Byrd dead at 92
Loss of longtime WV Senator hits state hard

TONI MILBOURNE Spirit Staff

CHARLES TOWN — Residents of the Eastern Panhandle joined thousands around the state mourning the loss of long-time Senator Robert C. Byrd. Byrd, 92, died early Monday morning at Inova Fairfax Hospital in Virginia.

Byrd was born November 20, 1917 in North Wilkesboro, N.C. as Cornelius Calvin Sale, Jr. Before age one, he was sent to live with an aunt and uncle, Vlurma and Titus Byrd, who renamed the young boy and moved him to Stotesbury, W. Va.

Byrd's father was a miner who moved the family numerous times. Byrd successfully completed high school; however he was unable to afford a college education.

Employed at times as a meat cutter, a shipyard welder and a gas station attendant, Byrd won his first election in 1946 when he ran for the state's House of Delegates. After serving for six years in the West Virginia Legislature, he sought and won a race for the U.S. House in 1952.

He cast his first Senate vote in 1957. (See BYRD page 5A)
January, 1959 — a vote which would lead to more than 18,000 additional votes in his Senate career. His career had him not only as Senate Majority Leader, but Minority Leader and President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

Secretary of State Natalie Tennant commented, “He served as Senator longer than President Obama has been alive. He sat on powerful committees. He made extremely difficult decisions every day.”

Senator Jay Rockefeller called it a “great privilege” to serve with Byrd.

“I looked up to him, I fought next to him and I am deeply saddened that he is gone,” Rockefeller said.

Many in West Virginia have voiced their emotions at the loss of an individual who brought more to the Mountaineer State than any other individual. Byrd was responsible for countless dollars of support for projects throughout the state — a fact that is evidenced by the many buildings, parks, and roadways which bear his name.

Locally, Shepherd University officials praised Byrd for all he was able to bring to the facility. In a statement released following the Senator’s death, Shepherd officials stated that he was responsible for obtaining funding for three state-of-the-art facilities on the campus — Ema Byrd Hall, which houses the nursing department; the Scarboough Library addition and the Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies which houses the Senator’s papers; and the Robert C. Byrd Science and Technology Center.

“Much of the University’s recent expansion was due to federal funding requested by former President David Dunlop and obtained by Senator Byrd,” said Suzanne Shipley, current president of the University.

Local county commissioners issued a letter of appreciation and recognition of the late Senator stating, “The Eastern Panhandle’s prosperity today hinges on small measure upon the efforts of our devoted Senator to bring numerous federal projects and facilities to our area.”

President Barack Obama joined with West Virginia’s mourning the loss, issuing a statement which said, in part, “the United States Senate has lost a venerable institution, and America has lost a voice of principle and reason with the passing of Robert C. Byrd.”

Obama went on to say, “He had the deepest respect for members of both parties, and he was generous with his time and advice.”

Governor Joe Manchin, who named Byrd as a fearless fighter for the constitution, his beloved state and its great people, is now responsible for naming a replacement for the Senate seat.

Secretary of State Tennant has issued a ruling that a special election cannot be held because West Virginia has already held its primary election for 2010. The Senate seat will be filled by an appointee named by Manchin and will come up for election in 2012.

Speculation abounds as possibilities for the seat are bantered about. Manchin, who many have seen as a potential seeker of the seat, could appoint himself; however that is an unlikely move. Other possible names floating are Larry Puccio and Senate President Earl Ray Tomblin. The name of Manchin’s wife, Gayle, has also been named as a consideration.

No specific time frame has been announced for the appointment of an individual to the seat; however there are many Senate votes taking place which are relying on a Democratic vote.

A special election in 2012 for the seat has many speculating on a Republican candidate as well. Shelby Moore Capito and former Secretary of State Betty Ireland are among the top possible candidates who will likely face a race against Manchin.

Funeral services for the late Senator have not been announced at this time.
News About Members

- Shepherd University is pleased to announce that ten faculty members have been promoted in rank: Dr. Sally Brasher to associate professor of history; Dr. Dawne Burke to associate professor of education; Dr. Laura Clayton to professor of nursing education; Dr. Tuncer Gocmen to associate professor of economics; Dr. Max Guignais to associate professor of political science; Dr. Osman Guzide to associate professor of computer sciences, mathematics and engineering; Dr. Weidong Liao to associate professor of computer sciences, mathematics and engineering; Dr. Clarissa Mathews to associate professor of environmental studies; Dr. Laura Renniger to professor of music; and Dr. Rachel Rittenbush to associate professor of English and modern languages.

- The Design Center, LLC is pleased to announce the addition of Samantha Cervrals as an Interior Designer.

- Stepoe & Johnson is pleased to announce that they have been ranked first in all five practice areas in West Virginia studied by Chambers USA: Corporate/Commercial; Labor & Employment; Litigation: General Commercial; Natural Resources; and Real Estate.

- Scott Anderson, assistant director and chef of Shepherd University Dining Services, has been named chef ambassador to the Wisconsin Mill Marketing Board.

- The Bernie Hutzler Memorial Gateway Golf Classic recently netted over $53,000 to Lewis County Hospital.

- Word Processing Services, Inc. is pleased to announce that they recently received the 1st place 2010 MPSA Leadership Award by the Managed Print Services Association.

- Bowles Rice McDavid Graff & Love, LLP is pleased to announce that Michael Caryl and Stephen Nathas were recognized as "Leaders in their Field" in the 2010 edition of Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business.

- Martin & Seibert, LC is pleased to announce that Ben Crawley-Woods and McEvon Burns have joined their firm.

- Jerry Williams, State Farm Insurance, is the recipient of the Musselman-South Berkeley Community Library 2010 Pillars of the Community.

- The WVU School of Medicine Eastern Division would like to congratulate the recent winners of the Community Health Outreach Award - Alyson Bell, Rebecca Seay and Alexandra Arvon.

- The Board of Directors of West Virginia University Hospitals-East recently announced the appointment of Betty Gumoe, Rhonda Monroe and Nicholas Trietsch to the WVU-East Health System Board.

- The Small Business Development Center of the Eastern Pashandle recently recognized local small businesses for providing quality products and services to Berkeley County for more than 750 years. Among those recognized were the following Chamber Members: Sherwein Furniture Company (112), Brown Funeral Home (112), L.A. Roberts Jeweler (92), Patterson's Drug Store (84), W. Harvey Miller Contractors (19), Willers Electric Company (19), Oralise's Appliance Sales (19), Gant's Excavating & Contracting, Inc. (39), Carpet World of Martinsburg (36), Roger's Tire & Auto Service (36), Shenandoah Veterinary Hospital (39), Morgan Awards (22), Minghini's General Contractors, Inc. (22), Groves Cleaning Service, LLC (22), Depot Florist (12), and Driving School - The Road and You Together (11). Also recognized were Go'Vin Postal Martinsburg for opening a business that provides a variety of services, and HMS Technologies for its leadership role as a service-related disabled veteran business and for being named to Who's Who in WV.

- The Shepherd University Foundation has announced the receipt of a $1.2 million gift from the James M. Miller Trust designated for the James and Katherine Miler Scholarship.

- WVU Hospitals-East's City Hospital recently honored three members of its nursing staff: Jennifer Cain was presented the Ginny Jones Memorial Nursing Award; Christine White won the Outanding LPN Award; and Claire Wegner won the Outstanding Nursing Service Technician Award.
News About Members (continued)

- Susquehanna Bank is pleased to announce the addition of Guy Ayer as vice president, commercial relationship manager at its Burke Street office.

- The Berkeley County Solid Waste Authority has recycled much available for sale. For more information, call 304.671.2525 or 304.677.9370.

- Shepherd University has joined all 12 of the West Virginia's public undergraduate colleges to help more adults return to college and earn a degree. The collaborative effort, called RBA Today, is led by the WV Higher Education Policy Commission.


- Shepherdstown Pedal & Paddle is pleased to announce their newest team member, Jaime Stone, as lead mechanic.

- Dr. Seung-yun Kim, Shepherd University assistant professor of computer information sciences, has received a $124,695 WV IDEA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence Faculty Research Development Award.

- Prettyman Broadcasting has received three major broadcast awards of excellence from the West Virginia Broadcasters Association: Dr Pepper Morning Show, Best NewsCast, and Best Talk Show. They also recently received 1st place in Breaking News, 1st place in Regularly Scheduled Newscast, and 1st place for Best Host (Hans Fogle) from the West Virginia Associated Press Broadcasters Association.

- Russell Porter, dean of graduate studies and continuing education at Shepherd University, was named an American Council on Education fellow for 2010-2011.

- Dr. Lisa Ross, Incisive Learning Designs, recently spoke at the George Mason University's 2010 Workplace Diversity Conference.

- Main Street Martinsburg recently recognized community volunteers: Dan Hall, State Farm Insurance, was named Board Member of the Year; April Krabak, My Bank! First United Bank & Trust, was named Volunteer of the Year; and Mark Salowin, City of Martinsburg, was named Public Official of the Year.

- The laboratory at West Virginia Hospital-East's City Hospital has been awarded accreditation by the Accreditation Committee of the College of American Pathologists.

- The United Way of the Eastern Panhandle recently presented Tommy Newcomb, A Plus Plumbing, with the Volunteer of the Year Award; Mary Clare Ericc with the Martin J. Yurish Spilt Award; and Ken Barton, Steptoe & Johnson, with the Yan Ryzin Award.

- The Eastern Panhandle Insurance Professionals recently installed their new officers: President Vickie Elliot and Vice President Glenda Horn of Farmers & Mechanics Insurance Company; Secretary Beverly McCarty; Treasurer Roxanne Ashbaugh and Parliamentarian Pamela Grimm of Smith-Nadenbrook Insurance. Also, Glenda Horn was named 2009-2010 Insurance Woman of the Year, and Pamela Grimm was named 2009-2010 Rookie of the Year.

- The City Hospital Foundation and Jefferson Health Care Foundations recently elected officers for 2010. Susan Snowden, Martin & Selbert, was elected chairman; Robert Bannister, BCT, was elected vice chairman; Liz Cates was elected secretary; and John Beatty, BB&T, was elected treasurer. Also, Henry Kyes, Centra Bank, was appointed to the Board of Directors and Diane Dalrymple, W. Harley Miller Contractors; David DeJarnette, Rowling Rine; McDavid Griff & Love; and Terry Hess, JayDee's Family Fun Center, were reappointed to the Board.

- Susan Woodard, RN, was recently named City Hospital's Quality Service Award winner for April 2010.

- City Hospital is pleased to announce that the hospital's blood bank was granted accreditation by the American Association of Blood Banks (AABB).
When Robert Carville, Byrd died earlier this week the United States Senate lost one of the giants of its history and West Virginia lost the greatest statesman in its history.

The Oxford English Dictionary defines "statesman" as "an experienced and respected political leader." I've lost count of the number of candidates for political office who claim they're going to be "a statesman, not a politician." How can one be a political leader without being a politician?

Bob Byrd understood that being a statesman required being a successful and honest politician. He came from the Southern West Virginia coalfields, an area known far and wide for shady political dealings. Yet he was never touched by scandal of any kind during the 64 years he held elective office in our state.

