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## The Parthenon, November 13, 2012

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TUESDAY

November 13, 2012

# THE PARTHENON

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## SGA proposes absence policy change

By **MARCUS CONSTANTINO**  
THE PARTHENON

The Marshall University Student Senate and Student Body President Ray Harrell Jr. passed a resolution Monday that recommends making instructors responsible for the handling of students' first three excused absences.

The Senate unanimously approved Senate Resolution 70.09, titled "Student Request Convenience Act of 2012." The resolution aims to make obtaining a university excused

absence more convenient for both students and instructors.

"I looked at, and the Senate looked at, our peer institutions from across the country, and a lot of them leave the absence policy up to the professor," Harrell said. "So if you miss class because you had to go to the doctor, or you had a death in the family, that's taken care of at the discretion of the professor."

The current university excused absence policy requires students to obtain excuses from their college

dean, the Dean of Student Affairs or the Senior Vice President / Provost of Academic Affairs. Harrell said the proposed policy change would relieve the Office of Student Affairs of taxing amounts of paperwork related to excused absences.

"I feel it's more convenient for the student and professor to just go to the source," Harrell said. "If you miss a class, the student government felt like it would be easier for students to call up their professors, get in touch with them and give them any required

documentation if needed, rather than having to go to the student affairs office and waiting for them to send an email."

The resolution states that after a student's third excused absence from a class, further excuses would be handled by the Office of Student Affairs and issued at the discretion of Steve Hensley, Dean of Student Affairs.

Hensley said he has mixed feelings about the resolution.

"Some instructors really like it the way it's structured, and I don't dislike

it," Hensley said. "It's inconvenient at times, but I do like to see the students."

Hensley said while he enjoys the daily interaction with students, he thinks instructors would sometimes be more knowledgeable when dealing with university excused absence requests from their students.

"This student, I don't know her at all, but the teachers do know her, and they know whether this student has been a regular class attendee, has been

See SGA | Page 5

## Writers series' final lecture set for Wednesday

By **SUZANN AL-QAWASMI**  
THE PARTHENON

The final installment of the A.E. Stringer Visiting Writers Series is set for Wednesday at 8 p.m. in the Birke Art Gallery in Smith Hall. Neil Carpathios, author of three full-length poetry collections, and Crystal Good, activist in the "Affrilachian" (African-American Appalachian) poetry movement, will have a public reading and book signing.

"For this lecture, both speakers are Appalachian poets," Rachael Peckham, assistant English professor in the creative writing program and coordinator of the Visiting Writers Series, said. "This event was designed to represent the good writing that is happening in this area."

Carpathios also writes for the "Let's Talk Poetry" column in The Portsmouth Daily Times, which focuses on highlighting the works of local poets. He is currently a professor and coordinator of the creative writing program at Shawnee State University. Crystal Good's poems focus on the culture in the Appalachian area, as well as issues unique to the area, such as mountaintop removal. She now serves as the Director of Brand Experience of Mythology LLC.

"They bring such different sets of professional experience to their work," Peckham said. "The hope is that students see firsthand the power in writing about experiences and issues that are unique to these times and places."

Peckham said Carpathios and Good will also be meeting with students at 4 p.m. on Wednesday during a casual coffee hour so students can have some time to speak with the guests. She said all students are welcome to attend.

"It's one thing to be assigned some readings, but it's another thing to meet a writer who is doing this work right now and who is finding success with it," Peckham said. "You never know what doors will open for a student so that is why we have been trying to put students in more contact with the writers."

This is the third and final lecture for the Visiting Writers Series for the fall semester. The series will pick up again in the spring.

**Suzann Al-Qawasmi can be contacted at alqawasmi2@marshall.edu.**



ABOVE: Politician and activist Ken Hechler, left, is asked a question by Marshall University professor Heath Harrison during a question and answer session during Harrison's Media Criticism class on Monday. BELOW: Graduate student Jason Keeling, right, speaks with Hechler during a question and answer session on Monday.

## Longtime W.Va. politician, activist speaks at MU

By **BISHOP NASH**  
THE PARTHENON

Ken Hechler is a lucky man. Ninety-eight years of seeing the world change and an incredible life of public service to show for it. The former Democratic U.S. Congressman and West Virginia Secretary of State visited and fielded questions from journalism graduate students on Monday.

"It's been an honor to come back to the campus," Hechler said. "Particularly when there's an alert of a group as you have in this class."

About a dozen students soaked in and responded to Hechler's distinguished experiences ranging from interviewing Nazi war criminal Herman Goering to marching with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. He spoke of the changing world and the decline of those in media positions seeking true integrity.

"Every individual knows where he or she stands on issues," Hechler said. "I've always believed that I should never hide or never stopped fighting for truth and justice."



Currently the oldest surviving former U.S. Congressman, the Long Island, N.Y., native has carved out a longstanding legacy in the Mountain State since his election in 1959. Twice a Marshall faculty member and longtime Huntington resident, Hechler has been an outspoken critic of mountaintop removal and pushed

extensively for mine safety regulation.

In regard to journalism and the future of media, Hechler warned of the dangers money and the influences of a select upper echelon.

"We have to be very apprehensive about the influence of money and politics," Hechler said. "We need a little grit and

determination to fight against that."

Students were members of Heath Harrison's media criticism course and took in the elder statesman's vast experience with reverence.

"He's just seen it all as far as the media," Harrison, adjunct professor of journalism, said. "He's been around since

the days of print, radio and to Internet."

Harrison also said that allowing Hechler to speak before his students provides a visionary perspective unlike any other.

"He's always been ahead of the curve on about every issue from civil rights to environmental issues," Harrison said. "He's always been on the right side about 10 or 20 years before anyone else is."

Among the students was Jason Keeling, a graduate student from Cross Lanes, W.Va., who is working toward a media management certificate. Keeling said he was honored to have someone as seasoned as Hechler share thoughts in class and pointed out his age was simply a number.

"It's remarkable to hear him speak and how sharp his mind actually is," Keeling said. "To assume that someone his age doesn't understand what's going on would be a mistake."

**Bishop Nash can be contacted at nash24@marshall.edu.**

INSIDE: NEWS, 2 | SPORTS, 3 | OPINION, 4 | LIFE, 6 | HI 48° LO 27°

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BCC CAFE INC, SOUTHERN X-POSUR



# NEWS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2012 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

## Organization offers benefits to MU students

By **EVAN FOWLER**  
THE PARTHENON

Student Support Services at Marshall University offers benefits, a positive environment and support structure for members and first year students.

