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9-28-2022

### The Parthenon, September 28, 2022

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#### Recommended Citation

Spence, Tyler; Green, Evan; Woodruff, Conner; Matheny, Chayce; Ware, Victoria; Thompson, Shauntelle; Alfonso, Rafael; Laster, Alaina; and Hanlon, Abby, "The Parthenon, September 28, 2022" (2022). *The Parthenon*. 5246.

<https://mds.marshall.edu/parthenon/5246>

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## Marshall Paid \$1.75 Million to Leave C-USA



Marshall football began its Sun Belt conference schedule last Saturday against Troy.

Photo courtesy of Troy Athletics

By **TYLER SPENCE**  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Marshall University reportedly paid \$1.75 million to leave Conference USA last spring.

The confidential settlement agreement and mutual release, first obtained by the Student Printz – the student newspaper of the University of Southern Mississippi – details the agreement struck between the three departing schools and the conference.

This agreement was formed after Conference USA's months-long feud with Marshall, Old Dominion and Southern Mississippi after the three schools

announced their intentions of leaving the conference a year before the schools would be free to do so under contract.

All three schools announced their intentions to join the Sun Belt soon after their departure from Conference USA. Sun Belt Commissioner Keith Gill announced last November that the \$3 million entrance fee for

Marshall had been waived, but details of the exit from C-USA had previously remained confidential in the settlement agreement.

**Continued on Page 2.**

## Herd Adds NC State to Replace Navy in 2023, Gets Paid in the Process

By **CHAYCE MATHENY**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Marshall will add North Carolina State for a non-conference game for the 2023 season.

The game will replace the Navy game after the Midshipmen canceled their agreement to play Marshall next season.

Navy did not want to play Marshall after playing Notre Dame in Ireland the week

before because of the limited time to prepare with the logistics of international travel.

Marshall will end up getting \$1.25 million through this agreement. Cincinnati will pay \$850,000, Navy will pay \$250,000 and NC State will pay \$150,000.

**Continued on Page 6.**

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**C-USA continued from front page.**

Conference USA requested the standard exit fee of \$3 million from all three universities, however, the documents show the settlement reduced the number to \$1.75 million which was required to be paid within 30 days.

A Marshall spokesperson said the university was unable to comment on the agreement, as they were still under bound by the confidentiality clause.

The Student Media Center at Southern Mississippi first requested the settlement documents last March, however, Conference USA filed a protective agreement on the documents to keep them confidential. However, C-USA allowed the documents to become public before the case was brought before a court last week.

The agreement additionally specifically required the three universities to refrain from disclosing the agreement to the public and with existing member schools of the conference.

## Voter Registration Day at Student Center

By **MATT SCHAFFER**  
STUDENT REPORTER

Students gathered outside of Marshall University's Memorial Student Center on Tuesday, Sept. 20, to help encourage voter participation for National Voter Registration Day.

The event was held as a part of the "Vote With the Herd" campaign, which featured resources for students to register to vote and check their voting status, as well as opportunities to learn about the upcoming midterm elections which will place on Tuesday, Nov. 8. The event was hosted by the John Deaver Drinko Academy alongside the All In Campus Democracy Challenge and the Voter Friendly Campus Campaign.

"What takes place in our city council, in our state legislatures,

in our congress, in our executive branch, those decisions do affect our everyday lives," Dr. Montserrat Miller, history professor and executive director of the John Deaver Drinko Academy, said. "I think that what we're seeing is that a whole lot of young people are coming to that conclusion."

*"It's important for young people especially to get involved. We're going to have to take over one day, and we want our voices to be heard,"*

*Blickenstaff said.*

"Student voter turnout has seen an increase between the 2016 and 2020 general elections,

with Marshall University seeing a 12.8% increase in student voter turnout," Miller said. However, participation in midterm elections has historically remained low compared to that of the general elections.

"Typically," Miller went on to say, "voting rates trend down during midterm elections. We want to do everything we can to facilitate voter registration for Marshall students, whether they're from West Virginia or not."

Alongside representatives of the Drinko Academy and partnering programs, students volunteered to help their fellow students learn more about voter registration. The majority of volunteers were members of the Student-Athlete Advisory Council, which

began the "Vote With the Herd" campaign.

"Registering is really easy and really simple," Elaina Blickenstaff, volunteer and Marshall University sophomore, said. "You can just scan a QR code and fill out some things on a website."

"It's important for young people especially to get involved. We're going to have to take over one day, and we want our voices to be heard," Blickenstaff continued by saying. "It really matters more than you think."

Early voting for the midterm elections begins on Oct. 26 and ends Nov. 5, with stations available in the Memorial Student Center.

*Brad D. Smith Center  
for Business construction  
is ongoing.*

*Expected to finish Spring  
2024.*



Photo by Shauntelle Thompson



## Omega Phi Alpha Aims to be Newest MU Sorority

By MORGAN PEMBERTON  
STUDENT REPORTER

Just two members shy of becoming an official chapter, Omega Phi Alpha is hoping that what its officers call positive attitudes and passion for community service will increase its ranks.