Senator Byrd understood that doing right by the people required respect for and compromise with those with whom one has serious and fundamental disagreements. He always stood by his principles, but he never allowed a set of principles to become a straitjacket.

Many politicians today refuse to compromise. Theyare hidebound by ideologies of the right or the left and in some cases a few other directions. And they seem to think that anyone with a different idea than they must be either stupid or corrupt. This is particularly true of folks who seek national office.

Byrd was always courteous to those with whom he disagreed, even when those disagreements were very intense. He knew that compromise between principled adversaries was the only way a republic could function effectively, and that the necessary compromises could only be reached if those principled adversaries respected each other.

His principles evolved over time. When he was first elected to the US Senate, he was among the more conservative Democrats. When he died he was among the more liberal Democrats.

He strongly opposed the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964, but later called that opposition the biggest mistake he'd ever made in public office. He also frequently pointed out that he voted for three of the six Civil Rights bills passed by the Congress during the Civil Rights struggles of the 1960's.

Mech has been made by his political opponents of the fact that he was briefly a member of the Ku Klux Klan in his hometown of Sophia (Raleigh County). I think he was in his 20s at the time, but for the last forty years he's gone out of his way to acknowledge the error of that decision and to apologize for it.

No one in the history of the US Senate has been Byrd's equal in understanding and defending the United States Constitution. His vision of that document was, I think, key to his transformation from an opponent of civil liberties to a strong advocate for them.

Senator Byrd wrote a history of the United States Senate. I'm confident future historians will recognize him as one of the greatest of all United States Senators. He will be in the front rank with John C. Calhoun, Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, Thomas Hart Benton, Hiram Johnson, Everett McKinley Dirkson, Arthur Vandenberg, Frank Church, Edward Kennedy, Richard Russell and a very few others.

I remember attending a Democratic Party rally in Charleston in the spring of 1960, when Edward Kennedy was running against Jimmy Carter for the Democratic nomination for president. Senator Byrd was on the dais as Kennedy was speaking. Byrd and Kennedy had faced off against each other for the post of Democratic Whip in the Senate not too long before. Byrd won in an upset, and feelings were still a bit had.

Kennedy alluded to that in his speech. "You know," he said, "Bob Byrd"

CATF 'Pay What You Can Preview'

The Contemporary American Theater Festival (CATF) at Shepherd University, running July 9 through Aug. 1, has announced the lineup for their 20th Season, which includes two world premieres.

Back for another year is CATF's "Pay What You Can Preview" program July 7 and 8:

• "The Edwix Jesus 3-D Pop Music Show," Wednesday, July 7, at 8 p.m.
  Frank Center stage.
• "Izana" by Michael Lowe, Thursday, July 8 at 8 p.m. Frank Center Stage.
Byrd was instrumental in W.Va. higher education
By Davin White, Staff writer
The Charleston Gazette

CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- Sen. Robert C. Byrd had a "special place in his heart" for Morris Harvey College and helped the campus blossom over his years in the U.S. Senate, said University of Charleston President Ed Welch.

Byrd was instrumental in launching UC's new school of pharmacy, which bears his name, and steering funds toward renovations at Riggleman Hall, Welch said. The late senator took classes at UC when it was named Morris Harvey.

Byrd, a chairman for several years of the powerful Senate appropriations committee, couldn't always promise federal funding for projects right away, Welch said. He might tell UC officials that it would depend on the next congressional budget.

"But for the school of pharmacy, it was, 'Yes, let's do it,'" Welch said.

Byrd has guided significant federal dollars toward highways, bridges, buildings and other infrastructure in the state, but always paid close attention to West Virginia's colleges and universities.

In a statement Monday, state Higher Education Policy Commission Chancellor Brian Noland said, "His countless contributions have reached every facet of West Virginia, and postsecondary education is certainly no exception. From lasting education facilities, outstanding scholarship opportunities and vital higher education legislation, his impact will be felt by generations of West Virginians to come."

G.T. "Buck" Smith, president at Davis & Elkins College, said Byrd balanced his attention and sought funding for both public and private colleges.

"He very much believed in private enterprise and entrepreneurial spirit," Smith said. "He knew very clearly that a strong America and a strong economy relied both on the private and public sector."

Facilities at private schools such as Davis & Elkins, Alderson-Broaddus College, Bethany College and UC bear Byrd's name.

Byrd secured federal money to build the Robert C. Byrd Center for Hospitality and Tourism and to renovate the Graceland Inn, the 19th-century home of U.S. Sen. Henry Gassaway Davis in Elkins.

In turn, the conference center next door to the Graceland Inn was named in his honor, Smith said.

Still, public schools also felt Byrd's significant impact, as measured by the centers for biotechnology, academics and technology and rural health named after him at Marshall University and the sizable health sciences center and cancer research laboratory at West Virginia University.

In the Eastern Panhandle, Byrd had developed a good relationship with the past few presidents at Shepherd University.

"He was very good to Shepherd. We have three buildings on campus thanks to Sen. Byrd," said Valerie Owens, the university's director for external affairs.

The Erma Ora Byrd Hall for nursing education opened in 2007, and Byrd secured $10 million in federal money for it.
In 2002, the Scarborough Library addition was completed. It houses the Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies, which contains the archive of Sen. Byrd’s papers.

"The idea is to protect them, preserve them and make them available for researchers," Owens said.

In the mid-1990s, Byrd guided $9 million to build the Robert C. Byrd Science and Technology Center at Shepherd. The building houses science classrooms.

“We’ve been very fortunate to have such a good relationship with the senator and we will miss him dearly,” she said.

Jim Skidmore, chancellor of the state’s Community and Technical College System, said Byrd always supported improving the Pell grant program, which “really helped a lot of disadvantaged students” attend both two- and four-year colleges.

In addition to Morris Harvey, Byrd also had taken classes at Concord College in Mercer County.

“I was very aware of and impressed with Robert Byrd’s legacy before I came to West Virginia,” Concord University President Gregory F. Aloia, the school’s president since 2008, said in a statement.

“Robert Byrd has been a strong advocate for higher education and has continually supported initiatives for West Virginians to have access to and graduate from college.” Dr. Aloia said. “One of the challenges for West Virginia today is how to get non-traditional students to finish a degree. As a non-traditional straight-A student, Senator Byrd served as a great role model for West Virginians in this regard.”

Byrd would frequently visit the University of Charleston campus, where he had given speeches and delivered commencement addresses. He’d always ask Welch how his old political science professor, Evelyn Harris, was doing.

“She was the best and most inspiring professor that he’d had,” he said.

In 2004, UC opened the Erma Byrd Art Gallery. Byrd had visited the gallery, and Welch heard the senator speak to his wife about the artwork over the phone.

“He called to describe to her the gallery he knew she would never see,” Welch said. “She was in bad health and they were never able to forecast when she could travel -- whether it’d be a good day or bad day.”
Plans for garage require funding

**By Michael Theo**

**Chronicle staff**

Plans to construct a parking garage on the East Campus of Shepherd University are still in limbo as school and elected officials struggle to find a source of funding for the estimated $10 million project without raising student fees.

Delegate John Doyle, D-Jefferson, and Shepherd President Suzanne Shipley say that they are trying to work around a state law which limits the use of money from West Virginia's Higher Education Policy Fund to the construction and operation of academic buildings only.

Under the law, auxiliary buildings which serve little or no educational purpose, like a parking garage, a pedestrian bridge, and even dorms and cafeterias, are supposed to float on their own, said Doyle by phone on Tuesday.

Doyle noted that while cafeterias and dormitories can make money out of the student fees charged for their use, a parking garage, nor a pedestrian overpass being considered to replace the crosswalk at North Duke Street and West Campus Drive, could reasonably expect to be money-making ventures.

"It may be that we have to tweak that rule in the next legislative session," said Doyle. "Both I and the governor want to get this for Shepherdstown."

Gov. Joe Manchin's press secretary Melvin Smith issued a brief statement to the Chronicle this week on the matter saying that Manchin has discussed the project with local officials.

"The funding for this project could come from table game money after Charles Town comes on line and the startup costs are covered," wrote Smith by email on Wednesday, but emphasized that "nothing formal has been arranged thus far."

University officials say that the garage project is at least two years away from reality. First, Phase II of the Center for Creative Arts must be built to replace the aging Sarah Cree Hall, upon which officials hope to build the new garage, according to President Shipley. Sarah Cree, now largely abandoned since the opening of the Wellness Center, is still home to the Shepherd University Police Department, the student newspaper, and a black box studio theater used by the Contemporary American Theater Festival.

"They are linked. Phase II of the CCA replaces the Sara Cree Theater," said Shipley by phone on Tuesday. "The linkage is not irrevocable, but it would be best to get a commitment on the CCA."

The Shepherdstown Business Association in recent meetings has urged its membership to support a plan which sees the garage constructed first. Somewhat on the sidelines of this affair is Shepherdstown Mayor Jim Auxer. "It's a university project not a town project, so I'm just kind of like encouragement. Obviously the corporation would benefit from having a parking garage, and I've brought it to the governor's attention on several occasions about how important that is for the town."

Shepherdstown Business Association President Meredith Wait sees the garage project as "imperative" for Shepherdstown. "I think it's a really important thing that needs to be done sooner rather than later," Wait said.
Dignitaries attending Sen. Byrd's memorial
Page 2 of 2

Former Sen. Bill Bradley, D-N.J.
Former Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska
House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.
House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md.
U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner
U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano
U.S. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar
W.Va. Senate President Earl Ray Tomblin
W.Va. House Speaker Rick Thompson
W.Va. Secretary of State Natalie Tennant
W.Va. Auditor Glen Gainer
W.Va. Agriculture Commissioner Gus Douglass
W.Va. Attorney General Darrell McGraw
W.Va. Treasurer John Perdue
W.Va. Superintendent of Schools Steve Paine
W.Va. National Guard Adjutant General Allen Tackett
Huntington District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Director Col. Robert Peterson
UMWA President Cecil Roberts
Chamber of Commerce Director Steve Roberts
AFL-CIO Director Kenny Perdue
Marshall President Stephen Kopp
WVU President Jim Clements
WVU Board of Governors Chairwoman Carolyn Long
Former WVU President David Hardesty

Shepherd University President Suzanne Shipley
Concord University President Greg Aloia
University of Charleston President Ed Welch
West Virginia State University President Hazo Carter
U.S. 4th Circuit of Appeals Judge Robert King
U.S. Chief District Judge Joseph Goodwin
U.S. District Judge Irene Berger
U.S. District Judge John Copenhaver
U.S. District Judge Robert Chambers
W.Va. Supreme Court Justice Brent Benjamin
W.Va. Supreme Court Justice Menis Ketchum
W.Va. Supreme Court Justice Thomas McHugh
Charleston Mayor Danny Jones
Kanawha County Commissioner Kent Carper
Kanawha County Commissioner Dave Hardy
Byrd legacy to rest here

By Michael Thies
Chronicle staff

As West Virginia mourns the loss of U.S. Sen. Robert C. Byrd’s leadership, the charge of preserving the legacy of history’s longest-serving congressional legislator for future generations falls to the task of a small team of local archivists and historians at the Byrd Center for Legislative Studies in Shepherdstown.