SSS is a federally funded grant program. TRiO programs have been established to help students overcome social, cultural, class and academic barriers to higher education.

Marshall's SSS is funded to provide programming and support services to eligible participants.

All services and programs are free of charge to participants.

The list of services provided by SSS includes academic advising, assistance with financial aid, counseling support, social activities, educational courses, lab and printing services, supplemental instruction and postgraduate assistance.

"SSS has helped me with registering for classes," Zac Thompson, freshman computer science major, said.

"It's helped me a lot with all the little things that I wouldn't have known," Thompson said.

"I feel our services are very beneficial to students," Bonnie Bailey, director of Student Support Services, said. "Being a first

generation college student and TRiO participant, I feel honored to have the opportunity to help students utilize their potential to reach their goals and succeed in their future endeavors."

Bailey said many first generation college students lack support needed for success. She said the purpose of SSS is to create the support and positive environment student's need and make sure they are not lost in the system.

"SSS has helped me a lot from teaching me more about financial aid to adviser services in general," Zack Underwood, sophomore civil engineering



major, said. Underwood also said being an SSS member has really helped keep him focused and organized throughout the semester.

Trish Napier, sophomore biology major, said the program

has helped her a lot with scheduling and her classes but she said she also enjoys the environment.

"You make a lot of friends," Napier said. "It's a lot of fun just hanging out whenever you

have a break and of course the staff is the best and they help us with everything. It helps us all to connect and that really helps with being on campus."

Student Support Services is located in the West Lobby of Prichard Hall. Eligibility is determined upon income, documented disability or first-generation college student status. Students can request an application from the office or by email located on the SSS portion of the Marshall website.

**Evans Fowler can be contacted at [fowler68@marshall.edu](mailto:fowler68@marshall.edu).**



A new section of pavement is laid on the Paul Ambrose Trail for Health at Harris Riverfront Park.

## Construction commenced on Paul Ambrose Trail for Health

THE PARTHENON

Construction has started on a trail at Harris Riverfront Park, as progress continues to be made on the Paul Ambrose Trail for Health.

Brie Salmons, volunteer, said the project includes more than just a freshly paved path. An old restroom facility has been removed and volunteers are working on planting shrubbery and installing an outdoor exercise facility.

"We are working on an master plan putting in six exercise stations," Salmons said. "We're hoping to get as many people as possible out and exercising."

A 9/10-mile trail loop has been completed at St. Cloud Common's on Huntington's West End. PATH and the City of Huntington will have a ribbon cutting ceremony at 3 p.m. Tuesday.

The PATH project is a \$2.5 million project that works in conjunction with the City of Huntington and the Rahall Institute for Technology.

The goal of the project is to connect different sections of Huntington through a trail system, encouraging people to get active.

"The whole point is to connect schools, businesses and residents to health," Salmons said.

PATH is named after Dr. Paul Ambrose, a physician who was killed in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Ambrose focused his career on family health and staying active.

"It's really great to see this being built for the community and to remember Dr. Ambrose," Salmons said.

**The Parthenon can be contacted at [parthenon@marshall.edu](mailto:parthenon@marshall.edu).**

## Superstorm Sandy claims 43rd life in New York City

By **TINA SUSMAN**  
LOS ANGELES TIMES (MCT)

NEW YORK — A 77-year-old grandfather who slipped on wet stairs inside his beachfront housing complex became the 43rd New York City resident to die as a result of Superstorm Sandy, whose effects continued to be felt across the region Monday as basic services and public transportation crept toward normalcy.

More than 1,800 city residents remained in shelters, unable to return to homes damaged by the storm or still without heat and electricity. But for the first time since Sandy made landfall Oct. 29, the number of households without power in affected states dropped below 100,000. As of Monday morning, the Department of Energy said 88,882 customers in New Jersey, New York, and West Virginia remained in the dark. New York was the worst affected, with 79,744 outages reported.

Officials of the Long Island Power Authority said they expected that 99 percent of their customers would have power back by the end of the day Tuesday.

In another post-Sandy first, officials Monday reopened to

limited traffic the Gov. Hugh L. Carey Tunnel — formerly known as the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel — a major artery under the East River connecting Manhattan to Brooklyn. Workers will continue trying to repair damage from 43 million gallons of salt water that poured into the country's longest under-river vehicle passage.

"It was filled floor to ceiling for more than a mile with water and debris," said the chairman of the city's Metropolitan Transit Authority, Joseph Lhota. "No one has ever faced a challenge like this."

Limited train service resumed linking Manhattan with New Jersey and Long Island. In New Jersey, gas rationing that had been in effect for more than a week was to be lifted Tuesday.

There was no word on when New York City's gas rationing would be lifted, or how long it might be before residents of the Rockaways — where 29,000 buildings remained in the dark Monday — would have electricity. The narrow peninsula is surrounded by Jamaica Bay on one side and the Atlantic Ocean on the other, and the salt water that flooded basements there caused damage that is slowing efforts to restore electricity to the area.



HARRY WALKER | MCT DIRECT

Speaker John Boehner calls the convention to order at the 2012 Republican National Convention in the Tampa Bay Times Forum, August 30, in Tampa.

## Speaker John Boehner still faces a GOP House divided

By **LISA MASCARO**

TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU (MCT)

WASHINGTON — As a subdued John A. Boehner started to lay the groundwork for compromise with President Barack Obama to avert a year-end tax and spending crisis, the House speaker also began a delicate dance around the deep divisions in the Republican Party.

As Congress returns Tuesday, the Ohio Republican must contend with the tea party wing, which helped the GOP retain the House majority as many conservatives won re-election, but which also contributed to its losses in the Senate.

Republican leaders are re-evaluating their relationship with the tea party, a political marriage that has fueled gridlock and, some believe, played a role in the GOP's dismal outcome at the polls. The intense conservative opposition to tax increases could thwart the desire of Boehner and other Republicans to show voters the party can help make Washington work.

The speaker has made an early effort to strike a balance.

In the days after the election, he sounded a public note of conciliation, telling the president, "We want you to succeed," as he signaled a willingness to shift from the party's hard anti-tax position.

But he also made clear that the party opposed any increase in tax rates. Obama has called for taxes to rise for the wealthiest Americans. Specifically, Obama has said he wants to raise rates to Clinton-era levels on income above \$250,000 for families and \$200,000 for individuals.

"The president and his team have made clear they believe his re-election is a mandate for his tax plan," Boehner told rank-and-file Republicans on a conference call after the election. "Well, ladies and gentlemen, that is not the case."

