory



To advertise on this page, call Linda at (304) 526-2723

## Fifth Avenue Baptist Church

1135 Fifth Avenue

Corner of Fifth Avenue & 12th Street in downtown Huntington

Sunday Morning Worship – 10:45 am Online Only

Visit our website for Worship Services and for other times of Bible study, worship, and activities for children, youth, and adults.

[www.fifthavenuebaptist.org](http://www.fifthavenuebaptist.org)

304-523-0115

## METHODIST

### Steele Memorial United Methodist Church

733 Shaw St.  
Barboursville, WV 25504  
304-736-4583

Find us on Facebook LIVE for Sunday Service at 10AM and on our Church website [www.steelememorial.com](http://www.steelememorial.com)

Rev. Kevin Lantz  
Rev. Ralph Sager, Associate Pastor

## CATHOLIC

### St. Peter Claver Catholic Church

828 15th St. (on 9th Ave) Htgn.  
304-691-0537

Sunday Mass: 11:00a.m.  
Daily Masses: 12:05 on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday  
Confession by appointment

Rev. Fr. Douglas A. Ondeck

### OUR LADY OF FATIMA Catholic Parish & Parish School

545 Norway Ave., Huntington • 304-525-0866

**Mass Schedule:** Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm  
Sunday 8 am, 11:00 am & 6:30 pm

**Spanish Mass:** Second & Fourth Sundays of each month at 9:30 am

**Las misas en Español:** los domingos segundo y cuarto de cada mes a las 9:30 am

**Confession:** Saturday 3:30 - 4:30 pm or by appointment

[www.ourfatimafamily.com](http://www.ourfatimafamily.com)  
Father Paul Yuenger

### SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH

2015 Adams Ave. Huntington, WV  
304-429-4318

Mass Times: Sat. 5:00pm, Sun. 9am,  
Confessions on Sat. 4:30pm-4:45pm or  
anytime by appointment  
Office Hours Mon-Fri. 9am-12pm

Rev. Fr. Douglas A. Ondeck

### St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church

HUNTINGTON, WV  
526 13th Street  
(304) 525-5202

Pastor: Fr Dean Borgmeyer

#### Sunday Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 pm  
Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:00 am,  
12:00 Noon, 5:30 pm

#### Confessions

Saturday 8:00 am-8:25 am  
Saturday 4:00 pm-4:25 pm  
Tuesday 5:00 pm-5:25 pm  
or by appointment

# Marshall diver receives diversity in aquatics award

BY: XENA BUNTON  
FEATURES EDITOR

After years of competitive diving at a high school and college level, Joelle Williams, a sophomore diver at Marshall University, is awarded the Diversity in Aquatics Ken Roland Aquatic Professional Award.

“Thank you to every single person who took the time to vote for me—many of you, more than once! To even have been considered for this award—recognized as a person of color who sets a standard for mankind with their commitment to aquatics—is humbling,” Williams posted on Instagram.

Founded by Shaun Anderson and Jayson Jackson in 2010, Diversity in Aquatics is a volunteer-led member organization that illuminates and supports underrepresented populations by educating, promoting and supporting aquatics.

The organization has offered the Ken Roland Aquatic Professional Award since 2016 to award a person or organization that “sets the standard for mankind with their

commitment to aquatics. Intended for one who has lived their life with a passion to bring forth in the world a dream or vision. It is a way of being for mankind that is independent of any personal goals and for those who are under-represented in aquatics.”

After over 700 votes, Williams was able to win the prestigious award by a 91.9% vote.

Williams’ relationship with sports started with gymnastics when she was three years old; however, she decided to “retire” at the age of ten to practice another sport that she could play during high school and eventually college. She started diving the summer before her freshman year of high school at the age of 14.

After telling her parents about her passion for finding divers that looked just like her, she decided to create Black Girls Diving, a social media campaign, Williams started working on the campaign in 2014 through personal documents and social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Through the campaign, Joelle would manually submit divers in a spreadsheet who identified as a person of color from the high school level, college level and the Olympic level.

“I continuously searched and tracked those names for any accomplishments that they especially put out or any articles, and I would redirect people to those articles just to show that there is Black representation,” Williams said.

Joelle has gathered over 50 features of girls who identify as black, biracial or Hispanic to use for the campaign and collaborate with organizations like USA Diving’s DEI Council.

The campaign moved to Facebook in 2018 and had about one post a month due to the lack of research on female minorities in the diving world. Joelle created the Instagram page in 2020 when she realized that she had enough media to broaden the campaign.

Joelle said that her diving team at Marshall is her family and is sometimes the only physical contact she had with people during the pandemic, but as the only black diver on the team, she sometimes feels alone.

“The feeling of loneliness comes at random times. I’ll be on the board and realize that I am the only person with my



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOELLE WILLIAMS

Williams has been diving since she was 14 years old.

body shape. I am the only person who has to do a certain hair care routine or notice my swim cap’s importance as a Black diver. I have to practice a certain routine in order to keep my hair at this length.”

Williams emphasized that she was even more lonely in high school with the lack of proper equipment like springboards and that she didn’t see other divers that looked like her. Williams said she didn’t see black divers until her junior year of high school when she saw two different black divers at a state-level competition.

Williams said that she would have to start new goals after accepting the Ken Roland award.

“I didn’t even know the organization saw me as an aquatic professional,” Williams said. “I am only 20 years old, and I was up against people in their ’30s and ’40s. It was just very eye-opening. I literally have to pick up new dreams.”

**Xena Bunton can be contacted at [Bunton2@marshall.edu](mailto:Bunton2@marshall.edu).**

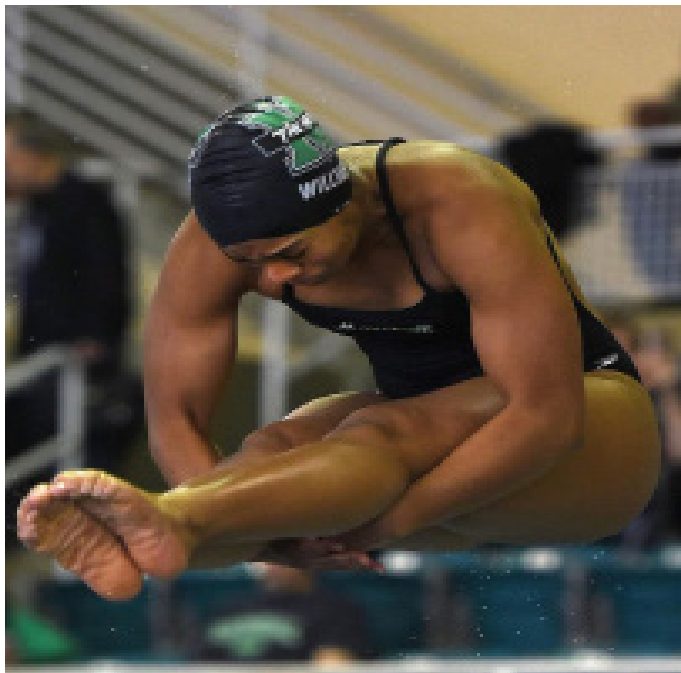


PHOTO COURTESY MU ATHLETICS

Williams was awarded the Diversity in Aquatics Ken Roland Aquatic Professional Award.