Inclusivity plays an important part of Omega Phi Alpha, according to Interim President Ally Welch. She went on to say that the inclusivity is what prompted her to join. OPA reached out to Welch on Instagram, and she thought that a community-service based sorority was for her.

“[I am] Interim President, which is a stand-in president, because before we get our last two members, we are not official and don’t have official members in those positions,” Welch said. “But I thought OPA should have a structure, have positions so potential new members know when they are getting involved. They know they are a part of

decisions.”

OPA has six main projects that they hope to achieve when they finally become an official chapter.

“We have six projects: mental health, members of sorority, nations of the world, university community, community at large and president project protecting human rights,” Welch said.

When joining, a sorority’s members get to participate in the homecoming festivities.

One of the contests that goes on and makes Welch excited is Thunder Cup. Thunder Cup is an event where sororities earn points by participating in and winning the banner contest and the float contest. The winner of the event overall receives money as the prize for having received the most points.

OPA hopes to become an official chapter in the spring of 2023.

## Second Smoothie King Opens in WV on 5th Ave

By ZACH HIGHLANDER  
STUDENT REPORTER

Smoothie King is one of the newest additions for Marshall students to sample on Fifth Avenue. Smoothie King is open seven days a week with varying hours: 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday. This is now the second Smoothie King location in West Virginia.

Smoothie King says its mission is to inspire a healthy and active lifestyle for everyone. Their vision is to be an important part of everyone’s health journey. Three of the general managers/owners are Marshall alumni and partners with Marshall student athletics. The alumni members include Chandler Basham, Tanya Basham and Kendra Swiger; the other manager/owner is Kevin Basham.

The managers say their dedication to cleaner blends is what makes them different. They are smoothies with a purpose and acknowledge that purpose is different for everyone. The managers

say the person is looking to have an energy boost, just got done at the gym, or is trying to be healthier and enjoy healthy options, Smoothie King has their back.

Smoothie King also has a “no” list; these items are never in their smoothies. The no list includes: hydrogenated oils, rBST/rBGH added hormones in their dairy, NSF banned substances, gluten, trans-fats and GMO fruits and veggies. Their blends do promise whole fruits and organic veggies, no syrups (only fruit juices), no added sugar in many blends and no artificial flavors or preservatives.

Along with Smoothie King, a new Starbucks has also been added. The new Starbucks is located in the same building as Smoothie King and is open from 5 a.m. until 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday, with hours of 6 a.m. until 10 p.m. on Sunday.

## Marshall Celebrates Japanese Culture



Cosplay Club Presentation at Japan Day Celebration

Photo by Matt Schaffer

By MATT SCHAFFER  
STUDENT REPORTER

Kimonos, tea, manga, anime, traditional instruments and cosplay all went on display at the Japan Day Celebration at Marshall University on Friday, Sept. 23.

The celebration was thrown by the Japan Club in tandem with the Anime and Manga Association, Cherry Blossom Cosplay club and the Sadō Club.

“We have so many Japan-related student organizations at Marshall,” said Dr. Natsuki Fukunaga Anderson, director of Marshall’s Japanese program and faculty advisor of Japan Club, Anime Club and Cosplay Club.

“We know we have similar interests but don’t have a place to discuss them. This is the chance to get together and get

to know each other.”

The event was held to connect the members of the clubs who share interests in and celebrate Japanese culture.

The celebration began with an introduction led by Anderson to allow attendees to get to know each other before moving on to a traditional Koto performance.

The performance was followed by a tea ceremony led by the Sadō club before each club had an opportunity to introduce themselves and their interests.

“It’s bringing together clubs that celebrate Japanese culture,” Akira Kusakabe, junior at Marshall, said. “It’s a chance to have these clubs connect.”

Previously, the event was held annually; however, COVID-19 forced the celebration to be canceled in 2020. This year was the first Japan Day Celebration since the pandemic.

Since the pandemic, many new students have joined clubs relating to Japanese culture and new clubs have been formed. This event allows those students to see what other clubs could interest them.

“The reason we do this is that, with Japan Club being the most known one, a lot of people don’t know we have other clubs affiliated with Japan,” Cheyenne Thomas, Marshall student, tutor and event organizer, said.

## HerdCon Offers Free Comic Books



Free comic book stand in Drinko Library

Photo by Evan Green

By **MORGAN PEMBERTON**  
STUDENT REPORTER

Free comic books in Drinko Library, courtesy of HerdCon, came from an unlikely source.

“Before HerdCon 2021, we were very fortunate to be contacted by our fellow HerdCon committee member, Ryan Adkins in IT, whose family’s church, Danleyton Missionary Baptist Church in Greenup, KY, subscribes to a cool service that provides resources to needy families,” Monica Brooks, dean of university libraries, said.

“They had received a large shipment of random comic books through ‘Save the Children’ and asked if we wanted to distribute them to attendees during the event,” Brooks said. This unexpected boon kicked off amazing interest in the comics.”

Instructional Technologist Ryan Adkins elaborated by saying, “The program in which the church participates is called the ‘Christian Appalachian Project,’ which stipulates you cannot resell their goods for profit. You have to give them away,” Adkins said.