On the call, Boehner characterized his House majority as "the line of defense" against

See **BOEHNER** | Page 5

## Agency predicts U.S. to become world's largest oil producer by 2020

By **TIFFANY HSU**  
LOS ANGELES TIMES (MCT)

The U.S. will become the world's top producer of oil within five years, a net exporter of the fuel around 2030 and nearly self-sufficient in energy by 2035, according to a new report from the International Energy Agency.

It's a bold set of predictions for a nation that currently imports some 20 percent of its energy needs.

Recently, however, an "energy renaissance" in the U.S. has caused a boost in oil, shale gas and bio-energy production due to new technologies such as hydraulic fracturing, or fracking. Fuel efficiency has improved in the transportation sector. The clean energy industry has seen an influx of solar and wind efforts.

By 2015, U.S. oil production is expected to rise to 10 million barrels per day before increasing to 11.1 million barrels per day by 2020, overtaking second-place Russia and front-runner Saudi Arabia. The U.S. will export more oil than it brings into the country in 2030.

Around the same time, however, Saudi Arabia will be producing some 11.4

million barrels per day of oil, outpacing the 10.2 million from the U.S. In 2035, U.S. production will slip to 9.2 million barrels per day, far behind the Middle Eastern nation's 12.3 million barrels per day. Iraq will exceed Russia to become the world's second-largest oil exporter.

At that point, real oil prices will reach \$125 a barrel. By then, however, the U.S. won't be relying much on foreign energy, according to the IEA's World Energy Outlook.

Globally, the energy economy will undergo a "sea change," according to the report, with nearly 90 percent of Middle Eastern oil exports redirecting toward Asia.

"No country is an energy 'island,' and the interactions between different fuels, markets and prices are intensifying," according to the report.

And what of energy-efficiency efforts?

Fossil fuels, which enjoyed a 30 percent jump in subsidies last year to \$523 billion worldwide, will still surpass renewable energy sources, according to IEA. But so-called green power will become the world's second-largest form of

generation within three years and will threaten coal's supremacy by 2035.

That progression, however, "hinges critically on continued subsidies" for wind, solar and biofuel technologies, which last year amounted to some \$88 billion and needs to reach \$4.8 trillion through 2035, according to IEA.

Even then, however, "the world is still failing to put the global energy system onto a more sustainable path," according to the report.

Global energy demand will boom by 2035, rising to 99.7 million barrels a day from 87.4 million last year. China's demand will rise 60 percent in that period; India's will more than double. Demand in developed countries will increase just 3 percent, with the desire for oil and coal losing share in the overall energy mix.

Energy-related carbon dioxide emissions will creep up, causing a long-term average temperature increase of 3.6 degrees Celsius, or 6.5 degrees Fahrenheit. Energy production will continue to suck at the world's water resources — it already accounts for 15 percent of total water use.

## Replicas of the Nina, Pinta to arrive in Huntington

By **JOSHUA PRINCE**  
THE PARTHENON

The Columbus Foundation will dock in Huntington this week featuring replicas of the Nina and the Pinta.

After the weeklong delay in Charleston due to Superstorm Sandy the ships will arrive in Huntington Wednesday and will be open to the public. The ships will dock at the Huntington Yacht Club (Holderby's Landing) at Harris Riverfront Park. The ships will remain docked in Huntington until their departure early morning Tuesday, Nov. 20.

The Nina is a replica of the ship which Columbus sailed across the Atlantic on his three voyages of discovery to the new world beginning in 1492. The Pinta was recently built in Brazil to accompany the Nina on her voyages. The ships are often referred to as floating museums. They visit ports all over the Western Hemisphere.

The general public is invited to visit the ships for a walk- aboard, self-guided tour. Admission charge is \$8, \$7 for seniors and \$6 for students 5-16. Children four and under are free. The ships are open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. No reservations are necessary.

**Joshua Prince can be contacted at [Prince37@marshall.edu](mailto:Prince37@marshall.edu).**





EAST DIVISION	C-USA		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
UCF	6	0	8	2
EAST CAROLINA	5	1	6	4
MARSHALL	3	3	4	6
UAB	2	4	3	7
MEMPHIS	2	4	2	8
SOUTHERN MISS	0	6	0	10

# SPORTS

	C-USA		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
TULSA	6	0	8	2
SMU	4	2	5	5
HOUSTON	3	3	4	6
RICE	2	4	4	6
TULANE	2	4	2	8
UTEP	1	5	2	8



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2012 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

## AL Rookie of the Year NL



Mike Trout (Los Angeles Angels)

LEFT: Los Angeles Angels outfielder Mike Trout gets ready for batting practice as the Angels visit the Texas Rangers at Rangers Ballpark in Arlington, on Sept. 28, in Arlington, Texas.

RODGER MALLISON / FORTH WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM | MCT



Bryce Harper (Washington Nationals)

RIGHT: Bryce Harper of the Washington Nationals turns around angrily as he heads back to bat after a pitch he thought was ball four was called a strike against the Houston Astros in the sixth inning of their game on Aug. 8, in Houston.

GEORGE BRIDGES | MCT

## Demand for Herd men's basketball season tickets on the rise

BY SARAH HAGERTY THE PARTHENON

Season ticket sales for the 2012-2013 Men's Basketball season has been on a steady incline since last year's season.

"We expect to have anywhere between 4,200 to 4,300 season ticket sales this year," Aaron Goebbel, Assistant Athletic Director for ticketing, said. "Last year we got around 4,000 ticket sales and we are just past that mark as of right now."

Season tickets are given an allotment of seating in the lower area of the chair-back and bench seating behind the one basket across from the student section. Each year a renewal is sent out to each season ticket holder to renew their tickets and they get a chance to purchase additional tickets before the general public.

"Last year was the first time we had sold out of season tickets since 1994," Goebbel said. "We had a handful of reserved seating available that we sold to the general public. A lot of people felt like they had been shut out, but it was a great problem to have because not a lot of schools in our conference can say that they sold out of their reserved seating."

The athletic ticketing office is also selling a general admission season ticket for \$100. This ticket allows you to sit anywhere in the upper bench seating of the arena on a first come first serve basis.

"Once people realize that we don't have a lot of reserved seating left, that we are all sold out, hopefully the general admission season ticket will start selling more since it is such a great deal," Goebbel said. "To buy a general admission single game ticket for any conference or nonconference game it is \$10-15. You're saving about \$100 by buying this season ticket and once people start to catch onto this idea, I think over the next week or two we will sell a couple hundred of those tickets."

Student tickets are projected to sell as well as they did last year. The athletic department is doing the same thing as they did last year where students are asked to pick up their tickets in advance.

