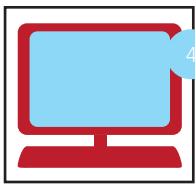




News:
2 Parents host auction to fund the All Night Graduation Party.



Opinion:
4 Online classes can lure attendees into a false sense of security.



Features:
5 The Gryphon Robotics team reaches the semifinals competition.



Arts&Style:
6.7 The Columbian yearbook deals with hand gestures in the senior panoramic photo.



Sports:
8 Senior Michelle Dirkse sets a new record in the hurdles championship race.

rank&file

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Parkland prompts new security policy

by christi smudde

The administration made changes to the locked door policy following the Florida school shooting. Door 5 has been open all year to account for students attending classes in trailers. Now, Door 5 will be locked throughout the entire day.

The state of Virginia sets overarching recommendations for school safety. Marshall has its own individual locked door policy, which takes into account most of the state recommendations.

"Doors are required to be locked during school hours because we want to control who comes in and out of the building," principal Jeff Litz said.

Litz said the biggest threat to security is students letting in other students and propping the door open during the school day because it could allow people with malicious intent to enter the building and easily avoid security.

"All students really need to walk around to door one and come check in through the main office," Litz said. "We want to know who is coming and who



Senior Alvin Walcott tries to enter the school's front entrance, only to find out that administration locks the doors immediately after 8:10 a.m.

is going."

With the changes implemented after the shooting, students that have class periods in the supplementary trailers will have to obtain a pass from their teacher to re-enter the building from the outside.

History teacher Ross Naquin said he thinks the changes will make the school safer, regardless of whatever the circumstances are.

"They're basically a safety protocol," Naquin said. "So if something like

a lock down drill happens, the doors are locked and ready to go."

Junior Andrea Vieira said she thinks the administration could have handled the policy change more effectively by informing the student body of the change.

"While I truly appreciate our school's efforts to incorporate new procedures that will make Marshall safer, I think that it would be more helpful to make students aware of them," Vieira said.

FCPS school board encourages teacher diversity

by jay kosumi

In light of an increasingly diverse student population, county leaders are now focusing on seeking a like-wise diverse faculty and staff.

For the last two years, FCPS administrators have discussed ways to diversify the county's workforce, following a 2017 study released by George Mason University that found the racial composition of the teaching staff in FCPS exhibits a lack of diversity.

While racial minorities make up 49 percent of Marshall's student body, the imbalance of diversity in the teacher-student ratio is distinct.

"Here at Marshall, you have students coming in from all over the world, but that's not really translated in the staff yet," French teacher Jacques Nong Bateki said.

The study published by GMU researchers in the spring 2017 issue of the Harvard Educational Review identified racial

discrimination as the root cause of the lack of teacher diversity in FCPS. However, Nong Bateki said he has not perceived any racial bias in the hiring process or among staff members.

"Obviously, as a black teacher, my first thought when I came for the job interview here was 'I probably won't be hired,' but I was

"Here at Marshall, you have students coming in from all over the world, but that's not really translated in the staff yet."

Jacques Nong Bateki
French teacher

wrong in the end," Nong Bateki said. "I think it all depends on the leadership a school has and the leadership here is great. I have never faced any racial discrimination from the principal, nor from my colleagues."

Principal Jeff Litz said while faculty diversity is in the back of his mind when

hiring, he said he always chooses the best candidate for a position.

"I am looking for the most qualified person that I feel fits the culture of our school and can be the most effective standing in the front of a classroom full of students," Litz said.

The county reacted to the study in an email to FCPS

employees, announcing administrators county-wide will make an effort to bring more diversity to their teaching staff.

"They were clear to say that they'd be hiring the best candidate no matter what, but they were going to do some outreach to encourage diverse teachers to apply and

want to work here," English teacher Chynna Wendell said.

Litz said faculty diversity was a goal even before the GMU study was released, but is limited by the number of minority applicants that come across his desk.

"I would love to hire more Hispanic teachers to match the 17 or 18 percent of the school's population that is Hispanic, but I don't get a lot of resumes," Litz said. "We are striving to do everything we can to make the staff more diverse."

Wendell said another contributing factor to the makeup of the county's faculty is the high cost of living.

"No matter what ethnicity, race or religion one is, we can't afford to live where we work," Wendell said. "So obviously the more attractive it is to work here, the more diverse applicants we're going to get. This is the first thing that our Superintendent is trying to take care of."

newsbriefs

Florida supporters paint banner to show solidarity with school

Supporters of the survivors of the school shooting in Parkland, Florida came together to create a banner for Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on Friday, Feb. 23. Students painted the banner with handprints and wrote the message "Statesmen support the Eagles" across the center.

"It began with [Math teacher] Leslie Barnhart requesting to create a banner for Stoneman Douglas High School to support the students and the school community," SGA sponsor and leadership teacher Pierce Bello said. "Because I'm the leadership teacher and the SGA sponsor, [principal Jeff] Litz reached out to me asking if this was something my leadership students wanted to do."

While students organized the event to demonstrate support and solidarity for the victims, students and families, senior Fatima Sy said she was initially skeptical over the extent of the banner's impact.

