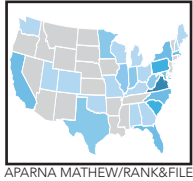


C-Spread:



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Marshall sends off graduating seniors with a map of their future colleges.

Online:



GRADY DILLON/RANK&FILE

Four teachers will leave Marshall at the end of the school year.



SOPHIE TEDESCO/RANK&FILE

How public and private colleges differ and what they provide.



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Teachers using their SOL block for final exams causes undue stress.



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Abortion protest causes controversy over right to free speech.

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IB film festival raises funds and celebrates months of hard work

by william shin

IB Film Studies hosted the sixth annual Film Fest in the auditorium on May 18.

The film festival features a number of student-made short films that participants submit to the IB Film Program for approval. The festival also serves as IB Film's only fundraising event to pay for whatever supplies they may need for the following year.

"Each year, running the Film Fest is certainly a challenge, and it takes hard work," senior and third-year IB Film student Matthew Harrington said. "But overall it was really fun to work on, and ended up going smoothly."

This year, the film festival showcased a total of 17 short films. Among them are *Be a Leader*, *And Suddenly!*

and *Bear Dance*, which the Virginia High School League nominated to present at their 2018 Film Festival.

"I was honestly pretty surprised when our film was nominated," senior and actor in *Bear Dance* Jack Feenick said. "It was a lot of fun and a lot of work portraying such a crazy character, and clearly it showed."

IB Film teacher Pierce Bello said getting people to attend the event is something the program struggles with each year because the festival always takes place during finals and SOL's.

"I've always struggled with placement of the show," Bello said. "The problem with doing [the Film Fest] during this time is that we're not allowed to do any announcements on the PA whatsoever because of IB and SOL exams."



WILL SHIN/RANK&FILE

From left to right: Seniors Jack Feenick, Matthew Harrington, Andrew Taylor and IB Film teacher Pierce Bello stand in the auditorium control room and project the films for the festival.

Despite their struggles in regards to advertisement, audience members said the festival was enjoyable.

"I came to the Film Fest last year, and I enjoyed it so much I came to see it again," sophomore Jack Lwin said.

Bello spoke positively on the quality of his students' work and ethic.

"I am very proud of the work that they've done for the IB program and what

we've done for the school," Bello said.

Because the Film Fest is restricted to the IB Film Studies II students, those in IB Film I can only participate after completing that course.

"I'm excited to work on the festival next year," sophomore and IB Film I student Sam Sedgewick said. "I want to be able to put forth effort into having these films seen by more people."

First annual Iftar embraces religious differences

by jay kosumi

Interfaith Club held their first annual Iftar to celebrate Ramadan in the cafeteria on May 17. The term *Iftar* refers to the meal that Muslims consume at sunset to break their daily fast.

"We came up with the idea of an annual Iftar because some people don't understand Ramadan or don't even know it exists, so in this way we could bring people together," sophomore and Interfaith Club President Sophie Konde said.

Interfaith Club collaborated with the Muslim Student Association and Indian Subcontinent Association to bring the event together. The Iftar opened with a welcome address by English teacher and Interfaith Club sponsor Chynna Wendell, followed by student-led presentations. Each person presented about their respective religion.

"My religion is Judaism, so we celebrate Yom Kippur," Konde said. "[It] is similar to Ramadan in the sense that we fast for 24 hours to ask for forgiveness for our sins, and say that we are going to be better people in the upcoming year."

The breaking of the fast took place after the presentations. Wendell invited people to participate in the Call to Prayer, the Islamic prayer that Muslims traditionally recite during the Iftar. Wendell passed around dates to the guests because she said they held religious significance in Islam.

"[Muslims] break the fast with dates because that's what Prophet Mohammed did," Wendell said.

Both Muslims and non-Muslims participated in the Call to Prayer, also known as *Salah*.

"The procedure for *Salah* is that you have to make *Wudu*, which is the purification of the body," senior Soliman Salem said. "You cleanse yourself, and all that water that drips off of you represents the sins."

For Muslims, praying five times a day is a religious duty, and one of the Five Pil-

lars of the faith of Islam.

during the prayer when we were bowing... that's when we make pleas and ask God for forgiveness."

The organizers of the event received donations from Jason's Deli and Ledo Pizza. Individual members also brought in traditional home-cooked meals and desserts. Wendell said she was pleasantly surprised by the high turnout of the Iftar.

"We didn't expect to have such a high turnout," Wendell said. "It's overwhelming to see so many people, and that's a really good sign for the future."

Konde attributed the high turnout of the event to the amount of organization and planning that went into it.

"I feel like the way we organized [the Iftar] tonight actually worked, and I'm really happy with how it turned out," Konde said.

Guests also had the opportunity to participate in face-painting.

"I think the best part was just everybody coming together to celebrate, regardless of their religion," senior Elhan Musta said.