“The church receives large shipments of comic books,” he said. They would not have been able to find enough people to hand them out to. So, the church was excited when Adkins told them about HerdCon and that they would be able to hand them out.

Brooks said that the shipments are random and include a wide range of books, from anime and manga to comics about popular characters like Spiderman and X-Man to even books for children and adults.

“Additionally, our other colleague who is the co-chair of HerdCon, Michelle Alford in the library, developed a link to ‘Save the Children’ to help supplement our amazing Danleyton connection,” Brooks said.

This connection allows them to receive periodic shipments of comic books that keep the bookshelf in Drinko Library stocked.

## Concert Celebrates Baroque and Beyond



Photo by Abby Ayes

By **LUCY BELL**  
STUDENT REPORTER

Lively classical notes filled the air in the Jomie Jazz Center which could barely contain the number of audience members that came to hear the “Baroque and Beyond” concert on Wednesday evening, Sept. 21.

The “Baroque and Beyond” concert marks the third installment of Marshall University’s school of music faculty shows this season featuring pieces from Antonio Vivaldi, George F. Handel, Luigi Boccherini and Ludwig van Beethoven. The concert pulled an audience of close to 80 members.

Faculty concerts like “Baroque and Beyond” host a different ensemble of university colleagues as well as other musicians from around the state, forming a bond between them all, according

to Marshall University’s violin professor.

“We all know each other very well, and we’ve played a lot together but in different formulas. We mix it up every time,” Dr. Elizabeth Reed Smith said. “I love playing with great colleagues, and yes, I do love the audience, absolutely, but also just playing with great colleagues.”

With several more shows scheduled in the coming months, members of the chamber aim to continue to showcase their commitment to their practice as well as to students.

“There’s a real devotion in the School of Music,” Dr. Wendell Dobbs, dean of the College of Art and Media, said. “Performing and also sharing that with our students and also involving our students and

so it’s really wonderful; it’s very gratifying to see a nice crowd like this tonight.”

Students benefit from performing musicians—especially those that are their mentors—staying active as it gives students an opportunity to see what they are learning in the classroom come to life, according to Dobbs.

“It’s a great opportunity and joy for us to be together and make music, especially since we are also teaching,” Dobbs said. “It really reminds us what this is all about. Most of my day is working on paperwork or something like that, and this really is a wonderful opportunity to get out and blow out the cobwebs a little bit.”



## Giving Hazing the Boot



Photo by Taylor Isaac

By **TAYLOR ISAAC**  
STUDENT REPORTER

No Bull Tuesday spurred students to participate in a bull riding competition on campus. The event, hosted by the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life, was the first of many promoting National Hazing Prevention Week.

The theme Giving Hazing the Boot aims to raise awareness against the dangerous practice of manipulating fraternity and sorority pledges into doing humiliating or endangering behaviors in order to gain membership.

The Interfraternity Council at Marshall stands strongly against the practice of hazing. IFC's vice president of programming Rhys Shamblin says he hopes that hosting events

such as the bull riding competition will help steer frat culture into a safer, more inclusive path.

"Hazing takes advantage of people's trust and can ruin their lives," Shamblin said. "We want to do our part to stop hazing before it starts and to build back trust in fraternity culture."

Students lined up around the Memorial Student Center fountain Tuesday evening for a chance to ride the mechanical bull. While most people lasted less than 10 seconds atop the ride, Shamblin said it was a fun way to bring light to such a serious topic.

In addition to the bull riding contest, IFC has teamed up with the Panhellenic Council

to host an entire week full of anti-hazing programming.

A kickball competition was hosted with all proceeds benefitting the Harrison Kowiak Scholarship.

The scholarship is in honor of Harrison Kowiak, who passed away in 2008 after participating in a hazing ritual for his fraternity. His mother, Lianne Kowiak, has become a proud anti-hazing advocate and was featured as a guest speaker during FSL's discussion Wednesday night.

"If you see something—say something," Kowiak said. "You have the choice to stand up if you witness someone being hazed. You can save someone's life."

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## HerdCon Hosts Banned Books Trivia Night

By **DESTINEY DINGESS**  
STUDENT REPORTER

People's First Amendment right of free speech is being taken away by restricting who can read certain books, a Marshall University student at the school's first banned book trivia night said.

"I think it's up to parents to place restrictions on what their child can and cannot read," Chloe Henderson, Marshall University student and future teacher said.

"It's not up to libraries, it's not up to schools or the government to say what you can and cannot read. I'm for permission slips in schools when reading triggering books with harsh topics. Parents should have more control than the government in that way," she said.

The banning of books has become more widespread these days as 1,145 titles were banned in 86 school districts across 26 states over only nine months between July 2021 and March 2022. In addition, the American Library Association counted 1,597 book challenges and removals in 2022, according to a report from PEN America.

"Every September we do a banned books week to celebrate books that have been

challenged because as a public university we don't support censorship of any kind," Meghan Sexton-Harness, Research and instructional Graduate Assistant at Drinko Library and host of Banned Book Trivia Night said. We support these books that have been banned and some of them are very funnily banned."