See TICKETS | Page 5

## Mike D'Antoni to be next coach of the Lakers

By MIKE BRESNAHAN LOS ANGELES TIMES (MCT)

LOS ANGELES — Mike D'Antoni, not Phil Jackson, will be the next coach of the Los Angeles Lakers.



"We signed Mike D'Antoni to a multiyear deal," Lakers spokesman John Black said, mentioning the team's owner and top two executives. "Dr. (Jerry) Buss, Jim Buss and Mitch Kupchak were unanimous that Mike D'Antoni was the best coach for the team at this time."

D'Antoni, 61, coached the New York Knicks last season and the Phoenix Suns before that. He will officially take over the Lakers within a week or two, depending how quickly he recovers from knee-replacement surgery.

The Lakers will introduce their new coach at a news conference as early as Tuesday but more likely later in the week. Bernie Bickerstaff will remain the team's interim coach for now.

D'Antoni signed a three-year deal for \$12 million. The team holds an option for a fourth year.

Jackson was the overwhelming favorite to return to the Lakers until they heard his informal demands, which included a stake in team ownership, according to a person familiar with the situation.

"He was asking for the moon," said the person, who also declined to be identified because they are not authorized to discuss the situation.

The Lakers then moved quickly to sign D'Antoni. He replaces Mike Brown, who was fired Friday after the Lakers began the season 1-4, their worst start since 1993.

Earlier Sunday, Lakers guard Steve Nash said it would "be a coup" for the Lakers to bring back Jackson, but he also had

kind words for D'Antoni.

"Obviously, I think everyone knows how much I love Mike," said Nash, who played four seasons and won two MVP awards under D'Antoni in Phoenix. "If he were the coach, it would be seamless and terrific for me, and I think the team as well."

D'Antoni was most recently employed by the Knicks, when he was forced to resign under pressure last season after an 18-24 start.

Kobe Bryant did not hide his excitement for the prospect of Jackson returning but, like Nash, he was also on board with D'Antoni.

"They know how I feel about Phil. They know how I feel about D'Antoni," Bryant said Sunday. "I like them both."

D'Antoni's coaching staff with the Lakers likely will start with two longtime assistants — his brother, Dan D'Antoni, and Phil Weber.

The new Lakers coach has a 388-339 coaching record in the NBA. He led the Suns to the Western Conference finals in 2005 and 2006 with Nash running the show.

Bryant became familiar as a boy with D'Antoni, who was a star in the Italian league in the 1980s, when Bryant's father also played in Italy. D'Antoni helped Olimpia Milano win five league titles and two European club titles. D'Antoni also worked with Bryant on the U.S. national team as an assistant.

D'Antoni is a former Marshall University basketball player and alumnus.



MARCUS CONSTANTINO | THE PARTHENON

Marshall's Laura Der serves the ball during the volleyball game between the Marshall Thundering Herd and the Tulane Green Wave at the Cam Henderson Center on Friday.

## Der named C-USA player of the week

HERDZONE

Following a 2-0 weekend in which the Marshall volleyball team swept Tulane and UTEP and secured the No. 6 seed for the Conference USA tournament, junior outside hitter Laura Der was named C-USA Offensive Player of the Week.

Der led C-USA for the week with a solid 6.17 kills per set and 0.83 service aces per set as Marshall swept its final two opponents in regular season play.

She ended the weekend with a .337 (37-8-86) hitting efficiency and averaged 2.67 digs per set.

The victories over Tulane and UTEP kept the Thundering Herd hopes alive and secured the No. 6 seed for the conference championship. The wins also broke a seven-match losing streak. Der led Marshall with 22 kills and 26.0 points against UTEP, figures that top the chart for a three-set match against

C-USA foes. Marshall's .330 team attack percentage against UTEP ties as the highest hitting percentage in C-USA only matches.

The award is Der's first career Offensive Player of the Week honor and marks the third overall Player of the Week accolade this season after Sammie Bane earned Setter of the Week on Aug. 27 and Dorothy Rahal earned Defensive Player of the Week on Sep. 17.



JIM MCLISAAC / NEWSDAY | MCT

Mike D'Antoni of the New York Knicks reacts during an NBA game against the Philadelphia 76ers on March 11, at Madison Square Garden in N.Y.



# OPINION

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2012 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

## THE PARTHENON

### ABOUT US

The Parthenon, Marshall University's student newspaper, is published by students Mondays through Fridays during the regular semesters, and weekly Thursdays during the summer. The editorial staff is responsible for news and editorial content.

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### THE FIRST AMENDMENT | The Constitution of the United States of America

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people to peaceably assemble; and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

## ONLINE POLLS

Do you think the Thundering Herd will win its final two games and become bowl-eligible?

■ Yes  
■ No

The following are the results from the most recent poll question: Following Colorado's decision to legalize the recreational use of marijuana, do you think the rest of the nation should follow suit?

■ Yes 51% - 28 votes  
■ No 49% - 27 votes

Visit [marshallparthenon.com](http://marshallparthenon.com) to share your opinion.

### Editorial

## States seek to secede from U.S.

And the award for states home to the dumbest people in the United States goes to Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas.

Thousands of people from these states have signed petitions asking for permission to secede from the United States.

This is why we cannot have nice things America.

The petitions were filed on We The People, a government website which focuses on our understanding of "American history, culture, and democratic principles." While it is not uncommon for similar petitions to circulate after elections, this one is spreading quickly - which let us be honest - is not surprising considering the level of stupid much of America is currently inflicted with.

The nifty thing about this however, is any petition which gains 25,000 signatures in a month will require an official response from the Obama administration - and Texas is leading the charge with more than 23,000.

It is also interesting to note We The People was started by the Obama administration last year and goes to show that, for better or for worse, everyone has the opportunity to step up and have their voices heard.

But wait - President Obama wants to take away our freedoms right? Is he not a Socialist, Communist baby-shaker?

Oh yeah, he is not any of those things. And yet we have thousands, not a few, but thousands of people signing petitions to leave this nation.

What a shame we cannot just put them all on a rickety raft and send them out to sea.

Wait ... seriously, is it not a shame we cannot just give them what they want - in a sense.

There is no way a state will be granted independence, but for those individuals who seriously want to not have President Obama as their leader should be given the opportunity to just leave.

But it has to be an abandoned island somewhere, or Venezuela, because which country would want to welcome such foolish people into their borders.

### Column

## Fiscal cliff hanger

By **LOGAN NEE**

U. MAINE VIA UWIRE

Congratulations to those satisfied with Tuesday's verdict, and my apologies to those upset.