"At first I wasn't going to come because I thought that there was no impact being made," Sy said. "But I realized that us coming together as a community in itself is making an important impact."

by julia kun

Strong flu season sickens student body

For the past few months, the annual flu season cause a large amount of the student body to fall ill. The Center for Disease Control website said this flu season impacted almost all of the United States, leaving many to call in sick multiple times throughout winter. The website classified the flu as an epidemic in the United States due to its widespread activity.

Senior Anna Ngo said she hopes that the flu season does not get worse with the transition into spring.

"[This flu season] is worse, but hopefully not as long this season," Ngo said.

Getting sick with the flu during the school year often means having to miss class instruction and school activities.

Ngo said getting the flu in the middle of the school year may make it hard to stay on top of school work.

"I think it's hard for people to recover from it," Ngo said. "Especially everyone dealing with IA's and makeup tests."

Sophomore Rhobi Manamba said she wasn't affected too badly by the flu this season, but agreed that those who are affected by it face negative impacts.

"A lot of people who have gotten sick weren't able to perform as well in their sports," Manamba said.

by kiley moriarty

Parents fundraise for All Night Grad

by ben harper

An online auction to raise money for the All Night Grad Party for seniors took place from March 10 to 18.

A preview party on March 9 preceded the auction, where parents had the chance to buy items for a slightly higher price than the original cost to fundraise for the All Night Grad Party.

"It's a good opportunity to get something I would want anyways but also contribute to the class so it's like a donation and something else," chair of the auction Brooke Edwards said.

Auction organizer Jody Toser said she is confident that the auction will raise enough money for the party. Toser said the auction has taken large amounts of preparation.

"We have been working since the senior class' freshman year to make this possible," Toser said. "Lots of planning and organizing has been done."

Fellow organizer Linda Baker said many people had to contribute in order to put the auction together.

"We relied a lot on what people did last year," Baker said. "We [also] had people who helped canvass different geographical areas for donations and it came together."

Toser said she is thankful for the community's efforts in putting on the auction.

"We are thankful that we have generous parents and community members who help keep our kids safe and off the streets on graduation night during the party," Toser said. "[We're thankful] that we are able to provide this for all students despite their economic status and ability to afford it for themselves."

Senior Carter Graceson said he hopes that enough money is raised to have a good time.

"I'm grateful for [the auction organizers]," Graceson said. "They're doing their best for us to have a memorable night."

Parent Katrine Eichelbert said the auction represents a community building activity.

"It brings the parents together, it raises awareness," Eichelbert said. "We have joint experiences of having a senior and we talk of what's to come next in their lives."



BEN HARPER/RANK&FILE

Auction organizer Lisa Younger hands fellow organizer Linda Baker a credit card to test the kickoff's payment process.



WILL SHIN/RANK&FILE

Junior Tenzin Gonshar campaigns to be secretary of the Northern Virginia FBLA Panel.

FBLA secures spot at state competition

by will shin

The Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) club competed in the second and final part of their regional competition on Mar. 8 for a chance to compete at states on Apr. 6.

The first phase of regionals, involved taking a test on select business topics. The second phase required participants to give presentations in front of a panel of judges to try and earn a spot at states.

"We have a pretty solid foundation of students who are passionate

about business in general and want to pursue business as a career option," FBLA sponsor Rebekah Glasbrenner said.

The chapter finished regionals with 28 members within the top three for their specific topic. FBLA chapter president and senior Brenda Henriquez received second place.

"I hope to improve at states," Henriquez said. "I believe the Marshall chapter had a positive turnout at Regionals. We have many dedicated members who work hard and our regional outcomes demonstrated

that."

Some participants also opted to apply for a position on the Northern Virginia FBLA Panel. Out of the three available jobs: president, vice-president and secretary; junior Tenzin Gonshar won the position of secretary after giving her speech to the entirety of regional participants.

"Getting the opportunity and actually being the regional FBLA secretary is really cool because I am passionate about business so this is one of my first steps in involving myself in the business world," Gonshar said.

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Online classes force adaptation, evolution

by ethan zack

The concept of taking an online class seems initially appealing: the members only meet once a week, they get the independence to manage their weekly assignments as they see fit and they don't even have to leave the comfort of their own home to go to class. I believe that while these aspects of online classes are helpful, they can lure attendees of the course into a state of false security while taking a class that's just as rigorous as regular courses.