There, a small team of archivists and political historians are preparing to receive a vast amount of documents covering the late senator’s nearly 57-year congressional career. The clock is ticking, too. According to Senate rules, all of Sen. Byrd’s personal records and documents have to be removed within a month, largest serving senator in U.S. history revolving around.

“It’s a daunting task,” said Raymond Swogger, director of the Byrd Center, on Monday afternoon as he walked through the center’s archives, which already contain about 600 cubic feet of records. “It’s probably going to be several thousand more; we’ll probably need additional storage.”

Byrd died early Monday morning at Inova Fairfax Hospital in Fairfax, Va. He was 92 years old, and had cast over 18,000 votes in his congressional career.

Normally, a senator is provided with three storerooms for personal records. Senator Byrd — page 3

Byrd in Shepherdstown

March 29, 1985 - Sen. Byrd and his wife, Erma Ora Byrd, travel to the Beirne bin, along with 47 Senate Democrats for a weekend strategy session.

1990 - Adds nearly 200 million for design work on the NCTC, earmarks $40 million for construction of Leetown National Fisheries Research Center, $31 million for construction at Humpers Ferry National Park, $1.4 million to fund operations at Spring and Groundwater Resources Institute, $50,000 for Fresh Water Aquaculture Research Center, both near Shepherdstown.

1992 - Appropriates $20 million to start construction of NCTC. $75 million for construction at Humpers Ferry National Park.

May 29, 1993 - Commencement address at Shepherd University.

“The self-made man is a contradiction. As members of society, all of us depend upon foundations laid for us by our forefathers.”

Sept. 8, 1994 - Groundbreaking of Shepherd University Science and Technology Center - Phase I.

“Any nation, state or society that does not take scientific research seriously is condemning itself to the back benches of academic achievement.”

Oct. 1, 1994 - Groundbreaking address at NCTC. Delineated that no better location could have been chosen for the training center than Shepherdstown, "perched on the historic Potomac, so near to Washington, D.C., but within easy distance of the Blue Ridge and Allegheny Mountains.

Dec. 14, 1995 - Congress approves $24 million in appropriations sought by Byrd for NCTC.

Sept. 25, 1996 - In a ceremony in his Senate office, the transfer of ownership of the Train Station to Shepherdstown becomes official when, as part of a legal formality, Sen. Byrd donated the four quarters to Shepherdstown to purchase the building from Norfolk Southern. The quarters are still on display in the train station. Byrd also appropriated $500,000 in federal funds to renovate the building.

Oct. 11, 1997 - Dedicates Robert C. Byrd Science and Technology Center, secured $5 million in funding for project. Although the human soul will always remain a mystery within the holy province of God, in Creator, the physical workings and capabilities of the human mind can be met and maximized for the greater good at all.

— compiled by Michael Thies
Chronicle staff
Byrd

from page 1

Byrd's records are currently housed in three congressional storage rooms, an exception granted only to Byrd, said Smock, who himself used to be the official historian of the U.S. Senate. Over the next month, Byrd Center archivists will be working closely with the late senator's staff to transfer as many of the documents as they can to Shepherdstown for preservation.

By law, Congress already preserves the official records of the Senate and the House Committees. But the official records are only part of the story, says Smock. "You don't have the personal papers, personnel leadership matters and constituent correspondence. Those aspects of his career are incredibly important and need to be preserved."

The Byrd Center is similar in many respects to a modern Presidential Library. The information contained in the soon-to-be massive collection of congressional documents at the Byrd center could also shed light on how the Senate functions on a day-to-day basis. "One of the least understood aspects of the Senate is how the leadership works," said Smock. "Byrd is the only Senator to have held every leadership position in the Senate, from Deputy Whip to Minority Whip."

The process of archiving and preserving Sen. Byrd's documents will take several years, according to David Hostetter, Director of Programs and Research at the Byrd Center. The center's 600 cubic feet of documents are what Hostetter terms as "the beginnings of Senator Byrd's collection."

"Severus dies at York (211)" wrote Byrd in the margins of a photocopied text, a reference to the death of third century Roman Emperor Septimus Severus. Byrd exhaustively researched Roman republicanism, often drawing parallels between ancient Rome and modern America.

Labels pertaining to the late senator's drawers identify and binders plus copies of Roman histories, which the late senator researched for his history "The Senate of the Roman Republic."

"History of the U.S. Senate"

Another shelf near the rear of the building holds a wall of binders containing Byrd's research on the senate of the ancient Roman Republic, which eventually became his 1995 book "The Senate of the Roman Republic: Addresses on the History of Roman Constitutionalism."

Some of the binders still bear labels and marginal notes written on Byrd's records from his time in the House and the Senate. Currently among the collection are boxes upon boxes of records (from his career) as well as a braille edition of Sen. Byrd's 1989 "Some district from 1953 to 1955."

Smock says that the eventual goal is to digitize the collection. "That's the future of archives. A lot of researchers do not have the opportunity to come to the Byrd Center personally," says Smock.

"And there are a lot of people around the world interested in Byrd's career."

Masonic Arrangements

Friday, July 2, 2010

1:00 p.m. Public Viewing in Rotunda of State Capitol

1:30 p.m. Memorial Service and Celebration of Life, West Virginia State Capitol, Capitol's North Plaza.

12:30 p.m. Memorial Service and Celebration of Life concludes

4 p.m. Casket removed from West Virginia State Capitol Building.

Tuesday, July 6, 2010

11:00 a.m. Funeral Service

Memorial Baptist Church

345 North George Road

Arlington, Virginia

Open to the Public - Limited seating

Private Interment
7-6-10: Saving Iraqi Art, in Drama and Real Life

July 5, 2010

In an unusual example of artistic synergy, two area arts institutions – the Walters Art Museum and the Contemporary American Theater Festival at Shepherd University – are both, independently, concerned with Iraqi art these days. The theater festival, which begins Wednesday in Shepherdstown, WV, is producing a play called Inana, about an Iraqi museum director’s efforts to save an ancient statue. Meanwhile, the Walters has been training Iraqi art conservators.
CATF to host preview shows

SHEPHERDSTOWN — The Contemporary American Theater Festival at Shepherd University, running July 9 through Aug. 1, has announced the lineup for its 23rd season, which includes two world premieres. Back for another year is CATF’s “Pay What You Can Preview” program. “This is an opportunity for CATF to open its doors to the public so that everyone can experience it for themselves or with a friend or family member,” said Lisa Younis, CATF Board of Directors president.

The 2010 CATF Season will kick off with “Pay What You Can Preview” this Wednesday and Thursday. The following list includes plays and times for the previews:

- “The Eelvaxx Jesus 3-D Pop Music Show” — 8 p.m. Wednesday
  This is a world premiere with book and lyrics written by Max Baker and music by Lee Setser. Enter a socially isolated George Home where the hapless residents are fed a daily dose of Eelvaxx Jesus by their charismatic Mr. Shime. But this Nationalally-Controlled Broadcast Show may be the only hope to protect them from an outside world plagued with Superbugs, Human Cloning Experiments, Cameras in the Sky and a suspiciously miserable old man who lives down the hall. This CATF World Premiere combines original toe-tapping pop songs with offbeat characters and a variety of kooky imagery. Baker and Setser’s alternative musical event presents a wryly skewed vision of one very near future.
- “Inna” by Michael Love — 8 p.m. Thursday
  On the eve of the U.S. invasion of Baghdad, one man, an Iraqi museum curator, plots to save the statue of Inna, Goddess of War, from destruction by the invaders. Fleeing to London with his young wife, he makes a life-altering deal to ensure the statue’s preservation. Lowe opens a window of hope and healing with her poignant love story amidst a background of international and personal intrigue.
- “Lidless” — 8:30 p.m. Wednesday
  This is a first production by Frances Ye-Chu Cowhig. Fifteen years after being released from Guantanamo Bay, Bahar walks into the shop of Alice, his former U.S. interrogator. He’s tracked Alice down and wants her to know the emotional and spiritual pain inflicted upon him. With her past brought to light, how does she explain his actions to her teenage daughter? Can Alice protect her from the truth?

See CATF B2

IF YOU GO
What: Contemporary American Theater Festival’s “Pay What You Can Previews”
When: Wednesday and Thursday
Where: Shepherd University
Information: www.catf.org or 304-876-3304

Yi-Chu Cowhig delivers an extraordinary portrayal of one woman’s experience with the War on Terror and her struggle to find peace and healing.

- “Broadcast” — 8:30 p.m. Thursday
  This is a world premiere by Jennifer Haley. Alida is a reclusive writer of fiction slowly losing her memory. Reluctantly, she has come to depend upon a young caregiver to complete her final book — an autobiography. Delving into the “War on Terror,” the story weaves together the nature of language, loneliness and the essential self. Hawry has created a poetic play resonating with very humane, compassionate, and empathetic.
- “White People” by T.J. Rogers — 2:30 p.m. Thursday
  Three ordinary Americans are spotlighted during extraordinary moments in their lives.

From staff report
Contemporary American Theater Festival 2010 lineup

The Contemporary American Theater Festival (CATF) at Shepherd University, running July 9 through August 1, has announced the lineup for their 20th season, which includes two world premieres. Back for another year is CATF’s “Pay What You Can Preview” program.

“This is an opportunity for the CATF to open its doors to the public so that everyone can experience it for themselves or with a friend or family member,” said Lisa Fousis, CATF board of directors president.

The 2010 CATF season will kick-off with “Pay What You Can Previews” July 9 and 8: The Edwax Jesus 3-B Pop Music Show, Wednesday, July 7 at 8 p.m. A world premiere with book and lyrics written by Max Baker and music by Lee Selten. Enter a society instigated group home where the hapless residents are fed a daily dose of Edwax Jesus hosted by the charismatic Mr. Shyne. But this nationally-controlled broadcast show may not be enough to protect them from an outside world plagued with superheroes, human cloning experiments, castrations of the sky and a suspiciously miserable old man who lives down the hall. This CATF world premiere combines original toe-tapping pop songs with offbeat characters and a variety of kitch imagery. Max Baker and Lee Selten’s alternative musical event presents a wryly alayed vision of our very near future.

Inanna by Michael Lowe, Thursday, July 8 at 8 p.m.: On the eve of the US invasion of Baghdad, one man, an Iraqi museum curator, plots to save the statue of Inanna, Goddess of War, from destruction by the invaders. Fleeing to London with his young bride, he makes a life-altering deal to ensure the statue’s preservation. Michele Lowe opens a window of hope and healing with her poignant love story amid a background of international and personal, intrigue.

Lidless, Wednesday, July 7 at 8:30 p.m.: A joint production by Frances Ya-Chu Cowhig. Fifteen years after being released from Guantanamo Bay, Bashtic, walks into the shop of Alice, his former U.S. interrogator. He’s tracked Alice down and wants her to know the emotional and spiritual pain she inflicted upon him. With her past brought to light, how does she explain her actions to her teenage daughter? Can Alice protect her from the truth? Frances Ya-Chu Cowhig delivers an extraordinary portrayal of one woman’s experience with the “War on Terror” and her struggle to find peace and healing.