To preface this week's column, some words of wisdom from John F. Kennedy: "Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer, but the right answer. Let us not seek to fix the blame for the past. Let us accept our own responsibility for the future."

Get your popcorn ready. The "fiscal cliff" that you've been hearing about for the last month is on it's way, set to hit theaters - send us into another recession, namely - starting Jan. 1 if policy changes aren't enacted by Dec. 31.

What's this "fiscal cliff," you ask?

It should be fairly obvious that our country has deficit issues. If that's not obvious to you, take a look at the annual reminder. In the past 30 years, our government's budget has been in the black just four times. This is a serious problem.

If politicians don't act before Dec. 31, tax increases and automatic spending cuts will take place, quickly cutting our federal deficit through sudden austerity measures. This contractionary effect would pull back aggregate demand, casting us into another recession.

Government officials are worried - and they should be - but we can't forget the reason why this cliff is ahead. Congress and the President put these measures into place in the summer of 2011, assuming the economy would be better off at this point.

The problem is, it's not. And it's also not the time to raise the debt ceiling, when the economy is just climbing itself out of a deep recession.

Allowing the government to drop off the fiscal cliff is rather enticing, especially given the fact that Bank of America estimates the U.S. government would save roughly \$720 billion in 2013 alone, or 5.1 percent of GDP. These austerity measures aren't just ethically honorable; they are unequivocally necessary.

The addition of tax increases and reduction in deficit spending can demonstrate long-term solvency to creditors, thus encouraging consumption spending and yielding overall economic expansion.

Let's face it, being a "deficit hawk" isn't necessarily an electable attribute, but continued awareness and attention towards the federal debt is vitally important to the future of our country in the long run.

Obama and Republicans must come to an agreement, especially when it comes to payroll tax cuts and employment benefits. Extending payroll tax cuts and avoiding spending cuts to benefits are crucial in aiding an economy that's slowly on the up rise.

Bush tax cuts for upper-income Americans are not an effective way to boost economic growth in the short-term. Sorry Boehner, but you're going to have to let that part expire.

Many Americans chiming in on the "fiscal cliff" debate cite "Clitonomics" in the 1990s, when the illustrious budget surplus wasn't just myth. They say, accept the spending cuts of the bipartisan negotiated sequester and cut our annual deficit in half.

I'm a huge fan of this, but not in our current economic state. Fifteen years ago, we were in a much better place economically and it's ludicrous to suggest a similar yield will occur if we progress in the same way now.

As the economy gains momentum, we must understand that we have to take the plunge sometime or another. I predict a strong bipartisan push for taking the "fiscal cliff" hit in the coming years, and it's been a long time coming.

By **DAVID DELGADO**

U. HOUSTON VIA UWIRE



### Column

## Media bias could be the new normal

By **SARAH BACKER**

U. HOUSTON VIA UWIRE

Throughout this year's highly contentious presidential election, party lines and affiliations have been tightly drawn. I suppose this is why the inherent and pervasive bias of the mainstream media has become so shockingly clear. This is worrisome in that news is being spun in so many ways that the American public has no place to hear the unadulterated facts. This could be the new normal or a long-standing tradition - or a little of both.

The American press has traditionally existed in a highly partisan and propagandist form. The first truly successful newspaper outlets, such as the Boston Gazette and the New York Gazetteer, were forged during the American Revolution as Patriot and Loyalist forces to wage their own journalistic war of words. This merely continued into the debates of 1787 and 1788 over whether to ratify the Constitution. It is even

speculated by scholars that the extreme Pro-Federalist bias of the newspapers at the time can take credit for the ratifying of the Constitution.

History shows that the press has a tendency to showcase its tilt and predilection during times of intense polemics.

Although the 21st century newspaper has been forced to take a more sober, conventional and moderate stance in compliance with the desires of the advertisers and business community that supports them, there is still a distinctly partisan bias. However, the new problem is in the overwhelmingly biased television news organizations. Let's look at the six major providers of television news: ABC, CBS News, CNN, Fox News Channel, MSNBC and NBC News. Of these, FNC has a conservative standpoint. The other five are left-leaning, if not outwardly liberal.

Journalists and news anchors are entitled to express their party affiliation and personal

political opinions. But when these beliefs keep networks from dutifully reporting the facts and investigating the truth, there is have a problem.

On Sept. 11, 2012, the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya was strategically attacked by a heavily armed group suspected to be part of al-Qaida. Four Americans were killed, two of which died in a stand-off seven hours after the State Department had informed the White House of the attack.

For weeks, the Obama administration alleged that the attack was the result of a riot over an anti-Muslim video. Everyday more information is uncovered that strongly insinuates that the administration not only knew it was a preplanned attack and lied about it, but also could have deployed a Special Operations team in the nearby Sigonella, Italy. And yet, an urgent request for military aid was denied by the chain of command.

Whether Democrat or Republican, this is an issue that

matters. Put yourself in the shoes of those four brave Americans. If something was done wrong, we need to fix the system so nothing like this happens again. It is the job of journalists to not only present the facts, but to earnestly investigate the truth. Only one of the six major news networks has made Benghazi a top issue.

The liberal media has treated President Obama as their first-born son; he can do no wrong and all critics of his policies should be tied to the stake. With 21 percent of U.S. adults reading below a fifth grade level, television media is an important and primary news source for a large block of Americans.

The media has had a long-standing tradition of partiality. But this recent disregard of the basic duties of a media outlet is unacceptable when the press is expected to act as a check on the government. People cannot allow this dereliction of duty to become the new normal.





DAVID ENDERS | MCT DIRECT

**TOP:** In Ceylanpinar, Turkey, Syrians prepare to return the body of a man to Ras al Ain, Syria, Monday. The man was wounded in an airstrike during fighting between the Syrian government and rebels who took over most of Ras al Ain last week, and died while receiving treatment in Turkey. **ABOVE:** A Syrian civilian ducks and runs to avoid potential sniper fire in the old city of Aleppo, where rebels continue to battle the Syrian government, Thursday.

## THOUSANDS FLEE TO TURKEY

### Battle rages in Syrian border city

By **DAVID ENDERS**  
MCCLEATCHY NEWSPAPERS (MCT)

RAS AL AYN, Syria—Thousands of people fled Ras al Ayn Monday for the safety of Turkey as the battle between Syrian rebels and government troops for control of this border city raged for a fifth day.

Across the border in Ceylanpinar, Turkey, loudspeakers warned residents to stay indoors as Syrian jets and artillery raked rebel positions just a few hundred yards from Turkish territory, their shock waves shattering windows. At least one Syrian shell reportedly landed in Ceylanpinar.