Scheduling may seem easy since you only meet once a week, but finding a time where everyone is free can prove to be extremely frustrating. In my experience, the various activities and commitments each member of my online class constrict us to only being able to meet at 9 p.m. each Tuesday night, with class running until around 10:15 p.m.. Even then, scheduling conflicts with the classes occur frequently, as attendees struggle to reconcile their life outside of school with additional schooling. Though this issue is somewhat unavoidable, the need to plan out my entire day until late in the evening ends up being more of a

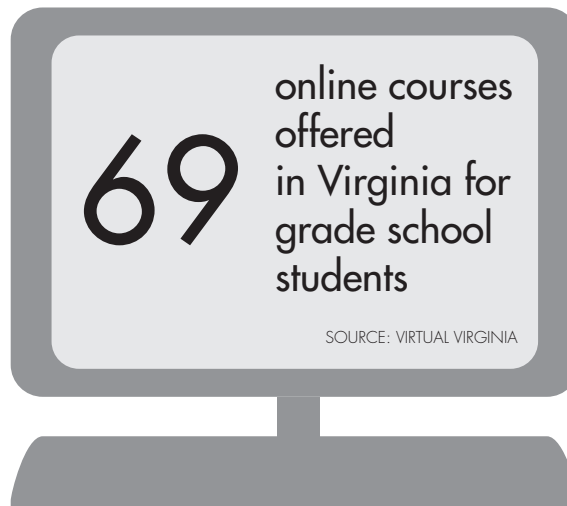
frustrating nuisance than anything else.

For the time that you don't meet in class, the work does not let up either. Classes are usually supposed to strictly be tests of comprehension, while you complete much of the work for the class

separate materials like powerpoints and pre-recorded presentations, only to meet and essentially learn them again during every comprehension-based class, to be redundant and a waste of time. The classes should be responsible for what every other course is: teaching material.

On the other hand, online classes can yield substantial benefits to those who are capable of dealing with some of the eccentricities. Since the courses mostly consist of independent work, the frills and busy work of an average class are largely absent. This focus on essential work allows students to manage and learn the material effectively, while also giving them the necessary time to allocate towards their other classes.

I would never go as far as to say that online classes are easy. They require the same amount of effort and commitment as a regular class, just in a different fashion. However, the independence they grant can allow time for other exciting opportunities. I believe it is important for anyone planning to take an online class to understand just what exactly it demands, before they are lured into a sense of false security and a lowered GPA.



as homework on a week-based schedule. I don't have much of a problem with the weekly pacing of the class, as the same would be expected of an in-school class. However, I find the fact that members have to independently learn material via

Bathrooms provide sub-par conditions for use

by johann young

Since the beginning of my freshman year, the restrooms have always been in semi-functional condition without fail, due to compounding issues that administration has not fixed and mistreatment from students. My perspective focuses on the men's restrooms and not the women's, but either way, the administration needs to fix these conditions.

Throughout the last four years, I do not think I can remember the last time that every single sink in a restroom has worked completely. Every other sink manages to work but the rest just sit there taking up space that could be used for more paper towel dispensers or even mirrors. The same can be said for some of the paper towel dispensers that in previous years would remain empty or just wide open for weeks on end without any change to it. These conditions could easily be changed with proper maintenance to them in order for better function throughout the year. Obviously, there must be a reason they have not been fixed but I feel it would add to the quality expected for the school. Overall, this change would be a nice fix in functionality so that other issues may be

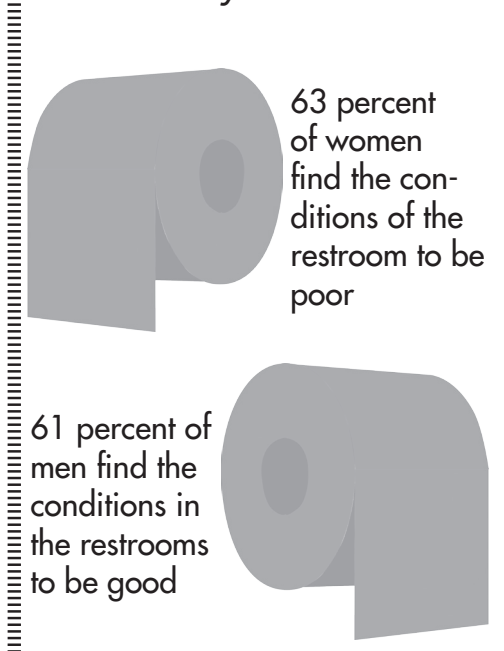
avoided in the future.

The real trouble however comes with the community's treatment of the restroom itself. The restrooms primarily suffer from destruction of property, the constant mess with paper towels and toilet paper on the ground and the occasional explicit word or phrase on the walls. I cannot even begin to count the amount of times I've seen some sort of racial slur or even the occasional spoiler of a movie written somewhere in the restroom for all to see. One such spoiler happened to be for the recently released *Black Panther*, which I was excited to see. Sadly, the unknown culprit summarized the final act on the wall of the bathroom and spoiled the ending for me. These conditions are simply unacceptable for the reputation of the school we're in. The students should take their time to not only keep the area clean but to also make sure that others do not mess it up either. This would be a simple fix that would ultimately make the environment in the building better for all that come through.

The conditions of the men's restrooms are in many ways repulsive with the mistreatment from students throughout the year. People who use the restroom should keep it in a condition that anyone would

enjoy instead of the constant destruction that is normally seen throughout the building. The issues with the sinks and paper towels are also major issues that should be resolved simply for the sake of proper functionality in the restrooms.

bathroom approval by the numbers



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COURTESY OF LEXIE ERRIGO

Junior Lexie Errigo helps another student start a coding project at the Girls Who Code Club interest meeting. Errigo said she co-founded the club to teach girls technical skills, leadership and to empower them in the male-based computer world. Girls interested in informations technology and engineering joined the club to improve their coding abilities and develop community support. Dedicated members can even pursue an entry-level internship outside of the club. Club members said they are looking to partner with Women in Technology and add a mentorship program to help girls achieve their dreams.