Breakfasts, Thursday, July 8 at 8:30 p.m.: A world premiere by Jennifer Haley. Alice is a reclusive writer of fiction slowly losing her memories. Reluctantly, she has come to depend upon a young caregiver to complete her final book — an auto-biography. Delving into the dark woods of her past, the two women wrestle over the nature of language, loneliness, and the essential self. Is this CATF World Premiere, Jennifer Haley has created a poetic play resonating with wry humor, compassion and empathy.

White People by J.T. Rogers, Thursday, July 8 at 5:30 p.m.: Three ordinary Americans spotlighted during extraordinary moments in their lives. Martin, a high powered attorney is St. Louis, Missouri; Marc Lyon, a housewife in Fayetteville, North Carolina; and Alan, a young professor in New York City, wrestle with guilt, prejudice, and the price they and their children must pay for their actions. J.T. Rogers returns to CATF following 2009’s highly acclaimed The Overwhelming. With White People, a candid, brutally honest exploration of race and language in our culture.

In addition to the “Pay What You Can Preview,” single ticket prices begin at $25 with subscriber CATF cards available to see four or all five plays at discounted prices. For information on group and organizational discounts available on groups of 10 or more, please call 304-876-3304.

The Contemporary American Theater Festival at Shepherd University prides itself on producing and developing new American theater. Since 1991, CATF has produced 80 new plays, including 30 world premieres. For more information, please visit www.catf.org or call 304-876-3473 or 800-999-CATF (2283) or follow CATF on Facebook and Twitter @thinktheater.
In packing up Byrd's office, staff must sort 'a lifetime of work' and memories

By Ed O'Keefe
Washington Post Staff Writer
Thursday, July 8, 2010; 12:59 PM

Robert C. Byrd was known for many things -- his mastery of Senate rules, his oratorical skills, his ability to quote long passages of poetry from memory. At one time, he was apparently also considered quite the looker. "If you ever decide you've had enough of the Senate (which would be the country's loss) you can always model men's wear for Brooks Brothers," one female admirer wrote Byrd in April 1978. "What a super model you'd make."

Byrd's correspondent was none other than Abigail "Dear Abby" Van Buren, who wrote to Byrd, then 61, to compliment his "perfectly stunning" photograph in Time magazine.

The Dear Abby mash note is one of thousands of letters, photographs and other memorabilia that fill drawers and closets and filing cabinets in Byrd's cluttered office in the Hart Senate Office Building and his hideaway in the Capitol. In the coming days, his staff will embark on the long task of sorting through it all to archive what is one of the largest collections in congressional history.

Staffers sorting through the files have unearthed a country music set list from Byrd's 1977 recording session at the Library of Congress (he was an accomplished fiddler), his handwritten notes on the history of the Roman Senate, countless drafts of legislation, floor speeches, videocassettes, recipes from his late wife, Erma, and mementos from every hollow of West Virginia.

By law, aides have just two months to close the office of a senator who resigns or dies in office. This week Byrd's aides received instructions from the secretary of the Senate and sergeant at arms laying out every detail of the job, including how to scan and save papers, close state offices, dispose of the office's potted plants and determine what gets shipped to West Virginia before his offices in the U.S. Capitol and Hart Building are made available to other members. (No word yet on who will get the space. The competition -- especially for Byrd's Capitol digs -- is likely to be fierce.)

"It's a pretty big process," said Senate Archivist Karen D. Paul. "We've developed checklists to help manage aspects of this. It isn't like 30 years ago when people could just put papers in a box and just ship it off."

Byrd's office declined to comment, citing the emotional toll on the senator's family and staff in the past 10 days. But Capitol Hill staffers familiar with the process of closing congressional offices describe a grueling 60 days packed with memories of their boss, mentor and friend and uncertainty about their own future.
"You're dismantling a lifetime of work," said Ray Smock, a former House historian. "You could be working very hard, and doing very well in the course of moving things around and all of a sudden you come across a photograph and you'll pause and start to look at it, and you'll start to reflect and you're overwhelmed with emotion."

As House historian, Smock helped close several offices in the 1980s and 1990s. He's now executive director of the Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies at Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, W.Va., which the senator established to house his records. A four-member staff has already amassed 800 cubic feet of boxes and anticipates another 2,000 cubic feet to arrive by September.

The daily grind of congressional work leaves little time for staff to think of the potential future value of a lawmaker's documents, Smock said. "That's when people like me come in," he said.

Byrd staffers first will identify the office's volumes of hearings, law books and other records that can be discarded unless personally tied to the senator. Most of the office furniture stays behind for the next occupant, unless Byrd originally owned it. Archiving photographs will occupy much of the time.

"Many don't have captions," Smock said. "Who's that in that picture?" we'll ask. Hopefully somebody on the staff knows. It's a painstaking, memory-driven process."

Byrd's unrivaled tenure means "there's no one person who's been on his staff that long to be a personal institutional memory," said David Hostetter, the Byrd Center's program director.

The senator's insistence on keeping copies of every document sent or received by his office will add to the workload. Former press secretary Mike Willard recalled Byrd's particular concern for letters sent to constituents.

"He'd say, 'This may be the only letter that a person gets from a U.S. senator, I want it to be perfect.' " Willard recalled.

The Byrd archives will become the centerpiece of a growing movement among historians to preserve the work of House and Senate lawmakers, an effort that lacks the federal funding provided to former presidents. Few senators aside from Byrd, Edward Kennedy, John Glenn and Robert Dole established plans for their archives, though Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), inspired by Byrd's center, last year announced plans to house his archives at the University of Louisville.

"We don't have a lot of forebearers, we're really the first generation of historians doing this work" Hostetter said. "Each center is doing some kind of work that carries on the distinct and specific work of their founder."
CATF '10 season kicks off

By Michael Theis
Chronicle staff

Peggy McKown looks tired — her eyelids seem to hang with a heavy weight. But as the full-time associate producing director of the Contemporary American Theater Festival, she has every right to be. For the last week, in technical rehearsal and in the pay-what-you-can preview, the cast and crew of the CATF have been working 12-hour days, often into the early morning, to line the five plays which make up this year's CATF, which opens tonight with the staging of the "Elektra" 3-D Pop Music Show" on the Frank Center Stage and "Liluless" in the Studio Theater at Sarah Cwe Hall.

"We've been working from 9 a.m. to 1 a.m. for several days in a row," said McKown in an interview last week at her office in the Center for Contemporary Art on McKown says that the lack of sleep doesn't really botherSee CATF — page 6

Production stage manager Deb Acquavilla works out some lighting and sound cues prior to a technical rehearsal last week.

Cryyn Michael, a 22-year-old shepherd University student majoring in Art Education, works for the CATF as an administrative assistant. During the school year she works for CATF part-time, during the summer she is bumped up to full-time, working between eight to nine hours per day. This is her second year working for the CATF. The helps with the process of hiring over 80 temporary theater employees.

Michael is one of a small number of Shepherd University student employees. Many of them are also interested in exploring careers in theater production, and the festival offers them the chance to work side by side with card-carrying members of professional theater and entertainment unions.

For Michael, a sculptor studying art education, the festival has provided her with a taste of the craft of theater which she hopes to incorporate into her future teaching.

"It's different than what I'm majoring in, but I've allowed me to see theater as a great art form which I can bring into the classroom one day," said Michael, who said there is no better training for dealing with kids than directing an actor, an opportunity she had this past spring when she took a directing class at Shepherd.

"It's interesting to see how they build from a small group of four or five, to this 90-person staff we have working the festival," said Michael in an interview last week.

One of those seasonal workers is Robert Klimboefer from Morgantown. He teaches scene design at VCU, and has designed the sets for all of this year CATF plays with the exception of "White People."

"Setting the Frank Center Theater last week as crew members were preparing the stage for a technical rehearsal of "Liluless," Klimboefer mixes the central commit obstacle presented by the play saying, "the thing to solve, I guess, is that most of the reality takes place in a hotel in London, but many of the scenes also take place in the theater's memory, back in Iraq." How can you pull that off quickly and authentically?

For "Liluless" he created a stage, which centered around a trash hotel room, allows the actors to walk into areas and interact with Islamic motifs. Klimboefer hopes that this spatial solution, coupled with subtle changes in lighting, will allow the audience to seamlessly understand that certain scenes are flashback.

While "Liluless" plays on the large Frank Center stage and allows for a lot of movement and more complex sets, "Liluless" is showing in the much smaller Studio Theater at Sarah Cwe Hall. Klimboefer says that designs challenges change somewhat in such an intimate setting. "The floor becomes very important, and the walls disappear, or else they d
Court: Petition signatures are public

By Delegate John Doyle

A couple of weeks ago, in a case with immediate implications for West Virginia and Jefferson County, the United States Supreme Court ruled that signatures on a petition advocating a public policy are generally open to public scrutiny.

The court did say that in particular cases signatures could be kept from public view, if it were demonstrated that publicizing the signatures would place the signers in physical danger. But the burden of proof is to be borne by those who would keep the signatures secret.

I agree with the US Supreme Court’s decision. Indeed, I found it baffling (and said so in this space almost a year ago) that anyone would think that his or her signature on a petition might not be a matter of public record. Every time I’ve signed a petition I’ve presumed that signature will be made public. Some had argued that signing a petition was similar to voting. That argument was cited by a local circuit judge when he refused to allow the publication of the signatures on a petition last year calling for a referendum on a new Jefferson County zoning law. The referendum was held and the new law defeated.

The judge cited a West Virginia State Supreme Court decision in 1968 that kept secret the signatures on a nominating petition for a person seeking to be placed on the ballot for a general election. That was the only case law available. The State’s high court said that signing that petition was tantamount to voting, and the signatures should therefore be kept secret.

But signing a petition advocating or opposing a change in public policy is not just an act of voting, it is an act of legislating. Certainly legislating should be done in the open. The US Supreme Court has now affirmed that position.

The vote was 8-1, with only Justice Clarence Thomas saying signatures should be secret. Justice Antonin Scalia wrote in his opinion for the Court “I do not look forward to a society which...exercises the direct democracy of initiative and referendum hidden from public scrutiny and protected from the accountability of criticism. This does not resemble the home of the Brave.”

The case came to the nation’s high court from the state of Washington. That state has a statute specifically making petition signatures public, while the only statute in West Virginia governing the issue is a general Freedom of Information Act covering all public documents.

Some folks here in Jefferson County argued, after the US Supreme Court ruled on the case, that the ruling might not affect West Virginia because the state of Washington has a specific statute and West Virginia does not. But the US Supreme Court said that doesn’t matter, because there must be a general presumption that petition signatures are public.

The Jefferson County case is now before the West Virginia Supreme Court. The state Supreme Court cannot overrule the United States Supreme Court. The US Supreme Court’s decision in this case has made my job as a legislator a bit easier, should I be fortunate enough to be re-elected this coming November.