More well known, the banning of a book Harness has heard of is the children's book "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?"

"It was banned because the author shares the same name as a Marxist author. The author did nothing, he just happens to have the same name," Harness said.

Banned books are what people are most familiar with while challenged books are less familiar.

"Challenged books are books that have been reported or complained about she said. They are not necessarily taken away or out of the curriculum. Banned books are books that have generally gone through a library board or have gone through a state board and have been removed from shelves. A book can be challenged without getting banned but we

still celebrate those books as well."

"To Kill a Mockingbird" was banned for having racial undertones and supporting racial segregation," Harness said. She added, the book is actually disapproving of racial segregation.

Having a banned book week is important because a lot of people might not understand what banned books mean and why censorship can in the end be detrimental to us, Henderson said.

"I don't think any book should be banned because I think that when we start banning books, not only are we censoring but we are taking away information," Harness said. "If we don't read banned or challenged books, we don't know what to look for. We don't know the red flags. We aren't learning about different experiences."

"I think that being more educated is never going to hurt and that's what books are there for whether they are story books or texts books whatever they may be they are there to teach us something. I just don't think that should be hankered with. We should be reading books not banning them," Harness said.



## Marshall Wins Mountain State Derby Against WVU



Photo by Shauntelle Thompson

By **CHAYCE MATHENY**  
SPORTS EDITOR

The No. 4 ranked Marshall University men's soccer team defeated WVU by a final score of 1-0 in their Sun Belt Conference home opener.

All-Conference selection and redshirt senior Milo Yosef scored the game-winning goal in the 85th minute, his fifth of the season. He leads the SBC in game-winning goals.

Graduate student Oliver Semmler had three saves on the night, with a game-altering save in the 79th minute, his sixth of the season.

"We were creating chances and keeping it tight," Herd men's soccer coach Chris Grassie said. "They had that one great

chance. We tried to increase the pressure in the second half, and we felt like it was going to come. We got those one-on-one moments, and we have special players. I felt like that was the difference today."

Marshall finished the night with two shots on goal.

WVU came into the match averaging 1.29 goals per game, seventh in the Sun Belt.

Marshall has taken two with one tie in the last four school meetings.

WVU falls to 2-5-1 on the season.

Marshall will go on the road against Coastal Carolina Friday, Sept. 23rd, at 7 p.m.

## Marshall Adds NC State to 2023 Schedule After Navy Cancels

By **CHAYCE MATHENY**  
SPORTS EDITOR

*Continued from front page.*

Marshall, Cincinnati and NC State worked together to make this possible. NC State was supposed to host Cincinnati, but the Bearcats are entering the Big 12 early, so both schools came to terms to cancel their game.

Marshall Athletic Director Christian Spears said the agreement helped Marshall find a quality opponent.

"Part of that agreement allowed Marshall to find a replacement game

for Navy as well as secure a game guarantee versus a well-respected opponent in a great location that we anticipate Thundering Herd fans will want to visit with us," he said.

Spears added that the excellent relationship between Marshall and Navy allowed this to get done.

"We understand the decision made by Navy, and we are grateful for the relationships we have in college athletics," he said. "These things can get complex, but when you have

strong relationships, they tend to get managed at a high level with trust and transparency, and that is what happened here."

The last match-up between Marshall and NC State happened in 2018; the Wolfpack defeated Marshall 37-20.

The rest of the non-conference games are East Carolina on Sept. 9, Virginia Tech on Sept. 23 and Central Connecticut State, which is to be announced.

## Marshall Loses on Road Against Troy

By **CHAYCE MATHENY**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Marshall lost to Troy by a final score of 16-7 Saturday night.

The Herd came into the game looking to bounce back after a tough loss on the road against Bowling Green last weekend.

Marshall started quickly in the first quarter as Troy's quarterback Gunnar Watson was sacked by Sam Burton, which led to a fumble recovered by Cory Cumberlander.

Just four plays later, Troy forced a sack on Henry Colombi for a loss

of 19 yards leading to a scoop and score by Troy's defensive tackle Buddha Jones, putting up Troy 7-0.

Colombi finished the game 8-13 with 49 yards through the air.

Marshall would only score once during the game, which came in the third quarter as running back Laborn ran in for a 14-yard touchdown, his sixth of the season.

Laborn had 29 rushes for 113 yards in the game.

After the touchdown by Laborn, it

was all Troy for the rest of the game, putting up 421 yards of offense compared to Marshall's 169 yards.

Marshall punted the ball nine times compared to Troy's four times.

This was the first time Marshall has been held scoreless in a half since 2020 in the Conference USA championship game.

Marshall will host Gardner-Webb next Saturday, October 1, at 3:30 p.m.

# Herd Returns Home to Try to Get Back on Track

By ZACH BOLLINGER  
SPORTS COLUMNIST

## OPINION

It feels like an eternity and a half ago that Marshall was victoriously walking off the field in South Bend after knocking off the number 8 team in the country. Since then, however, things haven't been going the Herd's way. Marshall has dropped back-to-back games against Bowling Green and Troy since.

Now, returning home to the Joan C. Edwards Stadium to take on Gardner Webb, here's how the Herd can get back in the win column.