Wendell said this event was not just an opportunity for people to celebrate, but also to be open-minded about various cultures and religions and embrace their differences.

"People fear what they don't know, and we are more alike than we are different," Wendell said. "I just want everyone to come together, share and be happy... Hopefully there will be more events like this in the future."

"People fear what they don't know, and we are more alike than we are different."

Chynna Wendell
english teacher

lars of the faith of Islam.

"You can't pray unless you have the intention of praying," Salem said. "For every set [of prayer], you need to say the *Fatiha*, the opener of the Qur'an."

Salem said that reciting the *Fatiha* legitimizes the prayer.

"If you don't use the opener, the prayer is null," Salem said. "[Praying] is all about praising the Lord. There was a part

newsbriefs

Envirothon team qualifies for 2018 state competition

The Envirothon team qualified for the state competition of the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District on May 20 to 21.

The competition sponsors 11 Virginian teams to distinguish students that have an interest in agriculture.

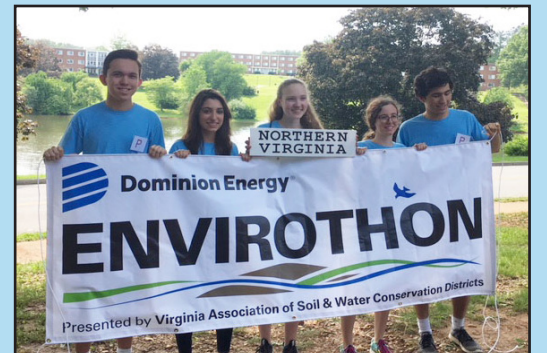
Biology teacher Barbara Brown led the team, which competed in tests that measured their knowledge in forestry, soil, aquatics, wildlife and sustainable agriculture. They presented a farm concept to the judges.

"We hadn't specified that we wanted to build a solar-powered well," senior and Envirothon team member Neel Simpson said. "The judge asked about that, and we gain[ed] points by clarifying."

Although they didn't win the competition, Brown said the team saw what they needed to do and set a goal for next year.

"Their goal is to place [internationals] next year," Brown said.

by ivan isnit



COURTESY OF BARBARA BROWN

From left to right: Junior Ethan Cottle, sophomores Gloriana Cubero and Elise Ebert, and seniors Clara Cebal Mirani and Neel Simpson celebrate qualifying for the Envirothon state competition.

Seniors save amusement park trip from cancellation

Every year, the graduating senior class takes a commemorative trip to Kings Dominion to celebrate their final year of high school.

"It's sort of this final, entire class tradition," senior Jazz Haaren said. "It's sort of this funny, cheesy way to say goodbye to high school before we all go our separate ways,"

This year, the annual trip faced preliminary conflict due to a lack of interest among the senior class.

"You had to fill out this form and not many people got around to doing that, so we thought we couldn't go," senior Clark Zimmerman said.

Despite these issues, the Kings Dominion trip will take place as scheduled.

"I'm glad we get to go," senior Jasmine Hall said. "I want a class field trip before we all get ready to delve into college life."

by aparna mathew

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American University

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Appalachian State University

Grace Cusack

Baylor University

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Megumi Matsuda-Rivero
Neel Simpson
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Nawate Wani
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Daemen College

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Dartmouth College

Noah Daniel

Delaware Valley University

Lewis Horne

DePaul University

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Dickinson College

Ryan Robinson

Dominican University of California

Dinanka Wagle

Eastern Kentucky University

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point, counterpoint: local abortion protest

by sophie tedesco

“You can’t live a normal life, girl. Living a normal life is evil while America does this to babies.”

I was running down the sidewalk on Marshall Drive when an anti-abortion protester leaned close to me and yelled these words.

I ran on past signs depicting grotesque, mutilated fetuses. I ran past signs condemning mothers who chose abortions. A man on the street corner shouted through a megaphone that women who receive abortions are murderers.

This is not an opinion on abortion. Regardless of whether you are pro-life or pro-choice, the actions of these protesters were aggressive and uncalled for.

This is not a free speech issue. The First Amendment doesn’t change right and wrong.

The protest was a targeted attack on high school students and passerbys. The protesters chose Marshall.

The protesters released a video of the event in which they discuss putting their signs in front of cars and yelling at people through their windows while they are trapped at the stop light. They gleefully compare notes on how they are forcing people to look at their signs by blocking the sidewalk.

The protesters revelled in the power imbalance rush hour traffic created. They tried

to manipulate the situation to force their views on people who were unable to look or get away.

I find the targeting of my classmates, my teachers and myself insulting. Free speech aside, I have the right to feel offended.

I have the right to feel offended by the provocative images displayed that portrayed a medical, sometimes life saving procedure, as a crime scene. I have the right to feel offended by the signs and chants that condemn women who might be classmates, teachers or a passerby on the street.