Girls Who Code promotes leadership skills

by mary trivisonno

Girls Who Code hosts opportunities throughout the year for girls to focus on cultivating their technical abilities within the computer world. Juniors Claire Casey and Lexie Errigo said they started the club with the hopes that it would generate a community of girls with a common dream for STEM careers and encourage women to break the male-based mold that shrouds the computer world.

In addition to teaching girls the basics of coding, career experience specialist and club sponsor Shellis Farquharson said the club keeps a heavy focus on developing assertiveness and community support for members.

“The mission of this club is to empower students in their pursuit of the information technology and engineering fields but also to recognize the power they have to collectively support each other,” Farquharson said. “It’s imperative that the connections and

relationships begin now.”

Errigo said she thinks the strong community aspect of the club will pave the way for future growth.

“Our club is really about acting as a community and learning from everyone,” Errigo said. “We believe that the best way to learn is through practice and collaboration, and during meetings we sit in a circle to interact with each other and share knowledge.”

The club provides opportunities for members to develop their coding skills throughout the year. Farquharson said especially committed coders even have the chance to seek internships.

“Dedicated members who attend meetings twice a month can improve their coding and IT skills immensely and even look at pursuing an entry-level internship or position,” Farquharson said.

The club plans on exposing girls to various career possibilities.

“Girls Who Code will expose

students to career experiences this year including Mclean’s Young Women in Engineering Program, Women’s Leadership Conference sponsored by Cisco and many others as we ramp up next school year,” Farquharson said. “We also hope to partner with Women in Technology and add opportunities for a mentorship program.”

Casey said she thinks the club should primarily focus on aiding girls on the way to their goals. and being as supportive of its members as possible.

“I want to encourage girls to pursue their dreams no matter the obstacles that are in their way or if they are the first to do something,” Casey said.

Both Casey and Errigo said they plan on working towards careers in STEM past high school.

“I want to study engineering in college,” Casey said. “I don’t know what kind yet, but I work with people in this club so it will be a concentration where I can do that.”

Robotics team makes semifinals

by ivan isnit

Gryphon robotics reached the semifinals competition for the first time in two years after entering in the First Chesapeake District Northern Virginia Event competition.

Last year, the robotics team placed 30th in their matches. This year, their place moved to 18th when other teams picked them for a quarterfinal alliance.

The top ranking teams from Fresta Valley High School and Appomattox Regional Governor’s School for the Arts and Technology also picked Gryphon Robotics as a partner to participate after quarterfinals.

“None of us could believe we got picked,” design captain and sophomore Sara Johnson said.

Team members said in previous years, the competitions went badly because of the lack of members and funding for the robot.

“We didn’t have that many team members or involvement with mentors so we struggled a lot because we had to learn everything on our own,” finance captain and senior Sandi Khong said.

With new members joining this year to specialize groups, Johnson said that the team’s standing has elevated.

Johnson said the team has also reached their success through a shift in strategies.

“Alliance partners are randomly assigned so we wanted to make sure that our team communicated with the other alliance,” Johnson said. “Since our robot was having some issues, we figured that if maybe some of our other alliance members could do something better then we let them do that while we did something else.”

Prior to the start of the competition, the scouting team collected data on the other team’s capabilities and robots. After collecting the data, the strategy and scouting team advised their drive team. Following that, they also communicated with their alliances, and assigned specific tasks to their robots according to their abilities.

Despite reaching such success, the team still faced setbacks along the way. Upon entering the competition at Battlefield High school, their robot, Guillotine, faced a malfunction in their first match.

“When the robot didn’t move, we were confused because we had practiced with the robot before and it worked,” robotics mentor Samuel Allen said.

Imagery captain and junior Kirsten Springer said the malfunction shocked



COURTESY OF KIRSTEN SPRINGER

The robotics team’s robot Guillotine performed at the CHS District Northern Virginia Event Competition. The robots pick up the cubes and placed them on the scale in order to earn points. The semifinals competition took place at Battlefield high

the robotics team.

“I was panicking, I didn’t know what was going on,” Springer said. “I was just seeing the shock on our drivers’ faces, it was kinda like an ‘Oh no, what are we going to do?’ type of moment.”

The robotics team fixed and trouble-shooted Guillotine’s code right away to get the robot back on its feet on their first match.

Junior Elena Bachman said the spirit of the team members fueled them at the competition despite the difficulties.

“I think people were really good about not giving up on all these problems that we ran into,” Bachman said.

After fixing the problems, Gryphon was able to make a comeback and win the matches with their alliance partners. At their quarter-finals, Springer said they battled with the same enemy for a best out of three.

As it was the first time in two years that the Gryphon robotics made the semifinals, the members said the win was hard to believe.

“After the match ended, they have to count the final score and it comes up on the board, for everyone to see,” Springer said. “It was at this moment when we just all started to think ‘Oh my god, we’ve actually done it.’”



