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Quarterback Mark Cann



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## McCain accepts nomination

BY JESSICA WINTZ  
 THE PARTHENON

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., officially accepted the Republican presidential nomination Thursday night and vowed to vanquish the "constant partisan rancor" plaguing the nation on the final night of the Republican National Convention.

"Let me offer an advance warning to the old, big-spending, do-nothing, me-first, country second Washington crowd: Change is coming," McCain said.

"I will reach out my hand to anyone to help me get this country moving again," he said. "I have that record and the scars to prove it. Senator Obama does not," he said of his rival for the presidency, Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill.

McCain, 72 years old and campaigning to become the oldest first-term president in history, presented his credentials as a reformer willing to take on his own

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## Local band ready to play X-fest

BY JENNIFER L. CHAPMAN  
 THE PARTHENON

With well-known bands like Avenged Sevenfold and Shadows Fall heading up the main stage at this year's X-fest, the loud and local stage might blend in with the bodysurfing crowd.

But three rockers scheduled to shake the small Harris Riverfront Park stage are committed to give 'fest-goers' a bang for their 30 bucks.

Bud Carroll, Jimmy Lykens and Steve Barker, who make up the one-year-old band Bud Carroll and the Southern Souls, are geared to give a rockin' performance at the festival. But much of the spunk they give on stage is dependent on the enthusiasm radiated from the audience.

"We feed off of the crowd," guitar-picking Lykens said. "Even if they really hate it, you have something to feed off of."

Barker, the band's drummer, echoed Lykens saying an apathetic audience is one of the biggest show spoilers for the Southern Souls.

"I'd rather have an audience

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### Inside the Parthenon

**X-Fest** | *Avenged Sevenfold, Shadows Fall, Egypt Central, and Bud Carroll and the Southern Souls highlight this year's X-Fest at Harris Riverfront Park. Page 3*

**Elections** | *Marshall College Republicans and Young Democrats voice their opinion on the Rep. and Dem. National Conventions. Page 3 and 5*

**Sports** | *Preview of Saturday's game against Wisconsin of the Big 10. Page 4*

## Kopp weighs in on drinking debate

BY TAYLOR KUYKENDALL  
 THE PARTHENON

College parties flowing with alcohol and overindulgence dominate the popular media portrayal of higher education, but members of one national organization are saying the solution may be to make alcohol more accessible to students.

The Amethyst Institute is gathering signatures of college and university presidents interested in opening up public debate on lowering the legal drinking age from 21 to 18.

Marshall University President Stephen J. Kopp did not sign the petition, but has considered the issue.

"I'm certainly aware (underage drinking) occurs here, but why aid and abet it? I have not seen any evidence that lowering the drinking age will prevent binge drinking," Kopp said.

Kopp said he was hesitant to sign the petition without more information about the issue.

"I think one of the important things to look at is states which have lowered their drinking age only to change it back. Why did they do it? The idea of signing the petition and what that means need to be thought through," Kopp said.

One of the arguments by proponents of lowering the drinking age is the suggestion that decreasing the drinking age may make binge drinking less popular. Another common argument is the difference in maturity between the ages of 18 and 21 is fairly small.

According to reports from The Associated Press, many college and university presidents are interested in lowering the drinking age to lower the school's responsibility to separate the student body into who can and who cannot drink.

Kopp said he does not think simplifying university responsibility is a sufficient reason to change the



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY TAYLOR KUYKENDALL | THE PARTHENON

drinking age. "Alcohol inhibits cognitive function; it actually goes against the mission of furthering education," Kopp said. "Alcohol also suppresses REM sleep and is detrimental to learning and health. From a physiological perspective, it is a contradiction to a college's goal."

Law enforcement agencies are not completely opposed to lowering the drinking age. Jim Scheidler, chief sheriff's deputy of the Cabell County Sheriff's Department said lowering the drinking age should not only be dependent on age alone, but the maturity of the individual.

"I have mixed feelings about lowering the drinking age; I think I would prefer it to be something in between 18 and 21," Scheidler said. "Perhaps the right to drink could somehow be tied to the individual's performance in class. If they are only here to stay drunk all of

the time, they should know that is not what it's about."