Turkish soldiers watched from

foxholes and tried to help the refugees, who crossed the border unimpeded except for some who became tangled in barbed wire. Most were ferried to a camp about 10 miles away by buses provided by the Turkish government, which made trip after trip throughout the day.

More than 100,000 Syrians are housed in refugee camps in Turkey, and thousands more have fled there without registering with the Turkish government. On Friday, more than 10,000 people reportedly fled to Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey — the highest single-day total of refugees since the conflict began. More than 8,000 of those fled to Ceylanpinar from Ras al Ayn.

A rebel spokesman in Ras al Ayn said it was possible that many or more fled Monday. Rebels said Syrian government airstrikes had killed at least 18 civilians, and it was unclear how many fighters died.

Residents of Ceylanpinar have opened their homes to the refugees, some of whom had tried to return to Syria before

fighting prompted them to flee again.

"We have dozens of people staying in our house," said 17-year-old Orhan Ahmed, who watched the fighting from the Turkish side of the border with friends. Despite the warnings to stay indoors, hundreds of residents were on the streets, watching the bombardment.

At least one airstrike hit a predominantly Kurdish neighborhood in Ras al Ayn, which has a sizable Kurdish minority. There were also reports of tensions between fighters and Kurdish militiamen loyal to the United Democratic Party, a Syrian Kurdish party that has close links to the Turkish Kurdish Worker's Party. The Turkish Kurd party has fought a decades-long war with the Turkish government seeking autonomy for millions of Kurds who live in southern Turkey. In the past few weeks, Syrian rebels and United Democratic Party militiamen have fought each other in northern Syria, including open fighting and tit-for-tat kidnappings in Aleppo, the country's largest city.

### Boehner Continued from Page 2

the Obama administration, according to a GOP source who was not authorized to discuss internal party matters publicly.

"For the next two years, that will continue to be our role," Boehner said.

This is the complicated courtship the chain-smoking speaker must undertake in the next 50 days as he attempts to satisfy his right wing while meeting Obama across the aisle for the deal that voters — and the stock market — have signaled they want.

Obama will convene congressional leaders at the White House on Friday amid optimism on both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue that voters sent a message that they are tired of Washington dysfunction, creating an opportunity for compromise. Back-channel talks are already under way to shape a deal.

"It's like they're boxers in the ring, and they're both dancing," said Gabe Horwitz, director of the economic program at Third Way, a think tank aligned with moderate Democrats. "At least they're in the ring."

Failure to reach an agreement would result in automatic tax increases at the

beginning of the year on virtually all Americans when the George W. Bush-era rates are due to expire. At the same time, massive federal spending cuts would take effect because Congress failed to find ways to trim the budget. Together, they would cause a fiscal contraction that economists warn would launch another recession.

Obama has been circumspect as he begins negotiations. But Democrats on Capitol Hill are emboldened by the president's re-election as well as their gains in the GOP-controlled House and their strengthened majority in the Senate.

But the conservative flank in the House and Senate shun suggestions of compromise and have been less than impressed by Boehner's softer public tone.

"Boehner is waving the white flag on our core principles," wrote the executive director of the political organization headed by Sen. Jim DeMint, R-S.C., a tea party favorite, in a fundraising note to supporters. "The only way for Republicans to improve their party's image is to boldly stand for the principles of freedom that made this country great."

Conservatives off Capitol Hill, including Fox News' Sean Hannity, have mused aloud

about whether it is time for a new speaker.

After walking the Veterans Day parade route in Bucklin, Kan., on Monday, freshman Rep. Tim Huelskamp said his district had voted to re-elect him, but not Obama. He took the message to be: "We didn't send you to Washington to do what Mr. Obama wants you to do."

The speaker must be mindful of these views, even though no Republican is expected to challenge him for the leadership post.

Boehner is from an earlier era, when deals were made with a handshake between leaders. He has made no secret that his biggest regret since becoming speaker has been the inability to strike a big budget deal with Obama. They tried last year and failed.

When Boehner spoke the day after the election from the Capitol's stately Rayburn Room, named after legendary former Democratic Speaker Sam Rayburn of Texas, he suggested his party would accept new tax revenues if they came from reforms in the tax code that also led to lower rates overall. Broad cuts to Medicare, Medicaid and other spending would have to be part of the deal.

The offer was seen by some as an opening, by others as the same line in the sand.

### Tickets Continued from Page 3

"When we get into conference play we expect to get into some situations where we will sell out, so we want our students to get into the habit of picking up their tickets in advance because there is such a high demand for them," Goebbel said. "Our students have about 15 percent of the arena so we want to

guarantee our students their tickets by having them picked up in advance."

The ticket office is located in the main lobby of the Came Henderson Center and is open Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Student tickets are available to be picked up 48 hours in advance of each home game.

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### SGA Continued from Page 1

a shirker and sits in the back half-asleep or is a hard-working student who does her part," Hensley said while pointing at the top of a pile of papers on his desk. "From that perspective, the faculty has a better sense of the students than I do sometimes."

Hensley expressed concern about students who may not feel comfortable with revealing medical documentation to their professors. Harrell said students would still be able to ask for a university excused absence from the Office of Student Affairs.

Harrell stressed that the current criteria for obtaining a university excused absence would remain the same. The difference is professors would be able to develop their own procedure for requesting an excused absence and would be able to use their own discretion in deciding whether absences meet the university's criteria.

The resolution also calls for an appeals process to prevent instructors from implementing unfair or unreasonable attendance policies. Students who feel they were unjustly denied a university excused absence would have the option to file an appeal with the Office of Student Affairs. Hensley would then make a final determination on whether the student met the criteria for a university excused absence.

While Hensley declined to say whether he liked or disliked the propose policy change, he said it is something worth evaluating.

"I think it merits discussion," Hensley said. "I'm not going to say if it's better or not better. I think it's a good opportunity to discuss the

direction we want to go in with the students, faculty, and the Budget and Academic Policy Committee."

The Senate also unanimously passed two resolutions that seek to leave the Memorial Student Center and the Drinko Library study center open to students 24 hours a day. The Memorial Student Center is currently open Mondays-Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 11 p.m., Saturdays from 8 a.m. to midnight and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., and the Drinko Library study center is currently open from Sundays at 1 p.m. to Fridays at 9 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Harrell believes leaving the study center open 24 hours a day would benefit commuter students who may not have Internet access at home and leaving the student center open would provide both commuters and on-campus residents a place to hang out or study anytime.

"This is an issue that has been brought up to me many times," Harrell said. "There's going to be a staffing issue at either building, but we're hoping that there's some sort of common ground we can find."