There are two fewer bills I’ll have to introduce. Had it been established that petition signers should remain anonymous, I was prepared to sponsor a bill that would have increased the number of signatures needed to trigger a referendum from 10% of the registered voters in a given jurisdiction to 3%. The 16% figure presumes that signatures are to be made public and that therefore many people who support the goals of the petition will not sign it because they don’t want their names made public for whatever reason.

I also was prepared to sponsor a bill specifically providing for the publication of petition signatures similar to the statute in the state of Washington. I had already discussed both of these ideas with the chair of the Judiciary Committee, and he had indicated he was conceptually favorable to both.

Now, neither of us needs to bother.

I attended the services for the late Senator Robert C. Byrd Thursday and Friday of last week in Charleston. I thought we gave him a marvellously appropriate sendoff. I have the honor of occupying the desk used by Senator Byrd when he was a member of the House of Delegates from 1946 to 1948. Speaker of the House Richard Thompson ordered that desk draped in black for the services.

Delegate John Doyle, D-Jefferson, represents the 57th District in the West Virginia House of Delegates.
Shepherd University's Contemporary American Theater Festival will open July 9 with five plays, two of which are world premieres.

"Breadcrumbs" by Jennifer Haley:

Haley’s world premiere stars Abida, a writer, and her young caregiver, Ailda. Ailda is losing her memories and depends on her caregiver to help her complete her last work, Abida’s autobiography.

While leaving breadcrumbs along the path, the two discuss the nature of language, loneliness and self.

"The Eelwax Jesus 3-D Pop Music Show" book and lyrics by Max Baker and music by Lee Sellers:

Baker and Sellers have worked together for at least 10 years and over the years, they’ve written a number of songs. Eelwax’s world premiere is a compilation of their work, linked together by the socially-isolated residents in a group home. One friend told Baker it reminded him of a cross between "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" and "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest."

The duo have a number of surprises, including a brand new, working toaster for one lucky audience member (Yeah, now the toaster isn’t a surprise, but the lucky winner is!).

So ready yourself for the 'hybrid -- alternative rock musical -- where the conceptual element is the music," Baker said.

No matter what, Sellers promises, "you'll be in a better mood when you leave."

But don't expect Jesus.

"Inana" by Michele Lowe:

Lowe chose the goddess of sex, war and fertility to play the central counterpoint for her story about a archaeologist, turned museum curator.

As a history buff, Lowe has researched stolen art -- art primarily stolen due to war looting.

"It’s the story of a curator from Musul who flew to London from Iraq," Lowe said. "He has four mysterious suitcases and leaves with his wife, who he’s known for only a few hours. In the course of one night, they will or will not fall in love."

She hopes the audience will next time not judge the
stranger on a plane, who happens to look Middle Eastern. "Hopefully they won't think, 'Oh my God. The plane is going to go down.'"

"Lidless" by Frances Ye-Chu Cowhig:

Cowhig first thought of her drama in October 2007, after reading The Economist's series on Guantánamo Bay female interrogators. They used the female body during the War on Terror's interrogations as a weapon.

"Fake menstrual blood, lap dances, lingerie -- were being used against the Muslim detainees, to break them, with the idea that this would make them unable to retreat into prayer/islam, because they were now 'stained,'" she wrote in an e-mail.

Cowhig used the idea to build a world to ask, "What happens 15 years later," and "How could lives be forever changed?"

In the world premieres, Alice, the interrogator, is confronted 15 years later by Bashir, the detainee. He seeks a favor, but both end up with far more than they bargained for.

Cowhig hopes this will help the audience "think about the places trauma comes from, how it is transmitted between generations and how the cost of government decisions during the War on Terror might be paid by the next generation."

"White People" by J.T. Rogers:

Rogers' play delves into the lives of three people -- all white -- who each have been through something life-altering.

He was inspired by his daily life. "I live in New York City and I deal with these issues on an hourly basis."

The three characters are "trying to make sense with a life-altering situation they are in the midst," Rogers said.

His play hosts a frank discussion on of the most controversial topic -- race. "We're not allowed to talk about race in this country. Two of the three characters seem racist or bigoted -- but that's not true."

He hopes the audience "listens to someone who they may ordinarily write off and then better understand their perspective."

For tickets and performance locations on Shepherd University's campus, visit CATF.org or call 304-876-3473 or 800-999-CATF.
Byrd’s Papers Headed to Shepherd University Center
Posted Friday, July 9, 2010; 03:47 PM | View Comments | Post Comment
Updated Saturday, July 10, 2010; 11:24 AM

Thousands of photos, letters and other materials related to the life of Robert C. Byrd will soon be coming to Shepherdstown.

By Christine Miller Ford
Email | Other Stories by Christine Miller Ford

With the death last week of U.S. Sen. Robert C. Byrd, the Shepherd University center named for him is preparing to get a massive amount of materials related to his life, from childhood mementos and thousands of photographs to personal correspondence with 12 presidents.

"Now he belongs to the ages," said Ray Smock, director of the Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies, which opened in 2002 in Shepherdstown. "We want to preserve this unique chunk of American history."

The center was conceived as a study and research center for the Constitution, the document approved in 1787 that laid out the framework for the government of the United States—a copy of which Byrd kept in his suit's breast pocket.

"(The Constitution) was dear to Sen. Byrd's heart," Smock said. "He was one of the great champions."

Already, the Shepherdstown center has taken in about 800 storage boxes of materials related to Byrd's life and work, with about 2,000 more expected to arrive in the coming months, according to a Shepherd University news release made public today.

Byrd, a Democrat who died at 92 on June 28, was the longest-serving senator in U.S. history. He was elected to nine terms in office.

The collection includes speeches, school report cards and campaign materials, audiotape, video clips and personal papers,

Archiving the materials could take several years to finish, Smock said.

He added that important pieces of the collection will be made available to researchers and others online. Another part of the project will involve creating an oral history about Byrd through interviews around the state with friends, staff members, colleagues and others.
Keeping The Record
MetroNews Talkline
Shepherdstown, Jefferson County

It was a well documented life.

Now it will be up to those at the Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies at Shepherd University to sort through and catalogue the personal records of longtime U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd who died last month.

Records from the Senator's committee work in the U.S. Senate will go to the National Archives. Almost everything else will go to the Center in Jefferson County where Ray Smock is the Executive Director.

Among the items Smock expects to receive, "His personal papers, mail with constituents and casework files, legislative files, his years and years of publishing his newsletter to West Virginia constituents called 'The Byrd's Eye View,' memorabilia, thousands and thousands of photographs."

Smock says they already have 800 cubic feet of records on site, but could receive more than 2,000 boxes of additional material in the coming weeks as Senator Byrd's staff members work to clean out his Capitol Hill Office.

It'll be up to those at the Center to determine what will be saved.

"There's guidelines for that," Smock said on Monday's MetroNews Talkline. "We know certain things are very important."

Family members and friends of the Senator, who was 92 years old when he died on June 28th, will be able to claim some of those items. Other items will be archived and used, in the future, in a number of ways.

"We will use some of it for exhibits over the years," he says. "We will do a complete inventory of all of those items."

Those items will chronicle history. Byrd represented West Virginia on Capitol Hill for 57 years, first in the U.S. House and then in the U.S. Senate. He was the longest serving member of the U.S. Congress in history.
Review: ‘White People’ interesting take on race

SHEPHERDSTOWN — “White people” is an examination of how three different people get by in a country which, in their minds, has radically changed.

The play, by playwright I.T. Rogers and directed by Ed Herenden, is a part of this year’s Contemporary American Theater Festival at Shepherd University. The festival is in its 20th season and will run until Aug. 1.

“White People” is a three-person play with an underlying current of dark humor as three white strangers in different parts of the country — New York, North Carolina and Missouri — tell unrelated stories revolving around their interaction with nonwhite people.

Alan, played by Lee Sellars, is a professor in New York City who teaches a 100-level course at a university and he believes his students couldn’t care less about the subject matter.

Mara Lynn, played by Margot White, is a fading southern beauty with a child and an unfaithful husband. Martin, played by Kurt Zich, is a self-absorbed lawyer with a teenage son.

“White People” is a play more concerned with getting its message out than about actions, so there is no central plot. The ideas and characters, however, are more than enough to carry the play.

Alan represents a liberal, politically correct stereotype. During his first monologue he stumbles around terms used to describe different ethnicities while trying to be as politically correct and non-offensive as possible.

Through his monologues, Alan tells the audience about the history of New York City when it was still governed by the Dutch, his wife and son born child and about an incident traumatic enough to cause him to lash out with racial slurs and stereotype an entire race.

See REVIEW B2

Review FROM PAGE B1

Mara Lynn is a character of unfulfilled potential who, instead of finishing her degree at Florida State University, gets pregnant and spends her time tending to the needs of her son. Her views on non-white people are shaped by her day-to-day interactions in her community and by her unfaithful husband.

Martin, a conservative lawyer, tells the audience how difficult it is to connect with his teenage son who took part in a hate crime.

Each actor brings emotional depth to their characters, and in the hands of lesser actors the characters may have been one-dimensional cardboard cutouts instead of people the audience care about.

The play’s language is real, and Rogers did a good job making the characters sound like people an audience member might meet on any given street corner.

Audience members seemed to react well to “White People,” laughing at the play’s dark humor.

“White People” is difficult to describe in great detail because it lacks a central plot, but anyone who can think openly about racial roles in this country should have plenty to consider after seeing this play.

Due to adult language, “White People” is for mature audiences only. For more information and showtimes, visit http://cartf.org.
Shepherd students
finalists in contest

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Two groups of students from Shepherd University have been named finalists of the Celebrating Technology and Innovation in Physical Education video contest. The Shepherd students won a Polar E600 heart rate monitor.

The nationwide contest, sponsored by the National Association for Sport and Physical Education and Polar USA, gave students the opportunity to share their creative ideas on how to use technology and other innovative practices to make physical education more exciting.

The Shepherd students completed the videos as part of their Current Issues in Physical Education class taught by Dr. Anna DeVito.

Students Bobby Sisson, Hedgesville; Meghan Jackson, Leesburg, Va.; Cody Waldron, Smithsburg, Md.; Joel Blessing, Hedgesville; and David Canada, Frederick, Md., submitted their video “Physical Education Stations.” Their video can be seen at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YoGpsDYl2CE&feature=related.

Sara Wetmore, Charles Town; Samantha Hodson, High View; Kodie Butts, Martinsburg; Steve Jackson, Madison Heights, Va.; and Bobby Sisson submitted their video “Soccer Pedometer Challenge,” which can be seen at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZPS1qgRY4g.

— From staff reports
Anyone who visited the offices of the late Senator Robert Byrd was struck by the memorabilia. Framed pictures, certificates, awards and plaques covered the walls of each of his offices floor to ceiling.

Byrd’s Washington office even included his old report cards from Mark Twain Elementary School—framed and on the wall. (Straight A’s, I’m told.)

He loved it all, no matter how insignificant it might have seemed to others. Byrd believed the gifts from constituents should be on display for everyone to see.

Now, with Byrd’s passing, the late Senator’s family—and that includes his blood and his staff—have to decide what to do with all this... stuff.