"One of the problems right now is how difficult it is to police the issue. I know MUPD does not have the staff so we assist them in patrolling the area around the campus," Scheidler said.

Statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration suggest the increase in the minimum legal drinking age has already saved more than an estimated 20,000 lives. The administration has estimated it will con-

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### More on underage drinking

*See what Marshall students have to say about lowering the drinking age. Page 2*

### The debate on underage drinking

The Amethyst Institute has been making headlines recently with its mission to start debate about lowering the national drinking age.

The Amethyst Institute's Web site claims 21 is not working as the national minimum drinking age and it has caused a "culture of dangerous, clandestine binge-drinking."

The institute has gathered the signatures from more than 100 college and university presidents across the nation.

Below are some of the arguments the Amethyst Institute, according to its Web site, has raised for lowering the drinking age:

- A culture of dangerous, clandestine "binge-drinking"— often conducted off-campus— has developed.
- Alcohol education that mandates abstinence as the only legal option has not resulted in significant constructive behavioral change among students.
- Adults under 21 are deemed capable of voting, signing contracts, serving on juries and enlisting in the military, but are told they are not mature enough to have a beer.
- By choosing to use fake IDs, students make ethical compromises that erode respect for the law.
- The Amethyst Institute is calling for elected officials to consider support for an "informed and dispassionate" public debate about lowering the drinking age. The conversation should include positive methods for preparing young adults to make responsible decisions about alcohol.
- As signatories, the college presidents are pledging themselves and their institutions to play a vigorous, constructive role as these critical discussions unfold.

## Landing zone at Buskirk Field

### Helicopter lands on Buskirk Field to assist military recruitment

BY COLIN THORN  
 THE PARTHENON

A single engine, two-bladed helicopter replaced the footballs and Frisbees that normally fly around on Buskirk Field Thursday afternoon.

Students paused on their way to and from class to watch the landing of an OH-58 Kiowa helicopter on Buskirk Field as part of the One Book program organized by Marshall's ROTC.

"I was completely surprised," said senior Brandon Maynard of Huntington. "We went outside and there was a helicopter outside over our heads."

Along with the helicopter, the presentation also featured a light medium tactical truck and the gear soldiers carry.

Uniforms, packs and equipment were laid out for students to wear.

According to Jeffrey D. Stephens, U.S. Army major and recruiting officer for Marshall's ROTC, training loads are 35 pounds, but a typical combat load is 75 pounds along with a Kevlar helmet and a black vest.

"It's amazing because they have to carry everything they need to live in that little pack," said Chuck Hossler, associate dean of the College of Health Professions.

The helicopter that landed on campus is a 1968 model that flew during the Vietnam War. Although it is no longer deployed, it is still used for aerial drug searches, according to Ammon A. Webster, homeland defense and anti-drug pilot.

Webster said he has been flying for more than 40 years, and landing on a college campus was no challenge once the landing zone was secured.



TAYLOR KUYKENDALL | THE PARTHENON

Thursday's helicopter landing was part of a Marshall ROTC event that had been planned for approximately four months. The event also included a tactical truck and a station where students could carry gear that soldiers wear.

"This is not a particularly great challenge for us. We land in confined and restricted areas like this all the time," Webster said. "Here we had ground communication and pictures of the landing zone. Everything was kind of laid out for us."

Stephens said Marshall's ROTC had been planning this event since May. The helicopter came from West Virginia's National Guard. Stephens said the event is "purely informational."

"We know it's hard being in the military and being deployed, but I don't think we really appreciate it until we see how little they have when they're out on deployment," said Denise Landry, professor of Marshall University's School

of Nursing. "They don't have the luxuries we typically take for granted."

Gina Denjen, junior ROTC student from Weirton, W.Va., said the event will be a great opportunity for those who not only want to learn about the military, but also those who are potentially interested in joining.

"As students, I think we may be more approachable than recruiters," Denjen said. "So getting us out here and attracting fellow students may be the non-confrontational atmosphere that it may take to get someone to join."

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