### Continue to Win on Defense

Marshall's defensive unit has

impressed all season, even in a tough loss to Troy, the defense did not surrender an offensive touchdown. The front seven has proven its ability to win in the trenches against opposing offenses allowing just 84.2 rushing yards per game. The defense will have to control the game upfront and get Gardner Webb off the field every opportunity they get.

### Control Time of Possession

Sometimes the best defense is a good offense. Marshall has only lost the time of possession battle once this year. Bowling Green held the ball for 32 minutes compared to

Marshall's 28.

Marshall's most dominant win of the year, Norfolk State, saw them control the ball for 36 minutes. You must stay on the field on third downs to keep the ball. This year Marshall is converting just 44% (25/60) on third downs. If this offense gets back on track, they must stay on the field as long as possible.

### Stay Ahead of the Chains

To put this more simply, stop getting in third and long. Marshall needs to put themselves in manageable situations, starting with the offensive line.

Marshall has allowed 16 sacks, including 15 times in the past three games through four games. The O-line needs to give Henry Colombi more protection if Marshall wants any chance of the offense returning to their efficiency in the season's first two matchups.

Leaning on the running game on early downs will allow Marshall to stay in short-yardage situations where they can enable their talented backs to make plays.

### Win the Turnover Battle

Last game Marshall saw a strip sack scoop and score by Troy's Buddha Jones be the only touchdown the

Herd surrendered in a 9-point loss.

Marshall has seen firsthand the difference a significant turnover can make in a game. Steven Gilmore had a late game pick 6 to seal the deal against Notre Dame. If the Herd wants to win this game, they will need to protect the football on offense and swarm to it on defense.

If Marshall can stay consistent on the ground, control the clock, keep the QB up and win the turnover battle, then they should leave the Joan C. Edwards stadium Saturday at 3-2.



Owen Porter recovers and returns fumble

Photo by Shauntelle Thompson



# 'There's Only so Far I can Take Them' – Why Teachers Give up on Struggling Students

By **JESSICA CALARCO**

AP EDUCATION WRITER

Whenever "Gina," a fifth grader at a suburban public school on the East Coast, did her math homework, she never had to worry about whether she could get help from her mom.

"I help her a lot with homework," Gina's mother, a married, mid-level manager for a health care company, explained to us during an interview for a study we did about how teachers view students who complete their homework

versus those who do not.

"I try to maybe re-explain things, like, things she might not understand," Gina's mom continued. "Like, if she's struggling, I try to teach her a different way. I understand that Gina is a very visual child but also needs to hear things, too. I know that when I'm reading it, and I'm writing it, and I'm saying it to her, she comprehends it better."

One of us is a sociologist who looks at how schools favor middle-

class families. The other is a math education professor who examines how math teachers perceive their students based on their work.

We were curious about how teachers reward students who complete their homework and penalize and criticize those who don't – and whether there was any link between those things and family income.

By analyzing student report cards and interviewing teachers, students and parents, we found that teachers gave good grades for homework effort and other rewards to students from middle-class families like Gina, who happen to have college-educated parents who take an active role in helping their children complete their homework.

But when it comes to students such as "Jesse," who attends the same school as Gina and is the child of a poor, single mother of two, we found that teachers had a more bleak outlook.

The names "Jesse" and "Gina" are pseudonyms to protect the children's identities. Jesse can't

count on his mom to help with his homework because she struggled in school herself.

"I had many difficulties in school," Jesse's mom told us for the same study. "I had behavior issues, attention-deficit. And so after seventh grade, they sent me to an alternative high school, which I thought was the worst thing in the world. We literally did, like, first and second grade work. So my education was horrible."

Jesse's mother admitted she still can't figure out division to this day. "[My son will] ask me a question, and I'll go look at it and it's like algebra, in fifth grade. And I'm like: 'What's this?'" Jesse's mom said. "So it's really hard. Sometimes you just feel stupid. Because he's in fifth grade. And I'm like, I should be able to help my son with his homework in fifth grade."

Unlike Gina's parents, who are married and own their own home in a middle-class neighborhood, Jesse's mom isn't married and rents a place in a mobile home community. She had Jesse when she was a teenager and was raising Jesse and his brother mostly on her own, though with some help from her parents. Her son is eligible for free lunch.

As a matter of fairness, we think teachers should take these kinds of economic and social disparities into account in how they teach and grade students. But what we found in the schools we observed is that they usually

don't, and instead they seemed to accept inequality as destiny. Consider, for instance, what a fourth grade teacher – one of 22 teachers we interviewed and observed during the study – told us about students and homework.

"I feel like there's a pocket here – a lower income pocket," one teacher said. "And that trickles down to less support at home, homework not being done, stuff not being returned and signed. It should be almost 50-50 between home and school. If they don't have the support at home, there's only so far I can take them. If they're not going to go home and do their homework, there's just not much I can do."

While educators recognize the different levels of resources that students have at home, they continue to assign homework that is too difficult for students to complete independently, and reward students who complete the homework anyway.