HANNAH LEVITAN/RANK&FILE

“In Mexico, college is way less competitive, but there’s also [not as many options] as there are in the US,” senior Regina Guerrero-Perez said. “I guess in that sense, I wouldn’t be as stressed. But even in Mexico, I wanted to go to the U.S [for college], so maybe I would’ve ended up in the same place.”

Guerrero-Perez turns her art dream into reality

by hannah levitan

When senior Regina Guerrero-Perez moved from Mexico to the United States, the opportunities presented to her shaped her life. Guerrero-Perez said the options that came with living in the United States helped her turn her former hobby into a reality

“When I came here, art became more of a possibility for a career,” Guerrero Perez said. “[Back in Mexico] we didn’t have art electives like we do here.”

Guerrero-Perez moved to the U.S in 2014, but began she exploring artistic potential even earlier.

Currently, several art schools have accepted Guerrero-Perez, including the Parsons School of Design, the Savannah College of Art and Design and Virginia Commonwealth University.

“I want to study art, so I’m choosing between illustration and fine arts, but I could do both at VCU and mix them for my major,” Guerrero-Perez said.

Although she said she often misses her life in

Mexico, Guerrero-Perez now has a variety of opportunities to pick from.

“One thing that really did change after coming here to the U.S. is how I looked at my future in terms of college,” Guerrero-Perez said. “I like how America is very career-centered and how you have a lot of options. You can chase your dream.”

Guerrero-Perez said it was hard adapting to the cultural changes once in the U.S. as everything is more family oriented in Mexico.

“When people go to

college in Mexico, they [still] live with their parents until they’re about 25, and it’s normal,” Guerrero-Perez said. “Here in the U.S., I’ve seen that people tend to be more focused on the individual, because when you go to college you’re on your own.”

Guerrero-Perez said although it was difficult to adapt, she now has access to a range of opportunities.

“I feel like I wouldn’t be chasing [my dream] of becoming an artist if I lived in Mexico,” Guerrero-Perez said.

“Thoroughly Modern Millie” production spurs controversy

by **aparna mathew**

The theatre department’s upcoming production of “Thoroughly Modern Millie” prompted preliminary controversy due to the way the original film depicted Chinese culture through characters like Mrs. Meers, the main antagonist, and two young Chinese immigrants who Meers turns into her henchmen.

“[Mrs. Meers] is portrayed as an Asian woman with a very stereotypical accent,” theatre director Jason Tamborini said. “On top of that is the fact that most productions [of the play] feature a white woman in yellow face makeup and a wig on. That can get really messy really quickly.”

Tamborini said it was important to identify characters that may be considered stereotypical in an appropriately fitting light.

“I think it’s important we showcase Mrs. Meers as the true villain,” Tamborini said. “We’re going all out on Mrs. Meers as the true villain. The lines are still

downright racist; the character kidnaps woman and sells them. She’s a bad person. Pretty much top to bottom, there is no redeeming quality in her.”

Tamborini said the production aims to portray the immigrants as accurately as possible.

“[Mrs. Meers] doesn’t have any empathy,” Tamborini said. “To contrast her, I really wanted to make sure that we were able to portray our two Chinese immigrants as honestly and as truly as we could.”

Junior Nica Albertson said she thinks the play accurately depicts controversies of the 1920s.

“I believe that it’s an appropriate representation of the situations at that time,” Albertson said. “An American woman paints her face white and appropriates Chinese culture brutally. It is unbearable to watch because of how ridiculous we perceive it as now, but for the time period, it was practically normal.”

Albertson said accurate



UNIVERSAL STUDIOS. REPRODUCED UNDER FAIR USE.

Millie Dillmount (Julie Andrews) and Dorothy Brown (Mary Tyler Moore) raise their hands in the 1967 film version of “Thoroughly Modern Millie”.

depictions of culture are crucial to the public’s understanding of tradition.

“It is important to portray a culture accurately because that is the image that people see in [the media],” Albertson said. “It’s a major factor that leads to the racism prevalent to this day; a lot of racism is based on presumptions from

media.”

Junior Rosy Simonelli, a fan of the original film, said the adaptation interests her.

“I think it’s really cool that they’re taking on a play with so many challenging ideas and themes,” Simonelli said. “I can’t wait to see how it turns out.”

Paramount postpones *Heathers* reboot after Florida shooting

by **matt scopa**

Paramount Network postponed the premiere of the *Heathers* reboot, a TV show based on the 1988 movie, citing sensitivity to the school shooting in Parkland, Florida.

“I think that it was good that they postponed it,” junior Claire Cwalina said. “It’s an appropriate response to the tragedy.”

Heathers is not the first show to receive a delay because of a mass shooting. In October, Netflix withdrew a preview of *The Punisher* from New York Comic-con after the shooting in Las Vegas.

“The media plays a large part in these mass shootings, so I think it’s good

[that it] checks itself when one occurs and remains sensitive to public opinion,” senior Jayan Zachariah said.

The show received reviews prior to the postponement that panned the show for its focus on identity politics. The reviews also discuss how the show loses its satire behind tone deaf humor.