And it’s not just the memorabilia. Byrd had a lifetime to accumulate documents, letters, notes, files, photographs and more. The U.S. Senate has a procedure for determining what goes where and a lot of the material will end up on the doorstep of Ray Smock.

Smock, the former House of Representatives Historian, is now the executive director of the Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies at Shepherd University in Shepherdstown. Smock is Byrd’s archivist.

His office has already received 800 boxes of material before Byrd’s death, and now they’re preparing for “a ton more”—literally. Smock expects as many as 2,000 cubic feet of new items.

The job of sorting, categorizing and archiving the items is made more challenging by the fact that Byrd served so long (51 years in the Senate and 6 years in the House) and saved everything.

“He kept elaborate scrapbooks of all kinds of events,” Smock said. “Being a good historian himself he was very meticulous about making sure there were paper copies of everything.”

There are thousands of photographs of Byrd with everyone from Presidents—he served with 11—to average West Virginians. Smock says a big part of the archiving will be to eliminate duplications so the Byrd collection can be “winnowed down to a manageable size.”

Then there is Byrd’s collection of books on Roman history. Smock says Byrd had “70 or 80” volumes by Thucydides, Herodotus, Cicero and others. Byrd used those volumes to research and write his speeches on the Roman Senate that he delivered on the Senate floor, often without notes.
Some of those books are marked with personal notes by Byrd to himself, such as, “memorize this.”

The Byrd collection reaches from the historic to the peculiar.

The Washington Post reported last week that the Byrd memorabilia includes a letter from Abigail Van Buren. “Dear Abby” wrote Byrd in 1978 to tell him he looked “perfectly stunning” in a photograph in Time Magazine.

The list goes on and on.

The Senate staff has two months to clear the offices. Smock and his team will take over after that.

“We’ll be working on this for a long time,” Smock told me on Metronews Talkline Monday. “This is a lifetime project.”

Smock hopes that one day the Byrd collection will be made into a traveling exhibit, making it easier for West Virginians to see for themselves the significant and personal items from Byrd’s full life.
Shepherd University begins archiving Byrd documents

BY ERIENNE MACIUZA | JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

HAMPSTEAD — Officials at the Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies at Shepherd University have begun the archiving process to house the late senator's collection, a project that could take several years to complete, according to the director of the center. The center opened on the university's campus in August 2002 as a facility that would house Byrd's collection and also be a study and research center for the United States Constitution.

"It was dear to Sen. Byrd's heart," said Director Ray Smock. "He was one of the great proponents of the Constitution."

To date, the center has acquired 800 cubic feet — approximately 900 storage boxes — of documents, including speeches, school report cards, childhood memorabilia, thousands of photos, campaign materials, audio and video of the senator, and personal papers, including correspondence with 12 different U.S. presidents.

The center will acquire all documents from Byrd's office in the coming months, including personal and staff files, which could amount to an additional 2,000 cubic feet of documents. See BYRD E2
CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN THEATER FESTIVAL
'Eelwax Jesus' adds trippy dimension to Contemporary American Theater Festival

By Celia Wren
Special to The Washington Post
Wednesday, July 14, 2010

SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.VA. -- A gas-masked figure tossing moon pies. A stuffed dachshund named Sarah Palin. A tap-dancing vagina. Those are just a few of the hallucinatory images that swim out of "The Eelwax Jesus 3-D Pop Music Show," the most memorable, if not the most satisfying, production at the 2010 Contemporary American Theater Festival.

The four other works on view will flatter your moral certainties with sleck, irony-pruned narratives and tidily aligned motifs. "Eelwax Jesus," a world premiere with book and lyrics by Max Baker and music by stage and screen actor Lee Sellar, is more likely to leave you scratching your head -- but that's a refreshing experience in the context of this festival. The annual new-play smorgasbord has sometimes favored middlebrow fare and easily digestible sociopolitical parables -- but it is also known for spotlighting writers and scripts that go on to broad exposure around the country.

Baker and Sellar's trippy collaboration evokes "Brave New World" as re-imagined by Salvador Dali and Mark Knopfler, with homages to "Mad Men." The wisps of story concern a group home in an America where cloning, consumerism and viruses have run amok. Seeking solace, the home's misfit residents tune in to a daily televised music show called "Eelwax Jesus" (the name of Baker and Sellar's real-life band).

As the show's huckster host, Mr. Shine (Kurt Zischke), peces and the home's serene Mrs. Worthington (Helen-Jean Arthur) fusses over her dearly departed dachshund, rocker Ignatz McGillicuddy (Sellar) sings deadpan lyrics like "Aaron Sorkin sold Tuesday to the Japanese/Twitter merged with swine flu/Now the world knows when you sneeze." Meanwhile, at stage right, a woman in a 1950s-style dress (Margot White) irons and folds white handkerchief after white handkerchief.

It all makes for an appealingly oddball meditation on commercialism, conformity and paranoia, and, under Baker's direction, the stage tableau -- with screens relaying footage of moles, explosions and more -- looks spookily like an art installation come to life.
(Robert Klingelhofer designed the set; Trevor Bowen devised the costumes, including the female-genitalia suit worn, briefly, by dancer Kate Nielson.) Still, a little theatrical surrealism goes a long way, and theatergoers may be checking their watches well before "Eelwax Jesus" ends.

The festival's more conventional selections offer greater entertainment value, thanks to the shrewd directing and, especially, the knockout acting that compensates for some jury-rigged dramaturgy. The cast of Frances Ya-Chu Cowhig's "Lidless," for instance, does a stellar job fleshing out that play's contrivances. Directed by the festival's producing director, Ed Herendeen, and staged in-the-round -- a format that emphasizes its themes of secrets and exposure -- "Lidless" centers on Alice (an intense Eva Kaminsky), a Guantanamo Bay interrogator whose techniques include sexually molesting a detainee named Bashir (the imposing Barzin Akhavan).

Flash-forward to 2019: Gitmo is closed and Alice, now mother of the teenage Rhiannon (the quicksilver Reema Zaman), is a Minnesota florist. When Bashir turns up, Alice and her husband (Michael Goodfriend) struggle to keep the ugly past from destroying their family.

Freighted with overly pointed lines ("When you're a florist, life and death is in your hands") and motifs so neatly interlocked that they recall metaphysical poetry (the color of Rhiannon's goldfish is compared to the orange of detention-camp jumpsuits, for example), "Lidless" can be heavy-handed -- but the actors invest their characters with riveting vitality. A scene in which Bashir methodically tears the blooms off yellow roses, in particular, is wrenchingly theatrical.

Performers work a similar alchemy with "White People," J.T. Rogers's triptych of monologues about racism, previously seen in New York. Rogers, whose more complex play "The Overwhelming" ran at this festival in 2008, has written each soliloquy around a type, rather than a person: Martin (Zischke, radiating smugness) is a big-shot St. Louis lawyer; Alan (a persuasively nervy Sellers) is a New York City professor; Mara Lynn (White) is a cash-strapped Southern housewife with a disabled child. The characters never interact, but their talk gradually reveals comparable wary, condescending and bitter attitudes toward racial minorities (Tsunbasa Kamel's elegant tri-part set underscores the symmetry). The scenarios feel simplistic, but director Herendeen's actors conjure up full-blooded individuals -- Mara Lynn's smile of tamped-down disappointment is particularly heartbreaking.

If the aforesaid mentioned plays variously critique 21st-century America, Jennifer Haley probes the personal with "Breadcrumbs," about the bond between Alida (Arthur), a writer losing her memory, and Beth (Kaminsky), her caregiver. The narrative is predictable, the sentiment dutifully bittersweet. Keeping director Laura Kepley's world-premiere production from being an utter yawn are the vulnerability and zesty crotchety of Arthur's Alida and the fluid transitions (aided by Colin Bill's lighting and Matt Nielson's sound design) between past and present, realism and fairy tale.

Like "Breadcrumbs," Michele Lowe's "Inana" -- previously staged in Denver -- explores intimate relationships, but it layers them bracingly onto a geopolitical canvas. The festival's most accomplished play, and also -- as directed by Herendeen (how does he find time?) -- the most absorbing production, the suspenseful "Inana" is a mystery, thriller and romance set in the world of Iraqi antiquities. Among other winning performances, Akhavan portrays a passionate museum director in the city of Mosul; Zabryna Guevara is his shy, stubborn bride; and James Rana brings gravitas to the role of a persecuted Iraqi bookseller. Klingelhofer's clever set, with blend hotel-room walls morphing periodically into Mesopotamian bas-reliefs, almost gives the imagery of "Eelwax Jesus" a run for its money.

Wren is a freelance writer.

Contemporary American Theater Festival

through Aug. 1 at Shepherd University, Shepherdstown, W.Va. Call 800-999-2283 or visit http://www.catf.org.
Senator Robert C. Byrd was a valuable supporter of Shepherd University, proving his dedication to education and to the people of the Eastern Panhandle by obtaining funding for three state-of-the-art facilities on Shepherd's campus—the Scarborough Library addition and the Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies, which houses the Senator's papers; the Robert C. Byrd Science and Technology Center; and Ermo Ora Byrd Hall, which houses the nursing department.

CONSTITUTION DAY
Senator Byrd gave the inaugural Constitution Day address at Shepherd University in September 2006. Through his leadership, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2005 contained language that educational institutions receiving federal funds shall hold an educational program for their students on the United States Constitution on September 17. His address at Shepherd was televised by C-SPAN.

Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies
The center opened at Shepherd in August 2001 to house the Senator's collection and serve as a study and research center of the United States Constitution. To date, the center has acquired 800 cubic feet (approximately 800 storage boxes) of documents, including speeches, school report cards, childhood mementos, thousands of photos, campaign materials, audio and video of Senator Byrd, and personal papers, including correspondence with 12 different U.S. presidents. In the coming months following Senator Byrd's death, the center will acquire all documents from his office, including personal and staff files, which could amount to an additional 2,000 cubic feet of documents.

"Senator Byrd was a true friend of Shepherd University. Much of the University's recent expansion was due to federal funding requested by former President David Dunlap and obtained by Senator Byrd. His career made a lasting impact on Shepherd, as it did on the state and nation. We will miss him."

- Shepherd University President Suzanne Shipley
Sen. Byrd’s papers to be archived at Shepherd University

According to Smock, there are 50 similar congressional centers across the country, some of which are also on college campuses. Other centers are dedicated to current policies, while the Byrd Center focuses on historic research. “The Byrd Center is the only center dedicated to Senator Byrd and congressional research, his particular interest,” Smock said.

Smock said that Senator Byrd’s legacy can be seen all over the state and on Shepherd’s campus “Now he belongs to the ages,” Smock said. “We want to preserve this unique chunk of American history.”

Shepherd is the senator for 27 years and worked with him and his staff personally on various projects. Senator Byrd visited the center several times. “He enjoyed seeing how it turned out,” Smock said. He followed in process closely,” Smock said.

The Center, which is run by the Congressional Education Foundation, is frequently used for campus events. One of the defining factors in Shepherd being selected as the home for the center is its proximity to the nation’s capital. “I’ve always liked the campus and wanted the papers to be available to researchers in the D.C. area,” Smock said.