Consider, for example, how one seventh grade teacher described his approach to homework: "I post the answers to the homework for every course online. The kids do the homework, and they're supposed to check it and figure out if they need extra help. The kids who do that, there is an amazing correlation between that and positive grades. The kids who don't do that are bombing.

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.

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Letters to the Editor are accepted. See guidelines online.

## 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.

*Correction: Marshall University Fencing Club Establishes New Events*

*A previous version of this article, published in last week's Parthenon, did not include the club secretary's full name which is Dalton Varney.*



# NOT REAL NEWS: A Look at What Didn't Happen This Week

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**CLAIM:** President Joe Biden just announced that he is adding the U.S. as a signatory to the United Nations "Small Arms Treaty," which would "establish an international gun control registry" in which other countries can "track the 'end user' of every rifle, shotgun, and handgun sold in the world."

**THE FACTS:** There is no "U.N. Small Arms Treaty." A separate U.N. agreement, the Arms Trade Treaty, regulates the international trade of a range of weapons, but does not track domestic gun sales. The false claim about an "international gun control registry" was shared in a Facebook advertisement by a gun rights group stoking fears about threats to the Second Amendment. The group, the "American Firearms Association," claims in its Facebook ad

that Biden "has just announced that he is adding America as a signatory to the U.N. Small Arms Treaty, setting the stage for a full ratification vote in the U.S. Senate." "The U.N. Small Arms Treaty would establish an international gun control registry, allowing Communist China, European socialists, and 3rd World dictators to track the 'end user' of every rifle, shotgun, and handgun sold in the world," continues the post, which links to a petition asking for users' contact information. The post calls on supporters of the Second Amendment to oppose the treaty. But there is no treaty called the "U.N. Small Arms Treaty," and the treaty that is being referenced does not record private gun sales in any country, experts say. The actual treaty, the U.N. Arms Trade Treaty, deals not only with small arms such as rifles and pistols, but

battle tanks, armored combat vehicles, large-caliber artillery systems, combat aircraft, attack helicopters, warships and more, the AP has reported.

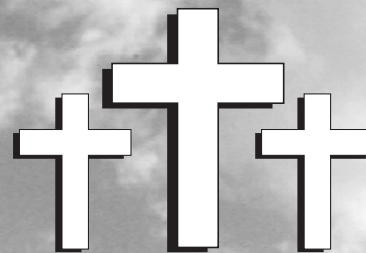
The U.N. in 2013 adopted the treaty to keep weapons from falling into the hands of terrorists and human rights violators. The treaty prohibits countries that ratify it from exporting conventional weapons if they violate arms embargoes, or if they promote acts of genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes. It does encourage its parties to maintain national records regarding exports of conventional arms and says such records should include the "end user." But that's a recommendation about recording exports that a country makes to another country, not gun sales to individuals within a country, said Jennifer Erickson, an associate professor of

political science and international studies at Boston College. Experts note that the treaty was written to explicitly make clear it has no bearing on domestic gun rights or sales.

The treaty's preamble, for example, states that the agreement is "Reaffirming the sovereign right of any State to regulate and control conventional arms exclusively within its territory, pursuant to its own legal or constitutional system." The U.N. has "no gun control registry in terms of private ownership, whatsoever," Erickson said. Erickson said the U.S. government already uses "end-use" monitoring by recording where it sends weapons. "There is only in the Arms Trade Treaty a focus on cross-border transfers, so not domestic sales or ownership," said Rachel Stohl, vice president of research programs at the Stimson Center, a nonpartisan

think tank focused on international security. "The U.S. signed the treaty in 2013, though the Senate never ratified it — which means the country is a signatory of the agreement, but not an official party and bound by it. In 2019, Trump announced that he was revoking the country's status as a signatory, though that move was symbolic. The U.N. still lists the U.S. as a signatory to the treaty, though in a footnote online it acknowledges that, in a July 2019 communication, the U.S. said it did not intend to become a party to the treaty and that it has no legal obligations in relation to it. Contrary to the ad's claim, Biden has not yet taken any action to reverse the U.S.'s public position on the treaty, Stohl said. An inquiry to one of the directors of the American Firearms Association was not immediately returned.

## Worship Directory



HD-477435

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Corner of Fifth Avenue & 12th Street in downtown Huntington

Sunday Morning Worship – 10:45 am  
Social distancing & wearing masks required

Visit our website for Worship Services  
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for children, youth, and adults.

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HD-457589

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248-996-3960

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Daily Masses: 12:05 on  
Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday  
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Father Shaji Thomas

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

[www.ourfatimafamily.com](http://www.ourfatimafamily.com)  
Father Tijo George, Pastor

HD-457588

#### SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

Mass Times: Sat. 5:00pm, Sun. 9am,  
Confession: Tuesdays 4-5pm  
Saturdays 4:15-4:45pm  
or anytime by appointment  
Office Hours Mon-Fri. 9am-2pm

**Rev. Fr. Thomas**

HD-477441

#### St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church

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

Pastor: Msgr. 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 8:25 am  
Saturday 3:30 pm-4:25 pm  
or by appointment

HD-457580

## “She Kills Monsters” to Debut in Early October



Photo courtesy of the Marshall University theatre Instagram

By **TAYLOR ISAAC**  
STUDENT REPORTER

The School of Theatre and Dance challenges audiences to unleash their inner warrior with their presentation of the show “She Kills Monsters.” Written by Qui Nguyen, the dramatic comedy

revolutionizes the world of tabletop roleplay into a real life adventure.