The Senate also unanimously approved a resolution that would require members of student organizations who request Student Government Association funding for travel expenses to complete a Safe Driver Training Module before traveling.

Harrell said a resolution is a recommendation made by the SGA on behalf of the Marshall student body. He said resolutions do not take effect unless they are approved by the Faculty Senate.

**Marcus Constantino can be contacted at [constantino2@marshall.edu](mailto:constantino2@marshall.edu).**

## New G.I. Bill doubles dollars for education

MCT DIRECT

**FACT:**  
The Post-9/11 GI Bill has proven enormously popular with veterans who served after 9/11. It has doubled the amount of money offered to veterans for education benefits. Participants received an average of \$13,871 in fiscal 2011, compared with \$7,483 the same year for veterans who

served prior to 9/11 under the Montgomery GI Bill.

More than half a million vets received benefits in 2011 at a cost to taxpayers of \$7.7 billion. The Department of Veterans Affairs, though, is having some trouble keeping up with claims and has a history of delivering late payments to some institutions.

### Better GI BILL for GI JOE

★★★★★

The POST-9/11 GI BILL HAS **DOUBLED** THE MONEY AVAILABLE TO VETERANS TO PURSUE AN EDUCATION.

<p>★★★★★</p> <p>VETERANS ON ACTIVE-DUTY AFTER THE 9/11 TERRORIST ATTACKS WHO SIGNED UP FOR THE NEW GI BILL RECEIVED AN AVERAGE OF</p> <p><b>\$13,871</b></p>	<p>★★★★★</p> <p>THE PREVIOUS GI BILL DELIVERED AN AVERAGE OF</p> <p><b>\$7,483</b></p>
<p>FISCAL 2011      BEFORE 9/11</p> <p>PER PARTICIPANT</p>	

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# \*Life!\*

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2012 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

## Daniel Day-Lewis daring to be Lincoln

By STEVEN REA

THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER (MCT)

PHILADELPHIA — Daniel Day-Lewis had done his very best, for a very long time, to avoid Abraham Lincoln.

Yes, the actor had met with Steven Spielberg to discuss the idea of portraying the 16th president of the United States, but that was almost 10 years ago, and Day-Lewis, London-born and Ireland-bred, moved on. He couldn't picture himself in a beard and stovepipe, as the prairie lawyer-turned-commander in chief who saw his country torn apart by the Civil War.

"We had a lovely meeting," Day-Lewis recalls, seated alongside Spielberg on a couch in a Los Angeles hotel recently, chatting via Skype.

"I really wanted to meet Steven just for the sake of it, but there was no part of me that could conceive of attempting to do that work."

After they talked that first time, Day-Lewis even wrote to explain all the reasons why he was wrong to play Lincoln.

"It was the most beautifully written and most beautifully articulated letter of declination," Spielberg says. "I still have it."

Day-Lewis laughs.

"Initially, I just thought it was a completely outlandish idea," says the two-time Oscar winner ("My Left Foot," "There Will Be Blood"). "Maybe for anybody to attempt, but certainly for somebody from outside of this nation to attempt. It's not that I don't like the risk involved, but the risk has to be fairly measured against what benefits there might be. I would never wish to do anything where I felt that I genuinely couldn't be of service to the story, and through the story to the director.

"And I didn't really understand how I could be of any use to Steven."

"Fortunately, I did," Spielberg quips.

And fortunate it is. Day-Lewis' performance in "Lincoln" — which opens across the country on Friday — brings one of the giants of American history to life in haunting and transformative ways. Another best-actor Oscar nomination seems certain.

Joseph Gordon-Levitt, cast as the president's son Robert, had this to say about working with Day-Lewis: "It's amazing what Daniel did. It's uncanny. I've never seen an actor do anything like it. ... I had absolutely no problem believing that I was speaking to Abraham Lincoln."

Spielberg, who had optioned Doris Kearns Goodwin's "Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln," jettisoned his early screenplay — an epic biography that traced Lincoln's presidency, intercutting his White House years with virtually every battle of the war between the Union and the Confederacy. The director brought in his "Munich" collaborator and "Angels in America" writer, Tony Kushner, to try something different, focusing on the crisis months of 1864 and 1865 when the president brought his political muscle to bear on getting the 13th Amendment passed, abolishing slavery for good. All while the war was still raging.

"Tony's screenplay immediately intrigued me," says Day-Lewis, 55, "but again, I was intrigued as an outsider. I could see the beautiful value that that story might have, but I still couldn't conceive of approaching it."

So what was it that finally pushed Day-Lewis into the part?

"I ran out of excuses," he says with a smile. "I test every reason against myself, every single reason for not doing something — and I can come up with a