Senator Byrd gave the inaugural Constitution Day address at Shepherd University in September 2005. It was through his leadership that the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2005 contained language that educational institutions receiving federal funds shall hold an educational program for their students on the United States Constitution on September 17. This year’s event will be held on Thursday, September 15 at 7 p.m. at the Byrd Center auditorium. "I" John Smigranko Wadita, the director of the Center for Immigrants’ Rights at the Penn State Law School, will be the featured speaker.

Shepherd UNIVERSITY

Dates: July 14, 2010
Publication: The Spirit of Jefferson
Shepherd student interning with NASA

Shepherd University senior computer science and mathematics major Robert Auld, of Gerrardstown, is joining 250 interns at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center to work with NASA engineers during a summer internship program.

The internship, which began June 1 and runs through August, is located in Greenbelt, Maryland. While there, Auld will code programs that NASA engineers use to do their jobs, working on optimization of antennas on a sounding rocket to maximize scientific returns given a set of constraints.

The interns working at the center this summer were selected from a national pool of roughly 2,500 applicants. The NASA internship was promoted to Shepherd students in the Department of Computer Science, Mathematics, and Engineering. Auld said that the application process was mainly online. Applicants search through hundreds of projects and apply for the specific programs they're interested in.

Dr. Weidong Liao, associate professor in the Department of Computer Science, Mathematics, and Engineering, said that only a few Shepherd students have interned at NASA facilities in the past. Liao said he believes that Auld is the only Shepherd student selected by Goddard Center in the past five years.

Following graduation, Auld said he would like to get a job at NASA, although he is also considering other government agencies to pursue a career in computer coding.
‘Eelwax Jesus 3-D’ play is far from the ordinary

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Don’t let the strange name fool you. “The Eelwax Jesus 3-D Pop Music Show” is well worth taking a leap into the unknown.

Every year Ed Herendeen goes in search of new and unique plays to bring to the Contemporary American Theater Festival, and this year he won the lottery with “Eelwax Jesus.”

The excitement in the lobby of the Frank Arts Center as Shepherd University is palpable because no one is quite sure what to expect. If you see a guy sitting outside on a bench holding a stuffed babbit, you might narrow your eyes with question, and when a young woman wearing a medical mask comes around handing out a leaflet telling you “The clones are coming,” you might begin to wonder if the play has already started — it has and you’re standing in the middle of it.

As audience members enter the theater they are greeted with actors already on stage in character.

The stage is divided up into four distinct sections. At stage right there

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Review

is a woman wearing a mid-century dress, standing and ironing towels. Just to the right of her is a band set up with drums, guitars and a keyboard; keep scanning your eyes to the right and you see four people who look like they're sitting in a living room, and at stage left is a bag-man sitting in front of a small TV screen. Hanging from the ceiling are two large screens used to project images of old photos and film.

The visual and auditory stimulation are harsh, leaving you a little dizzy once the band is playing and the screens are projecting. There is so much going on during certain parts of the play it leaves you not knowing where to look. I wonder, should I look at the lady ironing to see if she does something significant? What's the bag-man doing? Why is that competitive dance couple tangling onto the stage?

The play actually opens with the residents of a group home sitting in their living room waiting to watch their favorite TV show, "The Eelwax Jesus Show." Meredith (Clare Schmidt) is a snarky young woman completely unhappy and paranoid. James (Jonathan Raviv) is a passive young man who just wants everyone to get along. And Mrs. Worthington (Helen-Jean Arthur) is a cheerful old woman who has a pet dog named Sarah Palin. Although the three characters are a bit one-dimensional, audience members will understand them and realize what they're trying to convey.

However, the purpose of Esme (Margot White), the woman ironing, is not quite so clear. This character really adds nothing to the play, and if she were eliminated the audience would never miss her. I was left wondering, what is this character trying to communicate? Why is she even here? Let me say though - she should be commended for standing and ironing for over two hours straight. Even during intermission the actors remained on stage and in character.

Now Mr. Shine (Kurt Zischke), he's a character that you will hate to love. He is the host of the "Eelwax Jesus Show," and he's a cross between a sleazy used-car salesman and a very energetic televangelist. Adding dimension and a layer of fun to the play, he is the one character the audience has a personal relationship with. He is one element in the production that allows the audience to not take everything too seriously.

The band, Eelwax Jesus, is extremely entertaining. With lyrics addressing a wide variety of political and social issues - as in "Mr. Rumple" or their closing song "I Want It All" - this band has the ability to entertain as well as provoke dialogue. Looking around the floor of the theater, you would be hard pressed to find anyone not tapping their feet along to the catchy alternative rock rhythms. Lead singer Ignatz McGillicuddy (Lee Sellars) appears very fluid on stage and has the vocal sounds of David Bowie - the early years. The band possesses a unique and kitschy style similar to the 1970s band, The B-52s, but with added sophistication.

This is an interactive production, not only pulling the audience in figuratively, but literally. Audience members are encouraged to participate in a name drawing during intermission where, as part of the second act, one lucky person will win an electric toaster - seriously.

The acting is completely believable and easy to buy into while the music is poignant yet upbeat. Although the content is political and addresses some ugly social concerns, it manages to remain light and airy. And there were some very funny laugh-out-loud moments - look for the dog, Sarah Palin.

The audience never knows what to expect next. It's completely unconventional, but I promise it will leave you wanting more.

This play will make audience members think about war, love, poverty, consumption, disease and conspiracy - but leave them laughing in the end.

The "Eelwax Jesus 3-D Pop Music Show" is quite the theatrical experience. It is absolute genius and should not be missed.

I recommend this play for mature audiences only.
‘Lidless’ breathes insight

SHEPHERDSTOWN – “Invasion of space by a female” is a phrase used to describe interrogation tactics used by female interrogators at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. These tactics may range anywhere from a woman rubbing the detainee’s neck or stroking his hair to very explicit sexual acts – there is no specific definition in her play “Lidless,” playwright Frances Ye-Chu Cowhig illustrates just how far someone might be capable of going when things get out of control.

The play consists of a small number of characters — Rilam (Reema Zaman), Riva (Zabryna Guevara), Alice (Eva Kaminsky), Lucas (Michael Goodfriend) and Bashir (Barzin Akhavan). Rilam is the 15-year-old daughter of Alice and Lucas. The family lives in Minnesota where Alice owns a florist shop. Fifteen years earlier, Alice and Lucas were engaged and she was a military interrogator at Guantanamo Bay.

While at Gitmo, Alice used “invasion of space by a female” as a means of extracting information from detainee number 176 — Bashir.
One day, while working in her shop, she is visited by Bashir. She does not remember him. Between the use of drugs and selective amnesia, she almost has no recollection of her time at Gitmo at all. Alice throws Bashir out of her shop, hoping that is the last time she'll see him, but he shows up again — this time with a package. Alice is not at the shop, but her daughter Rhiannon is there. They strike up a conversation, and Rhiannon finds Bashir fascinating and wants to "interview" him for a world history project at school. After they speak, she promises Bashir she will give the package to her mother.

Like most 15-year-old girls, Rhiannon is curious as to what is in the package — an orange jumpsuit. This is when she starts asking her parents hard questions about Alice's time in the military and what she did while there. Alice's history starts to unravel in the most dramatic fashion. To find out what she truly did to Bashir while he was in custody shocks not only Rhiannon, Lucas and Alice — but the audience as well.

Lidless is alive with conflict and resolution.

If you look at the play from a literal standpoint, some of the more dramatic parts may be a little too magnified in intensity and overdone. For example, the feelings Rhiannon has for Bashir is unclear. Does she have a schoolgirl crush on him, or is it more invertebrate than that? The audience isn't sure of what motivates her feelings.

But if you look at it from an interpretative perspective, one may say the overall theme of the play is to show that in finding truth, innocence must die.

The emotion conveyed in the play is palpable. The actors do an amazing job communicating their characters' thoughts and feelings to the audience. The performance of Akhavan as Bashir is particularly moving. His eyes look as if they hold decades of pain and regret. Whether he may have been a terrorist or not, the audience truly is able to feel sympathy for the character.

Though there is no intermission for this two-hour play, the audience does not notice. It is so full of intrigue and suspense that it moves along quickly, completely drawing the audience into it. Even if you are "lidless" — you never see the ending coming.

Note: This play contains adult language and sexual content. It is appropriate for mature audiences only. The use of total black-out and very loud sound is used between scenes.
Legislature called for succession session

The Doyle Report

By Delegate John Doyle

Governor Joe Manchin has called the Legislature into special session to schedule an election to fill the last two years of the term of the late United States Senator Robert C. Byrd.

The session began on Thursday, July 12. The Legislature will also consider several bills related to proposed reforms in K-12 education. A working group of five delegates and five senators (affectionately dubbed the "gang of ten") has recommended a dozen measures.

I fully expect the Legislature to schedule the special election for Senator Byrd's seat to coincide with this fall's general election. Perhaps there will be time for parties to conduct primaries, perhaps. Not if not, each party (Democratic, Republican, Libertarian, Mountain whatever) could pick its nominee via a party convention or caucus, or the party's state executive committee could make the choice.

Many presume that Governor Manchin will run for Senator Byrd's seat. If he does, he will be a formidable candidate. Should he be elected, he will be replaced in the governor's office via the most convoluted succession procedure of any state.

The West Virginia Constitution says that whenever a governor resigns, the President of the Senate shall become Acting Governor; remaining as President of the Senate. Should he resign as President of the Senate, he would by doing so resign as Acting Governor.

The Speaker of the House of Delegates would become Acting Governor (likewise remaining as Speaker).

The Constitution further says that there shall be an election to fill the office of Governor.

The Constitution does not say when such an election is to take place, or who is responsible for calling such an election.

The Legislature could have resolved this dilemma by statute, but has never done so in the approximately 100 years this provision has been in the Constitution.

I'm convinced this procedure is in due need of streamlining. I believe we need an elected Lieutenant Governor to one of the positions, the Legislature has established as "cabinet level." Right now, the Lieutenant Governor could be Secretary of Revenue, Secretary of Administration, Secretary of Heath and Human Resources, Secretary of Environmental Protection, Secretary of Transportation, Secretary of Commerce or Secretary of Military Affairs and Public Safety.

In the future, the Legislature might add or detract from that list, but it would make no difference. The Lieutenant Governor would be eligible to hold any office on the list, and draw whatever salary went with that office. No State Senate confirmation (a requirement now for all cabinet posts) would be required - we would presume that being elected by the people to the Lieutenant Governorship would be sufficient.

I propose to solve this by specifying in the State Constitution that the Governor must appoint the Lieutenant Governor to one of the positions.

One of the few mistakes I think our founding fathers made was to have the Vice President preside over the US Senate. That is a clear violation of the principle of Separation of Powers that is otherwise clearly delineated in our nation's founding document. I think the authors of the US Constitution made the Vice President preside over the Senate because they didn't have anything else for that person to do.