I have the right to feel offended, and even threatened, by the personal approach the protesters took. I have the right to feel harassed by a man yelling in my face as I practiced my sport.

These “protesters,” were not protesters at all. They were attackers and assailants. They were not protesting legislation or outlining their opinion. They were attacking anyone who did not clearly share their belief that abortion was wrong.

I can be, and am, upset by people who take up sidewalks and poison the air with their vicious attacks and harassment of people who have no connection to their cause.

by christi smudde

Feeling offended is not identical to being harassed. After the recent abortion protests on May 16th, students reported harassment to administration. However, school officials confirmed no harassment occurred and the protesters followed the law. The demonstrations were a peaceful protest, but it is clear many students did not see it that way.

A protest is peaceful when it is without violence. Once people begin conflating nonviolent words

with violent actions, they start vilifying speech with which they disagree. One can argue raising up signs such as “abortion is a savage act of violence” is not tasteful, but the signs were not threatening. If the demonstrators attacked students, the students would have shut them down shut down. The protesters passed out cards, chanted and held signs. The demonstrators sent a clear message: abortion is wrong.

The pictures on signs shocked students and sparked discussion in school about abortion. That discussion bordered on gossip, and it could have been much more

productive. The Marshall community often proclaims itself to be a haven of intellectual diversity and open-mindedness. But when they are challenged, students failed to live up to their own ideals. The predominantly left-leaning student body chose to ignore an opportunity to learn from a counter-perspective. Holding a pro-life opinion is unpopular at Marshall, but that belief should not incentivise students to hate those who hold it. Students must remember freedom of speech also applies to those they dislike as well as to those with which they disagree.

The protesters’ tactics appeared offensive, but so did students’ tactics when they walked out of their classrooms and left school on April 20. When you protest, offense is implicit. Students walked out of their classrooms because they knew it offended their teachers, their parents and government officials. The abortion demonstrators presumably knew their signs would not be welcomed, but they protested anyway. They must have felt their cause was great enough to risk an adverse reaction. Non-offensive speech doesn’t need protection under the law. It is only the offensive speech that needs protection. The First Amendment gives abortion protesters their right to be heard, just as it gives students their right to be heard.

IB office restricts after school TOK enrollment

by hannah levitan

Theory of Knowledge (TOK) class, a mandatory core component of the International Baccalaureate Program, is now



limited to an in-school course, with the exception of those enrolled in select classes. The after-school TOK class seems to be the source of stress, schedule conflicts and limited program budgeting. Students enrolled in classes such as orchestra, journalism, yearbook or leadership, however, will still have the ability to continue their classes and take TOK after school.

As a sophomore planning to pursue the IB Diploma, I believe this policy is beneficial to IB candidates. I have witnessed many student athletes undergo immense stress from trying to

balance after-school TOK and practice time. I have spoken to members of my tennis team who said it is difficult to balance both TOK after-school and practice.

According to the IB office, 57 IB diploma candidates participate in TOK after-school, while the other 83 take the class during the day. Taking an additional class results in an excess amount of stress among students, particularly prevalent during IB exams. While an IB Candidate may be interested in enrolling in multiple sciences, for example, an additional eighth class after school

may interfere with homework, studying time and extracurriculars, eventually doing more harm than good. IB Candidates face the ultimate decision choosing between following their interests or obtaining the IB diploma.

Although the option to take TOK after school is no longer available for those not previously enrolled in select classes, Director of Student Services Cindy Blakeley said Marshall plans to implement a new application system next year for rising students with interest in after-school TOK and an extra class such as business or band.

Red flags successfully reinforce IB deadlines

by ryan doucette

IB diploma requirements come as a surprise to many juniors and seniors as the end of the school year approaches. Students often forget about work until the very end of the school year.

When a student falls behind or fails to finish an assignment, they receive a red flag on Managebac, the IB gradebook. This essentially indicates to these

students they are behind on their CAS requirements or extended essay.

Failure to fix the red flag before June 1 removes students from the IB diploma program. The current system of IB red flags assists the program by removing students off course of receiving the IB diploma.

The red flags can help the student because they give a clear indication of what they need to work on. This

allows students to take the initiative and fix their work

before the June 1 deadline. While the end of the year is tough, students need to learn how to work under strict deadlines.

Red flags successfully separate students on course to achieve the IB diploma from those who will not be able to achieve it. The requirement to fix all red flags narrows the students who are fully committed

towards getting the diploma. As a result, those who work harder have a better chance to graduate with an IB diploma.

The red flags can also benefit the teachers by removing the students who are not putting forward full effort. This allows teachers to dedicate their time towards students who will use it wisely and effectively.

Some claim the red flags are unfair, but for

the most part, they help reinforce the message of the diploma. Finishing work earlier would remove the opportunity

ty for students to receive a red flag. The current systems is effective and should remain.

58 percent of students had a red flag in April, but only 16 percent had one in May

Source: IB Office