The story features recently orphaned Agnes Evans, who discovers her deceased sister’s Dungeons & Dragons (D&D) notebook. The pages chronicle

the imaginary universe her sister created, sending Evans on an action-packed journey of discovery.

The show’s director—Leah Turley—says that audiences will be wowed with how the performance blends whimsical fantasy elements with 90’s pop culture.

“It’s the staging and the story that shift the inconsequential violence and fun camp of D&D into a story about processing grief,” Turley said. “This show is for anyone who’s ever felt like a nerdy, awkward loser teenager. It’s for us.”

The cast for the show includes the following Marshall students: Sierra Lutz, Nikki Riniti, Noah Ritchie, Jimi Lee, Jaden Babbit, Kendra Williams, Samantha Phalen, Candace Maynard, Michael Martin, Caelum Burgess

and Emma Welker.

No detail has gone untouched, according to the show’s cast. The show will feature screen animations, large-scale puppetry, intricate costuming, ambient music and atmospheric lighting.

“The rehearsals have been a mix of fun and intense,” Burgess said. “We have really put our heart into every piece of this show. We even learned fight choreography for it so that the combat on stage felt even more real.”

Of all the shows Turley has directed, “She Kills Monsters” has been especially profound for her students and herself to work on. In her opinion, the fictional world of D&D lays the groundwork for storytelling among friends and transforms your own living room into a stage.

“D&D becomes a refuge for those who want to see themselves as magical, powerful and strong,” Turley said. “The characters live out their greatest fantasies and hardships in a world with no real-life consequences. Theatre does the same.”

Free admission will be provided to Marshall students who present their MU IDs. General admission will be \$20, and \$15 for employees or seniors aged 60 and older.

“She Kills Monsters” will run daily at 7:30 p.m. from Wednesday to Saturday, Oct. 5 through Oct. 8, at the Joan C. Edwards Performing Art Center. Due to the violence, language, and sexual nature of the show audience members are recommended to be above the age of 16.

## Marshall Alumni Create a Children’s Book Unaware of Their Shared Alma Mater



Photo courtesy of the Marshall Alumni Association

By **LUCY BELL**  
STUDENT REPORTER

From decorating for the holidays to sharing a cup of cocoa together, two creative minds found a teammate to create a children’s book with and later discovered they both had graduated

from the same university.

Author Patricia Sazy and illustrator Denise Vickers of Louisville, KY, met through their local neighborhood association and bonded over

their similar backgrounds as native West Virginians and Marshall University graduates. Sazy’s desire to write a children’s book and Vickers talents as an illustrator allowed the story of “Caesar’s Lighthouse” to become a reality.

The inspiration of “Caesar’s Lighthouse” connects in a personal way to Sazy’s roots as the daughter of immigrants and eventual daughter of a coal miner.

“My parents, who were immigrants that came from Hungary, and when they saw the Statue of Liberty—which is one of the lighthouses in the book,

which is no longer a lighthouse now—but it is a symbol of the world and it was a land of opportunity,” Sazy said. “My father was working the coal mines and he always just expressed the importance of light.”

The historical fiction story follows its characters as they make their way from one lighthouse to the next, mirroring a path that Sazy took herself in touring and collecting information on each lighthouse featured in the book. In keeping with Sazy’s desire to make this book an educational material for children as well as a factual reference for adults,

Vickers included different stylistic changes to each lighthouse in the book to represent the style of an artist from each state.

“To keep it interesting and give the book a dual effect, I found from each state an artist representative of that state and that way each picture is in a different style,” Vickers said.

The pair attribute their West Virginia roots and alma mater with their success in working together and their preparedness for undertaking this project.

“You can’t meet a Mountaineer that you don’t feel like you’ve known all your life,” Vickers said.



# Libertarian Group Sues to Block Cancellation of Student Debt



President Joe Biden waits for members of the press to leave after speaking at a meeting of the White House Competition Council in the State Dining Room of the White House.



Photo courtesy of AP Photos

By **COLLIN BINKLEY**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A libertarian group in California filed a legal challenge to President Joe Biden's plan for student debt cancellation on Tuesday, calling it an illegal overreach that would increase state tax burdens for some Americans who get their debt forgiven.

The lawsuit, believed to be the first targeting Biden's plan, was filed by the Pacific Legal Foundation, a Sacramento law firm. It was filed in federal court in Indiana, one of several states that plan to tax any student debt canceled by Biden's plan.

"Congress did not authorize the executive branch to unilaterally cancel student debt," said Caleb Kruckenberg, an attorney at Pacific

Legal Foundation. He said it's illegal for the executive branch to create the policy "by press release, and without statutory authority."

The suit's plaintiff is Frank Garrison, described as a public interest attorney who lives in Indiana and is employed by the libertarian group.