In practice, there are few reasons why the US Senate needs a "deep" person presiding over the Senate. In some states (Maryland again) the Lieutenant Governor is elected as the "running mate" of the Governor, just as the Vice President is elected as the running mate of the President of the United States. Others (again, Virginia) the office is elected independently.

I propose we place an amendment to the State Constitution on the ballot in this November's general election to elect a Lieutenant Governor under the conditions outlined above. An amendment to the State Constitution must get a two-thirds vote of each house of the Legislature, and then get a majority at a statewide referendum. I believe that when the people of our state see how Byzantine our gubernatorial succession procedure is, they will welcome a streamlined process.

— State Delegate John Doyle, D-Jefferson, represents the 57th District in the West Virginia House of Delegates.
CATF: 20 years of dark delight

By Ethan Fischer
For the Chronicle

As we all know from the local festive airs, Shepherdstown’s Contemporary American Theater Festival has returned, and this summer marks its 20th season. My spouse saw the political play “Inana” and reports it’s a fine production about a statue come to life.

But together we saw and heard CATF’s opening night happening called “The Eelwax Jesus 3-D Pop Music Show.” Eelwax does not lend itself easily to being reviewed. It’s a kind of rock opera for our frightened yet languid new century of chaos. Paradoxically, Shepherd University’s vast main stage venue somehow confines this show, which

Lee Sellars on guitar and vocals, Michael Pemberton on lead guitar, Joe Rosenfeld on bass, and Danny Tait on Drums. More CATF reviews, Page 5.

I can envision unfolding in a sprawling café with a crowd able to dance and drink and address the actors in some shared, convivial space. Still in the Frank Center space, the play comes across as amusing and amiable (instead of carv- ing a new consciousness of how unconsciously we seek to consume entertain-

ment). Nevertheless

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Eelwax

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there’s plenty of spirited toe-tapping here, excellent songs performed by Lee Sellars fronting a sticky band right on stage.

In between songs, various actors become how meaningless seems their group house existence in a near future ravaged by global flu and a semi- return to American 1950s décor. Multimedia staging has us watching motel lobbies and bedrooms from way back seeing screen clips from ancient explosions, burlesque, or pep talks for postwar hopes rising like Wonderbread (a time wherein members of CATF’s audience were being born or being raised in our vast landscape of plenty).

Yet the play seems strangely static, unblockaded, in that actors seldom leave their chairs, and by play’s end they and we the audience may be meant to feel a bit like furniture. The play embodies exuberant statis: it presents a dysopia as culture jam.

At stage right a woman named Esmé (Margot White) adorns clothes interminably until a phone call brings deeper boredom fraught with fright. For the year: In 1957. For the other characters, more than a half century may have elapsed to no purpose. The play allows an intrusive bugman (Ernie S. Smith) and a man in a gas mask (James Rama) to meander far onstage, where some of the action seems far away. Despite body moves, some lines are meant to be inaudible or sound like outtakes from Samuel Beckett. A man with a hallucinor (well-played by Shepherdstown’s Steve Pritchard).

Eelwax was co-created by Max Baker (who also directs here) and by the versatile Lee Sellars (returning again to delight us). Look forward to Mr. Shine (Kurt Zinckie shivers with an apt, menacing urge to emerce an apoc- alypse in slow motion).

Admire Mrs. Worthington (the excellent Helen-Jean Arthur), a bitty yet likeable elder with jinger lines and a laughable link to Sarah Palin. A dorky denizen of the group house is James (Jonathan Raviv plays him as real, repressed but representing some lost moral quest). From a distance he tries to engage Meredith (credible Clara Schmidt) in halting conversations.

But she is reed, really stuck in her archnet- downstage and appears in profile throughout, a petulant teenage presence whose spirit is disabled by the times.

These characters, however, and we the Eelwax audience enjoy many wonderful, gently satiric or despairing songs that constantly enliven the inaction of the script. “I Want Everything” will have you, almost against your will, wanting to sing along! Lee Sellars can sound like David Bowie or Neil Young or Jim Morrison or, best of all, himself. His voice in- nuates meanings which seem sweetly hopeless yet somehow make us want to hum along.

Memorable as well is the song “You Get What You Pay For” as performed by CATF treasurer and torch singer Bridget Cohee. Poignant too are “If I Had a Serious Emotion” and “There’s Always More with Less.” Moreover, these draw me back to the Eelwax band’s website. Do wish they offered a CD along with the poster you can win by attending this musical, the show’s a new soup that comes together the next day in your mind. The soup comes off as cosmic yet world-wear. This play tickles the spirit and suggests where we’re numb.
‘White People’ interesting take on race

By Matt Armstrong
Special to the Chronicle

“White People” is an examination of how three different people get by in a country which, in their minds, has radically changed.

The play, by playwright J.T. Rogers and directed by Ed Herenden, is a part of this year’s Contemporary American Theater Festival at Shepherd University. The festival is in its 20th season and will run until Aug. 1.

“White People” is a three-person play with an underlying current of dark humor as three white strangers in different parts of the country - New York, North Carolina and Missouri - tell unrelated stories revolving around their interactions with non-white people.

Alan, played by Lee Sellars, is a professor in New York City who teaches a 100-level course at a university and he believes his students couldn’t care less about the subject matter.

Mara Lynn, played by Margot White, is a fading southern beauty with a child and an unfaithful husband.

Martin, played by Kurt Zischke, is a self-absorbed lawyer with a teenage son.

“White People” is a play more concerned with getting its message out than about actions, so there is no central plot. The ideas and characters, however, are more than enough to carry the play.

Alan represents a liberal, politically correct stereotype. During his first monologue he stumbles around terms used to describe different ethnicities while trying to be as politically correct and non-offensive as possible.

Through his monologues, Alan tells the audience about the history of New York City when it was still governed by the Dutch, his wife and unborn child and about an incident traumatic enough to cause him to lash out with racial slurs and stereotype an entire race.

Mara Lynn is a character of unfulfilled potential who, instead of finishing her degree at Florida State University, gets pregnant and spends her time tending to the needs of her son. Her views on non-white people are shaped by her day-to-day interactions in her community and by her unfaithful husband.

Martin, a conservative lawyer, tells the audience how difficult it is to connect with his teenage son, who took part in a hate crime. Each actor brings emotional depth to their characters, and in the hands of lesser actors the characters may have been one-dimensional cardboard cutouts instead of people the audience care about.

The play’s language is real, and Rogers did a good job making the characters sound like people an audience member might meet on any given street corner.

Audience members seemed to react well to “White People,” laughing at the play’s dark humor.

“White People” is difficult to describe in great detail because it lacks a central plot, but anyone who can think openly about racial roles in this country should have plenty to consider after seeing this play.

Due to adult language, “White People” is for mature audiences only. For more information and showtimes, visit cat2.org.

Dr. David Gonzol of Shepherd University’s Department of Music and Theater will present a high-energy musical program for kids in the Library’s Children’s Department on Saturday, July 31 at 11 a.m. For a list of more free family-friendly events during the town’s “Arts & Humanities Weekend” (July 29 through August 1), go to the calendar section at http://www.shepherdstownvisitorscenter.com.

For more information, visit the Library at 100 E. German St., call (304) 876-2783 or email spl-child@martin.lib.wv.us.

Through
AUGUST 1
Shepherd’s Historic Preservation Program to host walking tours

The Historic Preservation Program at Shepherd University is partnering with local agencies to provide historic living history walking tours around Shepherdstown starting July 7 and ending August 1.

The tours, which are free and open to the public, will be given Wednesdays and Thursdays at 11 a.m., Fridays at 3 p.m., Saturdays at 10:30 a.m., and Sunday at 3 p.m. Tours will begin Shepherdstown Visitor’s Center, located at the Entler Hotel at 129 E. German St.
Shepherd University

‘Breadcrumbs’ examines self

BY MATT ARMSTRONG
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

SHEPHERDSTOWN — “Breadcrumbs” is a powerful new play making its world premiere in Shepherdstown, and it examines the power of language, the role of loneliness and the importance of knowing one’s self.

The play, by playwright Jennifer Haley and directed by Laura Kelpy, is part of this year’s Contemporary American Theater Festival at Shepherd University. The festival is in its 29th season and will run until Aug. 1.

The production is a two-woman show starring Helen Jean-Arthur as Alida, a writer in the early stages of Alzheimer’s Disease, and Eva Kaminsky as Beth, Alida’s caregiver who tries to help the writer complete an autobiography before it is too late.

The play begins with Alida sitting in the audience and, while she walks to the stage, she writes words on Post-it notes. The words, which at first seem to be nonsense unrelated to the play, each have a significant meaning by the end.

The notes also act as the titular breadcrumbs and help Alida ward off dementia for as long as she is able.

The relationship between Alida and Beth is, at best, rocky but codependent, and at worst downright spiteful.

Alida has a difficult time trusting Beth and letting her into her life, but at the same time the audience is never entirely sure if Beth is trustworthy. This is primarily due to the fact it is Beth’s word against Alida’s.

The play switches between the present and past, with the past serving as the best way to understand why Alida acts how she acts. The past also serves as Alida’s way of telling her story to Beth, who is acting as a stenographer and writing what Alida says.

During these parts of the play, Kaminsky plays the See CRUMBS B2

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part of Alida’s mother, and Jean-Arthur plays Alida as a child.

Throughout the play, although more so in the beginning, there is dry, dark humor, which the audience reacted favorably to. Haley knew how far she could go with jokes about dementia and Alzheimer’s, and she never crosses the line between funny and offensive.

Jean-Arthur and Kaminsky help the script come alive with their acting. Jean-Arthur channels her inner Betty White, which is always good, and Kaminsky gives Beth a vulnerable, sometimes pathetic in nature side, which works well for her character.

Due to adult content and language, “Breadcrumbs” is for mature audiences only. More information and showtimes are available at www.catf2.org.
CORRECTIONS

- Allegheny Energy's electrical distribution network includes power lines below 100 kilovolts. "N-1" is the worst transmission outage that could happen at any given moment, as determined by ongoing computer analysis of the system. A story about Allegheny's transmission operations in the July 2 edition of The State Journal was unclear about both items.

- The Berlin, Pa. Lookout Wind Farm is owned and managed by Edison Mission Group of Irvine, Calif. and was not developed by US WindForce. Lookout turbines turn about 90 percent of the time and generate electricity at about 35 percent of the facility's 37.8-megawatt capacity. A story in the July 2 edition of The State Journal was unclear about both items.

- Shepherd University's Create the Future comprehensive fundraising campaign goal of $20 million is for academic program support, student scholarships, endowed positions and faculty enhancement, and renovation and new construction. The campaign's mission was incorrectly stated in the June 25 edition.

SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Scott Anderson, assistant director and chef of Shepherd University Dining Services, was named chef ambassador to the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board.

Anderson attended County College of Morris, where he received his associate's degree in hotel restaurant management. He received his bachelor's degree and master's degree in history and political science at Edinboro University in northwestern Pennsylvania.

In 1991, Anderson was hired as a catering employee at Shepherd. He worked his way up from a part-time catering employee to full-time assistant catering manager and finally associate director and chef in 2002.

Anderson oversees Shepherd's purchasing, culinary training, menu management and recipe creations.

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