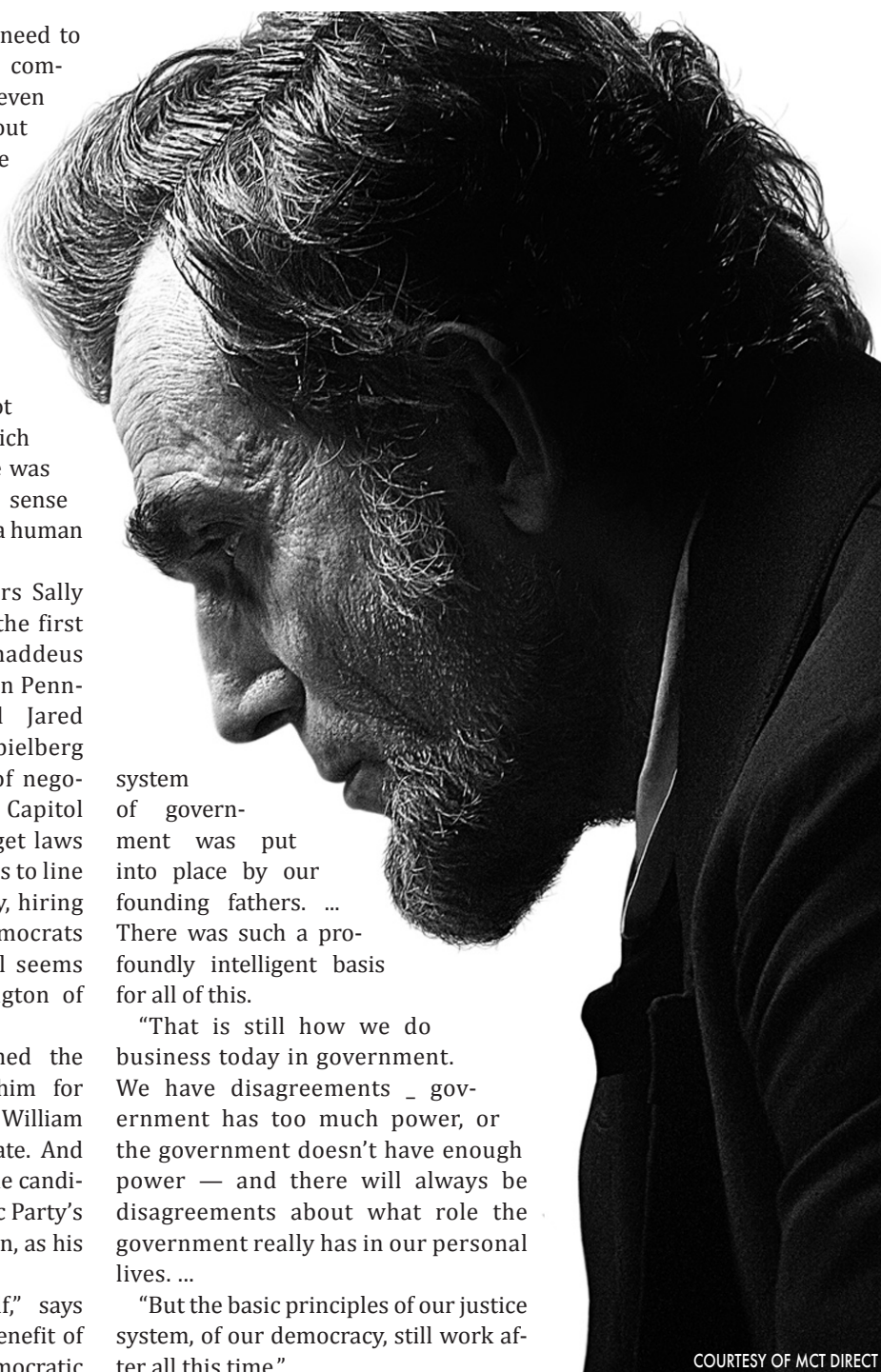
lot of reasons! But finally you need to test the strength of your own compulsion. ... And meeting with Steven and Tony in Ireland to talk about Tony's script a year before we made the film, that was a big moment for me in just allowing me to dare to approach the subject a little closer. ...

"And then, finally, I read Doris' book, "Team of Rivals," and through that wonderfully eloquent piece of work about not just Lincoln, but the time in which he lived and the people that he was surrounded by, I think I had a sense that he could be approached as a human being, not as a mythic figure."

In "Lincoln," which also stars Sally Field (as Mary Todd Lincoln, the first lady), Tommy Lee Jones (Thaddeus Stevens, the Radical Republican Pennsylvania congressman), and Jared Harris (Ulysses S. Grant), Spielberg describes the intense dance of negotiation and compromise, the Capitol Hill wheeling and dealing to get laws passed. The president struggles to line up the votes to abolish slavery, hiring lobbyists to lure reluctant Democrats into voting "yea" — and it all seems to resonate with the Washington of today.

Consider that Lincoln named the candidate who ran against him for the Republican nomination, William Seward, as his secretary of state. And that President Obama named the candidate who sought the Democratic Party's top spot, Hillary Rodham Clinton, as his secretary of state.

"Well, history repeats itself," says Spielberg. "But I think to the benefit of our political process, the democratic process. ... It shows what a miraculous



system of government was put into place by our founding fathers. ... There was such a profoundly intelligent basis for all of this.

"That is still how we do business today in government. We have disagreements — government has too much power, or the government doesn't have enough power — and there will always be disagreements about what role the government really has in our personal lives. ...

"But the basic principles of our justice system, of our democracy, still work after all this time."

COURTESY OF MCT DIRECT

## Hollywood expects happy holiday season

By AMY KAUFMAN

LOS ANGELES TIMES (MCT)

LOS ANGELES — Movie theaters posted their worst attendance since 1994 last year, but Hollywood is poised for a big comeback — with the help of a secret agent, a sullen vampire and a hairy-footed hobbit.

Domestic ticket sales are already up by 3 percent compared with the same period last year, and a bumper crop of strong films this holiday season — including movies that will appeal to both popular and discerning tastes — could push annual box office receipts above \$11 billion for the first time.

A strong finish to the year could ease the uncertainty gripping an industry under pressure to cut costs and boost profits, especially as revenue dwindles from once-reliable DVD sales and as more fans turn to video-on-demand and streaming to catch the latest movies.

"We're still facing the same structural issues — the DVD business is declining and there are distractions for the audience — so studios have to rationalize their costs," said Stacey Snider, chief executive of DreamWorks, which began releasing "Lincoln" Friday. But she points out: "All that doom and gloom people were talking about after the summer ticket sales didn't come to bear."

Snider was referring to the anxiety rampant in Hollywood earlier this year, amid the box office flop of big-budget films including "John Carter" and "Battleship." But those disappointments have been tempered by a handful of certified hits, including "The Avengers," "The Dark Knight Rises," "The Amazing Spider-Man" and "The Hunger Games."

And some movies have performed better than expected.

One of those is the Iranian hostage drama "Argo," which has taken in nearly \$80 million since opening Oct. 12.

"I'm becoming increasingly concerned about the movie business ... there's the feeling that it could all sort of fall apart or at least be greatly diminished," said Ben Affleck, who directed and stars in "Argo." "But there is a huge crop of really interesting movies coming out in the next couple of months, and I think that's great for the movie business."

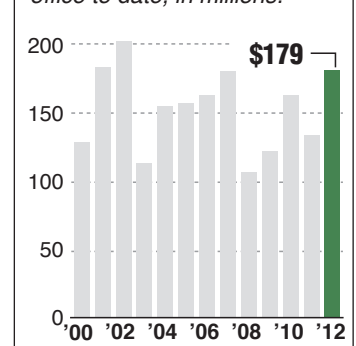
The latest James Bond film, the well-reviewed "Skyfall," kicked off the holiday movie season last weekend and hauled in an estimated \$87.8 million.

Ticket sales have been trending down since hitting the 1.57 billion mark in 2002, falling to 1.28 billion last year, the lowest in 16 years.

To end the year strong, Hollywood has to score a robust holiday season, which accounts for about 20 percent of annual box-office receipts.

### Holiday movies

A bumper crop of strong films is expected to make the holiday movie season a profitable one. Holiday box office to date, in millions:



\*First Friday in November through Nov. 8 for each year.

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Source: Box Office Mojo  
Graphic: Julie Sheer, Los Angeles Times

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