“I saw some previews for the show and it looked awful,” senior Jack Feenick said. “It seems they replaced great songs with campy humor [and] I don’t think a show that promises mediocre results at best should debut in the midst of a tragic shooting.”

Heathers fan and senior Erin Villaronga said the show could ruin the legacy

of the original and more factors than the shooting could have contributed to the postponement.

“I know the creators were trying to come up with some postmodern twist [...] but our society really isn’t in a place where it’s okay to have a white girl as a victim where a lesbian woman, a black woman and a non-binary person are the bullies,” Villaronga said. “[The show] could hurt the legacy of *Heathers*, but also the self-image of a lot of teens.”

If aired, *Heathers* would act as Paramount Network’s second original series. The show has not yet received a new premiere date.

“I agree with the creator’s decision to postpone it,” Villaronga said.



PARAMOUNT PICTURES. REPRODUCED UNDER FAIR USE.

From Left to Right: Heather Chandler (Melanie Field), Heather Duke (Brendan Scannell) and Heather McNamara (Jasmine Mathews) star in the Paramount reboot of the 1988 film. Paramount postponed *Heathers* as a response to the school shooting in Parkland, Florida.

“I think that [schools] are all very fragile and sensitive to the issue of mass shootings in America at the moment,” junior Claire Francis said. “I’m a fan of *Heathers*, and I was excited to see how the reboot turned out, but I think that they made the right call by holding off on releasing episodes.”

Senior panoramic creates conflict

by **sophie tedesco**

The yearbook staff took the senior panoramic photo on Jan. 31. The panoramic displays the entire class of 2018, serving as a memento for graduates to look back on.

This year, multiple seniors created symbols with their hands in the photos. Yearbook advisor Daniel Reinish said those gestures took away from the purpose of the photo.

“[When] you’ve got a few people standing out, it diminishes the quality [of the photo],” Reinish said. “It makes the people look at the photo for the wrong reason. [The photo is] supposed to be about celebrating the collection of the entire senior class together in one place, and instead it becomes ‘Hey, look what so-and-so did.’”

Senior Soliman Salem said he chose to make a hand gesture to represent his personality and time in high school as people reflected on their experiences through the book.

“It was sort of a ‘last moments together’ type thing,” Salem said. “It reflected on my personality as a senior at

Marshall: a silly, sort of no tomorrow type of guy.”

Salem said the gesture, which was his thumb and index finger creating a circle with his three other fingers out, had no true meaning.

“It’s just something fun, something you do to kid around with your friends, or hide them into something,” Salem said. “It’s not malicious [and] it’s not gang-affiliated or gang-related at all.”

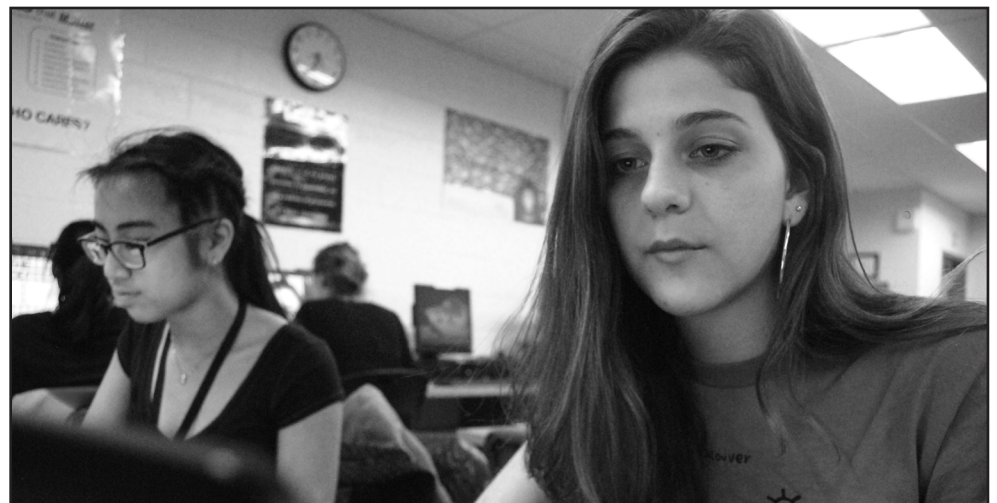
Senior Brady La Rue said he also made a gesture in the photo along in the photo, along with two friends.

“I made the gesture because it’s always been a joking thing ever since I can remember like I did it with my friends all the time in elementary school,” La Rue said. “At the time, we were doing the pictures it kind of resurfaced so I just thought it would be a funny, harmless little joke.”

La Rue said he faced repercussions from the administration because of the gesture.

“[I], and everyone else who did it, [have] to pay a fine of 50 dollars and have to come up with some kind of apology to the class of 2018 for doing it,” La Rue said.

Yearbook staffer Molly Haugen



IVAN ISNT/RANK & FILE

Sophomores Rebecca Cuthbertson and Angelina Lam work on the yearbook spread containing the senior panoramic photo. The addressal of the hand gestures added to the workload of the yearbook staff.

said that problems with the senior panoramic created more work for the yearbook staff.