Garrison is on track to get his student debt erased through a separate federal program for public servants. Although most borrowers will need to apply for Biden's plan, Garrison and many others in that program will automatically get the relief because the Education Department has their income information on file.

Biden's plan would automatically cancel \$20,000 of Garrison's debt, which in turn would trigger an "immediate tax liability" from the state of Indiana, according to the

suit. Under the debt forgiveness program he's enrolled in now, canceled debt cannot be taxed.

"Mr. Garrison and millions of others similarly situated in the six relevant states will receive no additional benefit from the cancellation — just a one-time additional penalty," the suit argues.

Any student debt forgiven under Biden's plan would also be subject to state taxes in Arkansas, California, Minnesota, Mississippi, North Carolina and Wisconsin, unless lawmakers in those states change their current laws.

Biden's plan promises to cancel \$10,000 in federal student debt for borrowers with incomes of less than \$125,000 per year or households making less than \$250,000. Those who received federal Pell Grants to attend college would get an

additional \$10,000 erased.

An application to receive the benefit is expected by early October.

Conservative groups have been threatening to challenge debt cancellation since Biden first aired the idea, saying it's legally questionable and unfairly cancels student debt at the expense of Americans who didn't attend college. One of the main challenges has been finding someone who faces personal harm as a result of Biden's plan, giving them legal standing to sue.

The Biden administration did not immediately comment on the suit but has argued that the plan is on solid legal ground.

In its legal justification for debt cancellation, the Biden administration invoked the HEROES Act of 2003, which aimed to provide help to members

of the military. The law gives the administration "sweeping authority" to reduce or eliminate student debt during a national emergency, the Justice Department said in an August legal opinion.

Education Secretary Miguel Cardona has said he has the legal authority to cancel debt for people who faced hardship during the pandemic. Cardona says Biden's plan will ensure borrowers aren't worse off after the pandemic than they were before.

The suit challenges that rationale, saying Garrison and others will see their debt burdens increase as a result of Biden's plan. It also contends that the plan doesn't meet the requirements of the 2003 law, arguing that the problem of high student debt is not a "direct result" of the pandemic.



# New York Law Professor Talks Election Law and Democracy



Lawrence Norden presents at the second Amicus Curiae lecture hosted by Marshall University



Photo Courtesy of Brennan Center for Justice

By **RAFAEL ALFONSO**  
CHIEF COPY EDITOR

The resignation of election workers nationwide threatens the security of American democracy, according to the Amicus Curiae series' most recent lecturer, Lawrence Norden.

Norden works as senior director of the Elections and Government Program for the Brennan Center for Justice at the New York University School of Law. He came to Marshall on Thursday, Sept. 22, to discuss the effects that election fraud claims from the 2020 presidential election have had on American election law and democracy.

"I wanted to get the most qualified, most respected in the area for this lecture," Patricia Proctor, host and organizer for the Amicus Curiae lecture series, said.

"And that man is Larry Norden."

According to Norden, election workers nationwide, including poll workers and clerks, have resigned from their positions after receiving death threats, verbal abuse and wrongful accusations of committing fraud during the presidential election in 2020. He explained that even after the courts rejected such accusations, election workers still continued to receive threats.

"Many of the people we depend on for our democracy now face constant fear for their safety," Norden said. He also described how political officials in several states have suggested that election officials should be investigated and how state legislatures have passed laws to criminalize election workers.

In Texas, it is now a crime for election workers to encourage mail-in voting, which Norden

believes is a fundamental part of both the worker's job and American voting rights.

Additionally, Norden explained the negative impact that the widespread resignation of election workers will have on elections moving forward.

"Fewer, less experienced election workers will probably mean there will probably be more mistakes—less capacity to respond to those mistakes when they happen," he said. "This is, I think, highly dangerous in an environment where conspiracy theory-driven individuals are preparing to amplify even the smallest mistake that they feel validates their belief."

Norden went on to say those who believe in the idea of a stolen election may replace these resigning election workers while at the same time seeking to undermine

future elections' security and integrity. He said some states have proposed laws to put the power of certifying elections in the hands of partisan legislatures rather than those facilitating those elections. However, none of the mentioned laws have passed.

"I still feel good about American democracy and our ability to hold free and fair elections," Norden said. He went on to say, despite this, that American democracy is still under threat.

"The next few years are going to determine how corrosive election nihilism is for our democracy," he said.

Norden cited the Electoral Count Reform Act as a possible solution for America's election security issue. The Electoral Count Reform Act is a bipartisan bill with 10 Democrat and 10 Republican supporters that aims to revise

how ballots during a presidential election are counted.

As for those people not in a position of political power, Norden recommended talking with others about American democracy and what it means to preserve and strengthen it. He also encouraged learning more about the election process and the safety checks in place to ensure a free and fair election.

Resources mentioned include the Brennan Center for Justice's website, the Committee for Safe and Secure Elections' website, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and the U.S. Elections Assistance Commission.

The next Amicus Curiae lecture will take place at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 1, in the Brad D. Smith Foundation Hall with Professor Emerita Nadine Strossen from the New York Law School.