“I was pretty upset just because that meant that we couldn’t use the picture in the yearbook [at first],” Haugen said, “Once they fixed the picture we had to redesign the spread, [which was] really frustrating.”

Reinish said the yearbook staff wants the yearbook to be something that

everyone in the school community can be proud of.

“Our goal is to make a book that everybody in the building can be proud of,” Reinish said. “We feel like the yearbook is the voice of Marshall High School and the yearbook should represent Marshall high school. [As such] we’d rather [the panoramic] be this celebration of the collective whole, rather than a game to spot the funny things.”

Author Shaun David Hutchinson visits book festival

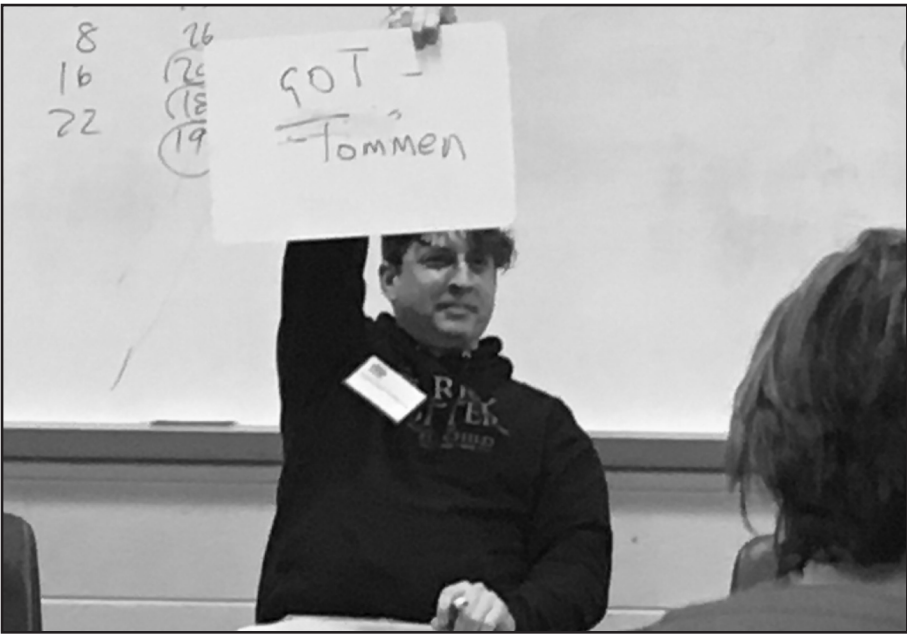
Shaun David Hutchison, author of books like *We Are the Ants* and *At the Edge of the Universe* attended the 5th annual Nova TEEN Book Festival, and stopped my Marshall High School afterwards and spoke to students in Creative Writing about his past in writing and his goal to inspire future writers.

How did you start writing Young Adult (YA) Literature?

"When I actually started, I didn't know I was going to be writing YA fiction. I was just writing books. What I knew of YA fiction back in 2008 and 2009 was Judy Blume and RL Stine. I grew up with books like *A Wrinkle in Time* and the *Chronicles of Narnia*, and I didn't know that those types of books had really evolved."

How do you deal with criticism?

"My answer [to criticism] is that my job is to be honest. I deal with a lot of things in my books: suicide and mental illness, sexuality, gender roles, grief and poverty, to name a few. These are all things that people consider to be controversial, but that's life. They say 'these are too many issues in one book' and I say 'how many people do you know that deal with depression on one day and leave all their other problems alone?' That's not real life. A teen who is dealing with poverty at home, is probably dealing with depression at the same time. Maybe they're dealing with a family member who is struggling with addiction. People deal with different issues all the time, that's real life. I respond [to criticism] by reporting these things accurately, because that's my job. I get far more emails from teenagers that say, 'I felt seen from reading your book and I found someone who actually saw and understood what my life is actually like.' It's adults who actually need to be listening and hearing what [teens] have to say."



WADE DEVINNY/RANK&FILE

How do you feel when teens reach out to you and applaud your work?

"It's just this feeling that I'm doing something right. I know my books, just like every other book, isn't for every person. Success, for me, means that I have written to one reader in a way that fundamentally changes them. Think about that; how many people have the opportunity to put something out that changes anyone's life? When I was a teen, it wouldn't have taken much to give me some sort of hope. I hope that when I write about things that someone has never read about before, it will help them empathize with people who aren't like them."

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Shotput differs from normal track experience

by mia toser

The shotput and discus categories of track & field compete at meets with the entire team, but the throwers say they get a minimal amount of recognition due to its lack of publicity. Throwing captain and senior Lucas Cintonrino said that due to their small size and their practice location, other people forget that they are even a team.

“We are often forgotten,” Cintonrino said. “Even the rest of the track team forgets about us.”

The team practices five times each week, three of which are before school. The morning practices consist of weight lifting and strength training, while the afternoon sessions center around technique training and throwing. Those who put forth effort in the mornings call themselves the “Iron Throwers Breakfast Club”.

“The practices in the morning are a strategy to have kids who can make it in the morning to get a work out,” throwing coach and Spanish teacher Jose Portillo said. “It [also] frees up their afternoons. Most of our meets are early morning and it helps that they can be ready to go that early.”

According to Portillo, throwing is a



KHRISTEN HAMILTON/COLUMBIAN

Senior Lucas Cintonrino practices his shotput for the upcoming season with teammates senior Ty Brooke and junior Cyrus Kowkabi looking on.

technical sport and it takes one to two years to master the skills that the sport requires.

“This is my second year [on the team] and I have definitely improved,” senior and thrower Piper MacNicol said. “Not only have I gotten stronger, but there is also a lot of technique to it and once you get the technique down you start throwing a lot further.”

The current team roster is the largest group that Portillo has coached in his 12 years of leading for the sport. Cintonrino said that the large size benefits the team dynamic.

“The workouts seem less like work and more like fun because I have a whole team of friends and we are led by Portillo, who is an awesome coach,” Cintonrino said.

Dirkse sets school record in hurdles

by sophie tedesco

Senior Michelle Dirkse won the 55 meter hurdles race in a new school record at the regional track and field championships on Feb. 14. Dirkse is Marshall’s first regional champion in the event.

The event was Dirkse’s second ever indoor track regional championship, and her first in the 6A classification.

“[Michelle’s win] validated the strength of our program,” head track and field coach Clifford Wong said. “It showed that we are not one dimensional,

we can compete in distance, sprints, and hurdles and it showed that we can compete in [the] 6A [division].”

Dirkse has improved consistently over the season and over her high school career. She ran personal bests at almost every meet during the regular season and ran her fastest time in the hurdles at the regional championship.

“I definitely wasn’t expecting to win,” Dirkse said. “I was really excited that I peaked at the right time.”

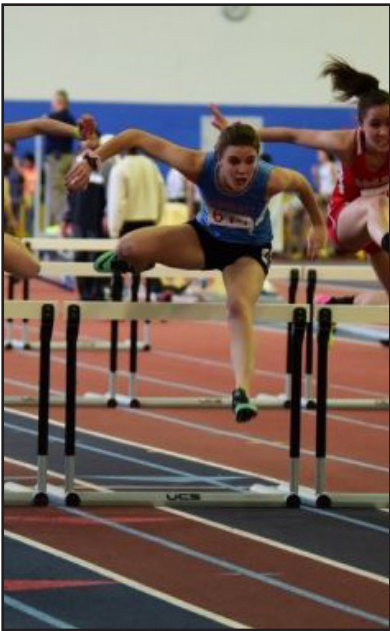
Dirkse previously placed second at the

conference championship on Jan. 30.

“I ran a really good time [at conference] even though I didn’t win,” Dirkse said, “I was happy because it was a much better time than I had ran any other time that season.”

Dirkse placed 16th at the state championships in Hampton Virginia on Feb. 24, beating her 24th place ranking prior to the meet.

“Once I hit states I kind of felt like I had made my goal,” Dirkse said. “[The best part of the experience] was just going with a relay [team] and hanging out with people.”



MILESTAT.COM

Senior Michelle Dirkse competes in the 6A regional hurdles championship race.

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sportsbriefs

March Madness creates support for college teams

The NCAA Men’s Division 1 Basketball Tournament otherwise referred to as March Madness, takes place in March and extends to the beginning of April. Fans create brackets for the tournmanet and root for their favourite teams to win the championship.

Fans of all age demographics tune in during the two week time frame of the broadcastings to cheer on the teams.

“From a young age, my favorite team was Michigan. I started rooting for them because my dad is a fan of Michigan and I want to go there for college,” senior Miles Wilcox said.

Tickets to the games sell out quickly and also have a high price, making tickets difficult to purchase, especially in local areas.

“My biggest dream is to go to a Maryland game, but the tickets are so expensive and the seats sell out at such a fast rate that I never get the chance to go,” senior Rebecca Winicour said.

Winners of their conference tournament gain the opportunity to proceed to the NCAA tournament, so they take the accomplishments of the teams personally.

“A while ago when Michigan made the big ten tournament final in Washington D.C., I had the chance to see the game live and when the team won, it was really hype,” Wilcox said. “The confetti rained down and I was in the box, jumping up and down.”

by rose taury



NCAA.COM

Fans must fill out the online bracket in order to participate in March Madness.

Baseball program cuts down team size

The baseball team will play with fewer athletes after the junior varsity and varsity teams decreased their size.

“[Coach Aaron Tarr] wanted to make the team smaller because he felt it’d be easier for us to be successful and bond,” freshman and varsity player Drew Hiller said.

Members of the varsity team said they welcomed the change.

“I think it will improve our team and allow us to be the best we can,” senior and varsity player John Kerns said.

The change also went over well among members of the junior varsity team.

“I like the change [because] we won’t have as many kids on the team,” freshman and junior varsity player Timmy Bradley said.

Though the players said the changes will positively affect the teams, they said the change was not without its drawbacks.

“It sucks that some people aren’t on the team,” Kerns said.

Freshman and junior varsity player Ronan Kelly views the change as a necessary sacrifice.

“We are going to be better because our players are better,” Kelly said. “I, of course, like the change because I am on the team, but if I got cut, I wouldn’t like it.”

by ryan doucette